

The Ranchos Independent



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Mustang Power

Local businessman Igal Treibatch donates a bronze statue of a wild mustang, the mascot for Ranchos Middle School, at the Cornerstone Ceremony on the 11th of September at Ranchos Middle School.



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Station 19 on Chopping Block, Spared

By Randy Bailey

In the face of looming budget shortfalls, Madera County sought areas to save money and turned to the Madera County Fire department and asked it to shave \$273,000 from its budget in the next year. Madera County Fire Chief Dale Hutchinson responded with three alternatives from which the County Board of Supervisors could choose, one of which included the closing of the Madera Ranchos' Station 19. At a Board of Supervisor's meeting on Sept. 15, the Board heard input from firefighters and several citizens of the Ranchos, pleading the case that removal of Station 19 would place the people in the Ranchos, specifically, and surrounding communities, generally, in danger. The options presented to the Board by Hutchinson were:

- 1) Elimination of one training captain, one fire captain and two fire apparatus engineers. These would all come from the Cal Fire Amador stations at Ahwahnee and Raymond. These cuts would occur during the non-fire season.
- 2) Elimination of one battalion chief and closure of Bonadelle Station 19, Madera Acres Station 3, Madera Station 1

or Oakhurst Station 12.

3) Elimination of either one training captain or a battalion chief and incorporate a "brown out" option to close fire stations on a rotating basis.

Ultimately the Board of Supervisors voted for "option one" and chose to close the Ahwahnee and Raymond Cal Fire Stations at the end of the fire season. The vote passed by a 3-2 margin with Supervisors Tom Wheeler and Frank Bigelow voting against.



After the vote, Hutchinson said, "This was an extremely difficult decision for the Board of Supervisors, as they support all public safety departments. The current economic downturn has significantly impacted Madera County, and additional difficult reductions to other departments will also occur. The Fire Department reductions are listed as temporary for a reason, so as funding becomes available, we can return to our previous service levels."

The consensus of the public who chose to speak at the meeting was that the primary function of County government was public safety and several suggested that closing county libraries or making administrative cuts made more sense than closing fire stations.

Madera Muzzles Medical Marijuana

By Randy Bailey

On Tuesday, Sept. 22 the Madera County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to ban medical marijuana dispensaries in Madera County, including one operating in the Ranchos on Highway 41 between Ave. 15 and 14 1/2 called Alternative Holistic Healing. According to Supervisor Frank Bigelow, the business has been operating without a permit to dispense medical marijuana. Since the passed ordinance took effect immediately, it allowed the Sheriff to shut the business down.

In 1996 California voters passed Prop. 215, the Compassionate Use Act, allowing the use of medical marijuana, but the implementation of the law is rather vaporous. The state does not expressly authorize medical marijuana dispensaries, but rather leaves the implementation up to individual counties

and municipalities. So although a dispensary is legal by the State of California, counties must agree to allow them to be placed within their jurisdiction. And even then if a local community passes an ordinance against the business, that takes precedent over both the state law and county law.

At the same time, marijuana is still considered an illegal drug federally. The federal ban on the drug is how many municipalities are circumventing Prop. 215 by refusing to issue business permits for anything that is considered illegal by federal law.

Although the proposition passed in 1996 by a 56 percent margin overall in California, in Madera County it was voted down by almost 60 percent of the voters. The three main points of the law are: 1) Availability for the seriously ill; 2) Freedom from criminal prosecution; and 3) Safe and affordable distribution.

Madera Ranchos Water Choices Being Made by Others, Not Us

By Igal Treibatch

Background

About a year ago, I reported about a process taking place in Madera County called the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). That big title comes from the State, which is pushing local governments, water agencies and other stakeholders to work together across political boundaries to create water management plans that reflect the realities of our complex state. That means planning to recognize that rivers and drainages flow from county to county and that groundwater basins are not restricted by political lines at all. In order to be successful in managing our increasingly-scarce water resources, we must be willing to look at each one as a whole, and not get focused too tightly on "what's happening in my backyard."

The state hopes that all this planning will be followed by a series of projects and programs helping to maximize our use of the water we control, even where a project constructed in one county or district might end up benefitting the people living in another county or district. These kinds of inter-agency projects have been rare to date because of the way that projects have been funded (agencies have applied for grant funding for projects within their own jurisdiction) and by the way that groundwater has been managed until now.

Historically, groundwater has been the domain of the landholder above it. If you own land, in most cases you are entitled to drill a well and take as much groundwater as you can use for the benefit of your land. You can't sell it to your neighbor or to the water district across the state, but by and large if you can use it, you can pump it. Even the first state attempt at groundwater management back in the mid '90's, AB 3030, looked at this resource as though there were an underground barrier at the edge of every water district. Each district was asked to prepare a groundwater management plan independently, and the plans don't necessarily take into account what neighboring districts are doing. The IRWMP program aims to change all that.

In addition to the report and written plan the County approved in 2007, the IRWMP program requires that the agencies preparing a plan set up a controlling Board to make decisions about plan implementation, project development, fund-

ing applications and the like. In its Dec. 22, 2008 letter to stakeholders, the Madera County Board of Supervisors invited input as to how the governance structure should be created and organized. An MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) was being formulated and documented by the Madera County Water Advisory Commission's IRWMP Formation Subcommittee.

Each IRWMP has to be accepted and approved by the State Department of Water Resources (DWR). Earlier this month, the Madera plan received conditional approval for its application, but was encouraged to take another look at working together with IRWMPs in Mariposa and Fresno counties to enhance the "integrated" aspects of the program. As discussed above, the San Joaquin River watershed affects both Madera and Fresno counties, while the Fresno River Watershed affects not only Madera County but Mariposa County as well. Developing the best solutions will necessitate water agencies in these counties to work closely together. But, without representation, the Ranchos and its residents will be left behind without any visible solutions for the foreseeable future.

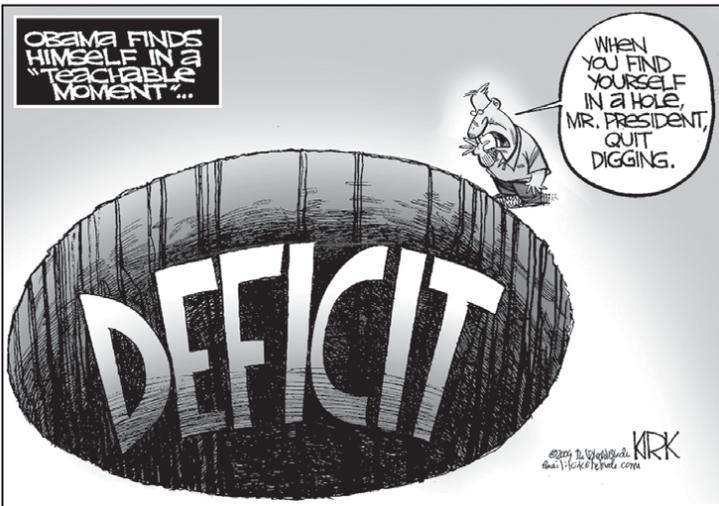
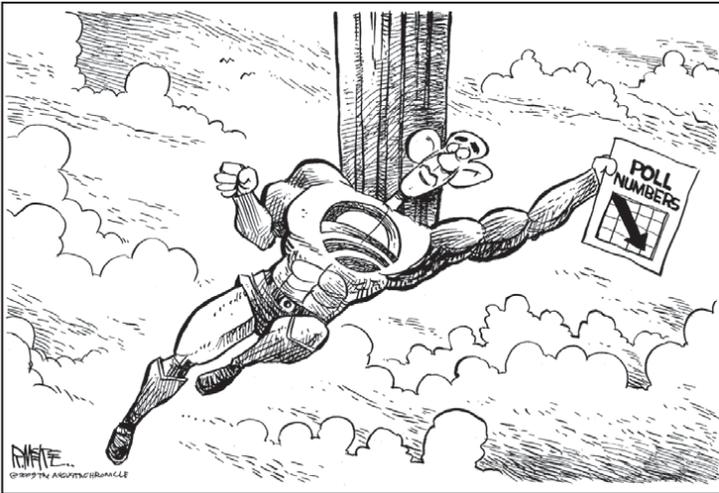
The potential grants which may become available by the DWR can only be submitted through the Madera IRWMP Board which will be selected by and made up of the signatories of the Madera MOU.

The Problem

Here is where I began noticing significant problems. The MOU's intent is to create a consensus among the different parties within the Madera region, including disadvantaged communities and bring stakeholders to agreement on the governance of the IRWMP and process, then get those stakeholders to sign the MOU and become eligible to submit projects for grants as long as money is available. Any stakeholder who wished to participate and become a member of the subcommittee was welcomed. I joined as a member. It was an open process and honest attempt at creating a governance structure to facilitate all qualifying stakeholder groups in the designated region to participate.

As discussions proceeded, I asked the subcommittee to consider the interests of the Madera Ranchos, Bonadelle Ranchos and Rolling Hills, or the Ranchos, collectively. There are approximately 15,000 citizens in this area and based on the initial

See **WATER** on P. 15



Editorial

Hey Madera County ... Tax *This!*

By Randy Bailey

I'll be the first one to admit that there are certain things that I just don't understand.

- French.
- Calculus.
- Liberals.

I just don't get it. I'm sure with enough thoughtful study and a good tutor or at least a good reference source I could probably understand a lot more than I do right now, but then there's that whole issue of how badly do I *really* want to understand those things? Let's face it, if I haven't gotten busy about understanding these things by this stage in my life, I'm probably not going to rush out tomorrow like an eager beaver and get started.

Having said that, I don't understand the budget decisions that were made by Madera County here recently that went so far as to actually have Madera Ranchos Fire Station 19 even being *considered* for the chopping block. Here we have this little community of about 10,000+ people who, for the most part, are pretty tightknit, are pretty friendly and are pretty helpful to one another. A community that economically maintains the high end of the per-capita income of Madera County, a point I make not to boast but rather

to stress who's paying more than their fair share of taxes to the County. A community that has, by God, *paid* for Station 19 several times over. Every summer, every Fireman's BBQ, there we are donating and donating and donating. Buying equipment and more equipment and still *more* equipment. Don't get me wrong, we give with a cheerful heart because somewhere deep in the back of our collective minds we know that the equipment we're buying today just might save our life tomorrow. We truly do consider it an investment more so than a donation.

