

# The Ranchos Independent



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***In This Issue |***

*Editorial • Page 3 / The D.O.G. House • Page 4  
Fun Pages • Page 20 / Real Estate • Page 25 / Classifieds • Page 26*

# Life in the Fast Lane? Hardly. But Who Upped Our Speed Limit and Why?

By Christi McKinney

On Oct. 21 the Madera County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved speed limit increases on several Madera County roads, including several in the Madera Ranchos – specifically increasing Avenue 12 between Road 36 and Road 38 to 40 miles per hour. District 1 Supervisor Frank Bigelow stated he did so “... reluctantly and regretfully ...” after reviewing the consequences of not approving the change at this time and after receiving assurances that the issue would be revisited after studies are completed on the Avenue 12/Madera Ranchos bypass alignment.

Madera Ranchos speed limit changes were made on:  
Avenue 12 between Road 36 and Road 38; increased from 35 mph to 40 mph

Children’s Boulevard from Freeway 41 to Road 40 ½; now 55 mph

Road 36 between Avenue 12 and Kensington; increased from 45 to 55 mph

Marciel from Road 35 to Bronco; increased to 35 mph  
“This is an emotional and controversial issue but the speed zones are necessary to legally enforce the use of radar and to enforce speed limits,” said Johannes J. Hoevertsz, Madera County Road Commissioner at an Oct. 14 presentation of staff recommendations requesting changes in a number of speed limits to the Madera County Board of Supervisors. “Speed limits are established by law and by speed surveys which are performed to ensure safe and efficient movement of traffic.”

The California Vehicle Code requires speed surveys be conducted every 5 years to legally enforce the speed limit. The primary factor in the survey is the “measured 85th percentile free flow” or prevailing speed of traffic. The 85th percentile is defined as the speed at which 85 percent of traffic is moving. Although the CVC allows for a 5-mile-

per-hour reduction for unusual conditions, the CVC requires that the speed limit must be set at the nearest 5 mile per hour increment of the 85th percentile.

The increase in speed on Avenue 12 and on Children’s Boulevard were of particular concern to the Board. Recent studies by Madera County have determined that traffic on Avenue 12 has increased significantly and that conditions had become increasingly dangerous. The most recent speed survey indicated the average speed on Avenue 12 is 48 mph



despite the posted 35 mph speed limit. The initial staff recommendation was to increase the speed limit on Avenue 12 from 35 mph to 45 mph.

“Most people have the misconception that a posted speed limit sign will slow people down,” explained Hoevertsz, “when in fact people will drive as fast as is comfortable and fast as traffic density will allow.”

“Avenue 12 is one of the most hazardous roads in the county and the speed limit is a primary concern of Ranchos

residents,” said Madera County Sheriff John Anderson at the first Board hearing that also included several Ranchos property owners. “The average daily traffic on Avenue 12 has doubled within the past 5 years.” He recommended against raising the speed limit and stated he would like to see the speed limit dropped to 25 mph. But to accomplish this Avenue 12 would have to qualify as a residential district. Although some segments may qualify, Hoevertsz stated as a whole it does not. Anderson confirmed that traffic studies needed to be done every 5 years to utilize radar.

At the second hearing on Oct. 21, Hoevertsz stated the County’s case much more clearly. “Arbitrary speed limits have been improperly posted throughout Madera County and we are addressing them as we get to them. These speed limits are unenforceable and if left in place they will fall back to prima facie limits of 55 mph.” Hoevertsz also stated that the County had spoken with property owners who addressed the board at the first hearing and they had come to a compromise of 40 mph rather than the 45 mph they initially sought.

If left unaddressed Madera County might have had some liability if speed limits had not been adjusted. The adjustments will also support law enforcement in obtaining convictions on speeding violations and will prevent cases from being thrown out of court. Supervisor Bigelow stated, “I wasn’t happy at the first hearing where an increase to 45 mph was formally proposed and I continue to oppose the increase in speed limit on Avenue 12. However, the 40 mph compromise is something people can live with until the county is able to prompt another traffic study.”

No changes were made on the initial Children’s Blvd. proposal and the speed limit has been increased from 45 mph to 55 mph. A traffic signal has been approved for Children’s Blvd. and Lanes Bridge and construction should begin within 2 months.

## Madera County and the Water Management Plan

By Igal Treibatch

### Part I of Two Parts

As many of you know, for the last 20 years I have been farming in the Madera Ranchos area. The close proximity of our approximately 1,400 acres of orchards to the Ranchos has created a vested interest for us in the community and its future. As we have looked at the area’s future we have tried to identify the different challenges we all are facing. One of the obvious ones is water.

Due to the present drought in California, water is one of the issues we all are thinking of these days. We became aware of a study, recently adopted by the Madera County Board of Supervisors, which deals with critical water issues in our community and throughout the County, and I thought it important enough to very briefly summarize it in the newspaper. If you are interested, you can view and download the complete study (which with its appendices totals several thousand pages) from the Madera County web site:

[www.madera-county.com/supervisors/pdf/IRWMP-Vol1.pdf](http://www.madera-county.com/supervisors/pdf/IRWMP-Vol1.pdf).  
The appendices are at:

[www.madera-county.com/supervisors/pdf/IRWMP-Vol2-Appendices.pdf](http://www.madera-county.com/supervisors/pdf/IRWMP-Vol2-Appendices.pdf).

### An Overview

Hired by Madera County to prepare an independent study and report for the county, the engineering firm Boyle AECOM titled the study Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. The study finds that groundwater levels on the Valley Floor have declined an average of five feet per year between 1970 and 2006, while levels in the areas north of the San Joaquin River and east of the Santa Fe railroad, including the Madera Ranchos, have experienced even greater declines.

The study reports that on a Countywide basis, a total of 900,000 acre-feet of groundwater is pumped every year. An acre-foot is the amount of water required to cover an acre of ground a foot deep, or about 342,000 gallons. This pumping results in an overdraft of approximately 100,000 acre-feet per year. Overdraft is a condition where more water is being pumped from the aquifer than is being naturally or artificially recharged, or put back, into the underground. Of the total, agriculture accounts for 96.7 percent of the water pumped with municipal and industrial uses making up the rest. Water use is expected to grow approximately 8 percent by 2030. This may sound relatively modest but it is greatly influenced by the ex-

Please see **WATER** on P. 23

## Notes from West Point

Liberty High’s first cadet at the United States Military Academy at West Point, Kayla Hodges, has sent some photos back to some of her friends and loved ones in the Ranchos and they wanted to share them with the rest of the community.

Kayla writes that the academy keeps her very busy mentally, physically and spiritually. She tells friends that she loves everything about the experience except the swimming classes which are fondly referred to as “Plebe Drowning,” with a “Plebe” being a freshman. She says she’s in great shape and is taking advantage of the many clubs on campus. She’s also getting acclimated to something not found in the Ranchos: Snow.



Click on “Local News” at



Editorial

# Check the Board, Coach

By Randy Bailey

Well, that was one crazy election process, wasn't it? The guy I wanted for president didn't win, but then come to think of it, the guy I wanted for president didn't run. The guy the media wanted me to vote for ran in his place. I've noticed a behavior among Republican candidates in these last few elections that I find quite troubling.

As the campaign begins, the Republican takes the high road and takes all the hits while the Democrat seems to say whatever he or she wants. As each day goes by, the Republican party faithful say to one another, "Just wait; tomorrow will be the day he really tears into the Democrat!"

But tomorrow never comes.

The Republican candidate hangs back. "Oh, he's getting ready to pounce! I can just feel it!"

No pounce. No tomorrow. No nothing.

You end up with a candidate that looks timid, sheepish and not much like a leader. I think it started with dad George Bush. Reagan was great about letting people know that HE had paid for that mic so you'd better NOT turn it off when he was talking. Reagan had that incredible gift to be able to tell people to go to Hell and then have them look forward to the trip. I remember Bush's debate with Clinton and instead of tearing Bill a new one, he kept checking his watch to see when it was going to be over. Instead of skewering Obama over his record - you know, because he, like, doesn't have one - McCain spends an entire debate not making eye contact with him.

Strong.

He should have been staring right through his soul and demanded that Obama put up or shut up.

Instead we get McCain forbidding anyone in his campaign from mentioning Obama's middle name, out of fear it would appear racist. Let's see how racist it appears when he lays his hand on the bible and repeats his middle name January 20 at the prompting of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

This isn't just a president thing. When Bill Simon ran against Gray Davis for governor in 2002 he never engaged. We had heard how good he was and just you wait and see, here it comes ... but it never did. All that I can hope is that whoever runs for the Republicans next time picks up on this. It's like in football. You had better use your time outs now because they don't carry over to next week.

Now, having said all of that, let's hear it for someone who absolutely has his finger on the pulse of Madera County. This guy was 12 for 12 on suggestions of how to vote for the 12 propositions on the Nov. 4 ballot. Statewide the outcome was different, but he wasn't preaching to the state; he was preaching to voters in Madera County.

OK. It was me.

In the October issue of the Ranchos Independent, on pages 12 and 13, I gave my suggestions on how to vote for each of the 12 propositions ranging from same sex marriage to high speed rail. I gave a brief description of each and then I gave my rationale for why I suggested to vote yes or no. As election night wore on, the statewide returns made me question some of my choices. Had I missed something? What did they see that I didn't? It was only a couple of days later when I went to the official State of California election web page that I was able to look at the election county by county. I was so right on for Madera County it gave me goosebumps. And the two that I was most passionate about, Props 8 and 4, passed by HUGE margins in Madera County.

I get people that tell me I'm doing the paper wrong and that something should be done "this" way and something else should be done "that" way and it's election night all over again with me second guessing my choices. Have I missed something? What did they see that I didn't? I'm not as insecure as former New York City Mayor Ed Koch who used to go around and ask people, "How am I doin'?" just to reassure himself, but there are times you'd like a little sign that you might be doing something right.

Well, let me tell you ...

Not only did I nail the leanings of Madera County, those leanings included 73.4% agreement (Prop. 8); 69.2% agreement (Prop. 5); and 68.8% agreement (Prop. 7).

With numbers like that, I don't think I'll change a thing. Here's an idea: How about all of those people giving me suggestions who came in somewhere around the 20-30 percentile, start your own newspaper and show me how it's done.

# The Ranchos Independent

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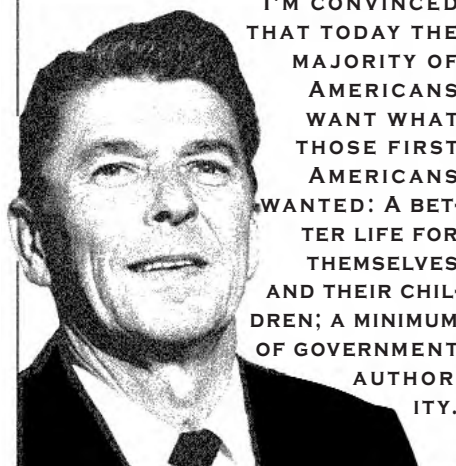
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## THE RAY GUN SHOOTING STRAIGHT TO THE HEART



I'M CONVINCED THAT TODAY THE MAJORITY OF AMERICANS WANT WHAT THOSE FIRST AMERICANS WANTED: A BETTER LIFE FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR CHILDREN; A MINIMUM OF GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY.

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

## Letters

Dear Editor:

Your editorial in the October issue was so welcome. It is refreshing to know that there are others who love life and right, and still believe in freedom of speech.

Rights for Americans are our God given privilege but when the liberal "opinion" of rights demands that I live by that opinion then I get concerned. I still believe that redefining marriage is a big mistake. America needs answers not more problems.

Forcing my children and grandchildren to be indoctrinated with beliefs I don't agree with is wrong. Isn't that what we used to call "brainwashing"? Your clarification is right on.

Keep on printing strong stands on issues that are undermining the foundation of this great country. Keep defending our right to traditional values. We need to hear it.

Linda Morris  
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

I would like to express my concerns regarding your last editorial, "Why I really, really, really, really, really don't like liberals."

