

The Ranchos Independent



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**SPECIAL
VOTER'S
GUIDE**
ON PAGE 25

October 2006

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

35¢

ELECTION SPECIAL: Shaping our Future at the Ballot Box

By Randy Bailey

As we enter into this next election on Nov. 7, we will have the opportunity to voice our opinions on many matters that will have a statewide impact. But none of those decisions may be as important as the ones we make concerning our own Golden Valley Unified School Board. The days of pre-Proposition 13 are gone forever. The never-ending supply of money that my school district seemed to have when I was going to school in the 1970s is nowhere to be found around here in 2006. All that means is that we need to pick the best possible candidates for the job. They need to be fiscally conservative,

but they need to keep the welfare of our kids in the forefront as the guiding principle in everything they do on the board.

The Ranchos Independent wants you to be able to make informed choices. We have asked all five of the candidates vying for the three open seats a series of questions to try and get into their minds and get a glimpse of the thought processes they'll bring to the table if elected. We gave them all the room they needed to answer the questions as fully - or not - as they wanted. Their answers appear here unedited.

The initial questions we asked were basic: Who are you? What's your background and education? From there we asked

"What's your motivation behind wanting to be a GVUSD School Board member?" Then we hit them with a tougher one: "What makes you *uniquely* qualified to be our next GVUSD School Board member?"

We further asked each of them what their particular vision for the future of the Golden Valley School District was and then we slipped in a little bit of a trick question and asked what they thought the GVUSD was NOT doing right now that it should be.

Everyone makes decisions everyday, but we wanted to know next upon what would they base their decisions for the school district. God? Public outcry? Flipping a coin?

We have also noticed a bit of "us vs. them" in the community as regards sports (building a stadium) and vocational programs (building auto shop classes), so we asked two direct questions: What value do you see in extracurricular activities and what value do you see in vocational training programs?

Another slightly tricky question followed asking if they were outvoted at a meeting, would they be able to fully offer support to the majority's decision, even if they were dead-set against it? Everyone likes to say they're a team player but few are willing to step into a pitch for the team.

Since no man/woman is an island, we asked what role they

thought students and parents would play in their term as a GVUSD School Board member and then we asked what role they thought parents and students should play in education in general.

Finally, we let them get a little whimsical, pull out the crystal ball and asked them to tell us how the schools of the Madera Ranchos would be different at the end of their term. We then let them recap - if they wanted to - their respective strong points and highlights of their campaign.

There you have it. Eleven questions to hopefully tell you something about the candidates that you didn't know, and more importantly possibly help you make a decision Nov. 7.

Meet the Candidates



Mona Diaz

Age: 58

Occupation/Background: Business Owner

Education: Federico College of Cosmetology and Fresno City College

Family: Married to Charles Diaz for 37 years with two sons Charles Jr. and Casey.

What's your motivation behind wanting to be a GVUSD School Board member?

The students are my motivation. I am motivated daily by the progress our students are making both academically and in extracurricular activities along with their leaders (staff and administrators). Also, to see our students receive the best education we can give them with a strong community commitment.

What makes you uniquely

Please see DIAZ on Page 9



Steven Lewis

Age: 36

Occupation/Background: Publishing, District/Area Manager

I started working for Trader Publishing Company in 1994 as an Advertising Consultant. Trader Publishing Company is owned by Cox Enterprise, a Fortune 500 Company. After two years of hard work and dedication, I was promoted to General Manager of the Fresno operation and in 2005 I was promoted to District Manager.

I currently manage three operations: Fresno, Bakersfield and Sacramento.

Prior to 1994, I owned and operated my own commercial advertising business for four years.

Education: Fresno City College, 1990 to 1991

Please see LEWIS on Page 2



Brad McDonald

Age: 48

Occupation/Background: Business Owner - Insurance Agency, 27 years.

Education: Merced Junior College - Associate Degree Married

My motivation behind wanting to be a GVUSD School Board member is to give back to my community in a field I am knowledgeable and enjoy. I have a long history of working with schools and students.

As a school advisory board member for over 25 years and a successful business owner for 27 years, I have become uniquely qualified for our School Board. Being detail minded I have the ability and experience in planning for future growth for the benefit of both our students and the budget. I accept this responsibility with no hidden agendas.

My vision for the future of the

Please see BRAD on Page 11



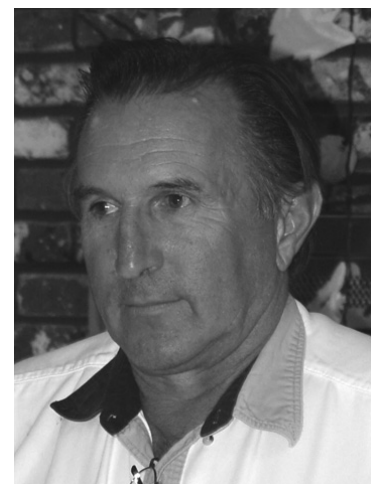
Roger Schuh

Age: 43

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Roger Schuh. I have called the Ranchos my home for the past 6 years. I am 43 years old and have two children, both of whom attend GVUSD schools. I am also a current member of the board of trustees. I was appointed to fill the remaining two years seat held by Bill Bell. Though I was seated due to unfortunate circumstances, I feel fortunate and honored to serve on the board.

When not involved with board business I manage a diversified farming operation in which I am a partner. I graduated from Chowchilla High in 1981 and then received an Ag Business degree from Fresno State in 1985. Upon graduation I became self-employed and

Please see SCHUH on Page 7



Mark Toole

Age: 56

Occupation/Background: Retired after nearly 20 years of being an auto and truck mechanic and welder. I have also retired after working almost 16 years with the California Highway Patrol Motor Carrier Safety Unit. I am currently employed as a Safety and Compliance Manager with a trucking company that has nearly 60 employees. My duties consist of ensuring compliance with Federal and State regulations as they apply to highway transportation of goods. I am also involved with the hiring and the release of employees, workers compensation, accidents, other phases of risk management, and developing company policy.

Education: Junior College

Please see TOOLE on Page 8

REMEMBER TO VOTE! TUESDAY NOV. 7

The Ranchos Independent

LEWIS cont. from Page 1

Commercial Advertising/ Printing
Duncan Polytechnical Vocational
Program, 1988 to 1989

Commercial Advertising / Printing
Bullard High School

Family: Married 15 years to my
wife Lori. We have four children. Our
oldest daughter is in the sixth grade, a
son in the fourth grade and twin daugh-
ters in the second grade.

My wife and I are very involved
within our schools and community,
including Boy Scouts,

Girl Scouts, softball, baseball and
soccer. I currently coach two soccer
teams and I serve as the registrar to
Golden Valley Jr. Soccer league's
board. My wife is co-president of the
Parents Club and is a Girl Scout troop
leader at Sierra View Elementary.

**What's your motivation behind
wanting to be a GVUSD School Board
member?**

My children are my first priority
and my greatest motivation. My wife
and I pride ourselves in choosing to be
as active as possible within our chil-
dren's education. Running for school
board is one of the greatest ways to be
involved.

**What makes you uniquely quali-
fied to be our next GVUSD School
Board member?**

There are two items that allow me
to be uniquely qualified. First, my
involvement within the community and
schools allows me to surround myself
with people that will be my "team" as I
bounce ideas off them and receive
input. Second, I have a sizable amount
of experience managing a large busi-
ness. On a yearly basis I forecast
expenses and income growth and create
large multi-million dollar budgets that
must be met. On a daily basis I manage

these budgets and set expectations to
insure the owners receive a return on
their investment. As a board member, I
will understand the community's
expectations to have a return on their
investment: keeping the district fiscal-
ly sound and at the same time giving
every child an excellent education.

**What is your vision for the future
of the Golden Valley School District?**


My vision is to build on the excel-
lence that has already been established.
Our budget is balanced and we have
increased our reserve for financial
uncertainties to near 6%. Our over-all
API scores are up over 25 points over
last year. We are on course to become a
"distinguished school district." To
become the best will take the determi-
nation of the community, parents and
educators, all working together to
achieve this status.

In order to do this, we need to con-
tinue to hold our students to higher
expectations. We need to continually
invest in our teachers and give them the
tools to have our children meet these
expectations. We need to invest in our
children by offering programs that will
enrich and energize their learning expe-
rience. We need to integrate new tech-
nologies that will challenge our stu-
dents and prepare them for college or
the work force.

**What is the GVUSD NOT doing
right now that you think it should?**

Even among the best school dis-
tricts, there will always be room for
changes and improvements. Com-
munity input is one of the most
important ways to determine what these
changes and improvements should be.
Prioritizing this community input will
be a challenge, as well as finding the
funds to implement the ideas. I will
work my hardest to do what's best for

Please see LEWIS on Page 12



Madera Ranchos Assembly of God

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

<p>Sunday</p> <p>Kid's Church.....8:30 & 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Worship.....8:30, 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.</p> <p>Adult Sunday School.....10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Tuesday</p> <p>Adrenaline Youth.....7 - 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Wednesday.....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 & Girls 3-4)</p>
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Say You Saw It In The Ranchos Independent

Flipside Christian Church

Harvest Party

fun and safe alternative on Halloween night —

October 31st 5:00pm to 8:00pm

Event location: Hurst Hardware 37398 Berkshire Dr.
(Located on Ave. 12 right behind the Ranchos Market)

- games,
- bounce houses,
- activities,
- candy
- and much more!!

For more info contact:

charity@acts176.com

790.0061

Flipside Church Services - Sundays @ 9:30 & 11am

@ Liberty High School Theatre

Teaching that makes sense and a band that rocks!

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The Olde Cowboy

By Woody Laughnan

Women don't wear those old-time flowing aprons anymore like mama did.

She was a Pentecostal Republican from the Shelbina, MO district who considered Franklin D. Roosevelt the reincarnation of Satan and refused to allow us kids to listen to Jimmy Durante on the radio because she considered him a heathen.

"God never made anybody with a big nose," she said.

Today's housewives don a shameful little thing that covers barely anything at all and call it an apron when in truth, it's suggestive rather than functional. And I am sorry to report that in some sin cities of the San Joaquin Valley should they appear outside of the house wearing them, could be arrested for indecent exposure.

And that's not an outlandish statement because in the olden days, an apron covered a woman's extremities from throat to ankles, while today's aprons don't even cover the bare truth.

Another objectionable thing about today's so-called aprons, I mean besides being ultra skimpy, is that they often have smutty aphorisms printed on them such as what to do with housework. I never thought the day would come when women would wear garments with slogans that if printed on this page it would go up in smoke.

I am sorry to have witnessed the demise of old-time aprons because I believe they gave women an air of household authority that is missing in so many homes today.

Please see COWBOY on Page 14

Letters

Dear Editor:

It has long been a goal of mine, and in fact a dream for our entire Community, to bring a Children's Park to the Madera Ranchos Area. Although the process has been long and arduous, it is a dream that is still alive. I have not given up on this dream and I hope you haven't either.

Many of you may recall that back in early 2000 I announced that FEMA had awarded a grant to Madera County in an attempt to identify flood control needs in the Madera Ranchos. I said then that I believed in the idea of combining the needs for flood control measures and a community park so that we, as a community, could leverage the available funds to the greatest extent possible.

For several years FEMA studied proposed sites for flood control capacity and while the County has worked diligently with Federal Government, a lot of

time has passed by.

Fortunately, a group of dedicated community members formed a committee and worked long hours on moving the park forward. In 2004, after meeting with myself and the park Committee, the Golden Valley Unified School District Board of Trustees realized the community need and designated up to 5 acres of their property for the park.

The designated property was a positive step and we are thankful to have such a supportive Board of Trustees. However, the designated property is undeveloped and in order for it to be useable the appropriate infrastructure, like water and power, must be built.

Both the park committee and the County have worked with community organizations, like the Kiwanians, to identify additional funding for the park project and I commend those of you who have given so generously of your time and efforts to see this project through.

I am still very committed to bringing a Children's Park to the Madera Ranchos and I appreciate the support and patience of the community as we continue to work. It is my hope that someday, very soon, each and every one of us will be celebrating the grand opening of a park that the Community can be

proud of. Until then, I ask for your continued support and your input as we move forward.

Frank Bigelow
Supervisor District 1

Dear Editor:

Thank you for putting the information about Measure T in the last issue of the Ranchos Independent, the only newspaper I actually read from cover to cover.

I would like to support Measure T. But I can't! I moved out here 20 years ago for some peace and quiet and to get away from all the city traffic.

In reading of the plans for road improvements I see ITEM 6: WIDEN AVENUE 12 BETWEEN ROAD 38 AND STATE ROUTE 41 and WIDEN AVENUE 12 BETWEEN STATE ROUTE 99 AND ROAD 32.

This means the County will bring Herndon Avenue to us.

We have too much traffic down Avenue 12 as it is. We currently need turn lanes and stoplights in the Ranchos so people can get on and off Avenue 12 safely as there is a constant flow of traffic down Avenue 12,

Please see LETTERS page 14

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

Send your letters to:

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

OR
FAX 645-4002

OR
ranchosnews@theranchos.com



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10/06

Who are you voting for?



Mona Diaz



Steven Lewis



Brad McDonald



Roger Schuh



Mark Toole

Meet the candidates running for the Golden Valley Unified School Board and ask them questions concerning their plans for the future of our school district and our kids at a

Town Hall Meeting

Thursday Oct. 26

6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

at the

Liberty High Theater

corner of Ave. 12 & Road 36

moderated by **Craig Hansen of KMJ 580**

brought to you by



and





Random Notes

Do you like coffee? There's two ways I like coffee: if it's breakfast time, I want it straight and black. No cream, no sugar -- just a cup of Joe. But if it's NOT breakfast time, I like the foo-foo coffee with caramel and whipped cream and whatever else there is that you can stick in there. Problem is, there's no place in the Ranchos where you can get coffee like that. When our little Model A Ford coffee shop on Avenue 12 rolled up its windows and rode off into the sunset, that was it. Some mornings I'll drive into Madera just to get a caramel Macchiato from Starbucks, or I'll drive into Fresno and visit Java Jet or one of those other coffee kiosks. The problem is the time involved to get there, the wait in line to get it and then drive back to the Ranchos. I was becoming a frustrated coffee drinker (a BAD combination).



Then I went to Friant.

A great little place has opened up in Friant called Yosemite Coffee Co. It's not a chain, but it's got the same feel as a Starbucks or any other coffee bistro and they make great coffee. But the best part? From Bonnadelle it's only 8 miles away! That's barely two songs on the CD player! The owner is named Ted and he runs the place with his wife and two teenaged kids. They're fast, friendly, make great coffee drinks and -- did I mention? -- only 8 miles away from my house! Jump on Highway 145 toward Table Mountain, turn right on Road 206 that runs in front of Friant Dam and you will virtually run right into their front door! Try them and tell me what you think.

Once you get your blood all pumped up from the caffeine, cruise over to Liberty High School on Tuesday, Oct. 31 for the Liberty High School Halloween Blood Drive from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the theater. The Central Valley Blood Center says that Valley hospitals are in desperate need of blood and they've partnered with Liberty High to try and increase the reserves of the red stuff. Everyone who donates is given a T-shirt and that great feeling that you've done something for someone else. Talk about the gift that keeps on giving!

The rules are that you have to be in good general health, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be at least 17 years old. They also ask that you drink plenty of water and eat a healthy meal before you donate. Bring your photo ID and social security card for registration and then let your heart do the rest.