So, here we are having paid for Station 19 both through our taxes and through our charitable giving. We have a fire station that last year responded to over 600 calls, has over 25 volunteers and has all that damn equipment that we paid for, and in someone's best judgement it's the most logical fire station to shut down. This is coming from the same people that sold us on a transportation tax that we readily agreed to because so many of our roads are little more than holes held together with asphalt, only to find out now they're "borrowing" from those road funds to keep the County solvent. Specifically, they're borrowing from the unincorporated areas (that's *US*) because Madera City has already spent its money. I guess they figure they got away with it with the road funds, why not give the fire station a whack? And all while the Board of Supervisor's budget has *grown* by half a million dollars over the last five years and the office of the County Administrative Officer has virtually doubled to \$1,086,906 over the same period.

Their budgets have grown while we're being asked to shutter our one and only fire station.

One thing I do understand is fool me once and shame on you; fool me twice and shame on *me*. I'm feeling fooled twice here, or more like three times if I count the \$3.2 million that was "borrowed" from us for the bridge to nowhere a few years ago -- that the borrowers have absolutely no intention of ever paying back, and I've had just about enough.

How about you?

The Ranchos Independent

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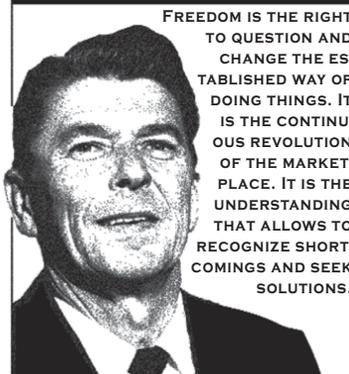
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Madera County Budget Problems Bring Changes to Ranchos Library

By Ellen Mester

Changes are coming!

As most of you are aware, the County of Madera is facing a serious revenue shortfall. This has caused all departments to make deep cuts to their operating budgets. All of the libraries will be reducing hours and staff in the very near future — but we will remain open for now, thanks to the County Librarian and all the library supporters who lobbied to keep the libraries open. As it currently stands, the Ranchos Library will only lose two hours on Monday morning. We will open Monday at noon instead of 10 a.m. Therefore our story time with Mrs. Anderson will move to Monday at 1 p.m. Other adjustments include the release of our extra help staff and no funds for new books. So if you are fortunate enough to buy new bestsellers and would like to donate them to the library when you have finished, please think of the Ranchos Library. We will appreciate it immensely. As the library continues to grow, which it has been doing, we will continue to work toward acquiring funds for our new library. Like all things, this hard time will pass, and when it does we will be ready to accelerate forward as we are now, only at a faster pace.

New Fall Programs

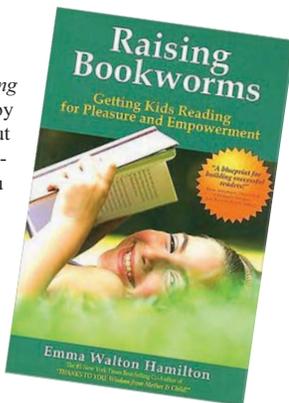
Every Wednesday at 2 p.m. there will be an activity at the library for children. The first Wednesday of the month, Katie the dog and Grandma Penny will visit. Katie is a therapy dog and loves having children read to her. The second Wednesday will be Act Up day, where kids can sort through the clothes trunk and put on costumes to match their story. They can tell their own story or read aloud from a book. This is good practice for public speaking. The third Wednesday will be our craft day. As in the past, we try to enrich the inner artist with original ideas with plenty of room for personal flair. The fourth Wednesday will be movement day — either yoga, Tai Chi or dance. Whenever there is a fifth Wednesday such as this month, we will have a game day with board games and perhaps Wii sports. For the adults (by popular request) we are offering space for a knitting group. In order to accommodate those who work during the day we selected a time in the evening to get together at the library. The first gathering of knitters was on Monday, Sept. 14 from 5 until 7 p.m. and will be on every Monday afterward with the exception of holidays. Everyone interested in knitting is welcome. It is an opportunity to share knowledge and knitting patterns.

Fundraising Programs

We currently have two programs that everyone can be involved in to help generate funds for the new library. The recycling program is a great way to recycle paper, plastic and cans which help the environment, create jobs and contribute toward a worthy cause. Drop off your recycling at the library on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Diana from Recycle 4 Kids picks up the recycling the next day. The other way you can help is to pick up a S.H.A.R.E.S card at the library. It is free! When you use a library S.H.A.R.E.S. card at Save Mart or Food Max, 3 percent of your purchase total goes to our new library account. This is a very direct method of building capital. If the Ranchos community participates in either or both of these programs, we will be on our way toward building our share of the local support that we will need to make this dream of a new library come true.

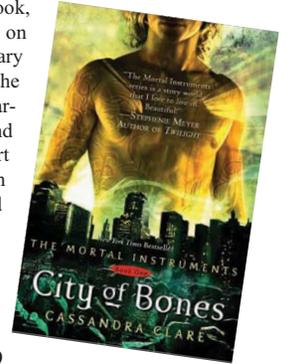
Book Recommendations

Adult Non-Fiction: *Raising Bookworms: Getting Kids Reading for Pleasure and Empowerment* by Emma Walton Hamilton. The title caught my eye, but the content held it. Many people are aware of the importance of reading to small children, but did you know that it shouldn't stop there? Older children need you to read to and with them regularly, not only to help them with school work but to encourage them to read for pleasure. Instead of watching a video together, why not listen to a book on CD? It engages the brain in a different way and encourages a more active participation by making the listener use their imagination to picture the scene



and the characters. Also when a family discusses a book, it's like having your own little book club. Follow up on questions about history or legends by visiting the library and checking out companion books that are related to the story. There are many great ideas in this book to help parents instill the joy of reading for pleasure in children and even teens! Start reading to babies as soon as you start talking to them at day one. Continue to read to them until they leave the nest. It's never too late to start and this book will give you some valuable ideas.

Young Adult Fiction: *City of Bones* by Cassandra Clare. For those readers who enjoyed the *Twilight* series by Stephanie Meyer, this book will hold the



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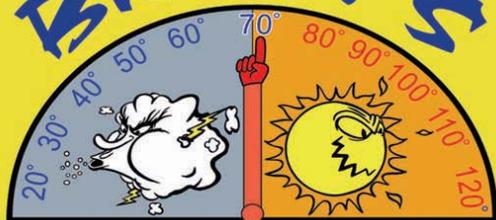
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THE D.O.G. HOUSE
 DEMAND OPEN GOVERNMENT BY DALE DROZEN



I hardly know where to begin, so I guess I will start with the three ring circus.
 I guess I will begin with rumor control:
The BOOT CAMP PROGRAM IS NOT CLOSING!

Have you ever purchased something at a garage sale and then got home to find out it didn't work? You know that sick feeling you get when you have been scammed? It seems the boot camp program cannot only be saved with Probation taking the required cut but actually will be better for the changes. I don't know how many of you saw the budget hearings or would want to look back on them but what I heard was Probation Department officials saying the size cuts being proposed would decimate the program. I testified at the hearings along with many others pouring my heart out about how important the program is and why it needs to be saved based on the belief that Probation could not take the cuts without cutting the program. Somehow that has morphed to something like, "What was said, was the boot camp could not continue in the separate facility." It seems now that just a bit of rearranging and fat trimming was all we needed to make the cuts.

We used to refer to that as crying WOLF.
 I am relieved to hear the Boot Camp Program will continue, but I feel like I got scammed and used.

How does a program accumulate that much fat? How does Administration, RMA and other departments grow by leaps and bounds while our fire protection remained at or below the dismal level it was 10 years ago?

Remember I told you Board Agendas are not firm until 72 hours before the meetings? It seems Friday sometime in the afternoon an addendum to the agenda was posted. Item AD1 was a motion to rescind the vote responsible for cutting fire protection for Raymond and Ahwahanee. Unfortunately it was an ill-fated end run by Bigelow trying to win, or at least get a second shot at it, by calling a technical foul.

Possibly just a bit more theater performance to save some votes.

I keep coming back to the fact that the budget passed 5-0 requiring the cuts to Fire after ample testimony that there was no fat to be cut. After testimony that people's lives would be in peril. During the discussions yesterday (I was not allowed to comment) one of the Board members even suggested the Fire Chief could have simply returned and told the Board he could not safely make the cuts.

This proves my point!
The Board could not possibly have been listening during the budget hearings. The Chief told them there was no fat to be cut and a long parade of citizens, including many Paid Call Firefighters, told them. Their response was to order the Chief to come up with a plan to implement the cuts; unfortunately for the Board the Chief gave them options and put the ball back in their court.

In case you have not noticed, politicians don't make hard decisions unless they are forced to do it. They wanted the Chief to be the bad guy turning his back on Raymond and Ahwahanee, not them. The worst part of the mess was the total waste of time. The Board had three CalFire Chiefs tied up all day as fire season rages on with local firefighters being sent to major fires around the state. The chiefs sat at the Board's whim only to be told as the last public item for the day, "The Board will not consider the motion to reconsider."

Now for my open government thing: I waited as well. When I

Please see **D.O.G.** on P. 17

Learn a New Language with Christ

By Bob Crabb

Part of the change in many people's lives after meeting Jesus is a new way of thinking and a new way of speaking. New followers of Jesus often times report a similar desire to the 14th verse of the 19th Psalm: "May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer."

These words when spoken in a secular context can be noble words indeed. But these words, when they are spoken in light of a relationship with Christ, can be the words of reconciliation, of forgiveness, of compassion, of mercy and of second chances. Most of all these words of the 19th Psalm can be the words of salvation and hope. My proposal of faith today is that when "these words" are incorporated into our lives as we practice the presence of Christ, they can change the world.

