

The Ranchos Independent



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September 2007

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢



UNANIMOUS!

*Madera County Board of Supervisors
Vote 5 - 0 in Favor of Castle & Cooke
Gateway Village Project*

*Gateway Village Project Manager
Steve Krueger (right) is con-
gratulated by Madera County
District 1 Supervisor Frank
Bigelow after the
historic vote.*

Full story on page 2.

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FINALLY! MADERA COUNTY APPROVES GATEWAY VILLAGE 5-0

After a decade's worth of delays and setbacks, Gateway Village gets a unanimous green light from the Board of Supervisors

By Randy Bailey

More than 12 years of work on behalf of developer Castle & Cooke came to fruition Tuesday, Sept. 11 when the Madera County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved to amend the Madera County General Plan, thereby removing all remaining roadblocks to the 2,062-acre development at the corner of Highway 41 and Avenue 12.

"It will take about nine months to a year to complete the engineering plans, then we plan to start," said Steve Krueger, project manager for Gateway Village, meaning the first homes could be ready in as little as two years.

When fully built, Gateway Village is projected to have over 6,500 homes and apartments, providing housing for more than 21,000 residents. In addition, there will be

commercial areas bringing amenities to the Ranchos area that are not here now. The project will be built in a series of phases over a projected 20 year timeline.

The relief was obvious on the faces of the representatives of Castle & Cooke as Supervisor Frank Bigelow offered up seven different motions one-by-one before the Board of Supervisors, all seeking approval of different areas of the project, that were then passed unanimously by all five members of the Board.

The Supervisors were quick to point

out their approval of the project, but several shared that they weren't always supporters. Supervisor Ronn Domenici said he was initially against Castle & Cooke, primarily because of water concerns. "I'm convinced the water has been taken care of - I'm satisfied," he said. "It has changed from being a negative in 2001 to being a model for the County."

"It's a first-class corporation," said Supervisor Max Rodriguez, referring to Castle & Cooke. "They've taken the bull by the horns and have shown us that we should all work together because Madera is on the move."

Highest praise came from Bigelow who said that the Village Green project was a culmination of a developer embracing a community and then including features the community wants. "Today's passage of the

Castle & Cooke's EIR and its agreements is a tremendous step forward for Madera County. The Castle & Cooke proposal establishes the model for a project that is balanced and meets the needs of the public both today and in the future," Bigelow said.

The consensus was that the agreement reached with Castle & Cooke would now serve as a standard by which future developments would be held.

"This series of documents can now be tailored for any of the projects coming to Madera County," Bigelow said. Steve

Krueger echoed the sentiment and said, "I hope the County will use this as a model for future developments."

Madera County Resource Management Agency Director Ray Beach said he was satisfied with the agreement with Gateway Village. "The goal is to not harm existing County operations and we

feel we have achieved that."

The completed project approved by the Board covers all costs of the Gateway Project and makes Castle & Cooke responsible for schools, roads, water and fire protection. In addition, the water treatment plan engineered by Castle & Cooke is projected to result in a net gain of water.

Golden Valley, Castle & Cooke Settle

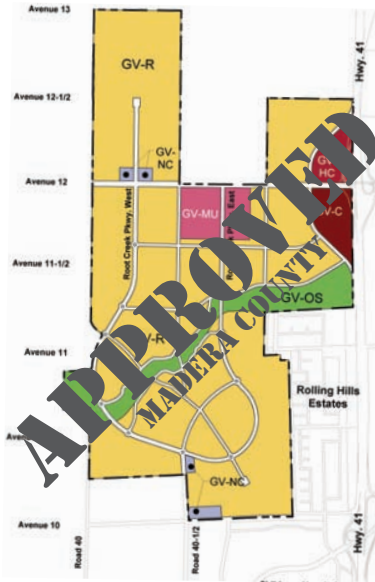
Golden Valley Unified School District is pleased to announce that an agreement was reached Sept. 10 to ensure that the School District's facilities will not be impacted by a significant proposed housing development.

Golden Valley Unified School District has monitored the progress of a planned development of Gateway Village, a project of 6,459 residential dwelling units proposed by Castle & Cooke Madera Properties, LLC. The District and Developer both have recognized that the development will have a significant impact on the District's facilities due to a large population increase. At last night's Governing Board meeting, the Board approved a memorandum of understanding and is working out the final terms of an agreement with the Developer that will ensure mitigation of the significant impacts and will protect the District's future interests in relation to the development.

In summary, the agreement requires the Developer to fund all elementary schools required by the Project at a maximum of \$32,000 per student equal to approximately \$46.5 million. The Developer will also pay \$4.40 per square foot for each single-family and multi-family residential unit to fund secondary

schools. The \$4.40 fee will inflate over time at a rate of 2 percent per year, and, over the life of the Gateway Village project, is anticipated by the District that this additional funding will generate nearly \$51.5 million for those facilities. The Developer has also agreed to pay \$1 million for interim housing of students generated by the Project while new facilities are being built. Additionally, the Developer will pay impact mitigation fees in accordance with State law at \$42 per square foot of all non-residential development and age-restricted units, projected to generate \$1.8 million. The total mitigation program is equal to approximately \$100.8 million. This amount is more than twice State statutory development fees required by law which are projected to be \$44.5 million, or additional voluntary contribution by the Developer of \$56.3 million.

The District is satisfied that this agreement will result in a successful collaboration with the development community to ensure the availability of adequate schools. The agreement will benefit the School District, the homebuilders and the community. The District anticipates that the final agreement will be approved by the Board at its regularly scheduled meeting on Sept. 25.



"Let There Be Light!" Coming to a Stadium Near Us

By Pete Petersen

Golden Valley Unified School District

At the Jan. 30, 2006 Golden Valley Unified School District Board Meeting, district staff was authorized to move forward with the installation of stadium lights at Liberty High School. In addition to installing football stadium lights, the project includes providing power to the existing ball diamond scoreboards and power to two future ball diamonds. Other key components of the project include relocating the football scoreboard to the north

side of the football field, a public address system and lights and conduit for future emergency lighting which is required by the State of California.

Originally, the stadium lights, two sport field buildings, new parking lots, fencing and concrete walks were included in the project. The project is now planned to be constructed in phases. Based upon this change, plan redesign work and resubmission to the Division of the State Architect (DSA) is necessary.

In an effort to decrease construction time, DSA approval for the lights is

included in plans. Our architect, Widom, Wein, Cohen, O'Leary, Terasawa (WWCOT), has provided a drawing which shows location of lights which will necessitate berm removal before any actual construction. Upon DSA approval, which we eagerly anticipate in September of 2007, the time length of the project is estimated to be nine months from advertisement to construction completion.

As the mighty Hawks take the field here in 2007, discussions are underway to decide start of construction. Total cost of the project is estimated to be \$950,000.



Ranchos Birthday Party has Best Gift: Third Grader Beating Cancer



Ranchos resident Caleb Gennawey enjoys a day of fun after receiving a clean bill of health just three years after he was diagnosed with leukemia.

By Randy Bailey

Kids and birthday parties just seem to go together, but they take on the miraculous when they are thrown to celebrate total remission of cancer in a child's life.

Eight-year-old Caleb Gennawey is just such a miracle.

On April 13, 2004 Caleb was diag-

nosed with lymphoblastic leukemia when he lived in Riverside in Southern California. He was treated at Loma Linda Children's Oncology Unit there and in June of 2006 it was determined that Children's Hospital Central California was the best place for him. Caleb, his sister Aubrey and his Mom and Dad made the decision to move to the Ranchos home of grandparents Ken and Robin Gauer.

Once in the Ranchos, Caleb started school at Webster where Grandmother Robin Gauer said he received great support from his teachers and school administrators.

The Best Gift

Now a third grader, Caleb received the best gift of his life when on Aug. 16 his bone marrow tests showed no more cancer cells in his system. To celebrate his eighth birthday and the wonderful news from the doctors, the Gauers threw a luau party for Caleb that was attended by friends, family, neighbors and many of the people they had met through cancer programs over the years.

On Sept. 2, friends from all over the Valley showed up at the Gauer home and enjoyed slip 'n slides, limbo competitions and food and decorations provided from the heart by friends of one little boy. There was even a DJ donated through Jennie and Keegan Kabearny, owners of DJ One in

Clovis.

Along the way in Caleb's fight against the dreaded disease, he has been honored in various ways through the cancer fighting community. He was the honorary co-chair of the American Cancer Society. He was featured in a special calendar created by the Riverside Fire Department's association with the Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Foundation, and has been involved with the Pennies for Patients program of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. In 2005 the Riverside Fire Department named Caleb their "Honored Hero."

As Caleb enjoyed his special day there was one time when he seemed a little sad, according to his grandmother. When asked what the matter was, the 8 year old said he was thinking of two of his friends from Children's Hospital who weren't so fortunate in their fight against cancer.

"I wish they could have beat their cancers too," he said softly to his grandmother.

Gauer said Caleb misses his friends and she finds him "talking" to them often. "It seems like at the age of 8 he's lived the life of 10 persons of full age," Gauer said.



Just some of the friends from all over the Valley that showed up for Caleb Gennawey's Birthday Party/Freedom from Cancer Celebration at Ken and Robin Gauer's house in the Ranchos.

Ranchos Soccer Sharpshooters Take Silver Trophy in Mojave

At a tournament in Apple Valley with 165 teams competing, the Ranchos Under-12 Sharpshooters made it to the final game of the

championship which ended in a 2-2 tie. Los Gauchos ultimately won on penalty kicks, earning our local girls the silver trophy.



(Standing L to R): Gabi Gibeault, Cerephina Dalisay, Olivia Neal, Madissen Harp, Darbi Duke, Clare Wardle, Alexis Kochackis, Taylor Lewis (Kneeling L to R): Brie Abbott, Mikayla Brauer, Katie Fairchild, Maddie Abbott, Juliet Olsen, Shannon Foley (Seated): Allison Saether

Man Suspected in Illinois Death Caught at Chukchansi Casino

A Fresno man wanted for homicide in Illinois is now behind bars in Madera, booked on suspicion of kidnapping. Jose Sotelo, 30, who claims to reside in Fresno, was arrested shortly before 1 a.m. on the morning of Sept. 24 at the Chukchansi Gold Resort Casino in Coarsegold.

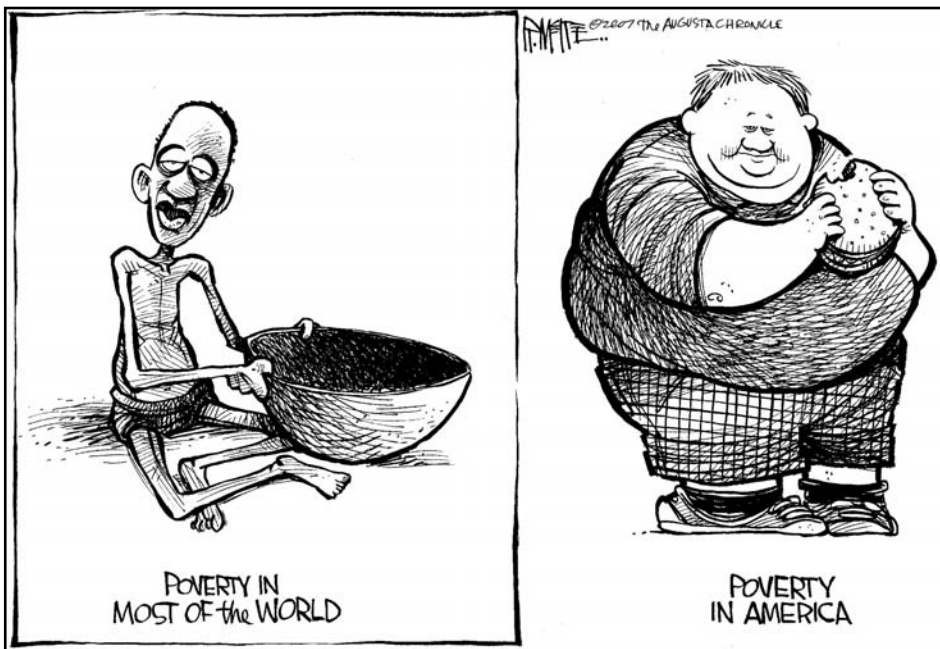
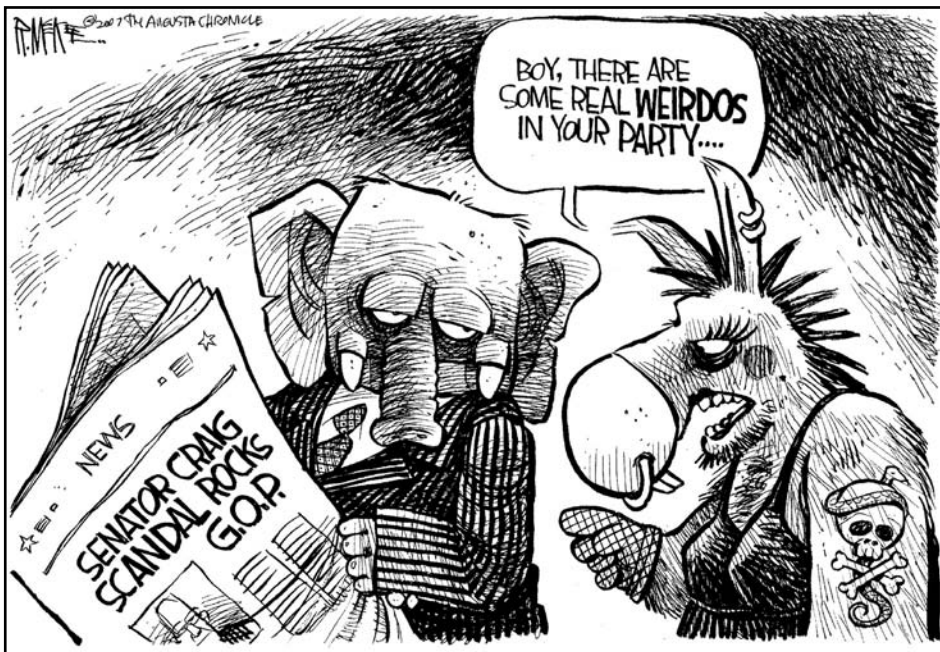
According to reports, Sotelo is suspected of grabbing a woman after she refused his advances, reportedly by trying to pick her up by saying he's from Chicago. Just as a security guard was approaching Sotelo, he purportedly let go of the woman and ran.

