

# The Ranchos Independent



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The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

35¢



Meet the New Neighbors

## Historic San Joaquin River Restoration Agreement Finally Signed

Eighteen years of litigation ends and sets the stage for water supply certainty and salmon reintroduction

An historic agreement to restore water flows for salmon in the San Joaquin River below Friant Dam while undertaking one of the West's largest river restoration efforts was announced in Sacramento on Wednesday, Sept. 13 by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Friant Water Users Authority (FWUA) and U.S. Departments of the Interior and Commerce.

The settlement, filed in U.S. District Court in Sacramento, ends an 18-year legal dispute over the operation of Friant Dam and resolves longstanding legal claims brought by a coalition of conservation and fishing groups led by NRDC. It provides for substantial river channel improvements and sufficient water flow to sustain a salmon fishery upstream from the confluence of the Merced River tributary while providing water supply certainty to Friant Division water contractors.

Historically, Central California's San Joaquin River supported large salmon populations, including the southernmost Chinook salmon population in North America. Since Friant Dam became fully operational in the late 1940s, approximately 60 miles of the river have been dried up in most years, eliminating salmon

above the river's confluence with the Merced River.

The Settlement Agreement is based on two goals and objectives:

1. A restored river with continuous flows to the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and naturally reproducing populations of Chinook salmon.

2. A water management program to minimize water supply impacts to San Joaquin River water users.

The Settling Parties will work together on a series of projects to improve the river channel in order to restore and maintain healthy salmon populations. Flow restoration is to be coordinated with these channel improvements, with spring and fall run Chinook salmon populations reintroduced in approximately six years. At the same time, the Settlement limits its water supply impacts to Friant Division long-term water contractors by providing for new water management measures that are to be undertaken by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the Interior Department agency that administers the Central Valley Project. The Settling Parties believe that commitments under the agreement and the cooperative approach toward restoration provide an historic opportunity to restore the San Joaquin River in a manner broadly acceptable to water contractors who have been operating under a cloud of uncertainty regarding their water supply due to pending litigation for the past 18 years.

The agreement provides that long-term Friant Division water service contracts be amended to conform the contracts to the terms of the settle-

Please see RIVER Page 16

## Gotcha!



Balloon-toss contestant Amy Barr watches her chances at victory disappear before her eyes at the Community Picnic held at Cobb's Ranch on Sept. 3. See more picnic pictures on pages 5 and 6. Photo Courtesy of Bill Whyman

## Measure "T" Tax Increase Drives into the Ranchos



Georgiena Vivian, Matt Bullis and Fran Doos represented the Measure T 1/2 cent transportation tax at a meeting sponsored by the Taxpayers' Association of Madera County.

In a meeting designed for the "for" "against" and the "I just don't know" crowd, the Taxpayers' Association of Madera County brought in representatives of Madera County's proposed Measure "T" 1/2 cent transportation tax on Monday, Sept. 18 to try and explain it all.

Georgiena Vivian, Vice President of VRPA Technologies, began the evening by presenting a PowerPoint overview of the basics of Measure T.

Whereas Measure A, the predecessor of Measure T that sunset last September, raised approximately \$65 million over the 15 years it was in existence, Measure T is proposed over 20 years and is anticipated to generate \$213 million, all a half cent at a time.

The money raised is all earmarked for Madera County roads. Vivian showed that 51 percent of

the money raised would go toward what's called the "Commuter Corridors/Farm to Market" part of the program, designed to improve freeway interchanges, adding additional lanes along major travel corridors, increase safety and improve and reconstruct streets and highways.

The next largest chunk of money, 44 percent, would go to "Safe Routes to Schools & Jobs." Vivian said that this part of the program was for scheduled maintenance needs and rehabilitating our aging transportation system and providing flexible funding to local agencies.

One of the key differences Vivian stressed between "T" and "A" is the creation of citizen oversight committees, which are open to all residents. In addition, a mecha-

Please see MEASURE Page 10

## Quarry Update

### Quarry OK'd Sups Vote 4-0

By a unanimous vote of 4-0, the Madera County Board of Supervisors voted on Monday, Sept. 11 in favor of the Madera Ranch rock quarry proposed at Roads 209 and 406, just northeast of the Ranchos. The vote follows a 4-1 vote of approval by the Madera County Planning Commission back on May 25.

In what was often a contentious debate over the proposed rock quarry, the main issues concerning property owners in the area of the proposed quarry could be distilled down into four primary concerns: Traffic; Pollution; Water; and Noise. In addition, property owners were concerned that the cumulative effect of all of these elements would negatively impact their property values.

Representing Madera Ranch, owner Jack Baker agreed to conditions concerning each of the above four elements and in return received approval from the Board toward a Conditional Use Permit.

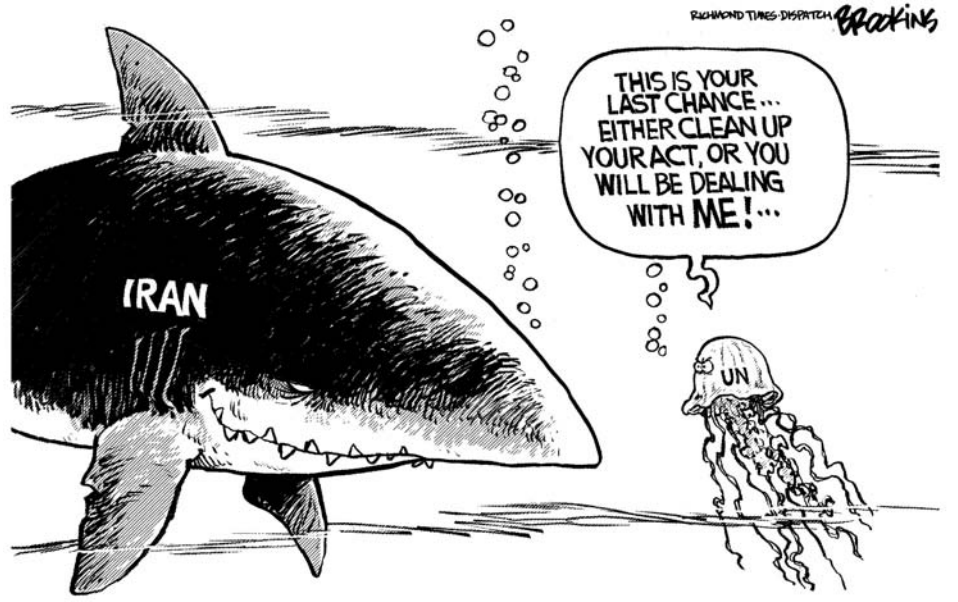
Concerning traffic, CalTrans required certain improvements of highway 41 and Road 209. In both cases the Board found that Baker was willing to, and had committed to, doing more. He was committed to expanding Highway 41 just north of

Please see QUARRY Page 10

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**CANDIDATES NIGHT**  
Featuring Golden Valley Unified School Board Candidates  
Ranchos/Hill Senior Center • 37330 Berkshire  
Sponsored by the Taxpayer's Association of Madera County  
**MON. OCT. 16 • 6:30 PM**



Editorial

# A Rock and a Hard Place

By Randy Bailey

Well, it looks like Madera County is getting its rock quarry. I'm glad. I've been a supporter of the idea since early on. The concept of the quarry and the realities of a modern society that relies so heavily on the use of aggregate screamed out for a quarry to be placed in Madera County. I got to visit the site and was satisfied that its location was perfect in terms of mitigating noise, activity and unsightliness. All the pieces fit.

Of course, I didn't live there. And ultimately, that's what this came down to. This was a classic case of NIMBY -- Not In My Back Yard. I am convinced the people who live in the area of the Madera Ranch Rock Quarry have absolutely no problem with aggregate. The like their houses that are built with aggregate; they like driving down to Fresno on roads built with aggregate and going to their jobs in buildings made of aggregate -- they just didn't want to live next to the place that made the aggregate.

I fully understand. When I lived in Fresno we had a Darrell's Mini Storage wanting to build next to our property. On the surface they would be perfect neighbors (right after a graveyard): no noise, minimal activity, an on-site manager and a history of keeping their places spotless. So what was the problem? I noticed that everywhere there was a mini storage, soon right next to it a body shop would spring up. And then a transmission shop. And then a muffler shop. I had no problem with Darrell's -- my problem was with all of those who came after and the noise and traffic they brought with them.

I went to City Hall and fought. I made my case to the planning commission. I had it explained to me that every

time a mini storage opened it was at 90 percent capacity. That quick. There was a definite need for the facilities ... oh, and it took a piece of worthless land and began generating steady income for Fresno County, too.

I shared my concerns and was given what I thought were iron clad assurances. The zoning was set up in a way that it would never be able to allow the offending industries.

The mini storage was built. Fifteen years later they have the nicest radiator shop over there.

It appears that zonings can be appealed and changed and all of a sudden someone who wasn't there 15 years ago when the deal was made is making new decisions without your input. My old neighborhood obviously needed a mini storage and a radiator shop because they're still there and doing great guns, I just didn't want them (literally) in my back yard.

The supervisors had a tough call to make with the rock quarry. They had to look at the benefit to thousands of county residents versus the inconvenience of a handful. Of course, it was made all the easier since none of them lived there, either.

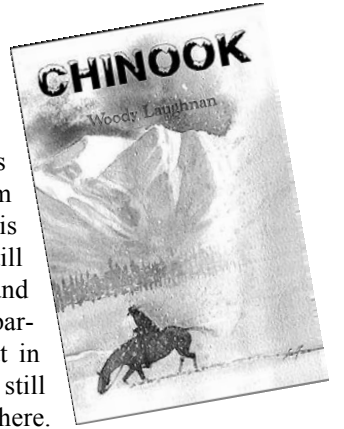
To the people of Bates Station: I feel your pain; I've been there, albeit on a much different level. At the same time, thank you. What will come out of the ground up there by your homes will stand as a monument to Madera County and its thousands of residents for generations to come.

My advice to you? Get your assurances in as iron-clad language as is possible and then hold them to it. I have a feeling the Madera Ranch people are going to be good neighbors (there's been too much publicity generated for them *not* to) but over time things can, and *do*, change.

Thanks.

## Random Notes

If you've lived in the Valley for any length of time and you've read the Fresno Bee, you might recall reading an article or two by columnist Woody Laughnan. The other day I get a phone call and the person on the other end of the phone says that he likes our little paper and would I be interested in having him write a column for our paper. Oh, by the way ... his name is Woody Laughnan. Although retired, he still writes novels (his last one, "Chinook," is from 2003 and is shown here to the right and can still be bought on barnsandnoble.com and amazon.com). He told me that in between novels he still likes to write columns and still handles the occasional freelance writing job here and there. His next novel, "Echoes of Ozymandias" will be published in November. Look for this new column, "The Olde Cowboy" each month and tell me what you think.



The talented Ranchos residents I meet continue to amaze me. There's a guy living out here named Jeff Barger who's always made a living as the owner/operator of Iron Horse Trenching doing the necessary trenching for foundations for new construction. Like many of us, he's a frustrated musician who's always got the guitar sitting around and strums it when the mood hits him. As a Christian, he would use bible verses for inspiration and has created a whole bunch of original songs based on biblical themes.

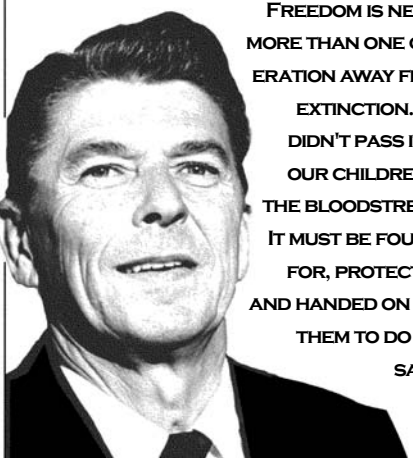
In September of 2004 he was playing when the words "911 - A Contemporary Tragedy" sprung into his head. "I put down my guitar, went upstairs and wrote the words," Barger said. He formed a company, sold stock in six states and two years later he's almost got a finished 28 minute DVD. The song is about what happened to America on September 11 and what America did about it. He intertwines the return of Christ and the judgment of the earth and ended up with a patriotic/spiritual message encapsulated in the memorial of 911. I got to hear an advance copy and it sounds pretty impressive. He says Oct. 1 seems to be a realistic date to release it so keep your eyes and ears open for this one.



Sometimes the runner stumbles. In last month's Ranchos Independent I wrote about how the Madera Ranchos Star Force Dance team had returned from the Star Power National Competition in Lake Tahoe in late July and did very well. I then went on and congratulated the people involved. So far, so good. Then I promoted someone to a position she didn't have. Oops. I congratulated the team and, "... its directors, Tammy Gomes and Kandace Osborn." The only problem is Kandace Osborn is not a director of the Madera Ranchos Star Force Dance team, she is just an involved, active parent. The director's job rests squarely on the shoulders of Tammy Gomes. I'm sorry if Kandace's "promotion" caused any problems. At this rate by next week I'm probably going to make her the Queen of England.

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce has just added some new members and they're some heavy hitters. Chamber President Ollia Ridge said the newest members are Golden Travel of Madera, North Fork Rancheria and PG&E. I'm telling you, if you want to see things happen here in the Ranchos, the Chamber is a great place to get involved. Virtually all of the events that have become synonymous with the Ranchos are driven by the Chamber (with a healthy dose from the Ranchos Kiwanis as well). The Chamber only meets once a month on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. and never lasts much longer than an hour to an hour and a half. Give them a call at 645-4001 and you won't regret it.

