

# The Ranchos Independent



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## The 20th Anniversary Flatlanders Day Parade



Photo courtesy of John Glueck

*serving the Ranchos a spot of "TEA"*

***In This Issue***

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## Bizarre Algae Found in Ranchos

A local homeowner living in the Bonadelle Ranchos area has come across a bizarre strain of algae that has killed the aquatic life in his pond, and yet he can't raise any interest in the form of a response from the governmental agencies he has contacted.

In an email from the resident he stated the following:

"I now have an environmental health problem with my pond. We have had a healthy surface water feed pond on our property for 20 years and this year it's taken a dump. I sent pictures of an algae and pond death never seen before. The algae is called "water net" and according to internet research is very bad stuff."

According to various internet sources, the algae is *Hydrodictyon reticulatum*, or commonly called "water net." All of the websites

report that it is very invasive and a nuisance because it, "... clogs waterways and irrigation ditches, taints potable water, causes economic losses to trout fisheries, smothers aquatic plants and fauna, and ad-

versely impacts boating, fishing, swimming and tourism."

The resident continued, "There's all kinds of speculation on how it is spread. It had been seen in San Diego – so how did it show up in my pond -- birds? After I tried to physically remove it, my pond started to die. All the fish, all other algae and now 1,000's of pollywogs."

He has called the Department of Fish and Game but has gotten no reply. Of greater concern is that his pond drains into the streams and, as he put it, "If this stuff got into our local lakes – kiss them goodbye."

Of interest is whether this is an isolated occurrence or if there is something happening out there in the ponds and waterways of the Ranchos. The owner of this pond says he has been looking at other ponds in the area but

hasn't seen any yet.

A very interesting piece entitled "The Rise and fall of Water Net in New Zealand" can be found at [www.apms.org/japm/vol37/v37p49.pdf](http://www.apms.org/japm/vol37/v37p49.pdf).



## Big Brothers/Sisters Offer Soccer Clinic To Ranchos Players

The 2nd Annual Big Brothers Big Sisters Madera County Youth Soccer Clinic "Kicks Off" on June 5 as hundreds of kids will join coaches from the Madera Ranchos and Chowchilla to improve their soccer skills.

Madera County students between the ages of 8 to 15 will have the opportunity to learn from the local soccer experts – Cristino Armiento, Gene West, Louis Maya, Martin Gomez, Jeff Clark, Mike Moineau, Eli Liuba and Chris Baca – all from various local high schools.

"I am thrilled to provide Madera kids with an opportunity to practice their soccer skills and at the same time raise crucial funds for a wonderful program," said event organizer and Big Brother Ren Hallett. "It is events like this that make our community the wonderful place to live that it is."

The main sponsor for this event will be the Bridge Store in Madera and will be held at Sunrise Rotary Park, Madera (across from Millview School) on Saturday, June 5 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with registration from 8-9 a.m. The clinic is open to all boys and girls between the ages of 8 and 15. The best part? The cost is FREE! For free your soccer player will receive the clinic, lunch and a t-shirt.

For more information about the event or signing your children up, please contact Ren Hallett at 559-673-0436 or visit the Big Brothers Big Sisters website at [www.bigs.org](http://www.bigs.org).

## Bailey Receives Golden Apple



Golden Valley Unified School District Assistant Superintendent Andy Alvarado, right, congratulates Ranchos Independent publisher Randy Bailey on his receipt of the ACSA Golden Apple Award.

By Sarah Koligian

Randy Bailey was recently nominated by Golden Valley Unified School District for the prestigious ACSA Golden Apple Award. This award recognizes the partnership between school districts and volunteers. This year, Superintendent Sarah Koligian nominated Bailey for the Golden Apple.

Bailey has been a positive partner with Golden Valley Unified School District since 2005 when he became the editor and publisher of the Ranchos Independent newspaper – the official publication of Southeastern Madera County. Over the course of the last five years, Bailey has donated up to four pages of his paper to be used to highlight Golden Valley Unified School District titled "Golden Valley Views" – a publication of Golden Valley Unified School District.

As the Superintendent of Golden Valley Unified School District since July, 2007, I have had the privilege and opportunity to publish monthly district articles highlighting our students and staff. This form of media has been a great source for communicating the most current information about student achievement, student safety, facilities and budget updates. One of the Golden Valley Unified's goals in the District Strategic Plan focuses around "communication." The Ranchos Independent has been one of the media forums used to communicate upcoming events and has been a contributing factor to communicating with our larger community and increasing the attendance at

Please see **APPLE** on P. 24

## 20th Anniversary Flatlanders Day Trophy Tally

For the 20th anniversary of the Flatlanders Day Parade, the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce made 11 categories of trophies available with trophies for First, Second and Third place in 10 of those categories. This is the second year that the Chamber has allowed local businesses to sponsor parade trophies and the response has been tremendous. With nearly 60 entrants in this year's parade, it was one of the larger parades in recent memory. The consensus among Chamber officials and businesses at the associated Craft Fair was that this was one of the more successful events in the last few years. You can see photos of the big day on page 31 and you can see how the judges awarded the trophies, complete with the categories and their sponsors, here:

1. Grand Marshal Trophy	<i>Pistoresi Ambulance</i>	1st Madera Historical Firefighters
2. Antique Car Trophy	<i>Ranchos Auto Repair and Transmission</i>	1st California Solar; 2nd Frank Bigelow; 3rd Mark Tordini
3. Business Float I Trophy	<i>Ranchos Town &amp; Country Liquor</i>	1st Beauty Club Salon; 2nd Pizza Factory; 3rd Ranchos Auto Repair and Transmission
4. Business Float II Trophy	<i>Ranchos Town &amp; Country Liquor</i>	1st Delk Pest Control; 2nd Blackstone Tire; 3rd Hurst Hardware
5. Youth Group Trophy	<i>Liberty Groves</i>	1st Assembly of God Impact Girls; 2nd Starforce; 3rd Liberty Ranchos Soccer
6. Local Church Trophy	<i>Alfresco Coffee</i>	1st Flipside Church; 2nd Golden Valley Baptist Church; 3rd TLC Fellowship
7. Car Trophy	<i>Ranchos Independent</i>	1st Melvin Armstrong; 2nd Don McKinney; 3rd Dennis Ihli
8. Novelty Trophy	<i>Hart Photography</i>	1st San Joaquin Gunslingers; 2nd Sanger Paranormal Society; 3rd Kiwanis Club Bike Riders
9. Non-profit Float Trophy	<i>California Solar</i>	1st Central Valley Tea Party; 2nd Ranchos/Hills Seniors; 3rd Key Club/Kiwanis
10. Childrens Group Trophy	<i>Wight Water Pool Supply</i>	1st Ranchos Youth Football Cheer; 2nd Kids 4 Recycling; 3rd Boy Scout Troop #118Key Club/Kiwanis
11. Horse Group Trophy	<i>Blackstone Tire</i>	1st Starlite Vaulters; 2nd Wemmer/Ranchos Horses; 3rd The Lord's Cavalry

Congratulations to all of this year's winners and a special thank you to all of our great sponsors. Remember, the Flatlanders Day Parade is always the second Saturday in May and next year's event is only 11 short months away. If you've been thinking about being in the parade, it's a lot of fun and next year would be a great time to start. The Chamber is always looking for help putting on the event as well so get involved. If your business was thinking about being immortalized on a trophy, here's your opportunity! See you in 2011.



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5/10

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



*At the beginning of the month there was a Bid Appeal at the Board of Supervisors meeting.* I was not able to attend the meeting in person so I wrote this as I watched the meeting on-line.

Madera County had three attorneys in the meeting plus one on loan from Madera City. It seems there were lots of mistakes made in the bid process; lots of reasons and or excuses why rules were not followed in the bid process as I remember being discussed at the last hearing on the issue. Cruco Construction's opening statement laid out the issues and violations. County Counsel went a different way, deciding the County would limit what could be discussed at the hearing and asked that all documents not submitted by the previous Friday be excluded.

**Institutional Memory:** The intent of the creation of the time

limit at Board of Supervisors' meetings was because at hearings for developments, documents as long as hundreds of pages were being handed to the Board the morning of the hearing, leaving no time for the Board to review the documents. In this case we are talking about three pages of documentation provided to the attorney by County Counsel.

The Hearing was continued to a date uncertain with the hope of working out some expectation of what can be heard and possibly settlement talks between the County and Cruco Construction.

**DOG Opinion:** *This is like black and white. Hot and cold. Heads or tails.* Cruco Counsel is kicking and screaming trying to

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



# Cecilia Massetti

## SUPERINTENDENT of SCHOOLS

Endorsed by Dr. Sally Frazier our current Superintendent

<p><b>Endorsements</b></p> <p>Irene Adams Elizabeth H. Allen Ashley Alessini Bryan Alessini Carla Alessini William J. Alessini John Anderson Kristy L. Anderson Marcella Andrews Frank April, Jr. Ray H. April Janis Armstrong Verna Arnest Sara Arthurs Kirk Atamian George W. Badella Dr. Joseph Baldwin Paula Baraldi Benny Barsotti Connie Barsotti Donna R. Barsotti Jim A. Barsotti Kandra Barsotti Steve Barsotti Jon &amp; Marie Basila Betty Bass Leon Bass Greg &amp; Penny Baxter Norma Bernal Phillip Bernal Sheryl Berry Grady Billington Janet Billington Josephine Biscay Elijah Bishop Karen Bishop Kimberly Bitter Cheryl Blackstone Joann Blancett Dean Blankinship Nancy Blankinship John &amp; Sharon Bliss Daniel Bonilla Rosanne Bonilla Bill &amp; Elsie Bottorff Jeff Bottorff Karen Bottorff Gary &amp; Shelley Burse Claudia Box Linda Bresett Ina Brown</p>	<p>Frank Brunolli Fred Brylka Rosemary Burrows Dr. Walt Buster Cathie Bustos Sheri Caballero Naomi Camarena James Cappelluti Maurice &amp; Marie Cappelluti Steve Carney James Cavallero Kerin Cavallero Flo Chartier David &amp; Eva Chavez Carole Chavin L. E. Chavin Louise Chiarelli Ray Chiarelli Yvette Cisneros Joy Claiborne Tom &amp; Aurora Clark Sherry Colgate Pat Furman Leticia Gallegos Alice Cooley Steve Copland Albert Cosyns Leslie Cosyns Geri Kendall Cox Alyson Crafton Terry Crawford Dr. Thomas Crow Esther Danieli Lloyd Danieli Anna daSilva Chris daSilva Melisa daSilva Art Davis Nanelle Davis Carol Flores Deaver Charles DeFina Sherri DeFina Liz Delano Gene &amp; Lois Dellavalle Alma DeLuna Ozzy DeLuna Margaret Diebert Bill &amp; Shirley Driggs Terry &amp; Cyndy Dolph Ronn Dominici Cheryl Dominici</p>	<p>Laura Donnelly Karen East Jim Elliott Rick &amp; Diane Elrod Carol Ann Espinola Marge Medellin Esquibel Fred Fagundes Mary Farrell Tim Farrell James V. Favini Judy Favini Ruth Ferrarese Candace Flammang Lori Flanagan Rudolph Flores Margo Ford Eileen Foster Craig Fourchy Gary &amp; Sue Foust Robert Frausto Dr. Sally L. Frazier Stephen Frazier Dr. Duane Furman Pat Furman Leticia Gallegos Al &amp; Rosie Galvez Conrad Gaunt Leslie Gaunt Lynnette Gerbi Richard Gerbi Dr. Susan D. Geringer Azza Geringer Gary Giersch Phyllis Giersch David Gill Jennifer Girado Wayne Gomes Dr. Laurie Goodman Marihelen Goodwin Marie Grace Bob Green Jane Gutknecht Judy Hagler Frances Hagen Dr. Bruce Hahn Allan &amp; Sharon Hall Hasa Lee Hall Dr. Walt Hanline Jayne Hansen Joanne M. Hartin Tim &amp; Claire Hawkins Jim Haze</p>			
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Editorial