Deputies Brad Dorr and Michael Gordon were called, quickly arrived on the scene and within minutes of their arrival had Sotelo detained. Additionally, they found and removed a bundle of cocaine from Sotelo's front shirt pocket. Deputy Dorr ran the suspect for any warrants and found that Cook County authorities in Illinois had issued a warrant for Sotelo's arrest for homicide.

While the Madera County Department of Corrections awaits word from Cook County regarding extradition, Sotelo remains booked in Madera on suspicion of kidnapping and possession of a controlled substance. Sotelo's bail has been set at \$100,000.



Jose Sotelo, 30, was arrested at Chukchansi Casino on suspicion of kidnapping and possession of drugs, then further checking turned up a warrant out of Illinois for homicide.



Editorial

Ranchos Schizophrenia - Got It?

By Randy Bailey

There's a disease that's making the rounds in this neat little section of Southeast Madera County. It's usually relatively undetectable, but every so often something triggers an outbreak and, Katie bar the door, here it comes.

The symptoms are easy to spot. Usually the afflicted *seems* like him or herself, but something's just not quite right. There's usually an increase in muttering. Things like, "I moved out here to get *away* from that." Or, "Why would we need *that* out here when there's a perfectly good one 25 miles away in Fresno?"

I was at the Board of Supervisors meeting on Sept. 11 when the Board unanimously approved Castle & Cooke's plans for Gateway Village. Here's a project that has been in the works for every bit of 12 - 13 years. Every "i" has been dotted and every "t" has been crossed. Environmental impact reports, C.E.Q.A. challenges, frivolous lawsuits, carpetbaggers ... you name it, it's gone after Gateway Village in one way or another. Water, roads, traffic, pollution, impacts on schools, blah, blah, blah. Over and over for 12 years. Town hall meetings, Chamber of Commerce meetings, School Board meetings, Kiwanis meetings, Seniors Center meetings ...

And now here I sit in the Board of Supervisors' chambers to watch a historic decision to finally move forward with a very

reasonable, intelligent, well thought out development and during the public commentary section of the meeting here "they" come - they're muttering as they walk up to the microphone.

I get to hear "concerns" over infrastructure questions that I have heard addressed and discussed and explained and taken under advisement and further addressed and discussed and then have answered anywhere from where a kindergarten to a nuclear physicist could understand it, just to have someone else ask the same question as soon as they get done answering it. I swear to God, they ask the same question AGAIN.

Being in the Board of Supervisors' chambers and listening to the beginning of another set of "concerns" that everyone else in the room had heard three years ago made me think about the recent poll that group of builders did for that piece of property on Avenue 15 and Road 36. The histrionics, the gauntlets being thrown down, the vitriol ... the muttering. I started thinking about the rock quarry and the neighborhood park and the Community Center and the new library and the creation of Golden Valley School District and every time all I could hear was the muttering. It wasn't always the same people muttering, but it was pretty close.

This mutterer was concerned about the impact that a Castle & Cooke development would have on traffic on Avenue 12. We couldn't do this because it would increase traffic on Avenue 12.

And then it hit me.

When the people up on 15 and 36 started talking about wanting to commercially develop that corner, the number one argument against it was that commercial development was what Avenue 12 was designed to handle. The comments were, "If you want to build something like that, go to Avenue 12." And now here I sat with someone who doesn't want something built because it could change traffic flow in the area the other mutterers claim was designed for just such a use.

As my eyes began to glaze over, all I could think of is something Dale Drozen said in a letter to the editor in the August Ranchos Independent. He was talking about a neighbors group in opposition to what a property owner wanted to do with his own piece of property. Dale said, "To the residents of the area: If those that were here before you had your attitude, *you* wouldn't be here today."

Mutter about *that*.

The Ranchos Independent

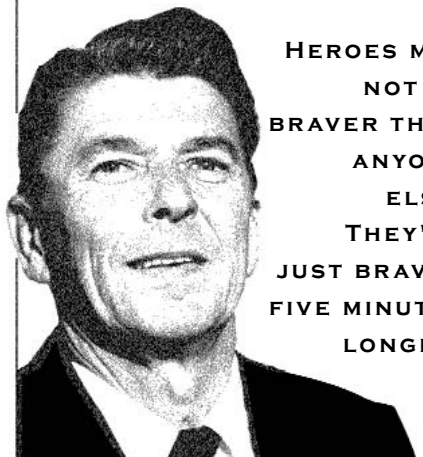
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THE RAY GUN SHOOTING STRAIGHT TO THE HEART



HEROES MAY NOT BE BRAVER THAN ANYONE ELSE. THEY'RE JUST BRAVER FIVE MINUTES LONGER.

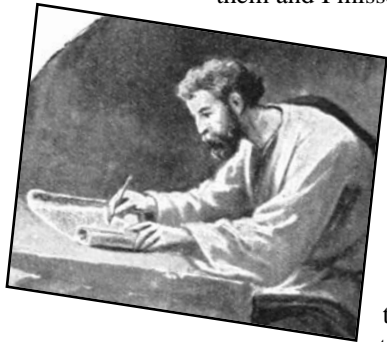
RONALD REAGAN
 SAYING MORE IN ONE QUOTE THAN OTHERS SAY IN A LIFETIME

Random Notes

I need to set the record straight about something. In last month's paper I wrote an editorial about the basics of journalism. I got one letter from a reader that thought I was using the editorial as an attack piece and it occurred to me that possibly others could think the same way. The editorial was written as the result of a series of meetings I had in my office with people who basically accused me of making up a news story. It was in response to those meetings that I wrote the editorial. If anyone took my meaning any other way than I'm sorry. I'll try to do better next time.

So, what do you think of the new look for the paper? I like it a lot. In the history of the Ranchos Independent it has been a tabloid, a broadsheet, a tabloid again and now a half-broadsheet tabloid with some slightly different dimensions. The new shape - the result of a new printer - allows for a lot more color, more room for stories and more room for comics and games. It's been a challenge, though. I thought everything would basically just cut and paste from the old layout right into the new one. Can you say, "Wrong!" There have been a few bugs but I'm sure they will work themselves out and in the end you still get the great content that you love in a bit more of a user-friendly package. Enjoy it.

I'm also very excited that we mark the official return of Woody Laughnan to his "Olde Cowboy" column in this issue. After the death of his wife he felt that he needed some time away and I told him whenever he felt like coming back I would have a spot waiting for him. I've told him - and anyone else that would listen - that his articles were that rare piece of writing that would actually have me laughing out loud as I would read them and I missed them. Welcome Woody back with me, won't you?



I need to do a little tutorial here on writing a letter to the editor. If you've been reading the Ranchos Independent for the last three years that I've owned it you know that I put letters in the paper that agree with me and others that don't. I may not agree with what the naysayers say, but I'll be more than happy to print it BUT there are certain rules that we have to follow.

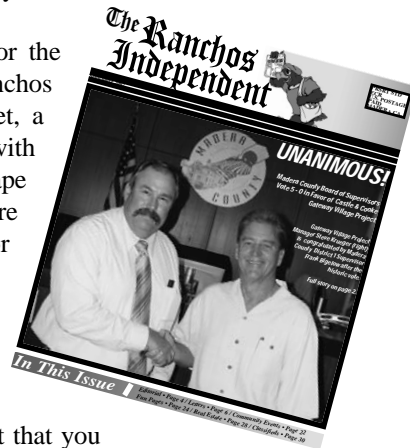
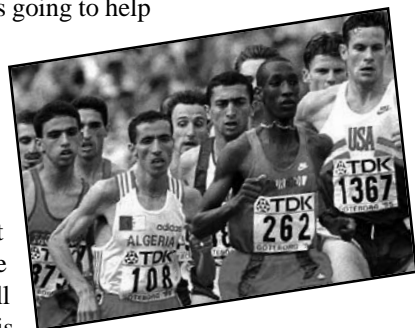
I never have a problem with bad language in letters because you are intelligent people and don't have to resort to that sort of thing. Problem solved. The biggest problem I DO have is letters that aren't signed. If you want your letter to be anonymous in the paper, no problem. I'll say "Name withheld upon request" and your anonymity is assured. Any letters sent in unsigned I throw away - a pity because there have been some good ones.

Oh, and as a "P.S." on getting your letter published, here's a tip: The paper is called The Ranchos Independent. It's not the Ranchos News. It's not the Madera County Independent. When I get letters referring to those publications I always ask the same question: Where are *those* papers from? They sound really good.

Some coming up events that you need to know about. The One Nation Under God Motorcycle Ministry is having its first Christian Biker's Rally on Saturday, Oct. 6 at the Madera Fairgrounds. It's free and will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Rockin' Hawks Classic Car Show is going to be held Saturday, Oct. 13 right here at Maywood Center. Money raised is going to help the Ranchos Youth Cheer Program. The event is free to attend and they're expecting a lot of cars from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

On the same day is the 15th Annual Ranchos Run over at Liberty High. Sponsored by the Kiwanis, this event will help raise money for sorely needed medical equipment for Station #19 Volunteer Fire Company. The race begins at 7 a.m. and you can run, walk, roll or crawl, it doesn't matter. The main thing is that you're able to help our local volunteer firefighters. Show up, get in shape and help out a very worthy cause all at one setting.



THE D.O.G. HOUSE

DEMAND OPEN GOVERNMENT BY DALE DROZEN



Fire mitigation fees:

This bone just keeps getting bigger and juicier.

I am finding just what I was afraid I would find:

several hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent paying for things that mitigation fees just are not allowed to pay for, propping up the past instead of building the department for the future.

The mitigation fund has been charged to replace worn out equipment. It has been charged for new engines and all of their equipment when what really happened was an old, used engine just got new numbers put on it.

Fees can only be used to pay for a need created by the development that paid the fees. The fees are permitted because they create growth in required services as the community grows - when used as intended. It is a bit like having Grandma pay into a college fund for the grandkids and you spending that money to pay monthly bills, so we can use the money budgeted for the monthly bills to take a vacation. It feels good at the time, but when the future comes, surprise! Grandma's got nothing left for the grandkids' college.

Another hit on the mitigation fees:

Item 7, "Fire Protection Master Plan" on the Sept. 25 Board of Supervisors Agenda asks for \$30,000 to create a Fire Protection Master Plan. Mitigation fees are not a slush fund to fix all things that have been neglected over the years. The Government Code that allows the County to impose and collect these fees without our being allowed to vote on it also restricts how they may be used. The fees must be used only to mitigate/fix the needs created by the project that paid the fees. A Fire Protection Master plan is something the County has needed for years and the problems and issues it will address were not created by the few houses that have been added. It may be a necessary expense, but it should not all come from mitigation fees.

As long as I am chewing on fire issues, there are a few more that need to be dug up and will be in the future:

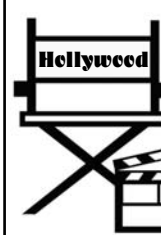
This County has fire stations that are dangerous to work at. If they were owned by landlords and rented out, I think Cal OSHA, or the County Health Department, would shut them down. We ask the firefighters to risk their lives responding to our calls for help. Do we also need to damage their health with unsafe living conditions at the stations where they have stay?

Pardon me for a moment. I am straining to reach around and pull the knife out of my back after the last Board Meeting:

Being a retired fire Captain, and living in the woods, I'm still a "scanner rat." Listening to the scanner traffic, I noticed a problem with the 911 system. There were long delays, sometimes as much as 12 minutes, between when CHP posted the accident and fire/rescue was dispatched. I called the duty captain in

Please see DOG on P. 11

WEBSTER CARNIVAL! LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION!



Friday, Oct. 12, 2007

4:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Silent Auction

18-ft. Slide • Photobooth • Bounce House
Great Prizes! • Great Games!
Rock Mountain

Webster Elementary • 36477 Ruth • Hosted by the Webster Parent Teacher Club



Yosemite Sam

Musings on the Future

I was sure happy to see Castle & Cooke's Gateway Village project get approved the other day by the Board of Supervisors. It was also refreshing to hear the positive comments that were made by the new school superintendent, Sarah Koligian. Apparently, Castle & Cooke and the school district have come to an agreement about new schools to serve the project. Superintendent Koligian called the agreement "mutually beneficial." Sounds like maybe it was a good deal for both sides. Hopefully, now, we can again enter into an era of peace and tranquility in our community. I was sure tired of seeing the pot-shots that were being taken by both sides. I don't think I've ever seen more "misinformation" and suspicion floating around the Ranchos before. I don't know about you, but I have always appreciated Castle & Cooke's involvement in our community. I'm happy that, at last, they may be here to stay.

On another subject. Have you ever wondered about what makes "good government"? Or do you think that this is just another oxymoron – that no "government," at any level, can be "good"? Well, think about this. If we were to stick to the principles of government that were envisioned by our founding fathers, we would only have a government that served to protect our individual liberty, providing

for our safety and creating an environment where the entrepreneurial spirit could flourish. We seem to have wandered far from this principle. When we look at our government today, the degrees in which we are served by our elected officials varies greatly from the perspective of federal, state or local government. The bigger the government is, the larger the tax bite and the larger and more onerous the regulations enforced by that government.