One of the downsides of having a paper that only comes out once a month is there are certain things that you just can't do. It's supposed to be a newspaper, not a history book. So, by the time I report on a football game that happens in early November, basketball season will be starting by the time you get to read about it. But time constraints aside, we have got one great football team here in the Ranchos. As I write this, the Liberty High Hawks are 7-1 overall. As a matter of fact, the only game I've not been able to go to this year (because I was fighting a late night deadline) was their loss to Firebaugh, which I heard was a real nailbiter.

I want to use the football team to point something out. Just a few short years ago, there was no high school out here. All of these talented kids who grew up together, played little league together, were in the same scout troops together, were suddenly forced to make a decision at 13 years old that affected the rest of their lives. Possibly the Valley's best running back ended up at Sierra. A great tackle was now at Clovis West. A killer linebacker was making them feel it over at Madera High. And if that was just the athletic drain on our area, what about the academic drain? There would be no through-the-roof API scores, no academic decathlon winners ... no sense of community. I heard from an old stalwart from the Chawanakee days that they sure missed the old system and all I could think was "... you've got to be out of your mind." I bring this up because even during the Revolutionary War there were those who sure missed the good ol' days of living under the King. In Iraq there are those today who would be willing to trade their freedom for the security of living under the thumb of a totalitarian dictator. There's always someone out there looking for greener grass on the other side, regardless of what that other side is.



Photo courtesy of Tyler Takeda

We have a great community here. We have great schools here. We have great people here. As you step into the privacy of your voting booth November 7, keep that in mind. Vote for people that will keep us going forward. I don't want micro-managing bean counters keeping us from being the best we can possibly be because we're spending a penny too much on pencils. I don't want to step over a dollar to pick up a dime. Let's get people who will keep us at the top of the pile -- academically, athletically, vocationally -- and then get out of their way and watch what we're capable of doing. Like our football team, we'll be unstoppable.

Guest Editorial

A Yes Vote for Measure T

By Frank Bigelow

Once again election time is upon us and we are being inundated with a barrage of who and what to vote for. While the election process can be very tiresome it does allow us to take part in decisions that affect our daily lives. Measure T gives us an opportunity to participate in making a decision that will provide funding for our aging transportation system.

Madera County's previous Measure A Program, approved by the voters in 1990, expired in September 2005. The Measure A Program was widely viewed as one of the most important programs ever approved by voters in Madera County allowing for the completion of several major local transportation projects. In the year since the expiration of Measure A, County transportation revenues have been reduced by approximately \$7 million. According to financial projections if approved by voters in November, Measure T will provide \$213 million in new revenues for transportation improvements over the next 20 years. The Madera County Transportation Authority will oversee the Plan implementation. The new Plan will provide funds for road improvements, public transit, and other transportation programs that will improve mobility and air quality throughout the County of Madera.

The Measure T Investment Plan includes capital improvement programs. The Regional Transportation Program will target major new projects to improve freeway interchanges, add much needed additional lanes, and improve and reconstruct major commute corridors. These projects will provide for the movement of goods, services, and people throughout Madera County. The Measure T funding program requires new growth and development within the County and each of the cities to contribute to street and highway project costs through local mandatory

Traffic Impact Fee programs. The Self-help County status afforded by the passage of Measure T will allow for the leveraging of millions of dollars of State and Federal matching funds for Madera County projects, that would otherwise not be available to Madera County. Measure T means local control of transportation projects in Madera County.

Within the Local Transportation Program, \$46.3 million has been guaranteed to the County and each city to meet scheduled maintenance needs and to rehabilitate the aging transportation system. Another \$46.3 million of "flexible" funding will be provided to the local agencies for any transportation project they feel is needed. This would include filling potholes, repaving streets, County Maintenance District Area improvements, and traffic control devices to enhance student and public safety just to name a few. Some of the County projects would include the construction of passing lanes between State Route 41 and Road 200, extending the freeway between Avenues 10 and 12 with a new interchange at Avenue 12. Other improvements include widening Avenue 12 between Road 38 and State Route 41 and widening Avenue 12 between State Route 99 and Road 32.

While the funding of Measure T will be administered by the Madera County Transportation Authority with oversight by jurisdiction supervisors and council members, a Citizens' Oversight Committee will ensure that funds are properly allocated.

The proven success of Measure A makes Measure T easy for me to support. I encourage you to vote in favor of Measure T to continue the funding necessary to improve the roads throughout Madera County.

Frank Bigelow is the District 1 Supervisor for Madera County

Central California Blood Center
Patients in Valley Hospitals Need You...

Liberty High School Halloween Blood Drive
Theater Building
12220 Rd. 36, Madera
Tuesday, October 31, 2006
9am-1pm
T-Shirt For All Donors
The Community Is Welcome!!
Give The Gift of Life...Give Blood!!

Central California Blood Center
Call 224-2900, ext. 2015 for more information

Donors must be in good general health, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be at least 17 years old. Bring photo ID and social security card to the drive and to the registration table. Photo ID and Social Security Number are required at these locations.

The Ranchos Independent

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

THE RAY GUN

DOUBLE, NO TRIPLE, OUR TROUBLES AND WE'D STILL BE BETTER OFF THAN ANY OTHER PEOPLE ON EARTH. IT IS TIME THAT WE RECOGNIZED THAT OURS WAS, IN TRUTH, A NOBLE CAUSE.

RONALD REAGAN

“Committed to our Schools and Community”

In 2005, the Sierra View attendance area joined the Golden Valley Unified School District. Upon the merge, I resigned my seat as a School Board member, and became an advisor to the Golden Valley School Board. Since the merge, I had the privilege of sitting with the Board learning everything I can about how the Golden Valley School District operates.

Great things are happening in our Golden Valley Unified School District. We have a balanced budget with a large reserve near 6%. Our API scores are at record levels. The word is getting out: this is a great place to live and a great place to educate our children.

In November you will have the opportunity to elect 3 board members. Both Roger Schuh and Mona Diaz are seeking another term. Mark Huddleston, after 2 successful terms as a School Board member, has chosen not to run, and will be greatly missed. This has created an opening in the board I believe I can best fill. With my experience running multiple million-dollar budgets, and my involvement in our schools and community, I would be an excellent fit.

Within this next 4 year term, I will have a child at Liberty High, one at Rancho’s Middle School, and two at Sierra View Elementary. My children are my motivation for serving “every school” and continuing the pattern of excellence that has already been established.

On November 7th, I would appreciate your vote. I look forward to serving our community and will continue moving our district in the right direction.



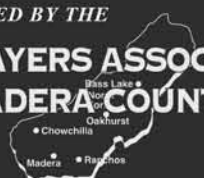
VOTE NOVEMBER 7th

STEVEN LEWIS

SCHOOL BOARD

GOLDEN VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

ENDORSED BY THE
TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION
OF MADERA COUNTY



New Library Plans Gathering Steam

By Ellen Mester

We had a good turnout for our first New Library Planning meeting. Many of our residents who are active in the Ranchos attended, as well as Supervisor Frank Bigelow and County Librarian Linda Sitterding. Supervisor Bigelow addressed several issues and explained the County's intent. He also walked us through some of the possible scenarios for getting the new library plans going. First and foremost is a suitable piece of land (approximately 2 acres) that would not be far from our downtown area. The land could be donated, bequeathed, or sold to Madera County at a fair price. There are grants, loans, bonds and special funds that can be used to finance this endeavor. But most of all it will take dedication and hard work from the community and local government to make this a reality. We need everyone to be a part of this exciting endeavor. The next New Library Planning meeting will be on Nov. 15 at 7 p.m. in the Ranchos Library. Election of officers, discussion of strategy and possible available sites will be some of the items on the agenda. We encourage all interested people to attend. We want to increase community involvement and hear your voice.

You may have noticed the new face-lift on the buildings in the Maywood Shopping Center. The new paint, although very similar in color to the old paint, has really brightened up the center. And if you haven't been to the Ranchos Library in a while, stop by and see our holiday decorations and check out the latest bestsellers in print and on CD. We also have election information, Golden Valley School District meeting minutes, County Board of Supervisor agendas, Madera County Job postings and Accelerated Reader lists and books for both Sierra View and Webster Schools.

New! EBSCO database has replaced Infotrac as our broad range online subscription database. With your library card you can access from home or in the library information that is not available to you through regular internet access. For example, it allows you to search fee-based websites that contain scholarly journals, newspapers and educational material that you would normally be restricted from. It is a powerful resource for students, historians, businesses, scholars and just about everybody. The website is www.sjvls.org/madera then click on EBSCO. Or come to the library and we will give you a demonstration.

Books for Sale!

The Friends of the Ranchos Library have an in-house Book Sale every day in the library and special sales on the weekends. We're still looking for a new location to have our Grande Book Sale. Call the Library if you have any ideas.

Become a Friend of the Library! Our next meeting is Nov. 2 at 7 p.m.

Book Recommendations

Adult Fiction: *The Whistling Season* by Ivan Doig. Set in Montana in 1909, widower Oliver Milliron and his three young sons decide to hire a housekeeper after reading a classified ad "Can't cook but doesn't bite." When Rose Lewellyn arrives in Montana and needs an advance to pay her train fare, Oliver's eyebrows raise. To

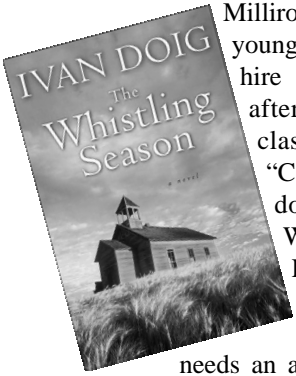
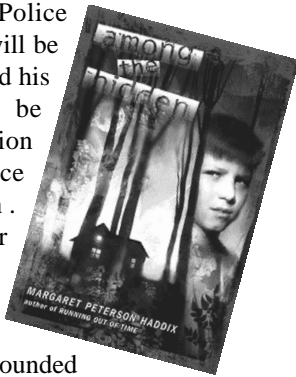
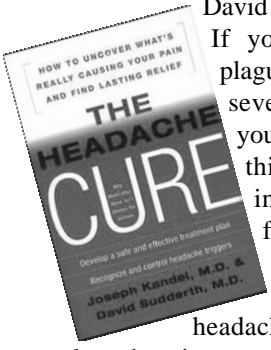
top it off, she has her erudite down-on-his-luck brother, Morrie Morgan, with her — who also needs train fare. Life on the homestead becomes more interesting with Rose and Morrie around. The story is told from the perspective of the oldest son, Paul, and is reminiscent of Laura Ingalls Wilder stories. It is a quiet, thoughtful story portraying homestead life and the strength of good character, education and perseverance. If you like Alexander McCall Smith's style of writing, you probably will enjoy this book. But if you like fast-paced romance or intrigue, then better pass this one up. Personally, I like this type of writing and find the characters believable and fascinating.

Adult Non-fiction: *The Headache Cure* written by Joseph Kandel, M.D. and David Sudderth, M.D.

If you've ever been plagued by chronic or severe headaches, you'll probably find this book very informative. The first part debunks the common myths about headaches and then it launches into a self-evaluation to help identify the type of headache you have. Many of the descriptions will be recognizable but you may find some new ones that pertain to you as well. The authors also discuss appropriate testing to determine cause of pain and what triggers to watch for. Each headache type is discussed at length in a non-scientific, practical manner and suggests possible treatments and medication. My only criticism is that there was very little emphasis on prevention. If you are a chronic sufferer you often know what you need to do to stop a headache before it starts.

Juvenile or YA Fiction: *Among the Hidden* by Margaret Peterson Haddix. Luke Garner has spent all of his young life hidden from the outside world by his parents. He is a "third," a "shadow child," a child illegally born to parents who already have 2 children. If the Population Police find him, he will be taken away and his parents will be fined 5 million dollars or face execution. Fortunately for the Garners, their farm is at the edge of town and surrounded by trees. Luke is able to occasionally venture outdoors and play like a normal child. But when there's a knock on the door, within seconds every trace of him disappears. Life is manageable until one day when bulldozers begin ripping out the trees in preparation for a new subdivision. Their house is now exposed and as the new homes are built, Luke must be more careful than ever. Every day he watches from the attic vent as the new neighbors leave their homes for work and school, until one day when he spies another small face looking back at him. It's a great story in which several issues can be discussed with children and teens — overpopulation, totalitarian governments, feelings of loneliness, isolation and fear. This book is the first in a whole series that Margaret Haddix has written and comes highly recommended by educators and librarians.

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Roger Schuh

vote SCHUH for School Board Nov. 7

SCHUH cont. from Page 1

have been in a partnership with my brother for the past 22 years. Over the last 20 years I have had the opportunity to be involved in several leadership roles. Some of these opportunities include coaching youth baseball for 10 years; National Cotton Council leadership program graduate; six years as a director on the board for Minturn Co-op Gin; three years on the city council of Chowchilla, two as Mayor Pro-Tem, and eight years representing Madera County on the board of directors for California Planting Cotton Seed Distributors. I believe my experience has, and will, serve me well in the position of trustee.

Why am I running to retain my current position? I still believe I have the qualifications, desire and leadership skills necessary to make positive contributions. I believe my education, business background and previous board experience makes me an asset to the governance team. My concern for children and the education they receive provides me with the needed motivation to ensure excellence is not only continued, but furthered. There are many challenges on the horizon for GVUSD. I am confident I possess the experience and skills necessary to help lead the district into the future.

What makes me uniquely qualified? I believe the thing that makes me unique, not necessarily better, is my working knowledge of finance, the ability to think outside the box, be a problem solver and my past experience in leadership positions. My experience in both the public and private sector gives me a broad background in finance as well as the ability to function as a productive member of a governance team. With my two years

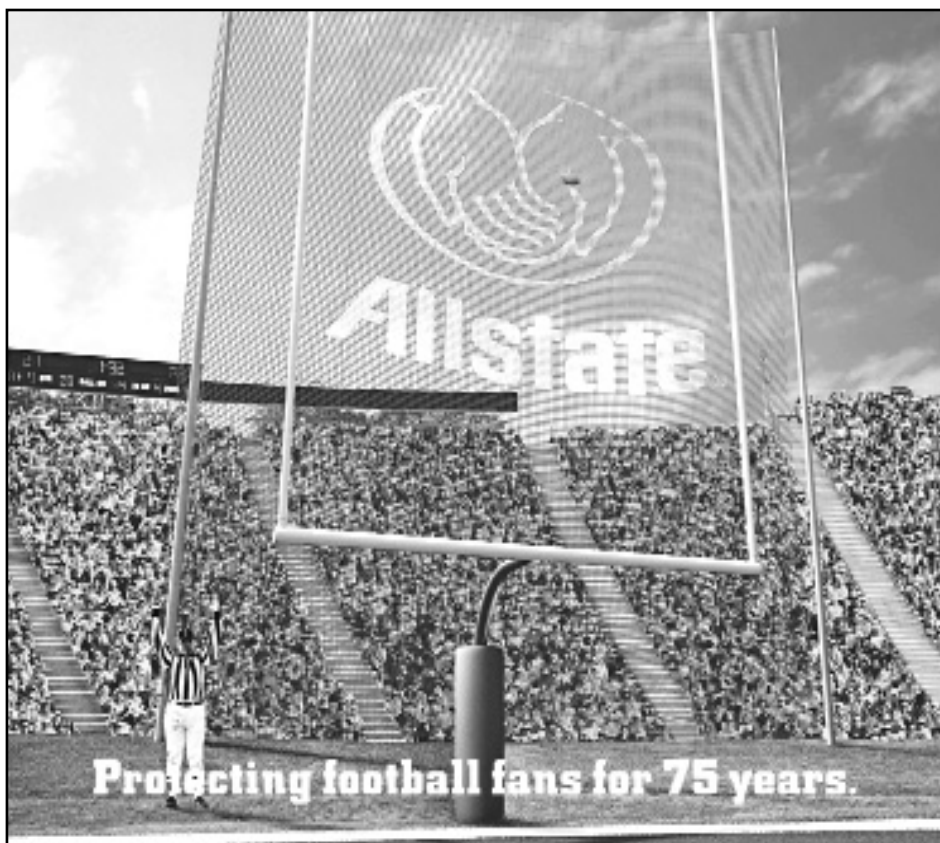
experience on the Board of Trustees, I now feel I have a deeper understanding of the inner workings of the district, including the area of finance, and feel I am well prepared to be an integral part of this board.