## THE RAY GUN



FREEDOM IS NEVER MORE THAN ONE GENERATION AWAY FROM EXTINCTION. WE DIDN'T PASS IT TO OUR CHILDREN IN THE BLOODSTREAM. IT MUST BE FOUGHT FOR, PROTECTED, AND HANDED ON FOR THEM TO DO THE SAME.

**RONALD REAGAN**

# The Ranchos Independent

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37167 Ave. 12, Suite 5C • Madera, CA 93638 • ranchosnews@theranchos.com

Dear Editor:

I have lived in the Ranchos for 15 years. I have seen many changes, some good and some questionable. What I love about the area is the small town feel and sense of community while not being too far away from the bigger city.

I feel strongly that we should support our local businesses and schools. I voted for the bonds to improve our schools and I try and shop locally when possible. I am writing this letter to support our local businesses and the men and women who take the risk to start up a small business. So many small enterprises fail.

Recently I bought a small house that needed a lot of work. Being a handy sort, I have done much of the work myself. I can't tell you how many trips to the hardware store I have made, sometimes many in a day.

Sometimes I know what I want to do but I may not know what the part is called or how exactly to fix it. That's where Tom and Cheryl Hurst come in. In case you don't know them, they own and operate Hurst Hardware. They operate this business as a labor of love. They live out here and love the area and its residents. This was never so apparent than a few weeks ago.

I have had many problems in my little home but the most persistent problems are with my well. As many of you know, little things can influence how your pump runs. Spiders and ants are my favorite. I was always out there filing my contact points in the pressure switch and resetting the pump. That finally was not going to cut it any more. The well stopped while I was at work, with newly planted sod. I called the service company and they came out and replaced the switch and deemed the well

fine.

Two weeks later, on a Sunday of course, the well died again. Of course after working in the yard all day, I needed water. So did my three children, mother, dog, cat and two horses. And let's not forget my new sod. I tried all the tricks but nothing worked. I called Tom at the hardware store to see if he either new someone who would look at the pump or if he had a new control box (that thing with the reset buttons). He said he was getting ready to close up shop and he would be by to look himself.

So late Sunday afternoon, here was Tom at my house with all his tools, checking out my well. He also pronounced the well dead at about 4:15 pm. So back to his store he went, to pick up a new control box. I thought he would just drop it off and tell me what to do but darned if I didn't find him out there changing it out himself. I watched and learned. Who knows when I'll need to replace one again. He just said to come by the next day and pay for it. When he was finishing, I said "You don't get this at Lowe's." He just smiled.

So my point in writing this is not to get Tom to come out and fix your well. Far from it. I want you to think about them the next time you intend to save a few cents on that sprinkler part or a dollar on another part. Tom and Cheryl, as well as the rest of the small business owners, have brought a service to us and we should support that.

Karen Balcom  
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

Here's a little advice for those of you who live in Madera County near a proposed project: Sell your property and get out because the Madera County Board of

Cowboy Supervisors will approve the project no matter how bad it is. This was proven the evening of September 11, 2006 when the Cowboys approved the Madera Ranch quarry near Highway 41. They put on a pretty good show for awhile, almost acting concerned. I suppose it helped the applicant that one of the Cowboys owns property adjacent to the project, so he recused himself leaving 120-or-so families unrepresented.

So, in a couple of years when you're following dozens of rock-hauling trucks (153 loads a day) doing 40 mph on Highway 41 and 145, think of the Cowboys that run Madera County. One of the Cowboys said just prior to the vote, "This is why we get paid the big bucks, to make decisions, right or wrong." As one property owner quipped as he was leaving the meeting, "We got the best money can buy."

Jerry Isaak  
Property Owner - Road 406

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

Send your letters to:

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

or  
FAX 645-4002

or  
ranchosnews@theranchos.com

## The Olde Cowboy

By Woody Laughnan

Feeling a lump beneath the lower sheet that I took to be a pair of socks the wife hadn't noticed when she made the bed, I tried to kick it aside, but it was so hard it stubbed my big toe. Reaching under the sheet I found a bar of soap. Actually, I found two bars, one a different fragrance than the other.

"What the hell is this soap in the bed business?" I asked when she came to bed after watching a TV special about who is cheating on their spouse, and then perusing the current "Star," "National Enquirer," "Globe," "Sun," "In Style" and "People," trying to get a read on if Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes are pulling the legs of the public on whether they had a baby.

Feeling around the sheet with her feet, she sat up straight in bed and demanded: "What did you do with my soap?"

"It's on the night stand," I told her. "How do you expect to clean your feet with unwrapped soap placed beneath the bottom sheet?"

"Leave my soap alone!" she retorted, quickly replacing it. "It's to relieve my arthritis. Mrs. T.J.S. in Eufaula, Alabama swears by it. Two years ago her arthritis was so bad she couldn't turn over in bed. One night she accidentally left a bar of soap under the bottom sheet and by morning her arthritis was 50% better."

It was then I got a strong whiff of

Please see COWBOY on Page 18

# Run for Life!



**The 14th Annual Ranchos Run  
TO SAVE LIVES AT OUR SCHOOLS  
Sponsored by the Ranchos Kiwanis**

**Sat. Oct. 14**  
Registration at 6:30 a.m. - Run/Walk at 7:30 a.m.  
**Liberty High**

Avenue 12 at Road 36 • Madera Ranchos

- T-shirts to all entrants
- Awards to top finishers in all classes
- 40 different classes available

For more information call:

**275-5937**

*This annual family fun event will raise funds for badly needed defibrillators for our local schools. Runners, walkers, rollers and crawlers are all invited to join in the fun for such a worthy cause. Sponsors are also still needed. Call 559-275-5937.*



# Big News at the Ranchos Library

By Ellen Mester

**NEWS FLASH!!!** The Board of Supervisors for Madera County wants to build a new library for the Madera Ranchos. During the budget hearing on Aug. 24, Supervisor Frank Bigelow announced the intent of the county to build a new library in the Ranchos. This undertaking is not going to happen overnight and it is not going to happen without lots of community involvement. We first need to get a community based committee together then find appropriate property in a suitable location that can be purchased or donated or some of both. Once the land is secured, the architect and county planning agency will work with the County Librarian and the community to design and build a library for the Ranchos. Fortunately our community is experienced and adept at these endeavors. Thanks to the hard work and determination of a group of our citizens, we were able to build a high school and create a new school district. It will take a similar Herculean effort to bring this about as well. Even though we already have the Supervisors on board, we will need community involvement and fund raising. So, for those of you who are interested in being a part of this exciting project come to the first meeting of the Ranchos Library Planning Committee on Oct. 4 at 7 p.m.

**The next Friends of the Ranchos Library meeting will be on Oct. 12 at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.**

More good news! We have five new public access computers: Four computers with internet access and one for the online card catalog station. A big thank you goes out to Madera County IT staff and San Joaquin Valley Library System Horizon staff.

Congratulations to the six winners of the drawing for book gift bundles at the Annual Labor Day Community Picnic at Cobb Ranch. Despite the heat, many from the community enjoyed excellent food, music, games and door prizes last weekend. And the kids really had fun with the water slides and squirt guns. The Friends of the Ranchos Library booth received 113 entries for the prizes — six stacks of new bestselling books.

Remember that the Ranchos Library has AR listings and books for both Sierra View and Webster schools. We can help all you AR students find lots of good books to read.

The next Friends of the Ranchos Library meeting will be on Oct. 12 at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

### Book Recommendations

**Adult Fiction:** *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen. Just as Jacob Jankowski is about to take his final veterinary exams at Cornell and join his father's practice, he gets word that both his parents are killed in an auto accident. Worse still, this is during the Great Depression. His father was so deeply in debt that the bank takes everything. Unable to concentrate enough to finish his exams Jacob starts walking the rails and hitches a ride on the first train that comes by — a circus train owned by the

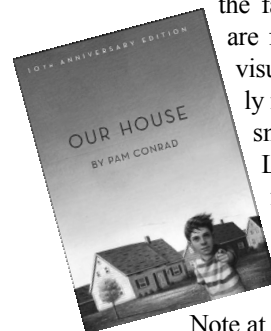
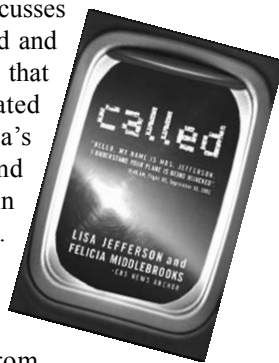
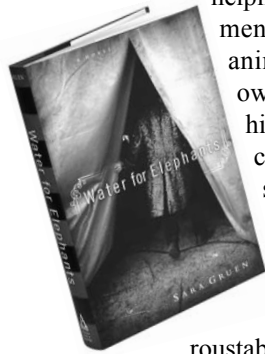
Benzini Brothers Spectacular Show on Earth. He nearly gets "red-lighted" (thrown from the moving train) his first night but manages to endear himself by helping take care of the menagerie of circus animals. After the owner, Uncle Al, hires him as the circus vet, his new status allows him to move among the rigid class separation of performers and roustabouts. His favorite performer is the beautiful Marlena, wherein the trouble begins for Jacob. The story is well told in the gritty poignant manner similar to John Irving. It's brutal, funny and very believable.


**Adult Non-fiction:** *Called* by Lisa Jefferson and Felicia Middlebrooks. One phone call and a life is changed forever. It's Sept. 11, 2001, 9:45 a.m. Lisa Jefferson, a Verizon Airfone supervisor, takes the phone from a traumatized operator. "Hello, my name is Mrs. Jefferson. I understand your plane is being hijacked?" Todd Beamer is calling from Flight 93. This book was not written to describe the hijacking. It was written about Lisa's life changing moment.

She boldly discusses her faith in God and the connection that He created between Lisa's family and Todd's family in the aftermath. She reveals the trauma that she suffered just from being a small part of the tragedy and her resolve to make sure the people on Flight 93 will always be remembered. Included at the end of Lisa's story are several letters from families written to describe or honor their loved ones who died on Flight 93. It's a powerful little book.

**Juvenile Fiction:** *Our House* by Pam Conrad. Originally published 10 years ago, this new anniversary edition with lovely new pencil sketches by Brian Selznick, stirs up wonderful memories of small towns and neighborhoods of days gone by. It is the story of one house and the memorable stories from each family who lived there beginning in 1948, when the house is built, until 1996. Each story is told from the point of view of one child in the family. The stories are funny and easy to visualize — especially if you grew up in a small town like Levittown. The final story will bring a tear to your eyes. If you read the Artist's Note at the end you'll discover that Pam Conrad died shortly after this book was originally published. Selznick says that this book was one of Pam's favorites. It's now one of mine too.

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





**Madera Community Hospital's 35th Anniversary Celebration**

This year we are celebrating Madera Community Hospital's 35th Anniversary. Festivities will kick off with an open house from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., here at the hospital. This event will feature visiting dignitaries, proclamations and refreshments for all that attend. Come out and enjoy all the activities planned to commemorate this wonderful occasion.

Madera Community Hospital  
1250 East Almond Avenue Madera, CA 93637  
5 p.m. to 7 p.m. • Reception begins at 5 p.m • Program begins at 5:30pm

**Please call 559-675-5503 with any questions!**

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Sat.....10 am - 9pm\*

Sun.....1 pm - 9pm\*

Adults: \$ 9.00  
Child: \$ 7.00  
4 yrs And under FREE

Closing times subject to change without notice.

**PUMPKIN PATCH**

Oct. 1st. - Oct. 31st.

Mon-Fri.....3 pm - 9pm\*

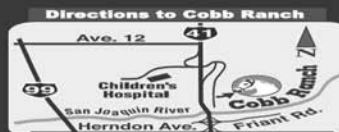
Sat.....10 am - 9pm\*

Sun.....1 pm - 9pm\*




**\$ 3.00 per person**


**Pumpkins not included.**

Directions to Cobb Ranch



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# Locals Brave Last Heat Wave of Summer at Annual Labor Day Picnic

Photos continued on page 6



Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce President Ollia Ridge (facing camera) gives some last minute instructions to the volunteer food servers at the Community Picnic held at Cobb's Ranch.



It wouldn't be a picnic without food. Hot dogs, chicken, beans, salad, dessert ... the list went on and on and at prices cheaper than most fast food.



The giant green shade cloth at the center of Cobb's Ranch provided plenty of shade to eat in the 100+ degree temperatures of Sept. 3 as summer held on for one more weekend.



Nothing makes lunch go down better than a little live country music laced with an occasional dose of classic rock.



A new feature this year was the addition of the Business Extravaganza sponsored by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce. Dozens of businesses got to meet and greet Ranchos residents in the fun atmosphere.



It just wouldn't be a picnic without some serious water slides. When it was hovering around 100 degrees, kids played in the water regardless if they had on bathing suits or jeans and a t-shirt.



For the muscular crowd, there was a giant tug-o-war competition. In this heat, the girls were pitted against the boys and were in a stand-off until the girls' dads joined in at the end and shamed the boys into submission.



One of the many local businesses at the extravaganza, Birdstone winery was offering samples of their incredible wines for those 21 and over. Their port is world class ... so I've heard.



For those not old enough to try wine, there was other fruit available but you had to bob for it. It was reported that several of the kids signed up for this competition just to be able to stick their head in a bucket of cold water.

Photos Courtesy of Bill Whyman



## Preparing our Children ... Protecting the Budget

# GVUSD School Board





· GRADING · HOLES (9" - 24" DIA.)  
· TRENCHING (6" WIDE UP TO 4' DEEP)



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9/06

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**  
**AG**

**Madera Ranchos Assembly of God**  
NW Corner of RD 36 & AVE 13 1/2  
Office 645-0716

**Sunday**  
Kid's Church.....8:30 & 10:30 a.m.  
Worship.....8:30, 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.  
Adult Sunday School.....10:30 a.m.