The words out of our mouths can be words of hope and healing or they can be words of condescension and insult. For those who claim Jesus Christ, how we speak to each other, how we speak to strangers, how we speak to our young people and how we speak to our elders, even how we speak to our enemies, is based on our relationship with Jesus. Everyday language is so often filled with resentments. A burst of temper can spoil a whole day. A well-nursed grudge can make us miserably ineffective in carrying the message of hope to other people. Most of us are seldom, if ever, able to separate justified anger from unjustified anger. In our world today, quick-tempered criticism, furious power-driven argument, sulking and silent scorn are the trademarks of contemporary society. Our language when connected to pride, anger and a sense of righteousness can so often be the very thing that drives people away from Christ. We can neither think nor act to good purpose until the habit of self-restraint has become automatic.

The words of the followers of Christ matter and they are important. I know it is hard at times. I despair of the times that my words have not been pleasing in the sight of God. Jesus spoke to folks about his Father in Heaven. For those who are followers of Christ, we want to speak the words of Christ. We want to speak the message of agape love and of hope. We want to speak the words that are pleasing in the sight of the Lord.

The words of a follower of Christ can be the words of hope and healing and forgiveness even in difficult situations. It takes a lot of heart to speak words that are pleasing to God!

Even the disciples were often challenged in this regard. One time a blind man tried to stop Jesus and he started yelling at Jesus to get his attention. The people who were following Christ shouted angrily at the blind man and rebuked him to be silent. At that moment, Jesus rebuked his own disciples for speaking in a way that was not pleasing to God and then Jesus immediately healed the blind man. (Mark 10:46)

Another time the disciples were with Jesus and the people were trying to bring the children to Jesus, but the disciples angrily rebuked them and tried to stop the children from seeing Jesus. Jesus rebuked his disciples for their hardness of heart and speech and then he gathered the children to him and blessed them. (Mark 10:13)

Another time, the disciples were with Jesus right after Jesus had been rejected by some people and some of the disciples suggested that they call fire down from heaven and destroy the people who rejected Jesus. But the Lord rebuked his disciples for these words and then he took them on to another town in order to speak of the Gospel. (Luke 9:53)

For those who follow Christ, they have been given the words of hope. There is somebody waiting in your world today longing to hear the words about a caring and compassionate God.

When I was a boy, I was into the Norse god named Thor. Thor was a god who could get a lot a respect. You weren't going to find Thor blessing those who cursed him and praying for those who mistreated him. I knew for certain that you were never ever going to hear Thor saying things like: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he

Please see PASTOR on P. 18

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The Stock Report

Masonic Cornerstone Caps RMS Fete

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,

On Sept. 8 President Obama delivered a national address directly to the students of America on the importance of education. For some reason this caused the politicians to get upset. I guess the Republicans are still upset that they lost the last election. The classroom teachers at Golden Valley schools were able to make the decision to watch the address if it was tied into grade level social science standards. President Obama's speech was shown in the classrooms. If parents didn't want their children to see President Obama's speech, they could send a note to excuse them. A million students a year drop out of high school. If President Obama's speech encouraged just one student to stay in school, I think it was worth the President's time. I have lived through every president since F.D.R. and I have seen many changes in my life time. I believe that the two party system has worked well in America. President Obama has been president of the United States for only nine months but everything that is wrong in America is already his fault. I just don't understand it. I know that change is hard but that should not stop America from going forward.

I was really impressed by the Masonic cornerstone ceremony at Ranchos Middle School on Friday, Sept. 11. Masons from the Grand Lodge of California (over 50) came to the Madera Ranchos to perform the cornerstone ceremony at Ranchos Middle School. The Masonic ceremony is performed at schools and public buildings if they are asked. This is the second time that the Masons have honored Golden Valley. Liberty High also was presented with a Masonic cornerstone. A time capsule will be buried by the cornerstone. Students had input into the items that were put into the capsule.

My uncle and husband were Masons and my sons were DeMolay's which is the Masonic organization for teenage boys. I was a member of Job's Daughters which is the Masonic organization for teenage girls. Masonic organizations reinforce the Character Counts values and have done so for hundreds of years.

The second part of the ceremony at the Ranchos Middle School was the unveiling of the beautiful bronze mustang statue out in the quad. Mr. Igal Treibatch from Pegasus and Greenleaf Orchards presented to Principal Shane Pinkard and his students this beautiful bronze mascot statue of the mustang. Again Superintendent Sarah Koligian put together a great program that blended

I just found out that flu shots will be given again this year at Liberty High on Oct. 15. You stay in your car so it is easy. The time is 9:30 to 11 a.m. Call the Ranchos Hills Senior Center at 645-4864 for more information.

the Masonic cornerstone ceremony with a remembrance of the 9-11 attack on America and the unveiling of the bronze mascot mustang statue ceremony. Thank you Mr. Treibatch for your continued support of Golden Valley Unified. For those of you that don't know, Mr. Treibatch also donated the Liberty Bell to Liberty High School. He also continues to provide money for our Golden Valley school's libraries.

What do you know about the Swine Flu which is also called H1N1 flu? Because children are in close contact with each other it is important for children to have the shot that will build their immune system defenses, especially if the child has pre-existing health conditions. It is always best to check with your child's physician for the best course of action. There are two important precautions for you to teach your children: wash hands frequently with SOAP and WATER and when you cough or sneeze do it into your sleeve not on your hand. There are two kinds of flu shots. One is the regular flu shot and the special H1N1 vaccine for the swine flu. It is predicted that this fall and winter

Please see STOCK on P. 18

The Olde Cowboy

by Woody Laughnan

As just about every study nowadays indicates, there are a passel and more of available single women over 45 than there are footloose men in this country. That is to say there simply are not enough single men to go around and thus many a woman finds herself condemned to leading a life of bingo, working crossword puzzles, knitting and crocheting, so-called "hen parties," grandchildren-sitting and other boring pursuits, poor dears.

How did this come about? Well, through divorce mainly, although there have been entirely too many instances of males, poor things, having worked themselves to the bone and reached the point they are too pooped to poop, while others are playing the field so to speak, racing from lounge to lounge in search of prey, and of course quite a few are in jail.

Anyhow, countless thousands of

women every night – after the last number is in its proper square place in their Sudoku puzzle book and deprived of lying in the protective and loving arms of a husband – cry themselves to sleep, poor dears. Alas, as Lord Byron penned almost 300 years ago:

*My days are in the yellow leaf,
The flowers and hurts of love
are gone;
The worm, the canker, and the
grief
Are mine alone.*

Not very long ago it fell my fortune to sit at a table next to, and for want of another name, what I shall call a "hen party," a group of about 10 women I would guess to be in the 35-65 age category – obviously all single but looking – and discussing at some length what one might expect at such a gathering: men, or the lack of ones worthy of them.

"I am sick and tired of the men I've been meeting lately," said one. "Their idea of taking a woman out to dinner is ordering on the cheap, from the Senior's Menu at Denny's, or from Taco Bell. One even suggested that we pick up our food at the drive-through and then park at the rear of a vacant building across the street and get acquainted. And his idea of 'getting acquainted' was trying to feel me up."

Another woman concurred, saying she was looking for a nice retail businessman who knows how to wine and dine a woman.

"I just hate smelly men who haven't shaved or changed clothes in a week, drive battered old pickup trucks and whose idea of a night on the town is Motel 6, so I too am on the lookout for a retail man, banker, stockbroker or someone of that professional or semi-professional ilk."

Obviously neither of these women have read the following survey dealing with the probability of such men being

good marriage prospects, to wit:

- 1) Stationers look good, but only on paper.
- 2) Bankers are of little note and check them out because they may be of little account.
- 3) Shoe store retailers sometimes turn out to be soleless heels.
- 4) Many stock brokers come up short.
- 5) All that undertakers think about are his and hearse.
- 6) Many newspaper reporters will not do write by you.
- 7) Cab drivers just want to take you for a ride.
- 8) Forget magicians. All they think about are tricks.
- 9) Don't steak your future on a butcher, regardless of his bull.
- 10) Automobile salesmen? Never let them talk you into making a deal in the back seat.

Obviously, far and away the best male prospects for single women are old cowboys and ranchers because they are outstanding in their field.

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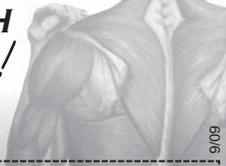
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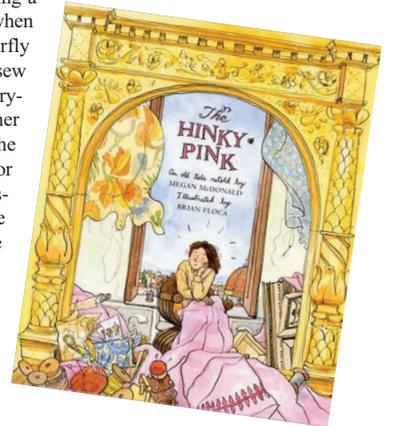


LIBRARY cont. from P. 4

same interesting combination of teen angst combined with the ongoing battle between the dark underworld of vampires, werewolves and the Shadowhunters, or Nephilim, the offspring of humans and angels. It's an action-packed story of 16-year-old Clary Fray who learns her true identity as a Shadowhunter and her discovery of her family history and the impact it has on both worlds. Her mother, who has kept the secret in order to protect Clary, is mysteriously abducted. Clary and her new love interest Jace, a Shadowhunter, along with her dearest friend, Simon, take on the underworld in search of her mother. Clary's emotions are torn between Jace and Simon while trying to understand all that is happening around her. This is the first book in *The Mortal Instruments* series. It has some interesting twists and plenty of excitement to make you want to read the next book in the series entitled *City of Ashes*.

Juvenile Fiction: *The Hinky Pink: an Old Tale* by Megan McDonald and illustrated by Brian Floca. Long ago in Florence, Italy, a young seamstress named Anabel dreamed of sewing a dress for a princess. At last the day comes when a real princess needs a gown for the Butterfly Ball. Anabel is whisked off to the tower to sew a dress in one week. The tower room has everything she needs plus accommodations finer than she has ever known. Unfortunately she soon discovers that a tiny little hob-goblin, or a Hinky-Pink, is determined to make her miserable — exactly why is not clear until the end. Poor Anabel cannot sleep and therefore cannot sew well until she solves the problem of the Hinky-Pink. It is a delightful old storyteller's favorite with a breath of freshness to it that will appeal to all ages.

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



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Senior Report

Water: Are YOU Drinking Enough?

