

The Ranchos Independent



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The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢

Global Warming Hits the Ranchos

a freak April hailstorm turns the
Madera Ranchos into a carpet of white

Photo courtesy of Carolyn Bailey

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Ranchos Community Park a Reality?

At Long Last, a Plan, A Location and Funding

By Randy Bailey

In a letter addressed to Madera County Resource Management Agency Director Ray Beach, area grower and future developer Igal Treibatch made an offer of land, water and funding for the purpose of creating a community park for the Ranchos.

In the letter, Treibatch says, "... I would like to reiterate our offer to the County: We will donate 5 acres of land immediately; If, within a reasonable amount of time, the community desires to

have a library or community center at this park, we will also donate additional adjacent land; We will donate \$50,000 in cash or in kind towards the immediate development of the 5-acre park; In addition, we will increase the \$10,000 donation we already

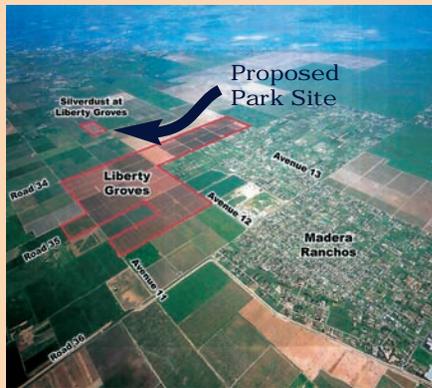
committed to, and increase it to \$50,000 to go to Madera County for their use on essential services; All water needs for irrigating the 5-acre park would be provided by us from our existing wells; We are willing to discuss the funding of the costs of the park's maintenance costs for the next two years."

Add to this offer the fact that Madera County has approximately \$185,000 set aside specifically for a park in the Ranchos, but those funds have a deadline attached to them by which the money must be spent or it will be lost.

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce is drafting a letter of support for the project and it's likely other commu-

nity groups will join in support once the word gets out.

With community involvement and maintained pressure on the County, a community park for the Ranchos could become a reality -- and sooner than you might think.



Firefighters Look to "Fill the Boot" For Muscular Dystrophy Donation



Volunteers and gracious donors from the Ranchos helped raise over \$9,000 in 2009, an amount firefighters hope to double this year on Friday, April 30.

Firefighters from CAL FIRE, Madera County Fire and Madera City Fire will be hitting the streets this Friday, April 30. Last year just over \$9,000 was collected for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) from generous Madera County contributors. It is the goal of local firefighters to double that amount for this year but it can only be done with your help.

Firefighters will be starting at 6:30 a.m. and will be out until 2 p.m. at most intersections. The intersections will be Road 36/Ave. 12 and Road 36/Ave. 15 in the

Madera Ranchos; Cleveland/Schnoor, Howard/Schnoor and Tozer/Yosemite in Madera; and Hwy. 41/Hwy. 49 in Oakhurst. You may also drop off donations at any Madera County Fire Station.

Last year, thanks to the generosity of the residents of California, CAL FIRE Firefighters made the third largest donation in the nation. Please help us achieve our goal and help "Fill the Boot."

Suspected Drunk, Disorderly Prowler Caught in Ranchos

A suspected prowler wound up behind bars early on the morning of April 20 after deputies responded to a 911 call from Fender Avenue near Road 36 in the Madera Ranchos. Deputy Toinie Jackson took 25-year-old Jonathan Wells of Madera into custody shortly before 1 a.m.

Before Deputy Jackson arrived, Wells was heard shouting profanities and banging on the doors of one home demanding to be let in. When questioned, Wells reportedly insisted he was hanging out at a friend's house but couldn't remember the friend's

Candidate Night Set for Ranchos

Replacement Candidates for Radanovich and Villines Seats Will be On Hand at Ranchos Middle School Friday, April 30

Following on the heels of a very successful Candidates' Forum for local offices that was held on Friday, April 23 at the new VFW Hall in Madera, the Republican Party of Madera County is hosting a second event Friday, April 30 at Ranchos Middle School in the Ranchos for state and federal candidates.

Ranchos Middle School, located at 12220 Ave. 36, will host candidates vying for termed-out State Assemblyman Mike Villines' seat and retiring U.S. Congressman George Radanovich's position. Those invited, and the offices they are trying for, additionally will include:

Assembly District 25

Bill Conrad
Janice Keating
Teri Murrison
Kristin Olsen
Kurt Vander Weide
Jesse James White

Assembly District 29

Linda Halderman
Don McKinney
Bob Whalen

State Senate, District 14

Tom Berryhill
Tim Campi
Heidi Fuller
Bret de St. Jeor
Tom Marsella

U.S. Congressional District 19

Jeff Denham
Richard Pombo
Jim Patterson
Larry Westerlund

At the event held one week earlier in Madera, every invited candidate showed up

for the event.

The doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and the event will take place between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. The format for the Forum will be the same as the one held earlier for the local candidates. Candidates will sit at tables on the stage facing the audience, arranged in alphabetical order within groups of candidates within their respective offices, Assembly District 25 through U.S. Congressional District 19.

Questioning will be by reporters from the Madera Tribune and the Ranchos Independent, who will take turns asking questions; however, throughout the evening, the Moderator will interject questions from the audience which have been chosen by the Selection Committee. Candidates each are given 90 seconds for an opening statement and 90 seconds to answer questions from reporters and the audience.

At approximately 8:30 p.m. the questioning will cease and each candidate will be given 90 seconds to provide a closing statement.

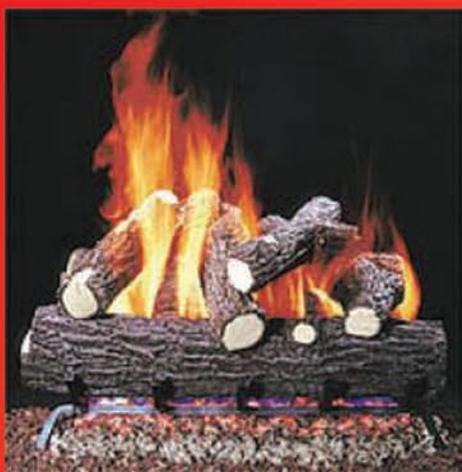
Throughout the event the candidates' responses will be timed and if the earlier Forum was any indication, the time allowances will be strictly enforced. With a group this large it's the only way to adequately give each candidate an opportunity to speak and to allow for additional rounds. Timekeepers will give notice at 30 seconds and at 10 seconds and a bell sounds when time is up. If everything goes as smoothly as it did at the Madera Forum there should be three complete rounds of questioning.

Democracy in action. A chance to get to talk to the people who ultimately could be serving us both in Sacramento and Washington. Come out to Ranchos Middle School on Friday, April 30 at 5:30 p.m. and ask those tough questions that they never ask on T.V. It's free and there will be refreshments served.



Jonathan Wells, 25, of Madera was arrested April 20 on suspicion of prowling.

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4/10

THE D.O.G. HOUSE

DEMAND OPEN GOVERNMENT BY DALE DROZEN



The candidate night put on by the Madera County Republican Party on Friday, April 23, was outstanding. The new Veterans Building is great, the only negative was the parking was almost filled and if the event were any larger there would have been a problem because of the “no parking” signs on Granada in front of the hall.

Incumbents generally patted themselves on the back/or stood on their records and challengers came out challenging.

In the realm of style points or slips for their opponents I have to give it to the incumbents across the board; questions were artfully dodged or turned into short stump speeches, except in the case of District 2 with no incumbents, and District 5. In District 2 Candidate David Rogers in my opinion was the more dynamic speaker, but they all had strong issues and seemed to be competent discussing them.

In District 5 both candidates had issues. Joe Alberta was like a pit bull when he spoke, to the point where people were squirming in their seats, pledging to not be a team player but to fight for his district. Might want to tone it down a notch Joe. Issues are important – keep on punching – but with some of the hard looks I was wondering if a fight was about to break out.

Tom Wheeler stood on his record, “Controlled and Measured Growth.”

Tom made an interesting choice to read his prepared opening statement. It is always painful to hear Tom try to read something, but if that is the only way for him to avoid “... lost my train of thought,” as he did at another point in the night, (his words not mine), then go for it.

The only issue in need of a “FACT CHECK” was the State Secure RE-entry Facility. Wheeler either flat out lied or is very confused about just what it was he voted yes on a few months ago. Wheeler said, when speaking of the prison, “We are still looking at it ... if we are going to do it or not.”

District 1 Supervisor Frank Bigelow skillfully danced on the head of the truth pin. He assure the crowd that the Board (Him) would protect our interests through the process, but didn’t correct the error, leaving the impression – but not actually saying – the Board is still considering the issue.

FACT: The Board already voted to accept and signed the State contract. If this was selling a car, it went this way: California waved \$30 million in front of the Board. The Board’s collective eyes, as they often do when considering issues, began rolling like the reels on a slot machine then they jumped at the deal. The Board signed the pink slip, handed over the keys and filled the tank with gas.

The State has an “opt out” clause if they find something they don’t like and the County has an “opt out” clause if the State defaults or does not pay. To my way of thinking it is down to if the State wants to drive it home; they drive it and we stand on the curb watching it happen.

There was another bomb shell. The question was asked about taking a pay cut along with the employees. According to what was said last night the current Board and other elected officials have taken voluntary pay cuts but kept them secret. Twice at Board meetings Bigelow stood all alone pledging to take a pay cut along with the employees. Unfortunately, if you go back to the tapes the camera operator was not fast enough to catch the shocked reactions with heads bowed and papers being shuffled.

It was almost as it happens when I speak at the podium.

Please see D.O.G. on P. 11

NO GUESS WORK!