**Wednesday**.....7 - 8:30 p.m.  
Worship Service  
Royal Rangers (Boys 5-17)  
Missionettes (Girls 5-17)  
Rainbows (Boys & Girls 3-4)

**Tuesday**  
Adrenaline Youth.....7 - 8:30 p.m.

9/06

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9/06

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9/06

*The Stock Report*

**Some Board Election Suggestions**

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,  
Together this community had a dream, a drive and a vision to propel us on to become a school district so we could have a say in how our children are being educated. And so Golden Valley Unified was born. Golden Valley has been on the fast track for our students from the moment we became a school district. Every risk that Golden Valley School Board has taken has allowed the district to grow. It takes a lot of positive thinkers to keep Golden Valley moving forward. This is why I am asking you to vote for Mona Diaz, Roger Schuh and Mark Toole in the November election. Sometime we forget that we became a school district eight short years ago because we have accomplished so much in that time. The community put their faith in the first five members of Golden Valley's school board to set the vision and the path for future board members to follow.

Mona Diaz was on that first founding school board and has continued faithfully to serve the children of this community. Mona owns Fernwood Nursery on Avenue 12 and is a member of the Ranchos Kiwanis and the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce. Mona is also the president of the Madera School Boards Association and has spearheaded the "It's all here" campaign to showcase all of the schools and students in Madera County. Mona believes in children and schools. She believes that all of Golden Valley schools should be California Distinguished Schools.

Roger Schuh was voted to complete the term of Bill Bell when my friend Bill passed away. Roger lives in the Ranchos but works on his family's farm in Chowchilla. He has two children that attend Golden Valley Schools. Roger is a business manager on his family farm and has a great head for numbers. He is an asset to have on the Golden Valley School Board. A lot of the work of the board has to do with making sure the figures that are given to us make sense.

**All of our district's schools have improved their API scores and all schools met their AYP goals.**

Mark Toole is the third person I recommend. Mark lives in the North Bonadelle Area. He has been actively working to develop a Liberty High School FFA Chapter. He is the current Chairman of the Career Education Committee for Liberty High School and the school district. He has been involved with sports, 4H and the FFA program. Mark recognizes the need to provide vocational and career training for Golden Valley students. Mark has attended board meetings and understands the importance of the school board's work.

I have such good news about Golden Valley schools! All of our district's schools have improved their Academic Improvement Plan (API) scores and all schools met their Adequate Yearly Progress

(AYP) goals. The API is California State scores and AYP are the Federal "No Child Left Behind" scores. I want to thank all of the Golden Valley employees for their hard work to raise our student's scores. Liberty High had the most growth from 680 in 2005 to 769 in 2006. This is an 89 point growth in scores. Ranchos Middle School had 771 in 2005 and 783 in 2006. A growth of 12 points, they are getting close to the 800 mark (maybe next year). Sierra View had 773 in 2005 and has 812 in 2006. This is a growth of 39 points. Congratulations! Last but not least, Webster Elementary, who had 829 score in 2005, has 830 in 2006 and increase of 1 point. Webster is our California Distinguished School and the first school to top the 800 mark in our district.

**Both Liberty High and the Ranchos Middle School are eligible to apply for the California Distinguished Schools Award.**


The next good news is that each year the California Distinguished Schools committee recognizes either elementary or secondary schools for their outstanding growth in their scores and their community achievements. I am proud to announce that this year both Liberty High and the Ranchos Middle School are eligible to apply for the California Distinguished Schools Award. They are the only schools in Madera County that are eligible to apply. Isn't that something? Doesn't that speak well for our students? Being eligible doesn't mean that the awards are just handed to the schools; there is an extensive application process and specific criteria that must be met before the award is handed out. Just being eligible is an honor but wouldn't it be great if both schools received the award?

Were you at the Labor Day Community Picnic at Cobb's Ranch? If you couldn't come you missed a good community gather. A rough estimate would be about 600 adults and children turned out for this annual event. Something new was added this year. The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce sponsored a showcase of 24 local businesses. I was busy signing up students for Liberty High, Ranchos Middle School, Sierra View Elementary and Webster Elementary for the Kiwanis classrooms awards that were given to each school. I also gave out free popcorn with my partner George Hagler, the president of Ranchos Hills Seniors.

On September 11 Mona Diaz and I attended Independence High School for the dedication ceremony entitled "We Will Never Forget" for the new student Independence Garden. The students did a wonderful job reading their poems. They have a real challenge to create their garden. Good luck. It will need lots of care to make it grow into something of which they can be proud. The district music teacher Richard Woods sang "God Bless America" and it was beautiful.

I hope to see you at the next Golden Valley Unified School Board meeting.

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# Sheriff's Fleet Grows by 10; Most State-of-the-Art Vehicles in Valley

Built from the ground up, seven patrol cars arrived in Madera Monday, Sept. 25, fresh off the assembly line. From the manufacturer straight to the Sheriff's front door, Sheriff John Anderson witnessed an 8-year-long dream finally come true with the delivery of four Ford Crown Victorias and three Ford Expeditions in state of the art condition. Although elated to receive the vehicles, the haul from the Midwest to Madera took a bit longer than expected – it appears the truck driver got pulled over a few times by other deputies hoping this fleet was theirs.

"The time it took to arrive was worth the wait," said District 1 Supervisor Frank Bigelow, the current Chairman of the County Board. "We saw the need when Sheriff John Anderson and Lt. Mike Salvador approached us about the fleet's status. We understood it was imperative not for just officer safety but for the safety of our citizens."

Sheriff Anderson said for the past eight years his department has had to work with obsolete

equipment. "It was very similar to what I had when I was Deputy Sheriff in Northern California back in 1962," Anderson said. The equipment Madera Sheriff's Deputies had to work with was so outdated, many times gear didn't fit, deputies had to jiggle with key locks where duty weapons were stored, putting themselves in potentially grave danger. "This fleet offers the department much more than a mere face lift, it's an advance in vehicle safety, visibility, and technology."

Before ordering these vehicles, the department listened to deputy's concerns about their own safety and the department paid heed to citizens who complained they could never see the lights or hear the sirens.

It took Lt. Mike Salvador a year to procure a fleet consisting



The new fleet will consist of seven Crown Victorias (bottom) costing \$40,000 each and three Expeditions (top) costing \$46,000 each, with state-of-the-art equipment ranging from computers to radios, making them the first of their kind in the San Joaquin Valley.

of seven Crown Victorias costing \$40,000 each and three Expeditions costing \$46,000 each.

In the past, the department

often had to wait up to six months for just one vehicle because vehicles were built in one place, then taken to another place to be equipped and finally shuttled to a third place to be painted. This time the entire fleet was "ready made" in one place and ready for service upon arrival.

"Every modern amenity in this fleet wasn't built just for our convenience, it's put there for our safety and the safety of our citizens," Anderson said. For example, the primary advance can be found in the vehicle's radio system. These vehicles provide a level of interoperability with agencies that the department has never

had before, allowing deputies to keep in contact with other law enforcement agencies in the Central Valley by the flip of a switch.

Each car equipped with computers can do more than they could before. Deputies no longer have to return to the station to write reports since paperwork can be done in the field while answering calls, radically improving response times.

The cage is now all plastic and constructed to improve both the suspect's and the officer's safety.

"This improvement," said Lt. Mike Salvador, "in radios, computers, prisoner safety, as well as electrical systems with modular construction that allows for easy service, has put our department at the cutting edge of law enforcement vehicle technology."

Anderson added that Madera County Sheriff's Department is the first law enforcement agency to fully deploy this technology. He said that Lt. Mike Salvador and the County Board of Supervisors, "... made it possible for us to procure this fleet – the first of its kind in the San Joaquin Valley."

Three more vehicles are en route and are scheduled to arrive in the next couple of weeks.

## SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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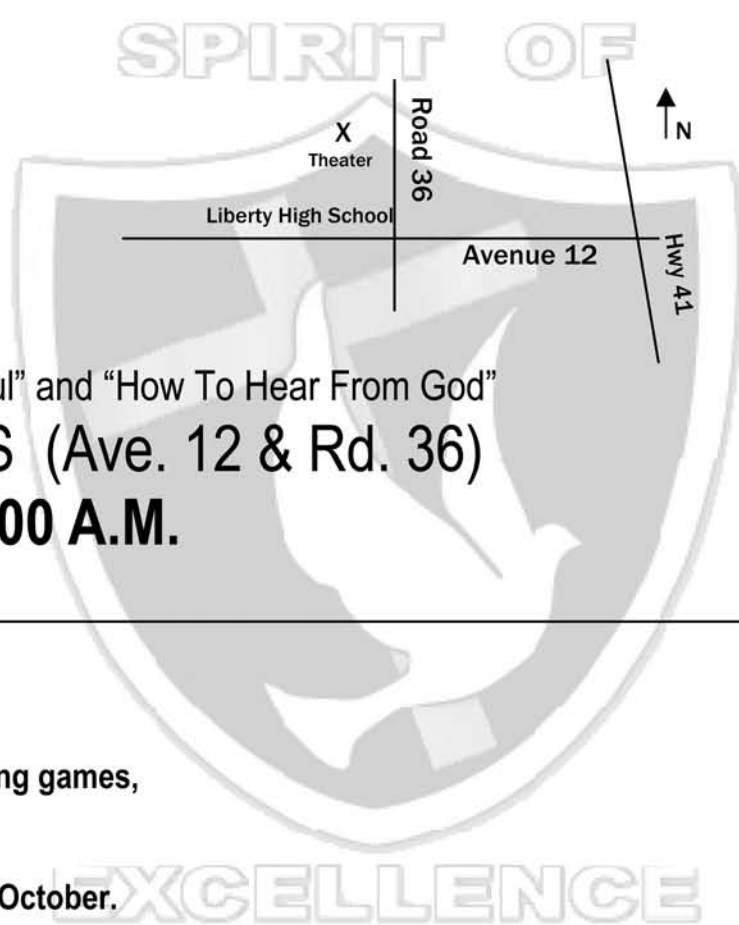
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9/06

QUARRY continued from Page 1

Highway 145 into a four lane that would extend from Road 209 to just south of Highway 145. He also would be straightening out and widening Road 209 plus he offered to cover the cost of the upkeep.

Regarding pollution, it was the consensus of the experts that getting aggregate from a local source would actually reduce pollution

be eliminating trucks hauling product from farther away. In a separate comment, Baker said that new quarries do not increase truck traffic because they do not increase demand for the product. The trucks are already out there hauling aggregate from somewhere. Now, with a local quarry, those same trucks won't have to drive as far or for as long.

Water was a major concern for all parties. To mitigate problems caused by the pos-

sibility of draining area wells, and as a condition for approval by Board Chairman Vern Moss, Baker proposed building a water system for the area, should it become necessary. But hydrologists stressed that it would not be necessary.

Finally, noise was addressed. To reduce noise impacts, the Board agreed to certain hours of operation for the quarry and limited blasting to specific times of day and no more than once a week.

The Conditional Use Permit was granted but the Board slipped in a condition regarding the water supply system that will require public meetings and would allow the Board to investigate wells neighboring the quarry to see if the quarry's water usage is impacting them.

One more Environmental Impact Report review and, barring any unforeseen lawsuits, the project should go forward.

MEASURE continued from Page 1

nism exists within the measure that if designated areas aren't acted upon quickly enough, control will turn back over to the transportation commission who will get it done.

Ranchos resident Matt Bullis spoke next. He's the Deputy City Engineer for the city of Madera and looked at the Measure from an engineer's perspective.

"I feel very strongly about this program as a resident," Bullis said. He talked about improvements to area roads, specifically Avenue 12, from Measure "A." He talked about how roads breakdown with time and when maintenance is sacrificed it only makes road conditions worse.

Bullis showed a list of targeted roads throughout the county that he said were guaranteed to be serviced under "T." Another unique aspect of this measure as

opposed to "A" is that it allows areas more flexibility. If an area is discovered to need more attention than another, there is the ability to shift the focus to the more needed area.

Probably the most important aspect of Measure "T," however, is the fact that state and federal highway funds will be withheld from any county that's not a "self-help" county. That means, unless a county has a road-fund generating mechanism in place, state and federal monies will go to other "self-help" counties first. At present, there is a \$1 billion road bond looming on the horizon and sources say there is another \$1 billion in state road funds waiting to be dispersed, but they will only go to counties that have shown the will to help themselves.

Election day is Nov. 7. Take some time and read about Measure "T" and consider our Ranchos roads on election day.

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## Ranchos Kiwanis Donate \$\$\$ To Local Classrooms at Picnic

By Linda Bresee

The Ranchos Kiwanis donated money to local classrooms at the community picnic based on a sign up sheet at the picnic where students who were in attendance could write down their teachers' names. The top vote getters from Liberty High School, Ranchos Middle School, Sierra View Elementary and Webster Elementary were each awarded cash for first through third place. First place at each school won \$100 for the teacher's classroom, second place earned \$60 and third place got \$40. (Those ending in a tie all got the same dollar amount.)