By Eleanore Burchell

Dehydration, a common condition among the elderly, is caused when water loss exceeds water intake. As we all know, our bodies are mostly water, in fact over 70 percent. The brain alone consists of 80 percent water so it is understandable that the first sign of dehydration in the elderly is confusion. During the summer months, dehydration rises to epidemic proportions in the United States. This problem has no boundary as it also touches the "rich and famous" and extends to nearly two-thirds of the U.S. population. Unfortunately, there have been far too many cases with fatal results.

Coffee, tea, fruit drinks and sodas are often considered an acceptable substitute for water. However, they have the opposite effect as caffeine reduces water by acting as a mild diuretic in the body. In fact, most people with symptoms of dehydration have no idea a lack of water is the cause of some of their health problems such as: 1) taking a long time to heal from an illness or injury; 2) skin with wrinkling and dryness making them look

Since water helps digestion and rids the body of waste, it makes good sense more water is essential to our health. Consequently, we highly suggest for all Ranchos/Hills Seniors to drink more water. It definitely will help keep you healthy longer!

much older than their age; and 3) weak muscles no matter how much they exercise.

Since water helps digestion and rids the body of waste, it makes good sense more water is essential to our health. Consequently, we highly suggest for all Ranchos/Hills Seniors to drink more water. It definitely will help keep you healthy longer!

Plants, Produce & Boutique

Our plant, produce and boutique sections are available Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Thursday evenings between 6 and 9 p.m. George has been bringing in large, beautiful, prize-winning onions by the box full. We also have fresh vegetables ripening and brought in daily so please drop by to check availability. Currently, there are huge onions, great tomatoes, zucchini, some corn and okra (if you come at the right time). The fresh corn on the cob and okra both sell quickly.

Our center is affiliated with FMAAA (Fresno/Madera Area Agency on Aging). We are located at 37330 Berkshire 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 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.

Our members and friends go out for breakfast, lunch or dinner at a different place each month to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries. In July, we had 34 members

who went to Black Bear Restaurant in Madera. The August Birthday and Anniversary Luncheon was held at Sizzler in Fresno with 31 members in attendance. The September Birthdays and Anniversaries were celebrated with a luncheon on Saturday, Sept. 19 at the

Japanese Kitchen in Clovis and we had a BBQ dinner at the Center on Sept. 26. If you want to join us for any of our events, call Joann at 645-4864. We enjoy eating and having fun.

If you are new to the area, lonely or have just lost a spouse, we welcome you to come in to see us. We are here for you and many of our members have surely experienced your same situation so please call us at 645-4864.

SENIOR THOUGHT OF THE DAY
Why is it that brain cells come and go but fat cells live FOREVER?

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.

Please see SENIORS on P. 13

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Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes
 by Jean Briner

Have you ever been at your desk at 4 o'clock in the afternoon and suddenly realize there is nothing fixed for dinner and one of the kids has cheerleading practice at one field, and the other has football at another. What to do? OK, tonight is a hamburger at the drive through at Pete's, or a Pizza from the Pizza Factory.

Do you have a crockpot or what some people call a slow cooker?

Whatever you call it, I hope you are using it. Did you get one for a wedding present or for Christmas a couple of years ago and it is still in the box it came in, way back in the corner of the closet? Here's my challenge: Get it out of the closet and use it!

I have two - a small 1 1/2 quart and the standard 5 quart. I love both of them, but most of the time, with just me, I use the smaller one. The only thing about the smaller one is it only cooks on high, but that isn't a problem when I know I won't be away from the house more than three or four hours. Not long ago, I had purchased a chuck roast at the store and came home and cut it in half and froze one half and cooked the other half the next day in the small crock pot.

Every March when the corned beef goes on sale I have to have one and I use the larger cooker. I don't

like the cabbage cooked in it, but that doesn't take long. I cook the corned beef on low for 8-10 hours and when I'm ready to eat I slice the cabbage and put it in a big frying pan with some of the juice from the crock pot, put a lid on it and let the cabbage steam. This way I can control the doneness of the cabbage. To me, cooking it in the crock pot for 8 hours just gets it too overdone.

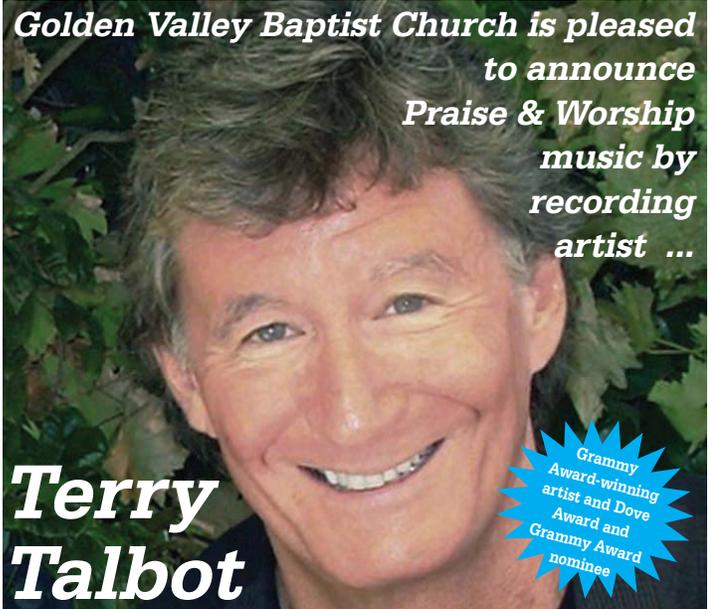
When I was working full time, I would use my crock pot about once a week. I cooked spaghetti sauce in it once, but didn't like it. It wasn't thick enough for me. I had to put it in a pan and simmer it for about an hour to get the consistency I wanted. I thought I sure didn't gain any time here. So the next time I cooked it I didn't add any water and it came out a lot better. I'm not going to write a "recipe" for the sauce, but I will tell you what I did: I browned a pound of ground meat (I used hamburger) with about half a medium sized chopped onion with salt and pepper and Italian seasoning. Put this in the crock pot and added three or four cans of chopped tomatoes and a couple of cans of tomato sauce. I add about half an envelope of dry spaghetti sauce seasoning and let it cook on low for about 8 hours. You know the nice thing about

Please see **RECIPES** on P. 14



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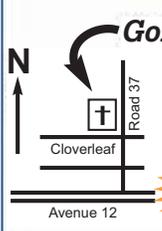
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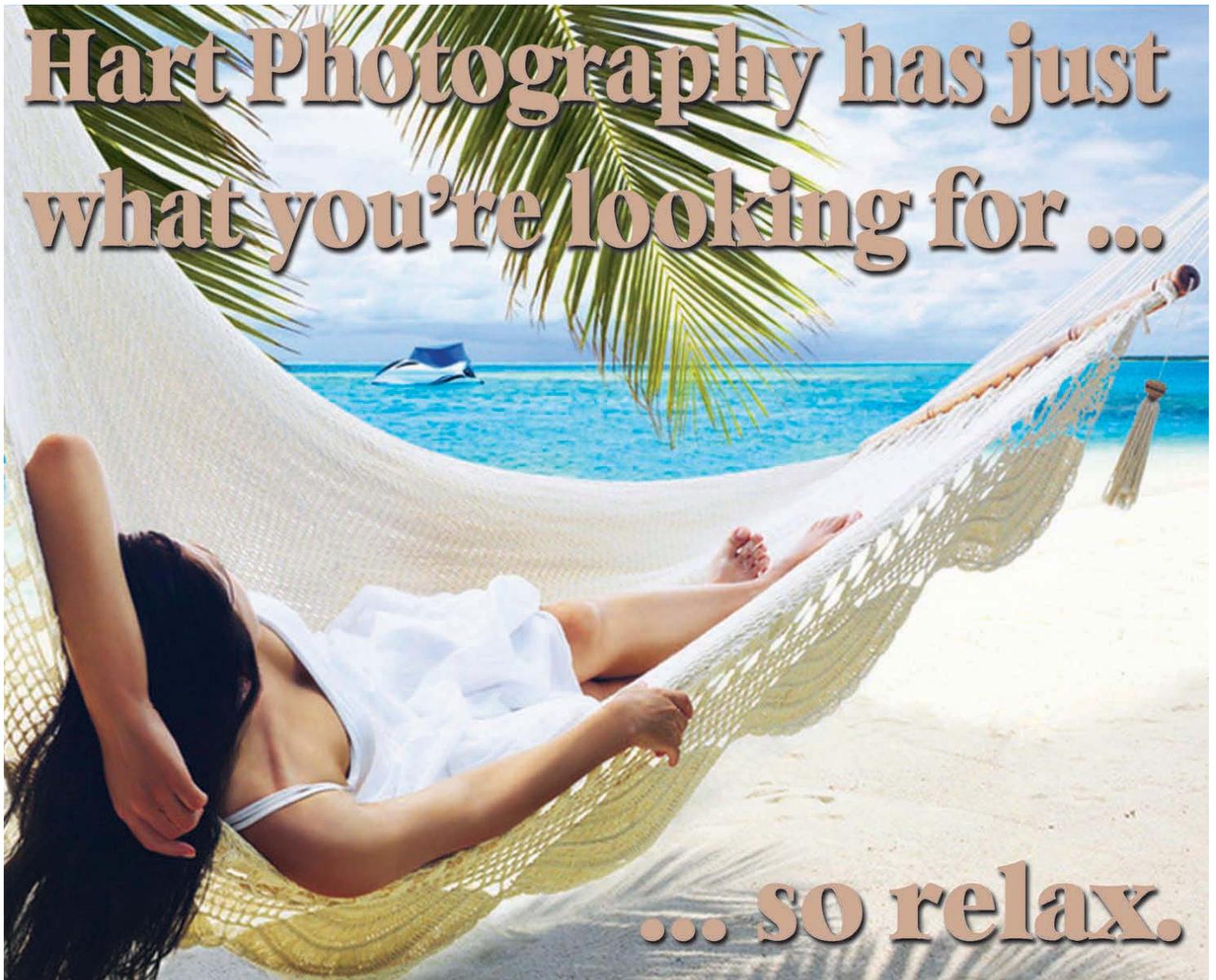
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Get Away to Alaska

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9/09

For more info call 559-474-0505 or email Sharry Rivas at srivas@prodigy.net.