*You don't have to
guess if I'd make a
good Supervisor.*

Accomplishments:

- New government center
- 8 new fire trucks
- 2 new 4000 gallon water tenders
- 2 rebuilt 4000 gallon water tenders
- 70 new 250 channel radios
- Training facility Station 19
- New Animal Control Center
- Road 200 Phase 2
- Reconstruction of Ave 12 (23 to 24)
- 6 new sheriffs' cars
- New safety gear for deputies
- Signal light Hwy 41 Road 200
- Signal light Hwy 41 entrance YLP
- Center turn lane Ave 12 36 to 37 1/2
- Signal light Hwy 41 Road 415
- Signal light Lanes (bridge & Children's Blvd)
- Reconstruct parts of Road 400
- Reconstructed Ave 13
- Reconstructed Road 36
- New water system Rolling Hills
- Newer fire facility Raymond Station 15
- Newer fire engine Raymond Station 15
- New well and water line - Ranchos
- Flood control improvements - Ranchos
- New County Juvenile Hall
- Full time staffing Station #19 & Station #9
- Created - The Madera County Resource Management Agency
- Signal light at Ave 12 & Road 36
- Hwy 41 & San Joaquin River bridge
- Road 36 Sidewalks (Ave 12 - 12 1/2)
- Overlay Project Ave 12 (36-Hwy 41)
- Overlay Project Ave 13 (34 1/2- 36)

(Partial lists)

In Progress:

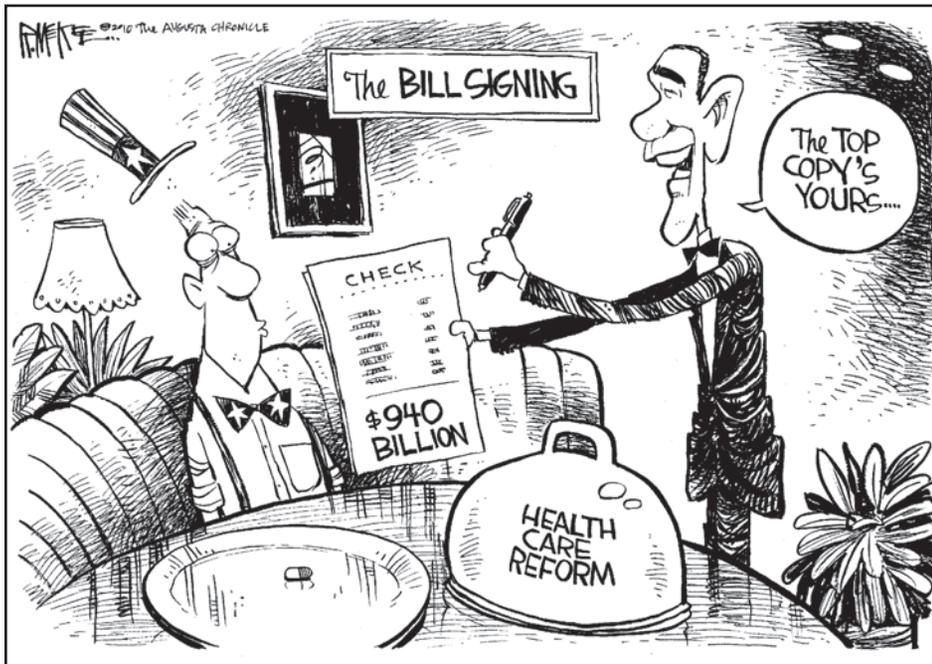
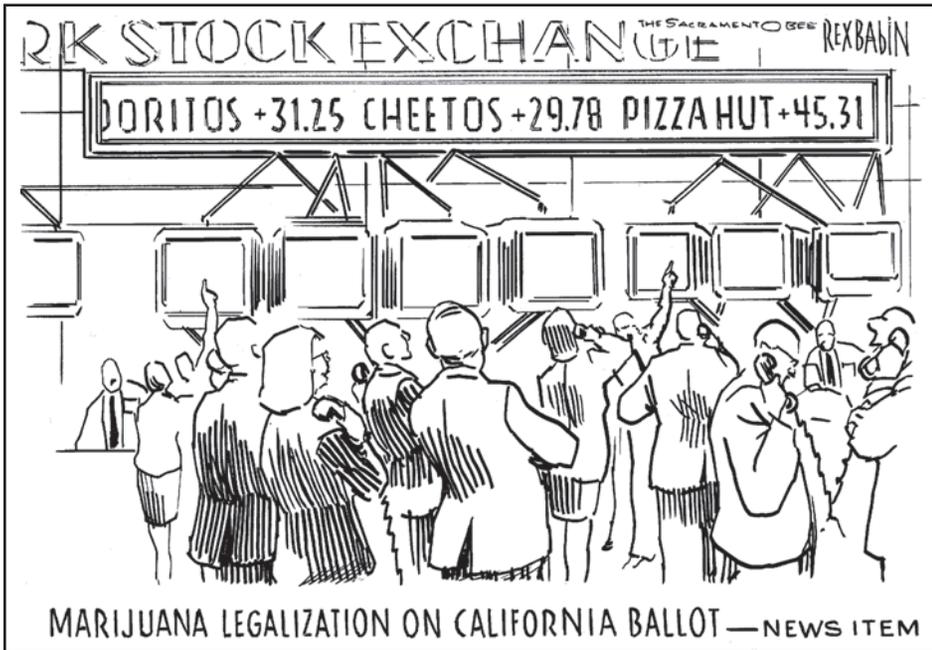
- New central garage to be done this year
- Reconstruct & widening road 200 (Phase 3)
- Reconstruct & widening Ave 15 from road 28 to road 36
- New sheriffs' station Oakhurst this year
- New fire station Oakhurst
- Sidewalks along Ave 12 from 36 to 37 1/2
- Center turn lane Ave 12 from 36 to 37 1/2
- New interchange at Ave 12 and Hwy 99
- Reconstruct parts of road 400 from 415 to Rivergold
- Reconstruct Bridge at Yosemite Springs Parkway

Frank
BIGELOW
SUPERVISOR

Paid for by Committee to Elect Frank Bigelow Supervisor District 1 2010, FPPC 980399.

4/10

Click on “Local News” at



Guest Editorial

For Government, Good Times Roll

By Rich Lowry

For most Americans, the Great Recession has been an occasion to hold on for dear life. For public employees, it's been an occasion to let the good times roll.

The percentage of federal civil servants making more than \$100,000 a year jumped from 14 percent to 19 percent during the first year and a half of the recession, according to USA Today. At the beginning of the downturn, the Transportation Department had one person making \$170,000 or more a year; now it has 1,690 making more than that.

The New York Times reports that state and local governments have added a net 110,000 jobs since the beginning of the recession, while the private sector has lost 6.9 million. The gap between total compensation of public and private workers has only widened during the downturn, according to USA Today. In 2008, benefits for public employees grew at a rate three times that of private employees.

Public employees have developed an inverse relationship to the rest of the economy -- as it shrinks, shedding jobs and cutting salaries, they draw on a never-ending taxpayer bounty. It used to be said that the Great Depression wasn't so bad, if you had a job. The Great Recession has practically been a

boom, if you have a government job.

Public employees can thank the union label. In 2009, for the first time ever, a majority of union members worked in the public sector. Unionism has been a long, secular decline in the private sector (down to 7.2 percent of all workers), but increasing in *government* (up to 37.4 percent of all workers).

These public-sector unions are flush with cash, politically connected and unabashedly self-interested. They are an active and growing conspiracy against the public fisc. The states where they are most powerful -- California and New York -- lumber toward insolvency. The federal government follows not far behind, on the kind of diet geese enjoy prior to becoming foie gras.

In the Golden State, the California Teachers Association has all but become a branch of state government. Its exertions have given the state some of the worst schools in the country -- and the highest-paid teachers. California's prison guards have a powerful union -- and also the highest salaries in the nation. It's not a coincidence that California was reduced to issuing IOUs to cover its obligations for a time last year.

Government by and for the public-employees unions is bankrupting, both fiscally and ethically. In his post-Massachusetts explanations of why health-care reform stalled, President Barack Obama vaguely acknowledged a few lapses in transparency. But he never mentioned the grossness inherent in inviting union bosses to the White House so they can exempt their members from a tax. That would cut too close to the bone, since it's hard to tell where the unions end and the Democratic Party begins.

"You must first enable the government to control the governed," James Madison wrote, "and in the next place oblige it to control itself." That's impossible if government employees use public funds to muster themselves into a political machine devoted to their own interests and expansion.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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The Ranchos Independent

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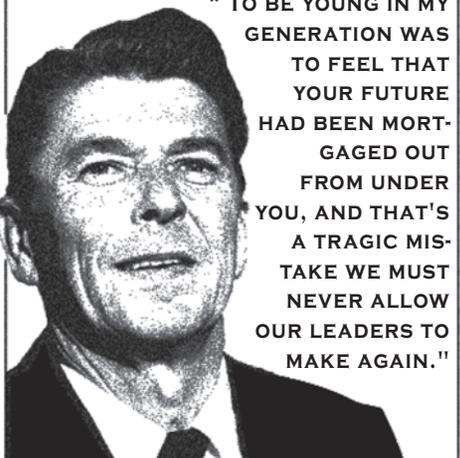
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RONALD REAGAN
SAYING MORE IN ONE QUOTE THAN OTHERS SAY IN A LIFETIME

Madera Ranchos Library Prepares for Flatlanders Day Parade and Craft Fair

By Ellen Mester

We are gearing up for the 20th Annual Flatlander's Day on May 8 with a parade down Avenue 12 from 10 a.m. until noon. This is the Ranchos community at its finest. Bring your lawn chair and gaze at floats decorated by your local school groups, clubs, scout troops, church groups and elected officials. Horses and fire trucks add excitement as they parade down Avenue 12 to the judges' stand. Trophies will be given for the "best of" in several categories. Before and after the parade browse the Craft Show which opens at 8 a.m. with a wide assortment of original crafts and delicious food. You also will see several information booths and the Central Valley Blood Mobile. Remember, it never hurts to donate a pint of blood when it could mean life to someone in need. If you are interested in participating in the Craft Show, contact the Ranchos Library for an application. If you would like to be a part of the Parade, contact the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce. This event is sponsored jointly by the Friends of the Ranchos Library and the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Summer Reading Program

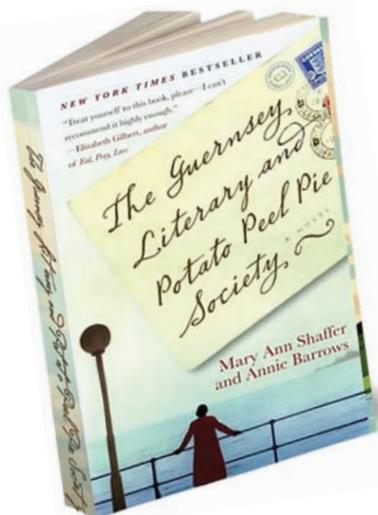
"Make a Splash—Read @ Your Library" is the theme of our 2010 Summer Reading Program. Our kick-off party gets it all going on Thursday, June 17 at high noon with games, activities and prizes. Then each Wednesday for the next six weeks we have a wonderful list of guest performers including the popular Mr. Bubble Man, Sonny Salisbury, musician and naturalist, who has written a special song for the program that will make you want to sing along. We have a new magician, Chris Lopez, coming in July who will amaze you. Omnipresent Puppets will tell the classic tale of The Fisherman and his Wife. Pirate Day will shiver your timbers. And finally for our finale, Jamm'n Island Hula will teach us traditional Hawaiian Dances. All of these wonderful programs are free and are sponsored by our local community groups and businesses and their purpose is to encourage children to continue reading throughout the summer by attending library programs. For more details and the complete schedule contact the Ranchos Library at 645-1214.