### Liberty High

1st - Mr. Peterson \$100

2nd - Ms. Thomas \$60

3rd - Two-way tie: Mr. Napier and Mr. Black \$40 each

### Ranchos Middle School

1st - Ms. Ullrich \$100

2nd - Mr. Ketner \$60

3rd - Mr. Iniguez \$40

### Sierra View Elementary

1st - Ms. Kirkman \$100

2nd - Ms. Osborn \$60

3rd - Four-way tie: Mr. Allan, Ms. Hardcastle, Ms. Canales and Ms. Mayer \$40 each

### Webster Elementary School

1st - Ms. Nixon \$100

2nd - Ms. Jennings \$60

3rd - Ms. Hallett \$40

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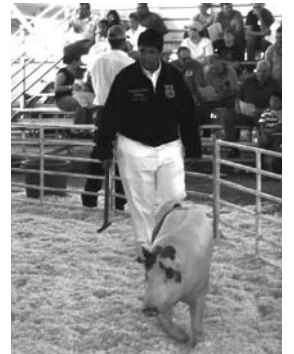
9/06

## Liberty FFA Shows at Madera Fair

By Bill Jantzen



Liberty High School FFA member Christopher Foster, 15, shows his Hampshire hog "Oreo" at the Madera District Fair ...



... and then shows his second hog, the mixed breed "Goopers," while representing Liberty High and the Ranchos.

Liberty High School FFA member Chris Foster, 15, showed two hogs and sold one at the livestock auction at the recent Madera District Fair.

Also showing and selling were Teri Foster, Kylie Bowe, David Perry, Megan Perry and Jordana Sandor. Jordana's hog was Champion Yorkshire and Reserve Champion over all.

At present, Liberty FFA has three lambs for sale and one hog. Anyone interested can please call Bill Jantzen at 674-2955.

Photos Courtesy of Don Foster

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## Sheriff Issues Jury Scam Warning

Sheriff John Anderson is warning residents about a new trick intended to rob you of your identity and it comes by way of an alleged failure to report for Jury Duty.

Unwitting residents may receive a call from someone claiming to be investigating a possible warrant that has been issued for that citizen's arrest because that resident failed to appear for jury duty. The caller's intention is to push the citizen into a state of panic. The caller will then ask for specific pieces of personal information to verify the person's identity to make sure who answered the phone is really the person the caller needed to contact regarding the bogus criminal investigation. If the person who answers the phone tells the caller, "I never received a summons in the mail," the caller will then say his records show the summons was sent and only wants to get to the bottom of the problem to help that citizen avoid jail time.

"What concerns us," said Anderson, "is that if someone gets a call like this, that person out of genuine fear may oblige the caller and give out personal information.

The Madera County Jury Commissioner does NOT make house calls."

If someone failed to appear, the Commissioner will mail a "Failure to Appear" postcard to that resident, advising that resident to contact the Jury Commissioner. The only telephone number displayed on the postcard is 559-675-7730. "Any other number is a fake."

The Commissioner does not ask for personal information but will ask one of two questions in order to verify the caller is the citizen who failed to report for Jury Duty. The two questions: 1. Jury badge number; 2. Date of birth.

The county NEVER asks anyone to divulge any sensitive identification information – that includes social security numbers.

The scam hasn't hit Madera County yet, as far as the Sheriff's Department knows, however based on information Sheriff Anderson received, he believes there is a very real danger that it could strike the residents here and believes it's imperative to get the warning out now before someone falls prey.

## Liberty High Hazing Incident Investigation Completed

The Madera County Sheriff's Department has completed its investigation into an alleged football hazing incident that occurred the weekend of July 13, 2006.

Four individuals have been named as suspects – due to their ages we are precluded from releasing their identities. Two of the suspects are 17, another is 16 and the fourth suspect is 15.

Two criminal complaints have been filed against each of the four teenagers: False Imprisonment and Battery on School Grounds, with possible additional charges.

The Sheriff's Department is now forwarding the case to the County District Attorney's office. It will be up to the District Attorney to render a decision as to what criminal charges should be filed

against the suspects named in the case.

The incident reportedly took place at Liberty High School in the Madera Ranchos during the weekend of July 13 at a football camp attended by members from the Gustine High School football team.

Due to the sensitive nature of the case and the ages of the students involved neither the Sheriff's Department nor the Gustine Police Department could openly discuss any component of the case during the investigation.

Even though the case is now completed, per California Child Welfare Laws any agency that participated in the investigation will not be allowed to publicly talk about this case, including any discussion about the players involved, the alleged incident and/or the investigation itself.

## U.S. Military To Sheriff's Deputy

After five years of Military Service, 27-year-old Jose Torres made the momentous move from serving his country to serving the citizens of Madera County.

With tremendous pride, Sheriff John Anderson welcomed Deputy Jose Torres as one of nearly half a dozen new recruits in the early part of the month. Torres switched from serving in the Army to serving Madera County as a Sheriff's Deputy.

Deputy Torres was sworn in at the Sheriff's Department Headquarters.

Deputy Torres has been going through extensive field training for the past sever-

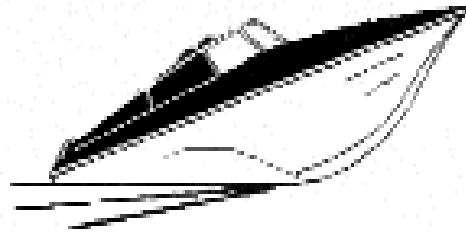
al weeks patrolling the Valley floor as well as the eastern Madera County mountain communities of Coarsegold, Raymond, Oakhurst, North Fork, Bass Lake, O'Neals and Ahwahnee.

"It's been a record season for the Sheriff's Department in terms of staffing," said Anderson. "We've successfully hired five very strong and seasoned men since June."

There are still openings left and if you'd like information on how to apply you can call the Madera County Sheriff's Department at 559-675-7770 or toll free at 1-800-560-4911.

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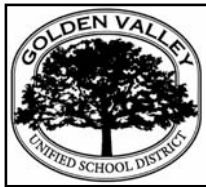
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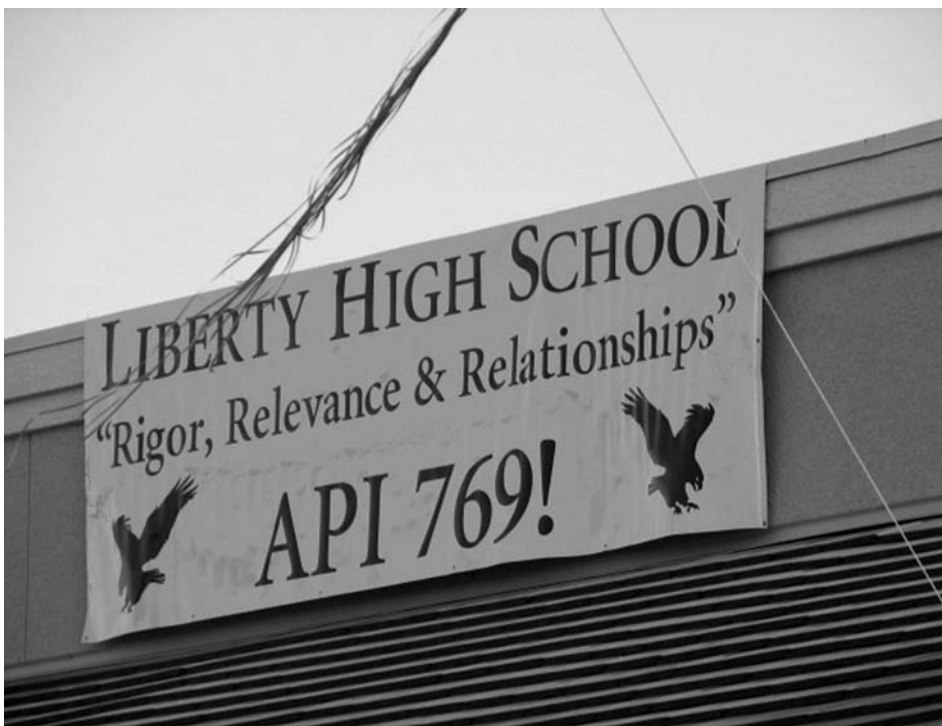


### Vision Statement

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

### Mission Statement

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



A victory banner hangs from the roof of Liberty High School after the announcement that Liberty High increased its API score by 89 points over 2005.

## All GV Schools are “Shining Stars” For Acheiving High API Scores

Webster, Ranchos Middle School Highest in Madera County; Liberty High, Sierra View Fourth Highest

The API scores have been announced and all Golden Valley Unified schools improved with all schools meeting their AYP goals. Webster Elementary with an 830 score has the highest API of all Madera County elementary schools and is in the top 27% in both Madera and Fresno counties 104 elementary schools. Sierra View with a huge growth of 39 points and an API of 812 is the fourth highest API of elementary schools in Madera County, and is the top 38% of the elementary schools in the two counties.

Ranchos Middle School with a 783 score is also the highest API score of all Madera County middle schools and is in the top 12% of the 43 schools in both Madera and Fresno counties. Liberty High School made great gains of 89 points for a 769 API and is the 6th highest API score of the 33 high schools in the two counties behind Buchanan, Clovis West, University High, Yosemite and Bullard high schools. As a result of these accomplishments both Ranchos Middle School and Liberty High School are the only two schools from Madera County who are eligible to apply

for the California Distinguished Schools award.

Golden Valley’s Educational Options programs of Independence High School, Lincoln Community Day School, Centennial Independent Study School and Valley Teen Ranch did not receive an API score due to their size, however, all these programs met their AYP goals which is a great accomplishment.

The API for Golden Valley Unified School District is 789, ranked seconded behind Coarsegold Elementary in Madera County and is the 7th highest district API of the 64 school districts in Fresno, Madera and Merced counties.

Golden Valley Unified School District is proud of our students, the high quality education of our teachers and support staff, the commitment of our parents, the dedicated service of our classified employees, the focused leadership of our administrative team and our supportive community. Thank you for all of your hard work to make the children we serve and GVUSD “Shining Stars” in Madera County and the Valley.

## API/AYP Scores

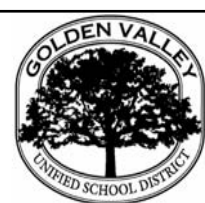
School Site	2005	2006	Growth
Liberty High School	680	769	89
Ranchos Middle School	771	783	12
Sierra View Elem	773	812	39
Webster Elem	829	830	1
Educational Options	Met all AYP goals!		
District	761	789	28
Madera County School Districts	2006 API	Change from 2005	Met AYP Targets
Coarsegold Union Elem.	802	+12	Yes
Golden Valley USD	789	+28	Yes
Bass Lake Joint Elem.	788	+10	Yes
Yosemite Joint Union High	750	+ 5	Yes
Allview Dairyland	745	+ 3	Yes
Raymond Knowles Union Elementary	726	+34	Yes
Chawanakee Unified	724	- 18	Yes
Chowchilla Elem.	681	+45	Yes
Madera Unified	677	+16	No
Chowchilla Union High School	656	+16	No
Madera COE	509	+33	No



Balloons helped spread the announcement of the school’s achivement which will also allow both Liberty High School and Ranchos Middle School to apply for the California Distinguished Schools award, the only two schools from Madera County to be eligible.

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

**GOLDEN VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**



# Back to School in Golden Valley



Mrs. Mayer's 5/6 combo class at Sierra View Elementary is focused on learning.



Sierra View Elementary school students get off to a great start.



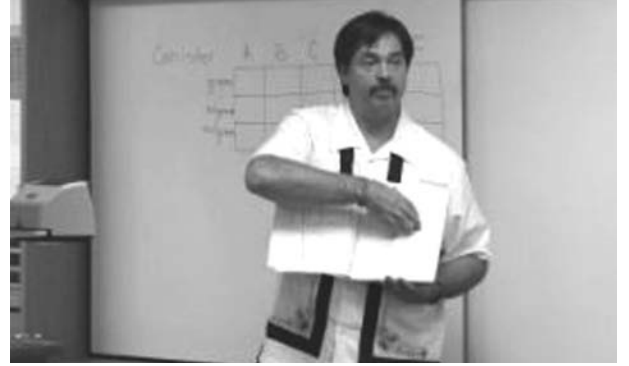
Webster Elementary school had a great turnout for Grandparent's Day breakfast on Friday, Sept. 9. We were thrilled to see Webster's children with their grandparents.



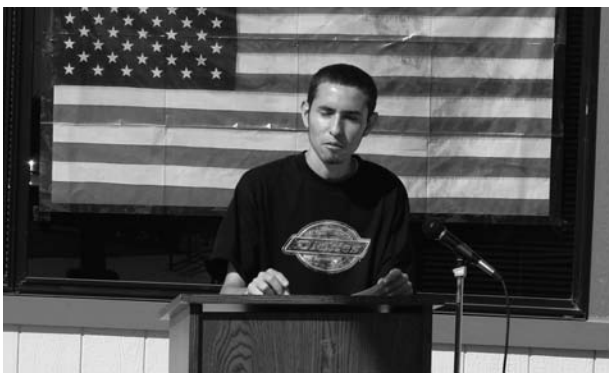
Special thanks to the following people for their help with the Webster's Grandparent's Day celebration: Becky Koop, Juli Cole, Paula Hemler, Jodi Reitz, Diana Mendoza, Carrie and Mike Bennett, and Marilyn Stovall.



Students enjoying the Ranchos Middle School "Back to School" dance.



Ranchos Middle School teacher, Mr. Ketner, addresses parents at Back to School Night.



Independence, Lincoln and Centennial students delivered speeches to the audience during the dedication of the Independence Garden in memory of September 11.



Jordana Shandor (center) placed first in the Yorkshire Championship Hog competition and was overall Reserve Champion at the Madera County Fair. She was joined by other Liberty High FFA members Teri Foster (left) and Megan Perry (right).



Webster third grader Nathalie Corpus is a handwriting STAR and is a top grade earner for rounding numbers in math.

