

# The Ranchos Independent



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October 2007

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢



Home Invasion Robberies ...  
Drugs ...  
Gunshots ...  
  
*... in the Ranchos?*



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# Tax Bill: Confused?

With the arrival of the latest tax bill in everyone's mailbox, a cry of confusion has gone up in the community. "I only voted for two bond measures, not four!" is the most heard complaint. Here's how to read the bond measures on your tax bill:

In 1999 we passed Measure G and agreed to a maximum of \$99 per each \$100,000 of assessed value, but the money isn't dispersed in one lump sum. Just like the kids with their birthday money, a little is given out at a time and creates the "Series" that you see here. The first money withdrawn was Series A followed by Series B and so on.

In 2005, the 1999 Measure G Bond Series A and B were refinanced at a lower rate and dropped what we owed.

We went back to the trough for the 1999 money two more times and received Series C and Series D. You will note that these two combined with the original amount equal \$87.70 per \$100,000 of assessed value, still \$11.30 under what we agreed to.

In 2006 we passed Measure S and agreed to a second bond that would not exceed \$60 per \$100,000 of assessed value. Our first dispersement of Measure S money came in 2007 and was called Series A and was charged at a rate of \$58.76 per \$100,000.

Combined, Measures G and S would be limited to a total of no more than \$159 per \$100,000 of assessed value. At present, when the 2006 Measure S charge of \$58.76 is added to the 1999 Measure G Bond payments of \$87.70, the total outlay on your tax bill is \$146.46 per \$100,000, \$12.54 less than the maximum \$159 approved by the voters (us!).

MADERA COUNTY 2007 - 2008 PROPERTY TAX BILL  
 TRACY KENNEDY DESMOND TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR  
 200 W 4th St MADERA CA 93637 PHONE 559-675-7713  
 SECURED TAX ROLL FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2007 - JUNE 30, 2008

PROPERTY INFORMATION		IMPORTANT MESSAGE	
ADRT NUMBER: 049-000-000-000	TAX RATE AREA: 060-013	Original bill date 10/27/2007 treasurer@maderacounty.com	
FEE NUMBER: 049-000-000-000	ACRES: 0		
LOCATION: 12145 AVENUE 12			
ASSESSED OWNER: JOE TAXPAYER			
JOE TAXPAYER 12145 AVENUE 12 MADERA, CA 93636			
Official Payments, the service provider, charges a fee for this service.			
COUNTY VALUES, EXEMPTIONS AND TAXES			
VALUE DESCRIPTION	PROR	CURRENT	THIS BILL
LAND		24,736	24,736
STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS		83,954	83,954
H HOMEOWNERS EXEMPTION		7,000	7,000
NET TAXABLE VALUE			99,690
VALUES X TAX RATE PER \$100 1.000000 \$96.90			
VOTER APPROVED TAXES, TAXING AGENCY DIRECT CHARGES AND SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS			
HOME #S	DESCRIPTION	ASSESSED VALUES X TAX RATE PER \$100 = AGENCY TAXES	
	GOLDEN VALLEY UNIFIED OSD	99,690 0.007903	7.88
	GOLDEN VALLEY UNIFIED OSG	99,690 0.027065	26.92
	GOLDEN VALLEY UNIFIED OSA	99,690 0.058760	58.58
	Golden Valley Unified	99,690 0.058715	58.54
	St Ctr Comm Col11 2003	99,690 0.000898	0.90
	St Ctr Comm Col11 2004	99,690 0.004140	4.12
559-483-3491			
559-483-3491			
	DIRECT CHARGES:		
	RD 10A BOND		354.04
		AGENCY TAXES + DIRECT CHARGES + FEES + PENALTY + COST + DELINQUENT PENALTIES	121.04
			354.04
			506.08
		1ST INSTALLMENT \$750.99	
		DELINQUENT AFTER 12/10/2007	
		2ND INSTALLMENT \$750.99	
		DELINQUENT AFTER 04/10/2008	
		<b>TOTAL TAXES \$1,501.98</b>	

## But What's it Gonna' Look Like?



# MADERA RANCHOS PARK

## Madera County Water Bank Bill Passes in Congress, Moves to Senate

The House of Representatives passed the "Madera Water Supply Enhancement Act" on Monday, Oct. 22. The Amendment to H.R. 1855 was authored by San Joaquin Valley Congressman George Radanovich with strong support from Congressman Jim Costa. The water bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to enter into a cooperative agreement through the Bureau of Reclamation with the Madera Irrigation District (MID) for the support of the final design and construction of the Madera Water Supply Enhancement Project. The legislation authorizes the federal government to pay 25

250,000 acre feet of water and recover up to 55,000 acre feet of water per year.

In a statement Congressman Radanovich said, "High quality, reliable water storage like the Madera Water Bank Project, is one of the best tools California can use to fight our impending water crisis. I

*"High quality, reliable water storage like the Madera Water Bank Project, is one of the best tools California can use to fight our impending water crisis. I appreciate the hard work and dedication of the MID board and hope to soon see this bill become law."*

- Congressman George Radanovich

appreciate the hard work and dedication of the MID board and hope to soon see this bill become law."

Senator Dianne Feinstein is supporting similar legislation in the U. S. Senate.

Other strong supporters of the Madera Water Supply Enhancement Project include the Madera County Board of

Supervisors, the Madera City Council, the Chowchilla City Council, Congressman

George Radanovich, Congressman Jim Costa, Senator Dave Cogdill, Senator Jeff Denham, Senator Dean Florez, Assemblymembers Juan Arambula, Cathleen Galgiani, Nicole Parra, and Mike Villines, among others.

Supervisors, the Madera City Council, the Chowchilla City Council, Congressman George Radanovich, Congressman Jim Costa, Senator Dave Cogdill, Senator Jeff Denham, Senator Dean Florez, Assemblymembers Juan Arambula, Cathleen Galgiani, Nicole Parra, and Mike Villines, among others.

## FREE Flu Shots Coming to Ranchos

A Flu Vaccine Clinic is being offered in the Ranchos for persons 12 years of age and older and will be administered on the following days:

- November 1, 2007 in Liberty High School Health Office from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. There is a charge of \$13. Only 100 vaccines are available on this day.
- November 6, 2007 at Liberty High School Parking Lot from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. This is a drive-through flu clinic. Flu vaccines will be given as you sit in your car! Drive-through Clinic is free; donations accepted.

# Protection in the Ranchos: Tempest in a Teapot or a Ticking Timebomb?

By Randy Bailey

At 3 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 27, Chuck Norred pulled into the driveway of his home at Karen and Ave. 16 1/2 in the Bonnadelle Ranchos and almost immediately knew something wasn't right. He checked in the garage and discovered that the door that led from the garage into the house had been jimmed open with something sharp, like a screwdriver or strong knife. He entered the house and found no one there, but the telltale signs of a burglary greeted him at every turn. He rushed into the bedroom and his worst fears were realized: the guns were gone.

But these weren't regular guns. Chuck and Marcia Norred are active Civil War Recreationists. They teach school children about the lessons learned when a nation divided and pitted brother against brother almost 150 years ago. The guns taken were old fashioned single-action and ball-and-cap style pistols that you would see in a cowboy movie. Surely only an unsophisticated criminal would take them, Norred reasoned.

Norred called the Madera County Sheriff's Department and a deputy came out, assessed the situation, wrote up a report and left a business card with his name and the case number with Norred.

Shortly thereafter, Marcia Norred arrived home. Chuck was trying to give her all the information he had but he was a little rattled and was only providing limited information. As Marcia inspected the house she discovered that her jewelry box had been ransacked. Her heart sunk when she realized that, among other items, a locket that had belonged to her great aunt containing a picture of the aunt and great uncle in his WWI uniform was also gone. Its irreplaceability overcame her.

The Norreds had a suspicion who the culprit might be. A 16-year-old neighborhood boy who had been kicked out of school and was regularly shuffled back and forth between divorced parents had been at the center of similar events in the neighborhood. They were sure if someone would approach the boy or go to his house, the stolen goods could be found.

Needing more information, Marcia called the Sheriff's office and requested that the deputy return to answer her burning questions, which he politely did. She told the officer about the boy and he assured her he would follow up on the lead.

After the deputy left, something strange occurred to Marcia. The deputy didn't dust for fingerprints or make an itemized list of their stolen items. A little bit later the

deputy called the Norreds back and said he stopped by the boy's house and knocked, but no one answered the door.

That was the last time the Norreds heard from the deputy.

## A Funny Feeling

Both Marcia and Chuck had a feeling that whoever had broken into their home wasn't done. Other items were left sitting out as if to be picked up by someone who had possibly just run out of time.

Chuck decided that he would stay home from work on Friday, Sept. 28 and see what happened. He parked his pickup on the back part of the property where it wasn't visible from Karen or 16 1/2 and went into the computer room.

And waited.

As Norred sat at the computer he heard the same doorknob leading from the garage into the house being turned.

It was happening again.

Norred got up and stood face-to-face with the neighborhood juvenile about whom he and Marcia had told the deputy. The boy was dressed in an oversized trenchcoat and wearing gloves and Norred wrestled with the intruder but was only able to grab handfuls of quickly escaping trenchcoat. As he fled the house with Norred in hot pursuit, other neighbors joined in the chase as the young man disappeared into the orange orchards. Multiple 911 calls were made and Sheriff's deputies ultimately found the suspect and booked him into custody at Juvenile Hall. Norred made a positive identification of the young man, another business card with another case number was handed out and that was the last the Norreds heard.

Amazingly, the address of the suspect was not searched for any of the stolen items.

"I felt abandoned and unprotected by the Sheriff's Office," Marcia Norred said.

## Something in Common

Erik Ward is a neighbor of the Norreds who shares something in common with them: his truck was broken into and all indications are that it's the same kid who did it.

"I asked some of the other kids in the neighborhood and they said he was boasting about it," Ward said.

When Ward called the Sheriff's office, it was 180 degrees different from the story the Norreds tell.

"The deputy came out and dusted everything for prints and then took an itemized list of everything that was missing," Ward said.

"That's not uncommon," said Erica Stuart, Public Information Officer for the

Madera County Sheriff's Department. "It's usually up to the deputy's discretion about fingerprints." Stuart said that certain surface like chrome, glass, or in Ward's case, the flat door of a truck, lend themselves to be "dusted." As to why it wasn't done at the Norred's home, Stuart said that since that was an on-going investigation she was not at liberty to discuss the case.

On Thursday, Oct. 18, there was a hearing for the suspect in Madera County Juvenile Court and all indications are that the judge is going to go forward with a trial. The Norreds are relieved that at least one suspected criminal is off the streets of the Ranchos, but they are still uneasy by what they see as a lack of protection for the people of the Ranchos.

## Drugs and Gunfire

Just three days later, and less than 2 miles away from the Norred's home, a house on Avenue 15 near Road 37 exploded to life at 1 o'clock in the morning when neighbors reported hearing gunfire coming from inside the house. When Sheriff's deputies arrived on the scene they found two people inside the house and a car driving away at a high rate of speed.

Although no people were shot, the interior of the house was reported to have been riddled with bullet holes. As deputies examined the scene, the tell-tale signs of drug activity set off red flags for the deputies. There were signs in the detached garage that it had been used as an indoor location for growing and processing marijuana. A search of the premises turned up approximately 150 marijuana branches covered in large buds. "We're not sure how much they had there or how much of it made its way into the local community," Stuart said.

The two people who live in the house are renting the property from an out-of-town landlord. Both Amy Bui, 30, and Jay Sombath Khunphixay, 30, were arrested and booked into the Madera County Department of Corrections on charges of cultivation, conspiracy and possession for sale.

The have both posted bail at \$50,000 each and are back on the street.

The fast exiting car was chased toward Friant where driver Wilson Khounvixay, 21, ended the chase by crashing his car. After he was treated for his injuries at a local hospital, Khounvixay was booked as well on charges of evading the police.

He posted his bail of \$25,000 and is back on the street.

A fourth suspect was discovered in Fresno and is suspected of being the shooter. Sarom Sao, 51, was charged with con-

spiracy, burglary and robbery and his bail was set at \$100,000.

He has posted bail and is back on the streets.

## A Problem?

"At present there are 58 deputies for Madera County," Erica Stuart said. "And there are 11 vacancies right now."

Fully staffed, that's 69 deputies to cover 2,136 square miles, or one deputy for every 30 square miles of Madera County.

But not so fast ...

Not all of the 58 current deputies are out on patrol. A percentage of deputies serve as bailiffs in Madera County courts. Another group belongs to MADNET, Madera County's Narcotic Enforcement Team, and there's the gang task force. And remember, the Sheriff's department is divided between the Valley floor and the mountains. By the time you get done with the new math, there are approximately 3 to 4 deputies on patrol with one sergeant and one lieutenant to cover the entire valley floor at any given time for Madera County.

The Ranchos has a Sheriff's Sub-Station located at the Maywood Center. The only problem is there is usually no one there.

"A sub-station will usually have a Community Service Officer, but there won't be any deputies assigned to it," Stuart said. "Their job is to be out on patrol, not sitting behind a desk."