SENIORS cont. from P. 10

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 and share laughs. 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. The Line Dancing class has been suspended for the summer. As of today, there is no firm date for it to restart. Call Joann at 645-4864 for more information. We have started a new craft session on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. Next project will be sweatshirts. 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, October 17, 11:30 a.m., Farnesi's, Ave. 16 at Hwy. 99, Madera
Saturday, November 14, 11 a.m., Olive Garden, 389 East Shaw Ave., Fresno

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.
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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9/09

RECIPES cont. from P. 11

making spaghetti sauce in the cooker instead of on top of the stove? When you finish, you don't have all that sauce spattered on your stove to clean up!

I would also cook a pot roast in it. Be sure to brown the roast before you put it in the pot. Then put your vegetables (the usual carrots, potatoes and onions - but have you ever added a couple of turnips? Don't wrinkle your nose, they are good) in on top of the roast, salt and pepper and I add about a half cup of water, and it will be ready when you get home from work. There will be enough liquid in the bottom of the cooker to make some yummy gravy. Another thing I've done is cook extra potatoes and take them out with a slotted spoon and mash them as you would regular boiled potatoes. Add some butter and a little milk (I like evaporated milk in mashed potatoes) and adjust the salt and pepper. They won't be as pretty as regular mashed potatoes but they will be delicious from the flavors of the roast.

If the family didn't eat all the potatoes, save them for potato pancakes the next morning if you have time to fix breakfast. A lot of recipes call for adding an egg to the potatoes before frying them, but I don't like them with an egg. I'd rather have my egg cooked separately, boiled, scrambled or once in a while fried. Using your hands, take a handful of potatoes, pat them out about the size of a small saucer, dredge in flour and fry until golden on both sides in a little butter or better yet, some bacon drippings. Your family will love you!

Recently my niece from Fontana sent me an e-mail titled "If you own a crock pot" with all kinds of recipes. I saved it to a special folder so I wouldn't accidentally delete it. There are several I want to try, but didn't have time before writing this article. When I do I'll let you know.

In the last issue I gave you one of the recipes that Linda Manter sent me, and told you I would give you the second one this issue. So, as promised, here it is:

ITALIAN LENTIL SOUP

- 1/4 lb. mild Italian sausage
- 14 oz. lentils
- 1 1/2 to 2 T Italian seasoning
- 5 C water
- 3 C chicken broth
- 1 lg. onion chopped
- 2 stalks celery sliced
- Parmesan Cheese - as desired

Sort and rinse lentils - set aside. Remove casing from sausage, crumble in bottom of soup pot and cook through and drain. Add remaining ingredients except cheese. Bring mixture to a boil, reduce heat to a simmer and let cook for 1 hr. 15 minutes to an hour and a half. Ladle to soup bowls and top with the cheese as desired.

That's about it for this issue. I would like to do recipes with pumpkins in the next issue. Someone ask me for a pumpkin bread recipe but I misplaced your phone number - shame on me! I apologize to whoever you are but be sure to watch for next month's issue. I plan on having two pumpkin bread recipes and a pumpkin roll-up like a jelly roll.

One of these issues I would like to feature comments from those of you who were raised (as I was) during and coming out of the great depression. What did you and your family eat? I remember one time I was supposed to fix dinner because my folks hadn't gotten home from work so I peeled (probably got my brothers and sisters to help me) enough potatoes for all seven of us. I grated the potatoes then fried them with salt and pepper - when they were almost done, I sliced frankfurters into them. And that was dinner.

Send me your favorite recipe so you can share it with your neighbors.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

Visit the Ranchos' own Website. Get fully downloadable back issues of the Ranchos Independent (beginning with April 2006). Learn how you can add your Ranchos-area business to this site!

60/6

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It Takes More Than a Village . . .



. . . It Takes the Ranchos

From birth to 18 years of age, Kerinna's journey has been an interesting one. Moving from the Ranchos to Clovis, we reflect on the community who helped keep this special girl alive, gave encouragement through extraordinary times and provided blessings beyond imagination. We will never forget the wonderful neighbors that picked up countless prescriptions late at night, took care of our home while away at the hospital and blessed us with a full Christmas dinner recovering at home from surgery. We think about the very special friends who always made time to create campfire memories and the Jello salad. We remember the dear friend that provided to us a unique vacuum to assist in Kerinna's lung health. The many incredible individuals and 8th grade classmates that donated and organized a "Community Garage Sale" to help with the expenses of a fourth open-heart surgery, traveled to UCLA Medical Center with goodies and snacks and left a huge sign in our hotel room stating "We Love You Kerinna!" It seems like yesterday when a gracious and handsome student took Kerinna to the Winter Formal. We will never forget the amazing classmates who shared with Kerinna a special friendship from Kindergarten to Graduation that continues. An incredible 8th Grade Class and 8th Grade Teacher that learned from one another



and leaned on one another during some very tough times. The amazing students of the 2009 Graduation Class that live by the example of inclusion. The Adaptive PE Teacher who took a child from the sidelines and showed her how wonderful the outdoors could be through activities. The General Education Teachers and Special Education Aids that helped a student with special needs learn. And a Special Education Teacher who took a personal interest in helping a student who has a true love for life and a yearning to learn to reach their own individual goal - a diploma. After four open heart surgeries, spinal rod placement surgery, three pacemaker placements, the removal of the right inner ear due to an embolism and countless other surgeries and hospitalizations, we realize we would not be the same as individuals or as a family without the Ranchos; without you. You have touched our lives in more ways than you can imagine. From the heart, thank you. We lived in the Ranchos for 21 years and we will forever remember.

Jim, Tamara and Kerinna Sane

Thank You, Madera Ranchos

9/09

Click on "Local News" at

WATER cont. from P. 2

criteria there was no “qualified” stakeholder which could represent it. The simplistic answer came back: “If they can’t get together and form a qualified group they will be left behind!”

The fact is, the Ranchos does not have a qualified entity which will be able to be a signatory to the MOU and provide representation for the area. Although Madera County may sign the MOU, their focus will be on countywide problems and the Ranchos will just be one of many areas within the County needing attention.

All this means is that the process is moving forward while the Ranchos is being left behind, holding the bag!

The Solution

As I got more involved in the process, it became more obvious to me that the Ranchos has inherent interests in solutions to the groundwater situation in its geographical area and would be greatly benefited by having a seat at the table as a stakeholder and a signatory to the IRWMP while work proceeds.

The governance structure allows for not only governmental agencies and special districts but also for non-profit entities to become signatory to the IRWMP documents and become members of the governing board.

At present we are working on creating an appropriate non-profit entity to take on such a role and welcome interest and participation from citizens in the Ranchos so that this entity can be truly representative of, and responsive to, the local community.

Other Observations

As we mentioned in our initial article on the subject, the IRWMP report makes a number of recommendations aimed at reducing and even reversing the effects of groundwater overdraft in light of continu-

ing County growth, noting that many of the recommendations will require further investigation and funding. Some may require approval of one or more governmental agencies prior to implementation and nearly all will require environmental review under the requirements of State and perhaps Federal laws. The County’s report first recommendation to enhance Valley water supply is that the County should work with other Central Valley Project Contractors (including Chowchilla Irrigation District, Madera Irrigation District, Root Creek Water District and the Friant Valley Water Users Authority) to protect Central Valley Project (CVP) water allocations from further reduction as a result of the San Joaquin River restoration efforts, and to see that provisions are made to make up for any water lost to river restoration efforts.

Next, the County should evaluate participation in water banking efforts and develop facilities to store excess surface water in the underground aquifers for later recovery. Several areas in the County have been tentatively or finally identified as suitable for banking projects but accomplishing a water bank is a complex process, with support and cooperation necessary among all interested parties. The County’s political and financial support is needed for these projects to succeed in a way that benefits all the citizens of the county.

Other projects will be identifying suitable locations for immediate recharge to the depleting aquifers with storm water run-off as well as other available water. This is different than water banking; recharging allows percolating water to enter the aquifers for immediate use by the Ranchos.

Along the same lines, Madera County could also consider negotiation with other CVP contractors for purchase of other surface water supplies, which could be delivered to Madera County and used either for

agricultural purposes instead of current groundwater pumping, or could be treated and used directly for municipal and industrial purposes.

Each of these possibilities, along with several more mentioned in the report, holds the potential to improve the reliability of the groundwater supply in Southeast Madera County. Other improvements may be required to fully realize the potential benefits and the County will be in competition with other prospective water users for the available water supplies, meaning there will be significant costs to be borne by the water users to get these new supplies into Madera County. Establishment of the IRWMP governance board will allow it to create and submit grant applications for projects such as these, from funding sources not available to non-IRWMP applicants.

Thinking in a proactive fashion, we are currently working with the County on potential recharge projects that can provide partial relief to the Ranchos. Any and all projects that can help to correct the overall overdraft should be looked at in a serious way.

Conclusion

If the Ranchos will not get involved, mitigating the water problems will be significantly more difficult. Get involved and join the process, the Ranchos is your back yard. Make it a green back yard.

I do not intend to be left holding the bag! Do you?

We will continue to share information about the local water situation from time to time, so that by being more informed and working as neighbors we can try to meet and overcome some of the challenges we face now and in the future.

For more information or questions e-mail ranchoscommunity@gmail.com or call 559-363-9095.

Medicare Scare

Sheriff John Anderson is issuing a warning to all Medicare beneficiaries to beware of an unscrupulous scheme designed to con you out of your personal information.

Just today the Sheriff’s Department received a complaint from a senior citizen in Madera who received a call from a woman claiming to represent Medicare, requesting an in-home interview about his health care plan.

“Whatever changes may apply to your coverage, Medicare will not call you to set up an in-home service interview. Medicare will send you a form in the mail.”

To be sure you are not being scammed, Sheriff Anderson suggests that if you do receive a call like this hang up and report the suspicious call to your provider.

Sheriff Anderson is issuing this alert now so that others don’t fall victim.

Tax Collector Scam

Sheriff John Anderson is issuing a warning to all property owners about a possible scam that may target San Joaquin Valley property owners. The scam has already struck Nevada City, Calif.

The first case was reported Sept. 9 from a woman who said she received a call from a man purporting to represent the Nevada County Treasurer-Tax Collector’s Office. That Office notified the Madera County Treasurer-Tax Collector’s Office who, in turn notified Sheriff Anderson.