I accept that the newspaper editor has the right to express his own opinion. However, I must disagree with his methodology of dealing with dissenting opinions. If the Ranchos Independent is the "Official Publication of South-eastern Madera County" as it claims, then it must offer its community members a place to express their opinions freely. The editor's constant effort to marginalize one group (in this case, liberals) is dangerous. This can lead a community to divide and permits the justification of demeaning certain groups. Indeed, seeing previous demeaning editorials, perhaps the letter writer omitted his phone number on purpose to avoid being chastised.

What is the mission of our local community newspaper? One of the missions should be to provide a medium where community members can share ideas and opinions openly. Thus it can be the catalyst for informing and unifying the community. If the editor's wish is to have a platform for his own political agenda, he may do so by starting his own political publication, but not via community newspaper. Some community members might differ in political views, but nonetheless, they are part of our community. Their kids go to same school, they want to improve community as much as anybody else, and they sorrow as much as anybody else when a tragedy happens in this area.

I demand that the Ranchos Independent start serving its community members by pro-

viding a forum for everybody and stop personal political attacks on certain community members. Having an education in journalism, surely the editor knows how he can set the tone for our community newspaper – one that helps our community rather than hurts it.

John Kim, M.D.  
Madera Ranchos

*Editor's Note: The following letter writer also enclosed a copy of a Letter to the Editor from the Fresno Bee concerning dangerous drivers on Avenue 9.*

Dear Editor:

Please see the enclosed Letter to the Editor of the Fresno Bee on Oct. 14, 2008.

The writer expresses many drivers' sentiments.

Why is Madera County trying to create an elaborate bypass of the Ranchos on Avenue 12? The public has already taken over Avenue 9 from Highway 99 to Highway 41. They should make Avenue 9 four lanes which would make it safe for us that drive the speed limit. They are already bypassing Avenue 12 by taking 9.

I am sure the road could pay for itself by having traffic tickets issued to the at least 100 daily speeders.

Just a thought.

Colleen Wagner  
Madera

Dear Editor:

As you know, "Word from Home" is a group of women who send packages to soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our goal is to send packages to troops who do not get any mail from home. In order to accomplish this; we get addresses of soldiers from their family and friends and we send them packages along with a letter asking them to send us addresses of the men and women in their platoon who get no mail. It works! We get addresses of troops, like a mail clerk in Iraq who had never received a package until he received "Word From Home." If any of you have friends or family stationed in Iraq or Afghanistan, please send us their addresses and we will send them a package.

We meet on a monthly basis to pack boxes. We try to send boxes out to at least 50 soldiers each month. Most months we exceed this goal. In fact, to date, we have sent packages to over 900 soldiers. It is a real blessing

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 24

## THE D.O.G. HOUSE

DEMAND OPEN GOVERNMENT BY DALE DROZEN



**Board meeting November 18, 2008** - I am having a problem understanding all of what went on during the meeting. I'm not sure if it is because I was away for awhile, distracted by issues in my life or was this really a strange meeting.

**Item F on the consent calendar** - Consideration of approval of a resolution ordering Department Officers and Employees be relieved of responsibility for shortage of funds.

What happened, as I understand it, is when a pet is adopted you are required to pay a fee, some of which goes into a spay and neuter trust fund. Around \$3,500 disappeared from that fund. The "theft" was investigated by the Sheriff's department, but there was no way to determine when it happened or who could have taken it.

The process as I understand it - The County is liable for the loss because the County was in charge of the fund. Apparently if the Board passes this resolution that responsibility goes away. The whole matter just gets swept under the old rug. It has become a cold case that everyone knows will never be solved. The "Trust Fund" is just out the money. What went wrong?

Supervisor Rodriguez would not quietly vote to absolve the County or the employees of responsibility, by voting on a resolution stating that there was no fraud or negligence on the part of the County or the employees. Several tried to explain that the Board was not absolving the criminal act or the person that took the money, just the County and County employees.

I don't think they understood; what I think Supervisor Rodriguez was saying was that we (the County) don't deserve to be absolved.

How can \$3,500 disappear out of a trust fund with no way to track when or how it disappeared without coming to the conclusion someone in Animal Services charged with administering the fund was grossly negligent. I can't buy a \$1 copy from the Board Clerk without getting a numbered receipt. Where was the money kept? (Possibly in a shoe box under the front counter?) Was this "TRUST fund" channeled through the Auditor's office? How many other "TRUST funds" are out there waiting to be ripped off? How are the funds handled now?

This fits in perfectly with the County's method of operation on past projects including the Animal Services building fiasco. Balls get dropped and hundreds of thousands of our tax dollars just vanish and all we see is another lump in the carpet. \$3,500 isn't much to a government that flushes hundreds of thousands down the old toilet of dropped balls, but to us normal folk out here trying to make ends meet it is a lot.

**DOG's big question** - How could the other supervisors vote for the resolution with absolutely no information on how the money got out of the trust fund or if any measures were put into place to make the fund more secure?

I say they had no information, because our Board is honest and trustworthy so I cannot even consider that they had information not shared with the public as is required by the Brown Act.

**HOLD YOUR GROUND MAX!**

In the real word someone has to say "The buck stops here." In government – at least in our local one – it is more like "OH WELL, we will try to do better on the next one."

**Consent Item G and H** - It seems a bit over three years ago we hired a firm to set up a new computer program for the Auditor Controller. Details are a bit sketchy but from what I could pick up over the past three years we have dumped somewhere between \$300,000 and \$500,000 into the project. The hardware is now out of warranty and due for replacement, and as it stands today it still does not work. Now we throw some more money at it and hope the system somehow is able to struggle through?

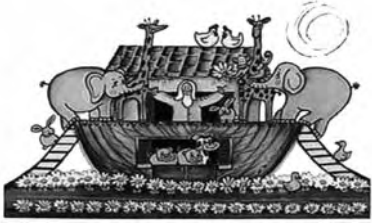
I am proud of Madera County's innovation being the first to pioneer building a system like this from scratch. At least I am hoping we were not so howling-at-the-moon crazy to try to reinvent the wheel when there are tried and proven systems out there, off the shelf, ready to go that could have worked from the beginning. We spend thousands each year to have our Board travel on lavish junkets to "network" with other leaders. What do they talk about?

**Item 9** - I had to talk against this one because it was another case of Madera

Please see **D.O.G.** on P. 22

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## Dog Gone Cute Store



The Madera Ranchos pet store that now has more space, more supplies, better parking, pets and now a groomer!

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The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce

## Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Maywood Shopping Center  
Friday, December 5 • 6:30 p.m.

**Santa will make an appearance at the ceremony and photos will be available!**

**Cookies - Coffee - Hot Cider**

**Christmas carols by Flipside Church and area Girl Scouts.**

**Pick a star for a Veteran at VA Hospital.\***

**\*Items needed for Veterans: Instant coffee, white hand towels, white socks, lap blankets, toothpaste, toothbrushes, L and XL white t-shirts, new books.**

6:30 p.m. - Flag salute with area Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Fire Station 19 Explorers, Ranchos Middle School R.O.T.C. and others

7:00 p.m. - Guest Speaker and Tree Lighting  
7:15 p.m. - Santa!



for more information, contact the Golden Valley Chamber at

**645-4001**

Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce  
37167 Ave. 12 #5C • Madera Ranchos

[goldenvalleychamber@theranchos.com](mailto:goldenvalleychamber@theranchos.com)

[www.TheRanchos.com](http://www.TheRanchos.com)

## The Stock Report

# Handing Over the GV Board Reins

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,

What an exciting election we have just been through. I wish President Elect Barrack Obama the very best wishes for taking on the difficult job of being President of the U.S.A. Now that we are no longer just a collection of red states and blue states we can get back to all being Americans. I am so glad that I have lived long enough to be a part of this exciting time. The strength of the young and the knowledge of the old hopefully will combine to stop the two wars that we are in and get America through the worst financial mess that America has seen in many years. The Barrack Obama slogan "Yes we can" is the same slogan that this community used when we created Golden Valley Unified. It is the right way to start change in America. It gives hope and energy to a people for a country that we all love.

I am also excited that Mike Kelly and Mark Toole were elected to serve for the next four years on the Golden Valley Unified School Board. Congratu-

lations guys! I feel OK about leaving the school board in the hands of people that are there to serve the students, the district and the community. There is so much still to do for our schools and our district. We are still laying foundations for the future. It is a never-ending job. We live in a knowledge and skills-based economy so it is the job of our schools to prepare our students for the real world that is ever changing. We know that the government can't solve every problem. The Board has to be creative, watch every penny and remember to ask "Is the vote I make going to be good for our students?" The students are the reason that you sit on the school board - never forget that. What the community and the school board have already achieved gives me hope that we can achieve much more in the future. Never stop learning and growing. Don't

be afraid of change.

Have you noticed that we can go 40 miles an hour through the Ranchos now? When did this happen and why did it happen? I was at a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce the other night and listened to our Supervisor Frank Bigelow explain the speed change from 35 to 40. Please read the Ranchos Independent article about the speed change through the Ranchos. I am sure it can explain it better than I can because I am still confused.

Fall is here, I know because my leaves are changing into red, yellow, rust and some green. It is so pretty in my backyard. This also means that Thanksgiving is here and Christmas is right around the corner. I need to start making my lists. I will start my baking soon. Christmas letters need to be written and ready to be mailed, the Christmas tree needs to be put up, presents need to be bought and wrapped and

*There is so much still to do for our schools and our district. We are still laying foundations for the future. It is a never-ending job.*

someway it will all get done. The house always smells so good from Thanksgiving to New Years. My house will be filled with my children, grandchildren and friends.

This is why it is my favorite time of the year.

Some people have asked me if I will continue to write this article for the Independent. The answer is yes I will as long as I can get the information I need about what is happening at our schools; then I will continue to write.

The annual Ranchos Christmas Tree lighting will be held at Maywood Center on Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m. The tall tree will be decorated with stars to take for the veterans at the Fresno Veterans Hospital. There will be music, cookies, coffee and hot chocolate. Santa will be there and the local Chamber will be taking pictures of the children. The small trees will be decorated by our school children.

The last school board meeting of the year will be on Dec. 9. Come see the new board members being installed and hear some of the plans for 2009.

## Does Anybody Want to ... Pray?

By Pastor Bob Crabb

I walked on to the Special Housing Unit floor and was greeted by the Correctional Officer on duty. As a local pastor I was part of the Prison Ministry that served the (now closed) Fulton Ave. Community Correctional Facility in the South Bronx and I had seen this officer before. He was a big guy and in my mind he was tough and intimidating. The Special Housing Unit was for inmates who had caused some kind of problem. Most were headed to upstate New York to the penitentiary for further disciplinary action.

After the preliminary ID inspection I walked down the hallway that accessed inmate rooms with three to 12 beds each. Initially I was greeted by several of the inmates asking me to call somebody on the outside. While each request was earnestly made, I would decline to make any outside calls. Part of the ministry agreement with the Warden was that we would not make outside calls for the inmates. After the men realized that I was declining to contact anyone I was pretty much left alone. I saw one man sitting at the end of the hall and I walked up and checked in with him. He wanted to know what I could do for him and I confessed there was not much I could do for him. He looked angry, so I asked him if he was and he gave me about 20 minutes of narrative filled with fierce anger and frustration that turned into rage several times.

He was really angry!

So often in situations of ministry in which I encountered an environment that I felt totally unqualified for I had turned to prayer. This time, I was feeling unqualified once again plus I was beginning to be afraid. I asked the man a question that I have found myself asking many times before: "Do you want to pray?" When I asked him that question, there was another inmate who had overheard us and he came up and kind of patted the other inmate on the back and said something like: "Come on man, let's pray. I'll pray with you." I am not kidding, the three of us stood there at the back of the Special Housing Unit and held hands and prayed for this angry young man.