# Change? Change What?

By Randy Bailey

Two years ago November, America got caught up in a campaign that sure sounded good and looked good on paper. The buzz words were “hope and change” and they struck a chord with a majority of Americans who wanted something different from Washington, D.C. Most hoped that things would be better with some new blood running the show and they were betting the farm that the change that was coming would facilitate that hope.

Then reality set in.

The “change” the newly elected crew was talking about was fundamental change to the very foundation of the country. Trillions of dollars of debt were piled upon increasing unemployment numbers, coupled with a retooling of healthcare that nearly 70 percent of the American people said they didn’t want retooled. All of these factors equalled “change” that suddenly no one could remember signing up for. It became painfully obvious that change just for change’s sake wasn’t necessarily a good thing.

Change could be for the worse.

In the Ranchos, and more broadly for all of District 1, there are voices calling for change in our representation at the supervisorial level. Those calls for change present you with just one question you *have* to answer: Would it

result in a change for the better ... or a change for the worse?

People tend to be followers. We follow trends. We tend to function with a group mentality at times about certain things. I wouldn’t go as far as some who suggest that we’re basically sheep following the lead ram, but sometimes we’re pretty close. The 2008 election was a fairly good example of that. The group mindset was that we *had* to have change, we *must* have change, we want change *now!* So a small majority (and in politics you don’t need a *big* majority) voted for change and we got what we’ve got.

But here’s the problem: The “change” mentality of 2008 has become the “Throw the Bums Out!” mentality of 2010.

The backlash from all of those knee jerk voters who wanted change two years ago is a new culture that says, “They’re all crooks! Vote ‘em all out!” As ridiculous as wanting change just for change’s sake is, assuming that “they’re all crooks” is downright moronic.

Let’s play a game. Let’s pretend that you’re a business owner. Your business is your life because it provides for you and your family while it supports others who work for you and produces a product that consumers want and need. You’ve got an employee who’s been with you about eight years and truly understands your operation. He’s seen different technologies and gimmicks come and go over the years and he’s always the one who tells you straight what will work and what won’t. You trust his judgement and he’s never let you down. After all these years and all of the training you’ve invested in him and all the times he’s pulled you through a tight spot and all of the knowledge he’s accumulated to uniquely serve you and your business, you decide that the only thing you can do for such a guy is ... replace him with a green kid who doesn’t know his elbow from his armpit?

I’m really not interested in offering up our future just to be trendy. If someone can give me a good reason to let that trusted employee go, I’ll consider it, but so far I can’t see any justification for trading a veteran for a rookie.

# The Ranchos Independent

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**Randy Bailey.....Publisher/Editor**

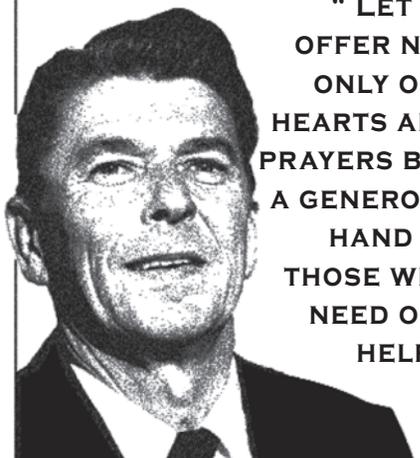
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# Kick Off Summer Reading by Making a Splash at the Madera Ranchos Library

By Ellen Mester

Get ready to kick off the summer with “Make a Splash—Read @ Your Library,” the 2010 Summer Reading Program for children age 3-12. Thursday, June 17 at high noon is the kick-off party which includes games, activities and prizes. Then each Wednesday for the next six weeks we have a wonderful list of guest performers including the popular Mr. Bubble Man. Sonny Salisbury, musician and naturalist, has written a special song for the program that will make you want to sing along. We have a new Magician, Chris Lopez, coming in July who will amaze you. Omnipresent Puppets will tell the classic tale of the Fisherman and his Wife. Pirate Day will shiver your timbers. And finally for our finale, Jamm’n Island Hula will teach us their Hawaiian Dance. All of these wonderful programs are sponsored by our local community groups and businesses, and their purpose is to encourage children to continue reading throughout the summer by attending library programs. For more details and the complete schedule, contact the Ranchos Library at 645-1214 or visit [www.theranchos.com](http://www.theranchos.com) and click on “Library.”