The biggest problem with this government structure, though, is that it is harder to have your individual voice heard by "large" government than by "local" government. The business of our federal government is to "run" the country. That's a big job. Many times, the things that are important to us here in the Ranchos get "swept out the door" because those things just don't hit the radar screen. Our ability to influence things at the federal level is limited to the influence we have with two senators and a handful of "local" congressmen. I don't know about you, but I don't think I have much influence with those guys (and gals). At least not after they get elected. While they're campaigning, they may care (a little bit) about keeping me happy. My guys (and gals) only represent one of

Please see **SAM** on P. 15

We Bring The Wine Country To You

Introduce friends to a memorable event by hosting a private wine tasting in the comfort of your home or office. Relax together while enjoying limited production wines and food pairing ideas direct from the wine country.

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9/07

Letters

Dear Editor:

Just a note to let you know that "Word From Home" has sent over 100 packages to our troops. We have had support from Ranchos Hills Seniors, Ranchos Kiwanis, Curves, Central Valley Wireless, Pizza Factory and Madera Ranchos Market, as well as businesses and groups in Fresno and the city of Madera.

Our troops' letters indicate they are very appreciative of our packages and our prayers.

We intend to continue sending packages until all of the troops come home. We are sending our next packages out the week of September 24. Anyone interested in donating items or money for postage can contact our group at 645-0513.

Thanks Madera Ranchos for all of your support.

Thanks,

Pam Hansen
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

Growing up in this small town I am grateful to have been part of a tight knit community. I was always supported by my parents, parents of friends, teachers, coaches and administrators. I always felt that they would back me up in any situation in which I was "right" and steer me onto the right path if I was "wrong." Now as an adult, coach, educator and friend, I have the opportunity to give back to my community by supporting the students in their achievements and the parents in their continuing and ever present support of their children. I would also like the opportunity to steer you down a path that will be beneficial for all involved.

Let me start by saying that parental support and attendance at sporting events in this community is phenomenal. Parents play a pivotal role in their child's successes by their encouragement and presence. However, it is hard for parents to see from the bleachers what occurs in practice, time outs and on the sidelines of a game. It is unfair to berate any coach or go to a higher authority without first speaking to the coach directly. More importantly, I feel it is the students' responsibility to discuss with their coach any concerns they have with their program. I have seen many positive changes within the volleyball program at Liberty High over the last three months. I believe this is a result of players communicating directly with their coaches. Athletes need to have a sense of pride

and ownership in the programs they are involved in. While parents need to walk alongside their children in this endeavor, they also need to step back and allow their child to make changes happen.

Secondly, a negative atmosphere at home, toward a coach, has an impact on the students' ability to play the game and the coach's ability to coach. This negativity allows the athlete to play below their potential and then blame someone else. It causes a lack of respect for the coach and decreases the athletes' drive to do well. Parents should allow open communication with their child about their frustrations and then show them a positive way to affect their circumstances.

Thirdly, students need to learn to work hard and adjust to ALL situations. Please remember that each coach has a different coaching style. Some yell A LOT, some are quiet. There are those that laugh and joke while others are continually serious and focused. In high school I had nine different coaches, four school coaches and five different club coaches. This forced me to adjust to a new coach every season. While I enjoyed some more than others, each one taught me something different. I am grateful for them all.

Finally, I hesitate to speak on behalf of other coaches, but most of us are not in this for the money or because we have been forced into it. We dedicate an extra 20+ hours a week because we love the game, the competition, and most importantly, we care about the students. I encourage each parent in this community to continue to support your children. In doing so, parents need to find a way to support the coaches as well. We're not perfect, but we want the best for your kids, just as you do.

Christi Prince
Madera Ranchos

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 14

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

Send your letters to:

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

or

FAX 645-4002

or

ranchosnews@theranchos.com

“Free People Read Freely,” and *Banned Book Week* Good Time to Read

By Ellen Mester

Now that school is in full swing I'd like to invite all of the kids to sign up for a library card. They are free unless you've had one and lost it; then there is a \$2 replacement fee. In honor of Banned Book Week, however, I will personally pay the replacement fee for any Madera Ranchos student under 18 who needs a replacement card from Sept. 29 through Oct. 6. Why am I doing this? Because the library is a wonderful resource for everyone, and I don't want the \$2 fee to keep students from using one of the most valuable assets our local government offers. Now you might be wondering why I chose Banned Book Week or what the heck it is anyway. Banned Book Week was established in 1982 by the American Library Association to highlight the subtle and the extreme of censorship of the written word. The motto is “Free people read freely” — wise words indeed. Some of the titles from the 100 most challenged books are: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain; *Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Paterson; *The Giver* by Lois Lowry; *Forever* by Judy Blume; and

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle. All of these books were singled out because a few people were offended in some way by the subject matter, language, or characters in the stories. Many of you are familiar with these books and know that they are wonderful stories for readers of all ages, but primarily children. It's a wonderful testimony to our democracy that as citizens we have the right to challenge but we also have the right to read freely. Let freedom ring!

Our fall Friends of the Ranchos Library Book Sale has come and gone. I apologize for not getting it in the paper last month. It was very successful in many ways. Our landlords here at the Maywood Center graciously allowed us to use the vacant store which formerly was Sylvia's Amazing Birds for the book sale. Thank you, Ed Ajlouny and company. Thanks to all the volunteers who participated and a special thank you to the Liberty High students who helped us move all the tables and books to set up for the sale. Thank you to the Boy Scouts and the Bailey girls for all of their hard work. You guys are my heroes. If you missed the sale, stop by the library and shop in the Friends book sale room where there are always books for sale.

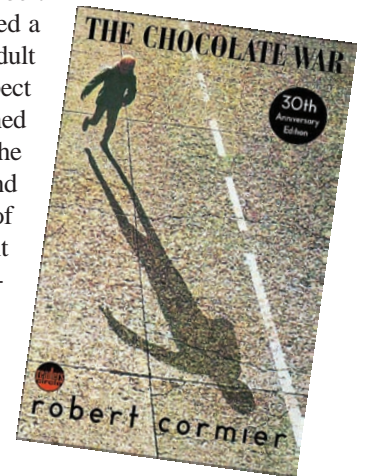
New Library Planning Committee Update

The NLP Committee has a new brochure that details our mission, vision and how you can help. Pick one up at the library or better yet come to our next meeting which is the third Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Ranchos Library. Learn more about the library and the Friends.

Reminders: Bring your children to Monday Story Time at 11 a.m. with Mrs. Anderson. The Friends of the Library meet the first Thursday of every month at 7 p.m.

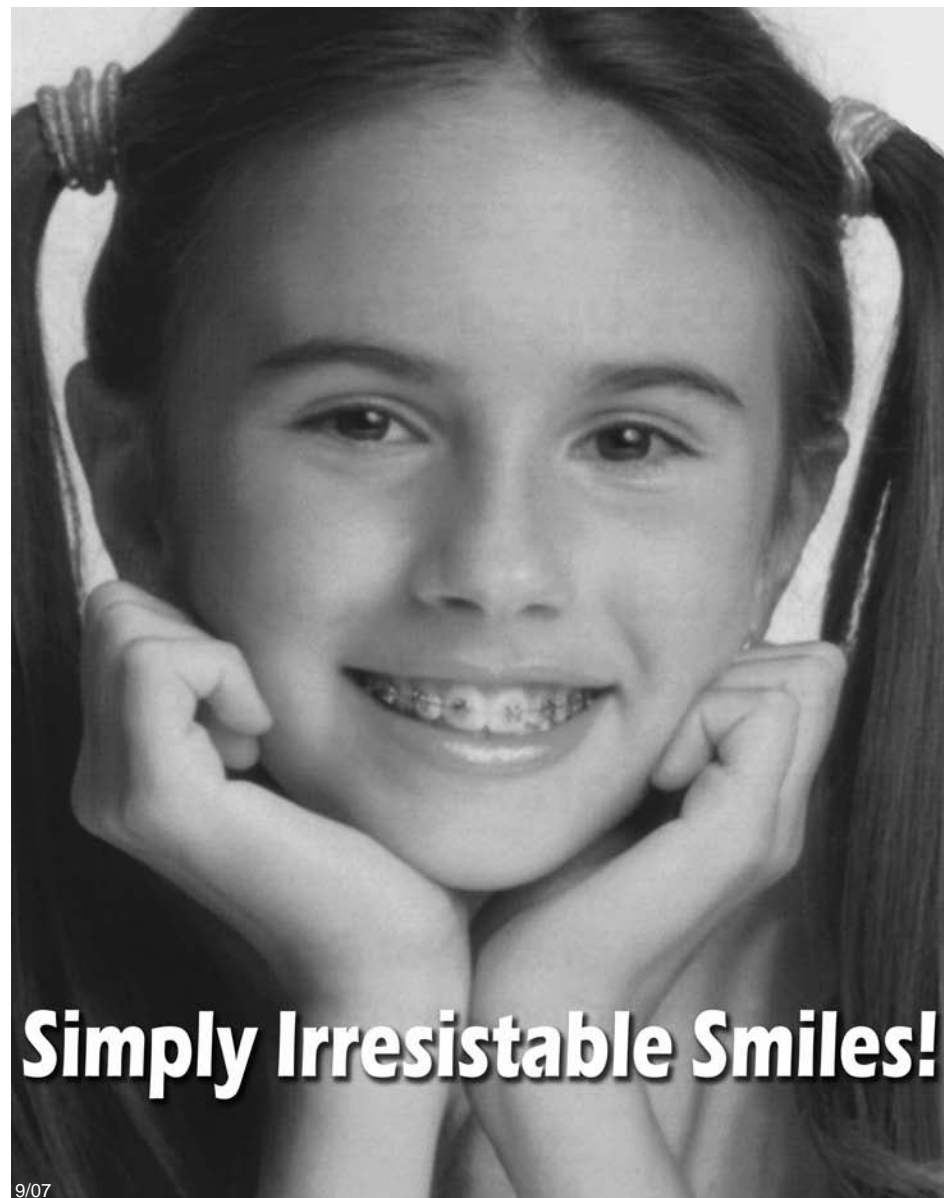
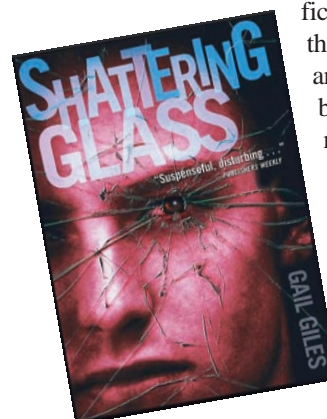
Book Recommendations

Young Adult Fiction: *The Chocolate War* by Robert Cormier. This book was written in 1974 and is considered a classic because it was the first in the new style of young adult literature that has since become the style that teens expect and relate to the best. It also is on the top 100 list of banned books. In an all boys' Catholic high school setting where the priests rule with a somewhat sadistic reign, an underground student group called the Vigils worked their own form of cruelty on their fellow students. Freshman Jerry Renault just wanted to play football and get through school without too much hassle. But when the Vigils gave him an assignment to refuse to sell Chocolate bars for the school, something in him snaps. Brother Leon in a quiet, sinister (some reviewers call him evil) way punishes Jerry for refusing to sell the chocolates but when he recruits the Vigils to ensure that all 2,000 boxes are sold, then Jerry gets it from both sides. This book addresses bullying from adults and peers alike and how non-conforming can cost you your life. It's a compelling account that is frighteningly timeless and connects well with teens and adults alike.



Young Adult Fiction: *Shattering Glass* by Gail Giles. Similar to *The Chocolate War* in some respects, the high school setting and the manipulative control of the student body by a handful of students again reflects how teens get caught in the tide of conformity rather than letting their individuality lead them in the right direction. Simon Glass is the class nerd

who becomes the pet project of Rob Haynes, charismatic unofficial leader of the senior class. Rob has a subtle way of setting the “cool factor” and getting his peers to do his bidding. Rob and friends transform Simon into the most popular kid in class but Simon has his own subtle ways of letting Rob know he's no puppet. Written from the perspective of Young Stewart, one of Rob's cohorts, we see how a good kid who doesn't know how to say NO is willingly talked into an unbelievable situation that has dire consequences for all those involved. Before each chapter the author has an interview with one of the characters about what happened at the end. It serves the titillating purpose of making you hurry to the next chapter. It



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Please see **BOOKS** on P. 22

The Stock Report

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,

Did you miss my article in the August edition of the Independent? Several people told me that they wondered what happened to me. It is nice to be missed. August was an extremely busy month for me. I have six family birthdays in August and one of them is mine. My three grown children treated me to a weekend at the beach. My son Bob and Marta live at Carpinteria, Calif. It is a cute little beach town close to Santa Barbara. My son Rick from Fresno took me down in his motorhome. I sat in the front seat next to him and felt like a queen. It was my first time riding in a motorhome. My daughter and her family came in their car.

I got back just in time from my beach trip to attend Golden Valley Unified's Beginning Day for our teachers. Next was getting all of our schools opened and started on time. Our new Superintendent,

Sarah Koligian, has her hands full and is doing an excellent job. Getting the modernization of Webster Elementary finished for school to open on time was a real miracle. The Webster teachers did a great job getting all of their boxes unpacked and their rooms decorated for the Webster Back to School Night the very first

day of school. My hat is off to all teachers. Being ready for students and having your room ready for students on the first day of school is a very big job; they are two different things. I went to all five Back to School nights at our schools and Superintendent Koligian was at every one also. August was also a time for many Special School Board meetings.

When I visited Independence Continuation and Lincoln Community Day School during Back to School Night, I found that the district has bought 20 seat time licenses for "Odysseyware," which is an online web-based program to help support the core curriculum and provide courses necessary to reach each student's academic goal at these schools. When you have two teachers teaching all four grade levels, this program must be a big help to both the students and the teachers. Each

student has a password to use this program at home as well as at school. One student told me that he was getting his Spanish language credit through this program.

