

The Ranchos Independent



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The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢

The Star of the Show

crab, crab and more crab ...



Getting Crabby at the 7th Annual Chamber Crab Feed

Photo courtesy of John Glueck

pictures on page 8

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Ranchos Citizens' Water Group Takes First Steps

By Randy Bailey

In early March, a group of approximately 30 concerned Ranchos citizens met at the Ranchos Pizza Factory and began the process of giving the Ranchos a voice in Madera County water decisions.

"The train is leaving the station," said Igal Treibatch, Ranchos property owner and grower. "The only way we can get into projects [affecting Ranchos water] is to be a part of the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan."

The state of California has decided that all future decisions regarding the use and management of water throughout the state have to be integrated with every other part of the state. Treibatch explained that the days of Los Angeles doing one thing and Fresno doing another while Sacramento does a third are gone. Projects that impact water use throughout the state are being created but only entities that are recognized as "signatories" to a Memorandum of Intent (MOI) with the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) will be allowed to access the system.

"It is the only way we can get money for projects and have a say in the process," Treibatch said.

Some Background

In September 2008, SB 1 was signed by Governor Schwarzenegger, containing the "Integrated Regional Water Management Planning Act." Effective March 1, 2009, the California Department of Water Resources established the Region Acceptance Process, creating guidelines used to evaluate and accept a region into the IRWMP grant program.

According to www.irwmp.org, the state has innovated, "... a system that presents an opportunity for a voluntary, non-regulatory

planning process that both encourages and truly protects good faith efforts toward meaningful change and improvements that will benefit local communities, regions and the state as a whole. To top it off, there is a built in reward system (eligibility for state funding) only for those who follow the rules."

Part of the objective of the Ranchos group was to achieve non-profit status in order to go forward with the group. At the meeting, community member Jan DeWoody revealed that such a non-profit corporation already existed and that it could be applied to the needs of the newly forming water group. Called the "41 Corridor Alliance," this 501(c)(3) non-profit was structured

broadly enough to allow for the inclusion of other projects, such as an IRWMP organization.

On Monday, March 15 the group met again for the purpose of establishing by-laws for the organization and giving it a degree of structure.

The organization is open to all members of the community who would like to have some say in the future of water decisions for the Ranchos. "It's important for the group here, which has one of the worst overdraft problems, to be represented," Treibatch said.

For more information about the overall process and how you can get involved, call 559-363-9095 or email ranchos.community@gmail.com.

Mosquitoes About to Bite Ranchos

According to Ken Klemme, Biologist for the Madera County Mosquito & Vector Control District, it appears that this is going to be a wet year and Madera County Mosquito & Vector Control District technicians have started spraying standing water as of March 15. Klemme said that the Department has also started taking dead bird calls as of March 15.

"I would like to remind the residents that they should call 1-800-WNV-BIRD if they have a fresh dead bird on their property so that we can test for West Nile Virus," Klemme said. "We should have mosquito fish available for pick up April 1. Please call first to ensure the availability so that we can accommo-



date your order. We also offer free delivery of fish if you are within our district boundary."

Klemme said that if you notice a green swimming pool to please let them know.

Klemme's Department handles swimming pool calls with anonymity, ensuring that your neighbor will not get in trouble. "What we do is for the greater good," Klemme said.

Of utmost importance is if you notice more mosquitoes than usual you can always call the main office of the Madera County Mosquito & Vector Control District at 674-6729, or you can use the website at www.maderamosq.org to place a service request.

Animal Shelter Fights for Life



Michelle Mensch, an animal services officer at the Madera County shelter, holds two large, mixed-breed puppies with little chance of survival due to the huge number of unwanted animals at the shelter and the lack of local adoptive homes.

The shelter could fully operate from funds collected if people would license their dogs.

By D. J. Becker

Animal shelters everywhere are struggling with budget cuts, reviewing their options and are vowing to find ways to avoid increased and wholesale euthanasia of homeless animals entrusted to their care. The Madera Animal Shelter is still reeling from recent and drastic cutbacks. But there is a surprisingly simple and inexpensive way the public can help right this wrong, according to shelter director Kirsten Gross.

"All dog owners need to step up, comply with the law, and license their animals," said Gross. The current county licensing fee is \$8 for altered dogs and \$16 for unaltered dogs. Full compliance with the licensing law could contribute as much as a million dollars to the shelter and fully fund the shelters operation, according to Gross.

The Madera County shelter budget

Please see **SHELTER** on P. 10

Bigelow Attends Washington, D.C. Legislative Conference

Frank Bigelow, Supervisor District 1, participated in the National Association of Counties' (NACo) 2010 Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., to help ensure that the voice of the nation's counties is heard by Congress and the administration. The conference, held March 6-10, featured remarks from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and President Obama cabinet secretaries Kathleen Sibelius and Tom Vilsak.

One of the main objectives of the Legislative Conference was to bring county officials face-to-face with federal government officials to discuss key county government priorities and specific legislation, regulations and funding levels affecting essential services and

programs. "I successfully met with the administration's key officials who can assist in providing federal resources in Madera County, a primary reason for attending this year" said Supervisor Bigelow.

"I am a member of the NACo Board of Directors and as such attended a very successful and productive Board meeting. I also serve on the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, as well as the Vice-Chair of the Information Technology Committee," Bigelow said. "In addition to serving on these committees, I had a wonderful opportunity to network with County officials from across our great country that provide additional insight for today's challenges."

Jobs, economic recovery and Restoring the Partnership were the main themes of the conference for more than 2,000 elected and appointed county officials from around the country. Featured guest speakers included House Speaker Pelosi, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-Va.) and TIME magazine columnist Joe Klein. "NACo's 2010 Legislative Conference was a tremendous success," said NACo President Valerie Brown, supervisor, Sonoma County, Calif. "Our members are fiercely committed to Restore the Partnership between the federal government and America's counties and this conference went a long way toward that goal."



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THE D.O.G. HOUSE
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*D.O.G. Report:
 Grand Jury Report Special*

First my thanks to all on the Grand Jury. I thank you for unselfish service to our community. I also thank you for now posting your reports on line.

Now my soap box: To deal with an official Grand Jury Report as an item on the Consent Calendar is an insult to the Grand Jury and to the public they are representing. This Report is dealing with Madera County Fire Station number 8, also known as Indian Lakes Fire Station, also known as the Casino Station, also known as the Chukchansi Fire Station.

I urge you to go on line and read this and other reports by going to www.maderagrandjury.org. On the left side of the page click on "Grand Jury Reports."

What follows will be Grand Jury recommendations followed by D.O.G. comments, opinions or clarifications.

Recommendation 1: The station's emergency power system should be expanded to include the fire crew's living quarters.

D.O.G.: This station has a lot of history behind it. It was designed and built with many fingers in the pie. This is one of the many County projects deserving of the description "STUMBLE, BUMBLE & FLUSH." First they stumble right past good planning, bumble the execution of the contracts and construction and inevitably flush many of our tax dollars down the drain.

The station's emergency power system is not something that should need expanding. The emergency generator is in the system. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that if you have a facility with emergency backup it should include a couple of plugs for the fridge, freezer, dispatch radio and a couple of lights in the living quarters for the staff.

Unfortunately this was only a small glitch of many in the construction of the station.

Recommendation 2: The funding, staffing and equipment needs for the station should be reviewed. At the earliest opportunity, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Tribe should be amended to reflect the new personnel and equipment requirements resulting from the Casino enlargement.

D.O.G.: This is a classic "S.B.&F." but of a different color. As is the case with many agreements or MOUs the County "negotiates," the other party gets the elevator and the taxpayers get the shaft. First our "negotiators stumble in, then our County Counsel bumbles the review of the ramifications of provisions in the document, then (yes, you guessed it) our tax dollars get flushed. We don't have a requirement to require anything: there is no provision for expansion for either the new tower or anything added in the future.

Recommendation 3: Madera County Board of Supervisors should re-evaluate potential county liability with respect to the Memorandum of Understanding.

The Board of Supervisors' response to Recommendation 3? "County Counsel and County Risk Management were asked to advise our office on this issue of liability. Based on their research, the liability to provide fire protection does not lie with the County. Government Code Section 850 states, 'Neither a public entity nor a public employee is liable for failure to establish a fire department or otherwise to provide fire pro-

Please see D.O.G. on P. 25

If you're not part of the
SOLUTION
 then you're part of the
PROBLEM

I wanted to be part of the solution, so I have taken the same pay cut I asked of our County Departments. I will not ask anyone to do what I am not willing to do.

I am the only candidate with the experience and the knowledge to get us through these hard times.

I will continue to serve you, not as your full time supervisor, but as your OVERTIME supervisor because that's what this job has always demanded from someone who truly cares.

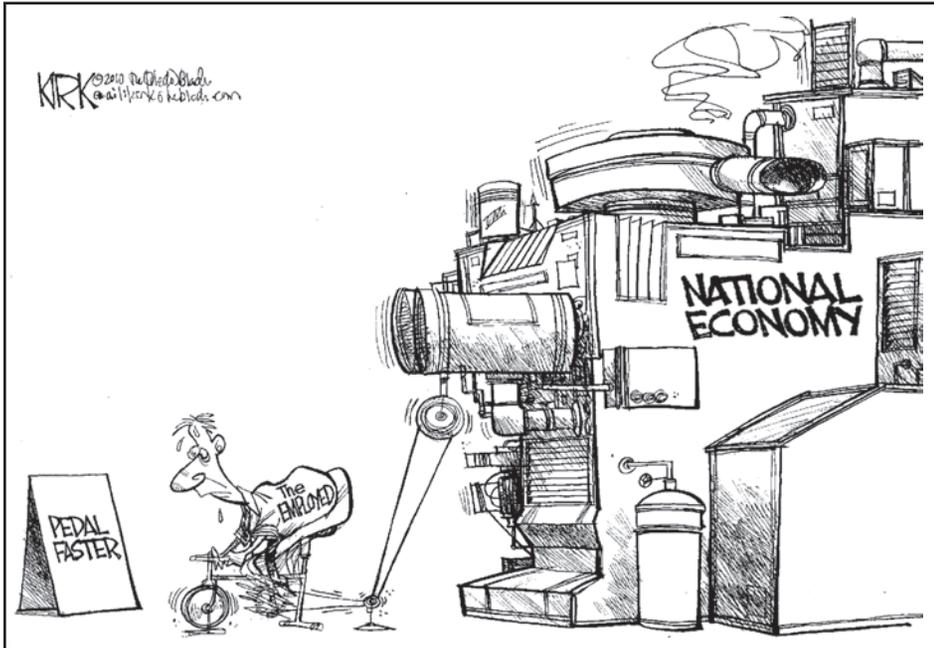
Sincerely, Frank Bigelow

Frank
BIGELOW
 SUPERVISOR

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

Click on "Local News" at

3/10



Editorial

Just Stand Up!