### Book Rental Program

With all the budget cuts, our new book shelf has become bare. All new books purchased or donated are now put into the general circulation status which means they are available for requests outside Madera County. The purpose of this is not to be punitive to Madera residents but to offset our system costs which are no longer sustained by the general fund. It is imperative that we belong to the San Joaquin Valley Library System to remain a viable County library. To compensate for this loss, a Book Rental Program is now in place. Patrons who want new releases available and remaining in our library have the option to pay \$1 for one week, with no renewals. Late fees will be the same as always, 25 cents per day. These new books are purchased by the Friends of the Library or donated by generous patrons. All the rental fees will stay with the Friends and will not be put into the general fund. It may seem like a lot of money, but if you were to place a request for a book, you would be charged the standard 50 cent fee. So for an additional 50 cents you can have a new book right away without the long wait. We hope many of you will welcome this program which is new to us, but has been tried and tested by many libraries in the Valley and in the country as well.

### Flatlander’s

The weather was wonderful, the food fantastic, the parade perfect, the crafts incredible. Many thanks go to the California Highway Patrol, Madera County Sheriff’s Department and to all the Friends and Chamber members who made this event so successful. And thanks to all of you who attended.

### Book Recommendations

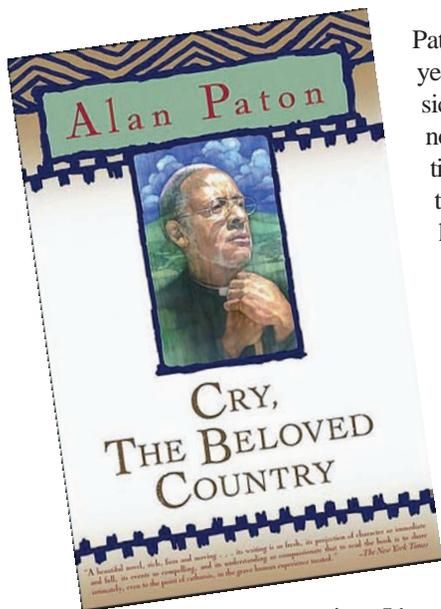
**Adult Fiction:** *Cry, the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton. Perhaps you read this book in English class years ago, or perhaps you’ve never heard of this classic literary work at all. Regardless, it is a beautiful novel of South Africa just after WWII and during the time of apartheid. Stephen Kumalo, a Christian pastor from the Zulu tribe in a rural village, heads to Johannesburg in search of his son, his sister and his brother—all of whom left in search of prosperity or in search of a family member who left before them. Johannesburg had a way of swallowing up people and separating them from family, tribe, and community. When Kumalo’s son, Absalom, is arrested for killing a white man during a failed home robbery, Kumalo seeks the help of fellow cleric Msimangu and others. It is a complex story not just of racial injustice, but of fathers and sons, of divergent views, and the strength of humanity to survive it all. Read it again ... or for the first

time. It’s worthy.

**Juvenile Fiction:** *The Red Pyramid* by Rick Riordan. This is the first in the new series, *The Kane Chronicles*, by author Rick Riordan of the famous Percy Jackson series. It involves two children, Carter and Sadie Kane, whose father is a famous Egyptologist. The children

have been separated for the past six years after the death of their mother. Carter has been with his father traveling the world, while Sadie was with their grandparents in London. When their father brings the family back together he chooses an odd place, the British Museum, on Christmas Eve. And in doing so summons the Egyptian god, Set, to appear, who immediately banishes him into oblivion. Carter and Sadie escape and with their cat Muffin travel the globe one step ahead of Set and some crazy wizards who are after them. Between the action, the humor and the Egyptian mythology, kids and adults will enjoy this fun read.

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



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# County Assessor: Assessing What (and *How*) the Assessor Assesses

Because property taxes are calculated on the value of the property being taxed (*ad valorem* in Latin) someone must locate, describe and determine the value of the various kinds of property subject to taxation. In California's 58 counties these functions rest with the elected County Assessor and the staff of the Assessor's Office. The Assessor has always been independently elected by the voters of each County so that the Assessor will not be subject to pressure to increase assessments from the governing bodies within the County in order to arbitrarily generate more revenue. The Assessor works for all of the people in the County and is charged with preparing fair and correct valuations based on objective market standards on their behalf.