While we were praying the Correctional Officer who had let me into the unit came up to us and stood glaring at us. I felt sure he was going to

break up our prayer session. It was the height of naiveté on my part, but I asked the Correctional Officer if he would care to join us. I was so shocked when he took my hand and the inmate's hand I was holding and began to pray with us! I think we were all stunned. When we finished praying, the Correctional Officer turned his back on us and walked back to his station and acted as if nothing had happened. I looked at the other two inmates and they had a look on their face of stunned disbelief. It was an incredible experience, both inmates expressed the idea that a miracle happened with the Correctional Officer praying with us. I have no idea how long it lasted, but the inmate who was so angry was almost like a different person. His countenance had changed and where there had been fierceness there was a lightheartedness and thanksgiving to God. When I left the facility that day, the Correctional Officer that prayed with us barely acknowledged my departure.

Time after time, as a Pastor, a California Fire Chaplain and an On-Call Chaplain at Children's Hospital, I have encountered life situations of trauma and suffering in which the only thing I brought to the situation was the question: "Do you want to pray?" As a father and a husband I have found that praying with my family has changed our world. I have seen it over and over again in my life and in others how prayer changes life. For many of us the message and the meaning of Jesus Christ is a message of Love from God. It is in and with this Love that we pray.

So my proposal of faith to you today is: Prayer challenges hard times. Prayer confronts loneliness. Prayer is the power that gives you a second chance. Prayer is that thing that can give you hope in times of great loss. Prayer can take any situation and turn it around. Prayer means that "now" doesn't mean "always."

Many times the people of God are called to do something, not for their salvation, but to simply practice the presence of Christ in our world. Sometimes "that something" is prayer.

Does anybody want to pray?

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



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 THE RANCHOS INDEPENDENT**

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## KIWANIS KORNER



Greetings Ranchos Community, this is an update covering all the activities the Kiwanis Club of the Ranchos has been involved in over this past month.

The Ranchos Kiwanis club conducted its installation dinner and the event was a huge success. During the evening the club was very proud to announce several awards that were presented to deserving members in the club.

The first award went to a long time Kiwanian Wayne Scott. He was presented as a lifetime member of the Kiwanis International club.

The Kiwanis Club of the Ranchos was also very proud to announce that the Monk family was selected as the Family

of the Year for our district. The Monk family includes Steven and Curtis, the boys in the family; Ashley, the daughter; and Steve and Sandy the parents. They were selected over several other families nominated from 22 other clubs in our district. The Lt. Governor for the district, Vern Dillion, came to our installation dinner and presented the family with their award. The Monk family is very deserving of this award, always there to lend a helping hand and strongly supporting our local community in various events.

Past President Pam Glueck was awarded the Distinguished Service Award. This award is given to a Kiwanian who

has gone the extra mile for Kiwanis, either through exceptional committee work or service performance.

Board Member Mona Diaz and Past President Chris Parks were honored by the board of directors who voted to present both of them the prestigious William A. Dunlap Fellowship. This award is presented to a Kiwanian who has demonstrated exceptional service to the Kiwanis, by supporting the efforts of the Kiwanis club in serving children and families of their community. Membership in this Fellowship is initiated by a club donation of \$1,000, which entitles the recipient to a Dunlap plaque, medallion, lapel pin and personalized banner patch.

The last award was given to John Glueck, who was awarded the Kiwanis International George Hixson Fellowship. This award was authorized in 1965 as a means to honor individuals, Kiwanis clubs, divisions, districts, or organizations that have exemplified dedicated service to Kiwanis, their club, or community. George Hixson was the first President of the Kiwanis therefore this award is a vehicle for memorializing Kiwanis leaders. Recipients are presented an attractive walnut wall plaque and medallion signifying that a minimum club contribution of

\$1,000 has been made in their name. John joins an elite group of Kiwanians since this recognition has only been giving to a handful of members in the entire district which spans over all of Madera, Fresno and Merced counties. It was the first time it was awarded to a Madera Ranchos member.

If you are interested in volunteering some time and giving back to your community, please feel free to connect any of our new officers for 2008-2009. They would be happy to answer your questions. You can also write to us at:

Kiwanis Club of the Ranchos,  
37221 Avenue 12 1-C #29  
Madera, CA 93636  
Or call at 645-4735



Long time Kiwanian Wayne Scott (far right) was presented a lifetime member award by the Kiwanis International club. Presenting the award (from left) were present Kiwanis Lt. Governor Dave Pineulas, past President Pam Glueck and Lt. Governor Elect, Vern Dillion.

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

## Pursuing



# TLC Fellowship Victory Conference

*Seeking His will for our generation*

**Dec. 4-7 • Four Days You Won't Want to Miss!**

*Special Guest Speakers*

**Jack Harris • Bill Dickerson • John Haynes  
Scott McMaster • Victor Danridge**

**Appearing Nightly: TLCF Victory Choir!**

*Schedule of Services*

**THURSDAY - 7 p.m. • FRIDAY - 9 a.m. & 7 p.m.**

**SATURDAY - 9 a.m. & 6 p.m. Banquet Dinner**  
(Banquet cost is \$21. Call for reservations)

**SUNDAY - 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.**

(Nursery provided for all services.)

**The Lighthouse Christian Fellowship**  
15048 Monreal Rd. • Corner of Ave. 15 & Monreal

**645-0722**



Jack Harris first went to Northern Iraq in 2004 in response to a challenge from his son, Peter, who was serving in the U.S. Army in Mosul, Iraq. Peter learned first hand of the struggle of the Kurdish people against the former regime of Saddam Hussein. Peter called him from Iraq one evening and said, "Dad, you could help these people; you could come and document their story and share it in America." Jack went as a Christian Minister and as a documentary filmmaker to do just that: to lend a hand to a new nation in its struggle for Democracy. At the invitation of the Kurdish Democratic Party and under its protection, he has enjoyed the success and freedom to do the job he went to do. First to tell a story that many do not know; second, to lend a hand by engaging in humanitarian projects to assist the recovery of so many who have lost so much. Most of all, he went to share his faith and, to the best of his ability, demonstrate the love of Christ in the hope that by His light there might come peace to the hearts of men.

*"Let us know, let us pursue the knowledge of the Lord. His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, like the latter and former rain to the earth." Hosea 6:3*

## Need Gifts? Ranchos Library has Many Offerings for Holiday Time

By Ellen Mester

Each year the children of the community gather at the Ranchos Library on the first Thursday of December to decorate our Christmas tree. It always turns out to be the best ever because the kids do such a great job! This year it will be on Dec. 4 at 7 p.m. We will have music, food and lots of fun decorating. Everyone is encouraged to come and enjoy this a special time of the year at the library.

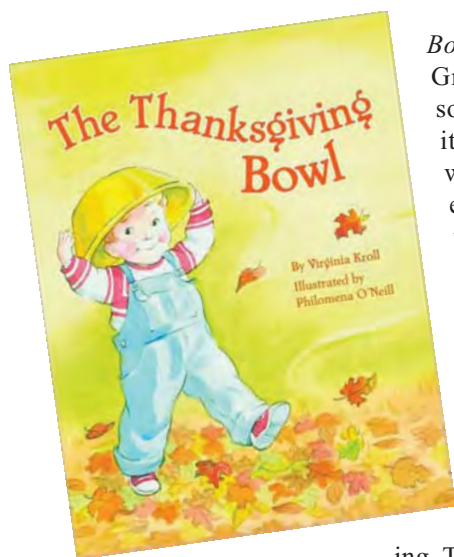
Did everyone see the article about Randel McGee in the Life section of the Fresno Bee dated Nov. 3? Randel and his puppet Groark have been entertaining us at our Summer Reading Programs for many years. Now his son Matt has his own puppet show that was a big hit here last summer. It's great to see local talent get some press. And speaking of press, the writer of that article is our own Ranchos resident, Margaret Slaby of the Fresno Bee.

Grandma Penny and Katie the Dog returned for story time on the first Wednesday of the month. Katie was a very good listener as several children took turns reading to her. She is a sweet dog and will return on Dec. 3. And for Bilingual story time, we read Gracias, The Thanksgiving Turkey and later made our own edible turkeys out of apples, carrot sticks, marshmallows and raisins. It's a fun way to learn, share and eat. And for our regular craft day we made cornucopias filled with popcorn, nuts and dried fruit — just like what the Native Americans and Pilgrims ate.

Looking for some practical and unusual gifts this season? Here are some ideas for Christmas gifts. The Friends of the Ranchos Library have two new styles of book bags for sale at the library. They are heavy, natural canvas bags (one large, one small) with dark green handles. The logo is for the New Ranchos Library which we hope to see in the near future. We also have lovely coffee mugs with the same logo. And of course, there are always books to buy in the Friends book sale room.

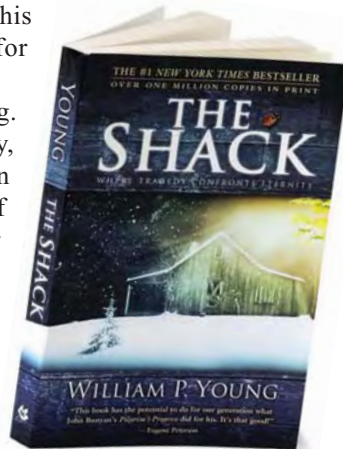
### Reading Suggestions

**Juvenile Picture Book:** *The Thanksgiving Bowl* by Virginia Kroll. The family tradition at Grandma Grace's house was to write down something that you were thankful for and place it in the yellow plastic bowl. After dinner, if weather permitted, Grandma would gather everyone outside for pumpkin pie. Then she would draw a note from the bowl, read each "I am thankful for..." and everyone had to guess who wrote it. When a strong gust of wind blew everyone inside, the bowl was left behind. The lightweight bowl was blown to various locations throughout the year, offering many clever uses to the lucky person or animal who found it. Eventually it found its way back home just in time for the next Thanksgiving.



The warm illustrations and pleasant story are perfect for this time of year, while giving readers possible ideas for their own family gatherings.

**Adult Fiction:** *The Shack* by William P. Young. After losing his youngest daughter, 6-year-old Missy, to a serial killer while on a camping trip in the Oregon wilderness, Mackenzie Phillips falls into a time of "great sadness." It consumes him as well as other members of his family. Years pass but the killer is never found. One day Mack gets a note in his mailbox inviting him up to the cabin in the wilderness — the very one in which his daughter was murdered. Odd as the note is to begin with, the oddest part is that it is signed "Papa." Both Mack's own father



and his wife's father are deceased. Is it some sick joke or perhaps the killer inviting him into a trap? Or could it be another possibility? Very few people know that that is the name his wife uses for God. Is this a message from God? Intrigued and compelled, Mack surreptitiously and alone makes his way back to the place of his worst nightmare. Finding the blood stain still on the hearth of the shack, Mack is overcome with grief and guilt for not being able to protect his daughter. Hearing a noise outside, he fears for his life, only to find he is in the presence of God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. What takes place that weekend is something beyond his imagination. It is an incredible journey and dialog that many might find hard to believe but will make others feel renewed and refreshed. It's a wonderful story of which I highly recommend.

**Adult Fiction:** *Matters of Faith* by Kristy Kiernan. How would you react if one of your adult children caused a younger sibling to nearly die? And worse yet you find that

Please see **BOOKSHELF** on P. 15

# BRIAN'S

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FALL SPECIAL

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Contractor's Lic. #862395 call 675-1681

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11/08



# We're Your Neighborhood Credit Union Isn't it time we got to know each other?

All residents of The Ranchos are now eligible to join. For a one time fee of just fifty cents, you and any member of your family can become a part of our "family" and we'll take good care of you and your finances!



Serving the Financial Needs of the  
Central California Community

## Meet Jerry and Nancy Fay



**Jerry and Nancy Fay**, Ranchos Residents, GVCU Members since 1998 –  
"We've been using the Credit Union for a long time. We used a Home Equity Loan from GVCU when we remodeled to add this great pool and we love it! Getting the loan was easy and hassle free and the thing we always love about GVCU is that the fees are usually the lowest in town or non-existent and the rates are really competitive. Our family are true believers when it comes to having and using the Credit Union for our financial needs. We couldn't have asked for more!"