## Liberty Hawks No. 1 in Division V Football, Ranked No. 19 Statewide

Online sports reporting service, MaxPreps.com, ranks the Hawks No. 19 boys high school football team in California

By Tyler A. Takeda

Updated by Randy Bailey

The Liberty Hawk football team received a No. 1 ranking in Division 5 from Cal-Hi Sports the week of Sept. 11 and proved that ranking legitimate with a 41-8 victory over McFarland on Friday, Sept. 15, followed by a victory the following week over Laton, 35-7. As a result, the online sports reporting service, MaxPreps.com, has ranked the Hawks the No. 19 boys high school football team in the state of California based on its MaxPreps State Power Ratings system.

The MaxPreps system is not subjective; it looks solely at team wins and losses using a computer program to determine team rank. The system utilizes game results, meaning the more a team wins the higher the ranking. It also considers the quality of the wins against other highly ranked opponents and the strength of the schedule. Movement up or down in the rankings result from comparing the current week's results to previously published rankings.

But the rankings are no accident. The

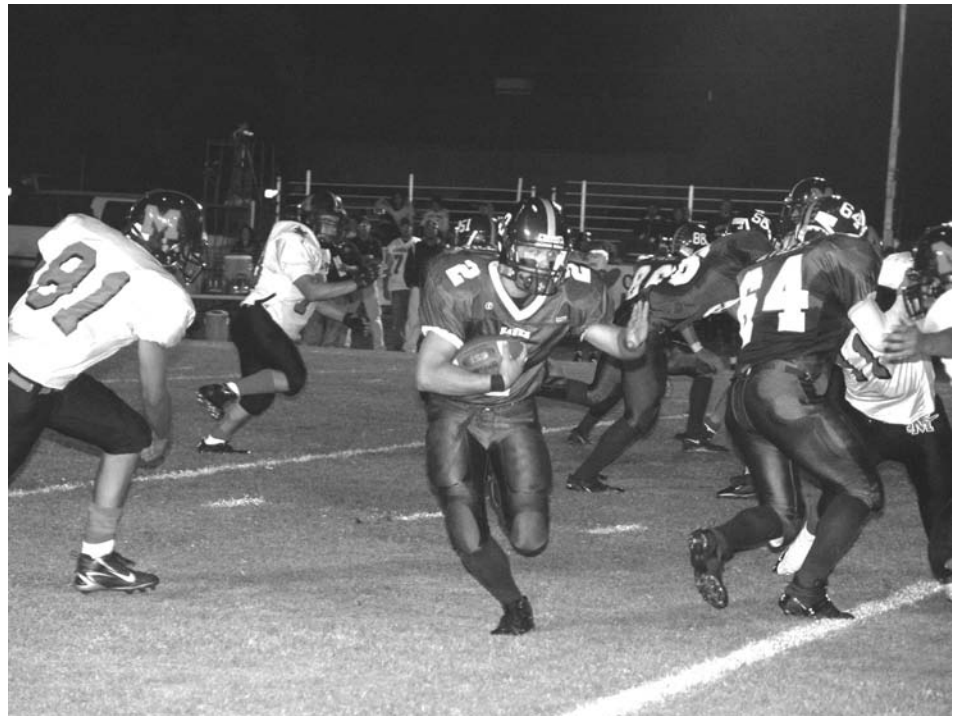
Hawks have been dominant on both sides of the ball in their first four games of the season. They have outscored their opponents 142-18 in the past four games. The defense has allowed less than 100 yards per game while the offense has racked up more than 300 yards per game and have scored more than 30 points each in all four games.

Brandon Graham has been the offensive leader. He has reached the end zone 11 times this season, including a 55-yard run on Liberty's first offensive play of the season. Over the past two seasons, Graham has eclipsed the 100-yard mark in every game.

Chris Gonzales leads a revamped passing attack. He hasn't thrown an interception all season and has been very efficient with his throws. Jared Hooper and Tyler Melvin are the key targets.

Defensively, the Hawks are led by returning inside linebacker Shane Vanderpool. He is first on the team in tackles with 27 and is always right in the middle of the action. Derek Grant and Jeff Paul have provided pressure on the defensive line. Paul has four sacks and Grant

**They have outscored their opponents 142-18 in the past four games ... allowed less than 100 yards per game ... racked up more than 300 yards per game ... and have scored more than 30 points each in all four games.**



Brandon Graham, 2, does what he does best here against McFarland in finding the open ground behind the blocking of Anthony Aviles, 64, and running for six. Photo Courtesy of Tyler Takeda

has two sacks this season.

Newcomer Nolan Doss has stepped right in at the linebacker position beside Vanderpool. Against McFarland, Doss recovered a blocked punt in the end zone for a touchdown, sacked the quarterback and led the team with 11 tackles.

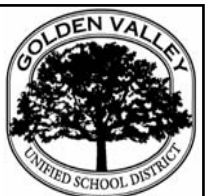
Brandon Schlueter is second on the team in scoring with four touchdowns, a school record 44-yard field goal, a two-point conversion and 17 point-after kicks.

The defense has been impressive as a unit. McFarland's only touchdown scored in the third quarter of the third game of the year was the first TD Liberty allowed this season. The following week, the only touchdown Laton scored was a solo effort in the fourth quarter.

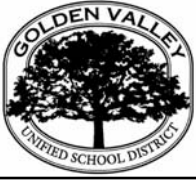
There is a lot of football left in this season and the Hawks are determined to take it to the limit. Support the Ranchos' team and get out to a game this Friday night.

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

**GOLDEN VALLEY**  
**UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**







**GVUSD Board of Trustees Corner**  
**Regular Scheduled Board Meeting**  
 Oct. 10, 2006 • Nov. 14, 2006 • 6 p.m. Liberty High School Library

**Facilities Study Session**

Tuesday Oct. 3, 2006 • 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
 Liberty High School Cafeteria

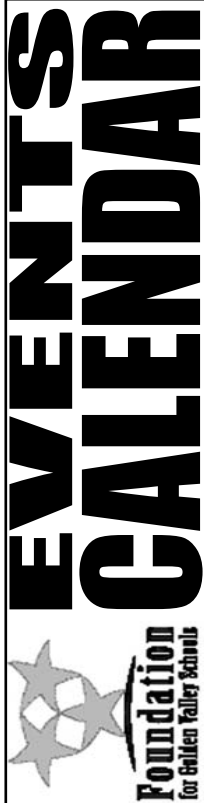
**GVUSD Community and Staff**  
**Coffee with the Superintendent**

Dr. Shepherd will be available for open forum discussions on your questions or concerns. Dr. Shepherd will also be discussing and asking for input regarding the future of Golden Valley Unified School District.



**First Thursday of the Month**  
 beginning 10/5/2006  
 GVUSD District Office Room 2  
 7:45 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.

For more information contact Aimee Beintker at 645-7500



Join us for lunch on the  
**Madera Wine Trail**  
 November 11-12, 2006  
 February 10-11, 2007

**Birdstone Winery**  
 Just north of Avenue 9 on Road 36

**The Night the Stars Come Out**  
 Annual Dinner Gala

**Honoring**  
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 STAR Service Educators  
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**Save The Date**  
 Saturday March 24, 2007  
 Evening attire — black tie optional



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 Forms may be obtained on the GVUSD website: [www.gvUSD.k12.ca.us/foundation](http://www.gvUSD.k12.ca.us/foundation)

Don't miss this opportunity to leave your lasting tribute and help us  
**Build the Foundation for Education, One Brick at a Time**

For questions, contact Stephanie McShane at 645-1218

**Liberty Hawks 2006-2007 Boys Varsity Football**

Date	Time	Opponent	Result
9/1/06	WIN	Fowler	36-3
9/8/06	WIN	Riverdale	30-0
9/15/06	WIN	McFarland	41-8
9/22/06	WIN	Laton	35-7
9/29/06	7:30 PM	v. Farmersville (Homecoming)	
10/6/06	7:30 PM	v. Mendota *	
10/13/06	7:30 PM	v. Coast Union *	
10/20/06	7:30 PM	@ Firebaugh *	
10/27/06	7:30 PM	@ Tranquillity *	
11/3/06	7:30 PM	v. Fresno Christian *	

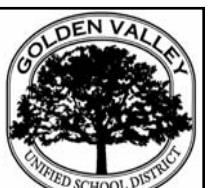
\* league game

**Northwest Sierra League**

TEAM	W-L-T NON LEAGUE	Pct.	W-L-T LEAGUE	Pct.	PF	PA
<i>Liberty</i> (Madera, CA)	4-0-0	1.000	0-0-0	.000	142	18
<i>Coast Union</i> (Cambria, CA)	3-1-0	.750	0-0-0	.000	117	88
<i>Firebaugh</i> (CA)	3-1-0	.750	0-0-0	.000	127	37
<i>Mendota</i> (CA)	3-1-0	.750	0-0-0	.000	121	43
<i>Tranquillity</i> (CA)	1-3-0	.250	0-0-0	.000	36	96
<i>Fresno Christian</i> (Fresno, CA)	1-3-0	.250	0-0-0	.000	67	123

**REMEMBER TO VOTE! REMEMBER TO VOTE!**  
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**GOLDEN VALLEY**  
**UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**



RIVER continued from Page 1

ment. It also includes draft federal legislation authorizing the Departments of the Interior and Commerce to implement the settlement. NRDC and FWUA will ask Congress to consider and act upon the draft legislation in the days ahead.

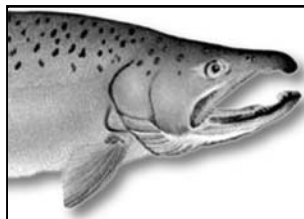
"This is the beginning of a historic restoration that will reintroduce salmon to the San Joaquin River as well as address water supply issues and provide certainty for thousands of Central Valley farmers and residents," said Ronald D. Jacobsma, Consulting General Manager of the Friant Water Users Authority. "We're eager to get started putting the pieces in place to take this from a plan to reality."

"Today, environmental and fishing groups are joining with Friant farmers and federal agencies to bring a beleaguered river back to life," said Hal Candee, senior attorney for NRDC. "Restoring flows and salmon to the San Joaquin River will provide broad benefits to the environment and to millions of Californians. We expect history will record this as one of the greatest environmental comeback stories ever."

"This monumental agreement provides certainty to San Joaquin Valley farmers who rely on Central Valley Project water deliveries for their crops while returning flows and salmon runs back to the San Joaquin River. The Department of the Interior stands ready to meet its commitments in this historical agreement and let a truly collaborative process begin towards a restored river for all," said Mark Limbaugh, assistant secretary for water and science, Department of the Interior.

**Restoration Goal**

At the heart of the settlement is a commitment to provide continuous flows in the San Joaquin River to sustain naturally reproducing Chinook salmon and other fish populations in the 153-mile stretch of the river between Friant Dam and the Merced River. Accomplishing this goal will require funding and constructing extensive channel and structural improvements in many areas of the river, including some that have been without flows (except for occasional flood releases) for decades.



## Who are the Players in the San Joaquin River Restoration?

The **Natural Resources Defense Council** is a national, nonprofit organization of scientists, lawyers and environmental specialists dedicated to protecting public health and the environment. Founded in 1970, NRDC has 1.2 million members and online activists nationwide, served from offices in New York, Washington, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

**Reclamation** is the largest wholesale water supplier and the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the United States, with operations and facilities in the 17 Western States. Its facilities also provide substantial flood control, recreation and fish and wildlife benefits. Its website is located at [www.usbr.gov](http://www.usbr.gov).

The **Friant Water Users Authority** serves 22 southern San Joaquin Valley member water agencies that are supplied with water from the Central Valley Project's Millerton Lake behind Friant Dam through the Friant-Kern and Madera canals. Its website is at [www.fwua.org](http://www.fwua.org).

**Water Management Goal**

Recognizing that the settlement's restoration flows will reduce the amount of water available for diversion at Friant Dam, the settlement also includes provisions to protect water availability for the 15,000 small farms that currently rely on these supplies. One million acres of the most productive farmland in the country as well as many towns and cities along the southern San Joaquin Valley's East Side receive all or a major portion of their water supplies from Friant Dam. The settlement recognizes the importance of this water to those farms and calls for development of water management solutions to provide these users water supply certainty for the long term. Such a program would include a flexible combination of recirculation, recapture, reuse, exchange and/or transfer programs. Additional storage such as groundwater banking will also be explored.

**Phased Approach**

Restoring continuous flows to the approximately 60 miles of dry river will take place in a phased manner. Planning, design work, and environmental reviews will begin immediately, and interim flows for experimental purposes will start in 2009. The flows will be increased gradually over the next several years, with salmon being re-introduced by Dec. 31, 2012. The settlement continues in effect until 2026, with the U.S. District Court retaining jurisdiction to resolve disputes and enforce the settlement. After 2026, the court, in conjunction with the California State Water Resources Control Board, would consider any requests by the parties for changes to the restoration program.

**Federal Court Approval and Authorizing Legislation**

The parties are filing a joint motion seeking U.S. District Court approval of the settlement. Concurrently, the parties are seeking congressional approval of legislation authorizing the Secretaries of Interior and Commerce to implement the settlement. A draft of this authorizing legislation was negotiated by the parties and incorporated into the settlement.

**Restoration Funding**

The settling parties have carefully studied San Joaquin River restoration for many years and as part of the settlement have identified the actions and highest priority. Please see RIVER Page 17

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RIVER continued from Page 16

ority projects necessary to achieve the restoration goal. These include expanding channel capacity, improving levees and making modifications necessary to provide fish passage through or around certain structures in the river channel. The settlement identifies a number of funding sources to support implementation of these projects, including current environmental contributions from farmers and cities served by Friant Dam, state bond initiatives and authorization for federal contributions.