By Randy Bailey

Sometimes the answer to vexing questions just seem so obvious you wonder why those mired up to their hips in the midst of their problem can't just stop, look around and then say, "Oh yeah ... I see now."

One of the first examples that comes to mind is how every year during the summer up at Avocado Lake in Fresno County there is invariably an adult who drowns. As sad as that statistic is, what's more disturbing is that usually the adult drowns in about 3 feet of water. My good friend pointed out that unless the adult is 2 foot 11, here's a suggestion: Stand up! If you're 4 feet tall and you're at Avocado Lake and you discover you're under three feet of water and it's getting hard to breathe, stand up! Your head will be a foot above the water that's trying to drown you.

Just stand up!

There's a movement afoot across the land that suggests that Barack Obama wasn't actually born in Hawaii, as he claims, therefore making him not native born and ineligible to be president of the United States. The folks who subscribe to this theory are called "birthers" by those with opposing viewpoints. Now, for the most part, I think these are the same folks who think there is a conspiracy by the Ma-

sonic Lodge, the Rockefellers and Opus Dei to control fluoridation of drinking water. Obama's citizenship is a non-issue that only the die-hards refuse to let go of, and it's that mentality that breeds conspiracy theories and the like. However, what's so upsetting about all of this is there's a "stand up!" option here that would put all of this silliness to rest once and for all, but the Obama camp refuses to do it.

Right now in Hawaii, requests for Obama's birth certificate are running at the rate of between 10 to 20 per week, week in and week out. Several of those requests are from the same people over and over again trying to wear down the officials' resistance. Their objection is that they keep getting copies of copies, and never once have they been copies of the *actual* birth certificate. For the officials it's time consuming and is becoming a huge waste of time and money. Just this week, Hawaii's House Judiciary Committee was considering bill SB2937 that would give government officials the right to *ignore* persistent requesters.

See the "stand up!" moment yet?

Dr. Chiyome Fukino is Hawaii's Health Director and he and the state's registrar of vital statistics have verified that they have seen Obama's original vital records and that Hawaii's Health Department holds Obama's original birth certificate.

OK, so show it. Case closed. End of discussion. Next!

Stand up!

I mean, for God's sake, you have to produce seven different forms of identification to cash a check at WalMart -- is it too much to ask the president to produce just one? All he's got to do is "stand up!" and we're done.

And yet he refuses.

Hawaiian Congresswoman Cynthia Thielen asks, "Do we really want to be known internationally as the Legislature that blocked any inquiries into where President Obama was born? When people want to get more information, the way to fuel that fire is to say, 'We're now going to draw down a veil of secrecy.'"

She's right. The answer is right there in front of everyone. All Obama has to do is stand up! And yet instead he's chosen to tell all of *us* to sit down and shut up.

The Ranchos Independent

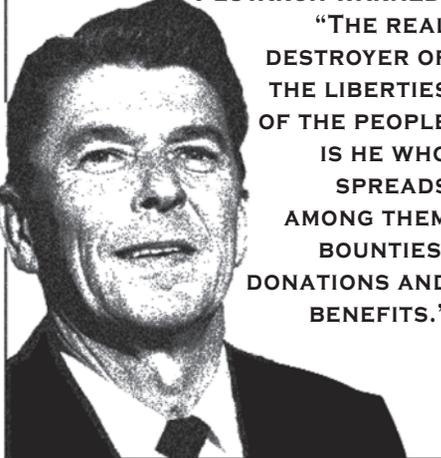
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RONALD REAGAN
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Ranchos Library Users Face New Hours, Limited Availability from County

By Ellen Mester

The Ranchos Library has new hours as of March 1, 2010:

Monday: CLOSED; Tuesday: CLOSED; Wednesday: 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Thursday: 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Friday: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.; Saturday: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.; Sunday: CLOSED

All of the Madera County libraries have new reduced hours. Eight staff members have retired and will not be replaced and that means that the remaining staff must cover all five libraries. If you don't see us at the Ranchos Library you may see us at the Madera, North Fork, Oakhurst or Chowchilla libraries on some days. It is a difficult adjustment for our communities and for our staff but we will learn to adjust and hopefully we will ride out this difficult time with grace and strength.

Don't worry if your books are due on days that we are closed. You will not be fined for those days. If our book drop is overflowing, please do not force your books into the box. Just return them when we are open and let us know so that we can make adjustments to your account. Please remember that we no longer accept checks for fines. Cash only. We apologize for the inconvenience but it is necessary to keep our costs as low as possible.

Flatlander's Day

One of the most important events of our community is rapidly approaching – the 20th Annual Flatlander's Day Parade and Craft Show on May 8 at the Maywood Center. Yes, it's been 20 years since the parade began and ended with the grand opening of the Ranchos Library. Early Ranchos residents remember it was October 1990 and the parade started from Webster School traveling down the side streets until it reached the Ranchos Library. County Librarian Jeannine Semrau, Supervisor Rick Jensen and the Friends of the Ranchos Library held a ribbon cutting ceremony at the entrance to the library. Mervyn Vick and Len Wilcox, as Friends of the Ranchos Library, were the originators of the parade and worked tirelessly to bring a library to the Ranchos. In subsequent years the Craft Show evolved and the parade portion in 2004 became sponsored by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce. Proceeds from the Craft Show go to the Friends of the Ranchos Library, who supply us with all the new books on CD, DVDs and programs. This event is our most important fundraiser for the library. If you would like a booth or more information please call 645-1214 or stop by for an application. The parade is sponsored by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce. Entry applications can be picked up at the Chamber office. Please call 645-4001 for parade information. Support your Library and Chamber of Commerce by participating in this event.

Adopt-a-Book Program

We have new teen non-fiction books on display for our adopt-a-book program. Some of the topics include self-defense for women, yoga, Tai Chi, first budget smarts, careers in the military and criminal justice, hot political issues, modern-day slavery and threats to our water supply. A personalized book plate in the name of your choosing is available to anyone who purchases a book for the library. Help the library by purchasing a book and donating it to the Ranchos Library collection.

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

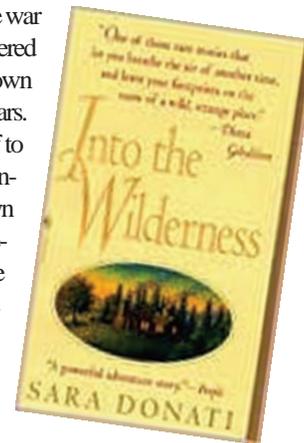
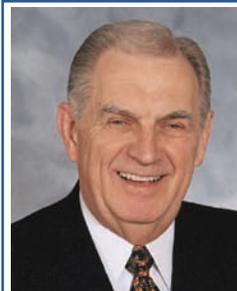
Young Adult Fiction: *The Tree Shepherd's Daughter* by Gillian Summers. For 15 years Keelie Heartwood was raised solely by her high-powered attorney mom, in the swanky part of L.A. until her mom's sudden death sends her to Colorado and her long-lost father's world of traveling renaissance festivals. Miserable and feeling totally out of place, Keelie makes plans to split until she begins to notice that she has something in common with some of the festival dwellers: pointed ears. Well, Keelie actually only has one pointed ear. The other is normal, indicating a mixed marriage on her parents' part. This delightful story includes fairies, sprites, bhata and other assorted non-human folk. Teens and adults both will enjoy this lighthearted fantasy land.

Adult Fiction: *Into the Wilderness* by Sara Donati. Fans of Dianna Gabaldon's *Outlander* series will appreciate the care and detail of this excellent story set in upstate New York during the same time period as Gabaldon's. In fact, several of her characters, including Claire



Fraser and Ian Murray, are mentioned in passing when talk turns to the war with the British. But this story begins with Elizabeth Middleton, considered a spinster at 29, arriving in America to teach school in the wilderness town of Paradise in upstate New York where her father has lived for many years. Unknown to Elizabeth, however, is her father's plan to marry her off to the town doctor in order to settle his debts. Strong-willed but with a genuine heart for nature and indigenous people, Elizabeth becomes known as "Bone-in-her-Back" by the Mohawks as she quickly gains their respect. She also falls in love with Nathaniel Bonner — the absolute wrong choice according to her father. For historical romance buffs this is a book to cherish. The characters are well-defined and the plot has enough twists to make it a memorable tale.

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

Guest Speaker Apr. 11-12
Pastor G. L. Johnson

Golden Valley Baptist Church

Sunday School 9 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service 10:15 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer and Bible Study 6 p.m.

April 4 Easter Sunday
April 11 G. L. Johnson
April 12 Special Monday Service with G. L. Johnson



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Having a Crabby Time at the 7th Annual Chamber Crab Feed

For the seventh year in a row, the Ranchos community has turned out in capacity numbers to help support the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce at the Chamber's single biggest fundraiser of the year. Over 250 guests dined on all-you-can-eat crab, pasta salad and bread and then got to enjoy getting competitive for both silent and live auction items. In addition to business members, the Chamber also has a good number of non-business members who appreciate the work the Chamber does for the community.



The star of the show! Crab crab and more crab. Add all the pasta, salad and bread you could eat and no one went home hungry.



A capacity crowd filled the theater at Liberty High School and spilled over into the cafeteria where silent auction items were displayed.



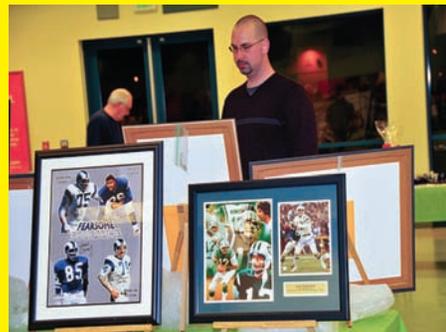
Chamber Secretary Bev Delk (left) adjusts an auction item as Pam Glueck, Kimberly Kirk and Diana Tucker plan their auction strategies.



Awesome table help came from students from Liberty High representing Key Club, California Scholastic Federation and LHS Softball.



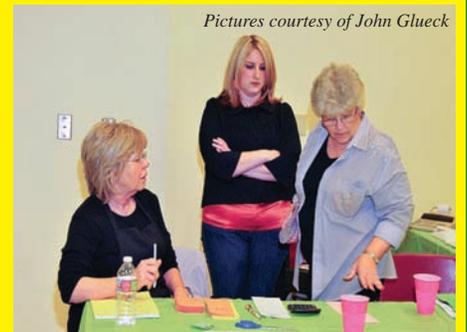
Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce President Travis Hart kept an eye on the proceedings and served as emcee for the evening.