## Meet Mary Johns



**Mary Johns**, Ranchos Resident, GVCU Member since 1977 – "Well, I use a lot of the products and services of the Credit Union, especially auto loans, but the one I use the most is the 'No Monthly Fee Checking Account'. With the Debit and ATM access as well as the convenience of both telephone and online log-ins to check balances and manage my account, I never have to leave the comfort and convenience of the neighborhood. And yet, when I do go to the branch for whatever, the staff treats me like an old friend, not just a number. I feel that joining and using GVCU is one of the best financial decisions I've ever made."

## Meet Harold Parks



**Harold Parks**, Ranchos Business Owner, GVCU Member since 1973, retired CHP Officer – "Since joining the Credit Union in 1973 I have financed every automobile I have purchased with Greater Valley Credit Union. As a business owner I don't have a lot of extra time to shop around for rates and do comparisons. Working with GVCU I know I don't have to. I wouldn't even think of financing anywhere else. I've been a member there a long time and consistently great rates, great service, convenience, and the friendly staff are what keeps me working with GVCU."

## The GVCU Management Team...



Lori Mainock, VP Lending

Bruce Hibbard, President/CEO

Leana Yang, VP Operations

"You don't have to worry about the safety of your funds on deposit here at the credit union. GVCU is well managed, well capitalized, and financially sound. We don't invest in sub-prime mortgages and your deposits are federally insured up to \$250,000."

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**Main Office**  
1185 W. Hedges Ave.  
Fresno, California 93728



## Taking the Lowly Tin Can for Granted? *CANcel* those Thoughts!

By Eleanore Burchell

One of the “new metals” that allowed metal to be used in packaging nearly 1,000 years ago was tin. Tin is a corrosion-resistant metal and ounce-for-ounce it is comparable to silver. However, tin can be plated in very thin layers over cheaper metals, and this process made it economical for containers.

The process of tin plating was discovered in Bohemia in 1200 A.D. and cans of iron coated with tin were known in Bavaria as early as the 14th century. However, the plating process was a closely guarded secret until the 1600s. Thanks to the Duke of Saxony, who stole the technique, it progressed across Europe to France and into the United Kingdom by the early 19th century. After William Underwood transferred the process to the United States via Boston, steel replaced iron which improved both output and quality. The term “tin can” referred to a tin-plated iron or steel can and was considered a cheap item.

Now we have a tin can, also called a “tin” by the British or a “can” by Ameri-

cans which would require cutting or tearing of the metal as the means of opening them and this piece of trivia falls squarely into the believe-it-or-not category as canned food was around almost half a century before the can opener arrived on the scene. In fact, the most familiar one didn’t make an appearance until 1925.

A British merchant named Peter Durand invented what he called the “tin canister” in 1810 and used it to supply rations to the Royal Navy. But he neglected to develop a gadget to open the danged things. The sailors used pocket knives, chisels, bayonets – and sometimes even gunfire – to get into the vittles. Then in 1858, Ezra J. Warner of Waterbury, Conn. patented the first can opener. Unfortunately, it wasn’t much of an improvement over guns and knives. It looked like a cross between a sickle and a bayonet with a large, curved blade that had to be driven into the can’s rim and then muscled around the perimeter.

But the story goes on. In 1870, an America inventor named William Lyman came up with a device that featured a cutting wheel that rolled around the can’s

rim. Then finally in 1925 the Star Opener Company of San Francisco modified Mr. Lyman’s gadget by adding a serrated wheel that made the tin rotate against the cutting wheel. Bingo! The can opener as we know it was born. The first electric model came on the market in December, 1931.

### News/Events

MONTHLY SALE will be held on Saturday, Dec. 6, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

GARDEN SECTION has many varieties of trees. Trees and scrubs planted at this time of year have a greater chance to do well as the roots can settle into cool soil with less shock to the plant. The fruit trees are waiting for someone to come and take them to a happy home soon. The Treasure House will be open and they have received many new items to show you. There will be bake and boutique sales in the main building. The boutique section has displays of necklaces, earrings, paintings and antiques and many more interesting items. The produce section has several varieties of persimmons and many different jellies. George’s garden is doing well and we invite you to

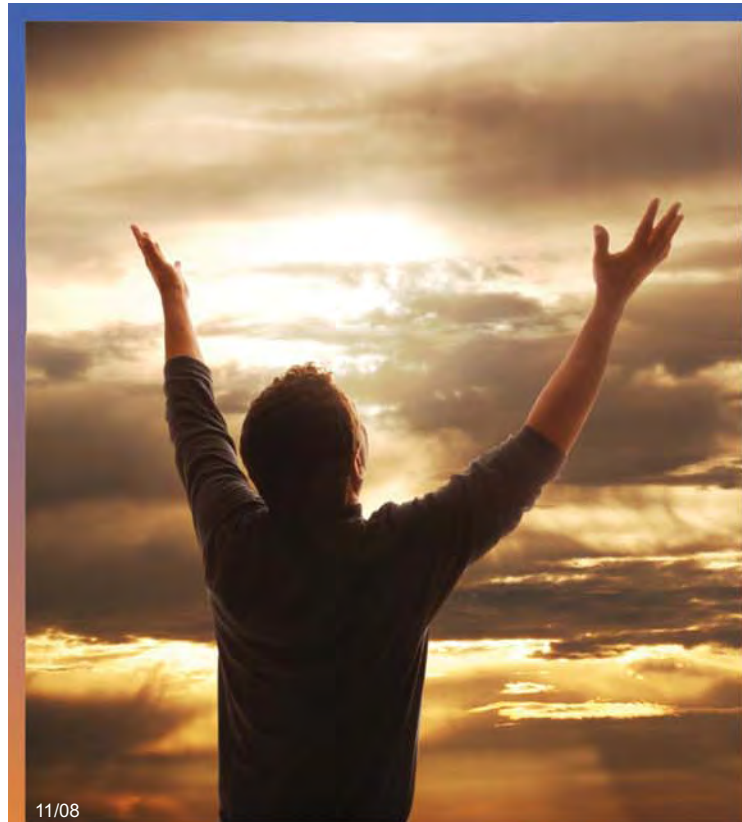
stop in to find out what is on sale now.

The Caribbean cruisers have just returned from their trip. They had a GREAT time! Do you wish you had been with them? Well, call our travel coordinator, Joann Blancett, who has recently introduced the next trip. It is a 9-Day Irish Spirit Tour to Ireland, April 19-27, 2009. The brochures are available in the office. Joann can give you more information and answer your questions so call 645-4864.

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

Did you know two nurses from the Madera County Health Department Periodically come to the center to give FREE checkups? The screenings include personal health history reviews, blood pressure checks and blood sugar checks. Low-cost blood tests are available, nutrition and health education is available and referrals to medical providers and community services, if needed, can be made. Their health screenings of adults, age 50

Please see **SENIORS** on P. 12



11/08

*Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.*

**Thanksgiving was never meant to be  
shut up in one single day.**

**Music, Message, Prayer and Praise  
Sundays at 10:30 a.m.**

**Christian Mission Center**

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Click on “Local News” at

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**37184 Avenue 12, Suite 104 • Madera Ranchos**

11/08

## The Old Cowboy

by Woody Laughnan

In saner years on highways and byways folks rather than talking on cell phones, applying mascara and lipstick on the way to work, messing with CDs, DVDs, Bluetooths and I don't know what all, and manipulating idiotic hydraulic systems that turn vehicles into bucking monsters, pretty much kept their eye on the road and about every 10 miles chuckling over the messages on Burma Shave shaving cream signs along the right-of-way. At least that's the way it was in my growing up days chugging along in a balky Model T Ford that we had to remove the coils and put them in the oven of the kitchen range during winter to keep them warm or it wouldn't start the next morning. Primitive though it may have been, the Model T had the first automatic transmission – although sometimes we had to hold a torch beneath it in winter, as well as the oil pan, to get the engine started.

I recall at about age four of watching for the next set of good humored Burma Shave signs that began popping up in sequence in 1925 that delighted motorists. They didn't get to our boondocks until about 1927 and when we came upon them, mama read them to my little brother and me because papa was a fifth grade dropout and slow reader.

The signs' unwillingness to be portentous, and amiable iconoclasm, pleased people the same way that Ballyhoo magazine caught the national fancy and as Mad magazine did for later generations, which prompted Alexander Woolcott to observe that it was as difficult to read just one Burma Shave sign as it was eat one salted peanut.

Born a Roaring 20s baby, I grew up with the signs and they so humored the barber in our little town that he hired a local sign painter to paint the slogans on the walls of his shop.

The first 12 sets of signs appeared on roads out of Minneapolis leading to Albert Lea and Red Wing and sales of the new Burma Shave shaving cream soared overnight. It wasn't long before they began appearing all over the country, indeed, I recall reading one on Old Highway 99 between Fresno and Madera.

Perhaps the first signs I remember from the back seat of our old Model T Ford:

HE PLAYED  
A SAX  
HAD NO B.O.

BUT HIS WHISKERS SCRATCHED  
SO SHE LET HIM GO  
BURMA SHAVE

Then there were:

DOES YOUR HUSBAND  
MISBEHAVE  
GRUNT AND GRUMBLE  
RANT AND RAVE  
SHOOT THE BRUTE  
SOME BURMA SHAVE

THE ANSWER TO  
A MAIDEN'S PRAYER  
IS NOT A CHIN  
OF STUBBORN HAIR  
BURMA SHAVE

Each line of rhyme sign was spaced so that the driver and passengers in a car traveling at an average speed of 35 had about three seconds to read the first one before coming upon the next, and that was about the top speed of Model T's and other early motor cars.

In addition to the Burma Shave slogan signs appearing in our parts in 1927, so did another phenomenon: the introduction of the Model A Ford a few weeks before Christmas that drew spectators from all over the county.

Here are a few more signs I recall from that yesteryear time before cell phones, television, DVDs, iPods, RAM, www.com and even radios. The slogans were submitted to the Burma Shave Company during jingle contests, some of which drew 50,000 entries.

THE OTHER WOMAN  
IN HIS LIFE  
SAID "GO BACK HOME  
AND SCRATCH YOUR WIFE."  
BURMA SHAVE

Most jingles were "man-woman":

MY MAN  
WON'T SHAVE  
SEZ HAZEL HUZ  
BUT I SHOULD WORRY  
DORA'S DOES  
BURMA SHAVE

IF HUGGING  
ON HIGHWAYS  
IS YOUR SPORT  
TRADE IN YOUR CAR  
ON A DAVENPORT  
BURMA SHAVE

By the 1960s the road signs were growing costlier and becoming ineffective. On Feb. 7, 1963, Burma Shave's parent company, Burma Vita Co., was sold to Philip Morris and the signs were gradually replaced with other advertising media, ending highway chuckles for several generations, leaving us nowadays with only suggestive, and sometimes downright nasty, bumper sticker signs to peruse.



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**I-CAR**  
GOLD GLASS

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Precision Collision Repair



**Genesis 2**  
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*Insurance Claims Welcomed*



**FREE ESTIMATES**  
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SENIORS cont. from P. 10

and OVER, at the center result ONLY when they receive your calls. If you are interested in taking advantage of their services, call Carla or Melody at 675-7893 to make an appointment.

We celebrate the birthdays and anniversaries of our members by going out to eat at a different place each month. On Nov. 15 we went to the Japanese Kitchen at Willow and Shaw. It is GREAT place and we had a fun time. In December the birthday and anniversary members well be honored at our annual Christmas Party to be held at our center.

If you are new to the area, lonely or just lost a spouse, we welcome you to come to see us. We are here for you. Many of our members have surely experienced your same situation.

**THE UP SIDE**

*He who walks with the wise grows wise while a companion of fools suffers harm.*

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

In the senior years, many need someone to laugh with, so come join our Thursday evening potlucks with games played afterwards. 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**

April 19-27, 2009, Ireland Tour

**Weekly Events**

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

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

Tuesday, Pinochle, noon until?

Tuesday, BINGO, 6:30 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.