More specifically, the settlement dedicates the "Friant Surcharge," a Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) environmental fee of \$7 per acre foot of water delivered to Friant

Contractors that is expected to average about \$8 million per year, and up to \$2 million of other Restoration Fund Payments annually made by water users under the CVPIA for use by the program.

It also dedicates the capital component of water rates paid by Friant Division water users to the program for nine years and permits settlement monies to be used for the Water Management and Restoration goals. Ongoing Friant program contributions are committed and capped at current Restoration Fund and Surcharge Payment levels. Enactment of the authorizing legislation in conjunction with the settlement could make an additional \$250 million in federal contributions available. The settlement provides for bonding, guaranteed loans or other financing using annual payments for debt

service. It anticipates fiscal participation by the State of California, as well.

The settlement negotiations were convened a year ago by U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein and House Water and Power Subcommittee Chairman George Radanovich, who urged the parties to put aside their differences and develop a framework to restore the river in a manner that would provide water supply certainty to the Friant farmers who depend on San Joaquin River water.

Senator Dianne Feinstein stated, "I am hopeful that today's settlement will help ensure that the San Joaquin will once again become a living river and the hard-working men and women in the Friant service area who grow much of our nation's fruits and vegetables will continue to have a stable water supply. I believe the parties involved in these negotiations came up with a workable solution. Water is one of the most precious of California's resources and the only way we can continue to prosper as a State is to work for solutions that improve our water supply, restore our environment and our water quality, and protect us from floods."

"Today is a momentous step given the contentious 18-year history of the lawsuit. I commend the parties for all of their hard work and for the commitment of Senator Feinstein to help drive this process," said Congressman George Radanovich. "I look forward to conducting an oversight hearing with my colleagues in the House on the settlement and draft legislation. The hearing will give Members, the parties to the settlement and third-parties an opportunity to provide input as we lay the foundation for movement of a bill."

## Radanovich Urges Committee to Pass Water Supply Law

Congressman George Radanovich (R-Mariposa) testified before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Water and Power Thursday, Sept. 21. The Senators at the legislative hearing considered H.R. 3897, the Madera Water Supply Enhancement Act, a bill introduced by Congressman Radanovich.

"This legislation is vital to the economic well-being of Madera County and the San Joaquin Valley. Water is the lifeblood for the people in this region, and the project ensures that Madera County has a stable, reliable and efficient water supply."

The project will enable water users to store excess river flows in a nearby aquifer. This stored water bank would then be used during "dry" years and could prove critical to meeting water demands.

Radanovich explained funding for the project is already underway, including \$37.5 million in bonds through the Madera Irrigation District, as well as \$200,000 allocated in a Fiscal Year 2006 Energy and Water Appropriation measure. Further, extensive feasibility studies have already been conducted on the Project, totaling over \$8 million.

"The Bureau of Reclamation conducted numerous studies of the property and the feasibility of utilizing it for a water bank. This project may be studied more than any other comparable project in the history of the Bureau. As such, the Bureau should be able to utilize previously prepared material, update required information and complete the feasibility study soon and for a modest cost."

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COWBOY continued from Page 3

Vicks, remembering the smell from boyhood when papa at the first inkling I was coming down with a cold rubbed my chest with it, shoved it up my nose and put a gob in my mouth and I went to school smelling up the classroom. Girls held their noses when I walked by and boys shunned me as if I had a contagious disease.

"And what about the Vicks smell?" I asked.

"It's for my toe nails. I don't want those little animal fiends you see in TV commercials climbing under them and turning them brown. Mrs. R.S. in Tahlequah, Oklahoma says it killed all the critters living under her big toe nails and now they're as white as the driven snow."

And then I began to smell apples. "You don't have apples in bed too, do you?" I asked, gathering up my pillow and considering a move to the spare bedroom.

"No," she said. "It's pectin."

"What in the name of God are you doing with pectin in bed? That's what mama used in making jelly. I didn't even know they still made it."

"I'm using it to firm up my skin. A woman in Noonan, North Dakota has been using pectin on her wrinkles for two years and they are now down to nothing."

This was too much for me.

"You don't even know anybody who lives in Eufaula, Alabama, Tahlequah, Oklahoma or Noonan, North Dakota."

"Well, I may not know them, but I read their letters in Dr. Gott's column in the Fresno newspaper. But you never read anything important in the newspaper. All you read is the front page and the sports page or

you'd be up on important health news, like if you rub your chest with Vaseline you won't get erysipelas that is caused by terrible streptococcus."

"Hah! I never heard of erysipelas or streptowhateveryoucallthoselittledevil's"

"You would if you read Dr. Gott's column. Erysipelas is a medical term for sore nipples. Mrs. L.J.H. of Buffalo, Montana would have died had she not read a letter in Dr. Gott's column from Mrs. C.B.J. of Genesee, Idaho about using Vaseline for the problem. And besides that, her breasts only sag 50% as much. How do you like them apples!"

"And according to a letter to Dr. Gott from 'Widow L. K.' of Chowchilla, like her late husband, you may have the worst disease the world has ever known and not even know it! You could wake up dead tomorrow

morning just like he did. How do you like them apples?"

"That's crap," I said. "You mean to tell me there's a disease worse than Bubonic

Plague?"

"You bet there is and only men get it and doctors don't even have a name or cure for it yet because it doesn't have any symptoms so when they get it they don't go to a doctor for treatment because they don't know they have it and the first thing they know they wake up dead in the morning. How do you like them apples? You could have it and wake up dead tomorrow morning just like him!"

"Fat chance," I said, but not loud enough for her to hear. And pulling a pillow over my head avowed that if I didn't wake up dead in the morning I would immediately head for the mail box and send a subscription cancellation to the Fresno newspaper. I mean, that Dr. Gott has got the best of me!

*"What in the name of God are you doing with pectin in bed? That's what mama used in making jelly. I didn't even know they still made it."*

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**Business Profiles**

**U.S. Post Office Now Open at Take Two Video**

Paul and Kiley Hansen knew they were sure renting a bunch of movies from the old Vick's Flicks at Maywood Center, right in the heart of the Ranchos, when the old owners put the business up for sale. The Hansens jumped at the opportunity three years ago and Take Two Video was born.

"We do OK, but Ranchos people forget about us and often go into Fresno to rent movies," Paul said. With their inventory there is no reason for that. "WE have adequate inventory of all of the latest releases, we do two-day rentals and our pricing is the same as Blockbuster or Hollywood Videos." They even sell previously viewed videos for less than the big boys. "There's really no reason to go to Fresno when we have it all here," Paul said.

How long have you been wondering when were we going to get a post office in the Ranchos? The day has come. "We're a 'Contract Postal Unit' now," Paul beamed. "We are trained and certified and offer all of the same services as a regular post office." The only thing they CAN'T do is sell money orders and handle either international mail or military mail. "As long as the doors are open, you can bring in your mail," Paul said. They're open Monday through Friday at 10 a.m. every day and at noon on Saturday and Sunday. The evening hours vary between 7:30 and 8:30, depending on the day, but it's sure better than the 4 p.m. you get at the Madera Post Office. Call them at 645-1202 for the exact times.

Take Two Video is offering P.O. boxes with actual addresses, meaning UPS can deliver here. "We can accept UPS but we're not authorized to ship UPS," Paul said, citing reasoning by the United States Postal System that prevents the two coming together.

"We're excited but it's definitely a learning experience," Kiley said as she looked over the mailing tubes, envelopes and stamps.

I think I've learned where to take my mail.



Owners Paul and Kiley Hansen check out a new arrival at Take Two Video while Lupe Rolon runs the cash register. With a newly added U.S. Post Office, they are busier than ever.

**Jersey Dogs Offer Giant, Gourmet Ranchos Hot Dogs**

Sometimes you just need a hot dog and you can't wait 'til the next Grizzlies game and you don't feel like eating 12 Weinerschnitzels just to get full.

Enter Jersey Dogs.

If you don't think it's possible to make a meal out of one hot dog, you've never been to the little mobile cart anchored outside of Hurst Hardware on Berkshire. "They're one third of a pound each and are half pork and half beef," said owner Gina Thayer as she steadily grilled the monster dogs. These dogs are so big they use hoagie rolls instead of hot dog buns to cradle them.



Owner Gina Thayer proves that size DOES matter when it comes to the gargantuan Jersey Dog hot dogs located in front of Hurst Hardware.

What makes them special is the quality of the product. They're shipped fresh from New Jersey (hence the name) and the gourmet meat is held together in a natural casing. "That makes them snap when you bite them," Gina said. After that, there are no holds barred. You can put whatever you like on your Jersey Dog. Feel like chili? You got it. Grilled onions? No problem. Feeling trendy today? Like perhaps you might want artichoke hearts and dried tomatoes with a splash of sauerkraut? YOU GOT IT!

"There's really nothing we can't put on the dogs," Gina smiled.

Gina's husband John was driving through Oakhurst when he saw a sign for gourmet hot dogs. He tried one, was hooked and ended up buying a franchise. "We plan to open up a couple of places in Fresno, but we're not leaving the Ranchos," Gina said.

One of their eye-popping specialties is appropriately called "The Monster." Are you sitting down? Two Jersey Dogs, four layers of chili, four layers of cheese, three layers of grilled onions and three soft drinks. "I've had a couple of construction workers come in and order those," Gina confided. Did they finish them? "Every bite."

They have a "club card" that you get to punch each time you buy a dog and you can earn free food or even a T-shirt. Regular Daniel Hood was enjoying a Jersey Dog and said he's already on his second card. "It's a hot dog that takes two hands to eat!" he said.

That just about says it all.

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**Jersey Dogs**

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**Gourmet Hot Dogs**

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# After Summer, Here Comes Growth

By Thea Fiskin

Now that the record breaking heat is over, our plants should start to recover and push out another flush of growth. Early autumn is a great time to perk up your fescue lawn, plant a winter vegetable garden, divide perennials, and make room for spring bulbs. Perennials and shrubs planted now will grow roots before winter comes and be ready to take off next spring.

## Garden Chores

**Lawns** – Many fescue lawns are looking pretty sad, so to bring them back to health, here is what you need to do. First aerate (aerify) to alleviate compaction and enhance water penetration. Aerators can be rented by the day. Afterward apply a complete lawn fertilizer and a preemergence herbicide to prevent annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*) and other winter weed seeds from popping up, then water deeply. If your lawn has dead spots, rake away the dead grass, work in some organic matter, firm the soil, scatter seed, firm again and cover lightly with a humus topper. Remember anywhere you used a preemergence herbicide, the grass seeds will not come up. Water several times a day to keep the seedbed moist to get maximum germination.

**Water** – Check your irrigation timer and reduce watering as the weather cools. Deep water citrus, stone fruit and landscape trees.

**Flowers** – After mid-month you can start planting your winter color like asters, calendula, chrysanthemums, Iceland poppies, ornamental kale, pansies, primroses, Shirley poppies and stock. Keep soil moist and use temporary shade if the heat refuses to go away. Plant seeds of alyssum, bachelor buttons, calendula, California poppy, forget-me-not and sweet peas. Be sure to soak sweet-pea seeds overnight before you plant.

Divide crowded perennials and spread them to some bare spots. Lift and loosen clumps then divide into sections, removing any old dead parts. Amend the soil with compost, then replant and water in well. This can be done to agapanthus, coreopsis, daylilies, Echinacea, phlox, society garlic, yarrow and most other herbaceous perennials.

**Vegetables** – It's time to change the vegetable garden to cool season veggies, but don't pull out summer veggies too soon. If we have mild weather, you may still have fresh tomatoes for Thanksgiving. It's time to plant garlic. Break bulbs into individual cloves, then plant each clove with the pointed end up, space about 4 to 6 inches apart and about 2 inches deep.

Seed beets, carrots, lettuces, radishes, snow peas and spinach. Set out seedlings of artichokes, broccoli, cabbage, cauli-

flower, kale and strawberries. Garden greens just like tomatoes always taste better when they are homegrown.

**Herbs** – Catnip, chamomile, cilantro, dill, Echinacea, fennel, oregano, marjoram, parsley, rosemary and thyme can be planted now. Sorry, no basil at this time – it needs heat.

**Bulbs** – Look for firm healthy bulbs in the nurseries. Buy quality bulbs. Usually larger bulbs mean larger flowers. Don't be in a hurry to plant. They need cool soil so store them in a cool, dark place until planting time in November.

Remember crocus, hyacinths and tulips require at least eight weeks of "pre-cooling" to bloom well. I put mine in the vegetable crisper of the refrigerator in a paper (not plastic) bag. Be sure to keep bulbs separated from fruit in the refrigerator. Most fruits (especially bananas, apples, and tomatoes) release ethylene gas as they ripen and this prevents bulbs from blooming.

## Critter Control

**Clean up** – All debris around trees, like fallen fruits and nuts. Remove any fruit mummies from trees to reduce the source and possible infection of pests and diseases in the future.

**Blast Whiteflies** – They'll soon be causing problems again. Blast the little critters with water to knock the population down. They won't disappear until our first frost.

**Protect** – Broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and kale from white cabbage butterflies that lay their eggs on seedling plants. These eggs hatch into caterpillars and start eating holes in leaves. Bigger plants can easily sustain a few holes, but seedlings can be eaten alive. Try row covers, hand picking or spraying with *Bt*, also known as caterpillar killer.

Lastly, when it comes to choosing your fall color this year, try to think outside the box! This is the time that nurseries and garden centers offer a good selection. Besides winter annuals there are many wonderful perennials, shrubs, trees and vines that are adapted to our Mediterranean climate that add a lot of color, texture, and interest to a garden. Get creative!