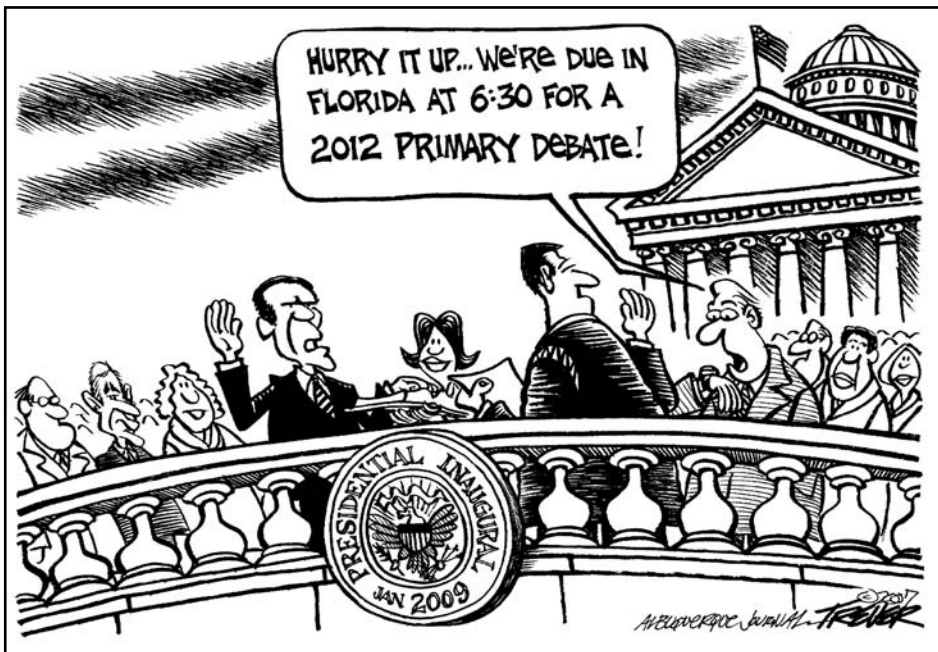
A sub-station functions almost exclusively as a PR device for the Sheriff's Department. The CSO can't respond to any calls in the Ranchos and if you go to the sub-station to report a crime - providing you can find someone there - they will in turn relay the call to the dispatch center in Madera, the same as you could have done from home with your phone.

## Is There an Answer?

What's the solution? More deputies cost more money. If the Sheriff's Department filled all of its 11 available vacancies right now today, after you divide those 11 by two for the Valley floor and mountain patrols, then divide those five each into three shifts, by the time we're done, 11 new hires equals one new officer on the street at any given time.

It may be time for the Ranchos to seriously consider the formation of a Community Service District to provide police services for our area. The Sheriff's Department is unquestionably stretched very thin and the question Ranchos residents must face is: What if it's *my* house next time?





# The Ranchos Independent

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## Editorial

# “Mom and Dad” Kicked Out of School

By Randy Bailey

Here’s an interesting little news article from the Oct. 13 edition of World Net Daily:

“Mom and Dad” as well as ‘husband and wife’ effectively have been banned from California schools under a bill signed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who with his signature also ordered public schools to allow boys to use girls restrooms and locker rooms, and vice versa, if they choose.”

Randy Thomasson, president of Campaign for Children and Families, was quoted in the same article as saying, “Arnold Schwarzenegger has delivered young children into the hands of those who will introduce them to alternative sexual lifestyles. This means children as young as five years old will be mentally molested in school classrooms.”

Thomasson states that, “... now on a banned list will be any text, reference or teaching aid that portrays marriage as only between a man and woman, materials that say people are born male or female (and not in-between), sources that fail to include a variety of transsexual, bisexual and homosexual historical figures, and sex education materials that fail to offer the option of sex changes.

“Further, homecoming kings now can be either male or female - as can homecoming queens - and students, whether male or female, must be allowed to use the restroom and locker room corresponding to the sex

with which they choose to identify.”

Have we lost our minds? What is at work here?

SB777 is the law the governor signed and its purpose is to basically ban *anything* in public schools that could be interpreted as negative toward homosexuality, bisexuality and other alternative lifestyle choices. You will note that it doesn’t have to actually *be* negative, but only have the possibility of being *interpreted* that way. And the best part? Someone *else* gets to do the interpreting. It reminds me of the first time I shot craps in Las Vegas. After asking how you play, the stickman leaned forward and said, “Put your money on the table - *we’ll* tell you if you’ve won.”

Great legal minds (no oxymoron there) conclude that the terms “mom and dad” or “husband and wife” could promote discrimination against homosexuals if a same-sex couple is not also featured.

Another signed bit of legislature, AB394, says basically the same thing and provides the means by which a parent could be convicted of harassment if he or she makes the mistake of saying that marriage is only for a man and a woman in the *presence* of a lesbian teacher. Again, not necessarily for saying it *to* the teacher, but merely vocalizing it in her presence. Thomasson said further that, “A student who believes people are born either male or female could be reported as a ‘harasser’ by a male teacher who chooses to wear women’s clothes.”

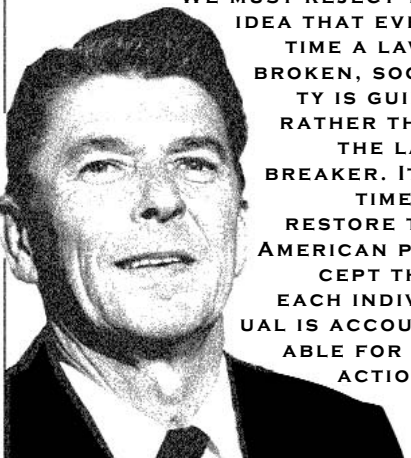
The source of infection appears to start at the top of California’s education system. In the same article, World Net Daily reported that California Superintendent of Public Instruction, Jack O’Connell, “... has used his state position and taxpayer-funded stationery to praise a ‘gay’ pride event used in the past to expose children to sexually explicit activities.”

We’re not just talking “celebrating diversity” here. World Net Daily quotes Priscilla Schreiber, president of the Grossmont Unified High School District governing board, as saying, “I am outraged that a person in this high-ranking elected position would advocate an event where diversity is not just being celebrated but where pornography and indecent exposure is being perpetrated on the young and innocent children of our communities.”

I know ... it can’t happen here. Problem is, forces above and beyond the District Office on Avenue 12 *want* it to happen here and there may be nothing Sarah and our Board can do to stop it. We’ll see.

**THE RAY GUN**  
 SHOOTING STRAIGHT TO THE HEART

WE MUST REJECT THE IDEA THAT EVERY TIME A LAW'S BROKEN, SOCIETY IS GUILTY RATHER THAN THE LAW-BREAKER. IT IS TIME TO RESTORE THE AMERICAN PRECEPT THAT EACH INDIVIDUAL IS ACCOUNTABLE FOR HIS ACTIONS.

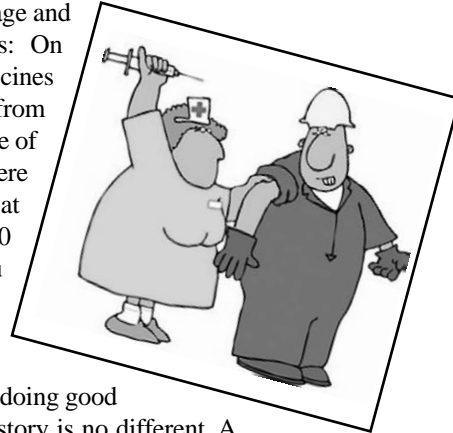


**RONALD REAGAN**  
 SAYING MORE IN ONE QUOTE THAN OTHERS SAY IN A LIFETIME



## Random Notes

Get a flu shot! Get a flu shot! That seems to be the mantra these days. I've always been 50/50 with the flu: some years I get it, some years I don't. Last year I got my first flu shot in 51 years and didn't get the flu (then again, I didn't catch the flu in approximately 26 of those last 51 years either ... go figure). I'm going on about this because even if you want to get a flu shot there's the hassle of having to go to the doctor's office, there's the cost involved, there's the outlay of time, etc., etc., etc. Well, worry no more. There's going to be a Flu Vaccine Clinic offered in the Ranchos on November 1 and 6. It's for people 12 years of age and older and will be broken down as follows: On Thursday, November 1, there will be 100 vaccines available at the Liberty High Health Office from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and there will be a charge of \$13. HOWEVER, on Tuesday, November 6, there will be a special drive-through clinic offered at Liberty High in the school parking lot from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. They will actually give you your flu vaccine while you sit in your car! The best part? It's FREE, although donations will be cheerfully accepted.



The stories of good people in the Ranchos doing good things for others would fill volumes, and this story is no different. A local woman discovered a needy local family (mom and dad and EIGHT children) who had never experienced a Christmas with all of the presents on Christmas morning. She has decided to do something about that and is wondering if anyone else out in the Ranchos who has been blessed in the last year and might have a little extra would be willing to share with a family that has so little. I'm not sure if she's looking for clothes or food or just a bunch of toys for some eager children, but she'd love to hear from you. Her name is Kathleen and her number is 645-5188. Who said you had to put on a

red suit and a beard to bring some Christmas joy to a bunch of kids?

Speaking of doing something for the community, two local high school girls are doing just that. Lauren Avila and Rachael Wingert are Girl Scouts from Troop 970 here in the Ranchos who are in the process of trying to achieve the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest honor a Girl Scout can achieve (similar to the Boy Scout Eagle Scout Award). They have to do a project that makes a "lasting change on the community" and they've come up with an "Emergency Preparedness for Seniors" kit that will

provide area seniors with information and tools to be better prepared in an emergency.

They're trying to raise enough money for 100 Red Cross Ready-to-Go emergency preparedness kits at \$39.95 each that will then be distributed at the Senior Center, complete with a seminar put on by the American Red Cross on planning for an emergency. They're about halfway there and any help you could offer would be greatly appreciated. You can contact the girls individually - Rachael at 645-7809 or Lauren at 645-4160 - or you can mail a donation to: Girl Scout Troop 970, 36722 Franklin Ave., Madera, CA 93636.

After the Donovan Tessmer tragedy back in July, many people have been looking for ways to honor his memory. The Shawver family, led by matriarch Rosemary Shawver, has come up with a novel idea. On Saturday, October 27 at 2 p.m., they are going to put on a "Fashion Show for Jesus" whose proceeds will all go toward the design and landscaping of a memorial for Donovan. The fashion show is going to be held at the Star Force Dance Studios at 37193 Ave. 12 #3F at 2 p.m. There's no charge to attend and of course donations will be accepted.

There's an organization called the Native Daughters of the Golden West, Parlor 187, that does good work here in the Valley. On Tuesday, November 13 at 10 a.m., they are going to present thousands of bottle tabs to the Ronald McDonald House located by the Valley Children's Hospital. The Hospital will then use the tabs to help parents who have children in the Hospital to remain at the Ronald McDonald House, free. How can you beat that? For more info on the NDGW (who happen to be looking for new members), call Karen Fini at 431-7646 or Nadine Marsh at 227-8512.



## THE D.O.G. HOUSE

DEMAND OPEN GOVERNMENT BY DALE DROZEN



This has been a busy month at the Dog House. I had lots of reports and receipts to dig through, but have been finding some interesting and disturbing things.

### Resource Management Agency Fees for services

The RMA fee increases went down in flames at the Board meeting Tuesday. It was a bit like walking up to a bee hive and shoving a hot poker into it. Paying more for anything hurts but I am afraid I have to fight for both sides on this one. Fees are needed to make the RMA self supporting.

Let's say I build a house or create a subdivision and I pay the required extortion (FEES). Am I done with it? Not really. I'm getting off a little easier on the fees today but for as long as I live in this County I will be subsidizing every home or subdivision that comes along out of (You guessed it) the general fund.

I am tired of the hidden costs of government. Put it on the table!

At the same time, increases need to be realistic but the fees schedule proposed was not realistic. You can't have a "one size fits all" fee. Complicated projects cost more than basic ones.

I asked that question of RMA.

I was told it would take too much time to keep track of hours for each project so they came up with an "average cost." In Dog language, it goes like this ...

Let's say I had an auto repair shop and I had four customers. Customer #1 needs a tune-up (old system price \$200). Customer #2 needs an engine rebuild (old system price \$3,000). Customer #3 hit a post with his Honda Civic while doing 10 mph (old system repair cost \$800). Customer #4 hit a gas station canopy with his \$400,000 motor home (old system repair cost \$200,000). But I am getting tired of keeping track of my hours and parts so let's use the new RMA average cost system:

Average cost for an engine repair = \$1,600.

Average cost for a collision repair = \$200,800.

Look how much time and money I would save on book keeping.

### Fire Mitigation Fees

This is one tough bone.

The only way to find out how the money was spent is to dig through boxes of invoices. Some are stacked away in a warehouse. It will be awhile before we see the end of this one, however, I did discover something that concerns me. The 2000/2001 fiscal year records show \$63,916.93 for Buildings/Improvement. Fire Department records show \$20,050.17 was spent on Station 12 in Oakhurst. The problem is no improvements were done at that station.

I went by the new Indian Lakes Station (Station 8) to see what we got for over a million dollars. The station is not what I would call high quality work,

Please see **DOG** on P. 10

## Do You Like to Write? How Inquiring is Your Mind?

The Ranchos Independent is looking for a few good men and women to write for the best little paper in the Central San Joaquin Valley.



call 645-0634

Dear Editor:

We would like to thank the community for braving the rain and coming out once again to make our annual Webster School Carnival a great success. A great big thank you goes out to the Sheriff's Explorers and their leaders for all of their help, as well as all of our student, staff, parent and other group volunteers.

Once again, thank you community for all of your support with our carnival and our many other fundraisers throughout the school year.