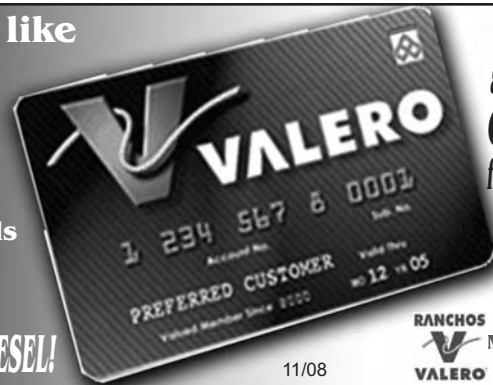
Friday, Exercise Class, 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

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?

**How would you like to save MORE on your next fuel purchase?**

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**Jim Cronin Madera Ranchos**

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It's time to get comfortable.

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Gallery & Unique Gifts

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## Chroma Lux photo panels



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Firefighters Calendar**

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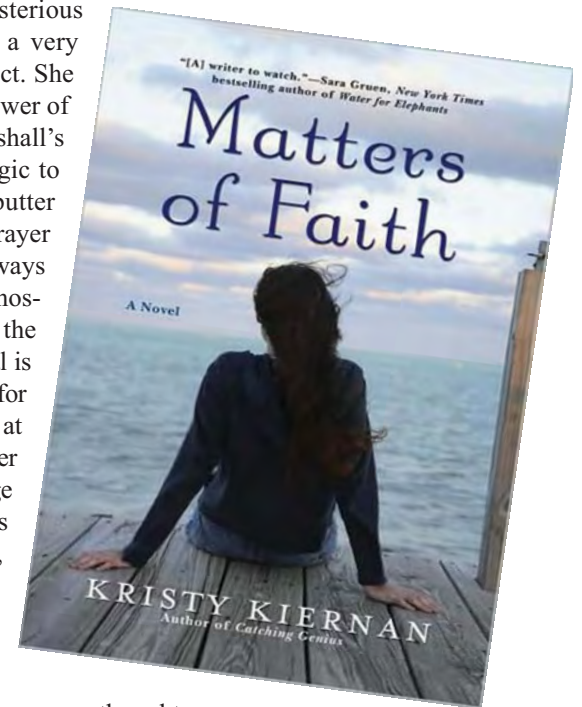
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11/08

**LIBRARY** cont. from P. 8

the police have arrested your older child. Now you have one in the hospital in a coma and the other in jail. This is how Cal and Chloe Tobias find their once-happy family after their son Marshall brings home his girlfriend, Ada, from college. Ada has a mysterious past in which she was raised by a very strict and questionable religious sect. She believes in faith healing and the power of prayer. When Ada encourages Marshall's younger sister who is highly allergic to peanuts to eat a bite of a peanut butter cookie, she and Marshall choose prayer instead of the epipen Meaghan always carries with her. Hours later at the hospital, while Meaghan is in a coma, the police arrest Ada and Marshall. Cal is in favor of letting justice be served for both of them, while Chloe is angry at the doctor for turning the matter over to the police. Now with their marriage rapidly disintegrating and detectives and attorneys asking them questions, Marshall and Ada disappear. It's a gripping story that is similar in style to Jodi Piccoult. Your emotions are constantly tossed between the characters like a water balloon. There are many thought provoking elements to ponder over while the plot moves at a good pace.



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

**Don't Let The GRINCH Steal Your Christmas**

**Come Join Flipside This Christmas Season for:**

<p><b>The Christmas Memory Tree Service</b> Monday, December 8, 2008 7:00 PM Flipside Activity Center</p> <p><b>The Christmas County Spelling Bee</b> Children's Christmas Play &amp; Potluck Sunday, December 14, 2008 5:00 PM Liberty High School Theater</p> <p><b>The Special Christmas Eve Service</b> Wednesday, December 24, 2008 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM Liberty High School Theater</p>	<p><b>Services on Sunday:</b></p> <p><b>9:30 &amp; 11:00 AM</b> <b>Flipside</b> Liberty at Liberty High School Theater</p> <p><b>10:00 AM</b> <b>Flipside</b> Maywood at Flipside Activity Center</p> <p><b>12:00 noon</b> <b>Flipside</b> 13 at Lucky 13 Bar in Fresno</p> <p><b>5:00 PM</b> <b>Flipside</b> Sports Café at Flipside Activity Center</p>
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For more information on these events and other church activities visit our website at [www.act176.com](http://www.act176.com) or email [info@acts176.com](mailto:info@acts176.com)





*Golden Valley Unified School District Superintendent, Sarah Koligian.*

*By Superintendent, Sarah Koligian*

*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful people can change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has”.*

*– Margaret Mead*

Golden Valley Unified School District is approaching the next phase of building for its future. July 2009 will represent Golden Valley’s tenth year as a district. We are relatively young as a school district but the citizens of our community made a commitment to grow a district of excel-

## Building for the Future as 10th Anniversary Approaches

lence, beginning with the a high quality education for each and every student and continuing with providing the best state-of-the-art facilities to educate our children. To that end, our community successfully passed two local school bonds that allowed Golden Valley to help build for the future.

In 1999, the community passed the \$30 million dollar Measure G bond which allowed for the following projects to be completed:

- Liberty High School – Phase 1
- Liberty High School – F Wing project
- Ranchos Middle School – Interim Facility
- Webster Elementary Modernization Project
- Liberty High School Sports Field Lighting Project
- Road 36 and Avenue 12 ½ Roads Projects
- Ranchos Middle School

In 2006, the community saw the need and took the initiative to expand its bonding capacity by passing the \$70 million dollar Measure S bond which has allowed for the following projects to date:

- Ranchos Middle School
- Initial set-aside for Sierra View Elementary improvements

Our Governing Board and district staff met on Nov. 6, 2008 to discuss the future Measure S bond-funded projects to be completed to plan for the future growth of our district. Currently, the district has access to approximately \$6.5 million in bond funds to apply to the list of outstanding projects. The district also has the ability to apply for state matching funds as projects become eligible.

The list of outstanding Measure S bond-funded projects has an estimated total cost of over \$20 million. The million dollar question is which project(s) will Golden Valley tackle next? If all bond funds were available today to build all the outstanding projects, there would be little need for prioritizing our project list. Since that is not the case, the District will apply several criteria to assist with these difficult decisions.

The first criterion that the district considers in answering this question revolves around curricular needs and the need for classroom buildings to meet future enrollment and programmatic needs. Another criterion involves reviewing the status of partially constructed projects and the need to complete those projects. Beyond that, the Board and District will be analyzing the need for providing facilities that will expose our students to the maximum number of extracurricular experiences. The list of Meas-

ure S bond funded projects include the following:

- Liberty High School Science Building
- Liberty High School Career Technical Education Building
- Liberty High School Pool Complex
- Liberty High School Stadium Project
- Liberty High School Playfield Expansion Project
- Sierra View Elementary Modernization and Improvement Project
- Installation of Security Cameras at all sites
- Interim Site Playfield Option for Ponding Basin

Golden Valley Unified appreciates the ongoing support of our community and as the stewards of our bond funds we will continue to analyze the greatest and most immediate facility needs. Several community members and staff attended the Board Facilities Workshop and shared their comments and questions regarding these projects. We welcome the ongoing input of our community members. The Board will continue to seek additional information from staff regarding these projects to assist them in deciding how Golden Valley will continue to build for its future.

If you have additional input or questions, please contact Superintendent Koligian’s office at 645-7500 or at [skoligian@gvusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:skoligian@gvusd.k12.ca.us).

## Crazy Hair Celebrates Red Ribbon Week at Sierra View Elementary



*(From left) Joely Bawcum, Emma Horanic, Devan Berg, James Hernandez and Christopher Clymore get into the Spirit of Crazy Hair Day in celebrating Red Ribbon Week.*



*Kylie Tefft (left) and Trevor Stephens show off their crazy hair on Wednesday, Oct. 22 to show their support for Red Ribbon Week.*



*Red Ribbon Week stresses character and commitment to being drug free and here Michael Hammack (left) and Brandon Sassano show off their character with even more crazy hair.*



## GV Teachers Run Fresno Marathon



Sierra View teacher Daniel Allan competed in, and finished, his first marathon.



Katherine Cuttone, from Educational Options, was competing in her second marathon.

Saturday Nov. 8 was Fresno's first marathon and Golden Valley had several participants. Daniel Allan and Katherine Cuttone ran the full marathon along with four teachers from Webster who relayed the marathon. It was Mr. Allan's first and he ran it in 4 hours 37 min. It was Mrs. Cuttone's second marathon and she shaved 20 minutes off of her previous time! She finished at 3 hours 55 min. Great Job!

## Play Gives Students Holocaust Lesson

By Jeff Smith

A presentation of *Janka* at the theater at Liberty High School on Friday, Oct. 31 provided a deeper insight into the holocaust to the Liberty High School sophomores, AVID classes and students of Valley Teen Ranch. Students received a great performance and were read a letter from a woman who not only was alive during the holocaust, but lived through it as well.

The woman's name was Janka Festinger. Her experiences were well described in her letter, which was never meant for her sons to see. They did, however, and the letter was turned into a play/dramatic reading that was enacted by Janka's daughter-in-law, Janice Noga, who portrayed Janka herself reading the deeply personal letter to the audience.

While the letter was especially meaningful to Janka's family and might have been thought too personal to share, Oscar Speace, Janka's son, believed that it would be a great way of informing the public about the reality of the holocaust.

"I felt it was essential to share her story," Speace said. "I hope this touching letter will influence others and provide them with a sense of how this historical event affected the people who had to go through it."

Sophomores take a world history class in which they follow the history of the holocaust, which was caused because of Nazi hatred toward Jewish people. During the world history class, students learn of all the terrible things that happened during those dark

times, such as the casualties and a little about the internment camps themselves. In addition, students are read *Night*, a novel that also accounts Holocaust stories in their sophomore English classes.

"She used so much emotion when she read the letter; you could really tell people were listening because the whole crowd was silent," Liberty High sophomore Travis Brown said.

"I hope that the students take away a better understanding of the terrible suffering those people endured," Liberty High School Principal Darlea Livengood said. "I also hope it makes them understand how important it is that we never let something like that happen again."

Director and Principal of Educational Options, Dr. Jim Green, was also glad his students had the opportunity to see the performance.

"The students at VTR [Valley Teen Ranch] have many strikes against them when they get to us. Besides the historical value, this presentation imparted to the students a sense that others have overcome, in many cases, far greater obstacles that the ones that our students face as they move through the recovery process. It's also necessary that our students know history so that they don't repeat it; or allow it to be repeated," Green said.

*Janka*, while an interesting and informative play, has not yet really hit it big. The presentation at Liberty was the play's 80th showing. Speace and wife Noga hope one day to make it to Broadway. Hopefully, with a little more time and more presentations such as the one on Halloween day, *Janka* and everyone involved will accomplish their goal.

## Annual Webster Elementary Parade Honors Literature

By Mrs. Woods' Second Grade Platoon

On Friday, Oct. 24 Webster Elementary School held their annual Literature Day Parade. During the week prior to the parade, Mrs. Zinn organized several activities for the kids to do. One of the activities was for each class to choose a book for the week and use that book for different themed activities. That book would be the book that each class would represent in the Literature Day Parade. Also, Mr. Hatch and Mr. Hammack challenged the kids at Webster to read 4,000 books during that week.

The parade started at 8:30 a.m. in the Webster Elementary School parking lot. The classes walked the length of the parking lot in grade level order.

Mrs. Gorman and Mrs. Ruberio's kindergarten classes read the story *The Boy Who Looked Like Lincoln* by Mike Reiss. They wore stovepipe hats and paper beards.

The first grade classes read a variety of books. Mrs. Kent's class read *Otto Runs for President* by Rosemary Wells. Her entire class dressed up as dogs. The girls were cheerleaders like the character "Tiffany" in the story, the boys were football players like the character "Charles" in the story. Mrs. Maxfield's class read *Henry and the Buccaneer Bunnies* by Carolyn Crimi. They wore bunny ears and they even had a real bunny with them. Mrs. Farmer's class read *The Biggest Pumpkin* by Steven Kroll. They were all mice. The boys carried motorcycle signs. They even carried a big pumpkin. Finally, Mrs. Whittemore's class read *Fire Station* by Robert Munsch. They wore fire fighter costumes made by Ken and Rachel Yasunaga. Mrs. Whittemore even wore a real fire fighter's uniform.