Sorry ... we have been hearing complaints about the new hours especially from people trying to return books on time. Remember that there are no late fees charged to your account for the days we are closed. Just drop them off the first day we are open which is Wednesday at 11 a.m. Trust me when I say, it is hard on all of us. Ranchos staff fills in at other libraries in Madera County on the days we are closed. That part isn't so bad. It's coming back to a mountain of work at the Ranchos Library that must be completed in less time. But we will get through these rough times eventually.

Wednesday After-school Programs: We will continue our programs every Wednesday at 2 p.m. until June 1.

New Pre-school Story Time Day: Story time with Mrs. Anderson will now be every Thursday morning at 11 a.m. Bring your pre-schoolers for a special hour of stories and fun.

Book Recommendations



Adult Fiction: *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. It's always such a pleasure to read fiction that makes you wonder if it isn't based on a true story. The setting is London 1946 where writer Juliet Ashton has become famous for her wartime column written under the name of Izzy Bickerstaff. In a series of correspondence to and from a variety of characters, Juliet's life unfolds — most importantly from a fellow named Dawsey Adams who farms on the island of Guernsey in the Channel Islands between England and France. Through his letters, and those of fellow islanders who belong to the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, he describes German occupation and the hardships they presented. Juliet, inspired by their courage, travels to Guernsey to gather their stories for a book. This story fascinated me and I was struck by the epistolary and unique style.

Juvenile Fiction: by Rebecca Stead. As a fan of time travel, I was pleasantly surprised by the theme of this 2010 Newbery Award Winner and the continual reference to Madeleine L'Engle's *A Wrinkle in Time*, woven into the plot. Plus, it was a joy to have 1979 life in New York City where the story takes place. These sixth grade latch-key kids knew how to look after themselves and even worked on their lunch hours at a

local sandwich shop just for the fun of it! (They did get a free cheese sandwich without the frills for their effort.) Miranda and her mother, a paralegal, live in an apartment building where they actually hide a spare key in the fire hose in the hallway. Not a problem until one day it is missing, and then little cryptic messages on dried out paper start appearing in strange places. Miranda, whose favorite book is *A Wrinkle in Time*, puzzles over each new clue. Meanwhile, she and her friends sort out the difficulties of sixth grade while avoiding the street hazards such as the crazy laughing man who sleeps under the mailbox. It's not really a surprise ending but it feels quite complete.



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

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Seniors	12, 13 & 14 year olds	185 lb. weight limit

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Letters

Dear Editor:

My cat got stuck in a tree for three nights and four days. He was chasing a bird up a tree and got stuck and was too afraid to come down. I was afraid he was never going to come down! On the second day we called the ASPCA to see if they could help. They said they were sorry but they could not help us and to call someone with a tall ladder. I asked my mom to call the fire department. She called them but they said they wouldn't be able to help either. We tried and tried every morning, afternoon and night to get him out of the tree. I went out there and sat under the tree every day with food and called his name to see if he would come down. Sometimes I cried. We couldn't climb the tree to rescue him for two reasons, one, it was a palm tree, and two, he was about 45 feet off the ground.

Finally, I couldn't take it anymore and neither could the rest of the family. On the fourth day, my dad started to call tree trimming services. A lot of companies said they couldn't help. One tree company said that it would be cheaper if we just bought a new cat. Finally, a company called A-1 EXPERT TREE SERVICE from Sanger said that they would help us. The owner of the business brought his wife and kids to our house to help with the rescue. He let my dad climb in the basket of the boom truck to save my cat from the treetop. Within minutes my dad had my cat in his hands and was safe on the ground. I was so happy, I started to cry. I thanked and thanked the family for all their help. When my parents tried to pay them for their help, the owner of the company said that he didn't feel right taking money for saving my cat. It was the right thing to do. I wanted to write this letter to thank the family and tell other people about this true story of some people that I consider real heroes!

Thanks again.

Alexa Rosa (10 years old)
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

Please be advised that the Draft Southeast Madera County Existing Characteristics Analysis is now available for public review. The report may be found at the following locations:

A) online at: [http://www.madera-](http://www.madera-county.com/rma/archives/uploads/1271719341_Document_upload_semcapexistingcharacteristics_publicreviewdraft2010.pdf)

[county.com/rma/archives/uploads/1271719341_Document_upload_semcapexistingcharacteristics_publicreviewdraft2010.pdf](http://www.madera-county.com/rma/archives/uploads/1271719341_Document_upload_semcapexistingcharacteristics_publicreviewdraft2010.pdf)

B) at the Madera County Resource Management Agency, Planning Department

A workshop on the Analysis will take place at the Madera County Resource Management Agency (2037 W Cleveland Ave., Madera CA 93637) on May 4 at 6 p.m.

The project includes the following: In January of 2009, the Board of Supervisors formerly initiated the Area Plan process for Southeast Madera County, by adopting a planning area boundary and giving direction to staff to begin work on the Southeast Madera County Area Plan (SEMCAP). Planning staff has produced a Draft Existing Characteristics Analysis for Southeast Madera County to continue the Area Plan process. The Analysis is intended to provide a foundation for the Area Plan, including the following existing data:

- Proposed development within the planning area
- Demographic/community data
- Existing land use
- Water resources
- Agricultural resources
- Biological resources
- Circulation
- Public facilities

Based from this data, opportunities and constraints are presented to inform the formation of the Area Plan. It is important to note that the SEMCAP document and environmental review will be built upon the Existing Characteristics Analysis.

The Planning Department is requesting comment on the information presented and comment as to the prioritization of the constraints and opportunities contained within the report. It is important that the Existing Characteristics Analysis is fully vetted with the community, so that a strong foundation is prepared for the formation of SEMCAP.

Please address all comments to:
Scott Harmstead, Planner III
Madera County Planning Department
2037 W. Cleveland Ave., Mail Stop G
Madera CA 93637

scott.harmstead@madera-county.com
P: (559) 675-7821 ext.3217
F: (559) 675-6573

Scott Harmstead
Madera

Say you saw it in
the Ranchos Independent

(PAID ADVERTISEMENT)

“Doctor, I can’t live this way any more!”

Dear friend,

Yeah, this isn’t the best thing to hear from your patient on a Monday morning, but that’s what I get. You see, I get the worst of the worst. Patients who have tried other methods without favorable results have ended up in my office.

Hi, my name is Dr. Lien T. Dao, D.C., the lady in the white lab coat next to my wonderful patient Tina. Let me give you an idea of the kind of patients I see in my office here in Fresno.

You see, the patients I take care of experience severe stabbing or “electric-like” pain all the time, disturbed sleeping patterns, Restless Leg Syndrome, fatigue, depression, numbness, spinal stenosis, peripheral neuropathy, fibromyalgia, and a host of other ailments. These, my friend, are a lot of symptoms.

That’s why I’ve put together the “Ultimate Pain Treatment Program” for anyone who is suffering from pain and wants to do something about it because when the pain is resolved, it’s not just improvement in quality of life, it’s really peace.

These types of results happen in my office a lot. You see, people hear about this chiropractor who also uses NEUROLOGY to diagnose and treat. Now because of this I am sent the hardest people possible! What a great way to spend a day in the office!

For one, it has to do with the advanced training that I have. I am one of only a handful of doctors with specific training using High Power laser treatments for patients in pain. I am, as of now, the only doctor in town with the Avicenna High Power Laser. This gives me an unfair advantage to help patients with all kinds of PAIN. The other thing is that I use tools and instruments that are cutting edge technology for getting patients better.

Innovative Care — Powerful Results!

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It's baaaaccckkk!

Ranchos Auto Repair & Transmission is bringing back its Annual Car Show on Saturday, May 8 during Flatlanders Day. The event is totally free and they're even putting on a BBQ.

If you've got a hot rod that you've just been dying to show off, here's your chance. Or, if you belong to a car club, Robin and Mary Tucker, owners of Ranchos Auto Repair & Transmission, are extending an open invitation to you and all of your club bud-

dies.

The day's events will include a car show with awards for the best and coolest cars, a BBQ, a raffle, plus you'll be right in the middle of all the action for Flatlanders Day.

The Car Show is Flatlanders Day, Saturday, May 8 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will be located at Ranchos Auto Repair & Transmission at 12090 Rd. 37½, just north of Avenue 12. Call to reserve your spot at 645-4475 and cruise on!

Spring Chore: Clear for Fire Safety

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Now is the time to create that lean, clean and green zone around all of your structures.

Remove all flammable vegetation and any dead or dying plants within 30 feet of each building or structure on your property.

When creating your "defensible space" don't forget that "reduced fuel zone." This area will extend out 100 feet from all structures or to your property line. Decrease surface litter so it is less than 3 inches deep and that will include fallen leaves, pine needles, twigs, bark, pine

cones, pods, small branches, etc.

All loose logs and stumps should be removed. Provide space between trees and brush to create fuel separation.

Grass should not be more than 4 inches in height. If you are utilizing the grass to prevent soil erosion it may reach a height of 18 inches.

Clearance between shrubs should be 4 to 40 feet depending on the slope of the land and the size and type of the vegetation.

Feel free to contact your local fire station with any questions regarding defensible requirements.

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Golden Valley Chamber

2010 Flatlander's Day

Parade Day: Saturday, May 8, 2010 • \$10 Entry Fee

Group Individual Business

Group or Business Name _____

Individual Entry or Responsible Person's Name _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Theme of Entry: _____

Will youngsters walk with the entry? Yes No

Approx. number of participants _____ Approx. length _____ ft.

Entry Category (select ONE most closely suiting your entry):

Horses (Single) Horses (Group) Explain: _____

Band/Music Name: _____

Floats (Non-profit) Name: _____

Floats (Business) Name: _____

Floats (Other) Name: _____

Children's Groups Name: _____

Dance Groups Name: _____

Single Entry (Children) Name: _____

Single Entry (Adult) Name: _____

Novelty Name: _____

Vehicles (Cars/Trucks/Motorcycles): _____

Additional information: _____

Parade begins at 10 a.m. Sharp!
Registration of entries begins at 8:30 a.m.
Parade route: Avenue 12 from Topper to Kensington

The undersigned entrant and all participants agree to abide by all parade rules, follow the directions of parade officials and agree to release parade officials from any and all responsibility from loss, damage, and/or injury to any person or property as a result of participation in the parade.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Bring, fax or mail this form by **May 1** to: **Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce**
37167 Ave. 12 Ste. 5C • Madera, CA 93636 • Fax 645-4002 • Call 645-4001

Parade Sponsored by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, Ranchos Kiwanis and Friends of the Ranchos Library.

Say you saw it in the **Ranchos Independent**

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

Shortly after Wheeler, the question was asked of all candidates. They all pledged or said they have already taken cuts, but some declined to state how much. My issue here is that when it comes to elected officials there is no "secret" or "confidential" permitted. Elected officials and people seeking election or appointment to elected positions cannot be considered employees. They are not protected under civil service laws, so what is the deal?

This is probably a case of County Counsel again saying, "This is the way I want it to be so until you take us to court, this is the way it will be done."