What will the district look like at the end of my term? My hope is the district will be this: a fully functioning and comprehensive new middle school, improved and upgraded facilities at both Webster and Sierra View, a completed football stadium, a functioning vocational ed program in place, a salary schedule that continues to attract the quality educational employees this community expects, test scores which continue to place this district well above the average while maintaining fiscal solvency, wellness and accountability.

Are there areas the district can improve? Yes! Everyone has "pet" projects or special interests as it regards the school district. And, if their special interest has not been met to their expectations, will consider the district to have failed in that area. I say this because it's easy to look at the district and find fault or lack of completion. However, I would

suggest that the district, considering the length of time it has been in existence, has accomplished much. This is not to say that there aren't things that still need attention and improvement. Some of these things include vocational education, completed facilities, shelves filled with library books, broader curriculum offerings ... the list could go on and on. What we have to keep in mind is that all these things require money or assets to accomplish. I can say with complete confidence that it is the goal of the current Board to remedy as many of these shortcomings as soon as possible.

Please see SCHUH on Page 17



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

SUDOKU

MAGIC MAZE

TOOLE cont. from Page 1

Family: 21-year-old son.

What's your motivation behind wanting to be a GVUSD School Board member?

I am the chairperson for the Liberty High School Career Technical Committee. I was part of the 2005 Career Fair that was held at Liberty High School and I saw that the students wanted different types vocational training to help prepare them for not only joining the workforce after graduating from High School, but to also better prepare them for further education in the career field of their choice.

What makes you uniquely qualified to be our next GVUSD School Board member?

I have participated in as many or more school board meetings than some of the other candidates. I have as a non board member, participated in committees that were designed to help understand the needs and wants of the students. I have held a board position on a small board for a non-profit organization. I have worked with the Golden Valley School District on some maintenance issues at both the Sierra View site and recently at the Liberty High School site. I am involved with the developing the FFA program. I am part of the group that is spearheading the construction of the Ag. Center which is located at the Independence High School site. I have been able to obtain outside funding, materials and donated labor for this site which as of now been a zero cost project to the school district. I am currently employed in a position that has some of the same duties as I would have on the Golden Valley School Board.

What is your vision for the future of the Golden Valley School District?

I would like to see Golden Valley School District become an extraordinary school district in all phases of education. Currently they are performing a fantastic job, but with limitations on their choices of elective classes that would better prepare students for their future as adults.

What is the GVUSD NOT doing right now that you think it should?

GVUSD is not offering a large selection of courses for the students that will not attend a four year college. I have had parents tell me that they have transferred students out of the District because there is not any vocational classes or classes that would satisfy the needs of their children that have tested in the upper 95% of the state. GVUSD has done a superb job of educating the children in our district, but now that while we are no longer a new district, but still young, we need to expand the choice of educational classes while we are still at the development stages of the Liberty High School programs.

Upon what would you base your decisions for the school district?

I would base my decisions on what I see are the needs of the students. I would also only support decisions that are financially responsible for the District. I have had one parent tell me that it is not financially responsible to build school facilities that we do not get state matching funds for. Projects such as the football stadium, science classrooms and vocational classrooms would not be built. We have parents that want all of these items to be built. We also have needs at the elementary schools and the need to do more for the middle school. Right now the most current bond that was passed only generates about 4.8 million dollars, the orig-

Please see TOOLE on Page 10

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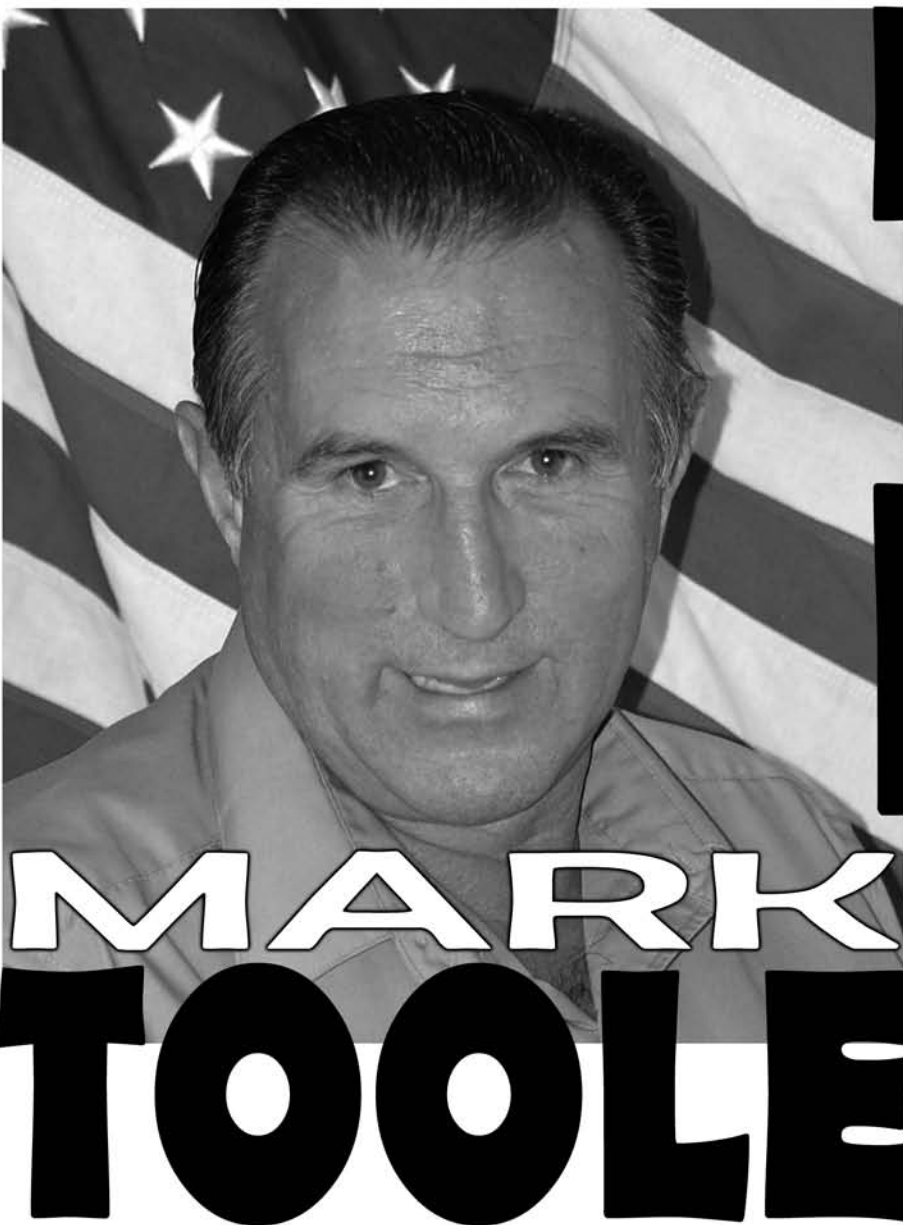
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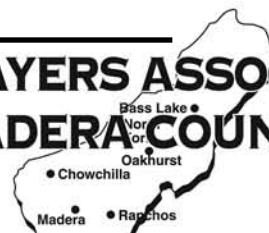
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DIAZ cont. from Page 1

addressing the career pathways for all students.

qualified to be our next GVUSD School Board member?

If you were outvoted at a meeting, would you be able to fully offer support to the majority's decision, even if you were dead-set against it?

The most important qualification is my experience, with 26 years as an involved parent and resident, and eight years on the Golden Valley School Board. As a founding school board member I have been deeply involved in creating a district suitable for our community.

I would be able to support the decision but if I strongly disagreed I would request to table the issue and to bring it back at a later date with community input and more information.

What is your vision for the future of the Golden Valley School District?

What role would students and parents play in your term as a GVUSD School Board member and what role should they play in education in general?

To continue to build not only our schools, but a community that will embrace our schools and schools that will embrace our community. Students will have the opportunity to reach their highest potential in education.

I will continue to encourage parent and student involvement. Education requires a strong bond with the parents and students for it to be effective.

What is the GVUSD NOT doing right now that you think it should?

How will the schools of the Madera Ranchos be different at the end of your term?

Everything is being done for the first time since we are a start up district. There is a creative process that is taking place and we are doing the best to ensure a strong future for our students.

The schools in Golden Valley will continue to move forward and stay focused on the task of building an effective district for our community.

Upon what would you base your decisions for the school district?

A Final Thought

The first question I ask myself is, "Is it good for the students?"

Dear Community Members,
Sharing with my fellow residents, parents and students of our community ...

- Financial impact on district.
- Community, staff, parents and student input.

What value do you see in extracurricular activities?

Some of you know me as a Board Member of Golden Valley Unified School District. And, some of you know me through my business, Fernwood Nursery, as a Ranchos Kiwanian, or as a parent of two sons who went to Webster Elementary School.

Students that are involved in extracurricular activities are prone to higher attendance and it will build their character.

What value do you see in vocational training programs?

My husband, Charles Diaz and I purchased our home in 1980 – our first born was one year old at the time. We could

There is no question that career and technical education has value. Golden Valley will continue to be creative in

Please see DIAZ on Page 10

RE-ELECT

Mona

Diaz

Golden Valley USD
SCHOOL BOARD

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DIAZ cont. from Page 9

see then the vacant piece of land destined for the future high school. Although, we were sure at that time it would be ready for our child, it ultimately took a community to rally together to form a district and make Liberty High School a reality.

Before the district was formed, so many students had to leave their friends at the end of their eighth grade year to other high schools in other communities throughout the valley.

Together we have accomplished so much. Liberty High School is a reality, students of Ranchos Middle School have a school of their own, Webster Elementary School is still going strong, Sierra View Elementary has brought another level of excellence to the district, and Alternative Education is providing other opportunities for learning.

As a young district, focusing on the needs of our students is still a number one priority.

Continuing to work together to pursue our community dream by meeting the needs of our students, finding solutions to challenges and a commitment to academic achievement is a strength of our community and our legacy. I want to continue investing in our children and our community with you. Your trust and past support has allowed me to pursue the dream of providing a better community through education for our children. Thank you.

Creating a safe educational environment, encouraging students and parents to be involved, setting standards of integrity and academic achievement, developing strong vocational programs, and meeting the needs of each and every student - continue to be and are some next steps. My door is always open ...allow me to continue to be your voice.

Warmest regards,

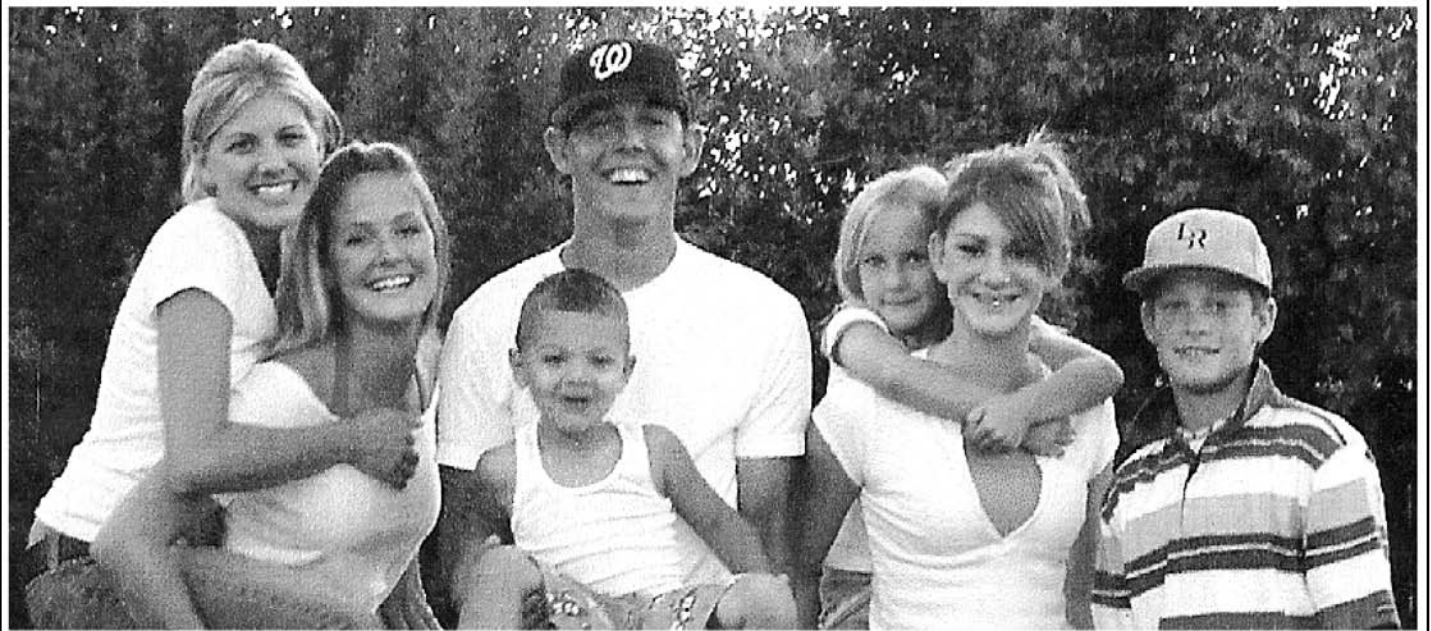
Mona Diaz

TOOLE cont. from Page 8

inal bond will only generate about 7.2 million dollars. That is only about 12 million dollars. The district has applied to the state for a general obligation waiver that will allow them to sell triple the amount of bonds. This is almost a sure thing to be approved and is only about the only way that anything can be done to get enough money to do anything at the schools. This will not increase your tax assessment over the \$66.00 per \$100,000 assessed value of your property as promised during the bond election. The thing that will happen is that the length of the bond will go from 30 years to pay off, to 40 years to be paid off. This term can then also be shortened as the accessed value caused by growth increases and then it can be paid off quicker. But during this time we will not be able to sell anymore bonds until about 2014. If for some reason the state fails to approve the waiver, we will only have the 4.8 million from the sales of this bond plus about 2.8 million that is setting in the building fund. We also have a 7.2 million dollar bond anticipation note that has to be paid. This note was taken out so that the interim middle school and the most current wing of the high school could be built. Without the waiver, and with the required pay off on the bond anticipation note, we would only have the 4.8 million dollars from the sell of bonds authorized by the most current bond election plus the almost 2.8 million dollars that we currently have. As you see, we need that

Please see TOOLE on Page 13

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BRAD cont. from Page 1

Golden Valley School District, first and foremost, is to remain solvent. But wow, what a question when you consider the possibilities of approximately 8,000 additional students in the next ten years. Lets start with the next twelve months. I would like to proceed with the construction of Ranchos Middle School, the modernization of Webster Elementary, the Liberty High football stadium and vocational education facility construction. I would like to see continuing efforts to improve Sierra View Elementary, as well as filling the bookshelves at Liberty High School. I would like to see our students not only graduating and meeting necessary academic standards, but also possessing necessary job

skills. Looking into the crystal ball, a new elementary site is needed and I would like to participate in our district's long-term goal planning.