Webster Parent Teacher Club  
Madera Ranchos

- Bandy & Associates
- Bradley & Sons
- Clark's Performance
- Continental Custom Homes
- Continental Realty
- Creative Kids Center
- Earthscapes
- Genesis Services
- Golden Valley Grape Juice & Wine LLC
- HayesCo Inc.
- Jerry Eddings Realtors
- Maintenance Connection
- McDonald's Corporation
- Midland Tractor Co
- Nancy Fuller Children University
- Pearson's Berenda Creek Ranch
- Power Transmission Equipment
- Pump It Up of Fresno-Madera
- Ranchos Auto Repair
- Ranchos Dental Care & Orthodontics
- Ranchos Mortgage
- Ranchos Pizza Factory
- Schafer Metal Stake
- Schoettler Tire
- Superstition Builders

The Liberty Ranchos Softball League  
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

The Liberty Ranchos Softball League Board Members, Parents, Coaches and Players would like to greatly thank the following recreational softball sponsors for their generous contribution to our league. Because of these sponsors, approximately 180 young ladies were able to play recreational softball in 2007. Of those 180 young ladies, 37 were chosen to play on three All-Star travel teams (10U, 12U, 14U) representing our community. The 10U team made it to the Jr. Olympics in San Diego and the 14U team made it to the West Coast National in Stockton.

Without these sponsors, none of this would have been possible.

**2007 Sponsors**

**Homerun Sponsors**

Law Office of Melanie J. Aldridge  
Granville Homes

**Team and League Sponsors**

A.L.S. Concrete  
Ahart Benefit Insurance Services  
Auto Mart.com/Cox Auto Trader

Dear Editor,

Hello, our names are Rachael Wingert and Lauren Avila and we are Girl Scouts from Troop 970 here in the Ranchos. We are Sierra View graduates and currently Seniors at Sierra High School. We have been Girl Scouts for 11 years!

We are in the process of achieving the Girl Scout Gold Award. The Gold Award is the highest honor a Girl Scout can achieve, similar to the Boy Scout Eagle Scout Award. To achieve this award we must make a lasting change in our community. The project we've selected is "Emergency Preparedness for

Seniors." We want to aid the seniors in our area by providing them with information and tools to become better prepared for an emergency.

Our goal is to raise enough funds to purchase 100 Red Cross Ready-to-Go emergency preparedness kits. The kits are the basis of our project. They contain a blanket, a flashlight with batteries, a small radio, a basic first aid kit, some food and water, etc., basically everything one person would need to sustain him or herself for about three days, all packaged in a red canvas bag.

The cost for each kit is approximately \$40. We are planning to distribute the kits this fall at the Senior Center here in the Ranchos. When we've raised enough funds for the kits, the American Red Cross has committed to come to the event and give small seminars to the seniors on planning for an emergency. They will also talk about preparing an evacuation plan and who to contact in the event of an emergency. While this event is targeting the senior community, anyone is welcome to attend the seminars. We all need to be better prepared for an emergency!

We are certain that our project will be of great benefit to the Ranchos and we are asking for the community's involvement. With 40 percent of our goal achieved, we are having trouble finding sponsors to help us reach our final goal of 100 kits. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Remember, donations to the Girl Scouts are tax deductible. We will also have a sponsor list that will be provided with each kit; listing all of the contributors that helped make our project a success!

Please contact Rachael at 645-7809 or Lauren at 645-4160 if you have any questions or want to make a donation. If you would like to mail your donation, please address it to:

Girl Scout Troop 970  
36722 Franklin Ave.  
Madera, CA 93636

Thank you for your support!

Rachael Wingert & Lauren Avila  
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

Schizophrenia is a powerful word. but I have concern about the question. Your written words communicated information of frustration with people, identifying them as having mental disorder characterized by indifference, being withdrawn, and having the apparent perception of sight and sounds that are not actually present concerning the impacts on the gateway Village Development Plan.

Since you were present at the meeting of the Board of Supervisors, I was also present,

prepared to present ongoing public concern about Highway 41 and Avenue 12 traffic exchange, Avenue 12 Limited Freeway, not planned for in Gateway's model community plan. The plan suggests that the freeway will not pass through Gateway development. Traffic congestion will have to be routed in such a manner as to not restrict flow and cause environmental safety issues for Gateway and The Ranchos. Road construction will need to start soon. As Gateway develops it will cause serious safety issues with increased traffic congestion through Gateway at Avenue 12 until the Avenue 12 Freeway is opened for traffic. I can see major trouble in the near future for Gateway Village if the progress by the Board approval is stalled and does not progress with construction within the next year 2008.

The Environmental impact and the details involved in the planning for Avenue 12 Freeway are not yet completed for submittal to the Board according to Resource Management Agency Director, Ray Beach's comments at the microphone, in response to the Board's request for more information and my concern. I did not see you after the meeting interviewing Ray about detail traffic planning and when we could expect Board approval. Ray assured me that his staff of planners are interested in public participation and extended an invitation to participate at their planning meetings, but I had to be advised as to when the meetings would be conducted and be on their mailing list.

And now the rest of the saga. There is more editing. "Water, roads, traffic, pollution, impacts on schools, blah, blah, blah." Where was this thinking process going? This sentence is incomplete. It has negative connotation, subjective emotional expressions and is not worthy of opinion.

"... during the public commentary section

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 13

*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:

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37167 Ave. 12 #5C  
Madera, CA 93638

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or  
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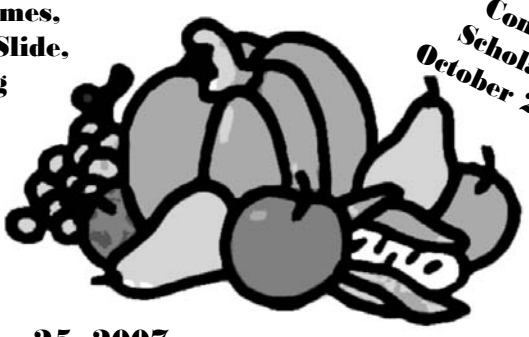
# Harvest Carnival & Bookfair

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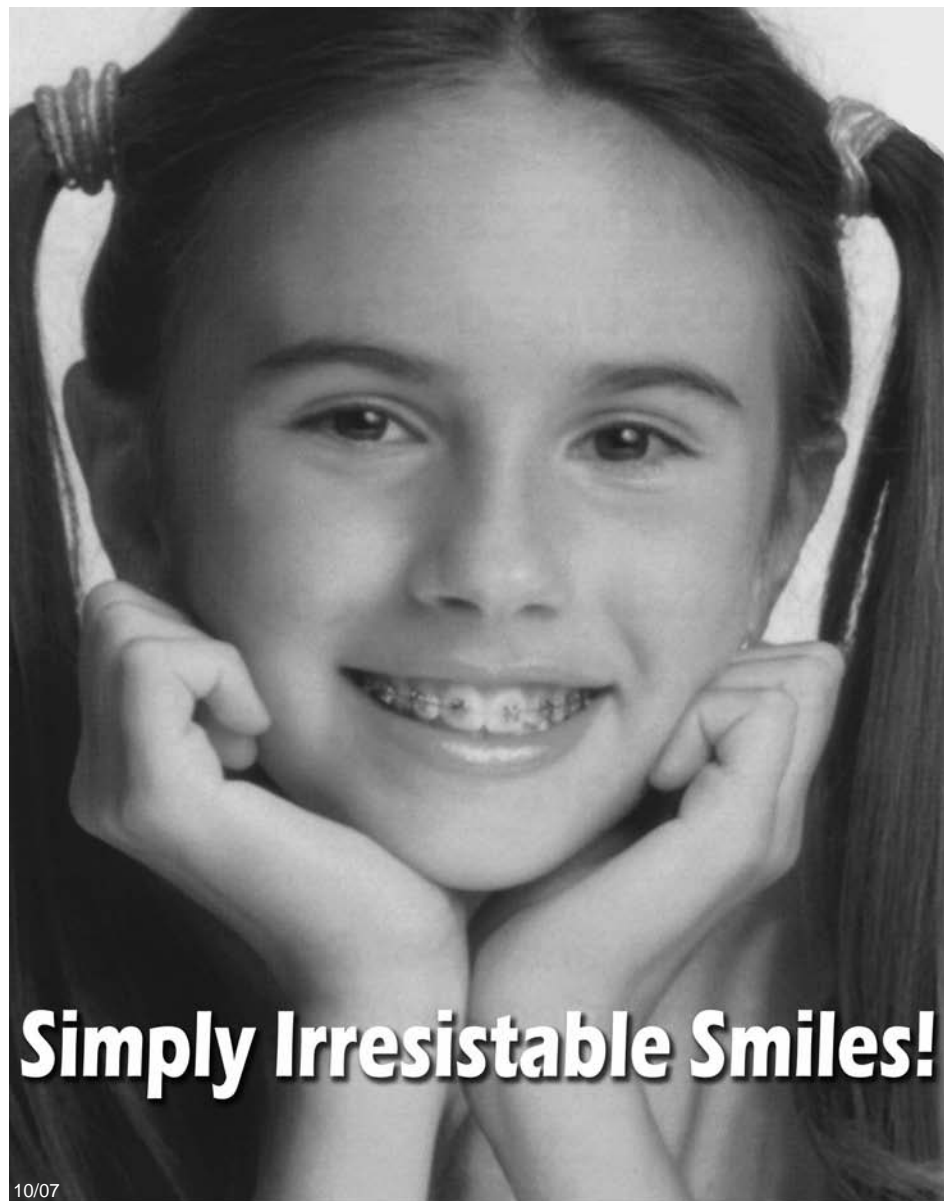


# Best Time to Start a Book Club is During National Reading Group Month

By Ellen Mester

October is National Reading Group Month. This would be a perfect time for anyone who is interested in getting a book club started to get some friends together to talk about books. You could start with a mystery theme or romance or young adult theme. If you would like to meet at the library or need help getting started just contact me at the library.

Teen Read Week! was October 14-20. There are so many good Young Adult (YA) books out these days, I encourage all teens to take a break and read something enlightening or fun. In fact, any teen caught reading at Liberty High School during that week got a prize and a chance for a \$50 raffle gift, according to Liberty Librarian Melanie Lewis. Here at the Ranchos Library we gave out free skate tickets at Madera Skate to any Ranchos teen (13-18) who checked out a book.



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The Friends of the Ranchos Library are having a membership drive through December. We need to start planning for Flatlanders and other fundraisers for the library. If you are a supporter of the Ranchos Library please consider becoming a member of the Friends. We meet the first Thursday of every month at 7 p.m.

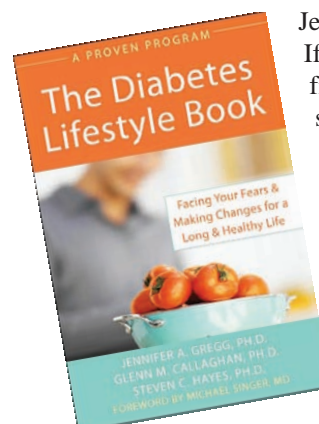
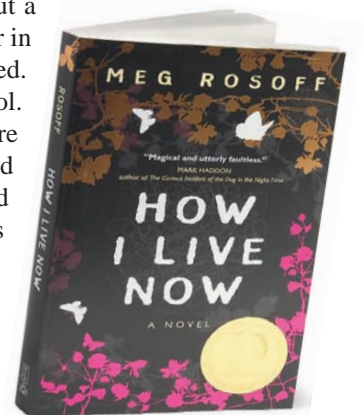
## New Library Planning Committee Update

The NLPC is an ad hoc committee of the Friends of the Ranchos Library. It was formed one year ago in response to the announcement made by Frank Bigelow that Madera County was looking into building a permanent structure for the Ranchos Library. Since that time, there have been several meetings with land owners about possible land that could be donated for the site. There have also been meetings with local and state officials in regard to grants, bonds and other means of financing this endeavor. Discussions with the Chamber of Commerce about combining the library with a community center are taking place. Progress has been made in that information has been gathered, relationships established and public awareness has been raised. Do we know when, where, or how a new library will be built? Not yet. But we are looking toward the future and we see a new library there. Come to our meetings on the third Wednesday of each month, at 7 p.m. at the library and be a part of this.

Parents: bring your small children to Monday Story Time at 11 a.m. with Mrs. Anderson. This is a wonderful free opportunity for little ones to learn about the library while enjoying a story read by a retired first grade teacher who has been our Story Time reader for over 15 years.

## Book Recommendations

**Young Adult Fiction:** *How I Live Now* by Meg Rosoff. Imagine being 15 years old, struggling to deal with your new wicked step-mother, anorexia and then being sent to England to live with your deceased mother's relatives just as war is breaking out around the world. Not WWII but a war in today's world where the British have gone to war in a foreign country leaving their own totally unprotected. Suddenly an unnamed country invades and seizes control. Looking at occupation from a teen's perspective where suddenly there is no cell phone service or internet and watching as conditions worsen to no electricity and food and water being rationed, Daisy finds herself in this beautiful rural English home with terrific cousins, no adults and no chance of getting back to New York. It starts as an adventure and quickly becomes a living nightmare. There is no real interest on the teens to find out who the enemy is or why they have taken over. It just boils down to survival, which they do quite well until they are separated. Then the horrors of war engulf them and their innocent youth falls by the wayside. There are many issues in this book that are covered including eating disorders, incest, violence – not anything that you haven't seen on T.V. but parents may want to read it first and then discuss it with their teen. It's a fast and furious read that makes you think and ask questions.



**Adult Non-fiction:** *The Diabetes Lifestyle Book* by Jennifer A. Gregg, Glenn M. Callaghan and Steven C. Hayes. If you have diabetes or a family member or friend has, you'll find this book very helpful. It is much more than a medical self-help book, although the first part discusses the disease in simple terms and includes parts of the body that are most affected. Then it switches gears and talks about determining your personal values and using them as a compass to guide you to a healthier, happier lifestyle. Common barriers are discussed with practical solutions to avoid or to leap over those barriers. The goal is to take control of your disease by changing your lifestyle and thereby pos-

Please see **BOOKS** on P. 10



# “Rockin’ Hawks” Hot Rod the Ranchos



Just part of the hundreds who turned out on Saturday, Oct. 13 for the Ranchos Youth Cheer's first Classic Car Show, held at the Maywood Center in the Ranchos.