A big part of the silent auction was the signed memorabilia ranging from sports heroes to movie stars to rock stars.

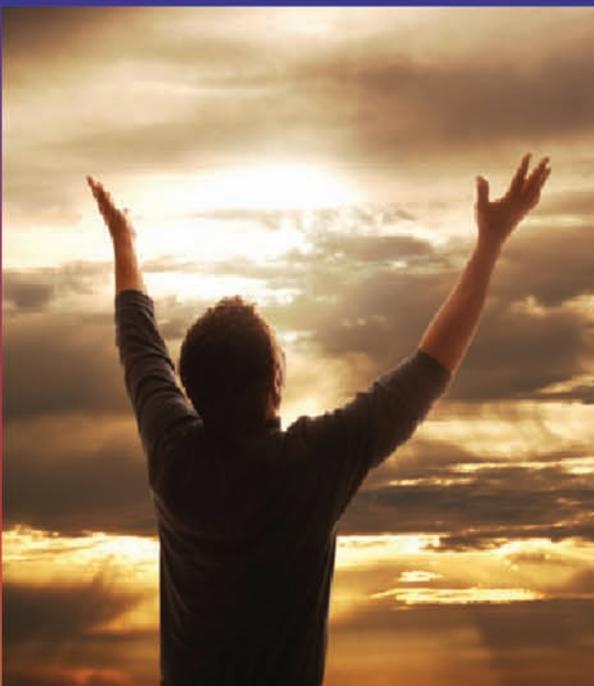


The live auction was one of the most lively in years. The bids were fast and furious on items ranging from vacations to barbecues.



Pictures courtesy of John Glueck

To make sure everything was running smoothly at the front door, Virginia Vick (right) enlisted the help of Jordan Sciacqua and Bev Delk.



This Easter, Why Not Celebrate Jesus at the Christian Mission Center?

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“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.

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Dr. Lien T. Dao, D.C. & Patient

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— Lea J., Madera, CA

“Since I’ve been under the care of Dr. Dao, the improvement in my life is incredible.”

— Anne H., Dinuba, Ca.

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559-255-7121. Add some peace to your life or the life of someone you love. Call me today to make an appointment. What are you waiting for? There’s the Phone!

~Thank you, Dr. Lien T. Dao D.C.

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SHELTER cont. from P. 2

has already been hit hard with reductions and most of the looming and further budget cut options are severe, and more unpalatable. The reality is the homeless animal population will suffer and, unwanted, the dogs and cats will likely pay the ultimate price for human fiscal irresponsibility.

Shelter volunteers had recently celebrated increasing their “save rate” for shelter animals adopted or sent to outside rescue groups from 28 to 35 percent, a small, hard-won increase now unlikely to be sustained.

Shelter Hit Hard with Layoffs

Gross said starting March 1, 2010, the animals at the Madera County Animal Shelter will have a quarter less staff – five less employees to take care of the same number of animals.

“Three positions were eliminated and two employees took the retirement option. These staff reductions are a direct result of the fiscal crisis that the County of Madera is facing, reportedly as large of a shortage of at least \$4.9 million,” Gross said.

The Animal Services Department has been asked to decrease expenditures \$160,000 for the fiscal year 2010/2011. More cuts, and more possible layoffs, are being considered, as the County struggles to narrow the financial gap, according to Gross.

“The loss of these important positions to our department is devastating,” said Gross. “We are expecting a record year of unwanted animals pouring into the shelter; over 10,000 animals this coming year. That’s over 1,000 more than last year. Each of these animals needs care – a place to rest, food, water and more. These animals need this care seven days a week. We can’t just put them on the shelf and deal with it another day.”

More Service Reductions To the Public

The public will see a further reduction in animal control services as the remaining staff is spread even thinner and the department struggles to continue providing services to the community and care for more of its homeless animals. The shelter has already closed its doors to the public for administrative services two Fridays a month and has reduced service and telephone hours.

“Since our really busy season is just around the corner – over 1,000 animals each month impounded during the months of March, April, May, and June – we are truly concerned that we can provide the necessary care and services for such an overabundance of unwanted animals,”

Gross said. “Caring for these innocent animals is our first priority. We will respond to emergencies as quickly as possible and general animal services requests will be addressed as we can get to them. We are also asking that the public be patient with us, as we attempt to adjust to these catastrophic cut backs.”

Less animal control staff will be available to protect the public from vicious dogs running at large and respond to other animal emergencies in the community, according to Gross. Animal Control officers often respond to injured animals along roadsides and cases of alleged animal cruelty.

Increasing Dog Licensing Only Option Left

Gross said the dog population was estimated at a minimum of 75,000 dogs in Madera County and that dog licensing compliance was extremely low, estimating less than 5 per cent of those dogs were licensed and properly vaccinated.

“If the majority of these dogs had their rabies vaccines and were licensed – as required by law – the revenue would provide all the funding needed to run the entire Animal Services Department with a full complement of staff, which is approximately \$1 million annually,” gross said. “If the Animal Services Department can find additional revenue, we can get some of our employees back and bring our service levels back to more acceptable levels. The department

Please see **SHELTER** on P. 11

It's Official! Coffee Drinking is Good for Your Health!

Drinking coffee in moderate amounts during middle age may reduce the risk of dementia and Alzheimer's disease in the elderly according to a new study done in Finland and Sweden. Those who drank three to five cups of coffee per day in midlife were much less likely to have developed dementia or Alzheimer's disease in follow-up checks two decades or more later, the researchers said in a recent issue of the Journal of Alzheimer's Disease.

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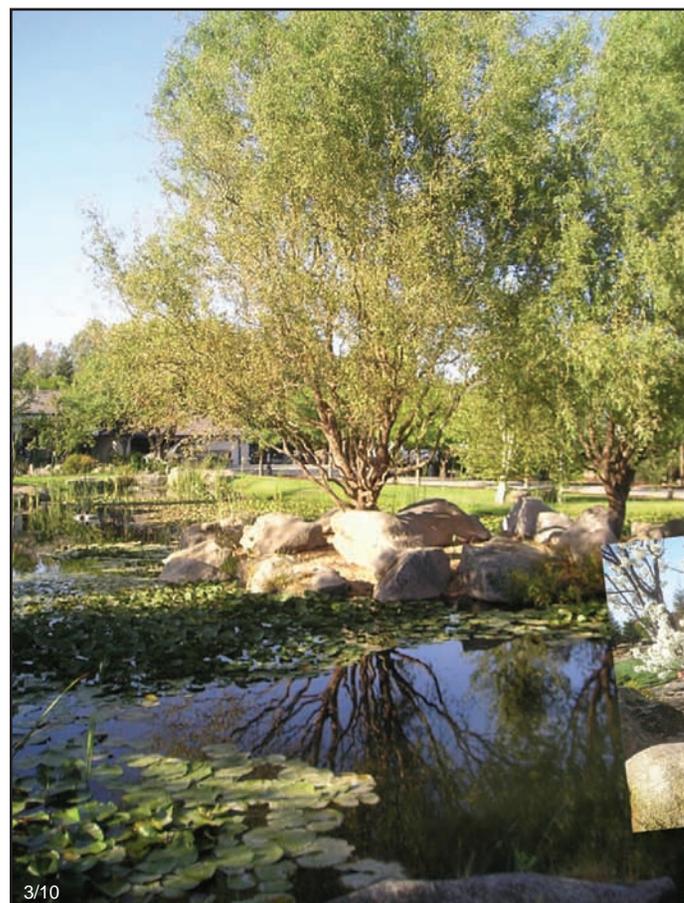
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Phone: _____

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: _____

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Floats (Other) Name: _____

Children's Groups Name: _____

Dance Groups Name: _____

Single Entry (Children) Name: _____

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

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SHELTER cont. from P. 10

is therefore launching a campaign to get more rabies vaccine and dog licensing compliance in the community.”

According to Gross, licensing and other fees were in the process of being reviewed and will likely be increased in the near future. Animal control officers have also been writing more tickets and issuing fewer warnings about failure to license as in the past. Citations for an unlicensed and unvaccinated dog start at \$78 for a first offense and can go as high \$150 with court costs.

Gross said humans contacting the deadly rabies virus is the main concern behind the legal vaccination requirement. The rabies virus is mainly spread through saliva from animal bites, and sometimes scratches that break the skin.

“Rabies is a disease that is fatal to humans and other susceptible animals,” gross said. “Rabies vaccines protect your pets and our community. It is one of the few diseases than can spread from animals to people with deadly effects. Vaccinating your pets will protect your pet, your family and the community. Rabies vaccines are also required by law for all dogs over four months of age. Animal Services also recommends rabies vaccines for cats. However, there is no legal requirement for cats to have rabies vaccines yet.”

Licensing Your Dog Helps Other Homeless Animals

Not only does getting your dog licensed support the animal shelter, it has other benefits to the dog owner. The rabies vaccine is \$6 and protects your dog, your family and the community from this deadly disease. Licensing the pet will keep pet owners in compliance with the law. Non-compliance can result in citations, fines, court costs and hundreds of dollars in added fines and expenses. A pet

wearing a current license will get a free ride home if picked up by an Animal Services Officer in Madera County.

Dogs must be vaccinated for rabies prior to being licensed and proof of rabies vaccination is required. Gross said if a pet is brought into the shelter wearing a license tag, the owner will be notified and the animal will be held 10 days instead of only three days as with unlicensed strays.

“Licensing can save the life of your pet. Early compliance with rabies vaccines and licensing can prevent costly citations from animal control. It will give your dog a free ride home, will provide him with a longer stay if he ends up at the shelter. The additional revenue from licensing will also directly benefit the shelter operations and the 10,000 homeless pets we are expecting in Madera County in 2010,” said Gross.

Rabies vaccines can only be administered by a licensed veterinarian. Local veterinarians can provide your pet with the required rabies vaccine. Another option would be to attend local low-cost vaccination clinics. The Madera Animal Services Department has partnered with Dr. David Dierberger to provide rabies and other vaccines once a month at the Animal Shelter. Licensing can also be done at the shot clinics Gross said.

The low cost vaccination clinic at the Madera County Animal Services location is held the first Saturday of each month at the animal shelter at 14269 Road 28. The clinics are open to the public from 10 a.m. to noon, with no appointments necessary. The rabies vaccine is \$6 and all other shots are available at a reduced rate.