Recently the GVUSD has not fully explained to the community why it is progressing the way it is and as a result the community has not been able to participate as much as it should. Advisory committees could help bridge that communication gap and get more people involved in the process and planning.

Decisions are more easily made when three things are considered. The moral value, all of the student body (not one school, one subject or one team) and is it financially sound.

Extracurricular activities are an important aspect of a student's character development, whether it is in a sports or academic field. Extracurricular activities strengthen families through parental involvement while developing self-pride, school spirit, leadership skills, teamwork, competitiveness and confidence in the students.

Many of the competitions involving extracurricular activities show our students, parents and educators where they stand in relationship to other students and schools, in the state.

Vocational training is important to our society. Building a home requires both architects and contractors. We need teachers, doctors and lawyers as much as we need plumbers, auto mechanics, electricians and landscapers. A balanced education system for both the academically and mechanically inclined student is needed.

The school board is made up of five individuals with different ideals and perspectives, but once a vote is taken the board then becomes one team/one goal.

Keeping our parents involved keeps our students involved. Attitude and Attendance. If the parent(s) believe in their child's education process the child will want to succeed in it.

Future tools such as on-line access for parents to view their child's progress in the classroom and personal meetings for the family and educators are some positive steps we can take.

Within the upcoming term the modernization and improvements will have been completed. Ranchos Middle School will be occupied. Liberty High will be under the lights of a completed football stadium filled to capacity with fans cheering on another undefeated team. The concession stand will have a barbeque designed and constructed by the vocational education program. The students from clubs and organizations on campus will be working the concession stand earning monies for their projects.

As a school board member it would be our responsibility to ensure the district provides the best educational staff & materials as well as a safe environment for our students and teachers. I want to work with the community to increase the school district and board's credibility.

I look forward to the opportunity of serving our community. I thank you for all of your support.



Preparing our Children... Protecting the Budget

GVUSD School Board

Dear voter:

Like you I am a resident of this community (since 1966) and like you I care deeply about our children's future and the quality of the academic instruction they are receiving.

For the most part, I think our recently incorporated School District has gotten off to a good start. The students are doing well and the test scores are strong. There are however three areas I think we can improve.

First, I think the District should invest more in developing a strong vocational curriculum. Our nation will continue to need millions of young people to take up work as agriculturalist, mechanics, truck drivers and nurses. Their success is as important to our society as those who pursue more academic occupations such as engineering and accounting.

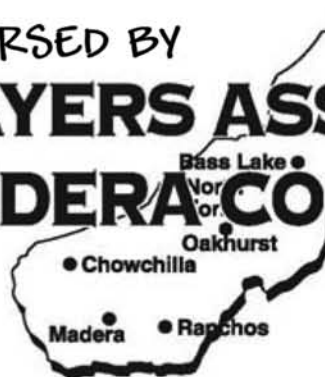
Second, I would like to see more of our students attend programs where they are given the opportunity to apprentice in local businesses, helping them determine what type of future that they might want to pursue.

And third, as a small businessman (I've owned the same insurance agency for 27 years) I want the Board to invest more time looking for ways to stretch our limited financial resources.

Sincerely,

Brad McDonald
 Brad McDonald
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 cropins@pacbell.net
 (subject line, school board)
 FPPC # 129061

ENDORSED BY
**TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION
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SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

		9	2		7	4
5			8	6	3	
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.
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LEWIS cont. from Page 2

all our students, while being respectful and open to all suggestions.

At this time, one suggestion or change I would like to see take place is the implementation of a computer lab at Webster Elementary. I would also like to see a full-time computer technician be assigned and shared equally by both Webster and Sierra View to instruct and maintain this programs' effectiveness.

Upon what would you base your decisions for the school district?

Every decision a board member makes should consider the will of the community. However, when the will of the community conflicts with doing what's best for our students, the students' needs should always come first.

What value do you see in extracurricular activities?

Extracurricular activities have valuable effects on our students who participate. Participation in school activities such as art, music, drama, and sports can lead to improved health, improved cognitive and motor skills, higher test scores, lower drop-out rates, and higher self-esteem. These effects can be particularly important for students who are at risk of dropping out of school.

What value do you see in vocational training programs?

Vocational education provides a viable and important alternative for many students. As our district considers moving forward with implementing a vocational program, it will be imperative that we make the correct choices in deciding what type of vocational training to instruct.

Businesses are crying out for workers with technical skills. The economy and the business community are send-

ing messages that they need these skilled workers. For many students, hands-on learning is not only exciting but also practical and, ultimately, lucrative.

Bureau of Labor Statistics that show only 20 percent of jobs of the future will require traditional baccalaureate degrees, but 70 percent will require some form of postsecondary training. We need to make sure our students have a basic readiness for different kinds of training.

For a program to be successful in our community, cooperation between private industry and our public schools must be formed.

If you were outvoted at a meeting, would you be able to fully offer support to the majority's decision, even if you were dead-set against it?

Yes. Board decisions are made by the majority, not the individual board member.


The time to voice opposing views is during the meeting, not after it is done. There is no faster way to lose the respect or the trust of other board members (and the community) than to speak out beyond the meeting and undermine a decision that's been made.

An effective board member will need to have a good working relationship with the other board members to get agenda items approved and moving forward.

What role would students and parents play in your term as a GVUSD School Board member and what role should they play in education in general?

Over the next four year term, I will have one child in high school, one in middle school, and two in elementary school. My family's involvement in

Please see LEWIS on Page 31



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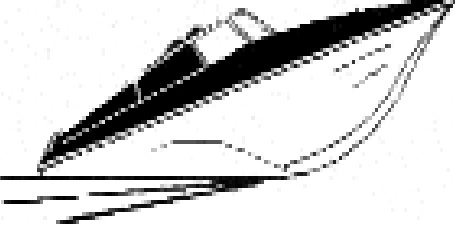
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TOOLE cont. from Page 10

waiver to start the projects at the school sites. We also need help from the community to do projects that we can do without spending the bond money. The baseball boosters had a scoreboard donated and they went through all the steps that it took to put it up themselves. Why can't more projects be done this way? The ag site is currently being built this way.

What value do you see in extracurricular activities?

There are a large number of extracurricular programs such as sports that help keep the students in school while teaching them competitiveness and team work. There are also other extracurricular programs that are needed that are for those students that are not in sports. There are activities that will teach responsibility and real life experiences. I also believe in programs like FFA that will pick up the students that are in the sports programs, but also those that are not interested in or cannot do the sport programs. I believe enough in them that I have maintained FFA animals at my house for those students that do not have a place to house the animals at their homes. I have been working on an ag. site project near the Independence High School and Sierra View Elementary School sites. This is a project that is being done totally with donated money, materials and labor at no cost to the school district. This is an example of the type of projects that can be built with out spending the school money. We have a horse arena that is nearly completed and it can currently be used. The next part of the project is to build pens and wash racks for the animals. This project when completed will be valued at several thousand dollars.

What value do you see in vocational training programs?

Vocational training is needed to teach students that do not intend or are not able to attend college, the skills to enter the workforce when they leave high school. The great thing about vocational ROP classes is that they not only prepare you to enter the workforce when you leave high school, but help you be prepared to enter training that will further enhance your work skills.

If you were outvoted at a meeting, would you be able to fully offer support to the majority's decision, even if you were dead-set against it?

Supporting decisions that the board makes even if you are against them is part of your role as a board member. If I believed strongly enough about a certain item that the rest of the board viewed differently on, I would do my best to convince them to vote the same

way that I would vote.

What role would students and parents play in your term as a GVUSD School Board member and what role should they play in education in general?

Parents know the needs of their children and by the time the students are in high school, they are beginning to realize what their needs are for their futures. Parents and students input are critical to the board so that the correct decisions can be made.

How will the schools of the Madera Ranchos be different at the end of your term?

I would like to see the improvements completed at the elementary schools, expansion of the middle school and more classes such as a larger selection of ROP vocational classes and a larger selection of college prep classes. I want to see a fully comprehensive high in the district for the students as soon as possible, not several graduating classes from now.

I believe that communication to the public is very poor and there must be a way to improve this. The school board needs to make the public aware of more things that are happening within the school district. One example of this is that many people thought that this last bond would actually raise a lot more than just 4.8 million. I am not sure how many years that it will take to be able to sell the 70 million in bonds.

The Ranchos Independent Newspaper has always had several articles about the school district, maybe we can enlist the help of the newspaper to help provide more information to the community. The district gives information to parents, but not to all of the interested public.

I have heard that this election is dividing the community between those that want the football stadium and those that want vocational classes. I believe that with the public support that has been demonstrated in the Ranchos area, we can have both. There are several parts of the football stadium can be built with help from the booster groups. The school board needs to remove roadblocks that are making it difficult for people to construct items for the district.

I have noticed that the RAIDERS are in town. Some candidates are missing signs on Road 36. I know all of the candidates and I believe that they are not personally removing the signs. I believe that some support groups are getting a little overzealous in their support of their favorite candidate. The candidates need to ensure that they are demonstrating that they will bring integrity to the school board when they are elected.

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COWBOY cont. from Page 3

A woman in an itty-bitty apron talking on a cell phone, and in jeans so tight she minces around the kitchen like she has saddle sores, represents a complete breakdown of society.

I mean, take me back to mama's day, when in a flowing apron, a bit of flour on her nose and a fly swatter in one pocket and a switch in the other, she was the supreme, unquestioned household authority. Even papa, with a black Irish temper, cowered in her presence at the supper table.

I've always regretted that we didn't bury mama in an apron, and that I didn't save one to hang by my micro oven to remind me of gentler times.

An apron with big pockets was the most useful of all garments: to gather eggs, wipe dirty noses and teary eyes, shoo hawks and weasels from the chicken coop, hold berries at picking time, rub dust from a table when unexpected company drove into the yard, wet a corner with spit to wipe up spilled syrup, get a grip on a stubborn jar lid, remove a pan of hot corn bread from the

oven, hold clothes pins on laundry day, flick a speck of dust from papa's eye when he came in from the field at eventide and wipe away a tear when another catastrophe struck Old Ma Perkins on the morning radio soap opera.

Gone are apron bazaars at church benefits, apron sewing bees, apron departments in dry goods stores and homemade apron gifts at Christmas time.

But I suppose that women do not need flowing aprons anymore because there are no more peas to hull, corn to shuck, beans to snap, cream separators to turn, grates to shake, lard to render, eggs to

candle, lye soap to make and bread to bake. I've always regretted that we didn't bury mama in an apron, and that I didn't save one to hang by my micro oven to remind me of gentler times.

But most of all in my 82nd year, I long for the security of being tied to her apron strings again because neither God or devil could get me there.

LETTERS cont. from Page 3

especially during the busy commute times. Add four lanes to the mix (going into and out of the Ranchos) and everyone going to/from Fresno north will use Avenue 12 instead of Herndon Avenue. That is just what the Fresno City counsel wants to help alleviate their east/west travel problems and get people off Herndon Avenue. The speed limit down Avenue 12 is 55 mph now, but people travel about 65 mph. Add four lanes and you can expect speeds exceeding 70 mph. Do they really think people are going to slow down from 70 mph to 35 mph through our community without stoplights/signs? Do the business and property owners think this is going to improve or decrease their business and property values?

It is too late now, but logically thinking, it would have made more sense to repave and widen Avenue 9 from Valley Children's to Hwy 99. Something I would support. It was always my understanding that this is one of the agreements made by our Board of Supervisors with VCH to get them to move across the river. This would allow better access to the hospital for emergency vehicles and families coming from the North or West side. There is much less development on this road, fewer children and animals to run over. As more development takes place in the Ranchos, traffic flow between Avenue 38 and Avenue 35 will need slower traffic, and traffic control, because of the people turning in and exiting schools and businesses. Without more traffic signals it will be more dangerous. For the above reasons I will not support Measure T. It is not the

money, it is that I want LESS traffic on Avenue 12 not MORE. Avenue 9 makes more sense to me. I urge the community to vote NO on Measure T.

Bob Campbell
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

I wish to address the subject of pets! I see pets that are not in a secure fenced area and fear for their safety. People who don't take care of their pets properly should not be allowed to have them. It would be heart-breaking for pet owners if their pets were run over and killed as well as the heartbreak felt by the unfortunate person who ran over them. Please show some mercy on your pets and neighbors!

I haven't been to pet school but I know for a fact that if you walk your pets down the street they get the idea that it's ok for them to get out on the street. When you're walking your pet down the street you're also running the risk of dog fights, fleas, ticks and diseases as well as permission to get out into traffic! Dogs are a precious possession. They have unconditional love and deserve it in return. Remember this: take care of your pet's medical needs, keep them safe and train them properly! They're a lot like kids -- they learn by what they see and are allowed to do. Keep them in your yard when leash training and teach them love and respect for other animals.

J. A. Willingham
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The Stock Report

Persistence Pays for VT Student

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,

Valley Teen Ranch is a place for kids to get a second chance. Some people don't know that Golden Valley Unified has teachers that work with the students at Valley Teen Ranch. When the students reach 18 years of age they usually have to leave the Ranch, but they go to school while they are there. I had the privilege of watching one of the Valley Teen Ranch students graduate from Golden Valley Unified on his 18th birthday. Jeff Cassity came to the Ranch missing over 100 units/credits of schoolwork for his age. In one year Jeff worked hard and went to summer school while staying out of trouble. He made up all of his missed work and passed the Senior Exit Exam. Jeff can be proud of his work and the Valley Teen staff can be proud of helping Jeff do the work he needed to do. The Commencement Ceremony was held on the basketball court with Connie Clendennan, the CEO of Valley Teen, playing the processional on her trumpet. A proud Jeff wearing his cap and gown

marched in to be graduated. Superintendent Dr. Marilyn Shepherd congratulated Jeff, and Valley Teen Principal Dr. Jim Green welcomed the other students and people who had come to be a part of Jeff's graduation. Golden Valley board president Mark Huddleston presented Jeff with his High School diploma. There was a nice cake served at the end of the ceremony.

Have you figured out who and what you are going to vote for in the November 7 election? I received my absentee ballot yesterday and am trying to figure it all out. I need to send it in and then I can stop worrying about it. I hate to try and figure out all of the propositions. Is it just me or are there more propositions on the ballot now than there used to be? The only local voting we can do is for the three Golden Valley School Board members. In my way of thinking they are the most important vote you can make. Golden Valley is a new and growing school district and needs a board that will work together to make things happen for the

Please see STOCK on Page 16

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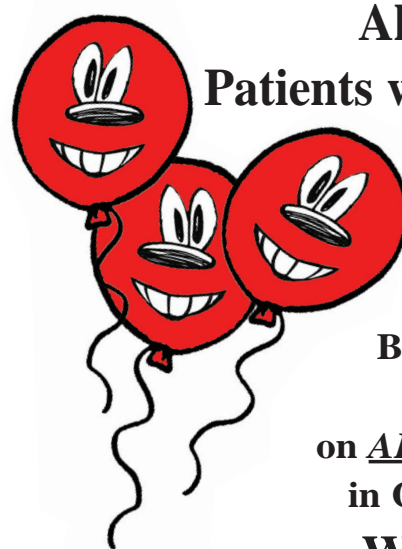
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children of this district.