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

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## Safe & Sound

# Child Proofing your Guns, Gun Proofing your Children

By Dave Johnson

I would like to extend a GREAT BIG THANKS to all of you who have called me recently and have expressed your appreciation for this column. Positive feedback is always welcome. Many of you asked if I would conduct a class for children to teach them about lures and safety. The answer of course is "Yes!" Just get a group together and contact me. Additionally, as I've mentioned to those who have contacted me, I conduct a children's class at 5 p.m. every Wednesday and Thursday. Feel free to bring your children out to try a class. Just contact me first for directions and all the particulars. I've also been asked about self-defense instruction for Adults. The answer is I conduct classes at 6 p.m. every Wednesday and Thursday, offer in-home private instruction, family instruction, company group instruction, and I'm currently in the process of developing a Saturday morning class for parents and adults over 30. Give me a call if you are interested.

As always, I continue to encourage you to give me your feedback, concerns, questions and suggestions. This column will only get better the more I hear from you. This month we are going to talk about child proofing your guns and gun proofing your chil-

dren. Remember, prevention and preparedness should be our focus. Prevention comes from education, action and consistency. Preparedness reduces paranoia and increases self-confidence. Effective preparedness comes from realistic training.

OK, do you remember the definition of "Defensive Awareness™"? That's Right! To be calmly and constantly aware of your surroundings (ALL of your surroundings) and mentally prepared to react appropriately to whatever, without feeling nervous, apprehensive, afraid or paranoid. In fact, done correctly, you should feel very comfortable, confident and secure. This mental and physical sense will in turn be very evident to the criminal element. Now let's get into this month's topic of child proofing your guns and gun proofing your children.

I'm sure most of you have seen or heard a news story about a child getting ahold of a loaded gun and shooting themselves or some other child. In fact in the news recently was a story about a law enforcement officer who was being tried for the accidental death of a child involving his own firearm. These are one type of tragedies that should NEVER happen.

FIRST we need to child proof our firearms (this includes guns and rifles). Lock them in a safe and apply a trigger lock to them. If you must leave one out, leave it in a location that is unseen and hard to get to for children. However, don't assume for one moment that they can't get their hands on it if they really want to. Therefore, in the case of automatics, make sure the safety is on, there is not a round chambered, and better yet, place the magazine or ammunition in a totally different location. A trigger guard can also be used but make sure the key is hidden away from the weapon. To the extreme, you could partially disassemble the weapon. Just practice reassembling it often.

When you're not at home, all weapons should be locked in a safe. I'm not fond of revolvers for personal home protection because they are much harder to make safe yet be available for use quickly. Let only those you trust, i.e., spouse, parents, etc., know where these items are in case of an emergency. Contact me for information on trigger guards, safes, etc., or contact the staff at "The Range" in Fresno.

SECONDLY, and this is actually step #1, we must "gun proof" our children. This is done by talking to them at length about firearms. The dangers, the proper uses, the legal aspects of owning and using them, the functionality and mechanics of the weapon and most important, TAKE THEM SHOOTING.

Remember children and teens are very curious. If you refuse to tell them, they'll want to find out even more. If they feel that you are hiding something from them, they

will resent that and want to know why and what you are hiding from them. Make a day of it. Make it a fun but very serious day. Enroll them in a basic firearm safety course and participate with them in the course. Let them experience first hand the power and deadly force of a firearm. Explain to them the life changing impact shooting someone would cause, justified or not. Doing so will help them to gain respect for all weapons. Remember, teaching a child that a gun is considered always loaded and that it should never be pointed towards anything you don't wish to kill or destroy is great, but it really clicks when they fire a weapon for themselves. Don't make this a one time event. Take them shooting regularly. It's less expensive than going to the movies and much less expensive than the cost of a funeral or a lawsuit. Quiz them often, answer their questions, know who they're hanging around with, know who might be in your home when you're not there.

To do even more to help protect your children and teens, enroll them in a REALISTIC Self-Defense training program or Basic Firearms Training Course (I conduct both). DON'T WAIT UNTIL SOMETHING HAPPENS! Remember, "The WORST time to start Self-Defense or Firearms training is AFTER an attack or incident."

Contact me. I would love to hear from you. E-mail me at info@masterjohnson.com. Your participation is vital and appreciated. Remember, since we are all in this together, let's make it a community project, have some fun, and increase our level of safety.

PARENTAL GUIDANCE: Spend some time with your children reviewing the following sites. www.amw.com/kids, tcs.cybertipline.com and www.missingkids.com/adccouncil.

SELF-DEFENSE TIPS: Seek professional instruction. If someone makes you feel uncomfortable, turn and look them in the eyes with confidence and tell them so. Protect your space. Always stand at a slanted angle with one foot back spaced at about shoulder width. Hands should be relaxed and held between waist and chest level. KNOW YOUR ENVIRONMENT.

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. He can be contacted at 559-917-5262.

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Senior Report

# Member Receives Service Award

By Eleanore Burchell

Our Ranchos/Hills Senior Center, located at 37330 Berkshire, has yet another member who has been recognized as an outstanding citizen. This time it is Al Jackson, a volunteer Madera County Sheriff's Citizens on Patrol, who was awarded the Kiwanis Community Service Award during Fire Station #19's BBQ. It was a great surprise!

Al's wife, Ruth, passed away in March, 2005. They had three children and five grandchildren. He is a native of New Zealand and speaks impeccable English.

The family came to the U.S. when their children were very young. Al is a retired mechanic. As a Sheriff's Citizen on Patrol, Al makes it a point to be visible when a school in his area is holding a special meeting. It's his way of showing the students and parents the positive message of having a volunteer Deputy Sheriff and his patrol car around. We are always so proud to tell you how great our members are!

The next monthly sale will be held on Saturday, Oct. 7, 8 a.m. to noon. Hopefully, the weather will be cooler by then and a little more conducive for you to come out to see what we have in the garden area and Treasure House. We have just received new shrubs and flowering plants. The Treasure House will be open and filled with new sale items. New produce comes in daily. As of today, we have okra, potatoes, pickles, grapes, Granny Smith apples and pomegranate jelly. Come inside and check out the goodies at the bake sale. We don't want you to get out of the habit of coming in to see us so remember the plants and boutique sections are available Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesdays, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., and Thursday evenings between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.

A new vaccine to prevent shingles is now available for adults 60 years of age or older. This vaccine works by helping the immune system from contracting shingles and the associated pain and other serious complications. As with any vaccine, it may not protect everyone who receives it. Only your health care provider can decide if this is right for you.

What is held Tuesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.? BINGO! Yes, you are right!

The October Birthday and Anniversary celebration will be held at Acapulco Mexican Restaurant, 3966 N. Blackstone, Fresno on Saturday, Oct. 23 at noon. Come and join us!

Remember, laughter is a lot of fun and also good for your body and soul. If you need someone to laugh with, come join our Thursday evening potlucks with games played afterwards. There is a lot of fun here.

**More Facts and Fun**

A nutritionally balanced lunch program Monday 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. There is still room in the well-attended exercise class on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays, 10:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. You need not be a member to attend these classes. The attendance has been growing but there is always room for one more ... you!

Another trip is in the making. A 7-day Hawaiian cruise in January. Interested? Call Joann at 645-4864 for particulars.

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

**Up and Coming events**

September 28, 6 p.m. monthly potluck with Italian theme followed by Hand & Foot, pinochle or other games

October 7, 8 a.m. to noon, Monthly Sale

October 26, 6 p.m. monthly potluck with soup and stew theme followed by Hand & Foot, pinochle or other games

October 23, noon, Birthday and

Anniversary Celebration, Acapulco Mexican Restaurant

**Weekly Events**

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

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

Tuesday, Pinochle, noon until???

Tuesday, BINGO, 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. (Hot dogs, hamburgers, desserts and more available)

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

Wednesday, Card BINGO, noon to 1 p.m.

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

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

We have shared data regarding our Senior Center with you. We wish you peace, beauty, hope, joy and love and welcome you to come and be one of us as our organization offers and promotes social, educational and civic activities in order to provide a better quality of life for all senior citizens. You have received an invitation. Hope to see you soon?



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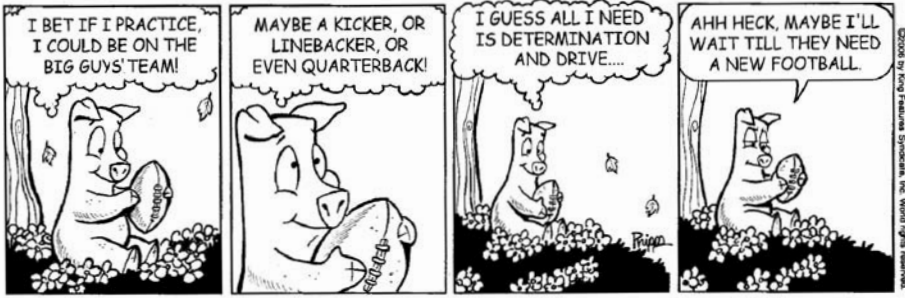
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9/06



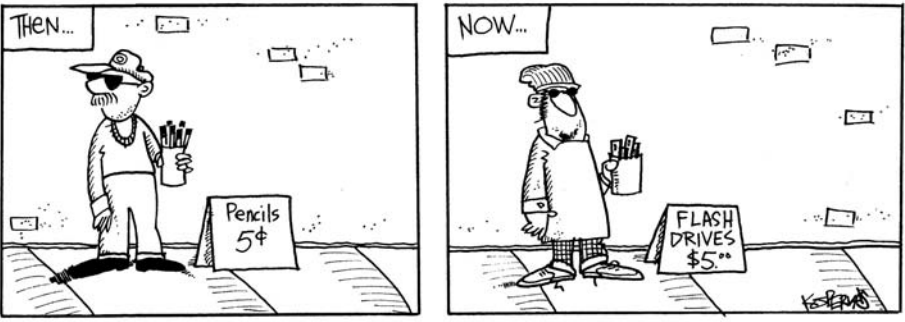
### Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



### Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



### R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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### The Spats

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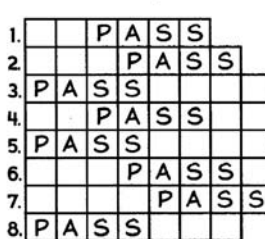
**A PIGGY BANKER!** Find the hidden quotation above by reading every other letter as you go around the frame counterclockwise.

**DOUBLE-DEALER!** A used-car dealer sold two cars for \$1,980 each. On the first car he made a 10 percent profit, while on the second car he took a loss of 10 percent. Taken together, did he profit or lose on the deals?

**FIND-A-WORD!** On the top line goes the mystery word. You need to fill in the missing letters. Clue words (smaller words contained in letter-by-letter order within the mystery word) are defined below.

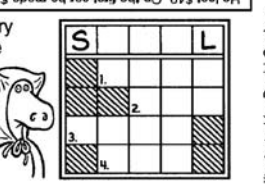
### Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



**FORWARD PASSES!** Now that the football season is well under way, it's time to work on word "passes." At left are eight words, each of which contains a "pass." Figure out what the words are using the following hints:

1. Alternate route.
2. Direction finder.
3. Adequate.
4. Stalemate.
5. Travel document.
6. To go beyond.
7. To go where forbidden.
8. It opens many locks.