Licensing in the county is \$8 per year for altered dogs and \$16 for unaltered dogs. The rates for seniors over 65 years of age are \$4 for altered pets and \$8 for unaltered pets. For any other questions regarding the low cost vaccination clinics, please call 675-7891.

3/10



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Smiling Faces Often Hide the Truth

By Bob Crabb

“When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, He sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, ‘Hosanna!’ ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’ ‘Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!’ ‘Hosanna in the highest!’ Jesus entered Jerusalem and went to the temple.” (Mark 11:7-11)

Palm Sunday, the Sunday prior to Easter Sunday, is sometimes looked at like a celebration. In many churches

Palm Sunday is marked by palm leaves and a procession of clergy, acolytes, the choir, the children, and sometimes the congregation. But really, the joy of Jesus coming into town was only to set up the lynching and betrayal of Christ. On Palm Sunday, they were cheering Jesus. They were patting Him on the back and shaking His hand. But in a short time, these same folks were going to hand Him

Jesus is crucified somewhere every day. Palm Sunday is a scandal. Palm Sunday is a day when human nature is shown to be untrustworthy. Palm Sunday is an attempt to make a bloody crucifixion look pretty. The magnificent idea of Jesus Christ is that Jesus walks right into the middle of all of our Palm Sundays and He is surrounded by our smiling faces. He knows that we are the one who are going to crucify Him, someday, somehow. But Jesus still shows up.

over to be crucified. They handed an innocent man over to be crucified and no one did anything about it. Where was Peter, always with his big talk? Where were the followers of Jesus? The church has often been absent during times of injustice.

A Golden Oldie

Have you ever heard that 1971 song called “Smiling Faces” by the group “Undisputed Truth”? It is a song about people who smile in your face, but plot against you later. If you can, picture a movie of Jesus coming into Jerusalem with all these smiling faces cheering Him on. Matthew 21:8 describes the situation very well: “A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of Him

and those that followed shouted, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David!’ ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’ ‘Hosanna in the highest!’” In your mind’s eye of this scene, imagine the song “Smiling Faces” playing in the background: “Smiling faces sometimes pretend to be your friend; smiling faces show no traces of the evil that lurks within. Smiling faces they don’t tell the truth ...”

The people had welcomed Jesus like a hero! They had found someone in Jesus who they thought was going to deliver them from the cruel Roman oppression, deliver them from the arrogance of religious leaders, deliver

them from the greed of political leaders and deliver them from the ravages of cruel poverty and sickness. The people had watched Jesus and they had followed His every word. Everyone loved Jesus when He healed, they loved Jesus when He saved, they loved Jesus when He took on the authorities and they loved Jesus when He reached out to the marginalized. When Jesus came into Jerusalem

they all shouted: “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

But then something happened. Soon they wanted him crucified. Was it because He didn’t live up to their expectations? Was it because He didn’t do something they wanted Him to do or was it because they resented something He had done? “Those people” who are smiling at Jesus and patting Him on His back, “those people” shaking His hand, shouting His name and trying to get close to Him, “those people” trying to show Jesus how much they care only to crucify Him later ... “those people” are the heart of every sinner who finds the need for the Savior.

Please see PASTOR on P. 15

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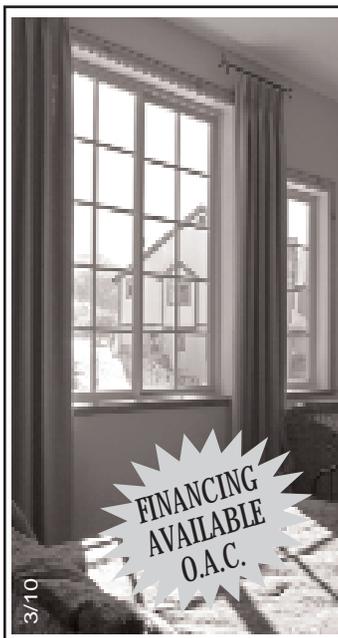
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Senior Report

18th Annual Home & Garden Show

By Eleanore Burchell

Be sure to mark your calendar for Saturday, April 3 so you can come and spend some time with us at the 18th Annual Home & Garden Festival. A biscuit and gravy breakfast will be served at 6:30 a.m. A BBQ lunch will offer hamburgers, hot dogs and pulled pork sandwiches from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Vendors will be here with many interesting items both outdoors and some in the main building. The Ranchos/Hills Seniors, Inc., located at 37330 Berkshire, has been holding planning meetings preparing for our 18th Annual Home & Garden Festival and if you or a friend would like to be

one of our vendors, please call Joann at 645-4864 or Ruth Baker at 645-5807. There are also going to be raffle tickets available at \$1 each or 6 for \$5. First prize is a Dell computer with monitor, second prize is a \$250 shopping spree at Ranchos Market and third prize is a GPS navigation system.

Live music is going to be provided by The Shades of Grey.

Those in charge of the garden section are diligently working to obtain trees and plants of all kinds to have available and waiting for you. Also, the Treasure House is collecting and sorting its displays. Everyone is invited to come and see us on April 3 from 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

We are also planning our Second Annual Cycle for the Seniors Bike Ride to be held on April 17. For more information on time, start, route, finish, etc., please call Joann at 645-4864. Please mark your calendar for both of these events so you don't forget. Remember, forgetfulness is a "senior thing."

The garden section has a variety of trees. Trees and shrubs planted at this time of year have a greater chance to do well as the roots can settle into cool soil and provide less shock to the plant. The fruit trees are waiting for someone to come and take

them to a happy home soon. We also have many flats of flowing plants to brighten up your yard for spring.

The Treasure House will be open as they have received many new items to show you. There will be bake and boutique sales on the patio and the boutique section has displays of necklaces, earrings, paintings and antiques and many more interesting items. The produce section has several varieties of persimmons and many different jellies. George's garden is doing well and we have fresh vegetables. We also invite you to stop in to find out what else is on sale now. Just in time for Easter are beautiful, handmade Easter baskets for that special little one ant-

Just in time for Easter are beautiful, handmade Easter baskets for that special little one anticipating the arrival of the Easter bunny. Prices start at just \$5. 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.

icipating the arrival of the Easter bunny. Prices start at just \$5. 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.

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 center result ONLY when they receive your calls. If you are interested in taking advantage of their services, call Carla or Melody at 675-7893 to make an appointment.

We celebrate the Birthdays and Anniversaries of our members by going out to breakfast, lunch or dinner at a different place each month. On March 13 we went to Cazadores Mexican Restaurant in Madera. As always, we had a fun time. On Saturday, April 10 we will celebrate our April

Please see SENIORS on P. 21



Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes

by Jean Briner

Meatloaf Mania

You know how I love to go on the internet for information. Well, when I went on the internet looking for ideas for this article, believe it or not you can find a recipe for just about any way to cook a meat loaf. I found them made with broken up sliced bread, dried bread crumbs, oatmeal, soda crackers or rice. There are recipes with ground beef, pork, veal, turkey, hot or mild sausage or a mixture of any of them. If your family won't eat their vegetables, have you thought of shredding a carrot or zucchini into your meat loaf, or if you don't

like biting into a piece of cooked onion, how about shredding it? I found a recipe on the internet for meatloaf made with Miracle Whip and then the topping was made with Miracle

Whip. As much as I like Miracle Whip, I don't think I would like it in or on my meatloaf. Years ago I had a girl working for me that made her meatloaf with cubed cheddar cheese in it. So see, as long as you have some ground meat to start with, you can make a meat loaf. I've even got one made with sauerkraut below. Don't wrinkle up your nose just yet – it is yummy. And for as many different ways to make a meatloaf there are almost as many ways to cook it. Most of the recipes I read suggest a 350 degree oven but it can be cooked in a loaf pan, glass or metal cake pan, large pie pan, formed into a loaf on a cookie sheet (make sure it has ridges to hold the drippings) or you can even cook it in

a muffin pan. I think the muffin pan would be fun for kids – it would be just their size.

When we lived in San Francisco during WWII we would go to the meat market for all our meat. They didn't have a butcher department in the grocery store then (or not in the one we shopped in anyway). I remember mama would always buy two pounds of ground beef and one pound ground pork every time she was going to make meatloaf. Like so many of the things she made, meatloaf is not written down anywhere, but I know how she made it.

MAMA'S MEAT LOAF

- 2 pounds ground beef
- 1 pound ground pork
- 1 medium onion chopped
- 2 eggs
- 2 or 3 slices of bread
- Milk
- Salt and Pepper to taste

In large mixing bowl, mix the meats together with the onion and

set aside. In small bowl mix the eggs with a fork and the bread that has been broken into small pieces adding just enough milk to make it moist. Add this mix to the meat and add the salt and pepper. Bake in

a 350 oven for 45 minute to an hour. Let sit in the baking pan for 15 to 20 minutes before slicing.

This makes a family sized loaf. For just one or two people adjust accordingly, using one pound of ground meat, one egg and one slice of bread and chopped onion to taste. REMEMBER meatloaf is how your family likes it: oatmeal or crackers instead of bread; add a can of tomato sauce; put catsup or barbeque sauce on top before baking. Add your own personal touches and your family will love it.

Right Seasoning

I think I have told you before in another article how to test if you

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 27

REMEMBER *meatloaf is how your family likes it: oatmeal or crackers instead of bread; add a can of tomato sauce; put catsup or barbeque sauce on top before baking. Add your own personal touches and your family will love it.*

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- JUNIOR HAWKS: AGES 10-12** (Birth date between 01/01/98 and 12/31/00)
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PASTOR cont. from P. 12

The Evil Within

In our struggle to live as children of God we are confronted with the evil within ourselves. To our amazement it is us, you and I, who are sometimes shouting "crucify Him!" Sometimes we are shouting to crucify each other. On Palm Sunday, we can see our need for Easter Sunday. Even the most righteous of us can cop out at some point. We are not going to be there when someone needs us, we are going to look away when someone asks for help, we are going to be cowards when our courage is demanded. Resentments, anger and negative attitudes are the seeds of all crucifixions. Jesus is crucified somewhere every day. Palm Sunday is a scandal. Palm Sunday is a day when human nature is shown to be untrustworthy. Palm Sunday is an attempt to make a bloody crucifixion look pretty. The magnificent idea of Jesus Christ is that Jesus walks right into the middle of all of our Palm Sundays and He is surrounded by our smiling faces. He knows that we are the one who are going to crucify Him, someday, somehow. But Jesus still shows up. Put Him up on the cross and

He still comes to us on Palm Sunday. Unjustly accuse Him of some lie and He still comes to us on Palm Sunday. Spit in His face, beat Him up so bad you can't even recognize Him, put a crown of thorns on His head and He still comes to us on Palm Sunday. Betray Him for 30 pieces of silver, desert Him when He needs you the most, and laugh at Him as He dies and He still comes to us on Palm Sunday. Every day is a Palm Sunday somewhere on planet earth. But in name of Jesus Christ, God says to us: "I know you were out there on Palm Sunday with your smiling face ... but it is ok ... go ahead, start over again with My Son." Because Jesus walks into the Palm Sundays of our lives, every day can be an Easter Sunday, every day can be a Resurrection into the love of God in Jesus Christ.

"Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

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.



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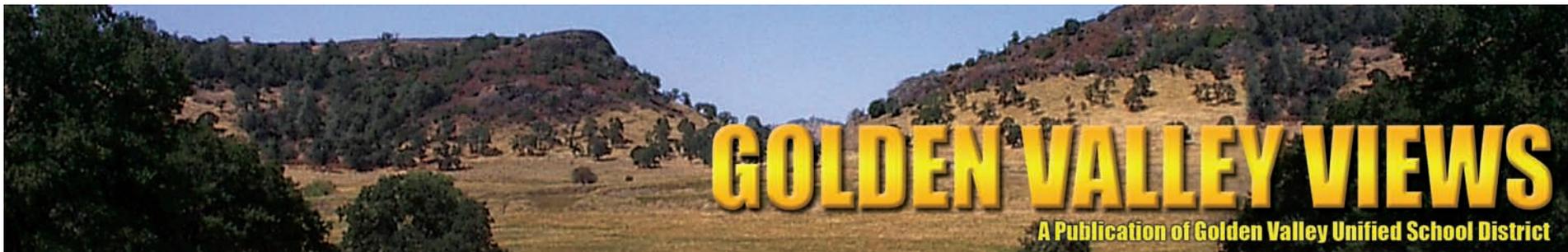
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3/10



GVUSD Starts Marketing Campaign for 2010-2011



Golden Valley Unified School District Superintendent, Sarah Koligian.

By Superintendent Koligian

Did you know that Golden Valley Unified School District is the highest performing K-12 district in Madera County and the second highest K-12 district in Fresno County according to the State API? Golden Valley has an Academic Performance Index of 820 and continues to meet all targets under “No Child Left Behind’s” Adequate Yearly Progress Accountability Measures. Choosing a high quality education is one of the most important decisions we make as parents for our children. Golden Valley Unified also takes that responsibility very seriously. We are welcoming students who are residents of our district and students from outside of our district. We also welcome students of employees who work within the boundaries of Golden Valley.

What is the purpose of a district marketing campaign? - As Golden Valley Unified is preparing the budget for the upcoming 2010-2011 school year, we are once again embarking on a district marketing campaign with the expectation of increasing student enrollment within the district and also promoting our award-winning “district of excellence” within the San Joaquin Valley. The greatest revenue source in the district’s budget is accessed from actual student enrollment and average daily attendance. In 2008-2009 Golden Valley experienced a loss of 88 students which equated to approximately a half million dollar decrease in revenue. In 2009-2010 after a successful mar-

keting campaign, Golden Valley received 50 new inter-district transfers, many of which were attributed to the last year’s marketing campaign.

Who is the target audience? - The 2010 marketing campaign will target parents who want a high achieving school district for their children who live both in and out of the district. Additionally, those parents or guardians who work within the boundaries of Golden Valley Unified may send their children to attend Golden Valley schools. California law allows business owners and their employees to register their children in GVUSD if their employment address lies within the 85 square-mile boundaries of Golden Valley Unified.

What is so unique about Golden Valley Unified School District? - Golden Valley Unified is a district of approximately 2000 students in grades kindergarten through grade 12. Our district covers approximately 85 square miles bordered by the San Joaquin River on the south, Highway 145 on the north, Highway 41 on the east and Madera Unified School District on the west, encompassing the areas around Children’s Hospital of Central California, Rolling Hills, Madera Ranchos, Bonadelle Ranchos and Triego. We have two elementary schools, one middle school, one high school and five alternative educational programs offering independent study, continuation high school, community day school and adult education classes. To view a map of boundaries, go to www.gvUSD.com or www.gvUSD.k12.ca.us.

Our schools offer a safe, secure learning environment for students to grow academically as well as socially. Students are nurtured by highly competent and caring staff members. We offer award winning schools and programs to our students. Webster Elementary, Sierra View Elementary, Rancho Middle and Liberty High School have all earned the prestigious recognition of California Distinguished School. Webster Elementary is a state recognized Golden Bell Award winner for their successful reading lab intervention program. Sierra View Elementary earned the Golden Bell Award for their Character Counts! character education program. Webster Elementary and Liberty High School were also named 2009 Honor Roll Schools by California Business for Educational Excellence.

Rancho Middle School is housed in a new state-of-the-art facility that opened its

doors in August 2009. It offers many extra and co-curricular opportunities for our students including athletics, drama, leadership, physical education enrichment programs and a variety of clubs. Liberty High School is a WASC-accredited high school, built in 2002. It offers a smaller learning community with high quality academics, a wide variety of extra and co-curricular activities, including competitive athletic programs. Liberty High School has a 100% graduation rate and a high percentage of students eligible for college-bound opportunities.

How will the district reach the community? - The 2010 marketing campaign will encompass advertising in local newspapers, radio stations, letters and pamphlets to community members, businesses, billboard posters and contacts with local real estate offices. The proposed timeline for the campaign will be March through June 2010, with a target goal of capturing at least 20 new students

How can I enroll my child? - If you have a student transferring into the district, you can ascertain more information on the Inter-District Transfer process by visiting our website at www.gvUSD.k12.ca.us or by calling our district office at (559) 645-7500.

To enroll a child in Golden Valley under the Employment Based Residence Law (CA Ed Code 48204), parents/guardians are simply asked to present a current paycheck stub or business license to the Education Services Department at the GVUSD District Office; 559-645-7500. Parents/guardians will need the following documents to enroll their student at the new school:

- Child’s birth certificate
- Child’s immunization records
- PG & E bill or renter’s agreement to establish a home mailing address.

Once enrolled in GVUSD, parents/guardians must present annual proof of employment within the district’s boundaries. While some GVUSD classes may be at enrollment capacity, Educational Services staff will work with families to enroll the students where there is space available.

Registration for the 2010-2011 school year is currently underway. For more information contact Golden Valley Unified School District at (559) 645-7500.

LHS Growing



Golden Valley School Bonds Fund Construction Projects

By Rick A Diaz

Construction is underway at Liberty High School on a new science building and build-out of the athletic stadium. Harris Construction Company Inc., the Developer, is managing construction of the projects. Site work began in late December of 2009. Concrete footings have been poured for the science building and underground utilities are complete. The concrete slab was scheduled to be poured on Monday, March 15 and wall framing should begin soon after.

The home side bleachers in the athletic stadium have been temporarily moved onto the football field and will be reinstalled as permanent visitor bleachers once the earthwork is complete on the east side of the football field. There will be new home side bleachers with a seating capacity of 1858 and a new press box placed on the west side of the football field just outside the track that is being expanded to eight lanes. Completion of the stadium will also consist of a larger paved parking lot south of the stadium, relocating the scoreboard and construction of a new concession building with men’s and women’s restrooms, ticket booth and equipment storage.

Despite the extremely active wet winter, construction on the science building should and the stadium is anticipated to be complete in early fall in time for the 2010-2011 Liberty High School Football season.

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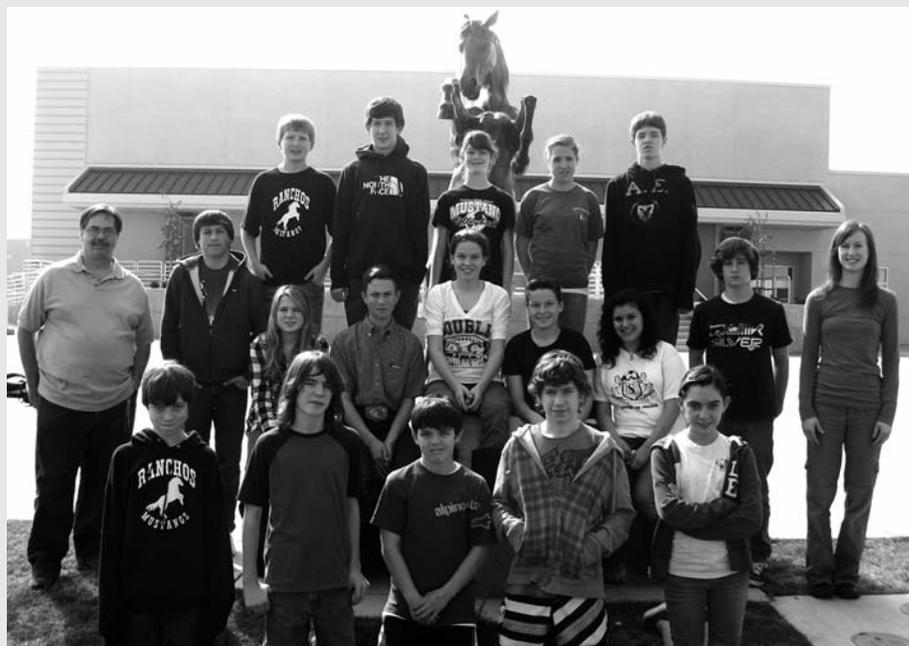



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Middle School Science Fair Winners



Starting in the front row, the winners are (from left) Alex Toomajian, Nick Demera, Wyatt Sanders, Tyler Northey and Julianna Wilson. In the middle row are Mr. Ketner, Jackson Ahart, Courtney Cullins, Trevor Waag, Kathryn Fletcher, Kristyn Fletcher, Priscilla Estrada, Wade Wallace and Ms. Ullrich. In the back row are Hunter O'Brian, Sean Smith, Emma Horanic, Madison Jenkins and Scott McCoy.

Ranchos Middle School is proud of its 2010 Science Fair winners. Principal Shane Pinkard said, "Each and every year our students put forth great effort and shine with their results. This year is no exception and we say, 'Go Mustangs cause Mustangs Rock!'"

A special "thank you" to science teachers Mr. Ketner and Ms. Ullrich for their hard work and diligence as well as our parent involvement. The board recognized each of the winners on Tuesday,

March 9 at the regularly scheduled board meeting.