In second grade, Mrs. Anhorn chose the book *Duck for President* by Doreen Cronin. They wore red, white, and blue clothes with tri-cornered hats and carried flags. Mrs. McClure's class read *My Teacher for President* by Kay Winters. They also wore red, white, and blue and carried signs and balloons. Mrs. Zinn's class chose *The Flag We Love* by Pam Ryan. They wore red, white, and blue shirts



Mrs. McClure's second grade class prepares to parade for literature on Oct. 24 at Webster.

and carried red, white, and blue balloons. Mrs. Woods' class read *Oh, The Pets You Can Get* by Tish Rabe. Her class wore different animal hats. The hats were cats, dogs and birds. They also carried balloons with paw prints on them. Finally, Mrs. Carlton's class read *Arthur Meets the President* by Mark Brown. Her class also wore red, white, and blue clothes.

For the first time ever, all the third grade classes read *James and the Giant Peach* by

Roald Dahl. Mrs. Maxey's class dressed up as spiders. Ms. Forshee's entire class made up one centipede! Mrs. Raymond's class wore ladybug wings. Mrs. Bezzerides' class wore green and grasshopper masks. Finally, Mrs. Garcia's entire class made up one earthworm.

Mrs. Baughman's fourth grade class did research on famous American heroes. Each individual student wrote about their favorite heroes then dressed like them during the parade. The heroes they chose were: Neil Armstrong, Martin Luther King Jr., Babe Ruth, Sacagawea, Florence Nightingale and Alexander Graham Bell.

In fifth grade, Mr. Ready's class read *Sign of the Beaver* by Elizabeth George Speare. His class dressed as Native Americans and settlers to America. Mrs. Hallett's class read *Earthquake Terror* by Peg Kehret. All of her students carried a piece of wood. Then, Mr. Simon's sixth grade class read *Touching Spirit Bear* by Ben Mikaelson.

After the parade ended, Mrs. Zinn announced that the Webster kids only read 3,989 books. At the last minute, Mrs. Farmer saved the day and brought a book list with 12 books on it. The total number of books read was 4,001, meaning the students won the contest. Mr. Hammack and Mr. Hatch had a pie eating contest. Whoever found the gummy bear first won. Mr. Hatch found the gummy bear first and because Mr. Hatch was the winner, he sprayed Mr. Hammack with silly string. Mr. Hatch and Mr. Hammack both colored their hair red, white and blue for the rest of the day. They spiked their hair too.

It was a great week for all. The parade was a huge hit. Great job Webster!

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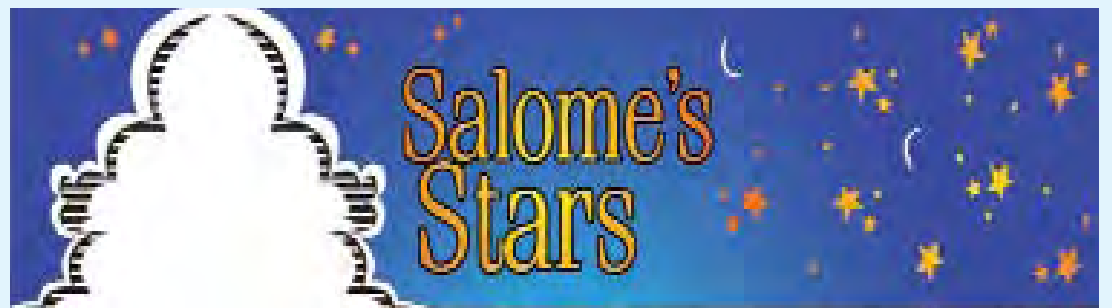
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**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) A project benefits from your organizational skills that get it up and running. Your success leaves a highly favorable impression. Don't be surprised if you get some positive feedback soon.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) Spend time on practical matters through the end of the week. Then begin shifting your focus to more-artistic pursuits. Resist being overly self-critical. Just allow yourself to feel free to create.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) Restarting those creative projects you had set aside for a while will help provide a much-needed soothing balance to your hectic life. Besides, it will be like meeting old friends again.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) A change in plans could make it tough to keep a commitment. But stay with it. You'll get an A-plus for making the effort to do what's right and not taking the easy way out by running off.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) The Lion's enthusiasm for a workplace policy review is admirable. But be sure you know who is really behind the resistance to change before pointing your finger at the wrong person.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) You can expect to have to do a lot of work through midweek. Devote the rest of the week to checking your holiday plans in case some need to be adjusted to accommodate changes.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Try to avoid signing on the dotted line in the early part of the week. You need time to study issues that weren't fully explored. Later in the week might be more favorable for decision-making.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) A new development could snarl travel schedules or other holiday-linked projects. Some flexibility might be called for to deal with the problems before they get too far out of hand.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Relatives seek your advice on a matter you'd rather not be involved in. If so, use that sage Sagittarian tact to decline the "offer," so that no one's feelings are needlessly hurt.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) A shift in planning direction might help you speed up your progress toward achieving that long-planned goal. Trusted colleagues are ready to offer some valuable support.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) An unexpected demand for settlement of an old loan could create some pre-holiday anxiety. But you might not really owe it. Check your records thoroughly before remitting payment.

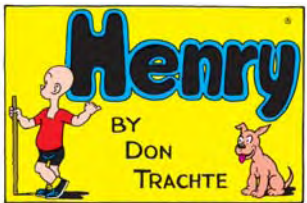
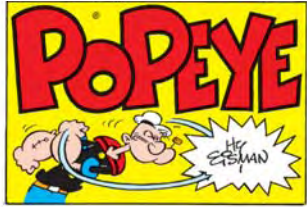
**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) It's a good time to get into the social swim and enjoy some well-earned fun and games with those closest to you before you have to resume more serious activities next week.

## Born this Week

Your ability to sense the needs of others makes you a wise counselor for those seeking help with their problems.

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# FUN PAGES

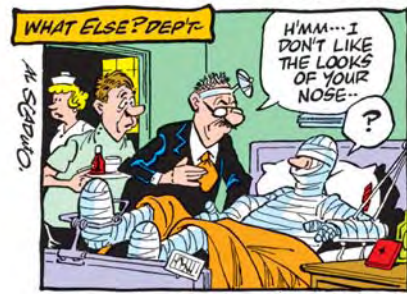


## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

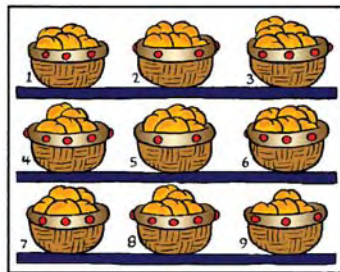
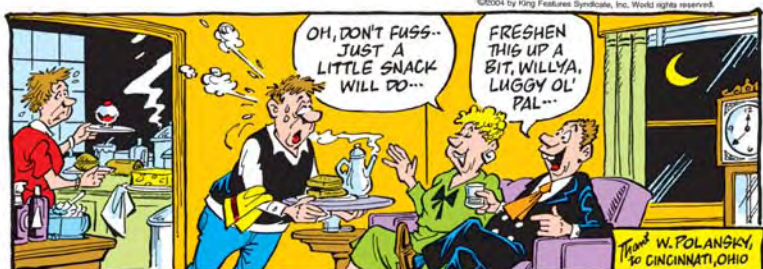
HEAVENLY DAZE—



## BY AL SCADUTO



**FAMOUS LAST WORDS—**  
"WE WERE OUT FOR A DRIVE THIS AFTERNOON and WE PASSED BY YOUR PLACE AND THOUGHT WE'D JUST DROP IN FOR A FEW MINUTES TO SAY HELLO..."



**HERE'S A PEACHY PROBLEM!** Two of the above fruit baskets look exactly alike. See if you can "pick" them out in one minute flat.

Answer: Baskets 4 and 8

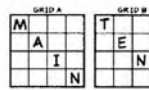
**DOUBLE FEATURE!** Arrange the five letters pictured here into two five-letter words that have more or less opposite meanings.



Answer: UNITE and UNTIE

**BIG TOP TESTING TIME!** Pictured below are two puzzle grids for you to fill in. Hints are given for each word. The words in Grid B contain the same letters as the corresponding words in Grid A.

- |        |        |
|--------|--------|
| GRID A | GRID B |
| M A    | T E    |
| I N    | N T    |
1. A good friend.
  2. A weak excuse.
  3. A happy expression.
  4. To change direction.



1. People on the same side.
2. Complete food serving.
3. A boxing area.
4. An undersized animal.

Answers: 1. Mate-team; 2. Lame-meal; 3. Grim-grin; 4. Turn-unt.

## Wishing Well

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

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

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## MAGIC MAZE ● BY THE —

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

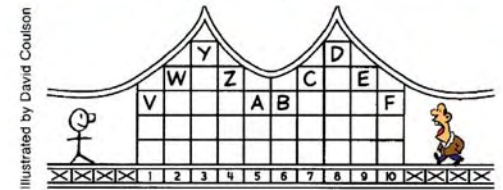
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Board	Name	River	Short hairs
Book	Numbers	Rules	Sword
Bye	People	Same token	Wayside
Hour	Piece	Seaside	

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## Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



### A WORD BRIDGE!

The bridge above contains 10 supporting words. We give you the first letter of each word, plus plenty of hints.

1. A large barrel.
2. Science fiction unit of speed.
3. Heard in the mountains.
4. Outlandishly comic.
5. Exactly suitable; appropriate.
6. To prohibit or deprive.
7. Teeth found on a gear.
8. To fix a computer program.
9. Type of Dutch cheese.
10. Said to be shy.

Answers: 1. Vat; 2. Warp; 3. Yodel; 4. Zany; 5. Apt; 6. Ban; 7. Cog; 8. Debug; 9. Edam; 10. Fox.

## TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. **FOOD & DRINK:** What is the spice paprika made from?
2. **FAMOUS QUOTATIONS:** Who once said, "If you ask me anything I don't know, I'm not going to answer."?
3. **ANATOMY:** How many bones is the average human born with?
4. **U.S. PRESIDENTS:** Which presidential candidate appeared on the 1968 TV comedy "Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In"?
5. **MEASUREMENTS:** What is the equivalent weight of a stone, a traditional British unit of measurement?
6. **HISTORY:** Who led the Boston Tea Party prior to the Revolutionary War?
7. **TECHNOLOGY:** When did the computer mouse make its first public appearance?
8. **MUSIC:** Where is the House of the Rising Sun, according to the 1960s song of the same name?
9. **GAMES:** Which board game features a thimble as a playing piece?
10. **LITERATURE:** Who lives at 221B Baker Street, London?