Locating real property (land, structures and growing improvements) is relatively straightforward, from deeds, building permits, and visual inspections. The Assessor is charged with maintaining assessment maps, which show each parcel of land, and an Assessment Roll, which describes the value of each property and the ownership of that property. A California County Assessment Ledger from 1888 lists all household effects for a property, including a sewing machine, furniture and wagons, as well as cattle and horses, because all were then taxable. This information was collected by Assessor's Office staff who visited the property at that time. In modern times, household furnishings, most livestock and

*With the declining real estate market, the reappraisal of properties that have declined in value are now also required and the lesser of either the market value or the Factored Base Year Value is enrolled until the market recovers and the Factored Base Year Value of all affected properties is reinstated.*

Please see **ASSESSOR** on P. 25

Ave. 12

Coming in late Summer

From Rd. 36 to Rd. 37 1/2

# Sidewalks!

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Frank  
**BIGELOW**  
SUPERVISOR

5/10

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

Letters

Dear Editor:

Dr. Cecilia Massetti has served the students and educational staff of Madera County with honor and integrity for many years. Dr. Massetti has created several programs in Madera County schools, including the Academic Decathlon which celebrates academic excellence. She is responsible for programs and services for students with special needs from preschool to adults and other services for students, including nursing and psychological services in her current role as Associate Superintendent. Her ongoing dedication to ALL of our children, from toddlers to teenagers, for those that shine and those that need extra assistance, is why I am supporting her for Madera County Superintendent of Schools.

As a parent of an elementary school student in Madera's Golden Valley School District, I believe it is crucial that we have a Superintendent with the experience, dedication, vision and commitment to excellence that Dr. Massetti provides. Please join me in voting for Dr. Cecilia Massetti on June 8th.

K.C. Pomeroy  
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

I'm writing to encourage your readers to get out and vote on June 8 and to share my perspective about a terrific person they can feel good voting for – Frank Bigelow, who is running for reelection for Madera County Supervisor, District 1.

Frank has proven that he has a strong work ethic, commitment and passion for Madera County. For many years we have seen firsthand these attributes at work as he strives to make positive improvements for our area as well as Madera County as a whole.

He has taken his pursuit for resources to the State and Federal level and has been instrumental in securing money for our county. He has never forgotten who he represents and, more important, who comes first: the people.

At this crucial time in our County, we need someone who cares about the people of this area and cares how the issues impact their lives. We need someone who is knowledgeable about those issues and has a proven record of getting things done to help us.

We can no longer pass projects without first making sure the resources and

planning aren't in place first, leaving the burden of fixing it to the taxpayers later, or paying for the mistake in court. While development is important and needed, it should also follow the area's general plan that is in place. The infrastructure needs have to be addressed BEFORE passage of the project. This has not always been the case and I've seen Frank not be intimidated to voice these concerns and be the lone voice of reason. Whether that has been fighting to insure adequate water, roads, fire protection or law enforcement.

I hope that you join me and support one of the truly good guys – Frank Bigelow for District 1 Supervisor!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Allen  
Madera, CA

Dear Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my reasons why I think all the residents of Madera District 1 need to elect Tom Kellner as their next supervisor.

We the people need someone now to stand up and help Madera County rise above our current status. Tom Kellner is not a professional politician; he is a local individual, former educator, and has experience in county business (he has served on the Planning Commission for the past 11 years).

Listed are 12 good reasons for electing Tom Kellner:

- Tom is new blood, we need someone to go forward
- Tom lives in the Ranchos
- Tom has and makes common sense decisions
- Tom is focused on moving Madera County ahead
- Tom believes in protection of property rights
- Tom is a man of his word, forget the political double talk
- Tom will help Madera County spend its money wisely
- Tom strongly supports Valley Agriculture
- Tom will work hard to make sure all Madera County districts are treated fairly
- Tom is committed to being a full-time District 1 Supervisor

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 9

**“You’ll forget about their drive-thru once you’ve tasted our brew!”**

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5/10

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## 2004 Prowler Regal AX6 5th Wheel

• 36.5 feet long with four slide outs • Upstairs living room with fireplace • Surround sound stereo • Both sofas make into beds plus queen side bed • Hardwood flooring and carpeting throughout • A/C and solar

**paid \$69,000 asking \$35,000!**

**for more info call Tina at 645-4948**

5/10



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**1989 Kawasaki Mule 1000**

- New left-side brakes
- New drive pulley and belts
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only \$1,500

for more info call Tina at 645-4948



5/10

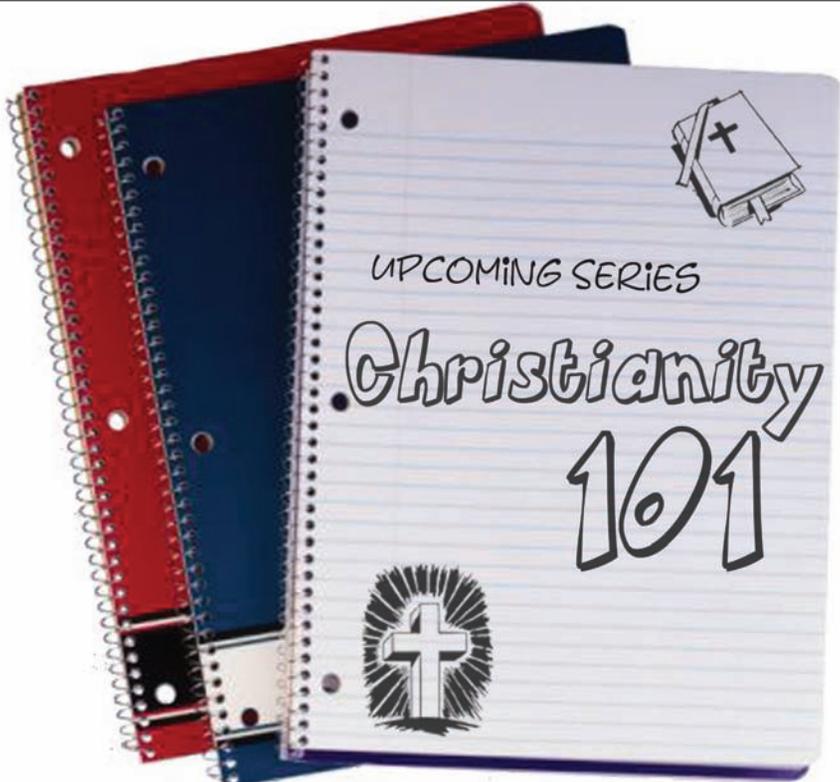
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 For more information on church activities visit our website at  
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5/10