Were you there for the Liberty High homecoming game? The Liberty High football team won the homecoming game; in fact the Hawks are 7-1 for the season. Way to go Hawks! The Liberty band in their new uniforms and hats took to the field to perform for halftime. They looked really smart and sounded great. The flag girls put on a colorful show for the 4,000 plus people who were at the game. The Pep Squad added to the excitement of the game. The Hawk mascot was in rare form as he pranced around with the pep girls and he brought smiles and laughter to the faces in the crowd. What a crowd it was, every space was taken up on the grass and on the stands. The homecoming floats that each grade level made looked really good and showed all of the work and talent the Liberty High students have. The King and Queen of Homecoming were crowned to the roar of the crowd. Yes, it was a great night. It was still warm enough for me to enjoy it without freezing. The only down moment was when one of Liberty's football players got hurt and left the field in an ambulance. Tyler Melvin was the player that got hurt but I understand he is already back playing football.

How proud I was to be present at a Liberty High Homecoming game when just 5 years ago all these football players would have been playing at other high schools on teams in other school districts. The community has come together to make Liberty High happen so that we can keep our students and athletes home. I hear that the Homecoming dance was a great success and that some of the alumni from the class of 2006 attended.

When I got up this morning I thought of a saying by Stanley Horowitz. "Winter is an etching, spring is a watercolor, summer is an oil painting and autumn is a mosaic if them all." Fall is my favorite time of the year. It is warm in the daytime and cool at night, which is a relief after the hot summer, we had. The sunsets have been gorgeous.

The Ranchos community is taking on a new challenge. This is one that you really need to get involved with. The Madera County Board of Supervisors gave their blessings to the Ranchos Community to look for land and build a new county library in the Ranchos area. Perhaps there is someone that will read this and say "I have a piece of land that I will donate to the library." I attended a meeting at the Ranchos Library where there was a lot of brainstorming going on. Frank Bigelow, our county supervisor, was at the meeting and told the group of about 25 people that if the community wanted a county library building of their own, they would have to do the work to get it. Some people were going to start traveling to look at libraries in other areas. Maybe the Liberty Art Class could get involved? I know that we have some very good graphic artists in this area that might come up with a design for the building so that we could put a picture to the dream. How about it? Groups are forming to research how large a building we need, how big a lot for parking, and where should we put the building. There will be a community meeting at the Ranchos Library on Nov. 15 at 7 p.m. Come get involved!

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, with Randy Bailey and the Ranchos Independent, will be putting together a new Community Guide. They hope to have it done by the first of the year. If you want to put an ad in the Guide you need to contact Tina at the Ranchos Independent office or the Golden Valley Chamber office that is in the same building on Avenue 12.

The Golden Valley Chamber Christmas Tree lighting will be held on Dec. 1 at 6 p.m. at the Maywood center. Stars will be on the tree for the Veterans. Delivery will be made to the Fresno Veterans Hospital before Christmas.

The Golden Valley Chamber and the Ranchos Independent newspaper will host a school board candidate's night on Oct. 26 at Liberty High Theater at 6:30 PM.

I hope to see you at the next Golden Valley School Board meeting. This is an exciting time for our district.

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SCHUH cont. from Page 7

within the framework of fiscal responsibility.

On what are my decisions for the school district based? When faced with decisions regarding the school district I would hope I'm considering first and foremost, the impact it will have on the students. I believe there are questions to ask myself when considering a decision relative to the district. First of all, does it fall within the district's vision and goals? Does it meet our beliefs and values? What impact does it have on student achievement? How will it impact district resources? These are just a few of the relevant questions that need to be answered when making decisions about the school district.

What about extracurricular activities? I'm a firm believer of student participation in activities outside the classroom. I strongly believe these activities are a critical component to a fuller and broader education experience. As a participant myself in my youth, I learned life skills which are still valuable today, skills not learned in a classroom. Commitment, leadership, learning how to win and, possibly even more important, how to lose; dedication to a group goal and individual goals are just a few of the many important qualities learned while participating extracurricular activities. As an adult I've learned the value of these qualities and often times are the things that set an individual apart from the crowd.

Lets talk about vocational education. The goal of every high school graduate attending college is a noble one, however, it's not a realistic one. Not every student aspires to attend college, nor should we expect them to and neither should we place any lesser value on such aspirations. I believe there are many valuable and respected jobs in society that can and need to be filled by qualified high school graduates. I believe it incumbent on this district to address this need. However, expectations of graduating a student prepared to be an electrician, or some other technical position, are just as unrealistic as expecting all students to attend college. I wholly believe it should be the goal of the district to graduate a student who is well rounded, has a solid base of general knowledge and education and has been exposed to many different fields of employment opportunities. The vast majority of technical and trade jobs require good math skills, communica-

tion skills, a general knowledge of science and the ability to learn. A student who possesses these attributes will then be able to avail themselves to many areas of employment, not just one. Having said all that, I still believe vocational education has an important place in high school. It can provide the perfect setting for students to learn some basic, real world skills as well as open their eyes to opportunities.

The role of students and parents at GVUSD is of paramount importance. They are the reason the district exists, period. I believe it is my responsibility as a board member to make myself available to them and listen to whatever their concerns may be. It then becomes my role to carry those concerns forward and do my best to see they are addressed in a way that provides resolution. If we are not serving the students and parents then we are failing. I am always open to questions and concerns of the stakeholders of GVUSD. If I don't know the answer you can rest assured I will tell you I don't know but will do my best to seek the needed information. The role students and parents play in education in general cannot be understated. The credit for the most recent GVUSD API scores belongs as much to the parents and students as it does to the teachers and rest of the GVUSD team. Those kind of scores can only be attained by a team effort. This community continues to demonstrate its support for its students and demonstrates why it is one of the most important assets of this community.

Is it possible for me to support a decision made by the board that I am fully opposed to? The answer is yes. I believe the time for disagreement and debate is prior to the vote being taken. Once the board votes, I feel it is my duty to support that decision. Because we are only human, I may find it difficult to trumpet the decision, but it would be entirely inappropriate for me to undermine the decision. Once we vote we must stand together.

In closing I would simply ask for your vote and confidence. Yes, there is room for improvement in many areas of the district. However, I feel the accomplishments far outweigh the disappointments. This district has built a reputation for excellence and will continue to do so. I am proud of where we have come and proud to have served the past two years on the board. Again, my name is Roger Schuh and I would appreciate your vote.

Care Givers Needed Madera & Fresno Counties




Supplement your income and share your homemaking skills. Provide non-medical help.
Car required. 24 hrs. & shifts available

Call Home Instead Job Line 265-3110

10/06


October is Breast Health Month



During the month of October, Madera Community Hospital is offering a reduced fee of \$60 for uninsured patients for mammograms scheduled during October. Radiologist reading included.

You may qualify for a free mammogram. Ask about the BCEDP program and the International Soroptomist program.

Call 675-5540 ask for ext. 5965 to schedule your mammogram. Early detection is the best prevention.



MCH
Madera Community Hospital

10/06

A WIN FOR MID IS A WIN FOR THE PEOPLE OF MADERA COUNTY

What's really behind Jim Cobb & the Taxpayer Association's lawsuit?

You've seen the Taxpayers' stories and misstatements about Madera Irrigation District's water bank. A very small group of people led by Jim Cobb, posing as the voice of Madera citizens have spread innuendos, untruths and scare tactics concerning the Madera Ranch Water Supply Enhancement Project. Cobb and the Taxpayers Association of Madera County filed a lawsuit against MID's water bank. *Why, what are the real reasons?*

HERE ARE THE FACTS – DRAW YOUR OWN CONCLUSIONS;

Cobb claims MID will send water out of the county.

Fact; The way the project is designed prevents the transportation of groundwater outside of Madera County. It is, always has been and always will be MID's policy that no groundwater will be sent out of the county. Several redundant safeguards, both legal and physical, are firmly in place to keep the groundwater in Madera County.

Cobb claims – MID has plans to sell water to Mexico. (A foreign government.)

The absurdity of this statement shows Cobb's disdain for the facts and his willingness to stoop to scare tactics for his own gain.

Cobb claims – The lawsuit was necessary to protect the taxpayers of Madera County.

After much public review the project received wide support from local, state and federal officials, local business leaders, independent experts and the Madera County Farm Bureau. The project is funded by MID farmers and the County has no financial liability.

Cobb claims – His lawsuit is protecting the farmers and the taxpayers against wasteful expenditures.

This frivolous lawsuit has to be costing the farmers and taxpayers of MID into the hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal and associated expenses. Who is really causing unwarranted expenditures? **Cobb's Taxpayers Association?**

Cobb claims – MID has tried to hide the details of the project.

MID is a public agency that abides by all the laws of the State California. More than 50 public presentations have been given throughout the county and state such as; Madera County Board of Supervisors, City of Madera, City of Chowchilla, the Madera County Water Oversight Committee, civic organizations and many others. All MID meetings regarding the project have been noticed and are always open to the public. Many news stories explaining the project and its goals have run locally and regionally. MID supplied Cobb and the Taxpayers more than 40,000 pages of documents, costing over \$36,000 to prepare, concerning every aspect and detail of the project. That hardly sounds like hiding the details.

Lastly Cobb claims MID has made private deals with developers.

If this is true, why won't he produce the documents? **Because they don't exist?**

Except for one document; On January 6th of this year *Cobb offered a contract to MID's board to strike a private deal with him for his development project. He offered to withdraw the Taxpayers' lawsuit if MID signed. Cobb told a board member, "The Taxpayers Association's lawsuit will go away if MID signs the agreement."* MID's board refused to sign and the lawsuit continued. Copies of the contract Cobb offered are now public records in the court case and are available.

COURT RULING

A Madera County Superior Court judge threw out the Taxpayers' lawsuit ruling – The Taxpayers Association has no legal basis to file the lawsuit because the Association lacks compliance with the law. Since MID won the lawsuit one may ask, why is this information relevant? Cobb has already announced they will appeal and continue to tie this project up in court. **Consider what is motivating Cobb to block this project.**

WHY THE WATER BANK IS NEEDED

- ◆ Water tables in Madera County have been falling for the past 50-years even with the surface water MID has been providing to the farmers. The county is currently over drafting more than 100,000 acre feet of water per year. An acre foot can supply a bit more than one family's needs for a year.
- ◆ Wet years when extra water is available are the exception and generally far apart. The winter of 2005-2006 was extremely wet. In one week enough water ran down the Fresno River through the City of Madera to supply the city for an entire year. Some of this water could have been captured and stored in the water bank for use during dry years.
- ◆ Cobb's lawsuit is preventing MID from storing most of the available water in this wet year. Thousands of acre feet of water that could have been stored have been lost due to the Taxpayers lawsuit.

- ◆ An on going environmentalist lawsuits about San Joaquin River water supplies is nearing settlement. The proposed settlement will cause a substantial loss of water supplies MID brings into the county. The water bank is essential to helping alleviate this loss.
- ◆ Additional surface storage created by new dams is decades away, if it even happens at all. One more reason the water bank is needed now.
- ◆ It's not just agriculture that needs water. All of our jobs, homes and families need reliable and affordable water supplies. The Madera Ranch Water Supply Enhancement Project is our future.

Enough is enough. It's time for the people of Madera County to put a stop to the damaging obstruction by Jim Cobb and his Taxpayers Association. Let our public representatives and officials know - any further delays in implementing the much needed water bank are unacceptable and harmful to our future.

Paid for by Families Protecting The Valley



Vision Statement

Golden Valley Unified School District is committed to creating and maintaining an innovative learning community based in excellence.

Mission Statement

The mission of Golden Valley Unified School District is to provide our students the means to achieve to their highest potential within a caring, secure environment.



GV Makes Library Improvements

Positive changes are underway for the Golden Valley Unified School District libraries! In the spring of 2006, GVUSD hired a credentialed librarian to work at the Liberty High School Library Media Center and oversee the district's library program. Since that time, a new library automation system, Follett Software Company's "Destiny," was purchased to organize and account for the district's library materials and textbooks. With this program, all GVUSD students now have access to an online catalog through which they can quickly locate library materials at each site and conduct research using teacher-approved websites.

The LHS Library has been reorganized, a library website developed with useful resources, and the students instructed on how to effectively locate resources both in the library and online. In addition, a part-time library technician was hired in

September to assist with the library program. The Sierra View Elementary School Library recently completed a successful Scholastic Book Fair fundraiser and is currently being reorganized according to the Dewey Decimal Classification System. Library books have been purchased for Ranchos Middle School and will be housed at the LHS library. Until the permanent library is built, RMS students will be able to access the materials remotely by using the Destiny automation system.

During the 2006-2007 school year, each GVUSD library will be evaluated to determine a plan for improvement to more effectively meet student needs. For more information on how to support the GVUSD library program, parents and community members may direct their inquiries to Melanie Lewis, Library Media Specialist, at 559-645-3500 x2014 or mlewis@gvusd.k12.ca.us.

Citizens' Advisory Committee Established for GV Facilities



Dr. Marilyn Shepherd

In anticipation of Golden Valley's future growth, it is critical that the Board develop policy that addresses key issues regarding future facilities planning. By establishing policies the

District will set the stage for the development of the physical plants and financing strategies that will meet the needs of the students, faculty and programs of the District through effective decision-making.

The District must address the design parameters of future facilities including

but not limited to: a) school capacities; b) grade configurations; c) school site; d) school facility design requirements; and d) site locations, boundaries, etc.

In addition, the District must address the projections of student enrollment based the recently completed Developer Fee Study and the revised Master Facilities Plan. Lastly, there needs to be a review and an evaluation of the types and magnitude of funding sources that would be available to address the facility requirements of the District in the future.

Over the next few years decisions of the Board will be based on these policies and will have an impact on the District's constituents including students, teachers, other District employees, parents, resi-

Please see **ADVISORY** on Page 20

First Valley Teen Ranch Grad



Valley Teen Ranch Community Day School graduate Jeff Cassity (center) is flanked by his high school teachers, Mr. Castillo (left) and Mr. Derkalousdian.

Another First for Golden Valley



By James Brannon

In the past, the idea of participating in Special Olympics was just a whisper heard amongst the staff in the Special Education Department here in Golden Valley USD. Fast-forward to the fall of 2006 and that whisper has now become a reality. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our amazing Special Education staff, students age Kindergarten through 12th grade were able to enjoy their first Special Olympics outing on Friday, October 6th.

As the vans pulled in to the parking

lot at Madera Valley Bowl on Friday morning, the sound of the vehicles engines were drowned out by the enormous amount of cheers heard from inside of the vans. The once quiet bowling alley parking lot was full of energy and smiles as our students made their way to the entrance of Madera Valley Bowl. Once inside, the magic continued.

Thanks to Madera Valley Bowl, our students had the entire bowling alley to themselves. After a quick demonstration from the bowling alley staff, the bowling

Please see **FIRST** on Page 20

Starbucks with Shepherd

First Thursday of the Month
 GVUSD District Office Room 2
 7:45 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.