A purple and white 1956 Chevy Bel Air looks completely at home in the parking lot behind Cat's Diner. Seventy cars were entered and awards were handed out for everything from best paint to Cheerleader's Choice.



Just in case the Beach Boys showed up there was an authentic Ford “Woody” wagon on hand. In addition to the cars, there were crafts, food and vendor booths, as well as a DJ spinning hot stacks of hot wax providing a blast from the past.

Show organizers were quite pleased with the turnout and response from the crowd. When asked if this could become an annual event, sponsors said they hoped so.

All money raised from the event went to the Ranchos Youth Cheer Program which teaches young girls the highly competitive discipline of cheerleading. The girls from RYF were the 2007 USA Jr. National Show Cheer Champs and events like this car show helps raise money to cover some of the costs associated with competitive cheering.

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## The Olde Cowboy by Woody Laughnan

Eight months have come and gone since she departed this world, her last muffled and labored "uh --- ah, uh - ah" breaths further and further apart until none were left, except for a final gasp when she lifted her head slightly from the pillow of the hospice bed, looked at me one more time with those brown eyes that I knew so well and then slumped back and passed, leaving 31 years of memories that continue to haunt my life like an old picture show.

For a year and more she concealed from me - as well as her sister and brother, son and long-time friends - the most tragic line that one can utter to a loved one: "Woody, I have cancer."

As we walked slowly to the car the following chill and dreary winter morn to consult with her doctor, she held tightly to my arm, brown eyes filled with tears, and I became engulfed with recollections of a hundred and more nights during the past two years when, and so unlike her, she sat quietly in her blue chair across the living room, a yet unworked crossword puzzle on her lap and a far-away look on her pale face. It was only then that I began to realize why she appeared to have become distant toward me, as well as oblivious to many of the things that we had been doing in our 31 years - dancing, laughing, partying, traveling, visiting friends and more recently, morning Starbucks rituals.

Pat was one who dearly loved to ramble, and with me at her side, ramble we did.

And by now I understood her reluctance to let me to touch the left breast as we lay abed; and often I would awaken in the last hours before dawn to find her sitting up and crying softly so she would not disturb me.

Her doctor, after examination of the breast, reached for the telephone and called the Cancer Center, then wrote the name of a doctor on a slip of paper.

"He'll see you this morning," she said, ever so softly.

His diagnosis was fourth stage cancer.

"I cannot cure you," he said, handing her a tissue to cry in and placing a reassuring arm around her, "but I'll do everything to give you the best quality of life medically possible."

Early in the evening of Feb. 16 this year the hospice where she spent her last fading hours phoned the house and the caller told me: "I'm sorry, but her time has come."

We stood around the bedside listening to her gasps and I kissed her gently on the forehead.

Already her skin was cool and I knew that in a blink of an eye she would be gone, and it left me empty. What would I do now? How could I go on without her? It wasn't meant to be this way.

I was 19 years older and it was generally conceded that I would go first and her sister, Janet, with whom she was so close, likely would move in with her.

With her gone I was like the man without a country, living in a yesterday cocoon, and awakening during seemingly endless nights after she passed and still hear her muffled cry: "Woody, please help me," and bury my head in the pillow that by morning would be damp. And on occasion, after dusk had closed in our neighborhood, from my chair across the room I'd catch a sudden vision of her working a crossword puzzle, holding Lady Bug kitty on her lap or laughing at something I said, and I would bolt from the house and walk aimlessly deep into the night.

"I don't want to talk about it," I told relatives and friends when they called or asked if they could come by, admitting entrance to the house to only my precious daughters, so steadfast in their love, help, support and daily calls and visits.

"This too will pass," well-meaning friends and acquaintances advised, "and it'll be time to start a new life."

But then how were they to know that Pat was my life, and the door to yesterday would not stay closed nor the one that led to tomorrow open?

### EPILOGUE

But I have not said goodbye to Pat, nor will I.

Her ashes are in a box in son Craig's house up the freeway where they will remain until I join her and together we embark upon the sea for the eternal journey to forever.

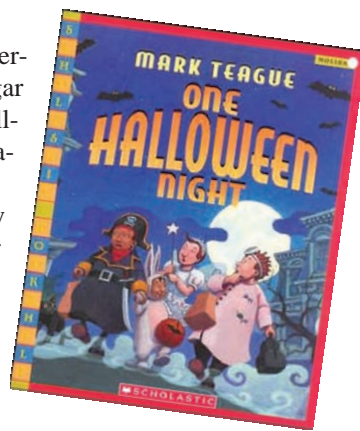


BOOKS cont. from P. 7

sibly avoiding taking any medication at all. Many borderline diabetics are able to control their blood sugar through diet and exercise, but it takes courage and will-power. This book offers information as well as inspiration.

**Juvenile Picture Book:** *One Halloween Night* by Mark Teague. Wendell, Floyd and Mona's plans for Halloween trick-or-treating seem to be jinxed with costume problems, tricks rather than treats and scary witches chasing them into a cemetery. The kids find some hidden talents they never knew they had and end the night on a triumphant note. Beautiful illustrations and a great holiday read-aloud.

Check out these books and more at the library and remember your library card: Don't leave home without it!



DOG cont. from P. 5

but looks pretty nice. Then I looked closer. The vehicle exhaust system consists of a big fan in the end wall that you have to turn on manually. Can you say "Mickey Mouse"?

I would worry that this "state of the art" system would suck all of the heat out of the building in the winter, but, no worries. There is no heat in the garage. (And yes it does freeze in Coarsegold.)

Also we paid for a three-bay garage, but lost one because someone added a handicapped ramp and a wall at the last minute. There is no hose rack to wash and dry fire hoses (A necessity. They are too expensive to be disposable.) There is no fence around the property, no landscaping and no curbs. The emergency generator isn't even hooked to the Barracks/Kitchen. When the power goes out, the only thing it will power will be the radio and office lights.

The one bright spot I did see is that they will never have a problem with their leach lines backing up, because they were installed just a few feet from a 16-inch culvert that runs under the road. That should divert any seepage or overflow to our local streams.

Poor planning and execution aside, I have no idea how we spent that much money and only get what I saw.

Oh, then there is the equipment.

Truck 8 is a 16-year-old, 75-foot ladder truck from back east somewhere. It has seen better days. "New" Engine 8 is really "old" Engine 3. It is an 11-year-old engine with more than 174,000 hard miles on it, and oh, it caught on fire. But with a new paint job, presto, it is now "new" engine 8. I would like to know who figured out that little magic trick.

**Dangerous Fire Stations**

Last report I mentioned Dangerous

Fire Stations. Neither Station 9 in Rolling Hills or 19 in the Ranchos has a system to keep exhaust gas out of the living/sleeping quarters. When our firefighters go into a burning building they are required to wear a Self Contained Breathing Apparatus to protect them, BUT every time they start the fire engine it fills the garage and their attached living/sleeping quarters with dangerous exhaust fumes. After any call in the middle of the night, they walk into the bedroom with their eyes burning from the exhaust fumes, get into bed, pull the covers over their heads and try to get some sleep before the next call comes in. I know. I worked many shifts at those stations before I retired.

**Special Districts**

Hearings are being scheduled for rate increases in the special maintenance districts. I hear the phone lines to the County are burning up with people that don't want to pay what it costs to provide the service.

Tough.

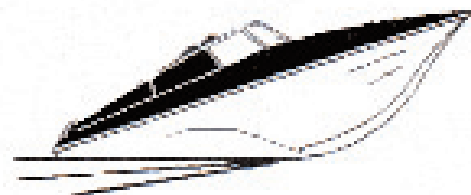
I have to balance my checkbook or I don't eat. So do they. I shouldn't have to pay \$3,000 to fix my broken well then turn around and pay taxes to fix someone else's repair costs out of the general fund. It is wrong, and oh yes, also illegal. I don't have to do it and neither do you. If you want to make a phone call, call the board of supervisors and insist special districts pay their own way, just like the rest of us. Millions of dollars have been taken from the general fund, illegally, to prop up bad book keeping. We will talk about how that can be paid back in another dog report.

Remember, keeping government open, keeps government honest. It is my responsibility, and yours ... stay informed. Get involved.

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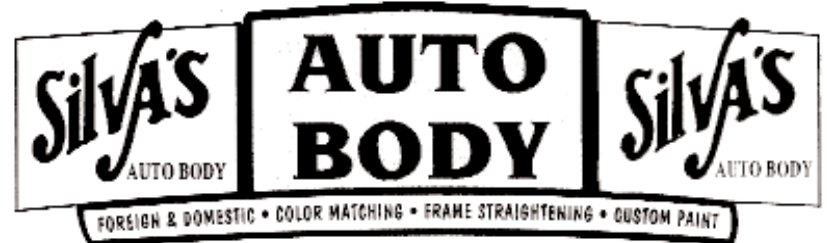
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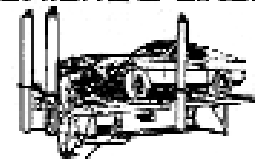
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## The Stock Report

# Keeping Busy with Schools, Community

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,  
I can't believe it is time for Halloween already. Thanksgiving and Christmas can't be far behind. As we head into the winter months there are many things happening at all Golden Valley Schools. I will start with our two elementary schools.

I visited both Sierra View and Webster Elementary schools with Superintendent Koligian and her team. Each school has its teachers working together to increase student learning in a positive way. Sierra

View is eligible for the California Distinguished School Award this year. Webster has already received the California Distinguished School Award. Sierra View had the first Movie Night for their community on Oct. 5 and a jog-a-thon on Oct. 12. There is never a dull moment at Sierra View.

Webster is looking forward to Red Ribbon Week, the end of the first trimester on Nov. 3 and the Winter Music program on Dec. 13. Webster's Carnival had a great community turn out even in the rain on Friday, Oct. 12. The teachers and administrators at both schools are modeling skills and using strategies during the teaching day. Strong principals help teachers do their best work with students. I was

impressed with the work that is going on at both schools. Keep up the good work!

Both Ranchos Middle School and Liberty High School have sent out a 6-week progress report to parents. Both schools have tutoring for students who need a little extra help in the core classes

of Math and English. Liberty is trying something different this year and is having tutoring in the morning before their regular classes on Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Both schools are using benchmarks to measure student progress.

The sports programs at both schools never stop. There are so many things going on all at the same time that I have a hard time keeping up with all of them.

This is not about school but it will affect all of us that live in the Madera Ranchos. How do you see our area? Are we just a bedroom community for people who live here and work

*How do you see our area? Are we just a bedroom community for people who live here and work someplace else or do you see us as a little village with its own personality? Is it a place to shop, go to a restaurant, go to church, a place for children to go to school, a place where senior adults can go to socialize and play cards with friends and neighbors?*

do you see us as a little village with its own personality? Is it a place to shop, go to a restaurant, go to church, a place for children to go to school, a place where senior adults can go to socialize and play cards with friends and neighbors? At the last Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce meeting Ray Beach, from Madera County Resource Management Agency, said that he wants "us" – the people who live here – to tell him what our

*At the last Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce meeting Ray Beach, from Madera County Resource Management Agency, said that he wants "us" – the people who live here – to tell him what our vision for the Madera Ranchos business area is.*

*So what are we?*

vision for the Madera Ranchos business area is. So what are we? When we put together Golden Valley Unified School District we were asked that same question. In fact we were told that we were flying the Golden Valley Unified plane while we were still building it and we needed

to decide what we wanted to be when we grew up. Now Mr. Beach is asking the same question. He said that the Madera Ranchos is a pristine strip mall now and can be developed into a cohesive village

Please see **STOCK** on P. 23

## Be on the Lookout for Creepy Vine

By Eleanore Burchell

CHRISTMAS IS COMING ...

and so is our Christmas Boutique to be held at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center at 37330 Berkshire Drive from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 23 and 24, and then on Saturdays Dec. 1, 8 and 15. We will have homemade jellies, pickles, bake goods, candies, Christmas breads, tote bags, many Christmas decorative items and much, much more for you to see and enjoy. Please plan ahead and come in to see our first Christmas Boutique.

**WATCH FOR A PARASITIC VINE!**

The California Department of Food & Agriculture, in cooperation with our local County Agricultural Commissioner, is asking for our help in locating a parasitic vine that could be quite devastating to our

trees and shrubs if it gets started in our area. The Japanese Dodder is a non-native plant and has been described as looking like a twisting yellow-to-orange piece of spaghetti and grows aggressively, often overgrowing entire plants or trees. It kills its host plant

*The Japanese Dodder is a non-native plant and has been described as looking like a twisting yellow-to-orange piece of spaghetti and grows aggressively, often overgrowing entire plants or trees. It kills its host plant by robbing it of food and water.*

by robbing it of food and water. This plant can be spread by birds, animals or by human activities such as pruning and disposal of infested plant material. If you have seen this, please call 1-800-491-1899.

Speaking of trees, now is the best time of the year to plant a tree or two in your front, back, side yard or a big one way out back. Our next monthly sale will be held on Nov. 3, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. We have many trees but be here early so you can pick the one or two best suited to your needs. Also, the Treasure House has many, many items to check out. Remember, what is one person's discard is another person's treasure.

Now for the sales held in the main building. The bake sale has been doing well and it also will have many items such as peanut brittle, cookies, cakes, breads and maybe even a pie or two. The produce still has some items even though summer has past. There are a few cookbooks left and they are \$12 each. Many

boutique items are displayed on the shelves. Come in and see the necklaces, earrings, paintings, antique china items, etc.

We don't want you to forget us during the week so remember the plant, produce and boutique sections are available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesdays from 6 to 9 p.m. and Thursday evenings between 6 and 9 p.m.