## The Stock Report

# New Hip Means New Adventures

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,  
 Have you missed me? I have been gone for two issues of the Ranchos Independent. Well my friends, I am back and almost as good as new. The cat had my tongue for two months, while I was healing first from the death of my Aunt Sylvia in Oakland, California, and then three weeks after her death I had hip replacement surgery. The surgery knocked me off my feet for another six weeks of therapy. That first month was a challenge. Thank GOD for my children. I couldn't have made it without them. I progressed from the walker, to cane, to driving myself to therapy. I was reminded that the very active Audrey had to learn to walk with a big hunk of titanium in her right hip. I want to thank everyone that sent cards, phone calls and food while I was laid up. My daughter made a beautiful display of the cards on a cabinet wall so that it was the first thing that I saw when I got up in the morning. I haven't taken them down yet because they make me smile in the morning or any time I happen to look up at them. One of my sorority sisters decided to have her very painful hip operated on after watching how well I have been doing. I am encouraging her as so many sen-

iors encouraged me. The days come and go very quickly and am getting stronger all of the time.

I was honored by my sorority, Beta Sigma Phi, with the Golden Circle Ritual for 50 years of membership. On April 29, 2010 which was only one month after my operation, my daughter Sue drove me to Pardini's Restaurant where the ritual was held and I was able to make it with a cane. My sorority is not a college sorority but an international sorority that has helped me to grow in many ways. It is all about life, learning and friendship.

Now I am back going to meetings and working at the Ranchos Hills Senior Center. RHS' next monthly sale will be Saturday, June 5 and I will be back in the Treasure House to wait on you. I am looking forward to my grandson Christopher Morin's wedding June 12 and my granddaughter Amy Stock's wedding on July 17. With graduations, weddings, elections and vacations, June is always a busy month. Oh yes, don't forget Father's Day on June 20. Our local Ranchos Cafe had a great Champagne Brunch for Mother's Day. I wonder if they will repeat a Brunch for Father's Day? Have a great summer and don't forget to vote on June 8. Every vote is important.

## LETTERS cont. from P. 8

Dear Editor:

- Tom will only take credit for what he has done
- Tom wants "what is right for District 1"

I feel Frank has done his job for District 1 and now it is time to move on. I know Tom does not have all Frank's resources for election funds, but individual votes cannot be bought. I feel District 1 residents need to be listened to instead of being told "that's the way it is." Tom Kellner needs all the support from all of District 1 communities: Madera Ranchos, Rolling Hills, Bonadelle Ranchos, Coarsegold, Parkwood, Raymond, Ripperdan, Yosemite Lakes Park, the Westside farms and all houses in between.

Sincerely,

Chet Selmon  
 Madera Ranchos

We should be so appreciative to have the opportunity to Re-Elect Frank Bigelow as our District 1 Supervisor.

In the past four years Frank has generated monies necessary to help fund Engine 19, our Fire Station. He has been instrumental towards Road Improvements and Infrastructure throughout the Ranchos, both current and future. As well as having been there to assist many of our local small businesses owners when called upon.

With Frank's dedication as a supervisor we, the Ranchos Community, have immensely benefited by his abilities to work with Sacramento and Washington DC in getting grants for our community.

Frank Bigelow has demonstrated he has the ethical and moral character to represent his constituents and for these reasons I trust him to assist us in planning the future of the Madera Ranchos.

Nina Crawford  
 Madera

# From Russia: The 9-11 Tear Drop

By Eleanore Burchell

Did anyone hear about this? I recently stumbled across an article on the internet and have wondered why the press didn't report this?

Our gift from the Russian people is the "Tear Drop" monument. It was installed by the Russians to honor those who died on September 11, 2001 and also their country's statement against terrorism. The monument is located in the Peninsula at Bayonne Harbor, New Jersey. This is south and across the Hudson River from the 1886 gift from France, the Statue of Liberty.

The Tear Drop, a 100-foot monument, is in a class of its own and was made by Zurab Tsereteli, a Moscow-based artist and sculptor. It was presented to the United States on September 11, 2006 and inscribed, "To the Struggle Against World Terrorism." The Tear Drop is setting on a square base, on which the names of the persons killed on 9-11 are inscribed. The surrounding walkways have engraved cement bricks donated by family members to honor their family member lost on 9-11.



From Russia with love, the 100-foot Tear Drop Memorial commemorates 9-11 and Russia's stand against terrorism.