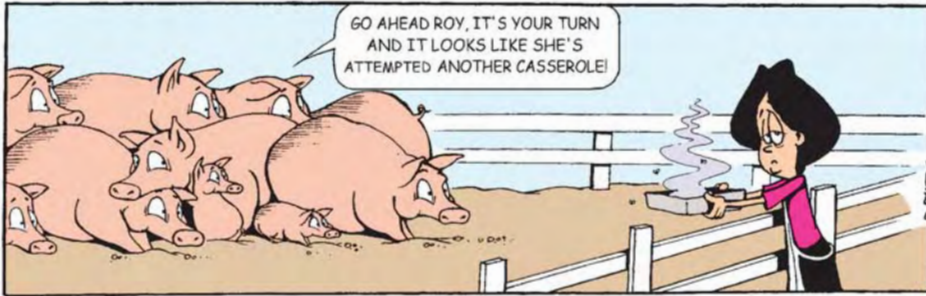
### Answers

1. Peppers, ranging from mild to hot
2. Yogi Berra
3. 300. Adults have 206 because some bones fuse together as children grow.
4. Richard Nixon, who uttered the line "Sock it to me!"
5. 14 pounds
6. Samuel Adams
7. 1968, in a computer demonstration
8. New Orleans
9. Monopoly
10. Sherlock Holmes

Click on "Local News" at

### Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



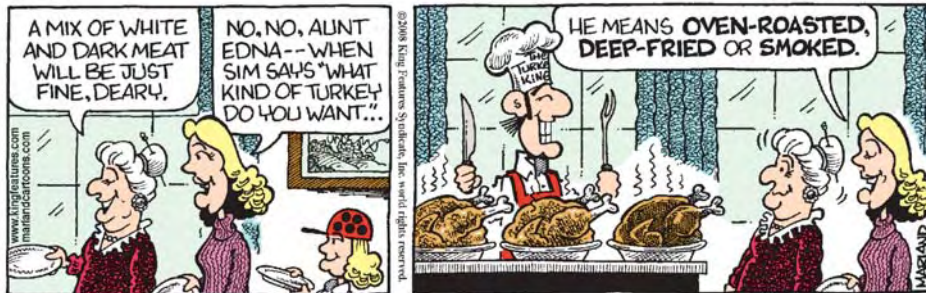
### Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



### R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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JERRY CRAFT



### The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



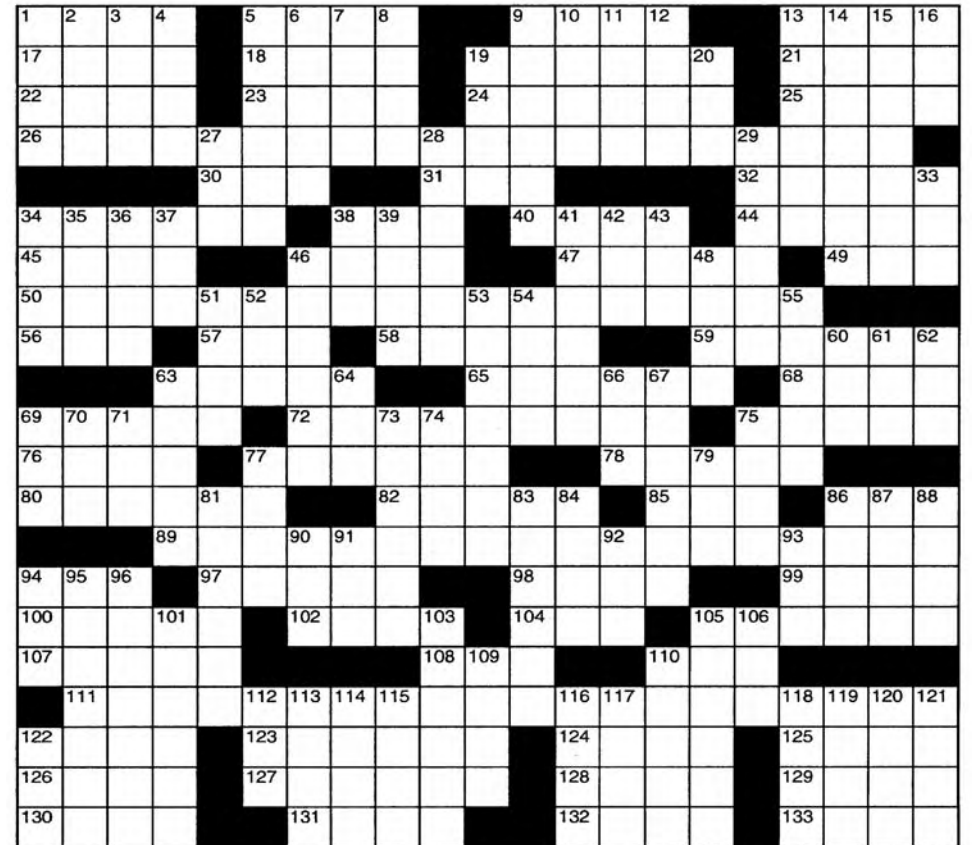
### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Differences: 1. Boy's pants are black. 2. Ball near boy's foot is missing. 3. Mom's hat is gone. 4. Drapes are wider. 5. Girl's bow is different. 6. There's more trash on floor.

## Super Crossword



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- ACROSS**
- 1 Word with dance or hero
  - 5 — Pet
  - 9 Play thing?
  - 13 Rushes
  - 17 Destroy
  - 18 "You —?" (Lurch's line)
  - 19 Merchant
  - 21 "— partridge in ..."
  - 22 Dermal-tological problem
  - 23 Foot part
  - 24 Event of 622
  - 25 Fancy
  - 26 Start of a remark by Roseanne
  - 30 "Sheila" singer
  - 31 Echidna's tidbit
  - 32 Account entry
  - 34 Arthurian knight
  - 38 Dunce
  - 40 Scandinavian capital
  - 44 Susan Lucci role
  - 45 Beige
  - 46 Burlly Burl
  - 47 Black and white delight
  - 49 Neighbor of Okla.
  - 50 Part 2 of remark
  - 56 Way to satori
  - 57 Team scream
  - 58 Light metal group?
  - 59 Spouse of Isis
  - 63 Football's Lavelli heroine
  - 68 Curtain fabric
  - 69 Agricultural inventor
  - 72 Part 3 of remark
  - 75 Tucker or Roberts
  - 76 Land measure
  - 77 Crops up
  - 78 Montezuma, for one
  - 80 Peat's place
  - 82 Forster's "— With a View"
  - 85 "To be sure!"
  - 86 Shorten a skirt
  - 89 Part 4 of remark
  - 94 Carry to class
  - 97 Intuit
  - 98 Green land
  - 99 Kruger or Gluck
  - 100 Clumsy
  - 102 Prune a paragraph
  - 104 Present for pop
  - 105 Writer Rushdie
  - 107 Pigeonhole
  - 108 Glowing
  - 110 Private reply?
  - 111 End of remark
  - 122 Meter reader?
  - 123 Journalist
  - 124 Where to speak Farsi
  - 125 Emilia's husband
  - 126 "— take arms against a sea ..."
  - 127 "The Compleat Angler" author
  - 128 Arrogant
  - 129 It may be bitter
  - 130 Govt. agents
  - 131 — -do-well
  - 132 Actress Joyce
  - 133 Toboggan
  - Rossini
  - 10 Frenzy
  - 11 Garfield's pal
  - 12 Gilpin of "Frasier"
  - 13 Nautical rope
  - 14 Check
  - 15 Impressive building
  - 16 TV's "My Sister —"
  - 19 Dilute
  - 20 Sneaky sort
  - 27 Meyers of "Kate & Allie"
  - 28 Ornamental dangler
  - 29 Principles
  - 33 Duty
  - 34 Saxophonist Stan
  - 35 Need a rubdown
  - 36 Small bird
  - 37 Great bird?
  - 38 Actress Gardner
  - 39 Doris Day refrain
  - 41 Cavort in the pool
  - 42 — Cruces, NM
  - 43 Can. province
  - 46 '87 Warren Beatty film
  - 48 Last name in fashion
  - 51 "Dies —"
  - 52 Rowan or Rather
  - 53 Truman
  - Cabinet member
  - 54 Movie mogul
  - Marcus
  - 55 Whitman's bloomer
  - 60 Fled
  - 61 Frigid
  - 62 Monsarrat's "The Cruel —"
  - 63 Night vision?
  - 64 Inventor Whitney
  - 66 Actress Leoni
  - 67 Pepsin or lipase
  - 69 Barrier
  - 70 Word form for "environ-ment"
  - 71 Goof
  - 73 Sanford of "The Jeffersons"
  - 74 Ralston or Miles
  - 75 Hardy woman
  - 77 Tennis leg-end
  - 79 Golfer's gadget
  - 81 Nervous —
  - 83 "Swan Lake" heroine
  - 84 1, 102, to Calpurnia
  - 86 Ian of "The Borrowers"
  - 87 Role for 27 Down
  - 88 Nasty
  - 90 Sturm — Drang
  - 91 Compass pt.
  - 92 Mine find
  - 93 Lyricist David
  - 94 Coal
  - 95 Doughboy's container
  - 96 Conceal
  - 101 Light quantum
  - 103 Poet Wylie
  - 105 Burnt —
  - 106 Branch
  - 109 Terrible name?
  - 110 Periwinkle, for one
  - 112 "Would you look at that!"
  - 113 Algerian port
  - 114 Vex
  - 115 Winslet of "Hamlet"
  - 116 Jackknife, e.g.
  - 117 — surgery
  - 118 Puppy protests
  - 119 Monopoly destination
  - 120 Stare sala-ciously
  - 121 Daring
  - 122 Ample abdomen

D.O.G. cont. from P. 4

City with their hand out for our share of the pie after they have gobbled up theirs.

The Project was one that Supervisor Rodriguez has championed, to help local youth. I admire the issues that Supervisor Rodriguez fights for and the way he votes with his heart instead of a political mind. Many of the people Max advocates for can't vote.

What the City wanted was some of our diversion credits. PG&E has a fund (diversion credits) that can be used to put power lines underground. As I understand it, the credits are distributed according to population. As the CAO's office was making the presentation I noticed that all but one of the future County projects were within Madera City's sphere of influence; areas that will soon be annexed into the City.

We have been spending hundreds of thousands, possibly millions, to upgrade roads next to the City Limits to levels no other area of the County enjoys only to see them annexed into the City. Now we are planning to expend our PG&E credits in the same way. I would imagine there are areas in the Ranchos and in the mountains that could use these funds.

**Item 18** - Our head librarian wants to turn a meeting room into a children's room at the library. I was amazed at the way this one began.

Supervisor Moss made what I would categorize as a vicious attack on our head librarian and on the idea of her even bringing the issue of the project before the Board. A picture is worth a thousand words. Watch the video on line. I personally think our Board owes Linda a public apology.

After all she was doing exactly what she was hired to do which is advocate for the county Library system and suggest ways to improve services. It seemed one source of his indignation was based on the fact that Stell Manfredi was against it and the idea should have died because of the CAO's opposition.

I have made no secret of the fact that

I like Stell; I agree with many of his ideas and I have also disagreed with him on a number of occasions. I didn't vote for Stell to be Madera County King - none of us did. His word carries a lot of weight but it must be presented to the board of Supervisors and voted on by our elected representatives to become law. Stell is no shrinking violet and he is capable and prepared and more than willing to argue his case on his own.

Back to the children's room at the main library.

The library is small for the size of the community it serves. To have a sizable portion of the building consumed by a meeting room that is used very little seems a bit wasteful. The meeting room can be placed just about anywhere, but the children's room needs to be at the library. I suggested creating a meeting room on the unused third floor of the Granite Palace but the idea was ridiculed by more than one sitting on their seats way above the lowly public.

Why the third floor of the "Granite Palace" stands empty while the county rents space for County functions is the subject of another report.

**Frustration** - In case you have not noticed, my time away from the "Junk Yard" hasn't helped the old DOG's temperament. Watching the Federal Government do the \$700 BILLION bait and switch didn't help. The news media is focused on the \$20,000 airplane ride the beggars took to get to the front of the handout line.

How about the taxpayers buy the first auto company to go under? Use all the folks that would be out of a job to retool the facilities to build and sell nothing but vehicles that run on alternative fuels or get over 60 MPG. My bet is as soon as they are up and running we can do an IPO and get our money back.

Throwing money out there to save stagecoach builders that have arrogantly built dinosaurs while they ride around in gilded carriages just does not make sense.