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

### THE UP SIDE

*"He who walks with the wise, grows wise."*

Approximately 17 travelers left on Tuesday, Oct. 9 and flew to the East

Coast then boarded a bus for their fall colors adventure. They visited New York, Boston, Quebec, Montreal, Toronto, Niagara Falls, Washington, D.C. and Pennsylvania. They returned home on Oct. 22. Joann is our travel planner so if you are inter-

ested in joining the group in future trips come in and see what we have coming next. You need NOT be a member to participate in our trips. For more information or if interested in the next trip, call Joann at 645-4864. A Panama Canal cruise is in the planning for April 14 - 28. A flight to Fort Lauderdale, Fla. will be made and then board the ship with stops in Jamaica and Cartagena, Columbia, then through the locks of the canal and exiting into the Pacific Ocean. There will be dockings in Costa Rica, three in Mexico - namely Huatulco, Acapulco and Cabo San Lucas - and then on to San Francisco to disembark. This is really a spectacular cruise. For more information call Joann at 645-4864 or come in for a flyer. Again, you need NOT be a member to participate in this cruise.

Have you seen Cobb's cornfield maze? A good fun trip for Halloween. Oh, to be a kid again!

Please see **SENIORS** on P. 22

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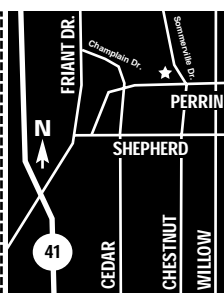
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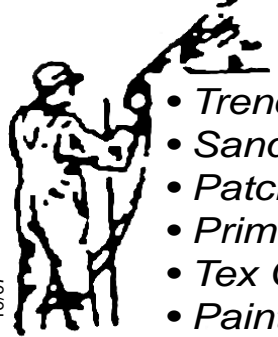
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## KIWANIS KORNER



The Kiwanis Club of the Ranchos is a service club collectively united by local community members looking to volunteer their time and resources to enhance the lives of children in their local community, as well as worldwide. We help sponsor many service projects throughout the world, but we pay special attention to our local community schools and children by holding fund raisers and sponsoring, or co-sponsoring events, such as: Liberty Under the Stars, Firefighter's Dinner, Firefighter Run, College Run and Cross the River Run, along with Flatlander's Parade. All of the money raised from these events go right back to the children and/or the community. We are proud of that fact and we feel honored to be able to provide our services.

Through our hard work, we would like to recognize a few individuals. The Ranchos Kiwanis club is very proud to announce several awards that were presented to deserving members in the club. Vice President John Herrera was awarded the Distinguished Service Award. This award is given to a Kiwanian who has gone the extra mile for Kiwanis, either through exceptional committee work or service performance. President, Pam Glueck, was honored by the board of directors, who voted unanimously

to present her the prestigious William A. Dunlap Fellowship. This award is given to a Kiwanian who has demonstrated exceptional service to the Kiwanis, by supporting the efforts of the Kiwanis club in serving children and families of their community. The last award was giving to our treasurer, Charisse Stindt, who was awarded the Kiwanis International Foundation Tablet of Honor. This award was authorized in 1965 as a means to honor individuals, Kiwanis clubs, divisions, districts, or organizations that have exemplified dedicated service to Kiwanis,

their club, or community. Charisse Stindt will also be honored each year at a special Kiwanis International convention reception, and her name has been added to the Tablet of Honor electronic accolade at the Kiwanis International Office. Charisse joins an elite group of Kiwanians; this recognition has only been giving to a handful of members in the entire district which spans over all of Madera and Fresno counties.

On to other news: One of our largest fund raisers was started just five years ago, in 2002. The club thought it would be a great idea to start a scholarship fund for Liberty High's graduating seniors, in the form of a talent show, called Liberty Under the Stars. In that short time we have raised nearly \$10,000! We had judges who lent their expertise this year and they were: Connie Clendenan - Valley Teen Ranch, Emilie Cobb - Cobb Ranch, Debbie Farr - Fire Station 19 Event Coordinator, Hal Parks - Pizza Factory, and Shirley Tickel - Ranchos Hills Seniors. This is an event in which the whole community took part. There were 13 wonderful acts, along with an outstanding performance from Break the Barriers that started off the evening with an outstanding martial arts presentation under black lights. We are always very impressed with all the talent found here in the Ranchos.

Of course, none of our endeavors would be a success without your support, and for this we thank you and look forward to your continued support and additional projects.

Talking about additional projects:

Trunk or Treat, Oct 31 @ Ranchos Market

We will be giving out magnetic immunization cards & candy!

Electronic Recycling Nov. 10 & 11 @ Ranchos Market, from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Until next month ...

### LETTERS cont. from P. 6

of the meeting here, 'they' come - their muttering as they walked up to the microphone. We couldn't do this because it would increase traffic on Avenue 12." Your perception of what you saw has negative connotation, the group having the responsible for the action presented was unidentified and were addressed as "they," selective hearing and subjective expression about what was actually presented did not add value to the opinion.

"This mutterer was concerned about the impact that a Castle and Cooke development would have on traffic on Avenue 12." I was the only person who stepped up to the microphone when the Chairman opened for comment from the public. Since your disrespect for others carried over to the word you used, mutterer, sin-

gular defined my thought process triggered you mean me. I did not mutter from the second row, first seat, next to the west wall, among the others who represented Gateway. I approached the microphone and expressed valid vital information I think was important concerning the planning details for road and traffic on Highway 41 and Avenue 12 exchange, known as Avenue 12 Limited Freeway, affecting Gateway and the Ranchos. This editorial did not present clearly the facts and has insulted other people with lack of care and friendliness that wins trust and faith. I trust you want to be respected, however, you must want to change and then work for it. Good fortune to you in your challenges.

J. Norman Wilkins  
Madera Ranchos



## Non-drug Solution for ADHD

By David Johnson

New research suggests simple techniques that give more structure to a child's day can offer a non-drug alternative to help the youngest sufferers of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Research shows that although parents know it's normal for children to be hyperactive, impulsive and have problems paying attention, they also understand that some children are too hyperactive, too impulsive and too inattentive. These children can exhibit the hallmark ADHD symptoms even at a very young age. Preschool, by the way, is a very important period of time in the development of these particular children. Because research shows that ADHD can carry long term risks such as difficulty in school and social skill development, it would make sense to intervene as early as possible. After all, current estimates show that up to 4 percent of school-age children are thought to have ADHD. One precaution however, must be stressed: Don't jump too quickly to the conclusion that just because your child seems to be unruly, that he or she must have ADHD. There could be many other reasons for this behavior. Remember, to be diagnosed with ADHD, a child must display extreme symptoms when compared with youngsters of the same age. A recent five-year study, paid for by the National Institutes of Health, provided a range of behavioral-only therapies to 135 preschoolers with severe ADHD. After a year, aggression and other problem behaviors had dropped, and learning improved by about 30 percent.

### Other Things You Can Do

- Educate yourself about ADHD and your child's education rights.
- Build positive relationships with your child's teachers and other school personnel.
- Communicate openly and frequently with school officials, teachers, your

child and your child's doctor.

- Work with your child to control symptoms as much as possible. This includes using medication and/or behavior management techniques as recommended by your child's doctor.

- Keep records. Medical evaluations, behavior counseling and previous school records are all helpful when developing educational programs for your child.

### So what's the secret?

1. Consistent rules and routines! (MARTIAL ARTS)
2. More praise for good behavior than punishment for bad. (MARTIAL ARTS)
3. Children with ADHD learned more through repeated practice than through observing social cues like other youngsters. (MARTIAL ARTS)
4. Channel extra energy to avert misbehavior. (MARTIAL ARTS)
5. Reserve stronger punishments for worst cases, and try a reward system like "Belt Promotions" where children gain or lose a privilege based upon their behavior. (MARTIAL ARTS)

A parent recently said to me, "Starting early really made a difference. Now he strives for that positive recognition."

### Conclusion

ADHD?  
MARTIAL ARTS!  
Any Questions?

*Master Johnson is a world recognized security and self-defense expert specializing in executive protection, hand-to-hand, multiple opponents, and weapon disarms. He is listed in the "Who is Who" in Martial Arts and was named "Master Instructor of the Year" 1996 by the World Martial Arts Hall of Fame. He is the owner of Golden Valley Martial Arts, Tactical Training International, Dave Johnson Real Estate, and operates the World's only online self-defense and Black Belt training course at [www.masterjohnson.com](http://www.masterjohnson.com). He can be contacted at [info@masterjohnson.com](mailto:info@masterjohnson.com).*

## Student Captures More GOLD!

James "Alex" Lee of Golden Valley Martial Arts has brought home more gold by winning a Gold and Silver medal during international competition in Long Beach. His total medal count for his first competition season stands at ten. GVMA students together have won nearly 100 medals in their very first competition season and are looking forward to 2008 competitions with great excitement.



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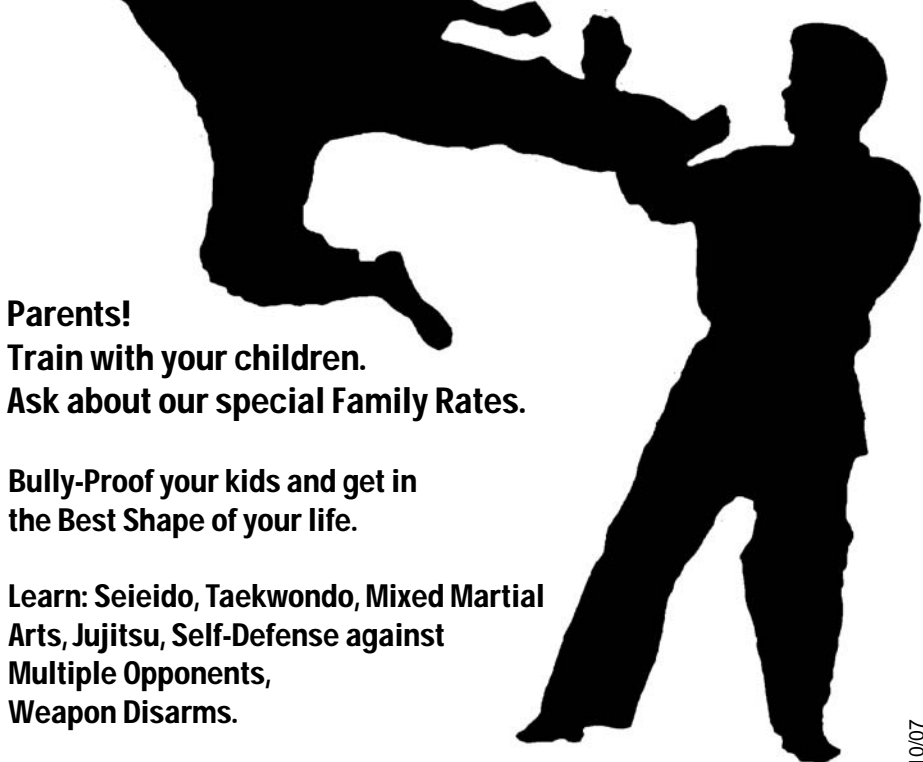
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# U.S. Military “Veteran of the Year” Calls the Madera Ranchos Home

By Randy Bailey

When it comes to veterans of the United States military, there's one Ranchos resident who says it best: “We want you to know we appreciate you; anyone who puts on a uniform deserves our honor and respect.”

The speaker of those words knows about being a U.S. veteran. In 1997, Viet Nam-era veteran Jerry Payne was selected as United States Veteran of the Year, and since then he has created an organization similar to the USO in its ability to provide top-notch entertainment for military personnel around the world.



Ranchos resident Jerry Payne answering questions about his newest passion, the United States Entertainment Force, which he has created to increase entertainment options for U.S. troops around the world.

“I used to produce shows for the USO in the late 90s,” Payne said. It was then that he got the idea for the creation of the United States Entertainment Force with his friend, session guitarist wizard and former member of Steely Dan and the Doobie Brothers, Jeff “Skunk” Baxter. Their idea was to create an entertainment company that could indeed put on shows for active military, but could also be a force for good, “... by using the power of entertainment to go out and help fallen soldiers or homeless veterans.” That step outside of specific shows solely for the military is what separates Payne’s USEF from the USO. His “mission statement” for the USEF states: The United States Entertainment Force is a foundation created to better serve military organizations for the purpose of providing entertainment for the men and women of our armed forces, regardless of where in the world they are deployed.” He then elaborates by stating that beyond that core mission is the objective to go beyond the military and defense industry to produce benefit concerts and special events for other worthwhile charitable organizations. “It’s about reaching out to the members of our armed forces, but it’s more,” he said.

The USEF in its present incarnation almost didn’t happen. Payne had a bad experience back in 1997 involving a Memorial Day misunderstanding with a General that caused a lot of hard work and preparation to go by the wayside. As a result of that experience he got out of producing shows for several years. But the War on Terror made him rethink his position. “Never before in history has there been a greater need for an organization like the USEF,” Payne said. Payne figures that since the War on Terror is a global conflict, it’s important that we don’t neglect our men and women in uniform, and organizing artists, managers, agents, publicists, celebrities and industry executives is the best way to keep morale and spirits high.



Jerry Payne riding in a parade in 1997 courtesy of Veterans Foundation, Inc. and being recognized as Veteran of the Year

As a form of recognition, the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce has asked Payne to light the Community Christmas Tree on Friday, Nov. 30 at Maywood Center at Maywood and Avenue 12. The VA Hospital is the recipient of gifts gathered by the event.