Our Ranchos/Hills Seniors Center is located at 37330 Berkshire and our members have really been traveling around, seeing interesting places and having lots of fun. The February 23-25 Snow Train Trip to Reno was enjoyed by 52 of our members and friends. In April, 32 of our friends and members boarded a train and traveled to Stockton for the 25th Anniversary of the Asparagus Festival. Now on June 14-15, we have a great bus trip planned to visit Pismo Beach, Solvang, and ending up in Simi Valley at the Reagan Library and Memorial. We will be served lunch under the wing of Reagan's Air Force One Presidential plane. The

next trip is planned for October 4-17, a European Riverboat cruise and tour. Everything is included:

- a) 14 days total: 2 nights in Paris plus deluxe 10-night cruise from Luxembourg to Amsterdam
- b) Deluxe hotel in Paris with breakfast included
- c) High-speed TGV train from Paris to Metz
- d) All meals included on 10-night cruise
- e) Quality European wines served with every dinner onboard Avalon Affinity
- f) Roundtrip air from San Francisco
- g) Fully escorted from beginning to end, including luggage handling
- h) All ground transfers, government fees and airport taxes included
- i) Additional: Port taxes at \$140 per person, gratuities aboard the ship and personal expenses

For more details, please come in or call Joann 645-4864.

Mother's Day has just passed, but coming soon will be Memorial Day on May 31 then the next month is Flag Day

on June 14 and Father's Day on the 20th. Hope everyone enjoys the upcoming holidays.

### Next Sale Planned

Our next sale will be held on Saturday, June 5 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Many of our members will be there to greet you. Now is the season to plant tomatoes and other vegetable plants so plan to attend the sale and check out what is available. The bake sale and Treasure House will have many new items. The boutique has jewelry and novelty items and much more. Please remember the plant, produce and boutique sections are also available Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.

Please see SENIORS on P. 15

# D. LYNN JONES

## SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE

Endorsed by ALL 12 Judges

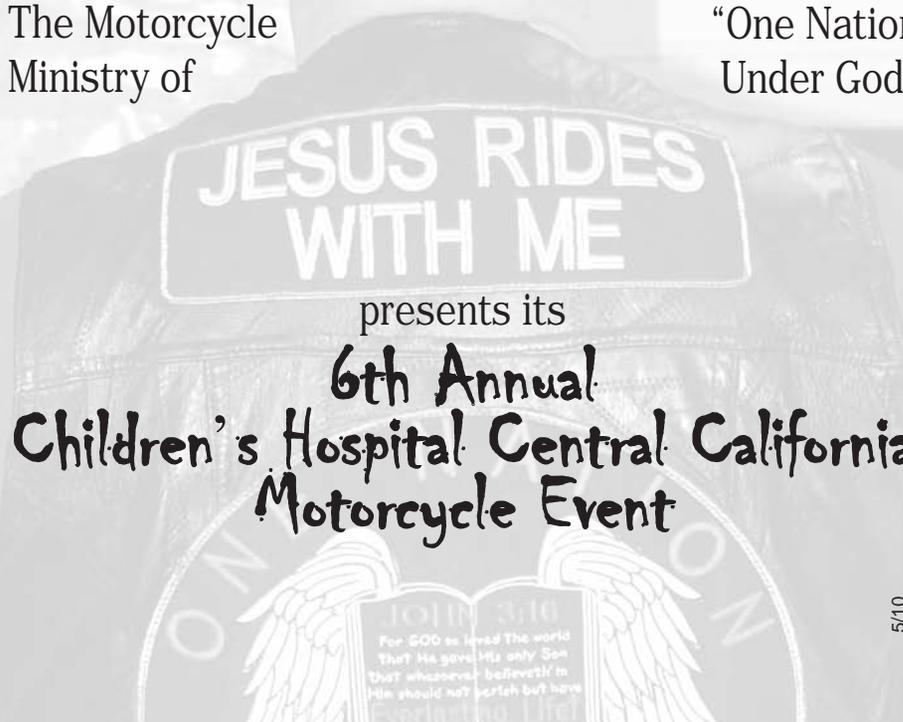
Paid for by the Jones for Judge Committee, FPPC # is 1324843

5/10

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Children's Hospital Central California  
Motorcycle Event

## SAT. JUNE 5 • 7:30 AM

# Enter to Ride!

All profits will be donated to Children's Hospital for the purpose of any activity that supports children with cancer or helps to find a cure.

for more info call



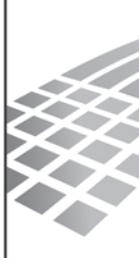
## RON or SUE SHAW

645-0199 or 232-3464

rgsfss@sbcglobal.net

Ride will begin at 1st Southern Baptist Church Madera at 711 Nebraska and will end at Children's Hospital Central Valley.

Say you saw it in the Ranchos Independent



# Rebecca Martinez

**Madera County Clerk-Recorder**

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ANDERSON, KATHY  
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BARBOZA, CATHERINE  
BEGLEY, NELL  
BERNA, BUSTER & SANDRA  
BERNA, STONEY & AMY  
BOHNA, KRISTY & TOM  
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BRANCO, DANA JO  
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BROWN, DAVID M.  
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DESSELLE, ROBERT & DONNA  
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DITTON, BRAD  
DODD, TOM & ALICE  
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DOMINICI, RONN  
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GILL, WILL JR.  
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HILLERMAN, BILL & CONNIE  
HILLERMAN, CECIL & KRISTEN  
HILLERMAN, CHRIS & JAMIE  
HOLLEY, DONALD (SLIM)  
HOULding, JERRY & LOUISE  
HOWE, ROGER  
JOHNSON, DAN  
JONES, MIKE  
JONES, SCOTT & JESSICA  
KASCHT, KRISTINE  
KENNEDY DESMOND, TRACY  
KENNEDY, BRUCE F. & TERESA  
KENNEDY, KATHLEEN M.  
KENNEDY, PATRICK W.  
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KOPSHOVER, JIM  
KROEGER, JANET SPILLANE  
LESAN, CHARLOTTE H.  
LOQUACI, DAVE AND JOAN  
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MARTINEZ, JESS  
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MAXWELL, DONNIE  
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MCREE, GENE & SHIRLEY  
MILLER, CHRIS  
MILLER, KIM