"The Right Way, The Wrong Way and the Madera Way."

And we wonder why Madera County spends so much time and money in Court.

By the way, the April 13 meeting was at times interesting.

Supervisor Bigelow slipped in a letter to the Governor asking for continued support of the Williamson act. I support the letter asking for the State to continue funding support for the program BUT I do not think it is strong enough. The letter needs to include the true statement that Madera County cannot continue the program without State support. I am increasingly bitter about essential services for rural Madera County being cut and our Board refusing to even discuss, on the record, the \$1.3 million dollar drain on the general fund caused by Madera County's continued financial support of the program. How can we have an open and honest discussion of the County Budget without including the Williamson Act?

The simple answer is we cannot.

Item 9 was the first hearing for a new fee on filing an assessment appeal. The Board instructed all departments to come up with fees to cover the cost of doing business. The Clerk of the Board submitted the proposal for this fee to be assessed on anybody filling an appeal. I was amazed when the Madera County Assessor stepped up to the

podium and stated he was opposed to the fee. Blindsiding the Chief Clerk of the Board, cutting her off at the knees so to speak, was an amazing tactic and I was having a hard time understanding, until I remembered this is an election year.

My opinion of our current assessor just dropped a couple more notches.

I planned to strongly oppose the fee as presented because it was structured as non-refundable. I don't like paying for anything, but when I ask for more than everybody else it is reasonable to charge for the added service. No matter what the system is there will always be people out there figuring out how to abuse it. The change I proposed was that if you win the appeal, your appeal was probably justified and you should get your fee back; if you lose the appeal, the fees stands.

Item 11 was the quarry project hearing. It went as expected: many question few answers.

Bottom line: Some people will be happy with nothing less than the project going away. Some people just want to get the damn process over with and start digging. The reality is we need quarries and quarries need to be in somebody's back yard, just "not mine."

Questions were raised about several mitigations being achieved with various "PLANS," example: "The Grouting Plan." The speaker stated there was a plan referenced to solve the issue but no actual plan could be found. A bit like our Board saying our financial troubles will be corrected with the "budget plan." It makes us all feel warm and fuzzy until we try to read the referenced "budget plan" and discover it has yet to be worked out.

I guess my big question to both sides of the issue would be why are we wasting all of this time and energy on "What if," or "We think ..." This can't be the first quarry of its kind. What happened in and around other hard rock quarries along the sierra foothills?

At the end of the long day it was continued to another day.

What is the Kingdom of God Like?

By Bob Crabb

Kingdom Talk

In the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, Jesus teaches his disciples the Kingdom prayer. We often hear it called "The Lord's Prayer," but I really think it can be called "The Kingdom Prayer," because Jesus asks his disciple to pray for the coming of the Kingdom of God. Jesus seemed to understand that the Kingdom of Heaven was already present in some way in His presence. The word "kingdom" is an old fashioned word. The New World dictionary defines "kingdom" as: "A realm or sphere or place in which one thing is dominant." Using this definition it is easier to see that there are many types of kingdoms in our world today. There are political kingdoms, cultural kingdoms, economic kingdoms, secular kingdoms, spiritual kingdoms and even animal

What shall we say the Kingdom of God is like? Why, it's very near to us right now. Can you see it?

kingdoms. Kingdoms are everywhere. Sometimes towns can have a kind of "kingdom." It used to be that in Detroit, automobile manufacturing was the dominant factor in every aspect of that city's life. Detroit could have been described as the automobile manufacturing kingdom of the world.

Jesus seems very comfortable using the words "the Kingdom of God" and "the Kingdom of Heaven," but the way he used the word "kingdom," didn't really make sense in the worldly usage of the word. For Jesus, the Kingdom of God was not a place or thing or even a country, but it was almost always an action, or at least associated with an action. The Kingdom of God was: like a man who sowed good seed in his field (Matthew 13:24); like a mustard seed which grew (Matthew 13:31); like yeast that a woman mixed and worked through the dough (Matthew 13:33); like a merchant who looked and found a pearl of great value and bought it (Matthew 13:45); like a net that caught all kinds of fish (Matthew 13:47); like a King who forgave (Mat 18:23); like a landowner who paid his workers (Matthew 20:1); like a king who prepared a feast and invited

everyone to the banquet(Matthew 22). When Jesus uses the words "Kingdom of God," He was not referring to an earthly location. The "Kingdom of God" is associated with an action of God.

So when the followers of Christ, which is His Church, celebrate the gifts and the blessings of God, then the Kingdom of God is right there. When you are praying in good times and when you are praying in difficult times, then the Kingdom of God is right there. When you forgive someone a great debt then the Kingdom of God is near. We are part of the Kingdom of God and we can share it and we can do it and we can live it. When we are driving our cars and when we are at the supermarket and when we are talking to our neighbors, we can live out the Kingdom of God by what we do and what we say.

When we reach out to God in happiness and in sadness, we are part of the Kingdom of God. When we show compassion, mercy, service and sacrifice in the Name of Christ for the sake of the world, then the Kingdom of God is near. When we call someone who is going through a hard time, when we listen to each other in times of stress and loss, then we know that the Kingdom of God is near. What then shall we say that the Kingdom of God is like? Why it is very much like each of us who yearn for the Good News of God.

Caught Off Guard

So often when Jesus spoke, he used words in ways that caught people off guard. Jesus spoke in parables and metaphors and even symbols. Jesus said that he was the bread of life, that he was the light of the world, that he was the way and the truth, that he was the gate for the sheep, that he was living water, that he was the good shepherd, and that he was the vine.

So often Jesus talked about a world vision that also caught people off guard. For instance, the Kingdom of God was about people who were experiencing great loss and great diffi-

Please see **PASTOR** on P. 20

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Senior Report

Spring: Beautiful, Simply Beautiful

by Eleanore Burchell

Have you taken the time to look around to see the snow capped mountains? They have been gorgeous! The deciduous trees have been leafing and the new spring leaves are clean and bright green. They too are dazzling. As seniors, we now have the time to enjoy our surroundings more than we did in previous years. Stop a minute and enjoy our world.

The Ranchos/Hills Seniors, Inc., located at 37330 Berkshire, held their 18th Annual Home and Garden Festival on April 3. The rain held off so, weather-wise, we had a fairly nice day. Many buyers left with trees and more from the Garden Section while others bought substantially from the Treasure House and Bake Sale. The day started with a biscuit and gravy breakfast which was well attended. Then for lunch we also offered BBQ hamburgers, hot dogs or pulled-pork sandwiches. As mentioned in last

month's article, we are getting better at this every year. Other sessions are now being planned. For more information, please call Joann at 645-4864. Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) representatives were present, as well as many individual vendors.

A Sad Note

Again, we must announce the loss of another one of our members. Tony La Notte passed away early on the morning of April 6. Tony loved to dance and was well known in many of the surrounding cities. He also regularly attended the exercise classes here at the center. We will dearly miss him. Our sympathy goes out to his family and many friends.

Approximately 50 attended the Garden Grafting Seminar in March. Two more garden educational sessions will be held later in the year. For more information you may call the center or watch the bulletin boards scattered

around the Ranchos.

Our 2nd Annual Benefit Bike Ride was held Saturday, April 17. It was a successful day and we already are looking forward to next year for the 3rd Annual Bike Ride.

Since the Home and Garden Festival we have received many, many plants and trees so you are invited to come to see them.

Next Sale Planned

Our next sale will be held on Saturday, May 1 at 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Many of our members will be there to greet you. Since summer is drawing nigh, the season to plant bare-root trees is nearly over so plan to attend the sale

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

to check out the trees still available. The Bake Sale and Treasure House will have many new items. The boutique has jewelry and novelty items and much more. Please remember the plant, produce and boutique sections are available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Thursday

evenings between 6 and 9 p.m. We currently have jellies, plenty of citrus, lemons, oranges, tangerines and grapefruit for sale. We also have plain and sugared walnuts in the produce section.

Our center is affiliated with the Fresno/Madera Area Agency on Aging (FMAAA) and you are invited to come in and check with Joann about programs which will help you.

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

Please see **SENIORS** on P. 21



Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes

by Jean Briner

Strawberries Anyone?

What is your favorite sign of spring? Tulips and Crocus popping up out of the ground? All the beautiful trees blossoming? The wildflowers on the side of the road? April showers? (Holy Cow! That was no shower we got last week! Hope you weren't out in it as I was.) Although I love the signs of spring I just mentioned, there is one thing I look forward to in spring and that

is the strawberry stands going up in the strawberry fields. When we see them, we know it is strawberry season.

According to a list of 25 low carb fruits, strawberries are second to lowest, only behind watermelon (believe it or not). Strawberries have 6.5g of carbs per half cup sliced serving and watermelon has 5.5g. Strawberries have lots of vitamins and minerals, so eat up.

Strawberries can be fixed so many different ways, and always good. There is strawberry pie or "pizza," strawberry shortcake – those of you that went to the Crab Feed, how about that shortcake we had for dessert? (Ollie told me the cake part was muffins). There are strawberry waffles, and last, but by no means least, strawberry jam.

My niece Vicki's late Grandma Henderson made strawberry freezer jam and I was the benefactor of a jar or two from time to time. Delicious! I understand great niece Lauren has been moaning the fact that she misses Grandma's jam. Well dear, now is the time to learn how to make it and continue your Grandma's tradition. I went through my Mom's recipe cards

and found a recipe (not sure if it is the same one Grandma Henderson made, but it will work). So in memory of Grandma Henderson here is my Mom's recipe:

Quick No-Cook Fresh Fruit Jam

- 2 qts. Ripe Strawberries
- ¼ C Lemon Juice
- 1 pkg. (2 oz) Jam and Jelly Pectin
- 1 C Karo Light Corn Syrup
- 4½ C Sugar

Fully crush fruit. It should measure 3¼ C. In a 4 qt. bowl stir together the fruit and lemon juice. Slowly add pectin, stirring vigorously. Set aside 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add corn syrup, mix well. Gradually stir in sugar until dissolved. Ladle into clean ½ pt. jars or freezer containers leav-

ing ½" headspace. Cover tightly. Jams in use should be kept in refrigerator up to three weeks or stored in freezer for up to one year. Makes seven containers. This recipe can be used with peaches or nectarines – using

2½ pounds ripe fruit in the place of the strawberries.

We get a newsletter here in the park I live and there is usually a recipe someone has donated. I guess someone was thinking along the same lines I was because in the April newsletter the following recipe was in it. I haven't made it, but it sounds good.

Special Strawberry Salad

- ¾ C sugar
- 1 8 oz. pkg. Cream Cheese – room temp.
- 1 C Chopped Nuts
- 2 Bananas – sliced
- 1 Large Can Crushed Pineapple – drained
- 1 10 oz. Frozen or Fresh Strawberries
- 1 Large Carton Cool Whip

If fresh strawberries are used, clean and slice and set aside. Mix sugar and cream cheese with elec-

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 20

Although I love the signs of spring ... there is one thing I look forward to in spring and that is the strawberry stands going up in the strawberry fields. When we see them, we know it is strawberry season.