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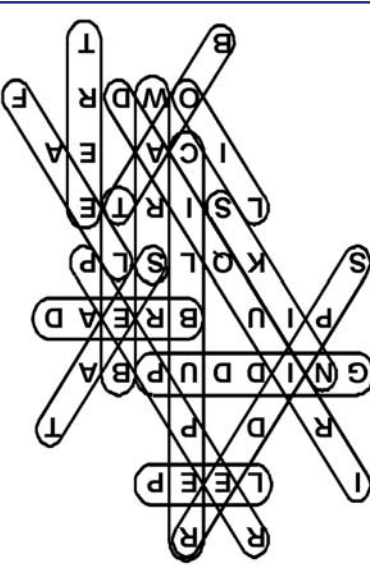
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## ANSWERS

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

*By Sarah Koligian*

I recently hosted the first of many Superintendent Parent Meetings, titled "Coffee with Superintendent Koligian". I was pleased to meet many new faces in our school community. Some of the parents were new to Golden Valley schools and some were veteran parents in the district. Regardless of how long we have been parents of school-aged children, there are always questions that we may have on how to best meet our children's needs. We also know that if you have more than one child, that each one of them is a unique individual with distinctive personality traits, gifts and talents. Once we think we have it all figured out, we may be proven wrong the next time we try to apply our traditional parenting skills to our next child. What does this mean to us as parents? It means that we build and teach the foundation of moral and ethical values we have as parents. Due to the individual nature of each child, we might need to "differentiate" our parenting skills to best need the needs of each child, very similar to what a teacher does within the classroom when she finds that students may need alternative learning strategies and support to help them understand new concepts. Parents are definitely our children's first teacher and schools are most successful when they can partner with our parents to continue to teach our children all that they need to learn within the school setting.

## Partnering with GVUSD Parents

Recently, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Jack O'Connell, published a to-do list of suggestions for parents that can be used to help develop good learning habits at school and at home. As a parent, these ideas may be a refresher for you or they may be new ideas; either way, please know that our teachers, support staff and administrators are always willing to meet with parents to review how to best engage each child in the school setting. Hopefully these suggestions will help your child throughout the school year so that learning will feel more like an adventure rather than a challenge.

- Teach your child to become a life-long learner: Model the love of learning by talking to your child about the interesting things you learn each day. Show excitement about what your children are learning in school. A positive attitude toward learning opens up minds to the possibilities of learning.

- Read to your children often: A child who has a passion for reading can explore the world through books. Reading also improves writing skills.

- Be a partner with your child's teacher: Get to know your child's teacher early in the year and learn what is expected of your child at school. Support your child's teacher by checking homework, knowing when assignments are due and asking questions of the teacher to make sure your child is on track and on schedule. Golden Valley parents can use the PAMS online monitoring system to check your child's attendance and grades at [www.gvUSD.k12.ca.us](http://www.gvUSD.k12.ca.us) and click on Student and Parent Information link.

- Incorporate learning into daily tasks: Include your child in tasks of budgeting and using math when making purchases. Read recipes and measure ingredients together. Talk to your child about how things grow in the yard, how electricity makes appliances work or how much energy is used in your home.

- Make sure your child is well rested: Students who are well rested do better in school. Set a consistent bedtime.

- Provide healthy meals, especially breakfast: Breakfasts high in sugar cause students to run out of energy halfway through the morning. Protein will give your children the energy

they need to help them focus.

- Establish a special place and time for homework: A quiet, well-lit area in the home dedicated solely to homework will help your children concentrate on their work. Plan a consistent time for homework every day.

- Find ways to help your child's school: If possible, spend time at your children's school. Even if you cannot provide regular assistance, ask your child's teacher and school staff about other ways you can help.

- Teach your children at an early age to embrace California's rich diversity: Learn about other cultures as a family, and teach your children respect for people of other races and backgrounds.

- Expect your child to achieve: California's public schools need parental support in holding students to high expectations. Expect your children to do their very best each day. Hold them accountable for doing homework and working hard to achieve in school. If they believe they can achieve, they will achieve and nothing will make them – or you – more proud.

Please see **PARTNER** on P. 21



*Lunch on the Madera Wine Trail  
November 10-11, 2007  
at  
Birdstone Winery  
Just north of Avenue 9 on Road 36*

*Save the Date  
Saturday March 29, 2008  
The Night The Stars Come Out  
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Birdstone Winery*

## Learning About Chinese Culture At Webster

**Story of Mulan Opens Door to Chinese World for Webster Third Graders**



*Shelby and Ashley are eating with chopsticks while enjoying "Amber's Cold Noodle Recipe."*



*Nicole, Elizabeth and Savannah show off with their finished dragon puppets.*



*Grayson, Angel, and Camryn eating Chinese noodles.*



*Galilea, Michael and Corey are making Chinese dragon puppets.*



## Vision Statement

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

## State Sends Good News in GVUSD Accountability Progress Report

By Andrew G. Alvarado, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services

On August 31, 2007, the California Department of Education released the annual Accountability Progress Reports (APR) to Districts state-wide. The APR is a document consisting of the Federal and State accountability systems. This document includes the Annual Yearly Progress (AYP), Academic Performance Index (API), and Program Improvement (PI) status of Districts and schools. To view the PowerPoint presented to the Governing Board of the Golden Valley Unified School District on September 12, 2007, please visit the Education Services link on the GVUSD website at [www.gvUSD.k12.ca.us](http://www.gvUSD.k12.ca.us).

### Annual Yearly Progress (AYP)

The AYP is a Federal accountability requirement enacted by No Child Left Behind (2001). The criteria used in determining a school's AYP status are:

- Participation Rates in Mathematics and English Language Arts for all significant subgroups

- Percent Proficient in Mathematics and English Language Arts for all significant subgroups

- California High School Exit Exam (high schools only)

- Academic Performance Index.

After reviewing the results, we are excited to announce that the District as a whole met all the criteria for AYP. Elementary schools, Sierra View and Webster, and Liberty High School met all of their targets as well. Ranchos Middle School fell short by one criterion, Percent Proficient in Mathematics. We are confident that with the adjustments made to this year's Master Schedule and the placement of students in appropriate Math courses, Ranchos Middle School will meet the AYP criteria this coming year.

### Academic Performance Index (API)

The API is the State's accountability

system which was created by the Public Schools Accountability Act (PSAA) in 1999. Every year in the spring, California schools are given a Base API. The Base API released in the spring is the "measuring stick" used to determine the API Growth released in the fall. District trends show the following:

- The API for the District remained status quo at 785.

- The API score for Golden Valley USD is higher than the County average (708) and higher than the State average (727).

- Liberty High School represented a 17 point gain, increasing their API to 780, and ranking 5th in the Central Valley in comparison to other high schools.

- Webster Elementary experienced a slight drop in their 2007 API score of 5 points; Webster's API for 2007 is 823.

- Sierra View Elementary experienced a slight decrease of 2 points bringing their 2007 API score to 808.

- Ranchos Middle School reported a drop in API of 12 points to 771.

The State's goal is an API of 800.

Any score above 800 is commendable.

### Program Improvement (PI)

Program Improvement is part of the Federal accountability system and applies to all schools receiving Title I funds from the Federal Government. Schools are identified and enter PI status after missing AYP for two consecutive years in one of the following criteria:

- Same content area (ELA or math)
- On the same indicator (API or graduation rate)

For example, Ranchos Middle School failed to meet one criterion, Percent Proficient in Mathematics. If RMS fails to meet this criterion again in the 2008 APR, they would enter PI status year 1. A school or District entering PI status is given three years to successfully remove itself from PI status by meeting its deficiency. None of our schools are in Program Improvement!

Overall, the APR brought great news

Please see **GOOD NEWS** on P. 20

## Ranchos Middle School Winners



The following students were recently honored with a certificate from Principal Pinkard after being nominated "Students of the Month" at Ranchos Middle School. Bottom l to r: Beverly Yang, Jordan Grossardt, Trini Jo Aleman, Chloe Doyle and Naraly Godinez. Top l to r: Adrian Juarez, Rosamond Martin, Amanda Penner, Rachel Rushing and Mr. Pinkard.

Congratulations to our award winners!

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Or you may contact Sabrina Malm for an application packet at [smalm@gvUSD.k12.ca.us](mailto:smalm@gvUSD.k12.ca.us)

## 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.





# Independence HS Students Demonstrate New Software



Independence students, James and Micah, teach a Board member, the Superintendent and the district Human Resources Director the fine points of their new Odyssey Ware academic software program.

## GOOD NEWS cont. from P. 19

and reasons to celebrate throughout the District. Three out of the four schools in the District met their AYP targets for all significant subgroups and no schools are in PI status! Although there were slight drops reported in API at both Sierra View and Webster Elementary, having both of our elementary schools in the elite "800 Club" is a tremendous accomplishment, and one that deserves commendations. Ranchos Middle School, although dropping some points this year, still ranks among the top echelon of middle schools with their API score of 771 exceeding the county and State averages. Liberty High School has increased its API for the second year in a row and continues

to march its way to 800. The District will continue to emphasize the importance of providing a rigorous and relevant curriculum at all grade levels and the importance of meeting the needs of all students. I would like to thank all of our Board members, administrators, staff, students, parents, and community for valuing the importance of a quality education. Go GVUSD!

*GVUSD Educational Options schools, Independence High School, Lincoln Community Day School, Home Hospital, Valley Teen Ranch and Centennial Independent Study did not have a significant number of students test in the 2006-2007 school year, due to school size, to be included in this report.*

Now Is The Time To Shed Those Unwanted Pounds

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- AM/PM Medications
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10/07

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10/07

# Grandparents' Day Visits Sierra View



*It's a Kodak moment for Grandma Ruth Isom and her Grandson, Sierra View first Grader Thomas Scott, during Sierra View's Grandparents' Day Celebration.*



*Sierra View First Graders Celebrate Grandparents' Day with some wonderful song and dance.*

**HALLOWEEN SPECIAL**  
**Refurbished Laptops**  
**starting at \$340!**



**Knight & Day**  
**COMPUTER SERVICE**

*Hurry while supplies last*

Lots of New & Used Computers  
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**37184 Avenue 12, Suite 104 • Madera Ranchos**

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*Local Ranchos Resident*

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- Lawn & garden service
- Maintenance
- Weekly & monthly service
- Weed control

10/07



**The Lighthouse Christian Fellowship**  
 On the corner of Ave.15 and Monreal  
**15048 Monreal Rd. Madera, CA 93638 559-645-0722**  
 Senior Pastors Bernard & Linda Morris/ Resident Pastors Stoney & Amy Berna

**Service Schedule**  
 Sunday 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.  
 3rd Monday of the Month 7 p.m. Manna Link Food Distribution  
 For needy families. Everyone Welcome!  
 Tuesday 7 p.m. Life Connections Home Groups Thursday 7:30 p.m. Family Night  
 RE-Generation Youth Group—Generation NeXt Children's Ministry  
 Nursery Provided Ages 0-3 yrs. Sunday and Thursday Services

10/07




**Chad Harr**  
 CA# 142100 **645-5363**

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Fill Dirt • Topsoil • Humus • Bark • Chips • River Rock  
 Crushed Rock • Base Rock • Rock Dust • Cobble Stone  
 Driveway Base • Fill Sand • Washed Sand • Plaster Sand

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**Valley REMNANTS & ROLLS**  
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 30% - 60% Everyday Savings  
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10/07

**PARTNER** cont. from P. 18

I hope this list has provided some helpful insights. Parents are not only the first teacher in our children's lives, but we hope they will continue to partner with our schools to provide that ongoing support for learning.

If you are interested in learning more about how to assist your child at school and at home, I encourage you to contact your child's teacher or school for more information. If you are interested in meeting with other parents throughout the district to discuss specific topics of interest, please join me at my next "Coffee with Superintendent Koligian" on Wednesday, November 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the Liberty High School Library. To elicit some of your hopes and dreams for your children through this meeting venue, I would like to hear from you. You are welcome to complete the Parent Needs Assessment located on the GVUSD district webpage at [www.gvUSD.k12.ca.us](http://www.gvUSD.k12.ca.us), click on the Superintendent link. Please complete the survey and return it electronically or send a copy to your child's school site or to the District Office.

Thank you for partnering with us in your children's education!

*Come and enjoy a fun evening and support*  
**Ranchos Middle School Boosters**

*Second Space Theatre Presents*  
**The Best Christmas Pageant Ever**

*November 17th at 8:30pm*

*Tickets on sale for \$20 at the School Office*  
*Proceeds to benefit various Middle School functions*

*For more information please contact Ursula@ 645-8614*

**Mustang Madness**



*On Friday, October 5, 2007, Mustang Madness returned to Ranchos Middle School. All funds raised go toward the drama club. Congratulations to Mrs. Roth and the drama class for a great turn out. Fun, games, and food made the event a huge success. Don't miss our upcoming play scheduled Thursday and Friday, November 29th and 30th.*

**PET BOUTIQUE**  
**Dog Gone Cute Store**

**2nd ANNIVERSARY SALE**  
**20% OFF SELECTED ITEMS**  
 Check out our website at [www.DogGoneCuteStore.com](http://www.DogGoneCuteStore.com)

**645-PETS** Open Tuesday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
 37164 Ave. 12 #102 • Madera Ranchos

**NEW STORE HOURS**

10/07



The October Birthday and Anniversary celebration luncheon will be held on Saturday, Oct. 27 at 11 a.m. at the Madera Valley Inn, 215 N. "G" Street, Madera.

**REMEMBER BINGO TUESDAY NIGHTS** 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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

**More Facts and Fun**

A nutritionally balanced lunch program Monday through Friday 11:30 a.m. Suggested price for 60 years and older is \$1.75. Reservations are needed a day in advance so remember to call Joann at 645-4864. We have a growing exercise program being held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. The participants are getting more than just exercise by attending. They have fun and share laughs. There is still room for you and you can attend all three days or just one or two of them. The Line Dancing class is also a great way to exercise. It meets on Fridays at 12:30 p.m. This combines fun and exercise. You do not need to be a member to attend these classes.