Superintendent Koligian has started a new program in which she and two school board members are visiting each school to get a first hand peek at what is in store for our students this coming year. My first visitation with board member Roger Schuh and Superintendent Koligian was a visit to Ranchos Middle School. Principal Pinkard welcomed us and gave us an overview of his site's current events. Principal Pinkard said that his staff is working on improving the student's math scores. His API scores were down last year but he expects that to change with work in that area. We ended our visit with classroom visitations. The rooms were colorful and full of student's work and the students were on task. Ranchos Middle School has just started a modified block schedule of teaching to

give more time for teaching core subjects and to do vertical articulation with Liberty High School. I will be checking throughout the year to see how it is working.

I went to the Firemen's Bar-B-Q this year. It was the best-organized and well-run event I have been to in a long time. Chuck Hoover has been a friend and volunteer fireman for 30

years. I think that is some kind of a record. The volunteer firemen do so much good for this community that we can never thank them enough. If you didn't go this year you should make plans to go next year to support our volunteer firemen.

The Madera County Office of Education has started their first ever countywide employee recognition program. There were three categories: Classified, Certificated and Management. Employees of the Year were to be chosen from all of the schools in Madera County. This year, Golden Valley Unified is very proud that Cherie Adams, who is the secretary at Sierra View Elementary, is the winner in the Classified category and Kristi Fisher, Golden Valley's district psychologist, was the winner in the Management category. I

[The Madera County Office of Education] Employees of the Year were to be chosen from all of the schools in Madera County. This year, Golden Valley Unified is very proud that Cherie Adams, who is the secretary at Sierra View Elementary, is the winner in the Classified category and Kristi Fisher, Golden Valley's district psychologist, was the winner in the Management category.

Please see STOCK on Page 13

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The Olde Cowboy

By Woody Laughman

*I saw Old Autumn in the misty morn
Stand shadowless like silence,
Listening to silence.*

Yesteryear poets oft penned melancholy lines such as these from Thomas Hood in 1827.

There was a quality, a mood in their writing that could send one off into a fairy dance, turn thoughts to love and hope, indeed stir the cold ashes of passion into flame again.

Poets of the likes of Shakespeare and

Richard Greene and Matthew Arnold, and later Amy Lowell, penned literary verse that was balm for a troubled soul, as it was for me in my growing up time which did not come until middle age when suddenly I became aware that I was drowning myself in John Barleycorn beneath what Matthew Arnold called "... the naked shingles of the world."

In autumn, a sort of melancholia, or deep nostalgia, often grips us. Perhaps it is because autumn is filled with wistful days and long sighs, even gloom, I think, and also pain as we wrestle with what was, what is and what might have been.

Verily, though we may still dream the old dreams, as we grow older it is not with the

same fervor as it was in summers and autumns past, the sand in the lower bell of the hourglass dangerously reaching closer to the top.

Autumn arrived at my house sometime before dawn on a September morn, on almost the appointed hour and date fixed by Pope Gregory XIII on the Gregorian calendar.

It came with a sudden wisp of cool, damp breeze, unmistakable redolence of old harvests, musty places and old faces, and seemingly muffled whispers from beyond the grave. Summer has finished her work and marched into oblivion.

Darkness in the days ahead will settle in the neighborhood early, one barely having enough time after work for a turn around the yard. The rose bushes are stingy with blooms,

and the petunias, marigolds and zinnias are turning brown and soon will not flower at all.

During the lingering hours between dusk and bedtime I often ask myself what was I doing in autumn in years long gone by and then I recall that it was spinning dreams and fantasy in smoky barrooms or flitting hither and yon like the season's last grasshopper, unaware that the summer and autumn of my years were already well on the wane.

Youth indeed was a fleeting thing, here one day and gone the next, like summer turning into autumn and one comes to realize that the dreams and fantasies of yesterday are only mocking monsters as the new world passes us by, leaving us with the question: "Will we see another spring?"

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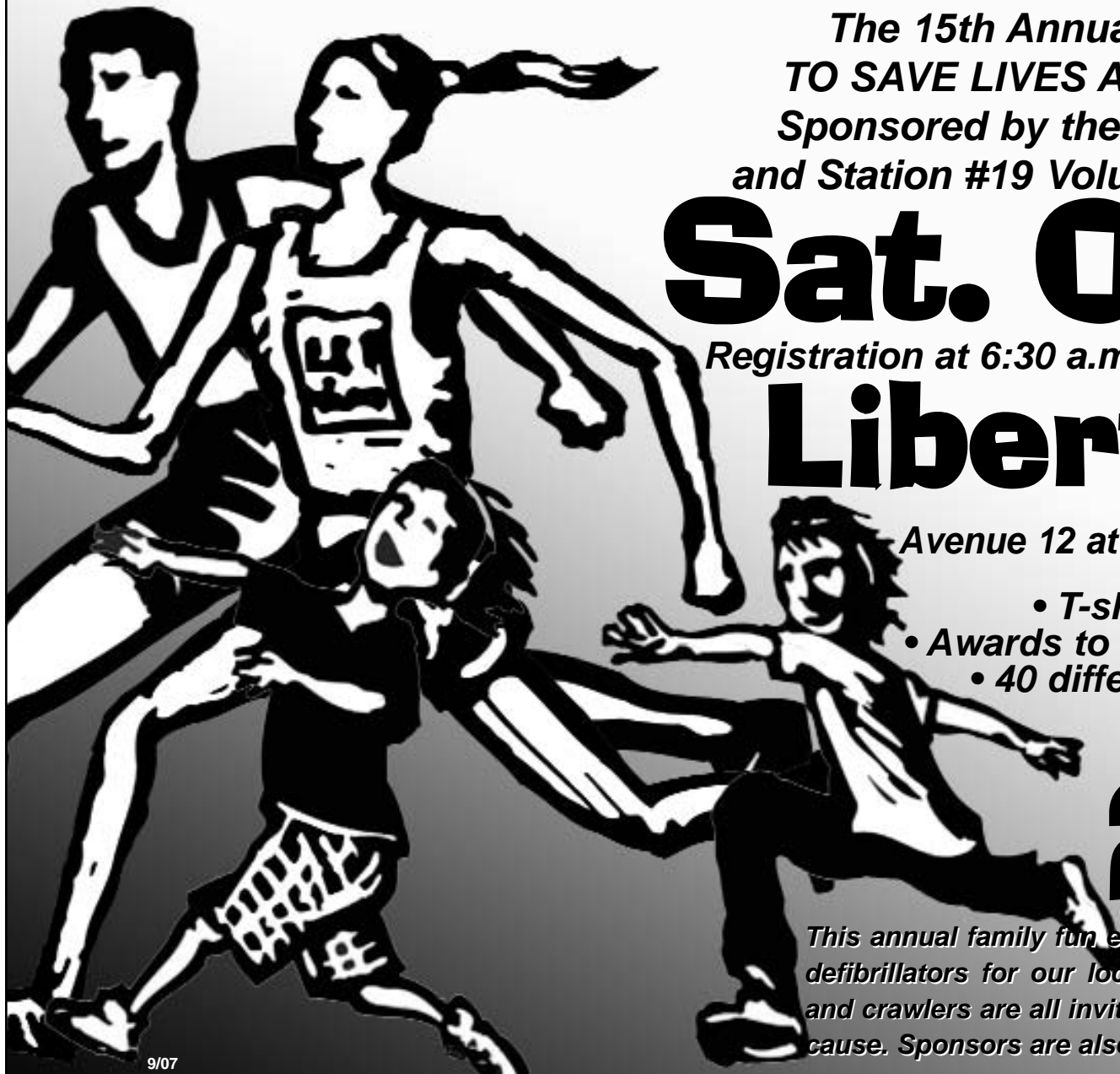
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Liberty High FFA Surprised by Awards at Madera District Fair

By Patrick Foster
Liberty FFA Board Member and Reporter

Golden Valley's Liberty High School Future Farmers of America (FFA) recently participated in the 2007 Madera County District Fair entering one market lamb, two breeder lambs, one breeder hog, two replacement dairy heifers and a record breaking 12 market hogs. Their hard work paid off, resulting in a first place, a third place, a sixth place and a surprise Grand Champion award for a "Replacement Dairy Heifer."

In her first year showing heifers, which are young female cows that have not had a calf yet, Megan Perry walked away with the Grand Champion Award.

The one breeding hog was shown by Kylie Bowe who received a first place and was also recognized as third overall in breed. The Liberty High FFA's plans are to approach Bowe's breeder about supplying other members with pigs for the 2008 fair.

Liberty's two replacement dairy heifers were shown by Megan and David Perry, a

brother and sister team from the Ranchos. While Megan was earning the Grand Champion award, David was being awarded 6th place for his heifer.

Three lambs were shown by Justin Hart, including both breeder lambs and his market lamb.

The owners of the record breaking 12 market hogs that were shown at this year's Madera



Megan Perry works her pigs at the Madera District Fair, but it was with a Replacement Dairy Heifer that she walked away with the Grand Champion Award.

District Fair were brother and sister teams Christopher, Teri and Patrick Foster and Megan and David Perry. Sister teams consisted of Kylie and Megan Bowe, and Cheyenne and Charmayne Hefley. Individual students included Nick Lamphear, Jordana Shandor and Brad Able.

Several members of Liberty's FFA – new members and veterans – thought this year's fair was an incredible experience. Liberty High's FFA is a new and growing club on campus and this showing at the District Fair has impressed the members and members of the community.

Anyone interested in joining FFA can ask a member on campus for more information.

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Remember that the CVPB party

package is also a great gift and will be appreciated by anybody from your die-hard fan to your novice football fan. You can purchase a package and use them as gifts, incentives, staff appreciation or for employees of the month. In addition, Central Valley Party Bus can be used for many different occasions. You find the reason and they'll provide the fun.



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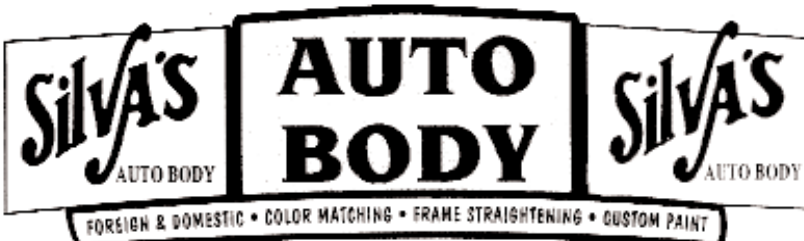
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fire dispatch and was told, "We can't dispatch until someone tells us there is an accident."

I tried letters to the supervisors – no change.

I knew from experience that it would take me months to work my way through the red tape of official requests. In the mean time, people could be dying.

So, on Aug. 7 I asked the board to add it to the agenda as an urgent item. My request was granted by a unanimous vote. The board heard the issues and passed a motion directing county fire chief and sheriff's department to meet with me and look into the issue.

The result?

A couple of quick phone conversations with the assistant chief and the under sheriff telling me they would look into it. After that, I emailed several examples of delays as they happened, and received no replies.

This is where it begins to get interesting.

While checking on the Board of Supervisors agenda for Sept. 11, I discovered to my surprise that there had apparently been a meeting to discuss the matter, to which I was not invited. Not surprisingly, at that meeting it was concluded that "all is well" with the 911 system, and I was just confused.

Funny thing though. At the time this was being put on the agenda, I was

communicating with the CHP Captain in charge of the dispatch system for our area. When I asked him about the meeting and the conclusions he told me that he knew nothing about it, and couldn't see how anyone could have looked into the system without contacting him, but he would look into it.

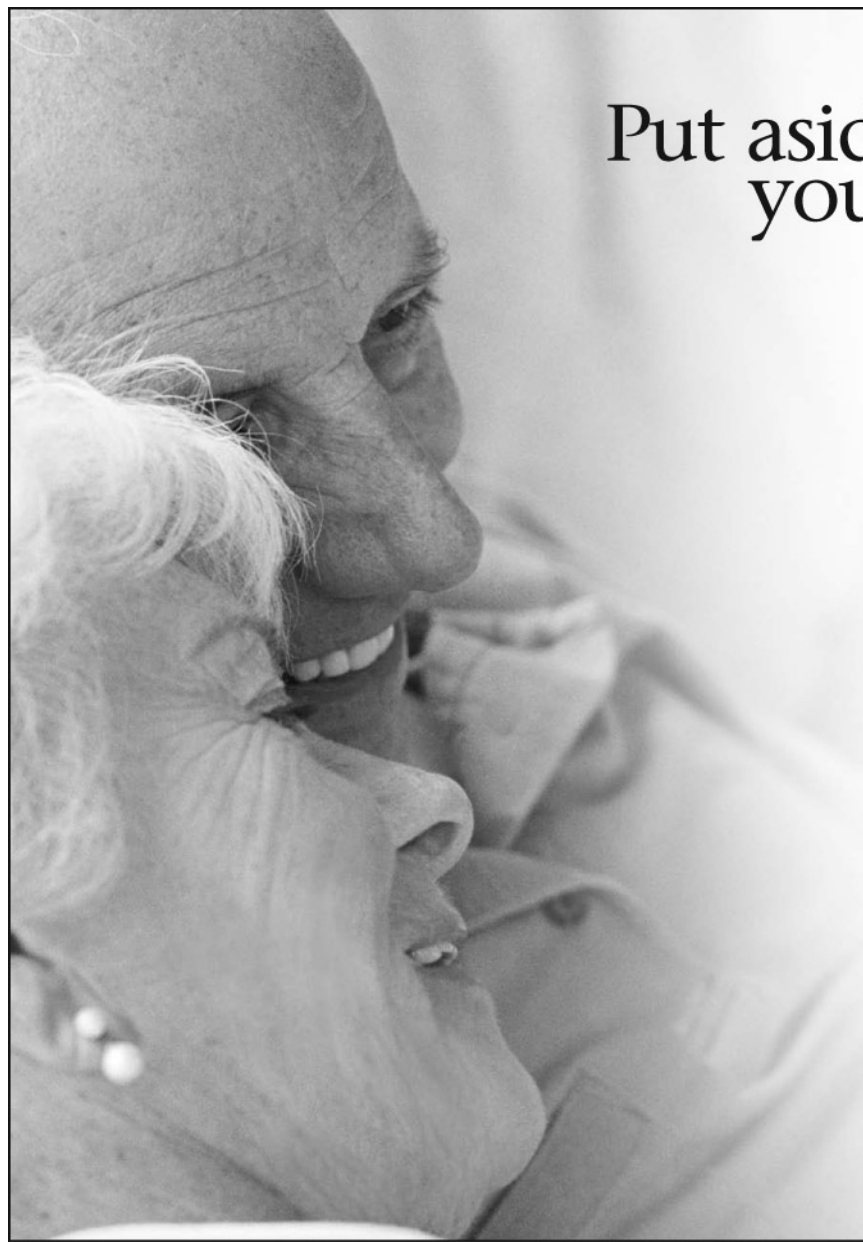
On September 11, at the Board of Supervisors meeting Under Sheriff Frank Benard gave a report that "all was well" with the 911 system and the "delays" were just an illusion because the clocks were not synchronized between the systems. I got up said I disagreed with the report. I related another incident that information had not been passed along.