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Fresno Labor Camp Escapee Captured Southeast of Ranchos

A Madera inmate wanted for walking off the "job" in Fresno County was taken into custody by Madera County Deputies Sunday night, April 18, at approximately 8 p.m. Garl Anthony Sharp, 41, of Madera was arrested near Road 32 and Avenue 11, just southeast of the Madera Ranchos.

According to the Madera County Department of Corrections (DOC), Sharp was assigned to participate in the city of Fresno's Inmate Labor Program, a contract set up by the city of Fresno in 2009 to use Madera County inmates on beautification projects.

On Jan. 15, 2010, a \$150,000 warrant was issued for Sharp's arrest for es-

cape from custody.

The Sheriff's Department received a tip Sunday night, April 18, as to where Deputies could find Sharp. After a short foot chase he was apprehended and taken into custody without further incident. DOC records show that when Sharp walked away from the Inmate Labor Program he was being housed inside the Madera County Department of Corrections for interfering with an Officer and probation violation. Sharp was on probation for petty theft.

Deemed an escape risk, Sharp remains jailed at this hour with bail set at \$150,000.



Garl Anthony Sharp, 41, of Madera was arrested near Road 32 and Avenue 11, just southeast of the Madera Ranchos.

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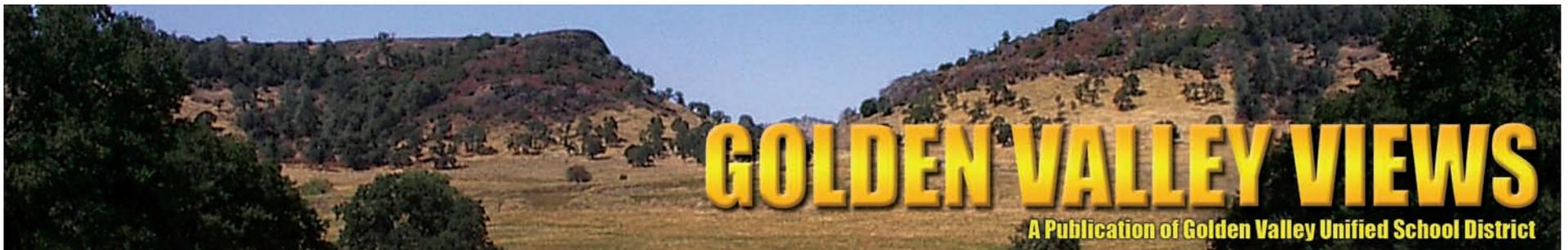
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Tough Times for California, Golden Valley Unified - Tough Decisions Needed



Golden Valley Unified School District Superintendent, Sarah Koligian.

By Superintendent Sarah Koligian

Who would have thought that the State of California would be in such a financial crisis that school districts are forced to make value judgments on what is most important in educating the future citizens of our state? I recall when I was interviewing for the position of Superintendent of Golden Valley Unified School District three years ago. I researched all I could about the district, attended a town hall meeting regarding the mitigation agreement between a major developer and the school district. Before beginning my new role as Superintendent, I attended the Board Budget Workshops that were held to fi-

nalize the Adopted Budget for 2007-2008. The budget projections, back in the spring of 2007 were optimistic. The district had recently completed a feasibility study that projected increasing student growth and development over the next several years. It seemed that managing the district budget was going to be attainable, even though we had not yet hired a Chief Business Official (CBO).

The 2007-2008 school year was a year of many firsts, we completed the first developer mitigation agreement with a major developer, we hired a CBO, we had schools that had never applied for California Distinguished School status, apply and earn the prestigious recognition of Distinguished Schools. We had schools applying and earning the California School Board Association Golden Bell Awards for programs of distinction; we had schools earning the Bonner Virtues and Character award, and we had employees earning the Madera Excellence in Education Employee of the Year title.

Roll the clock forward to May, 2010 - education is now suffering one of the most devastating funding years since the Great Depression, relatively speaking. These tough times are unprecedented and many schools throughout California are making difficult and painful decisions; closing schools, loading classes with more students, eliminating crucial elective programs; reducing home-to-school transportation; issuing layoff notices to highly qualified administrators, teachers and classified staff; adding more responsibility and duties, especially in management po-

sitions; eliminating extra-curricular activities; reducing classroom supplies; and eliminating field trips, just to name a few of the casualties of these economic times.

No one, neither teacher, parent, classified staff, manager, community member, board member, nor superintendent, wants to see reduction or elimination to any positions or programs, especially in light of the many successes Golden Valley Unified has experienced for the past three years. When all is going well, why do we need to consider changing anything? Change is difficult in the best of times. Change during economic hardships that affect our schools, families, employment and the economy, make it even more challenging to face. Unfortunately, the state has left us few options, but to consider changing the way we do business. We no longer have the luxury of operating in a "business as usual" mode. Golden Valley Unified must respond to the Governor's education budget proposal of an 18% deficit to the revenue limit, in addition to a \$200 decrease per student in revenue funding. The district must submit a positive certification for the 2nd Interim Budget to the County and to the State by March 15th for the current and next two years and must adopt a balanced budget by June 30, 2010, which may be before the state even adopts their budget. The bottom line is that the state's imposed deficits to revenue translate to approximately \$1.8 million dollars less in expenses for 2010-2011 for Golden Valley, and approximately \$750,000 in reductions for 2011-2012, with today's eco-

nomie scenario.

School districts across California invest the majority of their revenues in their most important resource, their people. Golden Valley is no different. Approximately 83% of Golden Valley's budget is invested in staff. How can a district with an operating budget of approximately \$15 million reduce their budget by \$1.8 million, by not affecting people? Tough decisions are being made. Staff are affected; not because this is something the district wants to do, but is something they must do to remain fiscally solvent and stable.

With all of this "doom and gloom" I am still confident that Golden Valley Unified will pull through these tough economic times, and yes, it will be by doing "more with less", but in the end, this district is committed to providing the very best to its students, even with more limited resources. How do I know that? I know our employees have overcome economic challenges over the past two years and they are still creating more positive student results than the year before. Golden Valley is blessed with some of the most dedicated and committed employees that I have had the privilege of working with. As a community we must continue to offer support and the cohesiveness that has defined this educational community for the past ten years. These are indeed tough times that are demanding tough decisions, but the fortitude and strength of working as a unified team will allow us to overcome even the toughest of times.

Foundation for Golden Valley Schools Awards Over \$80,000 in Grants

The Foundation for Golden Valley School held their 6th Annual Stars event on April 10 at Birdstone Winery. There was a wonderful turnout - the ambiance was beautiful, the food was delicious, the music was entertaining, the raffle prizes were fantastic and the company was great. If you did not join us this year, please be sure to join us next year. We recognized the 2009 STAR Employee winners, along with the 2009 Grant Award winners. We also recognized the 2010 Grant Award winners and the 2010 STAR Employees of the Year. One of the Foundation's major goals is to give back to the educational community in the form of new teacher grants and classroom grants. To date, they have given back over \$80,000 to support our teach-

ers and students, which is quite an awesome contribution for our fledgling Foundation.

The 2010 Grants were all funded at 100 percent thanks to the Foundation and the generous contributions of a few business partners who helped make it possible to fully fund each grant. This year, between the six grants that were submitted, over \$9,500 in grants were awarded, with over \$5,000 of the awards coming from donations from our business partners. Congratulations to the following teachers whose grants were awarded Saturday night:

Laura Mayer - Sierra View Elementary - Enrichment Electives - \$1,000

Fidencio Cuevas - Liberty High School - Lab Safety Sterilization Cabinet - \$1,200

Melanie Lewis - Liberty High School Library - 9th Grade Cross-Curricular Unit - \$1,020

Larissa Sobieralski - Liberty High School and Ranchos Middle School - two Digital Pianos (one per site) - \$1,300

Jennifer Woods - Webster Elementary - SMART Response Remotes - \$2,200

Ruben Iniguez - Ranchos Middle - Tactile Math Teaching Project - w/SMART Board and Student Response System - \$2,800

Congratulations again to our five 2010 STAR Employees who were honored at the Foundation event:

Suzie Dunn - STAR Instructional Employee Award

Mary Lou Castro - STAR Operational

Employee Award

Joy Hurt - STAR Secondary Teacher Award
Crissy McElhaney - STAR Elementary

Teacher Award

Kuljeet Mann - STAR Administrator Award
Congratulations to the following STAR

Employees of the year who will be moving forward as candidates to the "Madera County Excellence in Education" awards. We wish them much luck as they compete at the 2010 Madera County competition!

Suzie Dunn - Classified Employee of the Year

Crissy McElhaney - Certificated Employee of the Year

Kuljeet Mann - Administrator of the Year.

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Golden Valley Employee Group Loses Its Sanity for Good Cause

On Saturday, Feb. 27, 11 courageous and slightly insane Golden Valley employees participated in the Polar Bear Plunge at Millerton Lake. The proceeds of this crazy event went to sponsor athletes of the Northern California Special Olympics. Special Olympics provide many different events at no cost to the athletes who participate. Students at Webster Elementary School, Ranchos Middle School and Liberty High School participate in Special Olympics events every year. Jumping into freezing water was a way for the Golden Valley team to raise \$1,081 for our amazing athletes, beating our \$1,000 goal.



Ten of the 11 Golden Valley employees who showed up at Millerton Lake in February to take the "Polar Bear Plunge" to raise money for Special Olympics.

Our team met at Millerton Lake on a rainy Saturday where we were surprised to see emergency crews and EMTs hovering on rafts in the lake. That is when we began to doubt our sanity. The rules of the polar bear plunge clearly stated that "no wet suits" were allowed. When teams were lined up to begin the plunge,

Golden Valley quickly volunteered to go first. Decked out in our green and gold spirit colors, we "took the plunge." Since most of us were expecting to have icicles dripping off of our ear lobes as we came out of the water, it was decided by our group that the water wasn't all that cold. Several shivering moments later we were wrapped in towels and standing near the fire that Frank Panian's dad had set up. The event was a great time with lunch catered by Outback Steakhouse. Next year the team would like to recruit more members and boost our pledges, so mark your calendars for Feb. 26, 2011 and join us for the next Polar

Bear Plunge. Those crazy team members were Christy Panian, Frank Panian, Lindsey Williams, Diana Forshee, Kim Lydon, Kristi Fisher, Becky Reynolds, Angeline Ohanesian, James Brannon, Deanna Estabrooke and Debbie Sandhurst. We want to see your name on this list next year.