Sheriff Anderson says the man who made that call claimed his office needed proof that the property owner had paid her property taxes and was quite insistent that she send him a copy of payment (cancelled check or credit card statement) immediately.

Sheriff Anderson says he is issuing this alert now hoping that should a property owner in our area, be it Madera County or any of our neighboring counties, receive such a call, hang up.

The Treasurer-Tax Collector’s Office does NOT make personal house calls.

ANSWERS

26	16	7
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4	+	4
4	X	7
X	-	+
5	+	9

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Golden Valley Bond Tax Rate Update



Golden Valley Unified School District Superintendent, Sarah Koligian.

By Sarah Koligian

The Golden Valley Unified School District Governing Board of Trustees recently discussed the district's outstanding bond measures at their September Board meetings. The purpose of this discussion was to note the impact of declining assessed values within Madera County and how they may result in an increase to the tax rate required to repay our outstanding general obligation bonds. The collapse of the real estate prices, foreclosures, and halt to development have led to a situation where the total assessed value for the district dropped for the 2009-10 fiscal year by 9.75%.

Based upon the debt service funds Madera County has on reserve, the combined tax rate for 2009-10 is projected to be \$148.63 which is below the tax limit communicated to voters (\$159.99). However, based on reasonable projections of assessed value changes for the next several years, indications are the tax rate will likely exceed the \$159.99 limit next fiscal year. Depending on the amount and duration of the decline in assessed values, it is possible that over the next few years, the tax rate could increase to a rate above the tax rate estimate provided to voters at the time of the bond election.

To help reduce the potential for this to

occur, the Madera County Auditor/Controller offered to provide school districts with outstanding bonds whose tax rate is currently below their estimate, a one-time option for 2009-2010 to bring their tax rate up to a level that does not exceed the maximum estimated tax rate to establish a reserve for subsequent year bond payments. The auditor-controller is allowing GVUSD to increase the 2009/2010 by no more than 5% which impacts Measure G by increasing up to \$94.99 and Measure S up to \$60, for a combined rate of \$155 which will yield \$65,332 into our bond reserve to offset the amount of taxes required to be levied for the district's bonds in future years.

This reserve would help alleviate future increases in tax rates above the estimate provided at the time of the election, due to a continued depressed economic climate that is negatively impacting assessed value. The Madera County Auditor/Controller has committed to revisit this reserve formula for next year to meet the needs of districts who may be interested in this option for the future.

The Governing Board is analyzing other financing options that may be utilized independently or in conjunction with one another to help maintain an aggregate tax rate below \$159.99 per \$100,000 of assessed value in light of the falling assessed values within the district. These options will be discussed in detail at the October 13, 2009 Board of Trustees meeting. The meeting begins at 6:00 p.m. and will be held in the Liberty High School Library. The community is welcome and invited to attend to listen and engage in the discussion regarding other financing options for controlling property tax rates.

The options that will be presented may impact some of the current bond proceeds that have been committed to future facility projects, such as completion of the Liberty Athletic Stadium and the Liberty High School science lab classroom. If you are interested in accessing a copy of the agenda and back up information, it will be available for review on October 9th at the Ranchos Library, Golden Valley Unified District Office and the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce Office. If you have further questions, please contact GVUSD Superintendent Sarah Koligian's office at 645-7500.

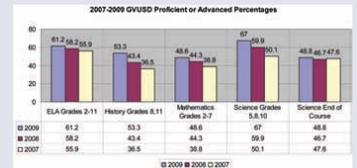
Academic Progress Scores SOAR

By Sarah Koligian

California's 2008-09 Accountability Progress Report (APR), provides results from the state accountability system; the Academic Performance Index (API), as well as the federal accountability system: Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and Program Improvement (PI). Both the API and AYP are based upon statewide assessment results from the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program as measured by the California Standards Test (CST) and from the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE).

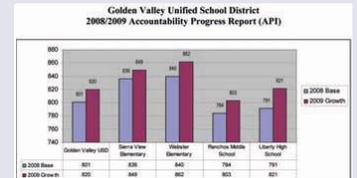
The state API and federal AYP results report progress in different ways. The state API is an index model that measures year-to-year improvement and provides incentives to educators to focus on students at all performance levels. A simple analogy of the API and AYP is as follows: the API is analogous to a high jump score and the AYP is more like a long jump score. The high jump (API) gives credit to the athlete as they continue to exceed their former height, whereas the long jump (AYP) typically determines a set amount of feet that the athlete needs to attain to qualify their jump. In other words, if there is growth on the API, the school receives credit in making its goals. Schools receive more API points for moving students up from the lowest performance levels. In contrast, the federal AYP system focuses solely on whether or not students are scoring at the proficient level or above on state assessments. These levels are continuously adjusted upwards per No Child Left Behind.

Golden Valley Unified is proud to report that their CST scores have increased significantly which, in turn has shown an increase in both the API and AYP scores. The following chart displays student progress on the CST's for the past three years by noting the increase of students who have scored "proficient" or "advanced" on the Standards Tests in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Science and Science.



The CST scores are combined with the CAHSEE scores at the high school level to formulate the API and AYP.

Golden Valley Unified School District is assigned a district API based on the API score earned by each school. Our schools continue to improve and Golden Valley Unified's API has grown from 801 to 820 which make us the highest scoring K-12 district API in Madera County and the second highest scoring API for K-12 districts in Fresno County next to Clovis Unified who scored a district API of 857. Nearly all schools made their AYP targets and no school is identified as Program Improvement (PI).



Our students, teachers, support staff and administrators are to be commended for their daily efforts to move all students forward academically. This does not happen by accident but rather through focused daily instruction.

Even though our schools have exceeded their API growth targets for the past year, we still have work ahead of us for continuing to move all students forward. We are headed in the right direction with all schools contributing to "Growing a District of Excellence". I extend many heartfelt thanks to our Governing Board of Trustees for their ongoing support of student learning as a priority goal and also to our staff for their ongoing dedication and commitment to our students.

Click on "Local News" at

RMS Cornerstone Ceremony and Mascot Dedication



California State Grand Master Larry L. Adamson (right) presides over the Cornerstone Ceremony at the Ranchos Middle School on Sept. 11, 2009. California State Masons also presided over the cornerstone at Liberty High.



RMS Principal Shane Pinkard (second from left) and Student Body Vice President Levi Hill and Student Body President Kris Porter receive a check for \$1,000 from Madera Masonic Lodge #280 at the Cornerstone Ceremony.



(From left) Frank Bigelow, Steven Lewis, Mark Toole, Mike Kelly, Mona Diaz, Shane Pinkard, Kathleen Treibatch, Igal Treibatch, Sarah Koligian and Roger Schuh stand in the shadow of the new RMS mascot statue.

The Madera Masonic Lodge #280 conducted a Cornerstone Ceremony led by California State Grand Master Larry L. Adamson and Grand Orator Russ Charvonia on Thursday, Sept. 11. The Lodge also presented a check to Student Body President Kris Porter and Vice President Levi Hill in the amount of \$1,000.

After the Cornerstone Ceremony there was a dedication for the Mustang mascot statue which was donated by community member Igal Treibatch. Treibatch also donated the Liberty Bell to the high school and continues to be a strong supporter of the district.

Parent Meetings Planned with Superintendent

Please join Superintendent Koligian for a series of parent meetings and receive a progress update toward the District's Strategic Plan goals: Curriculum, Instruction, Communication, Safety, Facilities and Finances. There will also be an opportunity for you to have an open dialog with the Superintendent. If you are unable to attend, please email the Superintendent's Office at abeintker@gvusd.k12.ca.us or call 645-7500 with your thoughts. The following are the current dates for meeting opportunities with Superintendent Koligian:

- 1) Liberty High School, Oct. 14, 8:45 a.m.
- 2) Webster Elementary, Oct. 20, 6 p.m. at the WPTC Meeting
- 3) Sierra View Elementary, Oct. 29, 8:15 a.m.

9/11 Remembrance held at Liberty



Liberty High School Principal Kuljeet Mann (left), Retired New York Fire Department Officer Andrew Isalano and Golden Valley Unified School District Superintendent Sarah Koligian attended a 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony held at Liberty High School in the Madera Ranchos. The event paid tribute to those who lost their lives on that tragic day in 2001 when our country came under attack. It also honored those that continue to fight for our protection, safety and freedom today.

Would you like to be a part of the Foundation?
Please join us for a monthly meeting to check us out!
The mission of the Foundation is to support
Academics • Arts • Athletics • Agriculture

The Foundation meets on the first Wednesday of the month
at the Golden Valley USD District Office (Room 2)
37479 Avenue 12, Madera, Ca. 93636 • 6:00 pm

If you would like more information about the Foundation please join us for a meeting
or call the Golden Valley District Office at 645-7500

D.O.G. cont. from P. 5

got up to speak the Chair just ignored me and went on with the vote without allowing public comment.

It's not all about the current budget crisis where fire is concerned. Our fire department has been underfunded for years, the fire mitigation "trust fund" has been systematically raided, leaving us in a position of putting lives in jeopardy with even the smallest of cuts. All the while management positions in the Granite Palace and in RMA continue FAT AND HAPPY.

Item 8 was discussion and direction to staff to initiate a new recruitment process for Auditor-Controller. As usual I protested asking about the last process that

was conducted in secret with all records requests by me being denied. One supervisor asked County Counsel if he wished to respond. County Counsel simply smiled and indicated "no." It is obvious the Board and County Counsel have determined neither I nor the Open Government laws have any teeth. I don't feel singled out any more, from what I am hearing I am not alone, there are others making requests only to run into the same stone wall I am hitting.

Clean Sweep
I have been told by reliable sources that Planning Commissioner Tom Kellner is running for Bigelow's seat and former Supervisor John Silva is running for Moss' seat. I am making an offer to any candidate for supervisor to

use the D.O.G. Report as a forum to reach my readers. Any candidate, including incumbents, are being asked to send a word document to DOG@sti.net. Documents may contain, but are not limited to, qualifications, campaign promises, goals or ideas and opinions on current events affecting our county. I will attach documents I receive to the next D.O.G. Report, or send them as a separate mailing. This offer may be cancelled without notice by the D.O.G. Editor and forwarding documents does not imply an endorsement of any candidate by Demand Open Government, or me personally. I also reserve the right to comment on documents received and forwarded and as my compensation I ask that any submitters pay attention to what our government is doing.

SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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PASTOR cont. from P. 6

has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed." (Luke 4:18)

On the other hand, when I was 30 years old and living in Las Vegas and experiencing the trauma of my own making, I cried out to God for help. At that moment of my anguish, Thor was the last person I wanted in my life. I didn't want somebody who was a fantasy or somebody who was too much like the world around me. I wanted someone who could change my life! I wanted someone like Jesus. During that time of my life, God sent me people, one right after another, who spoke the words of God. God sent church people. He sent the Baptists and He sent the Four Square Church and the Calvary Chapel and the Methodist folks and the Presbyterian folks and the non-denominational folks and the Catholic folks too. Each of them spoke to me with words that were concerned about my future and they spoke words that were concerned about my present and they checked up on me and they invited me to their churches and they told me

about a God who loved me. They saved my life. I am so grateful that there were people who spoke to me with words that were pleasing to God!

The words of the followers of Christ matter and they are important. I know it is hard at times. I despair of the times that my words have not been pleasing in the sight of God. Jesus spoke to folks about his Father in Heaven. For those who are followers of Christ, we want to speak the words of Christ. We want to speak the message of agape love and of hope. We want to speak the words that are pleasing in the sight of the Lord.

So let us speak the words of what God has done in our lives and what Christ is doing for the sake of the world. Every chance you get, let your words and thoughts be pleasing in the sight of God.

"May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer." (Psalm 19:14 NIV)

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 10:30 a.m

STOCK cont. from P. 7

will be a bad flu season. I just found out that flu shots will be given again this year at Liberty High on Oct. 15. You stay in your car so it is easy. The time is 9:30 to 11 a.m. Call the Ranchos Hills Senior Center at 645-4864 for more information. For up-to-date information and tips on the flu from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, go to www.flu.gov on your computer. In school we teach our children that "knowledge is everything" and this is a lesson we all need to learn about the Swine Flu before it hits you.

On Tuesday, Sept. 15 a lot of Madera Ranchos community members attended the Madera County Board of Supervisors meeting to let the board members know how closing Fire Station 19 would affect the community. Supervisors Frank Bigelow, Vern Moss, Ronn Dominici, Max Rodriguez and Tom Wheeler were given three options by the Madera Fire Chief. The Fire Chief was asked to make cuts in his budget to reduce the expenditures for the Fire Department's fiscal years 2009-2010 and 2010-11. Our local Station

19 Fire Captain, Chuck Hoover, told about the 25 local volunteers that keep station 19 operating. The one station 19 fireman that is paid for by Madera takes all of our 911 calls because they are the first responder in the area. All fire stations are important for safety in their communities but station 19 had the most calls of any fire station last year. Station 19 firemen go to car accidents, medical emergencies as well as fires of all kinds. I reminded the board members that Golden Valley Unified has over 1,900 students in our schools, while the Ranchos Hills Seniors have 105 members besides all of the other seniors in the area. It seemed that all of the board members realized the importance of station 19 to our community so we will be able to keep station 19 open with the paid fireman on duty.

As we go into October there will be some strange weather. Some hot, some cold, some nice fall weather. This is also flu season. So be careful and take care of your health. The next Golden Valley School Board meetings in October are on Oct.13 and Oct. 27. They will be held at the Liberty High library at 6 p.m.

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Business Opportunity

Curves in the Madera Ranchos is for sale. **Drastically Reduced.** Please call Jennifer at 645-6193 or 232-1801.

Construction

New construction, remodels, room additions, barns and patios. Call 559-970-4476 or 559-645-4033.

Day Care Services

Engleman Family Child Care has openings for students. Licensed - Bonadelle Ranchos area. Call 645-6872.

For Rent

For Rent - 4BR/2BA New Home, on Ave. 12 - 2,200 sq. ft. \$1,500. per mo. Call 999-9005.

For Rent - 3BR/2BA - With pool on 1/2 acre. \$1,700. per mo. Call 905-7780.

For Sale

For Sale - Toy Poodle Puppies - Registered AKC. 2 Black Male @ \$475 ea. 1 Apricot Female @ \$675. Ready to take home 9/30/09. www.kyhranch.com or call 559-645-1087.

For Sale - Baby items - Bassinet, Swings, Dresser/Changing table combo. Many misc. items. Call 645-1094 or 706-1347.

For Sale - Antique quality furniture, dishes and much more. Call 645-1770.

For Sale - 5th wheel trailer - 36 1/2 ft. long with 4 slide outs. Asking \$35,000. Call for details 559-645-4948.

www.TheRanchos.com

For Sale - Queen PILLOWTOP Mattress/Box, Brand New In Package. Cost \$700. Sacrifice \$225. Call 230-0486.

For Sale - BDRM - Thomasville Quality! Sleigh Bed, Nightstand, Dresser, Chest. Solid Cherrywood! Cost \$8k Sacrifice \$1,750. New in Boxes! Call 277-2511.

For Sale - All New King PILLOWTOP Mattress/Box, In Plastic W/Warranty, Cost \$900. Sacrifice \$325. Call 438-0248.

For Sale - Pool Table - Solid Wood W/Carved Legs, 1" Slate, Leather Pockets, Never Used/W/Accessories. Cost \$5k Sacrifice \$1,475. Can Deliver. Call 275-8813.

For Sale - 1989 Kawasaki Mule 1000 utility vehicle. Asking \$2,000. Call 559-645-4948 for details.

Group Forming

A local Christian Business Group is being formed in the Ranchos. The group, made up of local business people, will meet for lunch and discuss biblical principles as they relate to modern life, specifically in the Ranchos. Lunch will be held at the Ranchos Cafe on the second Friday of each month. The next meeting will be Friday, Oct. 9 at 11:30 a.m. **For more info call Bob at 324-1144 or Randy at 645-0634.**

Gutter Services

The Gutter Doctor specializing in both continuous and standard rain gutters. General Contractor - Repair Maintenance. 29 years working in the area. Call 559-822-2759.

Handyman Services

O. HANDYMAN - Need fans installed, sprinklers, light electrical, plumbing, or any handyman chores? Call Ohan for free estimates. 559-645-4583.

Help Wanted

Help Wanted - Horse stall cleaning - Part time after school. \$7 per hour. Must be reliable and work independently. Rd. 37/Ave.16 area. Call 645-1087.

Help Wanted - The Ranchos Independent is looking for a solid worker to call on advertising accounts to maintain relationships and develop new business. Please call 645-0634.

Home/Yard/Ranch Services

NEED AFFORDABLE, BUT RELIABLE HOME, YARD OR RANCH HELP? Landscaping, hauling, tree and brush trimming/removal, home improvement, general labor, etc. Call Luke today! 559-367-5881.

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House/Spring Cleaning. Move in/move out cleaning. Animal sitting. House sitting. Weekly or bi-weekly. References available. Call Cheryl at AAA Chores & More. 559-718-9605.

Housecleaning - 20 years experience - Honest, reliable, references. Call Rachael at 822-3330.

Message Therapy

Message Therapy available at Curves in Madera Ranchos. Only \$50 for 1 hour. Call for appointment or come in to purchase a gift card. Call Julie Kent at 559-351-2478.

Painting Services

Painting Services - 40 years of experience. Licensed and insured. Frank Kramer Exteriors. Lic. #273099. Call 645-4113.

Tractor Services

Tractor work, discing, rototilling, weed cutting. Bobcat work, drilling post holes, trees, trenching and clean ups. Call Neal at 645-1200 or 285-8211.

Tractor work, house pads, lot leveling, driveways, trenching, concrete work and underground utilities installed. Call 559-970-4476 or 559-645-4033.

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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.

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	x		÷		14
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	x		÷		12
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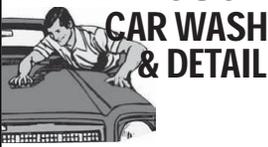
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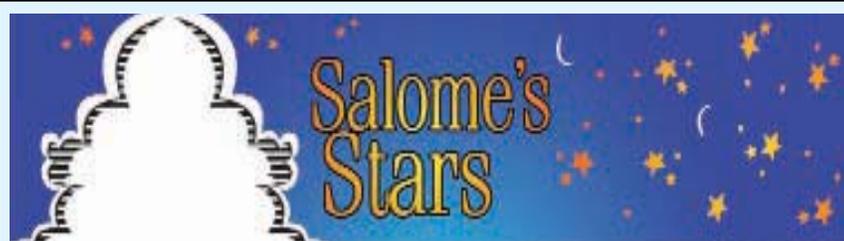
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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) An offer to help with a stalled project should reassure you that you have a workable plan in spite of the problems in getting it up and running. The week's end brings more positive news.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) A past problem about a workplace situation re-emerges early in the week. Talking things out helps ease tensions by midweek, but some hurt feelings could linger a few more days.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Optimistic aspects dominate your efforts. However, expect to confront some criticism, some of which might be valid, so keep an open mind. But overall, it's your views that will count.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Social interaction with new people, especially on the job, could be a bit strained in the early part of the week. But the awkwardness passes as you get to know each other better.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Expect news about a follow-up to a workplace change that could make a difference in your career path. Meanwhile, new friends widen the circle for all you Social Lions who love to party.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Enjoy your well-earned plaudits for a job well done. But be aware that some people might not share your colleagues' admiration, and you might have to work harder to win them over.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) It's a good week to recheck your probably already overlong "to do" list and decide what to keep and what to discard. Lose the clutter and focus your energy on what's really important.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) This is a good time to take a new perspective on what you've been offered. Expanding your view could help to uncover any plusses or minuses that weren't apparent at first.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Applying the usual methods to this week's unique challenges might not work too well. Instead, use your creativity to find a way to resolve any impasse that develops.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) So what if fate throws some obstacles in your path this week? Just keep in mind that the sure-footed and resolute Goat can get past any barrier by focusing on the goals up ahead.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) This week calls for better communication with people in both your private life and the workplace. Start by asking questions, and then pay close attention to the answers.