The Board of Supervisors'

response? No response at all. They introduced new staff members to the crowd as I was returning to my seat and in the middle of the consideration of the matter. Shortly after that, Tim Williams from Fresno Emergency Medical Services (EMS) testified that there were no delays, and he agreed with the clock explanation. He then went on to say that they were starting a new procedure (that would fix the problem that I had imagined but really wasn't there) by notifying CalFire automatically at the same time they get the call on their computer screen.

Interesting stuff and I might be amused if people's lives were not at

Please see DOG on P. 14




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Looking for Miracles Against Hatred

By Eleanore Burchell

St. Francis of Assisi wrote: "Lord, make me an instrument of thy PEACE. Where there is hatred, let me sow LOVE. Where there is injury, PARDON. Where there is error, TRUTH. Where there is discord, HARMONY. Where there is doubt, FAITH. Where there is sorrow, JOY. Where there is darkness, LIGHT." Wouldn't it be marvelous if we could wave a hand and it would produce peace rather than fighting in Palestine, Israel, Iraq and all other locations on this earth? Don't we wish hatred was wiped out by love? There is one thing about hatred that many do not understand: The one who is hated feels NOTHING! However, the person doing the hating is destroying him or herself. Foolish, very foolish!

Again, we have lost two of our members, namely Alex Pronin and Ben Bishel.

Our membership sends our sympathy to their wives and families. We all realize at this time in our senior lives this will happen, but it is always difficult to deal with.

Now on a lighter note, the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center, located at 37330 Berkshire, offers painting classes, exercise and line dancing classes, potluck dinners and games for those who are alone and need the comfort of getting out of the house and into the company of others. If you are new to the area, lonely or just lost a spouse, we welcome you to come and see us. We are here for you. Many of our members have surely experienced your same situation.

Our next monthly sale will be held on Saturday, Oct. 6. Our garden staff has been busy keeping the plants and trees watered during this time of extreme heat. There are several Japanese maple trees still available and looking for a happy home as well as many other varieties of shade and fruit trees. Many, many, pretty flowering plants are also available. After a month without our bake sale in August and the Labor Day holiday on the last monthly sale, the bake sale is BACK and BETTER with homemade cookies, candies, pies, cakes and quick breads. The cookbooks and produce as well as boutique items may be purchased in the main building. What is one person's discard is another person's treasure and our Treasure House has everything you might be looking for so please come in to find your personal treasure.

The Up Side

"Positive anything is better than negative nothing."

We don't want you to forget us dur-

ing the week so remember the plant, produce and boutique sections are available Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Thursday evenings between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Our next travel adventure will be Oct. 9 through Oct. 22. We will fly to the East Coast then board a bus. We plan to see the fall colors of the Eastern U.S. and Canada plus many other sights in the area. You need NOT be a member to participate in our trips. For more information or if you're interested in joining the group, call Joann at 645-4864 as an immediate deposit is needed to hold a spot for you.

A Panama Canal cruise is in the planning for April 14 through 28. A flight to Fort Lauderdale, Florida will be made and then the ship will be boarded with stops in Jamaica and Cartagena, Columbia. Then it's off through the locks of the canal and exiting into the Pacific Ocean with dockings in Costa Rica and three in Mexico, namely Huatulco, Acapulco and Cabo San Lucas. Then it's on to San Francisco to disembark. This is really a spectacular cruise. For more information call Joann at 645-4864 or come in for a flyer.

Again, you need NOT be a member to participate in this cruise.

The September Birthday and Anniversary celebration luncheon was held on Saturday, the 15th at 11:30 a.m. at the Japanese Kitchen at Shaw and Willow in Clovis. October's celebration will be held Oct. 20 at the Madera Valley Inn, 215 N. "G" Street, Madera at 11 a.m.

Remember BINGO Tuesday nights from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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

More Facts and Fun

A nutritionally balanced lunch program Monday through Friday at 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. The center will be closed on Columbus Day, Oct. 8. We have a growing exercise program being held on Mondays,

Please see SENIORS on P. 13

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SENIORS cont. from P. 12

Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The participants are getting more than just exercise by attending. They have fun and they share laughs. There is still room for you and you can attend all three days or just one or two of them. The Line Dancing class is also a great way to exercise. They meet on Fridays at 12:30 p.m. This combines fun and exercise. You do not need to be a member to attend these classes. We have a large group, but there is always room for one more – you! Come to think of it, there is room for two: you and your friend. Come in and check these classes out. Our watercolor classes held on Wednesdays 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. are open and free to the Ranchos community adults. No prior watercolor experience is needed. The instructor can be reached by calling 645-1137. Interested in the mini-series painting class on Tuesdays and Thursdays? For more information on these classes, call Joann at 645-4864.

Up and Coming Events

October 6, Monthly Sale, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
October 20, Birthday and Anniversary Luncheon, Madera Valley Inn, 215 N. "G" St., Madera, 11 a.m.

STOCK cont. from P. 8

am proud to have these two employees recognized.

September is always a busy month. It is time to put the annual Webster Elementary School carnival on Oct. 12 at 4:30 p.m. on your calendar and then on Saturday, Sept. 29 is the Kiwanis Liberty Under the Stars Talent Show at Liberty High Theater at 4 p.m. We have some very talented students in Golden Valley.

I am the historian for the Foundation for Golden Valley Schools. At our last meeting I learned that our next fundraiser shall be held at Birdstone Winery during the next Wine Trail on November 10 and 11. Profit from the two lunches that are served will go to the Foundation. Have you joined our Foundation to support our Golden Valley schools? If you would like

to, call the district office at 645-7500 and ask for Aimee. She will tell you about the Foundation and send you the form. A Foundation Newsletter will be included in the October edition of the Independent.

This has not been a good year for the Ranchos Hills Seniors as we have lost seven members. Benjamin Bishel and Alexander Pronin both passed away in August and both will be missed. I send my heartfelt sympathy to both their families. Corrine Harms has had hip surgery and Ruth Ramirez has had shoulder surgery, they are both active Ranchos Hills members. Get well soon – we need you back.

The next school board meeting will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 9 at 6 p.m. at the Liberty High School library. As always there will interesting things going on. Come say hi to our new student board member, Holly Champ.

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

Monday, exercise class, 10:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Pinochle, noon until?

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

Wednesday, Exercise class, 10:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

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

Wednesday, 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Watercolor painting class.

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

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

Friday, 12:30 p.m. Line dancing class.



To Advertise Call
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DOG cont. from P. 11

risk. You should look at the video of that part of the hearing. A month and a half and I am still waiting for the times from CHP.

If you call on a cell phone to report a vehicle accident you get a recording asking you to push any key if it is an emergency - so now we have a "911 + any other key" system. After you push another key and it rings a few times, CHP in Merced will answer. They will take your information and - I can't get a straight answer out of CHP - from what I have observed, if you do not tell them that there are injuries they will just send an officer and wait to see what they find. If you tell them there are injuries they will notify Fresno EMS. Fresno EMS will dispatch an ambulance and notify the fire department dispatch in Mariposa and fire dispatch will send a fire/rescue unit. If you call from a regular "land line" phone add another step: first you talk to the Madera Sheriff dispatcher whom you tell about your acci-

dent and then get transferred to the CHP, after which you'll tell them about your accident. Every step takes time and every step is another chance to drop the ball (I have documented a lot of dropped balls lately).

The issue gets even more confusing when it comes to passing on new information. One big issue that came out of the 9/11 Trade Center attack was that the rescuers responding to the same disaster could not talk to each other, I don't see that a lot has changed here in Madera.

That is another issue for another report.

Castle & Cooke:

One other thing. After the Castle & Cooke project got approved the only question I have at this time: Why didn't Sheriff Anderson arrest the folks from the school district? They had to have used a gun to get the agreement that they got. It is amazing how some in our government will take advantage of you when they have you over a barrel, holding you upside down and shaking every penny out of your pocket.

LETTERS cont. from P. 6

Dear Editor:

My friend asked me the question, "What do you think of our newspaper, the Independent?"

First let me say I'm a Ranchos resident and have been since 1987, so I've been here since the beginning. Len Wilcox was first then our beloved Bill Bell and now Randy Bailey, and in my opinion our paper is bigger and better than ever.

So, I in turn asked 14 other friends the same question. All gave the same answer as myself.

People who make a difference for the better in a community should be recognized. Keep up the good work Randy!

Cathryn Lackey
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

I'd like to take this time to introduce myself. My name is John (Bubba) Ward. I am 10 years old and live here in the Ranchos. I am the middle child of three children and the only son born to Erik and Jean-Ann Ward. I am a fifth grade student at Sierra View Elementary. I play soccer, race motocross and maintain a 4.0 GPA.

My passion is motocross. I have been racing since I was 5 years old. I started on a 50cc motorcycle and by age 8 I was the California Motorcycle Association (CMA) 50cc rider of the year and had won several champi-

onships. I am currently racing both a 65cc and an 85cc motorcycle. I have worked hard to get where I am today. I race in the 65cc intermediate and the 85cc novice classes. I am good on my 85, but the 65 is where I shine. I believe that I am the fastest 65 rider in the Valley.

This brings me to my next goal. That is to race at the national level. I plan to do this at the Dodge Amateur Motocross Nationals. This event is held October 1st thru October 7th at the AMP National MX Track in Sacramento.


I am writing this letter to ask for your support. Until now my only sponsors have been my Mom and Dad. I believe that I have the ability to earn myself sponsors by doing well at the national level, I just need your support to get there. A full week of racing, entry fees, gate fees, gas, parts, camping and not working is a lot for Mom and Dad (and my sisters). Any help you can offer will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,
Bubba Ward

PS. For those who may be concerned, I will be taking all of my schoolwork with me. School comes first and I won't let this ruin my 4.0.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. If you can help, please mail to:

John Ward
36746 Avenue 17
Madera, CA 93636



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Office 645-0716

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Worship.....8:30, 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.	Royal Rangers (Boys 5-17)
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Adrenaline Youth.....6 p.m.	Rainbows (Boys & Girls 3-4)

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SAM cont. from P. 6

50 states! It's not likely that they are interested in the Madera Ranchos.

The same is true of state government. Running California is a big job. It's the 7th or 8th largest economy in the world. If I'm lucky, I may get to talk to our local Assemblyman's representative every once in awhile and I may get to see our Assemblyman once or twice a year (by the way, our guy is Mike Villines). I can ask him how things are going and he can let me know if the guys in Sacramento are about to pass a law that's going to cost me more money, or regulate me out of business. Again, I don't necessarily feel that I'm being protected, or that Sacramento gives one darn hoot about our community. Mike Villines is a nice guy, but he's just one of many politicians in the state capitol that constantly pass laws that have an impact on me. They don't even ask me if I like 'em before they pass 'em! Makes me realize just how important it is to pay attention to who's running for office, and how important it is to vote.

County government is a whole lot better. We only have five supervisors that run Madera County. My odds here are better. One out of five, rather than one out of hundreds or one out of thousands. I think that our District 1 Supervisor, Frank Bigelow, is trying to do a good job. I see him often at various community events and he seems to be interested in what District 1 residents have to say. When you call Frank on the phone, chances are pretty good that he will return your call and there's a pretty good chance that he'll even know what you're talking about when you call him!

But again, Frank is only one out of five that run the county. It is quite often that the members of the Board of Supervisors are not unanimous in their voting. What this means is that Frank can't get something done for District 1 without the support of at least two other Supervisors. The County's resources are limited. What happens in District 1 sometimes comes at the expense of other areas in the county. Again, this isn't the best environment to best serve our community.

But I like my chances better in this situation. I think my vote "counts" more here than in state or national elections. Do you realize that when John Silva won his seat on the Board of Supervisors a few years ago, that he received less than a thousand votes to get elected? That's right. In some years, you can get elected Supervisor in one of California's counties with less than a thousand votes – shocking! At least Frank Bigelow was elected with something less than five-thousand votes in District 1.

The bottom line, though, is that Frank has to think about the county as a whole, not just District 1. Sure, he may try to do some

things from time to time that benefit the Ranchos, but he wouldn't be doing his job the right way if he did something for our District that ended up hurting the county in general. After all, he was elected to serve the county.

So what's my point? Think how nice it would be if all of the elected officials where you lived had only your local community to think about. Your odds go way up. Instead of one out of five caring about what happens in southeast Madera County, we had five out of five. Chances are, you would at least personally know who all of your elected officials were. Hell, you probably would have voted for 'em! You probably would know where they live in the community and you'd probably know the names of their kids. You'd probably run in to them at the Pizza Factory and at the Hawks' football game. Why, you might even be friends with one or more of them. Now, these are the odds I like.

Sooner or later, our community will get the chance to incorporate into a new city. Just like what the folks in Oakhurst are doing right now. Sure, it's probably not going to happen anytime soon, but we shouldn't lose sight of the benefits that will come to our community when it finally does happen. Our area will continue to grow. In a few years, the Gateway Village project, and maybe others, will have been partially built. Sooner or later, our community will want to govern itself, and we will have the financial wherewithal to do it.