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PASTOR cont. from P. 12

culties and great sadness and great poverty. Jesus said: "Blessed are those who mourn ..., Blessed are the meek ..., Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness ..., Blessed are the merciful ..., Blessed are the pure in heart ..., Blessed are the peacemakers ..., Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness ..., Blessed are those who are economically poor and who are hungry, for

theirs is the Kingdom of God." (Matthew 5:3ff and Luke 6:20ff). It is within the Kingdom of God that to our great astonishment that we find unity in community even though we can sometimes appear so different from each other. In the Kingdom of God, we are welcomed as family of the Most High God.

By the grace of God, the church of Christ tries to practice the presence of Christ in the middle of our broken human condition. In the Kingdom of

God, God says that He will be our God and we will be His children. If people such as us are given a chance to live in the Kingdom of God, if people such as us are being brought into the family of Christ, then the whole wide world is called into the Kingdom of God. And if we are saved and if we are family, then despite it all we can live with a certain joy; we can disrupt each other's lives with conversations of "agape" love. We can hold each other up with prayers of thanksgiving and

we can meet each other as brothers and sisters and share the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

What shall we say the Kingdom of God is like? Why, it's very near to us right now.

Can you see it?

Pastor Bob Crabb is the Pastor of the Christian Mission Center meeting at 36875 Avenue 12 (Loren Way and Ave. 12). They worship Sundays at 10:30AM. All are welcome.

RECIPE cont. from P. 14

tric mixer. Fold in nuts, drained pineapple, strawberries and Cool Whip. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

If you want to make a strawberry pizza, you really don't have to have a pizza pan. If you don't have a pizza pan you can use anything you have on hand. The last one I made, I used a deep dish glass pie plate, but you can use anything. Use your ingenuity and your imagination. If you want to impress company coming, make it in a spring form pan and when ready to serve, put it on a pretty cake plate and pipe some whipping cream around the bottom.

I used a pie crust recipe, using butter and adding a little sugar, but here again you can use your favorite crust. I went on line to see what was used, and believe me, just about anything can be used. There were recipes using Bisquick, sugar cookie recipe, or even one recipe used a package of ready to bake sugar cookies. But the one I like the best was the one used for Republican Dessert.

Strawberry Pizza

1 C Flour

1 Stick Butter-softened

½ C Chopped Nuts (optional)

2 T Powdered Sugar (optional)

Mix together like pie dough. Press into pan with fingers and bake 10 minutes in 350 oven. Let cool before putting on second layer.

Second Layer:

1 Pkg. (8 oz) Cream Cheese - softened

½ C Powdered Sugar

2 C Sliced Strawberries

In a mixing bowl, beat cream cheese and powdered sugar until

smooth. Spread on cooled crust. Arrange sliced berries on top.

Top Layer:

1 C Sugar

¼ C Cornstarch

2 C Crushed Strawberries

In a large saucepan, combine sugar, cornstarch and crushed berries. Bring to boil, cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened. Cool slightly. Spoon over strawberries. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

While I was writing this article, we had some real wild weather. With the hail storm and all the rain this week, I hope it didn't damage the strawberries too badly. Maybe if we get some warm weather it will dry their fields out and there won't be too much loss.

Well, that does it for this month. I still like to hear from you about the things you've made from the recipes here, or just to get your comments. Call me at the office, or e-mail me at the paper. But most of all thanks for reading.

A Special Note

One more thing before I "put this to bed." I'd like to put on a different hat and give some "congrats":

To Kent Ridge for being chosen as the 2010 Flatlanders' Parade Grand Marshall. This is the 20th anniversary for the parade.

To Maryanne Parks for being chosen the 2009 Volunteer of the year by the Chamber of Commerce. If you saw her work, you would know why they chose her.

And to our own Randy Bailey for receiving the Golden Apple Award, being nominated by the Golden Valley Unified School District.



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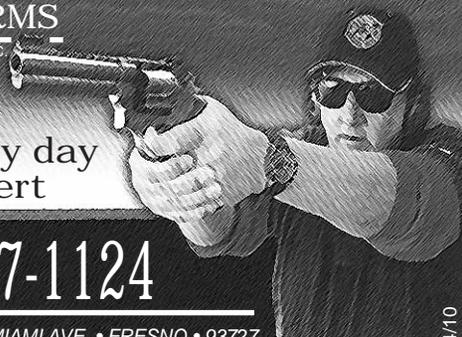


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SENIORS cont. from P. 13

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Our members and friends go out for breakfast, lunch or dinner at different places each month to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries. Our April luncheon was held on Saturday, April 10 at Aztlan Restaurant. Fun was had by all! If you are interested in joining us for this or any of our events, please call Joann at 645-4864. We enjoy eating and having fun so we urge you to come and join us. If you are new to the area, lonely or have just lost a spouse, we welcome you to come in to see us. Many of our members have surely experienced your same situation and we are here for you so please call us at 645-4864.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

"If you want to see the true value of a man, watch how he treats his inferiors."

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

More Facts and Fun

A nutritionally balanced lunch program Monday through Friday 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. We have a growing exercise program being held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. The participants are getting more than just exercise by attending. They have fun, share laughs and meet new friends. There is room for you and you may attend all three days or just

one or two of them. After lunch on Tuesdays there is an opening for a pinochle player. If you enjoy playing pinochle yourself or know of someone else who would like to fill this vacancy, please call Joann at 645-4864. We have started a new craft session on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. Next project will be sweatshirts. However, if you would like to learn to knit or crochet, here is your opportunity to learn while having fun. Card BINGO meets on Fridays, noon to 1 p.m. We have a large group but there is always room for one more – you! Fill your car with your friends or neighbors as they will enjoy finding new friends here, too. Come in and check these classes out.

Up and Coming Events

Saturday, May 1, Monthly Sale
Saturday, June 5, Monthly Sale

Weekly Events

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

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

Tuesday, Pinochle, noon until?

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

Wednesday, Line Dancing Class, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Thursday, 12:30 p.m. Crafts and lots of fun

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

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

Friday, Card BINGO, noon – 1 p.m.

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



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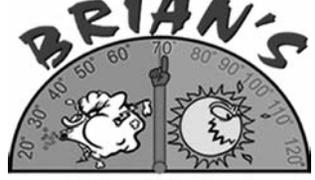
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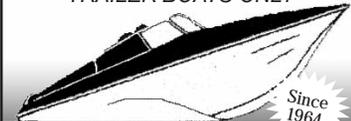
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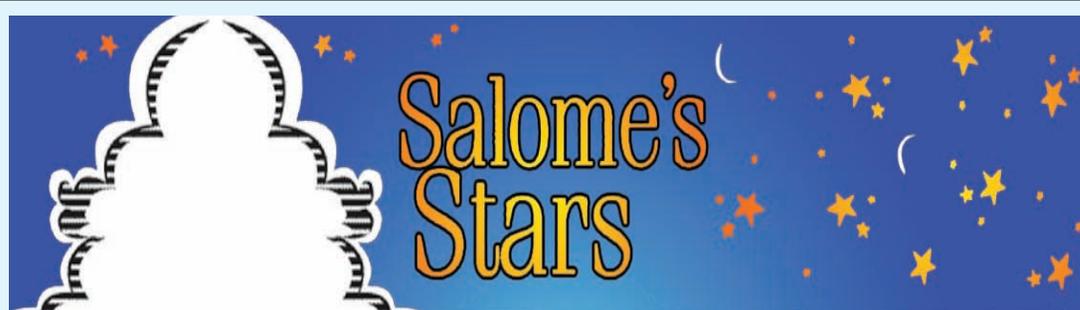
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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Don't be put off by a seemingly too-tangled situation. Sometimes a simple procedure will unsnarl all the knots and get you in the clear fast and easy, just the way the Lamb likes it.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) It's a good time to go through your work space -- wherever it is -- and see what needs to be replaced and what can be tossed (or at least given away) without a second thought.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Someone who disagrees with your position might try to intimidate you. But continue to present a fair argument, regardless of how petty someone else might be while trying to make a point.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You might find yourself exceptionally sensitive to family matters this week. An issue could come to light that you had overlooked. Ask other kinfolk to discuss it with you.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) You might have more questions about a project (or perhaps someone you're dealing with on some level) than you feel comfortable with. If so, see which can be answered, which cannot, and why.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) It's a good time to clean up and clear out what you don't need before your tidy self is overwhelmed by "stuff." Then go celebrate the Virgo victory over clutter with someone special.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You might feel a mite confused about why something you were sure couldn't go wrong didn't go all right either. Be patient. Things soon move into balance, exactly as you like it.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) At this decision point, you could be moving from side to side, just to say you're in motion. Or you could be considering making a move straight up. What you choose is up to you.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Although your finances should be in an improved situation at this time, thrift is still the savvy Sagittarian's smart move. Advice from a spouse or partner could be worth heeding.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Taking on a new challenge brings out the Goat's skills in maneuvering over and around difficult spots. Best of all, the Goat does it one careful step after another. (Got the idea, Kid?)

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Don't give up yet. Your well-known patience might be wearing thin because of a disturbing (and seemingly unending) problem with someone close to you. This could be a time to ask for help. Good luck.

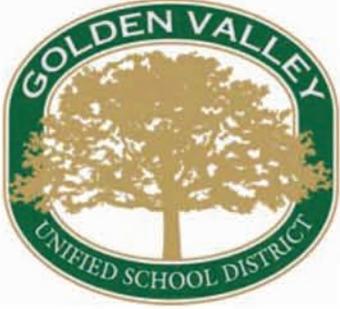
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Be careful about a new venture that lures you into a "just-look-and-see" mode. Be sure that what you're being given to see isn't hiding what you should be seeing instead.

Born this Week

Aries and Taurus give you the gift of leadership and the blessings of care and concern for all creatures.

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Missed Manners and Clueless

My mother always said I was an old soul. I am a reluctant member of "Generation Y." Reluctant in that I adhere to a more old-fashioned social etiquette standard. I believe you should respect your elders, respect authority and respect other people as well as their personal property and space. I believe that manners and etiquette are crucial in maintaining a civil society, and most importantly, I believe that my generation, and the generations that have come after, lack these qualities. Because of this, I have always preferred the company of adults, even when I was a young child. Although, what younger generations lack in respect, proper decorum, even work ethic, they more than make up for it with a sense of vanity, apathy and entitlement, prevalent in those like Paris Hilton, the Kardashian girls and the entire cast of MTV's The Hills. We are the entitlement generation. Nothing need be earned – I am here, and I deserve whatever I want, innately, without having to earn it.

Interestingly enough, the one thing my generation demands you earn is respect, although not in the traditional sense, nor do they have the slightest idea of what earning it really means. There is a clear difference between earning respect and showing respect, although that concept seems to be lost on the young minds. I was always taught to show respect to my elders, my teachers, my parents, bosses and other authority figures. This is no longer the common thread. Teachers aren't respected until they "earn" it, and evidently spending years in school, obtaining their degree, acquiring a teaching credential and putting up with ungrateful teenagers just hasn't done the trick. This misconception about respect has flourished into a frightening lack of manners the whole nation over. From those that treat the roads as their own personal speedway, to others who think their telephone conversation is important enough to hold up the line of 20 stacking up behind them. It is everywhere, and it is maddening.