The winners are Alex Toomajian, Nick Demera, Wyatt Sanders, Tyler Northey, Julianna Wilson, Jackson Ahart, Courtney Cullins, Trevor Waag, Kathryn Fletcher, Kristyn Fletcher, Priscilla Estrada, Wade Wallace, Hunter O'Brian, Sean Smith, Emma Horanic, Madison Jenkins, Scott McCoy, Roy Wolley, Rebecca Mayfield, Vanessa Arellano, Haylee Hoelzel and Macy Reagan.



Middle Schoolers "Keep Swinging" To Win Contest

Ranchos Middle School recently held its Annual Swing Dance Competition. Competition took place in full costume during "Decade Day." A special thank you to P.E. teacher Mr. Norris swing dance instructor Mr. Melvin.

The competition this year was stiff but the honorable judges were able to award first place trophies to Adan Juaregui-Perez and Vanessa Arellano.

We would like to thank all of our competitors and would like to remind them to "keep on swinging!"

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

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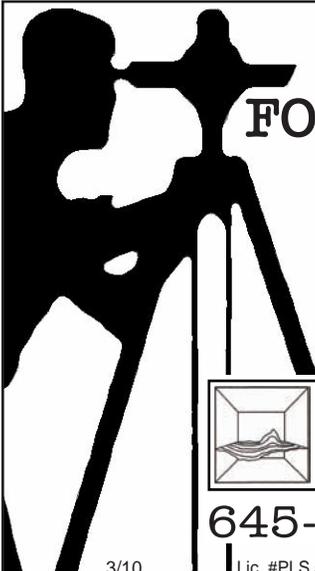
Sierra View Happenings



The annual "Countries Around the World" event was held at Sierra View on March 4. The display boards, research, costumes, music and foods were awesome and very authentic, showing that each student had a solid understanding of what they had learned about their country.

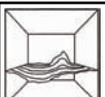


On Tuesday, March 9, Sierra View's Student Council sold over 100 Kid's Day Newspapers. One wonderful family, Art and Laurie Fringer, paid \$100 for just one paper! Sierra View helped raise over \$300 for a very worthy cause! Great job kids and thank you Sierra View community!



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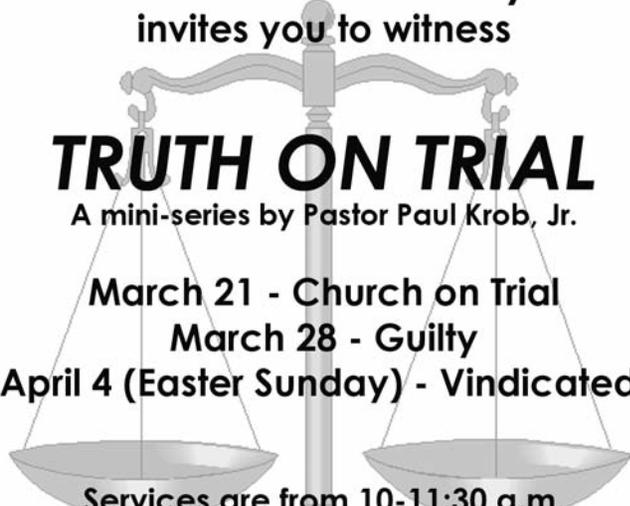
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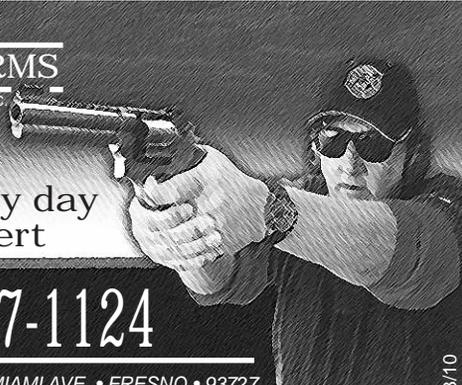


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SENIORS cont. from P. 13

birthdays and anniversaries at the Ranchos' own Ranchos Café at 11:30 a.m.

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

THE UP SIDE

Jewels are the gift of fortune, while character comes from within.

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 and remember: laughter is good for your body and soul and being happy does not mean everything is perfect; it means you have decided to see beyond the imperfections!

More Facts and Fun

A nutritionally balanced lunch program is available 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 and share laughs. There is still room for you and you can attend all three days or just one or two of them. The Line Dancing class is held on Wednesdays from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. This is fun and also a great way to exercise. A new jewelry making class will be starting up on Thursday, April 22 and 29 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. We are going to be making glass jewelry and a fee for the

class has not been determined yet. You do not need to be a member to attend these classes. We have a large group, but there is always room for one more: You! Fill your car with your friends or neighbors. They will enjoy finding new friends here, too. Come in and check these classes out.

Up and Coming Events

April Birthday and Anniversary Celebration – Ranchos Café Saturday April 10 at 11:30 a.m.

April 17 – Seniors Benefit Bike Ride

Weekly Events

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

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

Tuesday, Pinochle, noon until?

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

Wednesday, noon to 1 p.m. Card BINGO

Wednesday, Line Dancing, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Thursday, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Jewelry making class

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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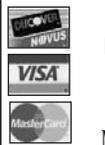
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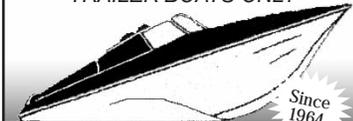
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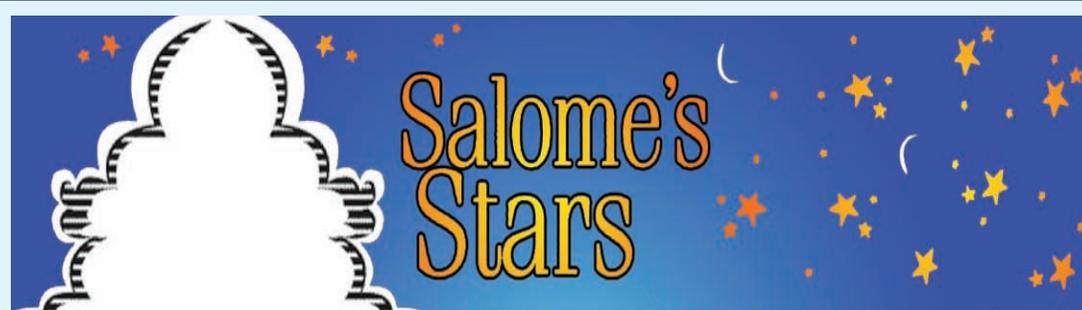
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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A pesky health problem should clear up soon. Meanwhile, travel -- both for personal as well as for business reasons -- is strong in the Aries aspect this week, and well into the next.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Look for Bovines to be on the move this week, whether it's traveling for fun or for business. Other "moves" include workplace adjustments and, for some, relationship changes.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Geminis who have just gone through a hectic period involving job and/or family matters might want to take some well-earned time out to relax and restore those drained energy levels.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A romantic situation seems to have stalled, just when the Moon Child was expecting it to go forward. Could that be a bad case of miscommunication going on. Talk it over openly and honestly.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Showing a genuine interest in something that's important to a friend, family member or colleague could open a communication line that had been pretty much shut down for a while.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Making a potentially life-changing decision takes as much knowledge as you can gather, plus determination and patience. Take your time working it out. Don't let anyone rush you.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You should be back on schedule and heading in the right direction after clearing up a misunderstanding. But there could still be some setbacks. If so, correct them immediately.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A business matter keeps you pretty busy, but try to squeeze in time to be with family as well as close friends. You need the good vibrations you get from people who care for you.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Investing in an attractive prospect (business or personal) with little or no information can be risky. Avoid future problems by getting all the facts before you act.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Someone close to you might have an unexpected reaction to a decision you feel you're prepared to make. Listen to his or her point of view. It could prove to be surprisingly helpful.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Don't give up yet. That once warm, personal relationship that seems to be cooling off fast could recover with some tender, loving care, and who better than you to provide it?

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Career matters are strong this week. You might want to enter a training program to enhance your skills. Also, consider getting professional help in preparing a brilliant resume.

Born this Week

You have a way of respecting the feelings of others, which is one reason people feel comfortable having you in their lives.

Everyday Technology Safety Tips

Note: We received this from reader Eileen Tiso and thinks it's some great, helpful advice that we non-criminals just don't think about. Editor

GPS -- A couple of weeks ago a friend told me that someone she knew had their car broken into while they were at a football game. Their car was parked on the green which was adjacent to the football stadium and specially allotted to football fans. Things stolen from the car included a garage door remote control, some money and a GPS which had been prominently mounted on the dashboard.

When the victims got home, they found that their house had been ransacked and just about everything worth anything had been stolen. The thieves had used the GPS to guide them to the house. They then used the garage remote control to open the garage door and gain entry to the house. The thieves knew the owners were at the football game, they knew what time the game was scheduled to finish and so they knew how much time they had to clean out the house. It would appear that they had brought a truck to empty the house of its contents.

Something to consider if you have a GPS - don't put your home address in it. Put a nearby address (like a store or gas station) so you can still find your way home if you need to, but no one else would know where

you live if your GPS were stolen.

MOBILE PHONES -- I never thought of this. This lady has now changed her habit of how she lists her names on her mobile phone after her handbag was stolen. Her handbag, which contained her cell phone, credit card, wallet, etc., was stolen. Twenty minutes later when she called her hubby, from a pay phone telling him what had happened, hubby says, "I received your text asking about our pin number and I've replied a little while ago." When they rushed down to the bank, the bank staff told them all the money was already withdrawn. The thief had actually used the stolen cell phone to text "hubby" in the contact list and got hold of the pin number. Within 20 minutes he had withdrawn all the money from their bank account.

Moral of the story is do not disclose the relationship between you and the people in your contact list. Avoid using names like "Home," "Honey," "Hubby," "Sweetheart," "Dad," "Mom," etc., and very importantly, when sensitive info is being asked through texts, CONFIRM by calling back. Also, when you're being texted by friends or family to meet them somewhere, be sure to call back to confirm that the message came from them. If you don't reach them, be very careful about going places to meet "family and friends" who text you.

Central Valley Writers' Workshop

Award winning editor and editorial consultant Pat LoBrutto, Alanna Ramirez of the Trident Media Group in New York, Elizabeth Pomada and Michael Larsen of Larsen Pomada Literary Agency in San Francisco and international private investigator turned author Steven Gore are scheduled to speak at the Central California Writers' Conference that will be held at the Best Western Yosemite Gateway Inn, 40530 Highway 41, Oakhurst.