I've been listening to the discussions around the community lately about the ideas to build a new library and community center right here in the Ranchos. I've seen versions that have soccer fields, baseball fields, swimming pools and parks. Frankly, it looks very appealing. It seems like it would be a terrific asset for our community. Our soccer players and little-leaguers wouldn't have to go to Fresno or Madera to practice and play. We'd have a local "center" to host community activities and business events. We would have an honest-to-goodness community recreation complex.

The cool thing, though, is that it would be owned, operated, and governed by a Board of Directors that would be locally elected from our community. Not one government official from Madera County would have anything to do with it. Sounds like it would be good practice "running things" while we're waiting around for the day to come to be our own city. I'm going to continue to watch as these plans unfold. I think it will be very interesting. This is the kind of government that I like. LOCAL government. The kind that does stuff right here in the community in which we live. The kind of government where ALL of the elected officials have the best interests of our community at heart.

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

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Information Keeps GVUSD “Ahead of the Curve”

By Sarah Koligian,
GVUSD Superintendent

What do you mean, we need to “stay ahead of the curve”? What curve are you talking about and why should Golden Valley Unified School District be concerned? These are questions that Golden Valley Unified School District employees addressed at our Back to School All-Staff Mini-Conference held at Liberty High School on Aug. 13, 2007. This topic was chosen for our theme for the year based upon a needs assessment that was conducted at the end of last year. Our teaching staff and our student achievement data are showing us that we need to be aware of the language and cultural diversity that not only makes us a rich community but also makes us aware that not all students learn in the same manner. Maya Angelou states it well: “We should all know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their color.”

Schools today are faced with a blend of students, languages, cultures and customs that are unequalled in modern history. At local, state and national levels, drastic and sometimes unexpected shifts in these factors can have profound effects on teachers, classrooms and districts. This scenario is one that Golden Valley USD educators are likely to face with increased regularity in the future. For high-achieving districts such as Golden Valley, the challenge is to “stay ahead of the curve” by understanding these factors, discussing them openly and laying out sound plans for addressing them today and in the future.

At the Aug. 13 Mini Conference, keynote speaker, Kevin Clark, from Clark Consulting and Training, Inc. presented to a captive audience of approximately 250 classified, certificated, management staff and Governing Board members. Clark’s specialty is in providing assistance to educational agencies in the design, development, implementation and measurement of educational programs for English learners and diverse student groups. His keynote message addressed “staying ahead of the curve” by understanding language, culture and our edu-

cational future. He presented some startling statistics, such as the English Learner population is one of the fastest growing populations in California. Approximately 1.6 million students, or 25 percent out of a total of 6 million students in California, are classified as English Learners (EL) students. Golden Valley’s statistics are much lower than the state average, however the numbers of EL students in Golden Valley have quadrupled over the last seven years and are currently approximately 7 percent of the total student population.

Clark shared several teaching strategies



Golden Valley Unified School District Superintendent, Sarah Koligian.

that are fairly easy for staff to use, requiring little preparation time, but having a major impact on our linguistically and culturally challenged students. Employees were motivated, inspired and ready to apply some of these strategies in their classrooms. One overarching theme from this session was that we have incredible students and staff in Golden Valley but we realize that not all students learn at the same pace or in the same way. Howard Gardner, multiple intelligences author, sums it up best: “The biggest mistake of past centuries in teaching has been to treat all children as if they were variants of the same individual, and thus to feel justified in teaching them the same subjects in the same ways.”

Another first for Golden Valley employees during the Aug. 13 mini conference was our recognition of staff with five years or more longevity in Golden Valley. We recognized over 90 classified, certificated and management employees that have worked for the district for anywhere from five to nine years. These employees are to be commended for their dedication and commitment to the students and families of our district. They are another reason why Golden Valley is “ahead of the curve.” In addition to our veteran staff, we welcomed 22 new staff members to site and district level positions: nine new teachers, eight new classified staff and five new management staff. For a more in-depth look at our newest Golden Valley staff and team members, please see the following list of new staff or go to the Golden Valley Unified School District website www.gvUSD.k12.ca.us and look under the “What’s New” link for new employees.

During the remaining day of the Mini-Conference, staff had the opportunity to attend four separate mini-conference sessions from a menu of over 20 topics that were facilitated by some of our very own GVUSD staff. The sessions covered topics such as homework, the grieving process, first aid, using Gradebook, transforming your classroom with three simple behaviors, using the new science curriculum, block scheduling, using Edusoft, making a difference with Hispanic male students, meeting the needs of hard-to-serve students, cultural proficiency and how it impacts learning, and protecting our most precious resource – children. The day was enhanced by a delicious and healthy breakfast and lunch prepared by our own Food Services team.

After lunch, our second keynote speaker, Dr. Gale Gorke, founder and director of Kids Kan, Inc., and coordinator of the PEP grant currently serving Golden Valley schools, presented to our staff on the importance of being inclusive with all students especially when it comes to physical education. Staff enjoyed participating in a sample of some of the PEP grant activities that had

Please see **CURVE** on P. 23

GVUSD’s 07-08 Team Additions

Welcome to the newest members of the Golden Valley Unified School District team of employees. We were busy hiring throughout the summer and ensuring that we “had the right people on the bus” and “in the right seats” as Jim Collins states in his book, *Good to Great*. For more information on GVUSD new employees, go to www.gvUSD.k12.ca.us and look under the “What’s New” link for new staff.

NEW CERTIFICATED STAFF for 2007-2008



Kim Johnson:
Kim graduated from Fresno State in May of 2007. She was a student teacher at Fresno Unified School District and at Clovis Unified. She holds a dual credential in Multiple Subjects and Special Education. She is the RSP Teacher at Liberty High School.



Larissa Sobieralski:
Larissa graduated from Fresno State with her BA in Music Education in May of 2001. She taught K-8 Music at Golden Valley USD from 2001 to 2002. She is teaching music for K-8.



Frank Panian:
Frank Panian graduated from CSU Sacramento in 2003 with a B.S. in Construction Management Engineering. He received his Masters in Education in 2005 from the University of Phoenix and his Single Subject Credential in Math. He is teaching Math at Liberty High School.

Please see **STAFF** on P. 23



Vision Statement

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

Hawks Soar with their API Score

The state of California recently released Academic Performance Index (API) scores for all schools. Liberty High School has once again done a tremendous job of representing itself to the community as a place where rigor, relevance and relationships are foremost. Our API score

showed a growth of 17 points from a score of 763 to 780. Growth was charted in the three of the four core academic areas of Math, Science, Social Science and Language Arts. All students and staff at Liberty will be celebrating this accomplishment in the days to come.

Moving and Shaking at Webster

\$4.2 Million Project upgrades every building at Webster

Over the summer, Webster Elementary School underwent a huge transformation. With a new parking lot, new roofs, upgraded classrooms and a sparkling Multipurpose Room, Webster

students were welcomed back for the 2007-2008 school year. Every classroom and building was improved as the \$4.2 million overhaul was completed in about 60 days.



Old temporary classrooms were removed ...



... and replaced with new re-locatable buildings.



A new marquee, donated by the Webster Parent Teacher Club, was installed.



Traffic is flowing much better with the improved student loading zone.



Mrs. Zinn's 2nd graders in their new classroom on their first day of school.



Miss Jennings' 5th grade class enjoys learning in their remodeled classroom.

Golden Valley Unified Employees Win First-Ever Recognition Awards

Madera County Office of Education (MCOE) has started their first ever county-wide employee recognition program. All Madera County districts were encouraged to submit three nominees in the categories of Classified, Certificated and Management Employees of the Year. The District sent three nominees to the selection committee and found out that two of the three winners for the entire county are from Golden Valley! We had the winner in the Classified category – Cheri Adams,



Management category winner was Kristi Fisher, GVUSD psychologist.



Wendy Woods, a teacher at Webster Elementary, was a finalist for Teacher of the Year.



Sierra View Elementary secretary Cheri Adams won in the Classified category.

Sierra View secretary; and also the winner in the Management category – Kristi Fisher, district psychologist. This is quite an honor for these employees and for our entire district. MCOE will be visiting these two employees over the next two weeks to interview and videotape them and the staff that nominated them. Wendy Woods, Reading Lab teacher at Webster Elementary also was a finalist for Teacher of the Year. Congratulations to Cheri, Kristi and Wendy!

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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.



07-08 Season Dedicated to Tessmer



The Tessmer family members show their Hawk pride during the ceremony that dedicated the 2007-2008 Season to the memory of Donovan Tessmer.

Player's memory also honored by "retirement" of No. 1 jersey

The Liberty Hawks officially dedicated their 2007-2008 season to running back Donovan Tessmer at the first Liberty Hawk football game Friday, Aug. 31.

During a ceremony before the game, Tessmer's parents Duane and Martha Tessmer, along with his sister Megan and uncles, aunts and cousins, were brought onto the field. It was then announced that Donovan's No. 1 jersey would not be worn again by a Liberty High player during

head coach Chris Imperatrice's tenure at Liberty High School. The highly emotional beginning of the Hawk's season brought the capacity crowd to its feet in a standing ovation for the Tessmers and acted as validation that dedicating the season to the memory of Donovan Tessmer was indeed the right action to take.

The football team also honored the Tessmers with passes to all of the Hawks' games for the rest of the season.



Members of the Liberty High Varsity Football Team embrace members of the Tessmer family during the dedication ceremony naming the 2007-2008 Season in honor of Donovan Tessmer.

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43 Pints Drawn at First Donovan Tessmer Blood Drive



Shane Vanderpool (left) and Mason Fox are shown having fun as they contribute their share of the 43 pints of blood collected at the first Donovan Tessmer Blood Drive at Liberty High School.

Liberty High School held its first Donovan Tessmer Blood Drive last month, in conjunction with Back to School Night.

Liberty activities director Melissa Locke was ecstatic with the turnout. A total of 49 people donated blood that resulted in 43 pints. What was even more impressive was that there were 17 first-time donors.

Locke hopes to get even more blood donated at their next blood drive in February, 2008.

The American Red Cross suggests following these tips when you donate blood:

- Get a good night's sleep.
- Have a good breakfast or lunch.
- Drink extra fluids to replace what you donate, but avoid tea, coffee or other caffeinated drinks.
- Eat iron-rich foods - red meat, fish, poultry or liver, beans, iron-fortified cereals, raisins and prunes - but avoid fatty foods, such as hamburgers, fries or ice cream before donating.

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9/07

Character Counts at Sierra View!



Sierra View Elementary teacher Laura Mayer pumps up the highly spirited Yellow Team at the August Character Counts Rally.

Sierra View Elementary's 4th, 5th and 6th Grade students participated in the August Character Counts Rally. Students earned the privilege of competing on their team in the monthly

Character Counts Rally by being pillars of character on a daily basis. Character Counts means getting homework done on time, coming to school on time and making good choices each day.

9/07

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Big Smiles for Big Cheese at SV

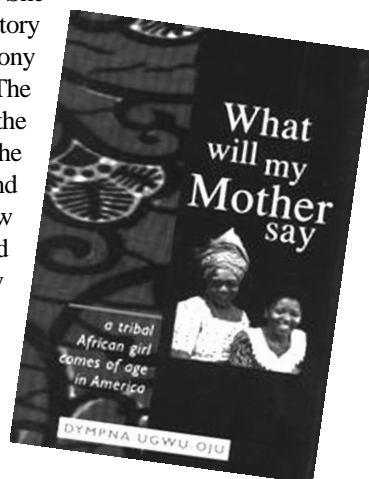


Sierra View Elementary teacher Nicole Canales and student Madison Porter are the Big Cheeses in Mrs. Canales's 4th grade class.

The Big Cheese is a weekly writing activity where kids learn to write more engaging, creative, complex sentences and paragraphs using adjectives, proper punctuation, conjunctions and more.

BOOKS cont. from P. 7

is a well-written and thoughtful story without the overt cruelty of *The Chocolate War*.
Adult Non-fiction: *What Will My Mother Say* by Dympna Ugwu-Oju. The author of this book is a Journalism instructor at Fresno City College. She was born in Nigeria but was educated in the U.S. Her story begins with her mother's story — a tremendous testimony of perseverance in the face of unimaginable struggles. The cultural edicts from the Ibo tribe were very strict in the 1950's and 60's. Dympna's father, the head master of the school as well as local politician, died just before she and her twin brother were born. Her mother as a new widow lost her home, car, furnishings and money as standard procedures for Ibo women. After a year of mandatory mourning which consists of remaining on a mat in the same black clothes and barely eating or drinking, her mother finally was able to move away to start a new life elsewhere. She maneuvered her family through all these trials by complying with the customs and expectations of Ibo women. She expected her daughter to do the same. Dympna had different expectations for herself and fought against tradition and most of all her mother to live a life of her choosing. What a wonderful narrative told with the passion of one who has come from so far to achieve so much.



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

Community Calendar of Events

By Linda Bresee

(all events in the Madera Ranchos UNLESS stated otherwise)

- | | |
|--|--|
| Saturday, September 29 – doors open at 4 p.m.
Kiwans Liberty Under The Stars Talent Show
Liberty High School – 12220 RD 36 | Liberty High School Library – 12220 RD 36
(repeats October 23) |
| Tuesday, October 2
Ranchos Seniors Bingo – 5:30 p.m.
Early Bird Bingo – 6:30 p.m.
Regular Bingo – 7:00 p.m.
(repeats every Tuesday night – 37330 Berkshire) | Friday, October 12 – 4:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Webster School Carnival
Webster Elementary School – 36477 Ruth |
| Saturday, October 6 – 8 a.m.
Ranchos Seniors Monthly Sale
(repeats the 1st Saturday of each month – 37330 Berkshire) | Saturday, October 13 – 7:30 a.m.
Kiwans-sponsored Ranchos Run For Station #19 Volunteer Fire Dept. Benefiting local Schools
Liberty High School – 12220 RD 36 |
| October 8-12
Sierra View Book Faire
Sierra View Elementary School – 16436 Paula RD | Thursday, October 25 – 8:30 a.m.
Coffee with the Principal
Ranchos Middle School – 12220 RD 36 |
| Tuesday, October 9 – 6 p.m.
GVUSD School Board Meeting | Friday November 30 , 6:00 p.m.
Chamber of Commerce Tree lighting event
Maywood Shopping Center – Corner of Maywood & AVE. 12 |

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

BACK TO SCHOOL SPECIAL

Refurbished Laptops starting at \$340!