Open agenda for parents and community members to ask questions and share ideas.
 For more information contact
 Aimee Beintker at 645-7500.

Next Coffee Nov. 2

REMEMBER TO VOTE! REMEMBER TO VOTE!

TUES. NOV. 7

GOLDEN VALLEY

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



LHS students show off Academic Success t-shirts in the amphitheater.



The STAR Carnival at Liberty High rewarded students for great API scores.

Homecoming at Liberty "Sings"



By Tyler Takeda

Homecoming Night 2006 was capped by the Homecoming King and Queen announcement. Hawk football player David Pearson and senior class president Jennifer Barber were named Homecoming King and Queen. Pearson was named the King out of five king candidates: Chris Gonzales, Andres Fierro, Mike Diaz and Travis Enos. Barber was named the Queen from among five queen candidates: Macae Coleman, Addie Mistretta, Danielle Nan and Lauren Wallis.

API Scores Fly High for Hawks: 800, Here We Come!

By Tyler A. Takeda

For as good as the Liberty athletic teams are doing on the field, they are also excelling in the classroom. Liberty scored a 769 on their API and that score placed Liberty in the top five traditional high schools in the valley. Their score was five points behind Bullard High School and nine points behind Yosemite High School. Clovis West and Buchanan were the only traditional high school to score above 800.

According to the latest Academic Performance Index, Liberty High school

improved an astounding 89 points from the previous year, blowing the school's goal out of the water.

With their score, Liberty is the top scoring Division V school in the Valley and Liberty has been nominated for a California Distinguished School.

"This just validates what we're doing here," Principal Andrew Alvarado said. "We're a high performing school. The scores really didn't surprise me because I knew the kids could do it. I'm excited for the kids and staff. We have a good school here."

256 students were recognized for

scoring advanced or proficient in all areas of testing and were honored at a STAR Celebration Rally on October 11th. Students were given Academic Success t-shirts sporting the phrase "Liberty High School API 769 - 800 Here We Come".

Alvarado and the rest of the Liberty High staff are already hard at work to attain their next goal, 800. Although they may be just 31 points away, they must sustain their current 769 score and improve more than 30 points to reach their goal. Alvarado is confident that the staff and students will put in the work necessary to reach their goal.

Sierra View Goes to Camp

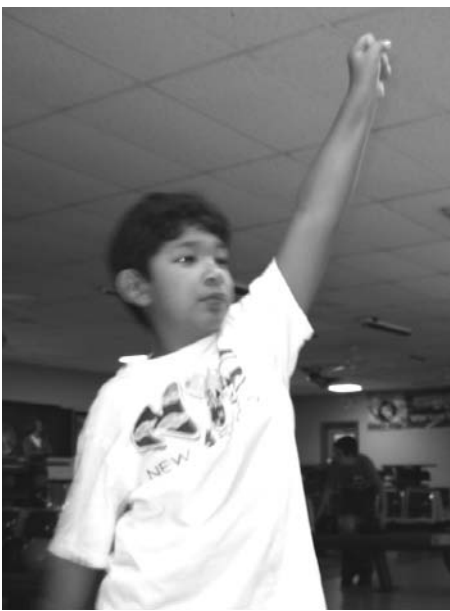
The sixth graders at Sierra View Elementary spent the week at Calvin Crest Science Camp in the mountains above Bass Lake and received wilderness training and so much more.



FIRST continued from Page 19

commenced. Students who rarely crack a smile during the day beamed as they each took turns sending their bowling ball down the lane. Our students bowled a few strikes and picked up numerous spares. The high score of 120 was achieved by a sixth grade student at Webster Elementary.

Each Friday, our students will be practicing at Madera Valley Bowl, in preparation for the Special Olympics tournament that will take place in November. So if you ever find yourself in need of a pick me up on a Friday morning at 9:30, make your way out to Madera Valley Bowl. I guarantee that you will leave with an enlightened spirit and a smile that spans from ear to ear!



ADVISORY continued from Page 19

dents, property owners and real estate developers. Therefore, it is recommended that the Board establish a Citizens Facilities Advisory Committee to develop a Facilities Strategic Plan for Golden Valley. The Plan and Board policies need to be in place before the District begins discussions with developers about their fair share of impact mitigation.

A neutral facilitator would be used to complete this process for several reasons. The process for completing the strategic plan will be time consuming, complex and intensive. The use of an experienced facilitator will enable the Committee to remain focused and complete the work within a reasonable timeframe. In addition,

a neutral facilitator would minimize unnecessary criticism that District staff has a bias regarding the outcomes of the process and plan.

The Citizens Advisory Committee would consist of 25-30 participants, with each member of the Board selecting members to participate once a solicitation for volunteers has been completed. It is anticipated that the work of the Committee would be completed by mid-February 2007.

Mr. Marshall Krupp, Community Systems Associates, Inc. will be providing more information regarding this area of need. Upon the direction of the Board, I will bring forth an agenda item for approval on October 24, 2006 that specifically describes the Facilities Strategic Plan process.

REMEMBER TO VOTE! REMEMBER TO VOTE!
TUES. NOV. 7 **GOLDEN VALLEY**
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

It's a Jungle at Webster Elementary and a Circus at Sierra View Elementary



LHS Cross-Country Ready for Season



The Liberty Cross-Country team is looking toward a successful season. Their runners keep improving their times and hope for a successful finish to the season. The boys team of Adrian Plata, Will Juhrend, Anthony Bringetto, Dimitrie Liuba, Brad Abell, Abheet Brar and Carl Quandt took fourth at the Firebaugh Invitational while Megan Perry placed 14th overall. The Hawk boys team had two runners in the top 20 at the Clovis West invitational with Plata placing 18th and Juhrend at 19th. Most recently, Plata finished 17th to win a medal at the Woodlake Invitational.

It was a "Jungle Out There" at the Webster Carnival. Everyone had a great time playing and enjoying the fantastic food.

Special thanks to the WPTC crew for all their hard work.

The following people are to be commended for all of their hard work in making

this one of our most successful Carnivals:

- Lisa Luce, Carnival Chair
- Paula Hemler, Silent Auction Chair
- Diana Mendoza, Food Court Chair
- Sherry Noble, Room Mom
- Coordinator
- Linda Bresee, Public Relations
- Monica Schulz, Poster Contest

Carrie Bennett, Pre-ticket Sales
Michelle Roth, Ticket Sales
And thanks to everyone else who donated items, time, and money to help our carnival be a huge success.

Meanwhile, there were lions, tigers, and bears – OH MY! – at Sierra View's Kindergarten circus.

Centennial Independent Study Students Soar at LHS



Connor Hollman, No. 56, is the starting center for the Liberty High School Junior Varsity football team. After the Junior Varsity game, Hollman changes clothes and plays saxophone with his sister, Quincey Hollman, in the Liberty High marching band.



Liberty Hawks 2006-2007 Boys Varsity Football				EVENTS CALENDAR	
Date	Time	Opponent	Result		
9/1/06	WIN	Fowler	36-3	10/26 LHS Cross Country (Kingsburg)	
9/8/06	WIN	Riverdale	30-0	10/26 LHS Volleyball (Fowler)	
9/15/06	WIN	McFarland	41-8	10/27 LHS Food Fair	
9/22/06	WIN	Laton	35-7	10/27 LHS Football (Tranquility)	
9/29/06	WIN	Farmersville	56-7	10/31 LHS Volleyball vs Dos Palos (LHS)	
10/6/06	WIN	Mendota *	36-29	11/1 Foundation for Golden Valley School Meeting	
10/13/06	WIN	Coast Union *	56-22	11/1 LHS Cross Country League Championship	
10/20/06	LOSE	Firebaugh *	24-28	11/2 Coffee with Superintendent	
10/27/06	7:30 PM	@ Tranquillity *		11/2 LHS Volleyball (Fresno Christian)	
11/3/06	7:30 PM	v. Fresno Christian *		11/3 LHS Football vs Fresno Christian (LHS)	
* league game				11/3 LHS Dance	
				11/6 LHS Minimum Day	
				11/7 Election Day	
				11/7—11/17 LHS Canned Food Drive	
				11/9 LHS Cross Country (Woodward Park)	
				11/10 Veteran's Day—No School	
				11/14 GVUSD Board Meeting	
				11/20-11/24 Thanksgiving Break—No School	
				11/21 LHS Soccer Scrimmage vs Farmersville (LHS)	
				11/25 LHS Cross Country (Woodward Park)	
				11/27 LHS Girls Basketball vs Hoover (LHS)	
				11/28 LHS Soccer vs Sierra High (LHS)	
				11/29 LHS/RMS Minimum Day	
				11/29 LHS Girls Basketball vs Alpaugh (LHS)	

All sports pictures courtesy of Tyler Takeda

REMEMBER TO VOTE! REMEMBER TO VOTE!

TUES. NOV. 7

GOLDEN VALLEY

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Hawks Head for the Trees for Baseball Team Christmas Fundraiser



Grand Fir
5-6 Ft \$48.26
6-7 Ft \$57.92



Noble Fir
5-6 Ft \$54.70
6-7 Ft \$64.35
7-8 Ft \$76.15



Douglas Fir
5-6 Ft \$35.39
6-7 Ft \$41.83
7-8 Ft \$49.34

The Liberty High School Baseball Program is currently selling Christmas Trees as a fundraiser for this coming season. We would like to extend our promotions to all GVUSD employees.

The Lazy R Ranch has been serving California schools and programs for

over 40 years. Over 50 schools are currently participating with this type of fundraiser.

Listed above are the three types of trees that we are offering. Each type comes in two or three different sizes. All prices are very comparable with local tree

farms. All prices are set with local sales tax.

The trees come from Washington and Oregon, which are cut two days prior to delivery. All trees ordered are delivered December 1st and will be allowed to be picked up on Saturday, December 2nd at

Liberty High School. You can drive up and players will rack the trees for you.

If you are interested in helping your local baseball program, you can contact a baseball parent, player or Mr. Aaron Black at Liberty High School #645-3500. Final ordering day is November 8th.

“No Bullying” Rally at GV Schools



On October 17th, nationally recognized speaker Terry Brewer addressed Golden Valley students on the serious topic of bullying in two different assemblies at Liberty High School. The two assemblies were designed for upper grade elementary, middle school, and high school. His presentation, “Laugh It Off – Handling Bullies with Humor,” offered three simple steps to stop bullying. Terry handles this serious topic with a blend of content and come-

dy that ensures students are engaged throughout the presentation.

All Golden Valley schools are safe-free zones where no bullying is tolerated.

Materials in the form of lessons and DVDs were purchased as a follow-up to this presentation. The no-bullying theme will be strongly stressed throughout the school year because bullying hurts both the student being bullied and the one doing the bullying. No child should experience this pain!



Reaching Your Potential Through Educational Options



Former Florida State NCAA champion football player Clarence Lee instills a message of “reaching your potential” to Educational Options students.



Students at Lincoln participate in a mock trial on Constitution Day.



Health Hints from Pam Davis, R.N., Golden Valley School Nurse

The flu season is fast approaching. As Golden Valley nurse, I want to encourage everyone to use these simple techniques to stay healthy:

1. Get a flu vaccination each fall. Either October or November is the best time to get vaccinated.
2. Avoid close contact with people who are sick. Stay at least 3 feet away.
3. Stay at home when you are sick.
4. Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing. It is best to sneeze or cough into your elbow hinge.
5. Wash your hands often. Wash after using the bathroom, before eating, and after coughing or sneezing into a tissue.
6. Wash your hands for as long as it takes to sing the “Happy Birthday” song twice!
7. Use alcohol based hand sanitiz-

er when unable to wash your hands with soap and water.

8. Try not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth. Germs are often spread this way.

9. Practicing healthy habits can help you stay healthy during the flu season and all year long, i.e. get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious foods.

The symptoms of influenza are:

• Fever of 101.5° F or higher and one or more of the following:

- A cough
- A sore throat
- A headache
- Muscle aches

For more information about influenza, please visit www.cdc.gov/flu.

Golden Valley Adult School

Golden Valley Adult School is currently looking for people interested in signing up for the following classes:

- Spanish
- English Language Learners
- C.P.R.
- Water Color

The Water Color Class is being held at the Ranchos Hills Seniors Center on Wednesdays 4:30 p.m.—6:30 p.m. by Cheryl Routt.
The English Language Learners Class is being held at Liberty High School in Room 4 on Mondays and Thursday 5:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m. by Roberto Gallegos.
If you are interested in attending any of these classes please contact Rose Freeman at 645-1137.

First “Coffee with Superintendent”

On October 5th Dr. Shepherd hosted the first “Coffee with the Superintendent” of the 2006-07 school year. Twelve parents dropped by the District Office to discuss issues with the Superintendent including:

- School libraries
- Lock down procedures at the schools
- Recycling in the District
- Speeding traffic and student safety at Webster in the morning
- The availability of high school students for tutoring middle school students
- Middle school courses counting toward high school graduation credit
- Advisory programs at RMS and LHS
- Before school child care for elementary students
- Policies for taking finals at the high school

The Superintendent will review and respond to these issues and communicate to all of the parents in Golden Valley.

Don't forget to stop by the Room 2 at the District office on Thursday, November 2 anytime between 7:45 and 8:45 a.m. to discuss any issues or ideas you may have with Dr. Shepherd.

REMEMBER TO VOTE! REMEMBER TO VOTE!
TUES. NOV. 7

GOLDEN VALLEY
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



For Better, Safer, Quicker Roads in Madera County, Vote

YES on Measure T

- Measure T will:**
- Extend Freeway 41 to Avenue 12 and build new interchanges at Freeway 41/Avenue 12 and Highway 99/Avenue 12
 - Construct passing lanes on Freeway 41
 - Improve Avenues 7, 9, 12 and 15
 - Generate jobs to support our local economy
 - Improve access to schools, hospitals and farms
 - Leverage millions in federal and state funds
 - Provide direct citizen oversight

The money raised by Measure T can only be spent on transportation projects designated in the plan! Predetermined Regional Projects will benefit the Ranchos area, the Sierra Foothills, the cities of Madera and Chowchilla and other areas throughout Madera County.

Your YES vote on Measure T will mean safer, quicker and better roads throughout Madera County!

Sheriff John Anderson urges you to vote YES on Measure T!



"I urge you to vote YES on Measure T because it will make the streets and roads throughout Madera County safer. Also, better roads will mean faster response times from police officers, sheriff's deputies, fire trucks and ambulances. Plus, Measure T will be a big boost to our economy, adding badly needed jobs. Please join me in voting Yes on Measure T."

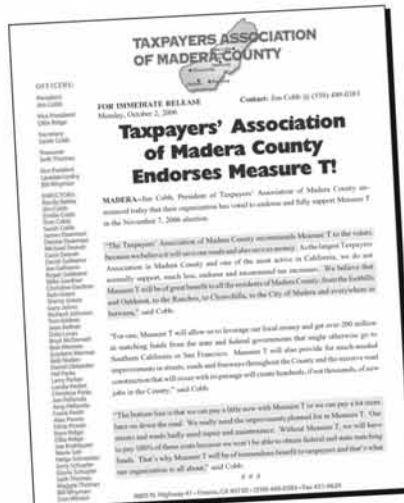


MEASURE T IS ENDORSED BY...