Case in point, while shopping at Wal-Mart recently I became a victim of shopping cart rage, not as deadly as road rage, but disastrous for the Achilles tendon. I was standing next to a freezer bin in a center aisle, trying to decide which was a healthier snack, corn dogs or taquitos, when I was side-swiped by a twit in a tube top, mini skirt and spike-heeled boots. The perfect shopping outfit for a Sunday afternoon at Wal-Mart because apparently no woman in her 20s can leave the house without her stilettos and cleavage on display.

I'm not sure what her intentions were, regardless, she misjudged the distance between my cart and the empty open space directly to my left and crashed into me. The

**GEN
ERA
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WHY**
by **eryn b. nyre**



corn dogs and taquitos went flying, and the sharp metal corner of my cart pierced my ankle. Needless to say, I forgot my own rule about swearing in public for a few regrettable seconds.

For those who have not had the pleasure of meeting me. I am easily the clumsiest woman in the world and would have been able to achieve spilled groceries and a bleeding ankle all on my own, without the aid of Wal-Mart Barbie and her erratic cart pushing. I probably could have done it without benefit of any movement of any kind, that's how clumsy I am. Regardless, there I stood, cupping my ankle to try and stop the bleeding, biting my tongue to try and stop the cussing, when she starts yelling at me for being in the way and not looking where I was standing – completely still, on the side of the aisle, up next to the freezer bin with 15 feet of open space between me and the end-cap display. Maybe if she had the extra 3 feet of space I was taking up, she would have been able to successfully maneuver her cart without bloodshed. Regardless, here was this girl, yelling at me, because I had nothing better to do than be in her way.

Resisting the urge to raise my voice and take her on in a screaming match, I flashed her a smile and told her I accepted her apology and offered her a cart driving lesson, or two, because clearly she needed all the help she could get. I limped past, leaving her yelling next to the crash site, thinking to myself, what a shining example of the manners that have become commonplace today.

Running rampant the nation over, especially in the younger generations, is the idea that only "I" matter. Only "my stuff" matters. Your stuff is expendable and, if it, or you, get in my way, off with your head. Gone are the days of "The right to swing my fist ends where the other man's nose begins," (Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.), now are the days of, "The right to swing my fist is inalienable and there is nothing you can do or say to stop me, and if you try, you are a fascist. This is a free country!"

If that is the case, then I say I have the inalienable right to spray-paint the disrespectful masses lime green, that way we all know whom to avoid.

Say you saw it in the **Ranchos Independent**

Ranchos First in Madera County For New, High-Tech Road Material



The Madera County Road Department Traffic Crew installed a new all-weather, high-visibility thermoplastic marking material at the crosswalks on Road 36 near Liberty High School and Ranchos Middle School Wednesday, April 7. This is the first location in Madera County to receive installation of this special type of material.

For updates regarding Road Department issues and activities, you can follow their exploits on Twitter at www.Twitter.com/maderaroads.

Birdstone Winery, Alegria Guild “Party on the Grass” for Hospital

On Saturday, May 15 at 5:30 p.m. on the lawn at Birdstone Winery, 9400 Road 36 at Avenue 9, Alegria Guild and Birdstone Winery will present “Release Party on the Grass” to celebrate the fifth annual release of “Alegria Guild Reserve by Birdstone Winery,” wines whose proceeds benefit Alegria Guild of Children’s Hospital Central California.

The party includes a fabulous meal catered by Central Valley Caterers and live music by local blues legend AC Myles. The

evening starts at 5:30 p.m., following the Madera Wine Trail’s Spring Wine Trail Adventure. Guests can sample the newly released wines and enjoy Alegria Pomegranate-Blood Orange Sangria, check out the box auction and enjoy the fun at the “Release Party on the Grass.”

All proceeds from the event go to benefit Children’s Hospital. Reservations are \$35 and include dinner, wine tasting and concert. You can contact Alice Tesei to reserve your seat at (559) 673-9440.

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LEGAL NOTICE

“MADERA COUNTY HAS DECLARED THAT THE GROWTH AND ACCUMULATION OF WEEDS IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF THE COUNTY POSES A FIRE SAFETY AND PUBLIC HEALTH RISK AND THEREFORE HAS DECLARED WEEDS A SEASONAL AND RECURRING NUISANCE. THE RESPONSIBILITY TO ABATE SUCH NUISANCE LIES WITH THE INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY OWNER. THIS YEAR THIS NUISANCE MUST BE ABATED ON OR BEFORE MAY 1, 2010.”

Due to the weed regrowth and the continual hazard throughout the summer HAZARD ABATEMENT MUST BE MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT THE FIRE SEASON. This may require REDISCING/HAZARD ABATEMENT MORE THAN ONCE AS WEEDS AND HAZARDS MAY RETURN.

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ANSWERS

A	S	E	T	NOON	NOON	NOEL	Y	M	C
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LEVA(R)ELHAMS

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

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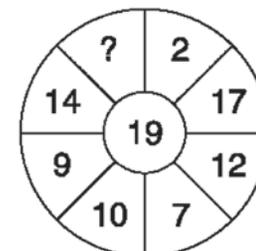
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STICKELERS
by Terry Stickels

Can you determine what number should replace the question mark in the figure below?



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Each pair of numbers, starting with the 2 and the 17 and then moving clockwise, add up to 19.
The missing number is 5.

SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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

	÷		+		11
+		x		-	
	+		+		15
x		+		x	
	x		-		3
20		25		5	

1 2 3 4 5 7 7 8 9
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Please let your family, friends and community know that if they list or buy real estate from *The Real Estate Network*, owner Eileen Tiso will donate to Sierra View, Webster, Ranchos Middle School and Liberty High School.

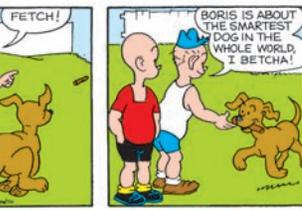
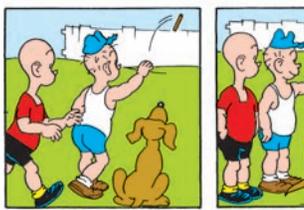
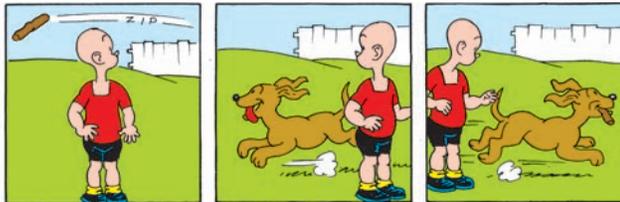
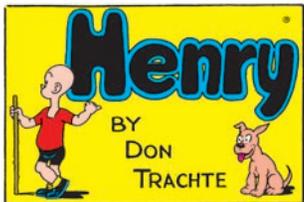
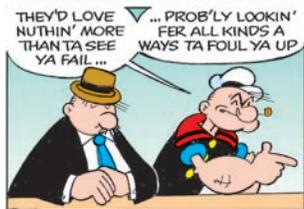
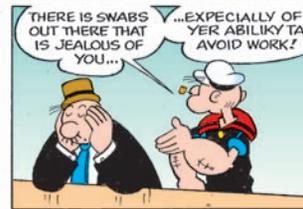
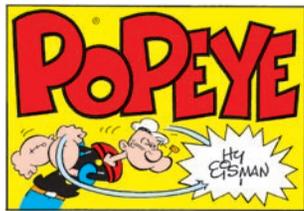
Donations will be made for the following programs: Reading labs, music programs, field trips and supplies for students.

Call *The Real Estate Network*
at 645-1102 or
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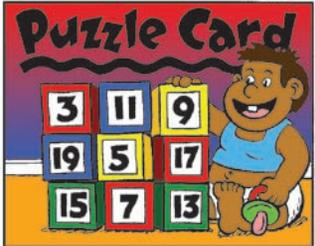
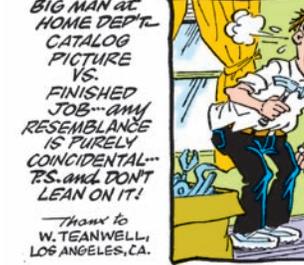
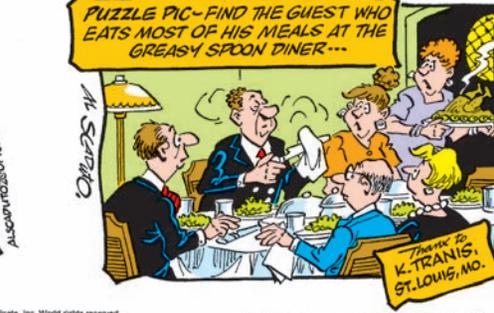
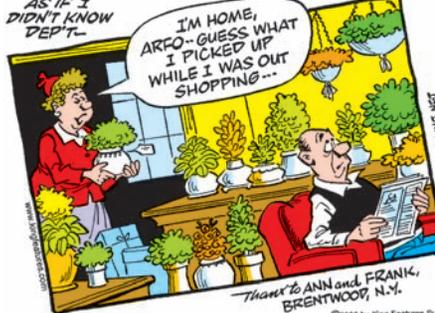
4/10

FUN PAGES



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



PRECOCIOUS PAUL can restack these blocks in one minute flat so that the numbers will add up to 33 across, down and diagonally. Can you match his speed?

IT'S PARTY TIME! Can you solve this AlphaMath puzzle before the cake's finished? You must replace the letters on the side of the refrigerator with the digits 0, 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, so that you have a correct addition problem. The same letters get the same digits. Try to get the highest possible total.

FOR THE BIRDS! Can you find the four five-letter words in the word square on the right that match the definitions below? All words used must read the same both across and down.

Wishing Well

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

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.

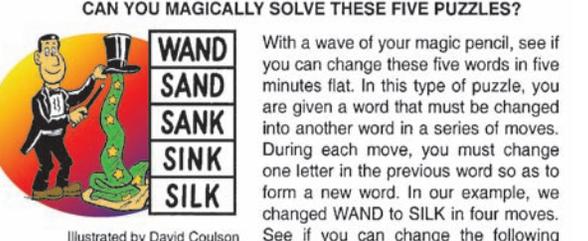
20TH-CENTURY MAGIC MAZE COMPOSERS

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

- Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
- | | | | |
|-----------|---------|-----------|------------|
| Barber | Chávez | Holst | Ravel |
| Berio | Copland | Mahler | Strauss |
| Bernstein | Debussy | McCartney | Stravinsky |
| Busoni | Elgar | Puccini | |

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



CAN YOU MAGICALLY SOLVE THESE FIVE PUZZLES? With a wave of your magic pencil, see if you can change these five words in five minutes flat. In this type of puzzle, you are given a word that must be changed into another word in a series of moves. During each move, you must change one letter in the previous word so as to form a new word. In our example, we changed WAND to SILK in four moves. See if you can change the following words in four moves each.