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PET BOUTIQUE
Dog Gone Cute Store
 2nd ANNIVERSARY SALE
 20% OFF SELECTED ITEMS
 Check out our website at www.DogGoneCuteStore.com
645-PETS Open Tuesday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 37164 Ave. 12 #102 • Madera Ranchos
 NEW STORE HOURS

Don't Get Caught In The Rain!
DANEL ROOFING
CONTINUOUS GUTTERS
645-0421 or 479-1321
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Metal Buildings
 CUSTOM BUILT TO YOUR SPECIFICATIONS
 Jordan Construction - License #761264
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 Ag Buildings
 Barns
 Shops

PERSONAL TOUCH
 LANDSCAPE & GARDENING SERVICE
 Lic. #B0008113
Mag Anaya Jr.
559-974-1357
 Local Ranchos Resident

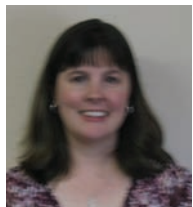
- Yard cleanups & hauling
- Lawn & garden service
- Maintenance
- Weekly & monthly service
- Weed control

Since 1964
FORCE OUTBOARDS
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 ENGINE AND OUT-DRIVE REPAIR
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 TRAILER BOATS ONLY
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 Madera Ranchos

STAFF cont. from P. 18



Rebecca Sligh: Rebecca Sligh graduated from the University of Toledo with a Bachelor's degree in Education in 1998. She comes with 8 years of experience in teaching. She has taught at Ottawa Hills High School, Sanger High, and Dundee High School. She is teaching English at Liberty High School.



Michelle Stetsko: Michelle Stetsko graduated from Fresno Pacific University with a Single Subject Credential in Home Economics. She has taught at Edison High School and Hanford West High School. She is teaching Home Economics at Liberty High School.



Denice Lane: Denice Lane graduated from Fresno State University with her English Credential in 2007. She student taught at Clovis Unified and Fresno Unified. She is teaching English at Liberty High School.



Nathan Sobieralski: Nathan Sobieralski graduated with a Doctorate in Music from UCLA. He has his Masters and Bachelors in Music. He has been a Faculty Conductor at Cazaero Music Camp, a Brass Specialist at El Monte Union High School Band and at Clovis Unified. He is teaching band at Liberty High School.



Kevin Feramisco: Kevin Feramisco graduated from California State University Fresno with his Bachelor's Degree and received his credential from National University in English. His has been a long term substitute at Clovis Unified this last year. Kevin is teaching English at Ranchos Middle School.



Jessica Ketchum: Jessica Ketchum graduated from California State University Fresno with a Bachelor's Degree in Art and Single Subject Credential. She was a student teacher last year at Madera Unified School District working with the 9-12th grades in Art. Jessica is the new Art Teacher at Ranchos

Middle School and Liberty High School.

**NEW CLASSIFIED STAFF
for 2007-2008**



Pamela Watkins: Pamela Watkins has worked as a "substitute" in the cafeteria this last year. Pamela was always available to offer her services when needed. Prior to coming to Golden Valley USD she worked at Clovis Unified as a Campus Monitor. She is working as a Cafeteria Assistant at Webster.



Francisco Robles: Francisco Robles worked as a Bus Driver for Golden Valley USD back in 2005. He has many years experience driving a school bus and is now back fulltime with Golden Valley USD.



Dustin Shaw: Dustin has worked many years as a mechanic. He has been with Golden State Peterbilt. He was hired as the mechanic.



Matthew Tugas: Matthew has worked with Home Depot as a District Trainer Department Head. He runs a landscaping business and his specialty is Bonsai and tropical nurseries. Matthew is working as a landscaper.



Joshua Prater: Joshua Prater worked as a cement finisher prior to his new job. He has also worked as a "Substitute Custodian" for several months with Golden Valley USD. Joshua now works for Golden Valley USD full time at Liberty High School as a Custodian/Landscaper.



Leanne Williams: Leanne was an Infant Teacher at Citibank Family Center in Sioux Falls, SD. She is a Special Education Instructional Aide at Ranchos Middle School.



Roy Ellis: Roy comes with many years experience as a bus driver. He has been a Bus Driver Trainer for GVUSD. He is joining the team as a

part time bus driver.



Linda Rangel: Linda has over 10 years experience with Caruthers Unified School District. She has been in accounting for several years. Linda is the new Business Services Analyst II.

**NEW ADMINISTRATIVE/
MANAGEMENT STAFF
for 2007-2008**



Sarah Koligian: Sarah Koligian graduated from CSU Fresno with her teaching credential and Administrative Credential/Master's Degree in Educational Leadership. She spent the last 20 years of her educational career in Central Unified as a teacher and administrator at both site and district level positions.



Jim Monreal: Jim Monreal graduated from Santa Clara University with a Bachelors Degree in Finance. He has over 15 years experience in the banking industry. For the past year, Jim has worked with Caruthers Unified as their Business Manager. Jim is the new Chief Business Official.



Darlea Livengood: Darlea Livengood graduated from CSU Stanislaus. She came from Golden Valley High School in Merced where she was the Associate Principal, Curriculum and Instruction. Darlea is the new Principal at Liberty High School.



Gloria Chavez: Gloria Chavez graduated from Fresno Pacific University with a P.P.S. She most recently was the Dean of Students at Los Banos Unified School District. She was a counselor at Madera County Office of Education for eight years and is now a new counselor at Liberty High School.




Dave Baughman: Long time community member from the Madera Ranchos, Dave has many years experience in maintenance. He has been instrumental in the fields at Liberty High School. He is the Manager of Maintenance, Operations and Transportation.

CURVE cont. from P. 18

us all "moving and shaking" to give us first-hand experience and to stress the importance of involving all students in physical activities.

Golden Valley is ready and willing to accept the challenge of "staying ahead of the curve" by implementing the district's strategic plan goals which include objectives and strategies in the following areas: curriculum and instruction, communication, safety, facilities and finance. Our staff and our Governing Board members will work hard to provide the best education possible for all students, to meet them where they are academically, physically and mentally and to move them forward throughout the year. We will develop well-rounded students, actively engaged in co-curricular activities. We will mold our students into good citizens thus enabling them to "Stay Ahead of the Curve"!


"We can talk or dream about the glorious schools of the future or we can create them." – Marilyn Ferguson.



Foundation
for Golden Valley Schools

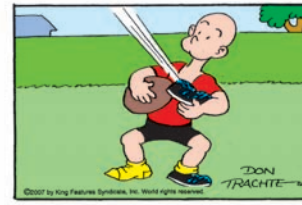
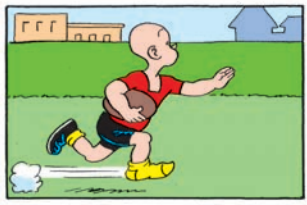
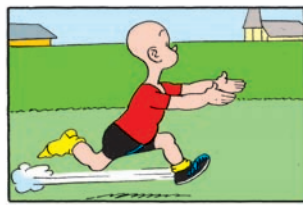
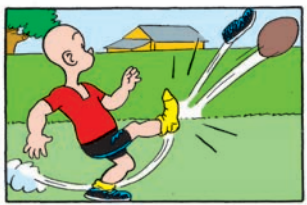
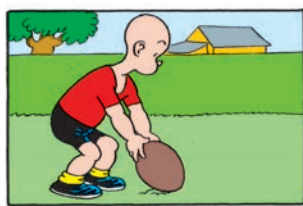
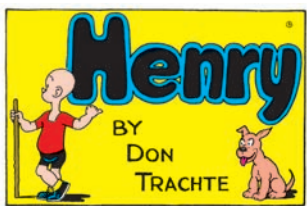
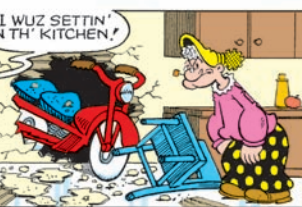
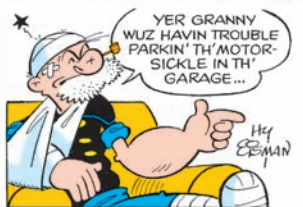
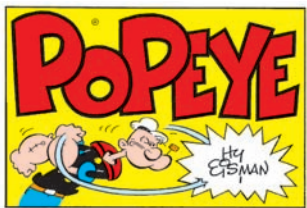
Lunch on the Madera Wine Trail
November 10-11, 2007
at
Birdstone Winery
Just north of Avenue 9 on Road 36

Save the Date
Saturday March 29, 2008
The Night The Stars Come Out
Annual Dinner Gala
Birdstone Winery



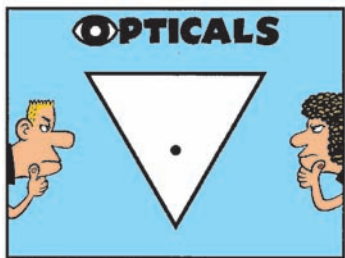
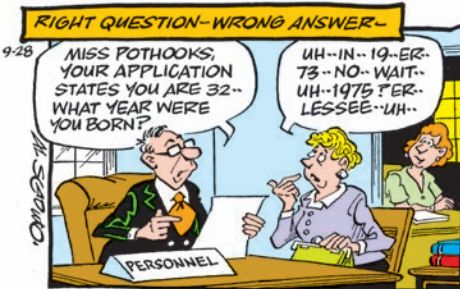
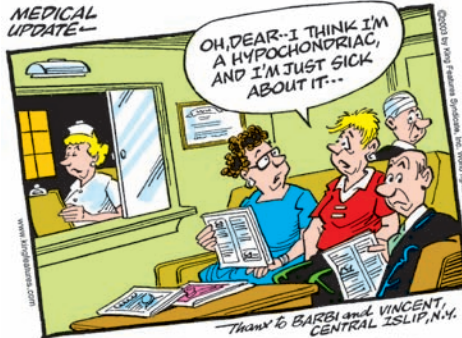
GOLDEN VALLEY
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

FUN PAGES



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



OPTICALS
IN THE TRIANGLE ABOVE, is the dot closer to the top line, the bottom point, or the middle?

Answer: The dot is in the middle, halfway between the top line and the bottom point of the triangle.

FARMER BROWN'S BARN! Farmer Brown paid 20 workmen \$2,000 to put up a new addition to his barn. Each Master Carpenter made \$300, each Apprentice Carpenter made \$150, and each helper made \$50. How many of each were included in the team of 20 workmen?
Answer: 2 Master Carpenters, 5 Apprentice Carpenters and 13 helpers. (Total salaries came to: \$600 + \$750 + \$650 = \$2,000.)

THE FIVE-LETTER WORD POWER GRID! Each of the five words needed to fill in our "word power grid" contain the same five letters. We give you one of these letters and plenty of hints below.

1.	R				
2.		R			
3.			R		
4.				R	
5.					R

Answers: 1. Rates; 2. Tares; 3. Stare; 4. Tears; 5. Aster.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

A PERCEPTION TEST
First, try solving the problem presented on the right. After solving it (?), cut out the paragraph and paste it on a piece of cardboard. On the back of the cardboard, paste the answer given below the paragraph.

AN ODD PARAGRAPH
What is particularly unusual about this paragraph? You won't find many paragraphs similar to it. In all probability you will not find out what is so unusual about it right away, but if you look at it and study it for long, it may dawn on you. If you should find out what is odd or unusual, don't say what it is until I ask you; if you can't find out, look on the back of this paragraph. Don't look at my solution until you fail to find out what is odd about it. I could throw you a hint, but I won't!

Answer: You won't find an "e" in the entire paragraph.

Wishing Well®

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

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

MAGIC MAZE • RALPH —

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

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

Abernathy	Ellison	Kramden	Reed
Bellamy	Fiennes	Lauren	Richardson
Bunche	Houk	Macchio	Terry
Edwards	Kiner	Nader	

TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- INVENTIONS: When were the first "sneakers" known as Keds mass-marketed?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of dragons known as?
- PERSONALITIES: Who is actress Kate Hudson's famous mother?
- OPERA: What was the name of the tragic female lead in "La Traviata" by Verdi?
- MEASUREMENTS: How many dimples are on a regulation golf ball?
- FOLKLORE: What tool is Paul Bunyan most often depicted as holding?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is cereology?
- MUSIC: Who sang the famous theme "Goldfinger"?
- THEATER: What is the name of the slick attorney in "Chicago"?
- MARTIAL ARTS: In what country did Tae Kwon Do develop?