- Madera County Sheriff John Anderson
- Taxpayers' Association of Madera County
- Madera County Farm Bureau
- Valley Taxpayers' Association
- Madera County Board of Supervisors
- Both Madera County Supervisor District 5 Candidates, Tom Wheeler & Tony Ward
- Madera City Council
- Chowchilla City Council
- Madera County Economic Development Commission
- Madera Chamber of Commerce
- Oakhurst Chamber of Commerce
- Yosemite Sierra Visitor's Bureau Board of Directors and many, many more!

The Taxpayers' Association of Madera County urges you to vote YES on Measure T!

"The Taxpayers' Association of Madera County recommends Measure T to the voters because we believe it will save our roads and also save us money...The bottom line is that we can pay a little now with Measure T or we can pay a lot more later on down the road. We really need the improvements planned for in Measure T. Our streets and roads badly need repair and maintenance. Without Measure T, we will have to pay 100% of these costs because we won't be able to obtain federal and state matching funds. That's why Measure T will be of tremendous benefit to taxpayers and that's what our organization is all about."



Announcements



Hailey Michelle Myers - Oct. 15 2006

Hailey Michelle Myers was born October 15, 2006 at 4:40 p.m. at Clovis Community Hospital in Clovis, Calif. Hailey weighed 6 lbs. 15 oz. and was 19 1/2 inches long.

The proud parents, Anthony and Alisha Myers, are home resting with their new baby. The prouder grandparents, Jack and Tina Shannon and Ray and Dawn Myers, are busy telling the world about their new grandbaby.



Kyler Coltan Bilskey - Sept. 20 2006

Phillip and Brandi Bilskey of the Madera Ranchos welcomed their son Kyler Coltan Bilskey into the world Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2006. Kyler weighed 8 lbs. 4 ozs. and was 21 inches long. He was born at Clovis Community Hospital in Clovis.

Kyler's maternal grandparents are Mary Beard of Madera and Paul Botzon of Chattaroy, Wash. Paternal grandparents are Celia Hewitson of Weston, Mo. and Walter Bilskey of Madera.

Kyler joins his mother and father at home along with his big sister Aubrey Anna Bilskey who is 19 months old.



Nick Roach (right) with "Glenn" and breeder Dave Vasquez.

Congratulations to Nick Roach, a Junior at Sierra High School who won this year's Class Championship in Breed with his Hampshire hog "Glenn" at the Fresno Fair. This was Nick's first time showing a hog at the Fresno Fair. Thanks go out to Sierra High School Swine advisor Rich Vandennack who worked with each and every student, giving them the guidance and support that they needed.

Nick's family is extremely proud of him for all of the hard work he put in to pull off this victory.

A Seniors History Lesson

By Eleanore Burchell

Our Ranchos/Hills Senior Center, located at 37330 Berkshire, has a group of members who have worked many times in the past years to help at the festivities at Cobb's Ranch. Another one of our members asked why Cobb's was referred to as the "Historic" Cobb's Ranch. Myself being a history buff answered her question: "Don't know, but will sure find out! Thanks to a gracious Cobb family member, who loaned a genealogy book to use as a reference, I offer the following.

The documented history of the property, which now grows a corn maze and a pumpkin patch for Halloween and Christmas trees for the holidays, begins years before California was accepted as the 31st State into the Union on September 9, 1850. The natives of what would someday become the Historic Cobb's Ranch were enslaved, robbed, raped, starved, infected and killed, first by the Spanish and last by Americans.

The first known humans who lived in the area were called Kechayi - a Yokut sub-tribe. They had many good qualities such as well-developed religious and social systems. They bartered with other Central California Indians. The men hunted and fished and the women gathered tule, yucca roots and acorns, which were ground and used as flour. Seemingly they had no agricultural skills as they did no farming. Like many other Indian groups, the decline of the Kechayi started with the appearance of the "white man" -- in this case the Spanish in 1769. Over the next 100 years, ownership of the area changed hands four times - - from the Indians to Spanish, then in 1824 to those of an independent Mexico and finally to Americans in 1848.

On April 4, 1846, the San Joaquin River served as the centerline of a land grant called "Ranchos Rio Del San Joaquin." Containing 48,801 acres, this grant stretched along the river from the present day site of Herndon near Highway 99 to above that of the town of Millerton, now covered by Millerton Lake, and included the river land upon which the Cobbs would settle ... (to be continued next month with more history of the land grants and "when and how" the Cobb family came to this area.)

The next monthly sale will be held on Saturday, Nov. 4, 8 a.m. to noon. Hopefully, the weather will be conducive for you to come to pick out a new tree for your yard. New shrubs and flowering plants have just been received and will spark up the front of your home for the winter. The Treasure House will be open

and filled with new sale items. Come inside and check out the pomegranate jelly and goodies at the bake sale. We don't want you to get out of the habit of coming in to see us so remember the plants, cook books and the boutique sections are available Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesdays, 6 to 9 p.m., and Thursday evenings between 6 and 9 p.m.

Flu vaccine is not being offered this year at the center. However, a drive-thru flu clinic will be giving the vaccine on Monday, Nov. 6 between 10 and 11 a.m. at Madera Center Community College located at 30277 Avenue 12.

Remember Tuesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. to 9 because it is BINGO night.

The September Birthday and Anniversary celebration was held at Yosemite Falls Restaurant located on West Ashlan. Delicious food! It was well attended with 29 members present. The November celebration is scheduled to be held at East West Restaurant, 690 E. Nees, Fresno on Nov. 10 at 1 p.m.

The Retired Seniors Volunteer Program (RSVP) staff is sponsoring a 4-day Mexican Baja cruise, February 26 through March 2, 2007. They leave Long Beach with a stop at Catalina, on to Ensenada then head back with a fun day at sea before docking in Long Beach. Want to join them? Call Joann Blancett today at 645-4864 as reservations need to be made very soon.

Laughter is a lot of fun and also good for your body and soul. If you need someone to laugh with, then we need you! Come join our Thursday evening potlucks with games played afterwards. There is a lot of fun here.

More Facts and Fun

A nutritionally balanced lunch program Monday thru Friday 11:30 a.m. Suggested price for 60 years and older is \$1.75. Reservations are needed a day in advanced so remember to call Joann at 645-4864. There is still room in the well-attended exercise class on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays, 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. You need not be a member to attend these classes. The attendance has been growing but there is always room for one more (you) and even two more (bring a friend!) Another trip is in the making, a 7-day Hawaiian cruise in January. Interested? Call Joann at 645-4864 for particulars.

Remember BINGO is held every Tuesday evening from 5:30 to 9 p.m.

Up and Coming Events

Please see SENIORS on Page 25

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VOTER'S GUIDE
 clip out and take with you on Tuesday, November 7

1A • Transportation Funding <i>A great idea! We're paying tax on gas for transportation funding, but those great folks in Sacramento dip into the pot for their other projects. This keeps them out of the cookie jar. Good!</i>	YES
1B • Highway, freeway, public transit bond act <i>Our roads need help, but is mortgaging the future the way to do it? \$20 billion borrowed that will cost us almost \$40 billion to pay back? Here's an idea ... how about cutting the pork and living on a budget?</i>	NO
1C • Housing and Emergency Shelter <i>Another example of "them" knowing better what to do with your money than you do. Touching the post-Katrina heartstrings to create another bureaucracy is NOT the way to go.</i>	NO
1D • K through College Funding <i>Think of this: your children in school right now will still be paying for this one when THEIR children are graduating, which is when the grandkids start paying. Local schools know best what they need and local people need to pay for them (sound familiar?).</i>	NO
1E • Disaster/Flood Preparedness <i>Not a penny for new dams or water storage and the fine print pretty much assures the larger cities' water supplies while we simple country folk get nothing but the bill. Sounds about right.</i>	NO
83 • Sex Offenders/Sexually Violent Predators <i>An official no-brainer: Puts the clamps on sexual offenders by increasing penalties, prison terms and monitoring. Only thing missing is castration.</i>	YES
84 • Water Quality/Flood Control <i>Basically a more expensive version of Prop. 1E, creating more bonds. Worst part is \$5 billion later, no new dams or water storage of any kind. Remember all that rain water last year that ended up in the ocean?</i>	NO
85 • Parental Notification/Child's Abortion <i>Official no-brainer part II: I had to get a Dr.'s note for my child to take Tylenol to camp, but she can get an abortion without informing me?</i>	YES
86 • Tax on Cigarettes <i>I'm not a smoker, but this is just wrong. A \$2.60 per pack tax and almost half of the money raised will go straight to hospitals for care NOT related to smoking? Pass.</i>	NO
87 • Alternative Energy/Taxing Oil Companies <i>Official no-brainer part III: An additional \$4 billion tax on our oil. Increase the tax on producing oil in California and production will go DOWN. Duh.</i>	NO
88 • School Funding from Property Taxes <i>They just didn't get the message from Prop. 13. They're coming to raise our property taxes in the guise of education for the children. What a horrible precedent this will set. No, no, no!</i>	NO
89 • Public Financing of Political Campaigns <i>You've got to be kidding. Raising taxes on businesses to pay for political campaigns, yet they're limited to how much they can FREELY give to candidates of their choice? Only special interests could come up with this.</i>	NO
90 • Eminent Domain Restrictions <i>It's about time! The Supreme Court was wrong when it said a municipality could take your property and give it to someone else who would make more money for the municipality. Yes, yes, yes!</i>	YES

The Ranchos Independent RECOMMENDATIONS

SENIORS cont. from Page 24

October 26, 6 p.m. monthly potluck with soup and stew theme followed by Hand and Foot, Pinochle or other games.
 November 4, 8 a.m. – noon, Monthly Sale
 November 10, 1 p.m., Birthday and Anniversary Celebration, East West Restaurant, 690 E. Nees in Fresno

Weekly Events
 Monday through Friday Lunch Program, 11:30 a.m. (Reservations needed, call Joann 645-4864)
 Monday, Exercise Class, 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.
 Tuesday, Pinochle, noon until?
 Tuesday, BINGO, 5:30 to 9 p.m. (Hot dogs, hamburgers, desserts and more available)
 Wednesday, Exercise Class, 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.
 Wednesday, Card BINGO, noon to 1 p.m.
 Thursday, Potluck then Hand and Foot or Pinochle, 6 to 9 p.m. (Please bring your own plate and silverware.)
 Friday, Exercise Class, 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.
 We have shared data regarding our Senior Center with you. We wish you peace, beauty, hope, joy and love and welcome you to come and be one of us as our organization offers and promotes social, educational and civic activities in order to provide a better quality of life for all senior citizens. You have received an invitation. Hope to see you soon?

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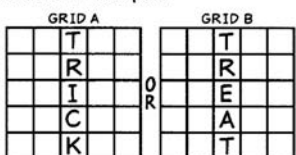
FIND AT LEAST 6 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS. Differences: 1. Food 'spat' on wall is moved. 2. Bow is bigger. 3. Bowl is missing. 4. Bowl is turned. 5. Back of highchair is removed. 6. Sleeve is shorter. 7. Outlet is shorter.



A PAIR OF PUMPKIN HEADS! Two of the above pumpkins are exactly alike. You have one minute to pick them out.

A PUMPKIN PURCHASE! Using 100 coins from his piggy bank, Jimmy bought a great Halloween pumpkin for \$5. None of the coins were nickels. How many of each type of coin did he give the farmer?

BOO TIME! Fill in the two grids, using the clues below. You'll see that the same letters are used in each pair.



- 1. To change.
- 2. Groups of cattle.
- 3. Corrects spelling.
- 4. A neck scarf.
- 5. Small children.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



FRIGHT TIME!

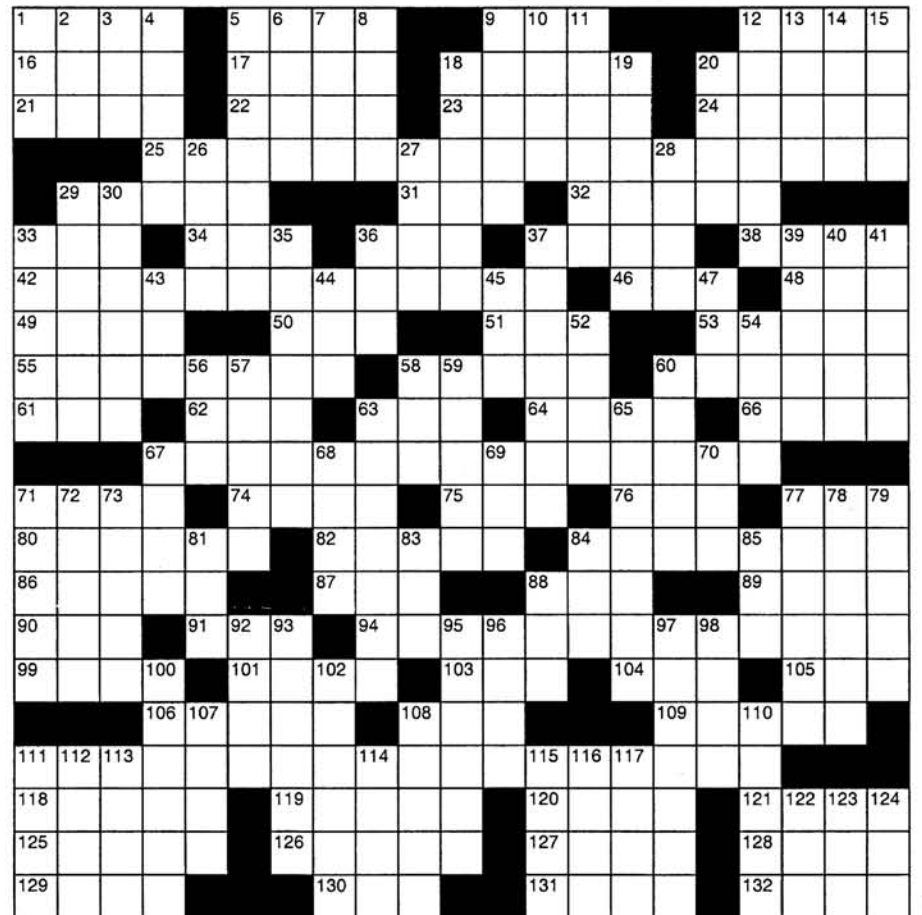
Hidden in the diagram above are 19 words associated with Halloween. They can be found by reading up or down, or side to side. You'll even find them diagonally going up or down. Listed below are the words you're looking for:

- Apples
- Bats
- Broom
- Candle
- Candy
- Costume
- Ghost
- Goblin
- Haunted
- Mummy
- Pumpkin
- Scary
- Screams
- Spiders
- Treat
- Trick
- Warlock
- Witch