Conference fee is \$150 for the two-day event or \$100 for Saturday only. Reservations for the Central California Writers' Conference may be made through www.centralvalleywriters.com, or by mailing a check or money order to Central Valley Writers' Workshop, P.O. Box 503, Chowchilla, CA 93610.

For more information call (559) 683-2378.

COME MEET
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Lauren "Elyse" Carey



March 27, 2009 – February 15, 2010

Lauren "Elyse" Carey passed away on Monday, February 15, 2010. Elyse was born on March 27, 2009, to parents, Cliff and April Carey of Hume Lake.

Elyse possessed a contagious smile that melted the hearts of everyone with whom she came into contact. She will be greatly missed and her memories will be treasured for as long as we live.

Known as "Sissy" to her 2-year-old

brother Peter, Elyse is also survived by her grandparents George and Jorene Briner of Fresno and Kenneth and Shirley Carey of Canon City, Colo., and great grandmother Irene Bailey of Fresno.

A Memorial Service was held at The Well Community Church in Fresno on Saturday, Feb. 20. In lieu of flowers, donations in Elyse's name may be made to Hume Lake Christian Camps' Campership Fund.

You are cordially invited to attend the 6th Annual
"Night the Stars Come Out"
dinner event hosted by:
The Foundation for Golden Valley Schools
Saturday April 10, 2010
6:00 p.m. Hors D'oeuvres
7:30 p.m. Program
Birdstone Winery
9400 Road 36, Madera
Evening attire
(adult event—wine and beer will be served)
Tickets \$25.00
Please RSVP to Aimee Beintker
at the Foundation #645-7500.
Come join the fun and see the
Golden Valley Stars shine.
Cocktail Party with gourmet hors d'oeuvres
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Raffle, Dessert and Dancing
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and supplies to enhance the educational
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D.O.G. cont. from P. 4

tection service.’”

D.O.G.: Keep in mind that this is the same County Counsel that approved the agreement in the first place. I agree the county is not required to provide fire protection and certainly not required to provide fire protection to a separate and sovereign nation. Where we will get into trouble is we have signed an MOU in return for certain specific considerations; we have agreed to provide essential services.

Let's go outside the narrow realm of point/counterpoint lawyers love, and look at the court of public opinion from which the pool of jurors at any wrongful death trial would come.

Madera County has contracted with the tribe to provide essential services to their facility. If the worst were to happen and a major fire or explosion were to happen, how can we possibly defend our county's actions? What we have is a casino covering tens of thousands of square feet, a hotel tower complex six or eight stories high and what does our county have in place to protect the hundreds – at times thousands – of visitors to the casino?

We have one aging ladder truck, formerly retired, from another department someplace back East (as in it has seen better days), only tall enough to reach the second or third floor and only from a couple of locations around the building.

We also have a quick attack/light engine (basically a big pickup with a small water tank and pump mounted on it.) assigned to the station.

Can you say “worthless toy”?

Now as for the staffing: We have two people. Not two per engine – we have two total. As backup we have the Yosemite Lakes Park Volunteer Company and the Coarsegold Volunteer company. The nearest paid backup comes as one paid staff on the Oakhurst engine (if it isn't on a call to Ahwahnee) or the next staffed engine comes

from the Children's Hospital station on Avenue 11.

How would you, as a family member, respond to County Counsel's assertions we are not responsible for the deaths of your loved ones?

Recommendation 4: Equipment allocations, especially of engines, should be reviewed to reflect the need to support a high-rise hotel, casino and theater and parking structure unique in the county.

D.O.G.: SEE ABOVE

Recommendation 5: The station should have direct, two-way contact with all elements of the emergency response system.

D.O.G.: The answer to this one is a bit complicated. The Board's response is the system is fine. If you only consider land lines they are not all that far off the point BUT when you throw cell phones into the mix it goes to pot. Cell phone 911 calls go to the California Highway Patrol, which has been notorious for its extremely slow response in transferring calls or passing along information to the appropriate agency.

Something the Grand Jury missed completely is the fact that Madera County Board of Supervisors illegally diverted, misappropriated, ripped off – call it what you will – over a million dollars from the County Fire mitigation fund to pay for Station 8. The law allowing governments to collect mitigation fees has very strict requirements for what it can be used to pay for, all based on the premise that the need for the expenditure being approved must have been cause by the development or payer of the fee. The only reasonable justification for Station 8 is the MOU with the Casino. The vast majority of the mitigation funds were collected from areas having no impact at all on the casino area.

No other rural area of the county has stations placed less than eight miles apart, in this case Coarsegold station is less than eight miles from YLP station. How did they possibly justify building another station between them?

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ANSWERS

4			24			16
2	X	8	+	4	20	
X		+		+		
1	X	9	+	6	15	
-		+		X		
3	X	7	+	2	23	

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



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RECIPE cont. from P. 14

have the seasoning right. Take about a tablespoon of your mix, and pat it out and fry it like a mini hamburger. If it tastes right, it's a go; if not, adjust your seasoning. Another thing I have learned from the internet is don't overwork your hamburger. Only mix it just enough to get everything combined, because if you over work ground beef, it will be tough.

My brother Lloyd used to bring me things to cook. He is the one that introduced me to lamb shanks. He came in with those things and I thought, "How in the world do I cook them?" I found a recipe and they were delicious! Well, one day he asks me to make a meatloaf using the recipe that someone from his work had brought for a potluck. He said it had sauerkraut and Swiss cheese in it. I said, "Lloyd, you are crazy!" But he talked me into it. I love a Reuben Sandwich, so how far could I be going wrong? I made my basic recipe for meatloaf using 3 pounds of hamburger. I put half the mix in the bottom of a 9 x 13 baking pan. Drained well a jar of sauerkraut and spread it on the meatloaf then placed sliced Swiss cheese (the real cheese, not the sliced processed cheese) on top of the sauerkraut, then added the rest of the meatloaf mix. The original recipe called for Russian Dressing on top of the cheese, but I didn't think we'd like that. Before I put it in the oven I spread it with a mixture of catsup, sugar, a dash of vinegar and a dash of Worcestershire sauce. I baked it for about an hour in a 350 oven

and it was wonderful. For a smaller portion, adjust the size of your meatloaf and use a can of kraut, unless you have other uses for left-over kraut if you use the jar.

For Atkins Fans

For those of you that are watching your carbs, I found a recipe for you:

LOW CARB MEATLOAF

- 1 C chopped fresh spinach
- 2 pounds ground chuck
- 1 C chopped tomato
- 4 oz Blue Cheese (or Feta)
- 2 scallions minced fine
- 1 tsp dried thyme
- Salt and Pepper to taste

Mix all ingredients together in a large bowl. Divide mix in six equal parts. Place each part in an ungreased six cup muffin pan. Bake at 350 until internal temp in 160 degrees. Let cool 5 minutes in pan before removing to serving platter or let cool completely to wrap for the freezer.

My mom usually fixed creamed peas or peas and carrots for a side dish and she would fix what I called broasted potatoes every time she made meatloaf. For the potatoes, wash well the number of potatoes you need for your family and cut them in quarters lengthways. Boil in salted water until not quite done. Drain them well, and place on a baking sheet and put melted butter on them and bake in the oven until golden.

No matter how you make your meatloaf, be sure to keep the leftover for sandwiches the next day.

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SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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.

	x		+		23
-		+		x	
	x		+		15
x		+		+	
	x		+		20
4		24		16	

1 2 2 3 4 6 7 8 9

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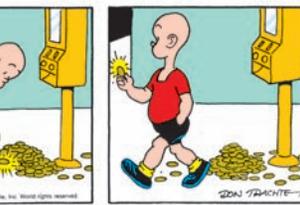
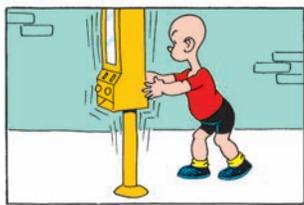
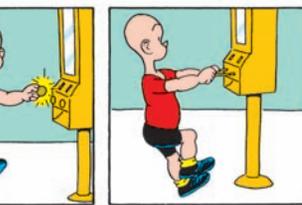
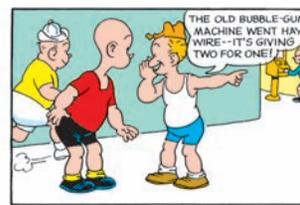
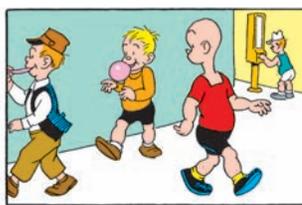
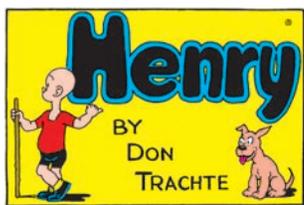
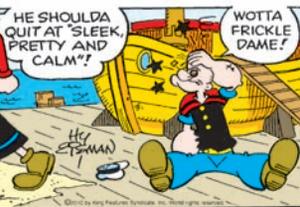
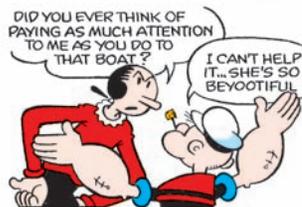
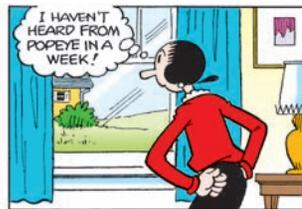
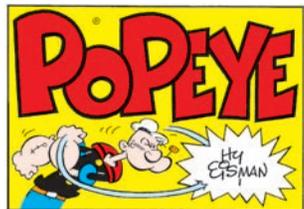
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FUN PAGES



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



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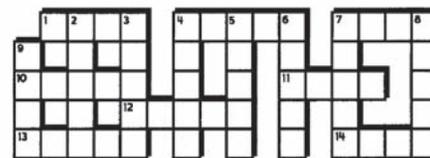


CAN YOU SPOT THE TWO YO-YOS that are exactly the same?

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

A FILL-IN PUZZLE



Illustrated by David Coulson

PUZZLE TILL YOU DROP! Try solving this AlphaMath puzzle in less than five minutes. You must replace the letters to the right with the digits 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9, so that you have a correct addition problem. The same letters get the same digits.



Our answer: D=5, O=8, W=4, N=1, T=3, S=9, H=6, P=2 (5841 + 3841 = 9682).

SOLVE BEFORE THE BUS ARRIVES! Pictured below are two puzzle grids for you to fill in. Hints are given for each word. The words in Grid A contain the same letters as the corresponding words in grid B.