- CASK to WINE
- FUEL to HEAT
- GULL to BIRD
- WOOD to BURN
- LARD to COOK

TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- MOVIES:** Which one of the Seven Dwarfs is the only one wearing glasses in Disney's "Snow White" animated film?
- TELEVISION:** Who starred in the TV series "Quantum Leap"?
- PSYCHOLOGY:** A xenophobic person would be afraid of what?
- GEOGRAPHY:** What was the prior name of the nation of Sri Lanka?
- LANGUAGE:** What is another name for comestibles?
- COMICS:** What is the name of the family duck in the "Hagar the Horrible" comic strip?
- FAMOUS QUOTATIONS:** Who once said, "Freedom is not worth having if it does not include the freedom to make mistakes."?
- MEASUREMENTS:** What is a jiffy, as in "I'll be there in a jiffy"?
- MUSIC:** Which rock music singer used to perform onstage with a boa constrictor around his neck?
- BUSINESS:** What does the "B.F." stand for in "B.F. Goodrich"?

Answers

- Doc
- Scott Bakula
- Strangers or foreigners
- Ceylon
- Edibles, or food items
- Kvack
- Mahatma Gandhi
- 1/100th of a second
- Alice Cooper
- Benjamin Franklin Goodrich, company founder

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Click on "Local News" at

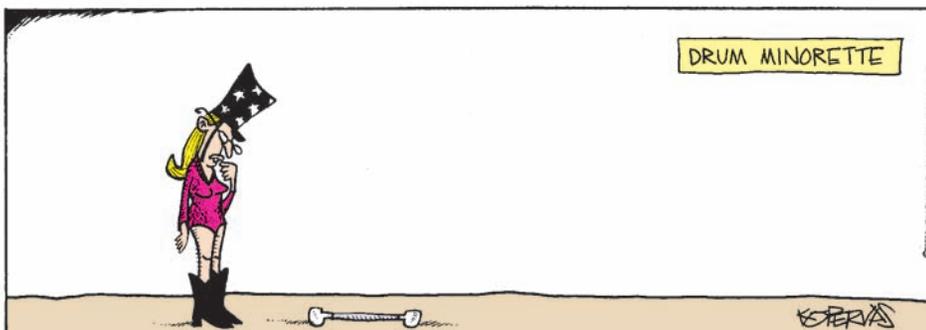
Amber Waves

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



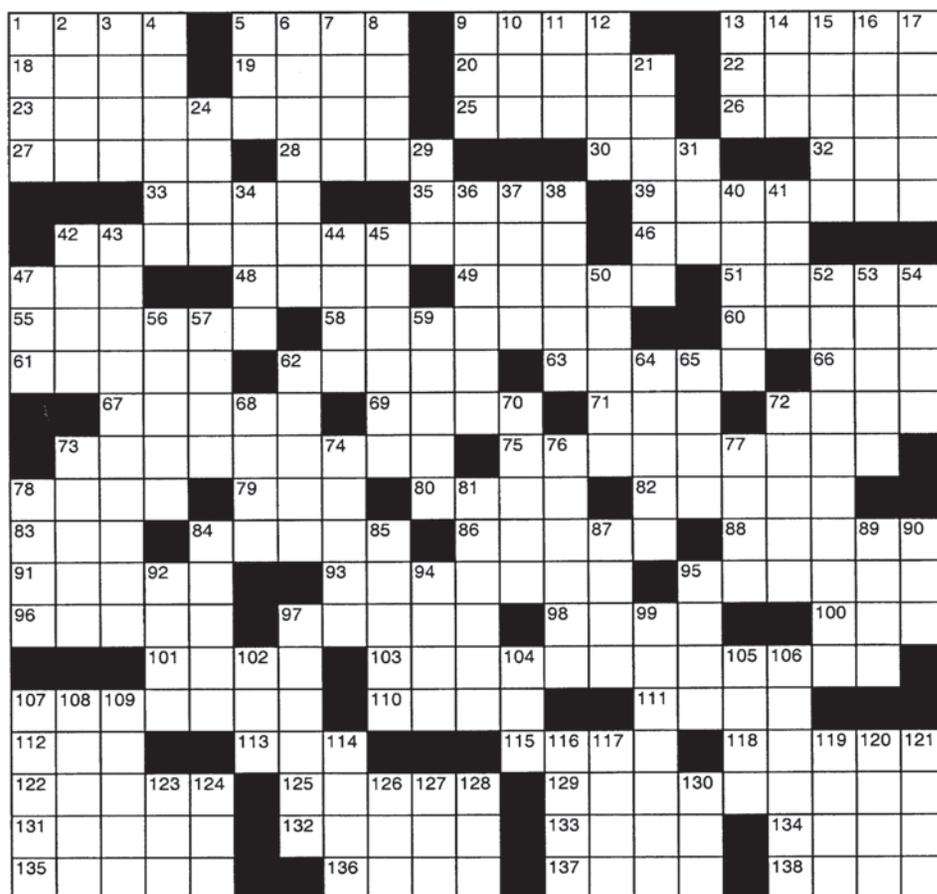
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Feather added to hat. 2. Dress print is different. 3. Handbag is missing. 4. Window is different. 5. Earring is black. 6. Leg is missing from pole.

Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Golf stroke
 - 5 43,560 square feet
 - 9 Live on lettuce
 - 13 Word in a triangle
 - 18 Lotion additive
 - 19 Restaurateur Toots
 - 20 "Teen —" ('60 smash)
 - 22 Chou —
 - 23 Minnesota city
 - 25 Folklore figure
 - 26 Japanese dog
 - 27 Saint Catherine's home
 - 28 Groucho's gaze
 - 30 Shriver of tennis
 - 32 "— Alibi" ('89 film)
 - 33 The planes of Israel
 - 35 James or Place
 - 39 Connecticut city
 - 42 Virginia city
 - 46 Buffalo waterfront
 - 47 Directional suffix
 - 48 Owl's cry
 - 49 — plexus
 - 51 Tumbler
 - 55 "Bonanza" setting
 - 58 Farm vehicle
 - 60 Actress Berry
 - 61 "— Gay"
 - 62 Bellini opera
 - 63 Sausage
 - 66 Golfer's gadget
 - 67 Tropical tree
 - 69 Mrs. Charlie Chaplin
 - 71 Ewe said it!
 - 72 Stink
 - 73 New York city
 - 75 Kentucky city
 - 78 Dorothy's dog
 - 79 — Aviv
 - 80 Wingding
 - 82 Condescend
 - 83 Yalie
 - 84 "— with Love" ('67 film)
 - 86 Fernando or Lorenzo
 - 88 Guitarist Eddy
 - 91 "Hi, Ho!"
 - 93 Guest
 - 95 — license
 - 96 "Olympia" artist
 - 97 Actress Adoree
 - 98 Oenophile's mecca
 - 100 Lennon's lady
 - 101 Biblical book
 - 103 California city
 - 107 New Jersey city
 - 110 Or — (threat words)
 - 111 Defeat by a knockout
 - 112 Castilian cry
 - 113 Catchall abbr.
 - 115 Landed
 - 118 Cunning
 - 122 Man of rare gifts?
 - 125 "Roots" writer
 - 129 Wisconsin city
 - 131 Photo finish
 - 132 Dolphins' home
 - 133 Fairy tale fiend
 - 134 Marsh bird
 - 135 Selling point
 - 136 High time?
 - 137 Playwright Coward
 - 138 Org. founded in 1844
 - 5 Nile slitherer
 - 6 Braided bread
 - 7 Libertine
 - 8 — Stanley Gardner
 - 9 Mr. Hammar-skjold
 - 10 Hotel
 - 11 Self-esteem
 - 12 Work for a while
 - 13 Indeed
 - 14 Calligraphy supply
 - 15 Statesman Root
 - 16 Procrastinator's word
 - 17 Frank book
 - 21 Head
 - 24 Like Magic
 - 29 CSA soldier
 - 31 Damage
 - 34 Sony competitor
 - 36 Western Italian
 - 37 Jogger's gait
 - 38 Shining
 - 40 It falls but never breaks
 - 41 Composer Bartok
 - 42 Small songbird
 - 43 Entreaty
 - 44 Lorre role
 - 45 Grief
 - 47 Vane letters
 - 50 Antilles isle
 - 52 Engine part
 - 53 February forecast
 - 54 Pursue
 - 56 Battle site of 1836
 - 57 Freshwater fish
 - 59 Between three
 - 62 Letters
 - 64 Durban dough
 - 65 Behalf
 - 68 About
 - 70 Black piano key
 - 72 Trickster
 - 73 La —, CA
 - 74 Popeye's favorite shade?
 - 76 Helen Hunt Jackson novel
 - 77 Hound's handle
 - 78 Side
 - 81 They're out of this world
 - 84 Ryan's daughter
 - 85 Salon solution
 - 87 — League
 - 89 Singer Simone
 - 90 Word form for "environment"
 - 92 Present
 - 94 Harp —
 - 95 Head line?
 - 97 Beat
 - 99 Where kids eat
 - 102 Menlo Park monogram
 - 104 It's in the bag
 - 105 Pipe part
 - 106 A place with buzz?
 - 107 It may give you pause
 - 108 Nom de crime?
 - 109 Gnats and brats
 - 114 First base man?
 - 116 Spinks or Trotsky
 - 117 Desdemona's enemy
 - 119 Novelist O'Flaherty
 - 120 Carmen or Clapton
 - 121 Actress Ward
 - 123 When Seurat sweltered
 - 124 Postal abbr.
 - 126 — -tzu
 - 127 Philips of "UHF"
 - 128 Chinese principle
 - 130 "Fantasia" frame
- DOWN**
- 1 Pinza or Chaliapin
 - 2 Jai —
 - 3 — gras
 - 4 Parsley kin

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4/10

Now it's time to get to work

Now that South East Madera County United (SEMCU) has been formed in the Madera Ranchos to help with the pressing concerns of water issues in the Ranchos, and with an eye to the future to help resolve issues of transportation, noise, energy and other services provided by the County and other public agencies, we are still looking for willing hands and minds to help.

If the Ranchos is your home and you are concerned about its future, this is the organization for you. Call the number below or send an email for more information and discover just how badly you are needed.

SEMCU exists to advocate for, and act on behalf of, SEMCU members and the region by working with private granting agents and other parties to attain the above-stated purposes and to provide other services beneficial to SEMCU members and the region.

If we don't get together, outside forces will take it into their own hands. Guaranteed.

559-363-9095
ranchos.community@gmail.com