Super Crossword

OFF-THE-WALL STREET

- ACROSS
 - 1 Mr. Diller
 - 5 Domino or Waller
 - 9 It may be strapless
 - 12 Request an encore
 - 16 Done
 - 17 Rock's Quiet
 - 18 Jagger and Jones
 - 20 Snapshot
 - 21 Mediterranean port
 - 22 Actress Paquin
 - 23 Home, to Hopalong?
 - 24 Poet Conrad
 - 25 Escalator stocks
 - 29 Exhausted
 - 31 Aye opponent
 - 32 "Bolero" composer
 - 33 Pigeon English?
 - 34 "Angela's Ashes" sequel
 - 36 Dandy dude?
 - 37 "I could — horse!"
 - 38 Read quickly
 - 42 Mining shares
 - 46 Tolkien creation
 - 48 Neighbor of Tenn.
 - 49 Notes from Verdi?
 - 50 Noun suffix
 - 51 "The Simpsons" character
 - 53 Propelled a shell
 - 55 First name in art
 - 58 Hitching post?
 - 60 Fleet
 - 61 Boxer Norton
 - 62 Actress Ferret's foot
 - 63 Bandleader Lyman
 - 64 Despot
 - 66 List entry
 - 67 Diaper stocks
 - 71 Mock
 - 74 Pole star?
 - 75 Daniel — Lewis
 - 76 Diving bird
 - 77 Comic Philips
 - 80 Physicist Fermi
 - 82 Surrealist Max
 - 84 Chorus
 - 86 Playground feature
 - 87 Actress Susan
 - 88 Flicka's food
 - 89 Wan
 - 90 Chinese export
 - 91 Mouth piece?
 - 94 Cutlery shares
 - 99 Active volcano
 - 101 Some computers
 - 103 Chanteuse Lempert
 - 104 Cobb and Hardin
 - 105 '75 Abba tune
 - 106 Polish coin
 - 108 One — million
 - 109 Like a hot fudge sundae
 - 111 Barbell stocks
 - 118 Actor Warner
 - 119 Cold sound
 - 120 Bronte heroine
 - 121 Crazy
 - 125 Victorian wit
 - 126 Cut
 - 127 — J. Pakula
 - 128 Spirit
 - 129 Baseball's Sammy
 - 130 Farm feature
 - 131 Tardy
 - 132 Barber's cry?
 - 3 Pince- —
 - 4 Singer Slick
 - 5 Overwrought
 - 6 "— No Sunshine" ('71 hit)
 - 7 Author Morrison
 - 8 Mikita or Musial
 - 9 Like some eyes
 - 10 Rave's partner
 - 11 With 69 Down, fluffy feline
 - 12 Flu symptom
 - 13 Valhalla villain
 - 14 "— o'clock scholar"
 - 15 Cornmeal concoction
 - 18 Stargazed
 - 19 Hardly hyper
 - 20 New York university
 - 26 Aware of
 - 27 Textbook heading
 - 28 Writer Hunter
 - 29 Posh party
 - 30 Elixir
 - 33 Teacher's aid
 - 35 Logging-camp feature
 - 36 Provost of "Lassie"
 - 37 Compassion
 - 39 Metal measure
 - 40 — la Cite
 - 41 Lady of the house
 - 43 Fled
 - 44 Start to cry?
 - 45 — bran
 - 47 Rocky hill
 - 52 — Major
 - 54 In the thick of
 - 56 Gibbon or gorilla
 - 57 Stallone role
 - 58 — Dhahi
 - 59 — a hand
 - 60 Press one's point
 - 63 Poppin's portrayer
 - 65 Equity expert
 - 67 Actor Wallace
 - 68 Enraged
 - 69 See
 - 11 Down
 - 70 Just manage, with "out"
 - 71 "Beau —" ('39 film)
 - 72 Cove
 - 73 Jones of the Stones
 - 77 Slip by
 - 78 Tennis great
 - 79 Accepts authority
 - 81 "Aladdin" frame
 - 83 Carrie or Louis
 - 84 Opening
 - 85 EMT's skill
 - 88 Shade
 - 92 "— Fire" ('85 hit)
 - 93 Turkish titles
 - 95 "Guys and Dolls" author
 - 96 Coup d'—
 - 97 Cleanliness
 - 98 "Unto us — is given"
 - 100 Schedule
 - 102 People from Prague
 - 107 Take a taxi
 - 108 Tower material?
 - 110 Brush Nash
 - 111 Tiers
 - 112 "Gallimaufry
 - 113 Magie and Mineo
 - 114 "Cat on — Tin Roof"
 - 115 Actual
 - 116 Auel
 - 117 "Confound it!"
 - 122 Stout relative
 - 123 Send out a page
 - 124 Big bang letters
- DOWN
 - 1 Driving hazard
 - 2 Palindromic name



TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- SLANG: In what sport is "snaking" considered a faux pas?
- GEOGRAPHY: How did the Australian city of Sydney get its start?
- MOVIES: Who won an Academy Award for his role in "Raging Bull"?
- U.S. STATES: What is the capital of Vermont?
- MEASUREMENTS: What is the Arabic equivalent of the Roman numeral LXXX?
- MUSIC: Who was known as "The Man in Black"?
- LITERATURE: What was the name of the prison in the Harry Potter book series?
- COMICS: What was the original name of the "Peanuts" comic strip?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the basic currency of India?
- CHEMISTRY: What is the common name for sodium chloride?

Answers

10. Salt
9. Rupee
8. "Li'l Folks"
7. Azkaban
6. Singer Johnny Cash
5. 80
4. Montpelier
3. Robert De Niro
2. As a penal colony in 1788
- to catch a wave.
- front of another surfer in order
- ately maneuvering yourself in
1. Surfing. "Snaking" is deliberate maneuvering yourself in order

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

- B. Borg
- D. Boone
- Kenny G.
- R. Benson
- Maher
- D. Hamill
- L. Bird
- S.R. Leonard
- Saget
- G. Davis
- La Toya
- T. Hanks
- Fisher
- J. Montana
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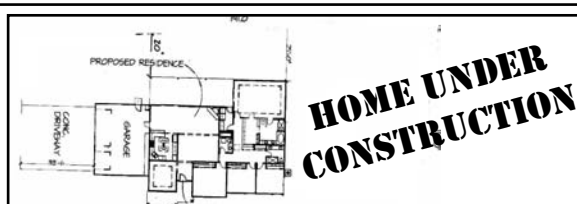
2,200 sq. ft. home on 1.15 acre lot. Living room with bay window, family room with vaulted ceiling and master suite with walk-in closet. Spacious open kitchen, dining nook and walk-in pantry. Features an isolated bedroom and bath, central laundry room and a finished 2-car garage. Ready to move in!



**5 Bed
3 Ba.
\$599,000**

17194 Mark Road

Brand new custom home. 5BD 3BA on big 2.25 acre lot zoned for horses. Tons of upgrades, including vaulted ceilings, double door entry, coffered ceilings in dining room, vinyl windows and more. Master suite has two huge closets and spa tub. Large covered back patio and front porch. 3-car garage on nice high lot. Wow!



**HOME UNDER
CONSTRUCTION**

**4 Bed
3 Ba.
\$519,000**

11911 Trieste Drive

New home under construction - expected completion date mid-April or sooner. 2,690 sq. ft. of living space with 4BR and 3BA on 1/2 ac. lot. Vaulted, 9-ft. ceilings throughout and crown molding. Great room, formal dining room, breakfast bar ... the list goes on and on. Huge 3-car finished garage and room for a shop or RVs.

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Real Estate



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JERRY EDDINGS, REALTORS
 559-645-1890
 559-435-1890
 37144 Ave. 12 Ste. 102
 Madera Ranchos



Nancy Watson

The Ranchos Specialist, Working for "You"

645-5000

www.nancywatson.net



Nancy has been a Ranchos resident for 28 years and a full-time Real Estate Agent serving the Ranchos for over 17 years. She is a member of the Madera and Fresno Multiple Listing Service and is well known as a *Top Producer*. If you are interested in finding out the value of your home or know someone looking for a home, Nancy can help. Let the dedicated, experienced agent work for "You!"

10/06



1.97 acres, zoned for large animals. Detached shop, attached garage and detached car/RV cover. \$10,000 carpet/vinyl allowance to new buyers. Mature landscaping, fruit trees on drip system. Vinyl fencing and cyclone in back and fenced for dog and garden area.

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 Madera, CA 93637

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\$495,000

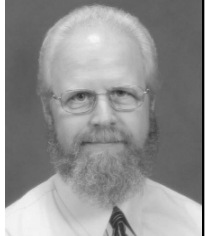
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 Realtor Associate

www.davidparker.info

490-1989



A ranchos resident for 20 years, I am a full-time professional agent dedicated to serving our community's Real Estate needs. Allow me to show you how stress-free selling or buying a home can be. I worry with the details so YOU don't have to! Call me today or visit me on the Web and allow me to demonstrate how I can serve you.

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Country living situated on almost 2 acres, zoned for horses, cute home. 3 BR/2 BA in the country with gas appliances, breakfast bar, fireplace and much more. Yard is fenced and there's even a detached storage shed. Carpet, tile and vinyl flooring throughout and a 2-car garage.

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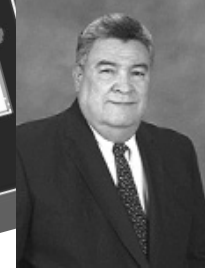
41428 Ave. 10 1/2 Ste.B
 Madera, CA 93638

645-7540

10/06



John Herrera, Realtor



I've been your neighbor since 1979. I have coached youth sports, am a member of Ranchos Kiwanis and am a retired Fresno Police officer. Now, I am a realtor for London Properties and a member of the Fresno and Madera Multiple Listing Services.

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In Memoriam



Lori Anne Morgan Dec. 21, 1962 - Oct. 18, 2006

Lori Anne Morgan was born on Dec. 21, 1962 in Fresno and died on Oct. 18, 2006, in Kerman. She graduated from Central Union High School in Fresno, where she was FFA Sweetheart. Lori was a hairdresser for 20 years.

Lori will be remembered as a loving mother, granddaughter and caring friend who always had a smile on her face. She loved the outdoors and was an avid fisherman, gardener, antique collector and painter.

Lori was preceded in death by a son, Michael; her mother, Beverly Munier of Fresno; and her grandfather, Albert P. Zigenman of Kerman. She is survived by her grandmother, Eunice Zigenman of Kerman; her son and daughter-in-law, Casey and Jody Morgan; Casey's father, Lowell Morgan, all of Atascadero, Calif.; her father and stepmother, Bob and Shirley Munier of Madera Ranchos; her sister and family, Sherri, Vince and Vinnie Cordell of Fort Gibson, Okla.; and numerous cousins. She is also survived by her companion, Odie Hernada.

each school will give me an added advantage in understanding the needs and expectations of our students, our parents, and of the school facilities. As a parent, I understand that my role is not only to be a member of the community, but a participating and interested member of my children's educational team. It's not just one person that teaches a child – it takes an entire community.

How will the schools of the Madera Rancho s be different at the end of your term?

Through future partnerships with developers, new schools will take shape. The developers need us as much as we need them. We need the homes to develop our schools and build infrastructure for our community. The developers need great schools with an excellent reputation to command top dollar for their homes. By working with the developers, a mutual partnership can be forged. In the end, our school district will become fiscally stronger, and the developers will obtain greater and longer-lasting return on their investments.

A Final Thought

In 2005, the Sierra View attendance area joined the Golden Valley Unified School District. Upon the merge, I resigned my seat as a School Board member and became an advisor to the Golden Valley School Board. Since the merge, I had the privilege of sitting with the Board learning everything I can about how the Golden Valley School District operates.

In November you will have the opportunity to elect three board members. Mark Huddleston, after two successful terms as a School Board member, has chosen not to run, and will be greatly missed. This has created an opening in the board I believe I can best fill. With my experience running multiple million-dollar budgets, and my involvement in our schools and community, I would be an excellent fit.

As I've stated, within this next four year term I will have a child at Liberty High, one at Ranchos Middle School, and two at Sierra View Elementary. My children are my motivation for serving "every school" and continuing the pattern of excellence that has already been established.

On November 7th, I would appreciate your vote. I look forward to serving our community and will continue moving our district in the right direction.

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that church is all about us,
then we never quite enter in
and we miss the whole purpose of it all.

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For Rent or Sale -- New Home 4 bed, 2 bath, 36711 Avenue 12 Madera. Lots of upgrades with perfect location! **Call 999-9005.**

For Sale

For Sale -- MUST SELL -- A 1995 14' wide x 60' long single-wide Champion mobile home. Great for the first time home owner, or just wanting to size down. Would also be a great Mother in-law set up.

2 bedroom 1 bath. Large bay window in living room, vaulted ceiling. Built-in china hutch, ceiling fans in all rooms, newly painted interior and exterior, new window coverings. Complete with stairs in front, top mounted cooler, front awning and skirting around the mobile home. **MUST SELL Sacrifice at \$15,000.** Tires and hitch ready, must be moved by end of October. **Please call (559)-645-4948 or (559)-352-5441.**

For Sale -- 2.33 Acres in Bonadelle Ranchos, Mountain View. \$199k. **Call 645-4291.**

For Sale -- 5500 watt diesel generator, 8000 watt industrial generator, dual tank A/C industrial pressure washer, 3" trash pump. **Contact Tom at 645-5680.**

For Sale -- 2001 Ford Focus SE 4 door sedan, AT, PW, PB, CD. 90k miles, excellent condition. Asking \$6000. **Call 645-0978.**

For Sale -- 1998 Ford Ranger XLT Extra cab, 6 cyl, 5 speed standard, bedliner with locking hardware, 135k miles, smogged July 29, runs good. \$3500. **Call 645-5426 after 6 p.m. weekdays and any-time weekends.**

For Sale -- A red 2005 Honda TRX 450 R Quad. Must Sell. Low miles. Great to have fun with in Pismo or on a ranch or in the mountains. Asking pay off only \$ 6000 obo. **Call 645-4948 or 352-5441 for more info.**

For Sale -- Horses for sale AQHA and APHA horses for sale. **Call 645-5290 or 304-5073.**

For Sale -- Horse Arab Mare 9 years old. Has lip registration # tattoo. trailers nice ride but must sell \$1200/offer. **Call 645-4161 or 232-2810.**

For Sale -- Pool Table, 8ft. professional, solid wood, leather pockets, 1" slate, w/premium accessories, Aramith balls, Simons cloth, 4 cues, ect. Never used. Cost \$4,k. Sacrifice \$1,275. **Call 277-2511.**

For Sale -- Pool Table never used, warranty, can deliver. Cost \$3,500. Sacrifice \$995. **Call 438-0248.**

For Sale -- Hot Tub-06, loaded digital, 33 chrome jets, ozone, waterfall, never used. Cost \$7,800. Sacrifice \$3,575. W/warranty. **Call 360-9047.**

For Sale -- Spa, loaded , therapy seats, brand new with warranty. **Call 447-5066.**

For Sale -- Bedroom Set 9 pc. Solid cherry wood, sleigh bed, nightstand, dresser/mirror, chest, TV armoire, Thomasville quality construction, New in box. Cost \$9k. Sacrifice \$2,475. Extra pieces avail. **Call 230-0486.**

For Sale -- \$195.00Queen Pillow top mattress/box, cost \$499, sacrifice \$195.King cost \$899. sacrifice \$295. Brand new in plastic. **Call 447-5066.**

For Sale -- New Queen Plush Pillow top mattress/box. Cost \$699. Sacrifice \$275. King, cost \$899. Sacrifice \$275.King cost \$899. Sacrifice \$395 never used w/warranty. **Call 275-8813.**

For Sale -- All new Super plush premium pillow top mattress/box Queen cost \$1100 Sacrifice \$395. King cost \$1400, Sacrifice \$525. Brand new w/warranty. **Call 438-0248.**

For Sale -- Horse Panels 7-16' panels, 2-12' panels, 2 gate panels, \$85.00 each. **Call 260-8813.**

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Tractor Work -- discing, mowing, trenching and light tractor work, tractor rototilling. **Call Neal at 645-1200 or 285-8211.**

Tractor Work -- House pads, lot leveling, driveways, trenching and concrete work. **Call 559-970-4476 or 559-645-1500.**

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