- Cut diamond shape.
- To speak harshly.
- Urgent, desperate need.
- A flow of water.



Answers: 1. Pear-riap, 2. Raif-ira, 3. Dire-ids, 4. Leak-lake

Wishing Well

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

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

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

- | | | | |
|------------|-----------|--------------|---------|
| Aykroyd | Glenn | Imus | Rove |
| Bill Gates | Goldwater | Jobs | Turner |
| Dell | H. Ford | Paul Allen | Wozniak |
| Eastwood | Hanks | Robert Frost | |

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TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- THEATER:** Who played the lead role in "Hello, Dolly!" when the play first started on Broadway?
- MEDICAL:** What's the common name of the condition called nasopharyngitis?
- LANGUAGE:** What is called a "torch" in England would be known in the United States as what?
- TELEVISION:** Who created the character called "The Hippy Dippy Weatherman"?
- MOVIES:** What movie featured the line, "Houston, we have a problem"?
- MUSIC:** What pop-rock band had a Grammy-winning song called "If You Leave Me Now"?
- SCIENCE:** What inventor was known as "The Wizard of Menlo Park"?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** Which planet is associated with the astrological sign Gemini?
- ARTS:** Who choreographed the ballet "Rodeo"?
- ASTRONOMY:** In our solar system, which planet is between Jupiter and Uranus?

Answers

- Carol Channing
- A cold
- A flashlight
- George Carlin
- "Apollo 13"
- Chicago
- Thomas Edison
- Mercury
- Agnes de Mille
- Saturn

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



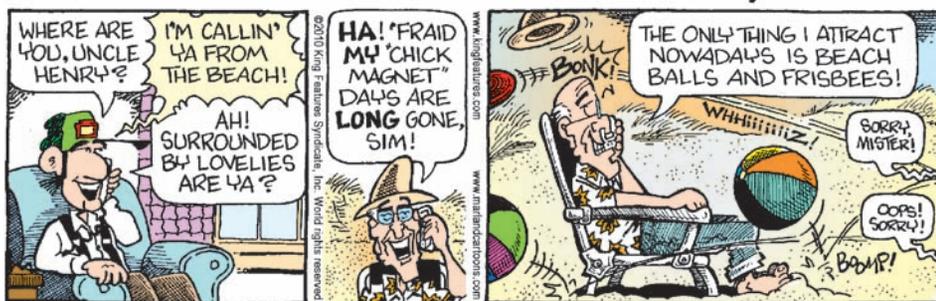
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



MAMA'S BOYZ

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JERRY CRAFT



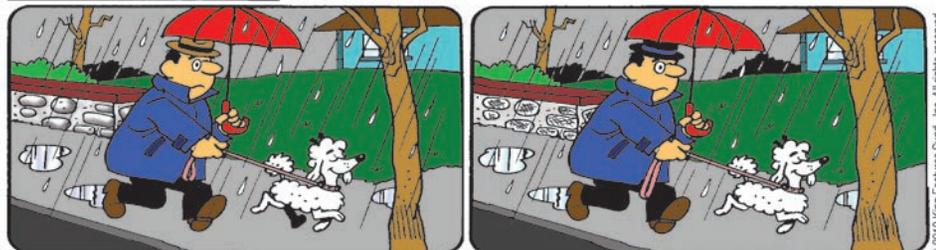
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



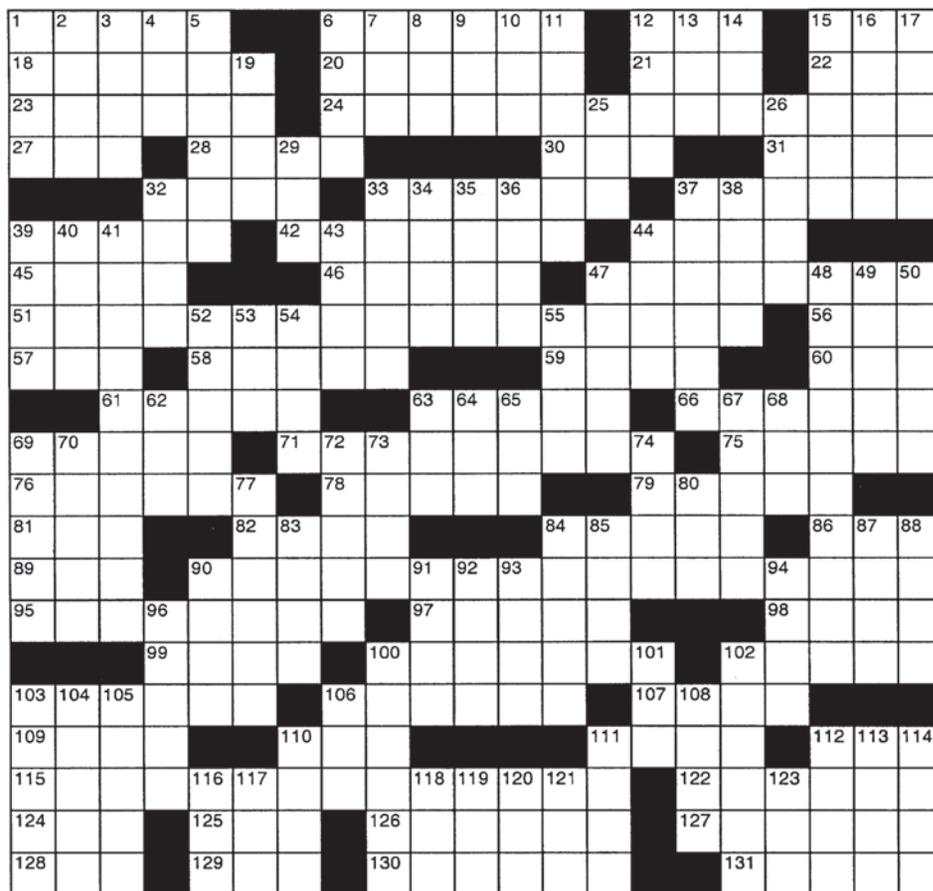
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.
Differences: 1. Hat is black. 2. Bricks are different. 3. Dog's leg is longer. 4. Bushes added near house. 5. Tree is wider. 6. Leash is longer.

Super Crossword



- | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Los —, CA | 58 Indo-European | 109 European capital | customer | 49 Wooden shoe | 91 "— fixe" |
| 6 Shakespeare heroine | 59 Pro foe | 110 JFK abbr. | 10 Charleson or Carmichael | 50 Lucas critters | 92 Nothing, in Navarra |
| 12 "— Ballou" ('65 film) | 60 Cable channel | 111 Candid | 11 Storm | 52 Philistine deity | 93 Colors |
| 15 Bribe | 61 "Love Story" author | 112 Burglarize | 12 Crypt-analyst's concern | 53 Precambrian — | 94 Neighbor of Pakistan |
| 18 '01 Audrey Tautou film | 63 Bestow | 115 Answer to riddle | 13 Impress immensely | 54 Auel heroine | 96 Comic Leon |
| 20 Drifting | 66 "— of the North" ('22 film) | 122 Where to find a fennec | 14 RN's specialty | 55 Light wagon | 100 Chocolate or strawberry |
| 21 He gives a hoot | 69 Botch | 124 Delivery truck | 15 '78 Peace Nobel | 62 Maestro de Waart | 101 Drink like a dachshund |
| 22 "Tarzan" extra | 71 Ornamental material | 125 Help | 16 Glass work | 63 Vigoda or Fortas | 102 It may be grand |
| 23 Let up | 75 Sheds | 126 Rococo | 17 Piano part | 64 Witty one | 103 White wine |
| 24 Riddle: Part 1 | 76 Cashew kin | 127 Dieter's portion | 19 Short jacket | 65 Botanist Gray | 104 "Fie!" |
| 27 Fashion monogram | 78 Alpha opposite | 128 Meadow mama | 25 Rhine whine | 67 Correct | 105 Isolated |
| 28 Beethoven's birthplace | 79 It multiplies by dividing | 129 Sneak a peek | 26 Harden | 68 British big shot | 106 School grp. |
| 30 Highest card | 81 Runner Sebastian | 130 Shows one's feelings | 29 Apprehend | 69 Tropical screecher | 108 Clutter |
| 31 Japanese city | 82 Choir member | 131 Author Zola | 32 Actress Moore | 70 Actress Massey | 110 Guitarist Duane |
| 32 Ashbrook or Carvey | 84 Tennyson's "Enoch —" | | 33 Part of HOMES | 72 Government game | 111 Singles |
| 33 "Taxi" star | 86 Houston or Huff | DOWN | 34 "Yeah, sure!" | 73 Out of control | 112 Sitarist Shankar |
| 37 Savage | 89 — Arbor, MI | 1 Player or Puckett | 35 Tahoe town | 74 Pianist Lupu | 113 Hurler Hershiser |
| 39 Throbbled | 90 Riddle: Part 3 | 2 Leon of "Mister Ed" | 36 Injury after-effect | 77 Showy flower | 114 Unadorned |
| 42 Jazzman Dave | 95 '74 Abba hit | 3 Reveal | 37 "White Christmas" composer | 80 With 121 Down, famed Giant | 116 Singing syllables |
| 44 Compote component | 97 Moshe of Israel | 4 Barcelona bravo | 38 Fad | 83 Vientiane's nation | 117 Shrill sound |
| 45 Word with dance or dunk | 98 Annoy | 5 Seafaring storyteller | 39 Movie mutt problem | 84 Mindful | 118 High dudgeon |
| 46 Conflict site | 99 Journalist Jacob | 6 Pestiferous person | 40 Drain problem | 85 Barrett or Jaffe | 119 Genetic letters |
| 47 Generosity | 100 Part of FBI | 7 Mistaken | 41 Aggravation | 87 Competent | 120 Cul-de- — |
| 51 Riddle: Part 2 | 102 Sapphire surface | 8 "Treasure Island" monogram | 43 Sita's spouse | 88 TV's "— the Press" | 121 See 80 |
| 56 Cornfield cry | 103 Lysander's home | | 44 Covenant | | 123 "Run to —" ('61 hit) |
| | 106 Delight | | 47 Panelist Paul | | |

Who wants to help the Ranchos?



3/10

That's what we thought ...

A non-profit group is forming in the Madera Ranchos to finally give us some say over what happens here, specifically regarding our water. County representatives are doing what they can but they can't do it all. This organization of local people will answer to one group only: the people of the Ranchos. If you have a passion for the Ranchos or if you want to get involved in water issues, this is for you. Please call to see how you can be a part of this history making group. 559-363-9095 or email ranchos.community@gmail.com.

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

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