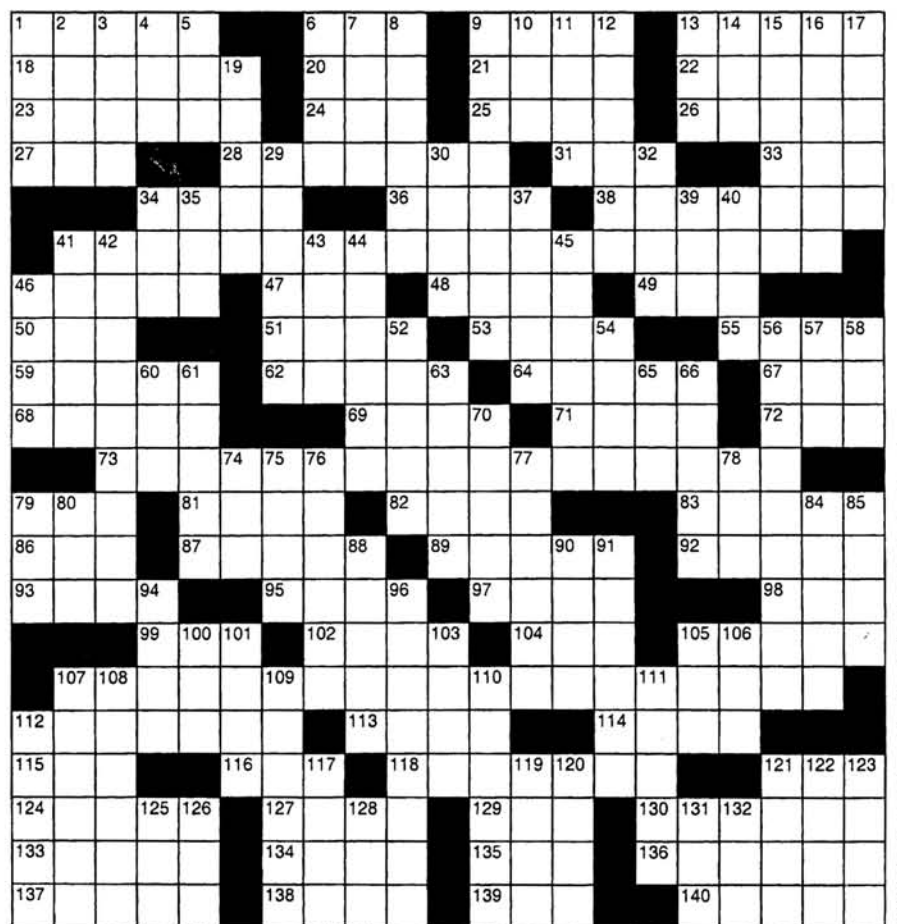


1. Cow. 2. Owl. 3. Cow. 4. Cow. Mystery word: Cow.

## Super Crossword

ILL HUMOR

- ACROSS**
- 1 Monty Python's Michael
  - 6 Deli choice
  - 9 Gear teeth
  - 13 Film pterodactyl
  - 18 Porthos' pal
  - 20 Team scream
  - 21 Well-ventilated
  - 22 Felony
  - 23 Start of a remark
  - 24 Funnyman Philips
  - 25 Deep purple
  - 26 Confused
  - 27 Faux —
  - 28 Vince of "Ben Casey"
  - 31 Small shots
  - 33 PC key
  - 34 "Rosanna" rockers
  - 36 Couple
  - 38 Part of HOMES
  - 41 Part 2 of remark
  - 46 Minnesota city
  - 47 Alias initials
  - 48 Heavy metal instrument?
  - 49 Child welfare org.
  - 50 Mil. unit
  - 51 Say it isn't so
  - 53 Labyrinth
  - 55 Relax
  - 59 Gentle as —
  - 62 Abhorrence
  - 64 A Barbary State
  - 67 "Norma —" ('79 film)
  - 68 Buccaneers' head-
  - 71 Football's Swann
  - 72 Woodsman's tool
  - 73 Part 3 of remark
  - 79 — Mahal
  - 81 Alley Oop's love
  - 82 Out-of-this-world org.
  - 83 Invasions
  - 86 President Bush was one
  - 87 Overture
  - 89 Macho type
  - 92 Roast host
  - 93 Circus sight
  - 95 Teri of "Tootsie"
  - 97 — majesty
  - 98 Canterbury quaff
  - 99 Hoagy
  - 102 Wordsworth
  - 104 ABA member
  - 105 Teach on the side
  - 107 Part 4 of remark
  - 112 Deprive (of)
  - 113 Wooden strip
  - 114 Olympic event
  - 115 Flight
  - 116 Tasty tuber
  - 118 Proposition
  - 121 Carol opener
  - 124 Inevitable activity
  - 127 Hungarian sheepdog
  - 129 Shaq's pack
  - 130 End of remark
  - 133 Daybreak
  - 134 Toast topper
  - 135 Perlman or Palillo
  - 136 Bostonian, for one
  - 137 "The Brandon — Story" ('98 film)
  - 138 So. state
  - 139 Still
  - 140 Self-confidence
  - 5 Zilch
  - 6 Make coffee
  - 7 "Rama — Ding Dong" ('61 tune)
  - 8 Legendary athlete Jim
  - 9 Pepper
  - 10 Vinegar's partner
  - 11 Chow
  - 12 Token
  - 13 JVC competitor
  - 14 Terrier's tidbit
  - 15 Win over
  - 16 Audrey Tautou role
  - 17 Peachy-keen
  - 19 Take care of
  - 29 EI —, AR
  - 30 Tapered seam
  - 32 Cut a cuticle
  - 34 Decimal base
  - 35 Two — kind
  - 37 Morocco's capital
  - 39 Cable channel
  - 40 Thickening agent
  - 41 Writer Rogers St. Johns
  - 42 Thingumbob
  - 43 Got by, with "out"
  - 44 Disappear
  - 45 Lapis —
  - 46 Part of Q.E.D.
  - 52 Canadian territory
  - 54 "Only Time" singer
  - 56 Destroy
  - 57 Getz's instrument
  - 58 Fairway accessory
  - 60 Speedometer abbr.
  - 61 "Blue —" ('77 hit)
  - 63 Blabby bird
  - 65 Business abbr.
  - 66 — drum
  - 70 One of the Fords
  - 74 Weasel word?
  - 75 First name in fashion
  - 76 Finger food
  - 77 Composer Jean-Philippe
  - 78 "Platoon" setting
  - 79 Gumshoe
  - 80 Chicken — king
  - 84 Apollo's isle
  - 85 Soothsayer
  - 88 Witty
  - 90 Vino center
  - 91 Irritate
  - 94 Punta del —
  - 96 Link
  - 100 Actress Thurman
  - 101 Bunch of birds
  - 103 "Pyramus and Thisbe," e.g.
  - 105 Playground game
  - 106 Luau instrument
  - 107 Confederation
  - 108 January stoa
  - 109 Earl Grey's place
  - 110 William Sydney Porter
  - 111 Man of the cloth?
  - 112 Great time
  - 117 Stubbom sort
  - 119 Hautboy
  - 120 Be bombastic
  - 121 "Kon- —"
  - 122 Summer-time treats
  - 123 — -Ball
  - 125 "Sister Act" extra
  - 126 Scholastic abbr.
  - 128 Deighton or Dawson
  - 131 "The Bells" monogram
  - 132 — -Cat



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### TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. MOVIES: Who starred with Susan Sarandon in "Thelma & Louise"?
2. HISTORY: When did Russia's Romanov Dynasty end?
3. ASTRONOMY: Who formulated a theory of planetary movement?
4. MEASUREMENTS: How many pints are in three U.S. quarts?
5. U.S. STATES: Where is the city of Oshkosh?
6. ARTS: For what kind of art was Sara Teasdale best known?
7. ANATOMY: What is another name for leukocytes?
8. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Where was the chocolate chip cookie invented?
9. PERSONALITIES: What actor's birth name was Alphonso d'Abruzzo?
10. FOOD & DRINK: How many original flavors of ice cream did Baskin Robbins serve?

### Answers

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

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

Canceled	Ignition	Register	Tensioned
Columbian	Jurassic	Roman	War
Dated	Position	Shrink	Wash
Existing	Qualify	Tax	

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1. Geena Davis
2. 1917
3. Robert Hooke
4. Six
5. Wisconsin
6. Poetry
7. White blood cells
8. The Toll House Inn, Whitman, Mass.
9. Alan Alda
10. 31



# Where's the Beef in Madera County? Try Selling Meat Door-to-Door

Meat-selling house calls not allowed in Madera County.

Madera County does not permit people to make house-calls selling beef from a truck, but that didn't stop a pair of would-be peddlers from making a pitch to an off-duty Sheriff's Deputy. The two peddlers suspected of trying to strike the meaty deal were arrested.

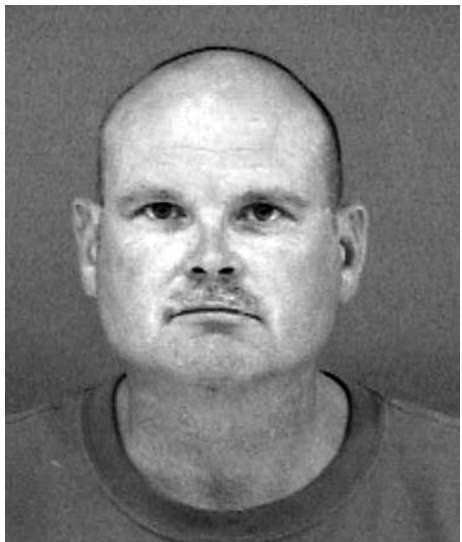
Deputy Nick Davis took 18-year-old Arvin Panu of Goleta in Santa Barbara County and 41-year old Wade Robert Evens from Clovis into custody and booked them both into the Madera County Department of Corrections at the beginning of the month. Their arrest follows a series of warnings the Madera County Sheriff's department had issued about anyone trying to sell

meat door-to-door.

"They are not licensed; they do not have a business permit to operate in our county," said Sheriff John Anderson. He further warned that anyone caught violating the law would be subject to arrest.

Operating a business without a license turned out to be only part of Panu's troubles. Further checking resulted in him being booked on a \$5,000 warrant issued out of Santa Clarita for traffic violations. Panu's bail was set at \$5,250.

Evens faced two charges: driving without a license and operating a business without a license. His bail was set at \$340.



Two very unhappy meat salesmen got thrown into the cooler for attempting to sell meat door-to-door from the back of their truck. Unlicensed and without a business permit, Wade Robert Evens, 41, (left) faced two charges, while Arvin Panu, 18, was additionally booked on a \$5,000 warrant issued out of Santa Clarita for traffic violations.

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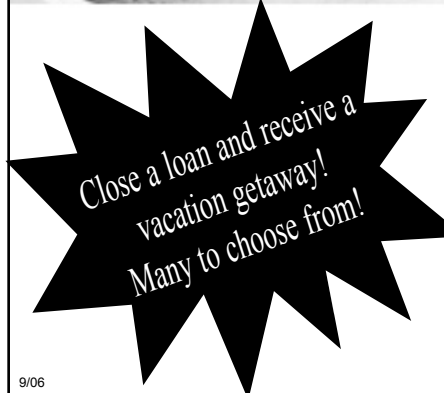
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# Classified Ads

## Alteration Service

**Molly's Alterations** - tailoring, repairs and leathers. Fast service. Located at 36619 Ave. 12 or Call 645-5527.

## Day Care

Licensed Family Day Care Now Open. Before and after school care. Contact Lupe at 645-4697 or 970-4962.

## For Rent

**For Rent - Office Space.** Available Immediately 1,200 sq. ft. in front of Hurst Hardware. \$1,500 per month plus \$225 common area. Call 645-5680 for more info.

**For Rent - AVAILABLE NOW FOR OCT. 1 - 3 BR, 2.5 BA, LR & DR w/fireplace.** Country living @ 36291 Blanca Avenue - 1.3 ac. at Rd 36 and Hwy 145. Close to downtown Madera, Lakes, Yosemite and Hwy 41/Fresno. Great view of the mountains. \$1,400/month, with cleaning deposit. Call Angie @ (559) 822-4672.

## For Sale

**For Sale - 1995 14' wide X 60' long single wide Champion mobile home.** Great for the first time home owner, or just wanting to size down. Would also be a great Mother-in-law set up. A 2 bedroom 1 bath. Large bay window in living room. Built in china hutch, newly painted interior, new window coverings in every room, new stove. Complete with stairs in front, top mounted evaporative cooler, front awning and skirting around the mobile home. **MUST SELL ASKING PAY OFF ONLY! \$21,000. Ready to be moved. Please call (559)-645-4948 or (559)-352-5441.**

**For Sale - A 2005 Honda TRX 450 R Quad.** Must Sell. Asking pay off only \$6000. Call 645-4948 or 352-5441 for more info.

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

**For Sale - Ford 9N Tractor** with disk, runs, new battery. Asking \$2000. Call 232-6120.

**For Sale - Pool Table,** 8ft. professional, solid wood, leather pockets, 1" slate, w/accessories, Aramith balls, Simons cloth, 4 cues, etc. Never used. Cost \$4,500. Sacrifice \$1,275. Call 230-0486.

**For Sale - Pool Table** never used, life time warranty, can deliver. Cost \$4000. Sacrifice \$975. Call 275-8813.

**For Sale - Hot Tub/Spa,** Absolute all new 2006, loaded digital, 44 chrome jets, ozone, waterfall, never used. Cost \$8,200. Sacrifice \$3,875 w/warranty. Call 360-9047.

**For Sale - Spa,** brand new, loaded warranty. \$2,375 Call 275-8813.

**For Sale - Bedroom Set** 7 pc. Solid cherry wood, sleigh bed, nightstand, dresser/mirror, chest, dovetailed drawers, never used, cost \$7,000. Sacrifice \$1,875. Extra pieces avail. Call 277-2511.

**For Sale - Queen Pillow top mattress/box,** cost \$500 sacrifice \$195. Never used. In plastic. Call 230-0486.

**For Sale - Queen Plush Pillow top brand new mattress/box.** Cost \$700 Sacrifice \$275. King, cost \$900, sacrifice \$395 in plastic w/warranty. Call 277-2511.

**For Sale - King Pillow top mattress/box,** cost \$600 sacrifice \$295, brand new in plastic. Call 438-0248.

**For Sale - Oak entertainment center - \$150.** Maple drop leaf dining room table w/2 leafs and 6 chairs + china hutch. \$600. Call 645-4653.

## Free

**Mature water pond plants.** Many to choose from. Call 645-4948.

## Gutter Service

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

## Handyman Service

**Ranchos Handyman** - when you need a helping hand then you need the Ranchos Handyman. Whether the job is big or small the Handyman can do it all. Call Ohan for estimates. Now available: house painting. Call 645-6924.

## Help Wanted

**Car Wash on Ave. 12 - Velvet Touch Car Wash** looking for help. Apply in person.

## Horse Services

**Big B Ranch** - Horse back riding lessons for all ages. Call 559-871-5597.

## House Cleaning Service

**Jeannie's House Cleaning** - Ranchos Area. Business owner over 10 years.

Reasonable rates, good references. Will do blinds, fans and laundry. Fast and thorough. Call 801-2391 or 645-4117.

## Money To Loan Services

**Oro Financial** - Able to Loan Today. Credit not a problem. Cash for trust deeds. Mobile home on land. Call 438-9999.

**Loans** - To re-finance, debt consolidation or purchase insurance - investments. Call Bettina G. Villanueva at (559) 213-4470.

## Painting Service

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

## Tractor Service

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

**Tractor Work** - lot discing, mowing and scraping. Call Thomas at 645-6068.

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

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

## Utility Service

**Underground utilities installed** - Call 645-1500.

## Window Cleaning Service

**Window Cleaning Special** - Most windows \$5 inside/out. Screen and track included. Prices may vary for large, irregular or commercial sizes. Hard water stain removal avail. Fully insured. Call Nick at 285-1723. Free estimates.

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