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**ATTENTION!**  
 The insert for PIZZA FACTORY found in this issue of the Ranchos Independent has the WRONG phone number. The CORRECT phone number is:  
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 we apologize for any inconvenience

*"For all that you are thankful for...  
 ...you're welcome" -God*

**"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever"**  
*-Psalms 106:1*

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 Wednesday Prayer and Bible Study 6:00 PM

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Action Equipment	Wonder Bread-Fresno	The Headliners
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Stacy Sylvester	Jack in the Box-Madera	Delightful Touch
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Manager: Reggie Brown	Curves-Madera Ranchos	Pizza Factory-Madera Ranchos
Save Mart, Madera	Zak's-Madera	Stoney Masonry
Manager: Roger	Walgreen's- Madera	Jessica Pacheco
Sal's Mexican Restaurant - Madera	Madera Ranchos Library	Parents and students of Chawanakee Academy
	Aztlan Mexican Restaurant	

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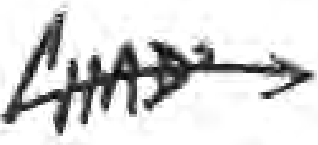
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**WATER** cont. from P. 2

pectation that agricultural water use will level off and grow only 2.5 percent during the same period. Municipal and industrial water use throughout the County is expected to grow 239 percent as the population of the County continues to grow at a rapid pace. Much of the population growth will be focused on the cities of Madera and Chowchilla, and the designated growth areas of Oakhurst, Coarsegold and the Madera Ranchos. Other new growth areas, including particularly Rio Mesa and Gateway Village in the Southeast County, are expected to contribute to the total as well but are not mentioned in the report by name.

Looking to the future, the study concludes that if overdraft conditions are allowed to continue at their current rate, the result will be increasing pumping costs and required deepening of new and existing wells to reach groundwater. Also, the deeper water is of lesser quality than most of what is being pumped now and will require new treatment processes and equipment in order to meet State regulations for drinking water quality. The report specifically cites the Madera Ranchos area where water below about 600 feet is known to be brackish and unusable as a source of drinking water.

While the conclusions of the report are serious and of concern, the report also makes a number of recommendations aimed at reducing and even reversing the effects of groundwater overdraft in light of continuing County growth, noting that many of the recommendations will require further investigation and funding. Some may require approval of one or more governmental agencies prior to implementation and nearly all will require environmental review under the requirements of State and perhaps Federal laws. All that means that it is important to begin looking at the recommendations sooner rather than later so the best ones can be selected, approved and funded.

**A First Step**


The report's first recommendation to enhance the Valley's water supply is that the County should work with other Central Valley Project (CVP) Contractors including Chow-

chilla Irrigation District, Madera Irrigation District, and the Friant Water Users Authority, to protect CVP allocations from further reduction as a result of the San Joaquin River restoration efforts and to see that provisions are made to make up for any water lost to river restoration efforts.

Next, the County should evaluate participation in water banking efforts, which develop facilities to store excess surface water in the underground aquifer for later recovery. Several areas in the County have been tentatively or finally identified as suitable for banking projects but accomplishing a water bank is a complex process with support and cooperation necessary among all interested parties. The County's political and financial support is needed for these projects to succeed in a way that benefits all the citizens of the county.

The County, as a CVP contractor itself, is eligible to purchase "Section 215" water when it is available. More commonly called "flood release," this is "excess" water released from Friant Dam to make sure storage space is available for coming storm water, snowmelt and river flows as part of flood and water management. It is available in wetter years as the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), manages the storage available in Millerton Lake. The cost is usually very low because so much water is being released at a time of year when it is not very useful to agricultural interests and may actually present a flooding liability. The County has never purchased Section 215 water because it has no facilities ready to accept these flows. Several conceptual facilities have been discussed, most involving construction of recharge basins along or near Madera Irrigation District's main canal or the 6.2 Lateral, which runs northeast to southwest just east and South of the Madera Ranchos. Making these concepts a reality will require cooperative agreements between land owners, developers, the County and MID, all of whom have expressed interest in seeing recharge facilities constructed.

**Part II Next Month**



## Madera Ranchos Assembly of God

NW Corner of RD 36 & AVE 13 1/2  
Office 645-0716

<p><b>Sunday</b></p> <p>Kid's Church.....8:30 &amp; 10 a.m.</p> <p>Worship.....10 a.m. &amp; 6 p.m.</p> <p>Sunday School.....8:30 a.m.</p> <p>Youth.....6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Wednesday</b>.....7 - 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>Worship Service</p> <p>Royal Rangers (Boys 5-17)</p> <p>Missionettes (Girls 5-17)</p> <p>Rainbows (Boys &amp; Girls 3-4)</p>
--	---

11/08

LETTERS cont. from P. 4

to send all of the packages, but it is especially gratifying to send them to soldiers who get no mail from friends or family. We intend to keep sending packages until all of our troops come home.

Soldiers tell us their favorite gift items are protein snacks, beef jerky, candy, baby wipes, DVD's, CD's, socks, talcum powder, batteries, helmet liners and cooling neck scarves.

We have received support from the local Kiwanis, Fresno Airport Rotary, Optimist Club, two Sororities, a 4-H Group, Girl Scouts and the Chowchilla Women's Prison. Gail, an Avon lady, personally put together over 200 packets of toiletries for men and women. Phyllis baked hundreds of chocolate chip cookies. Becky arranged for her students to collect candy. Jane knits helmet liners to keep our soldiers warm in the winter. Judy, Gary and Donna send us donations for postage. Our local seniors assist us with toiletries and snacks for our troops and many more folks have donated items as well as funds for postage. It cost \$9.80 to send one flat-rate box.

We would appreciate any donations

you might be able to make to ensure our soldiers receive a special personalized package for Christmas. We need to send our packages by the third week in November to insure they are received in time for Christmas.

"Word From HOME" is a ministry of my church, Madera Ranchos Assembly of God (MRAG), however, our ladies come from many different churches. We have ladies from the local area as well as Fresno, Madera, Chowchilla, Hanford, Carmichael, Roseville, Sacramento and growing.

Financial donations can be made to MRAG at 35849 Ave. 13 1/2, Madera, CA 93636. Please note that it is for "troop support" on your check. We have several drop off points in the Central Valley and I will be happy to assist you in getting any donated items to our troops. Just call me at 559-645-0513 or 474-2330.

Thank you for any help you can provide. And may you and yours have a blessed Christmas.

Sincerely,

Pam Hansen  
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

Hi. My name is Joseph Ojeda, and I am working on my Eagle Project for completion of the Boy Scouts of America program. The Rank of Eagle is a lifetime achievement and the Eagle Project is the culmination of the rank and completes the scouting program. I've been in the Boy Scouts in the Ranchos in Troop 118 for about 10 years now and I would really love to complete the program by attaining Eagle.

My project will benefit my church, Fresno First Baptist's, preschool program: First Steps. Fresno First Baptist has a vision that begins with being placed by God in the heart of the city with a heart for the city, to reach all peoples with the gospel of Jesus Christ and to transform the world one life at a time. The "little lives" at the preschool at Fresno First Baptist are where I have decided to put my efforts.

My project consists of a garden area in the playground where the children can grow vegetables and flowers and learn how to bring things to life and to keep them alive. During my project, Boy Scouts

will construct planter boxes to hold the soil and the seeds/plants and allow the children to access the boxes at their level, tend to them and to see them at all times while they are playing outdoors. The boxes have been designed and the project has been approved.

Now, I need to gather the funds to complete the project.

Right now I am looking to you, my local community, and businesses for possible donations of money to help me fund this project. Any amount you donate is not too small and is tax deductible for you or your business. I would appreciate any help that you can give. Feel free to contact me with your questions or comments at one of the numbers below:

Home Phone 559-645-1917/Cell Phone 559-493-8175

E-mail address joeojeda@ymail.com  
Mailing Address 12289 Road 36 1/2, Madera, CA 93636

Sincerely,

Joseph Ojeda  
Madera Ranchos

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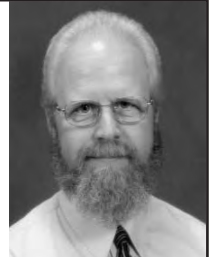
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## For Sale

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**For Sale - 1962 Studebaker Lark Daytona Coupe.** V-8, Automatic, Air Conditioning, Power Steering. New wide whitewall B. F. Goodrich Tires. Runs and drives great. 80,773 miles from new. \$13,500. OBO. **Call Bob at 559-645-7226.**

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**For Sale - King PLUSH PILLOW-TOP Mattress/Box,** Never Used in Plastic, Cost \$800 Sacrifice \$375. **Call 230-0486.**

**For Sale - Bedroom Set.** Thomasville Quality. Sleigh Bed, 2 Nightstands, Dresser/Mirror, New in Boxes! Cost

\$7K Sacrifice \$1,675. Extra pieces available. **Call 275-8813.**

**For Sale - Pool Table.** Brand New, Solid Wood, 1" Slate W/Leather Pockets, Accessories Included, Cost \$5K Sacrifice \$1,375. Can deliver. **Call 447-5066.**

**For Sale - Dining Room Set** - Never Used, Beautiful Solid Cherrywood, Double Pedestal Table w/2 Leaves, 6 Chairs, China Cabinet w/ Touch Lighting. Cost \$8K Sacrifice \$1,775. Matching Buffet \$450. **Call 438-0248.**

**For Sale - Queen PLUSH PILLOW-TOP Mattress/Box,** New with Warranty, Cost \$600 Sacrifice \$195. **Call 277-2511.**

**For Sale - Small two-wheel trailer** with ramp to transport scooter. \$500. **Call 559-674-6516.**

## 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

**O. HANDYMAN** - Need fans installed, sprinklers, light electrical, plumbing, or any handyman chores? **Call Ohan for free estimates. 559-274-7670.**

## Home/Yard/Ranch Services

**NEED AFFORDABLE, BUT RELIABLE HOME, YARD OR RANCH HELP?** Landscaping, hauling, tree and brush trimming/removal, home improvement, general labor, etc. **Call Luke today! 559-367-5881.**

## Housecleaning Services

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

**Housekeeping** - Ranchos Area business owner - 12 years. Good references. **Call for more information 559-776-6790 or 559-645-4117.**

## Nanny Services

**Do you need a reliable and trustworthy caregiver for your child?** Ranchos resident - References available. **Call Olga 559-960-5314.**

## Painting Services

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

## Recycle

**Save Our Landfill - Newspapers, magazines, phone books and other printed paper materials.** Large recycling bin located at Table Mountain Chevron @ Highway 41 & Ave. 15. **Call 559-822-2517.**

## Steel Buildings

**Steel Buildings - Custom and Commercial Design.** Ag Buildings on Sale! Factory Direct to Site - Local Consultant, Can Erect. **www.scq-grp.com #06J 559-742-1522.**

## 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.**

## Trash Hauling

**Trash Hauling** - Yard cleanup, Lawn mowing, Sprinkler repair. **Call Alex at 559-479-1402.**

## 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.

	X		+		29
-		X		+	
	X		+		25
X		-		+	
	X		-		22
25		26		18	

1 2 4 5 6 7 8 8 9

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## SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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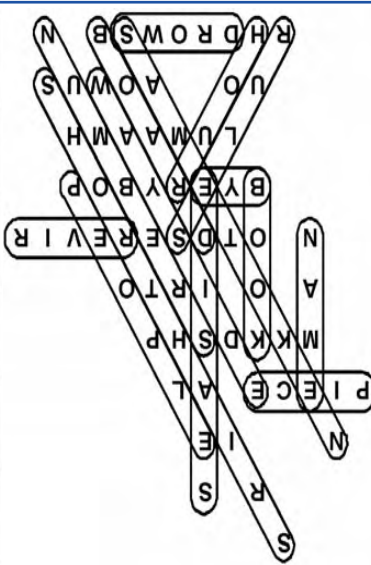
**www.itzsewlucy.com**

11/08

### ANSWERS

POET	ORIANNA	IRAN	PILL	SL	ED
FR	OM	W	K	I	V
NIC	HE	L	I	T	S
I	N	E	P	T	D
B	U	S	S	E	N
M	O	R	A	S	S
A	C	R	E	A	R
D	E	E	R	E	A
Z	E	N	K	I	D
E	C	R	U	L	I
G	A	W	A	I	N
T	H	E	W	A	Y
R	A	C	I	N	E
C	H	I	A	P	R

25	18	26		
5	8	-	6	X
X		+	-	
2	9	+	8	X
-		+	X	
7	1	+	4	X



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



PG&E?

Ave. 12?

Water?

Sewage?

Schools?

Developments?

If you've got questions about what's happening in the Ranchos, now you have a place to call.

**559-363-9095**  
**info@ranchoscommunity.com**