We have a large group, but there is always room for one more – you! Fill your car with your friends or neighbors. They will enjoy finding new friends here, too! Come in and check these classes out! Our watercolor classes held on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. are

open and free to the Ranchos community adults. No prior watercolor experience is needed. The instructor can be reached by calling 645-1137.

**Up and Coming Events**

November 3, Monthly Sale , 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

November 23 and 24 Christmas Boutique, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

December 1, 8 and 15, Christmas Boutique, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Weekly Events**

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

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

Wednesday, noon to 1 p.m. Card BINGO

Wednesday, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. Watercolor Painting Class

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

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

Friday, 12:30 p.m. Line Dancing Class

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


## Radanovich Applauds Passage Of Madera Water Bank Bill

### Increases Water Supply for San Joaquin Valley

Congressman George Radanovich (R-Mariposa) released a statement after the House passed H.R. 1855, the Madera Water Supply Enhancement Act. Radanovich authored the bill which authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation to participate in the construction of an underground water storage project in Madera.

"The looming water crisis in California demands more feasible water supply projects, such as this water bank. Since I first introduced this legislation in early 2006 the water supply needs of California have only increased due to recent court decisions and drought," Radanovich said. "This water bank, by storing excess water in wet years, will provide a much needed source of water in dry years and facilitate the restoration of groundwater levels over time. I am encouraged by the authorization of this project and look forward to its contribution to the water supply in California."

After passage, H.R. 1855 was referred to the U.S. Senate where Senator Dianne Feinstein has introduced identical legislation.



## Madera Ranchos Assembly of God

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

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

10/07

Say you saw it in the Ranchos Independent Place your ad TODAY at 645-0634

# FOUR SEASONS. ONE COMFORTABLE PACKAGE.



At last, one big, efficient machine that'll keep you cool all summer and toasty all winter. It's the Bryant Packaged Gas/Electric Comfort System. And not only will it keep you comfortable year round, so will we. Whatever it takes.<sup>SM</sup>

# 559-662-0336

# 559-438-8260




10/07

STOCK cont. from P. 11

for our local business owners. He talked about a couple of options for slowing down traffic in and around the Ranchos. Very few of the cars and trucks that use Avenue 12 to go between Highway 41 and Highway 99 stop and use the businesses on Avenue 12. The businesses need to cater to the locals. When Castle & Cooke opens Gateway Village on Avenue 12 there will be eight lanes which will go to four lanes after the Gateway project and then down to two lanes through the Ranchos unless plans are made now. This will become a nightmare unless there is a bypass loop around the business section of

the Ranchos or we come up with some other answer to the traffic problems that are coming our way. This will lead to major traffic jams if it isn't handled right. We have a lot of smart creative people in this area and we need your help. You have a unique opportunity to make Madera Ranchos even more special than it already is. When I asked you for help to create a school district you came through and we all need this to happen now before someone else makes the choice for us.

Most of you know that I am going to China with the Madera Chamber of Commerce. I have been so excited about this trip that I have a hard time concentrating on anything else. I am trying to keep up with all of the school board meetings and my responsibility to the Ranchos Hills Senior Center but it is not easy. I am reading and learning about the modern China. Our Ranchos library has been a great help. For years I have been fascinated with ancient China. I have read all of Pearl Buck's books about ancient China. I have even bought a digital camera and have practiced so that I can take pictures while I am there

I hope you can come to the next school board meeting and tell us what you want to happen in the school district. Two school holidays that you might want to put on your calendar are Nov. 12 for Veterans Day and Nov. 19-23 for the Thanksgiving Fall Break.


Also, on Tuesday, Nov. 6 there will be a "Drive Through" Flu Shot Clinic from 10 to 11 a.m. at Liberty High. If you are 12 or older, stay in your car and get your flu shot for free (although donations are accepted).

**24-Hour & Hourly CAREgivers Needed**  
**for seniors in their homes**  
**No criminal history and car w/insurance required**  
**Call Home Instead 265-3110**



10/07

**BARN MESSAGES**  
 It's been a long hot summer and it's time to get your critters ready for fall. The flies are hangin' in and the pasture is gone.



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**Come to Evans Feed and Livestock for insect control and nutrition and supplement care.**

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- All Natural 27% Protein
- Four Fertility Tubs
- Range Mix 31%
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- Sweet Lix Sheep and Goat
- 20% Meat Goat
- Bronze Right Now Minerals for Dry Feed
- Wide selection of fly sprays and wormers

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 BEAUTIFY YOUR HOME!  
 REDUCE STREET NOISE!

Nothing increases energy efficiency while reducing outside noise like award-winning Milgard replacement windows. Locally made and serviced, Milgard offers an industry leading lifetime guarantee. If your home is ready for a makeover, call your certified Milgard dealer today.

**Clearly a beautiful offer.**

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Madera Glass & Mirror Co.  
 1825 Howard Rd.  
 Madera, CA 93637



**FINANCING AVAILABLE O.A.C.**

Clearly the best.

10/07

**SAY YOU SAW IT IN THE RANCHOS INDEPENDENT**

**Community Calendar of Events**  
 By Linda Bresee

(all events in the Madera Ranchos UNLESS stated otherwise)

**Sunday November 4** - Daylight Savings ends. Don't forget to set your clocks back before bedtime November 3rd.

**November 19-23** - Thanksgiving/fall school break.

**Friday November 30** - Chamber of Commerce Tree lighting event at Maywood Shopping Center 6 p.m.

**Webster School** - School Cents, Red Bucket holiday food drive. Deadline for donations, November 14.

**Liberty High School** - November 2 football away game vs. Fresno Christian High. November 19 CIF play-offs begin.

**2nd & 4th Tuesday each month** - GVUSD School Board Meetings normal schedule. 6 p.m. at Liberty High Library. Liberty High School - 12220 RD 36.

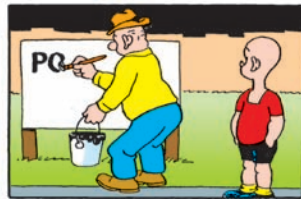
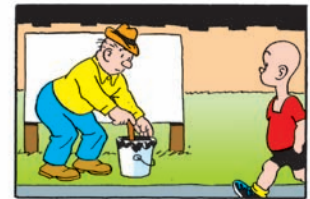
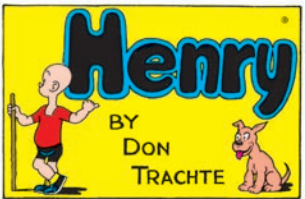
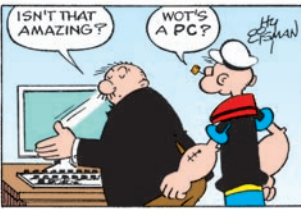
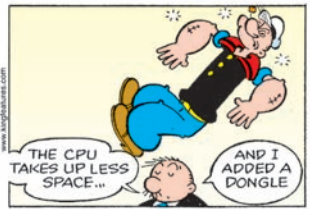
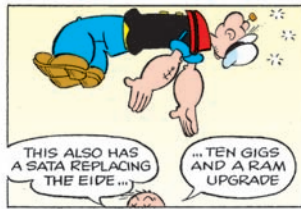
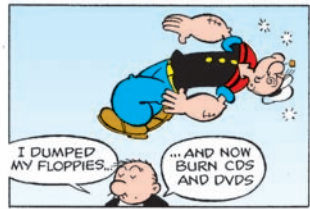
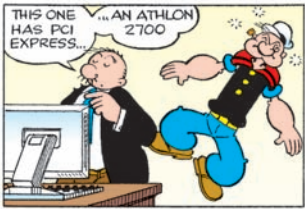
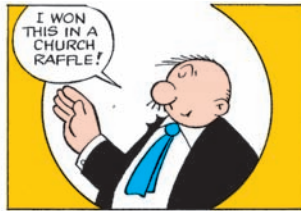
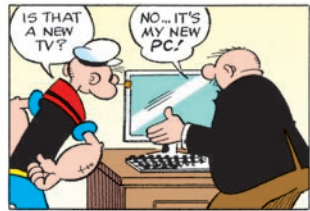
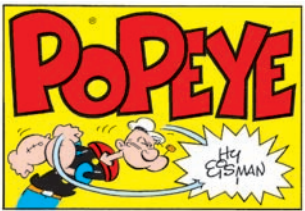
**Monday November 12** - No school, Veterans Day.

**Wednesday November 14th** - GVUSD Superintendent - parent meeting series 6:30 p.m. at Liberty High Library. For information call 645-7500. Liberty High School - 12220 RD 36.

**Got an event? communitycalendar1@theranchos.com**  
 559-645-0634 \* fax 559-645-4002 \* 37167 AVE 12 #5C 93636

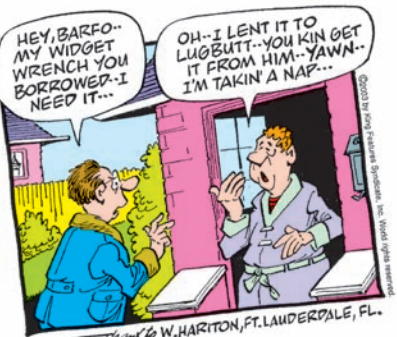


# FUN PAGES



## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

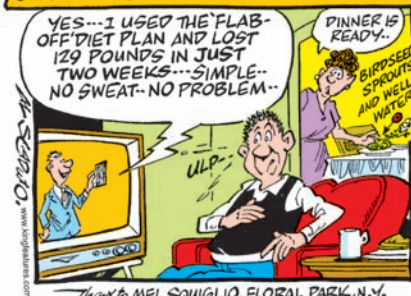
PESTS WE CAN DO WITHOUT--THE NEERD NEIGHBOR NOT ONLY BORROWS YOUR TOOLS--BUT HE'S ALSO VERY GOOD ABOUT LENDING YOUR TOOLS, TOO...



THANK TO W. HARTON, FT. LAUDERDALE, FL.

## BY AL SCADUTO

PUZZLE PIC--FIND THE GUY WHO'S HAVING GREAT DIFFICULTY LOSING 10 POUNDS...

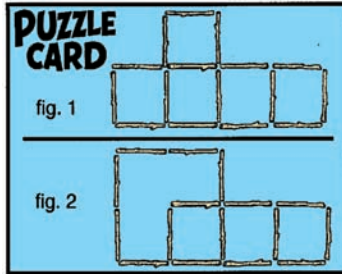


THANK TO MEL SQUIGLIO, FLORAL PARK, N.Y.

EVER HAPPEN TO YOU? DINNER COOKED AND READY TO SERVE--THEN THE PHONE RINGS AND--



THANK TO R. HARWICH, ST. LOUIS, MO.



LAY OUT 16 STICKS, as shown in figure 1, and challenge your friends to move two of them to new positions so that four squares will be formed. Figure 2 gives our solution.

**A MATH QUICKIE!** You have one minute to arrange the numbers 1 through 9 so that they add up to 99,999.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Answer: 1234 + 1234 + 9876 + 9876 = 99,999

**'EAR' TODAY, 'CORN' TOMORROW!** In this puzzle all of the words get progressively longer, and they all contain an EAR. Use the following definitions:

1. Ear (given).
2. Rip Van Winkle had one.
3. Starts off as grit.
4. Related to a straight line.
5. Secondhand knowledge.
6. All gas cars have them.
7. A well-known flavoring.



Answers: 1. Cheat; 2. Guard; 3. Catch; 4. Cheer; 5. Yards; 6. The center column word denotes a big "eater"; 7. Spearmint.

## Wishing Well

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

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

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## MAGIC MAZE • BANANA —

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

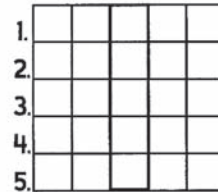
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

- Belt
- Leaf
- Boat
- Oil
- Bread
- Peel
- Daiquiri
- Pepper
- Pudding
- Republic
- Seal
- Skin
- Spider
- Tree
- Wars

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## Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



### A FOOTBALL VOCABULARY DRILL!

In the grid above, there is room to enter five five-letter words pertaining to football. The following definitions should help you:

1. Part of football shoe.
2. Type of player.
3. What ends must do.
4. What the fans must do.
5. What the linesman measures.

There is a dark frame around the center column of letters. If you correctly solve the puzzle, the letters in this frame, top to bottom, will spell out what a "tackle" must be.

Answers: 1. Cheat; 2. Guard; 3. Catch; 4. Cheer; 5. Yards; 6. The center column word denotes a big "eater"; 7. Spearmint.

## TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. POLITICS: Who was the 36th president of the United States?
2. GEOGRAPHY: Where is the Ionian Sea?
3. MOVIES: Who wrote the screenplay for the 1972 movie "The Heartbreak Kid"?
4. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What kind of sea creature also is known as a "bow-head"?
5. MUSIC: Who sang the hit 1970 song "Fire and Rain"?
6. ART: Where are the Carnegie Museums located?
7. HISTORY: Who popularized the term "Iron Curtain" to describe the cold-war division between Eastern and Western Europe?
8. GAMES: In which game is the term "English Shot" used?
9. ARCHITECTURE: On what structure would you most likely find a minaret?
10. LITERATURE: Who wrote the 17th-century novel "Ivanhoe"?