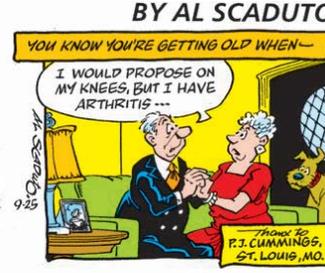
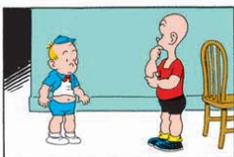
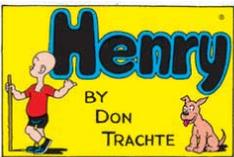
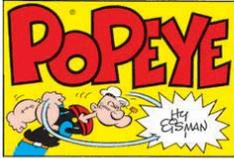
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Potentially beneficial workplace changes could be closer than you realize. Make sure you know what's going on so that you're not left high and dry when the good things happen.

Born this Week

*You're not timid about pushing to have your aims realized
once you've set your mind to accomplishing your goals.*

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FUN PAGES



BILLY AND MARY are about to set a card house record. Can you correctly count all of the cards in this picture in 30 seconds?

ODD WORD OUT! To the right is a list of five words. Can you figure out which word doesn't belong on the list? (a, e, i, o, and u)

Answer: Adject. In the other words, every other letter is a vowel.

ARE YOU A "WORD" CHEERLEADER? See if you can shout out the four five-letter words needed on the right that match the definitions given below. All words must read the same across and down.

- Shout encouragement (given).
- To divide in two.
- Mischievous creatures.
- A sporting contest.
- Cessations from work.

Answers: 1. Cheer; 2. Hail; 3. Elves; 4. Event; 5. Pauses



NO, THIS IS NOT BILLY GOAT HEAVEN!

This is a "can-do" word puzzle for you. Each of the words in our grid begins with the word "can." Using the following hints, see if you can find these words in five minutes.

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

Illustrated by David Coulson

- A Fourth of July salute.
 - Protective rooflike coverings.
 - A metal can for sugar.
 - A military hangout.
 - A delicious appetizer.
 - (slang) A prison informant.
 - Frankness or sincerity.
 - Type of picture-taking.
 - Careful and shrewd.
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Wishing Well

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

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

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MAGIC MAZE ● **FEMALE ANIMALS**

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

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

Cow	Flyer	Mare	Queen
Doe	Hen	Nanny	Sow
Duck	Jenny	Pantheress	Tigress
Falcon	Leopardess	Pullet	

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TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- MUSIC:** Who played the drums in the '60s pop music band "The Monkees"?
- MEDICAL TERMS:** What does it mean to suffer from "dysorexia"?
- AD SLOGANS:** Which airline asked customers in its advertising to "fly the friendly skies"?
- PSYCHOLOGY:** If someone had lachanophobia, what would he or she be afraid of?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM:** How many teeth does an adult pig have?
- HISTORY:** Which war of the 20th century was the first in which poison gas was used?
- FAMOUS QUOTES:** Which comedian once said, "I was married by a judge. I should have asked for a jury"?
- GEOGRAPHY:** What country's basic monetary unit is the rand?
- LITERATURE:** Who wrote the first American dictionary?
- ENTERTAINERS:** What was Gene Wilder's birth name?

- Answers**
- Mickey Dolenz
 - Reduced appetite
 - United Airlines
 - Fear of vegetables
 - World War I (1915)
 - Groucho Marx
 - South Africa
 - Noah Webster
 - Jerome Silberman
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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.

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The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



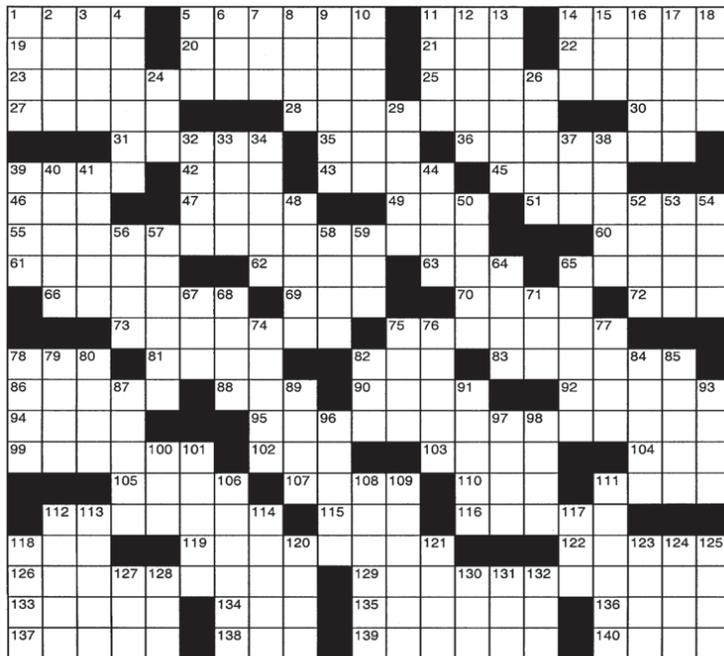
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Cookbook is upside down. 2. Coffee level is gone. 3. Apron bow is missing. 4. Salt shaker is gone. 5. Customer's collar is different. 6. Cook's hat is taller.

Super Crossword



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- ACROSS**
- 1 Spar
 - 5 Stomach remedy
 - 11 Tijuana two
 - 14 Bob Marley was one
 - 19 Literary pseudonym
 - 20 Deny
 - 21 Turner or Pappas
 - 22 Remove a corsage
 - 23 Joan Cusack film
 - 25 Joan Rivers line
 - 27 Hero's horse
 - 28 Brasilia architect Oscar
 - 30 Neighbor of Mont.
 - 31 Little spot in the sea
 - 35 Psychic Geller
 - 36 Triangle type
 - 39 Cut
 - 42 Coach Parseghian
 - 43 Blabby bird
 - 45 Zenith
 - 46 Rhine wine
 - 47 Dana and Seixas
 - 49 Precambrian —
 - 51 Ho Chi Minh City, once
 - 55 Joan Jett's group
 - 60 Ms. Montez — firma
 - 62 Jedi instructor
 - 63 "— vous plait"
 - 65 Cherboung chapeau
 - 66 Acted like a stallion
 - 69 "Yuck!"
 - 70 Bargain
 - 72 Raven maven?
 - 73 Joan Collins series
 - 75 Joan Osborne hit
 - 78 Mil. address
 - 81 Hit the Haagen-Dazs
 - 82 Fr. lady
 - 83 Shows, in winter
 - 86 Enjoy the weekend
 - 88 Behave like a bunny
 - 90 Gross subj.
 - 92 Rested
 - 94 Israeli airline
 - 95 Joan Didion book
 - 99 Declare
 - 102 Proverb
 - 103 European capital
 - 104 82 Across, farther south
 - 105 De Lesseps' canal
 - 107 Highflying agcy.
 - 110 "Krazy —" Peter
 - 111 Director
 - 112 Nursery noise-makers
 - 115 Gun the engine
 - 116 Guru
 - 118 — polloi
 - 119 Germs
 - 122 Certain marble
 - 126 Joan Sutherland's birthplace
 - 129 Joan Van Ark role
 - 133 Nome dome home?
 - 134 Habitually, to Herrick
 - 135 Clementi compositions
 - 136 Cultural grp.
 - 137 "Superman" star
 - 138 Carrere or Mowry
 - 139 Reduce in rank
 - 140 Disposition
 - 1 Cat calls?
 - 2 Heaps
 - 3 Father
 - 4 Comprehend
 - 5 Lodging
 - 6 Violin part
 - 7 Souffle ingredient
 - 8 First base man?
 - 9 Impressive lobby
 - 10 Dieter's snack
 - 11 Casino cubes
 - 12 Endorses
 - 13 Nero's tutor
 - 14 "Golden Girl" McClanahan
 - 15 Farm animal?
 - 16 Where to hear zarzuela
 - 17 Diacritical mark
 - 18 "Puppy Love" singer
 - 24 Drivers' lics., e.g.
 - 26 Shawls and such
 - 29 He gets down to work
 - 32 Etna ooze
 - 33 Hockey's Lindros
 - 34 Vulgar
 - 37 Meadow
 - 38 Ovid's fate
 - 39 "The Simpsons" creator
 - 40 Paint pigment
 - 41 "— ignorance is bliss . . ."
 - 44 Part of M.A.
 - 48 "Twist and —" ('62 hit)
 - 50 Out of the way
 - 52 Trail mix
 - 53 Butter sub
 - 54 Hoopster Archibald
 - 56 Nail type
 - 57 It's down in the mouth
 - 58 Nervous
 - 59 Contented sigh
 - 64 Composer Janacek
 - 65 Most morose
 - 67 Rock producer Brian
 - 68 Salt serving
 - 71 Workers' grp.
 - 74 Has a ball at the mall
 - 75 Bus starter?
 - 76 Peachy-keen
 - 77 Push a product
 - 78 Locality
 - 79 Lucre
 - 80 Norwegian name
 - 82 Merry month
 - 84 Make one's hair stand on end?
 - 85 "Heidi" author
 - 87 "He's making — . . ."
 - 89 Scheme
 - 91 Chores
 - 93 Godunov, e.g.
 - 96 Cognizant
 - 97 Cabbage concoction
 - 98 Bit
 - 100 Furrow
 - 101 Diva Nellie
 - 106 Radical
 - 108 Socked a shuttlecock
 - 109 Pilot
 - 111 Little house on the prairie?
 - 112 It makes women blush
 - 113 Passageway section
 - 114 Bookstore
 - 117 Ginnie —
 - 118 It grows on you
 - 120 "Later!"
 - 121 Grad
 - 123 Singer Vannelli
 - 124 "So — You" ('77 song)
 - 125 "Heavens to Betsy!"
 - 127 "Mazel —!"
 - 128 "Sheila" singer
 - 130 Ancient Tokyo
 - 131 Ensnares
 - 132 Nationality suffix

FUN PAGES

What can the Ranchos do about the emptying of the Ranchos' water?

How can we help ourselves? How can we manage our resources?

Where will the Ranchos be without water?

Where will we get water we don't have?

The Ranchos has no representation on the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) for Madera County, the group that holds the future of the Ranchos' water -

Will we be left behind?

Are we in or are we out?



There are answers!

559-363-9095

ranchos.community@gmail.com