Answers

1. 1917
2. A wye
3. Goldie Hawn
4. Violetta
5. 336
6. An ax
7. The study of crop circles
8. Shirley Bassey
9. Billy Flynn
10. Korea

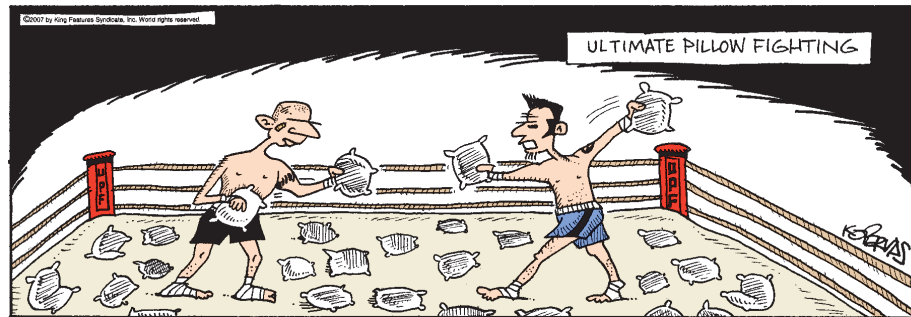
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



MAMA'S BOYZ

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JERRY CRAFT



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



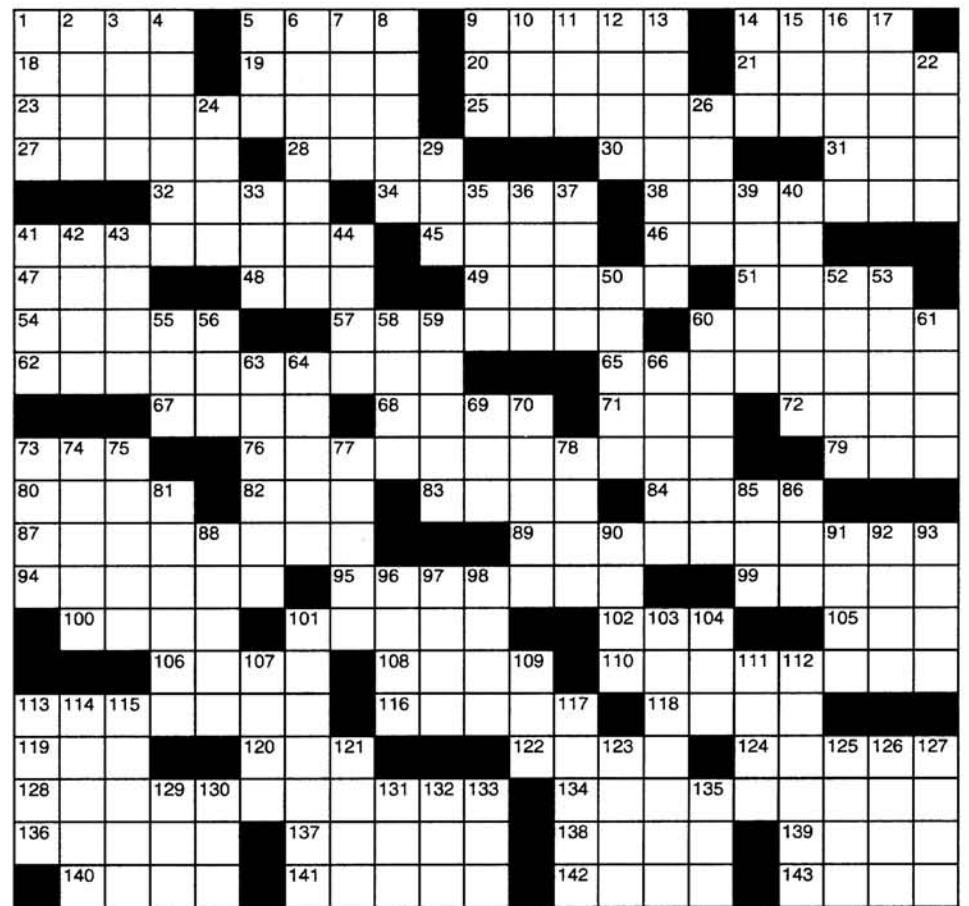
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Bear has been added. 2. Window is wider. 3. Pants are longer. 4. Flowers have been added. 5. Bushes have been added. 6. Tree has been added. 7. Tree has additional limb.

Super Crossword



- | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| ACROSS | or Muldaur | need | Nobelist | collection | success? |
| 1 Tiller | 57 Less | 116 "Frasier" | 9 Chum | 58 Soccer | 98 Soldier on |
| 5 Grandpa | McCoy | plentiful | 10 Infamous | superstar | 101 More |
| 9 Michelangelo | 60 Van Dyke | role | Amin | 59 Hacienda | granular |
| masterpiece | 62 Powerfully | 119 Loser to | 11 Phillips of | material | 103 Ideal |
| 14 Ward of | built | DDE | "UHF" | 60 Hawk | 104 Woody |
| "Sisters" | 65 Tractable | 120 Vitamin | 12 Antler part | 61 Diminutive | herb |
| 18 "Typee" | 67 Wooden | bottle abbr. | 13 Strawberry, | suffix | 107 Director |
| sequel | strip | 122 Tony winner | for one | 63 Natural gas | Nair |
| 19 Callas or | 68 Flight | Robert | 14 Police | component | 109 Long or |
| Caballe | 69 Maneuver | 124 Young cadet | hdqrs. | 64 — talk | Peebles |
| 20 Confess | 71 "— Days" | 128 Very slen- | 15 Drop a brick | 66 Sanctify | 111 Surveyor's |
| 21 Roman | ('75 tune) | der | 16 Divulge | 69 "... man — | need |
| fountain | 72 Hypocrisy | 134 Sharp- | 17 Ward off | mouse?" | 112 Most |
| 23 Stubborn | 73 Bikini half | sighted | 22 "— fixe" | 70 Turkish title | indolent |
| 25 Courageous | 76 Foolhardy | 136 Malice | 24 Designer | 73 Myerson or | 113 Cat's dogs |
| 27 Fantastic | 79 Pigment | 137 Practice | Fiorucci | Truman | 114 Harvests |
| bargain | 80 Masterson | piece | 26 Billions of | 74 Not as | 115 Davis of |
| 28 Envelop | colleague | 138 Cut short | years | common | "Evening |
| 30 "Xanadu" | 82 Ginger — | 139 Mlle., | 29 Common | 75 Originate | Shade" |
| rock group | 83 — Haven, | farther | affix | 77 Arrive at | 117 Vote in |
| 31 Trams | CT | south | 33 Vane dir. | 78 " Blame — | 121 — |
| transport it | 84 Job opening | 140 Pants part | 35 Aroma | the Bossa | Spumante |
| 32 "Red | 87 Ceylon, | 141 Inflexibility | 36 Responsi- | Nova" | 123 Challenge |
| —" | today | 142 Some | bility | ('63 hit) | 125 Fontaine |
| '88 smash) | 89 Coarse- | 143 Jets, Mets, | 37 French-door | 81 Telescope | role |
| 34 Girl Scout | featured | or Nets | part | sighting | 126 — carotene |
| unit | 94 Tahini base | 650 | 39 Emulated | 85 Oven | 127 Cheese- |
| 38 Diplomacy | 95 TV's | 651 | Gebel- | setting | board |
| term | "Three's —" | 652 | Williams | 86 Eastern | choice |
| 41 Winked or | 99 Loudly, to | 653 | "Way" | 88 Donizetti's | 129 Harper |
| waved | Liszt | 654 | 40 Amatory | "L'elisir d'— | Valley grp. |
| 45 Journalist | 100 Betting | 655 | 41 Fiasco | " | 130 Rainy |
| Buchanan | setting | 656 | 42 Genesis | 90 Jeri of | 131 Yank |
| 46 Former | 101 Shallow | 657 | redhead | "Star Trek: | 132 Maestro de |
| autocrat | area | 658 | 43 Wilson or | Voyager" | Waart |
| 47 Actress | 102 Spring mo. | 659 | Weathers | 91 Gator's | 133 Wagner's |
| 48 Scrape by, | 105 "Sat — | 660 | 44 "— Set" | cousin | " |
| with "out" | tuffet . . ." | 661 | ('57 film) | 92 Sicilian | fliedende |
| 49 Light weight | 106 Humorist | 662 | 50 Vocalize | volcano | Hollander" |
| 51 Reformer | Bombeck | 663 | like Vallee | 93 Distribute | 135 Audio |
| Lucretia | 108 Illinois city | 664 | 52 Riser's | the deck | antiques? |
| 54 Montessori | 110 Maritime | 665 | relative | 96 Trickle | |
| | 113 Nutritional | 666 | 53 Metallic | 97 A sweeping | |
| | | 667 | 7 Done | | |
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Charisse Lindsay Stindt
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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) This is a good time for the usually outspoken Lamb to be a bit more discreet. You still can get your point across, but do it in a way less likely to turn off a potential supporter.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Good news: All that hard work you put in is beginning to pay off, but you need to watch that tendency to insist on doing things your way or no way. Be a bit more flexible.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You might want to delay making a decision on the future of a long-standing relationship until you check out some heretofore hidden details that are just now beginning to emerge.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Your reluctance to compromise on an important issue could backfire without more facts to support your position. Weigh your options carefully before making your next move.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) This is a good time for ambitious Leos or Leonas to shift from planning their next move to actually doing it. Your communication skills help persuade others to join you.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Relationships – personal or professional – present new challenges. Be careful not to let a sudden surge of stubbornness influence how you choose to deal with them.

Libra (September 23 to October 22) You might need more facts before you can decide on a possible career change, but you should have no problem making a decision about an important personal matter.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You're respected by most people for your direct, no-nonsense approach to the issues, but be careful you don't replace honest skepticism with stinging sarcasm.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A newly emerging situation could require a good deal of attention and some difficult decision-making. However, close friends will help you see it through.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Family matters need attention. Check things out carefully. There still might be unresolved tensions that could hinder your efforts to repair damaged relationships.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Of course you deserve to indulge yourself in something special, but for now tuck that bit of mad money away. You'll need it to help with a looming cash crunch.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A temporary setback in your financial situation is eased by changing some of your plans. You'll be able to ride it out quite well until the tide turns back in your favor.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a gift for understanding people's needs. You have a low tolerance for those who act without concern for others.

Real Estate



Nancy Watson

The Ranchos Specialist, Working for "You"

645-5000

www.nancywatson.net



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

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

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John Herrera, Realtor

9/07

I am not only a long-time Ranchos resident, but I am also involved in the community. Thank you to our Ranchos community for supporting our kids by purchasing your fireworks from our Kiwanis booth. All of our fundraising projects are to help children. For any of your real estate needs, call me. "The most important things in your house are the people."



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36757 Fender

Brand new Continental Custom home. Over 2,000 sq. ft. and features 10 ft. ceilings, custom tile, crown molding, 8 ft. tall doors, decorative ceiling fans and lighting. Kohler sinks and faucets, great room w/gas fireplace, bay window in dining room and granite in kitchen. Master suite has huge walk-in closet and a spa tub.



**4 Bed
3 Ba.
\$739,000**

35179 Marciel

Beautiful former model home with pool. Great room with built-in cabinets, soaring ceilings and fireplace. Two sets of French doors. Formal dining room, deluxe kitchen with granite island. Master suite has huge walk-in closet, spa tub. Isolated bedroom off laundry for office, mother-in-law. 3-car garage with office, large covered patio. Pool is must see!



**4 Bed
3 Ba.
\$389,000**

35340 Avenue 13 1/2

Sharp home zoned for horses. Vaulted ceilings, brick fireplace, spacious kitchen with lots of counter space, breakfast bar and walk-in pantry. Isolated bedroom and bath with walk-in closets, carpeting and tile flooring throughout. Large covered patio and yard is completely fenced. Located near schools and 15 minutes from Riverpark.



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3 Ba.
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11953 Trieste

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Jim Powell - Ag Specialist

We are pleased to have Jim Powell on our team as of August, 2007. Jim will serve in our Agriculture Sales. He has a lifetime in ag service and public service. Jim is a graduate of Cal Poly with a B.S. degree in Fruit Production, holds a Pest Control Operator's license and owns his own farm management company, El Oso Farming. Our new Ag Specialist has extensive experience in farm management for some of the largest farm operators in the valley. He is very well informed and knowledgeable of most operators in Madera, Fresno, Tulare and Ventura counties.

Jim is available to work with you and our agents in investing in enlarging operations and managing your ag land. You will find him to be informed, pleasant, truthful, trustworthy and, most importantly, to have your interests always foremost in his mind. Call - we can help!

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398+ ac. Ave. 15 west of Rd. 35. Williamson Act. Owner/agent. \$19,500/ac.

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INDUSTRIAL - 15 ac. 3 houses, office complex. RD 25 near Ave. 12. \$150K/ac.

INDUSTRIAL - 5 ac. w/house "as is", RD 25 north of Ave. 12. \$600,000.

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For Sale - DIRT! \$30 per load. Bobtails only. We load. **Call Neal at 645-1200.**

For Sale - Bedroom Set. 7-pc. solid cherrywood. Sleigh bed, 2 nightstands, dresser/mirror. All dovetailed, new in boxes! Cost \$7K sacrifice \$1,675. **Call 559-438-0248.**

For Sale - Twin PILLOWTOP mattress/box, new in plastic. Cost \$300 sacrifice \$125. Full cost \$400 sacrifice \$175. **Call 559-230-0486.**

For Sale - \$195 Queen PILLOWTOP mattress/box, cost \$599 sacrifice \$195. Never used w/ warranty. King cost \$699 sacrifice \$295. **Call 559-447-5066.**

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

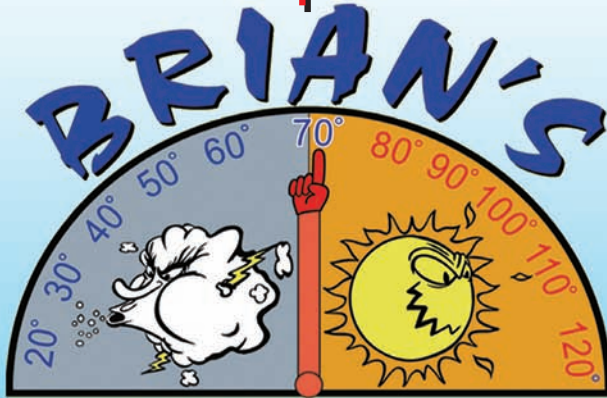
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The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the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

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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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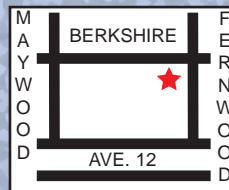
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