### Answers

1. Lyndon Johnson
2. Between Italy and Greece
3. Neil Simon
4. Whale
5. James Taylor
6. Pittsburgh, Pa.
7. Winston Churchill
8. Billiards
9. A mosque
10. Sir Walter Scott

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### Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



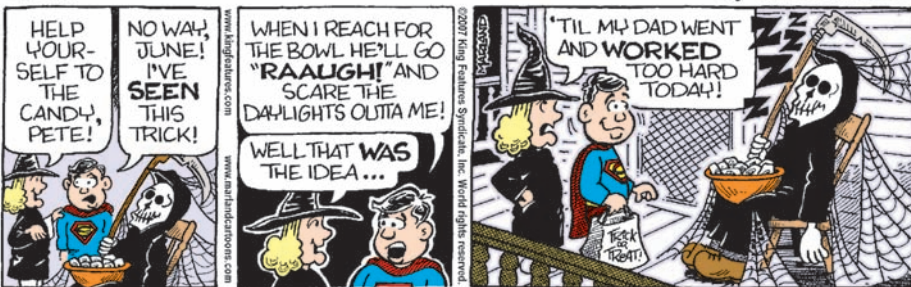
### Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



### R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



### MAMA'S BOYZ

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JERRY CRAFT



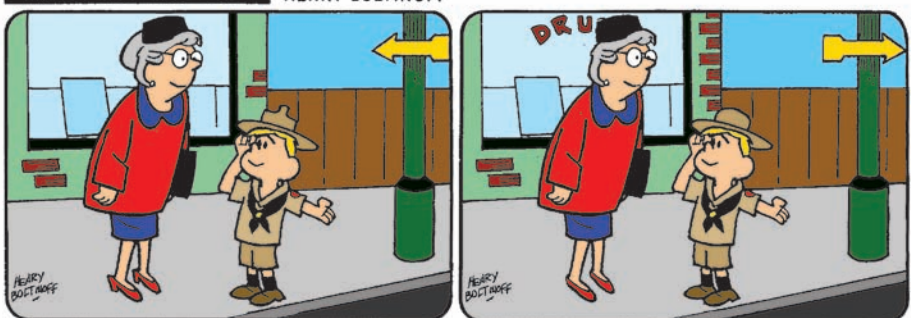
### The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



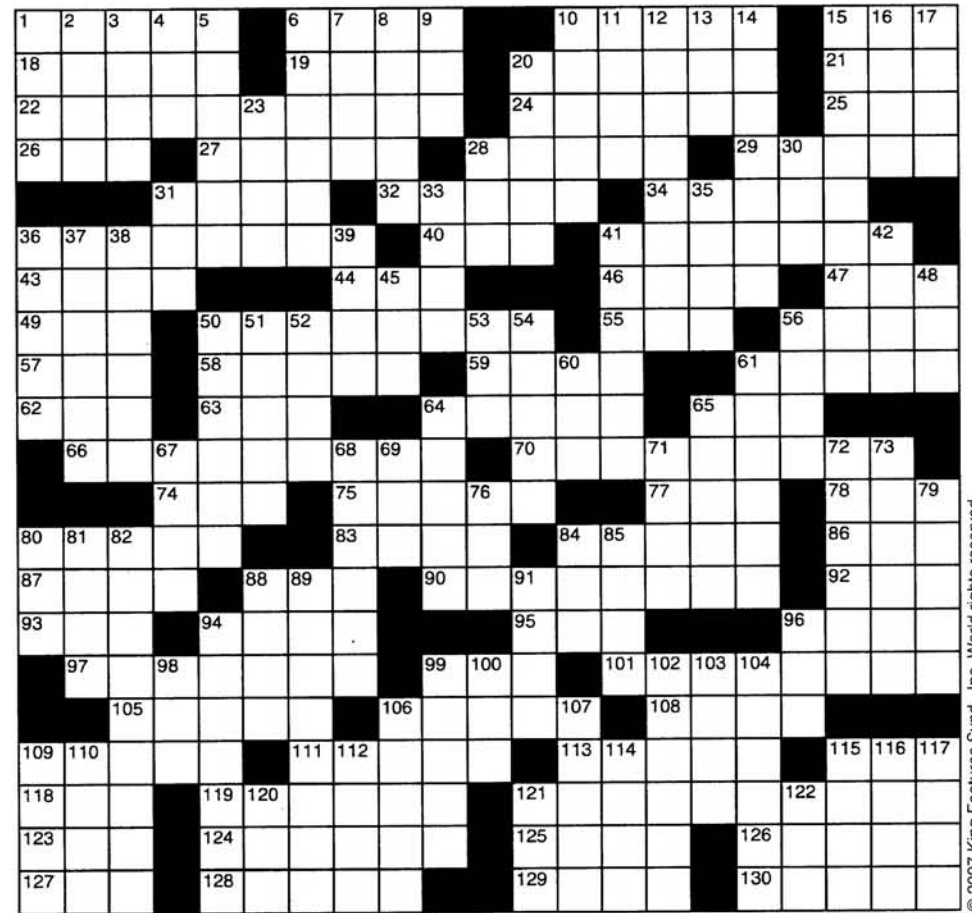
### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Window sign is missing. 2. Boy's hat is different. 3. Arrow points in opposite direction. 4. Woman's hair is different. 5. Bricks are added to building. 6. Woman's shoes are flats.

## Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Ohio city
  - 6 "Serpico" author
  - 10 Long Island resort
  - 15 Arafat's grp.
  - 18 Perfect
  - 19 Perry's creator
  - 20 Ancient Greek region
  - 21 CSA soldier
  - 22 Pungent person?
  - 24 Hit man?
  - 25 Compass pt.
  - 26 Goal
  - 27 Horrid Heep
  - 28 Swedish port
  - 29 Fresh
  - 31 Length X Width
  - 32 Sheik site
  - 34 Coin-toss call
  - 36 Actress Rossellini
  - 40 Sly — fox
  - 41 Annoying woman?
  - 43 Hole punchers
  - 44 Impact sound
  - 46 Smeltery stuff
  - 47 Merino male
  - 49 Cartog-
  - 50 Sharp guy?
  - 55 Author Wallace
  - 56 He's abominable
  - 57 Bikini part
  - 58 Harden
  - 59 Puppy bites
  - 61 Horse show
  - 62 Cul-de- —
  - 63 Solidify
  - 64 — a customer
  - 65 Beer barrel
  - 66 Avid hiker?
  - 70 Good-looking girl?
  - 74 Sneeze and wheeze
  - 75 Declaim
  - 77 "Le — Soleil" (Louis XIV)
  - 78 Loser to DDE
  - 80 Trolley sound
  - 83 Great —
  - 84 Toy toter
  - 86 Geog. term
  - 87 Sty cry
  - 88 Part of B.S.
  - 90 Billiards player?
  - 92 Actress Gardner
  - 93 LAX letters
  - 94 New York stadium
  - 95 Veneration
  - 96 Pres. protectors
  - 97 Industrious fellow?
  - 99 Fleur-de- —
  - 101 Ravenous
  - 105 Pack
  - 106 Austin or Smith
  - 108 Rainbow goddess
  - 109 "Paganini" composer
  - 111 Flourishes
  - 113 Sluggo's sweetie
  - 115 Scepter's sidekick
  - 118 Clay, today
  - 119 Happy guy?
  - 121 Tool man?
  - 123 Bell and Barker
  - 124 Glorifies
  - 125 Memo words
  - 126 Rigg or Ross
  - 127 Tiny colonist
  - 128 Hold up
  - 129 Pilsner
  - 130 Seraglio
  - 8 Maui greeting
  - 9 DC figure
  - 10 Pasta peninsula
  - 11 Eye problem
  - 12 Tourniquet, e.g.
  - 13 Hosp. area
  - 14 Garden flowers
  - 15 Egged on
  - 16 Beam bender
  - 17 Toe the line
  - 20 Oranjestad's locale
  - 23 Baseball's Hershiser
  - 28 "Viva — Vegas" ('64 film)
  - 30 Clerical garb
  - 31 Pecs' partners
  - 33 Inclined plane
  - 35 Once again
  - 36 Poetic feet
  - 37 Self-government, in India
  - 38 Llama kin
  - 39 86 Across or 9 Down
  - 41 "Swanee" singer
  - 42 Corral
  - 45 Assent at sea
  - 48 "O Sole —"
  - 50 VIP
  - 51 Hoopster Shaquille
  - 52 Zodiac animal
  - 53 Hostelry
  - 54 Sib's kid
  - 56 Bear or Berra
  - 60 School grp.
  - 61 Phone button
  - 64 Shy primate
  - 65 Former Japanese capital
  - 67 Pull sharply
  - 68 Alaskan bear
  - 69 Epoch
  - 71 Bond foe
  - 72 Deli meat
  - 73 TV's "Highway to —"
  - 76 Golfer's gadget
  - 79 Comedian Arnold
  - 80 Runner Sebastian
  - 81 Ford or Grey
  - 82 Revolution-ary
  - 84 Create a caftan
  - 85 Imitates
  - 88 Worn-out
  - 89 Cognitive
  - 91 Publisher Conde
  - 94 Behaved like bees
  - 96 Watching machines?
  - 98 — -la-la
  - 99 Living-room accessories
  - 100 "— Too Late" ('71 hit)
  - 102 Fiddle (with)
  - 103 Roman structure
  - 104 Saudi city
  - 106 Sullen
  - 107 Absurd
  - 109 Tibetan monk
  - 110 Dash
  - 112 Tulsa's st.
  - 114 Farm measure
  - 115 Actor Epps
  - 116 Magritte or Descartes
  - 117 Spooky Stoker
  - 120 Bunyan's whacker
  - 121 Triangular sail
  - 122 Actress Farrow

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**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) All that dedicated hard work you've been putting in pays off better than you expected. So go ahead, reward yourself with something befitting a beauty-loving Bovine.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) It's a good time to take on that new challenge. And if your self-confidence is sagging, instead of telling yourself why you can't do it, list all the reasons why you can.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) This is one time when you might want to put some distance between you and the job at hand. It will give you a better perspective on what you've done and still need to do.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) Resist that occasional lapse into Leonine laziness that sometimes overtakes the Big Cat. Don't cut corners. Do the job right at this time, or you might have to redo it later.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) You know how you like to do things. And that's fine. But watch that you don't impose your methods on others. A current financial crunch soon eases.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Someone might try to take advantage of your generosity. But before your sensitivity toward others overwhelms your good sense, check his or her story out carefully.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Your strong Scorpion sense of fairness lets you see all sides of a dispute. Continue to remain impartial as you help each person work through his or her particular grievance.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Trust your keen Sagittarian insight to help you see through an offer that might not be all it claims. A closer look could reveal disturbing elements.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) With the Goat exhibiting a more dominant aspect these days, you could find it easier to make your case in front of even the most skeptical audience.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) Aspects favor relationships, whether platonic, professional or personal. On another note: Be a mite more thrifty. You might need some extra money very soon.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Recent news from someone you trust could help you make an important decision. Also, be prepared to confront an upcoming change in a personal situation.

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# Real Estate



## Nancy Watson

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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!"

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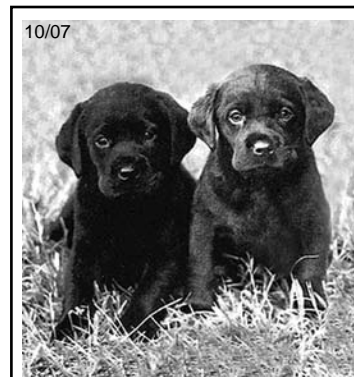
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## Writers Wanted

**Writers Wanted - Part Time, freelance basis. Call 645-0634.**



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dewormed • PARENTS ON SITE

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## GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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

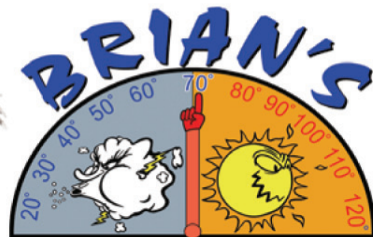
	+		÷		3
x		÷		x	
	+		-		7
-		+		-	
	x		-		4
5		4		6	

1 2 3 4 5 5 7 8 9

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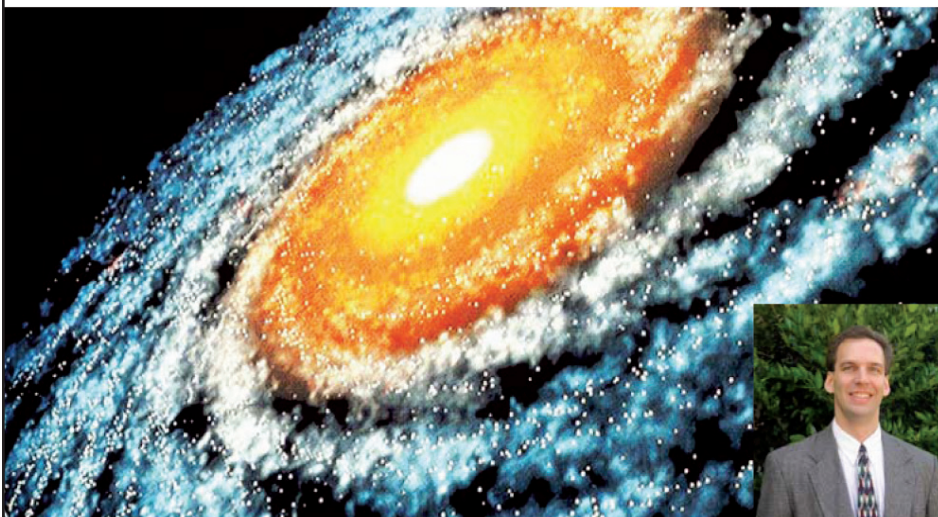
by Linda Thistle

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

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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### Does the Universe Reveal God?



Jeff Zwerink, Ph.D,  
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*See the latest scientific discoveries that validate the truths of Christianity*

When: November 6, 2007, 7:30 P.M.  
Where: CSU Fresno  
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Admission: Free and open to ALL

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10/07

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Ask Me and I will show you."*

-God



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