MINDT, STEVE  
MONREAL, JIMMY  
MOSS, VERN  
NELSON, RON & JUDY  
NOONKESTER, TEDDY & HERSHEL  
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PROSPERI, DOROTHY  
RED, MAYBELLE  
RED, MICHAEL & BERTIE  
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WATSON, DON  
WHEELER, DICK & MARGE  
WHITE, JUSTIN  
YOCUM, MAXINE P.  
ZIMMER, ANNETTE  
AND MANY MORE

5/10

Paid for by Committee to Re-Elect Rebecca "Becky" Martinez for County Clerk - Recorder 2010, FPPC #931568

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

in the open and on the table. Madera County is kicking and screaming just as loud in an effort to suppress and limit as much as they can.

I wonder if this is why there are so many slimy lawyer jokes floating around.

**By mid-month the following agenda was posted for the next Board meeting: New General Services Division –** a) Discussion and consideration of approval of Resolution establishing the General Services Division within the Department of Administrative Management/County Administrative Office, and describing the duties and responsibilities of that Division, effective July 1, 2010. b) Discussion and direction to staff to return to the Board of Supervisors with a presentation on the achievements of the new General Services Division on or before June 30, 2011. c) Discussion and direction to staff to return to the Board of Supervisors prior to July 1, 2010 with any changes to the County Ordinance required by the establishment of the new General Services Division. d) Discussion and direction to staff to return to the Board of Supervisors prior to July 1, 2010 with all required updates to the County Position Allocation.

**This is putting several functions under the County Administrative Officer (CAO),** like gathering ducklings under the wings. It's planned to save money but general services division historically has been a money pit hidden behind smoke and mirrors.

**Year-End Budget Adjustments for 2009-2010:** a) Consideration of approval of Resolution adjusting Unanticipated Revenue and Appropriations, derived from projected revenues and overages in anticipated costs from Treasurer-Tax Collector, in the amount of \$45,000; Insurance, in the amount of \$50,000; Community Action Partnership, in the amount of \$12,000 and reduce Property Tax Revenues, in the amount of \$800,000, for Fiscal Year 2009-2010. Four Votes Re-

quired. b) Consideration of approval of Request for Transfer of Appropriations No. 09-035, in the amount of \$672,077, transfer from various departments to various departments, for Fiscal Year 2009-2010. Four 4 Votes Required.

This one has our County taking out an additional loan of \$800,000 to get us to July 1, which is when the Board told the CAO he can take out a \$7,000,000 Loan.

Second hearing to consider the proposed Ordinance adding Chapter 17.58 to Title 17 to provide reimbursement for improvements for supplemental capacity for the benefit of property not within a particular project or development.

**I hope I am reading this one wrong.** What I am seeing is a new ordinance spreading developer's costs to everybody in the area.

Take the Ahwahanee subdivision as an example.

If the developer is required to rebuild the intersection with Highway 49, everybody that uses the intersection to get home will be charged a fee to reimburse the developer for part of the cost. If the developer has to put in a third access to the east, anyone that could benefit from the emergency road could be billed. Anything that can be shown to benefit the surrounding properties can be charged as a benefit assessment to each property owner.

If a road can safely handle existing traffic, but the developer is adding so much traffic that the road needs to be widened to accommodate it, is a portion of the widening going to benefit everybody along the road and therefore will they all be billed for the improvements?

Second hearing to consider the proposed Ordinance establishing a Fee Schedule for services provided by the Department of Environmental Health, authorizing automatic future adjustment of certain fees based on Consumer Price Index (CPI), and repealing Ordinance No. 612 (previous Fee Schedule for Department of Environmental Health).

**Sigh ... just another way to get money out of our pockets.**

# The Old Cowboy

by Woody Laughnan

The world's global warming and pollution conference in Copenhagen, Denmark to determine which country emits the most obnoxious — and verily unhealthy — amount of methane gas has concluded that China is the biggest offender. This not to say Chinese folk and their milch cows pass more methane gas per capita but because there are millions and millions more of them than us.

The shocker from the conference is that dairy heavy locations such as the San Joaquin Valley rate rather high in methane gas pollution compared to many other places in the hemisphere. One pseudo scientist has drawn what he considers a defensible conclusion that livestock account for 18 percent of global warming and if meat-free Mondays, milk-free Tuesdays, cream-free Wednesdays, cheese-free Thursdays, ice cream-free Fridays, root beer float-free Saturdays and breakfast cereal-free Sundays were mandated, this would reduce the cattle population and likewise, offensive polluting gases. Indeed we'd be as pure as Heaven.

No, no, says Professor Frank Mitloehner of UC Davis who attributes only 3 percent of global warming to livestock. But cows aren't the only pollution offenders in the San Joaquin Valley. For instance, how much foul methane gas is passed by fowls: turkeys, chickens, ducks and birds? And by horses, pigs, sheep, goats, worms, snakes and fairy shrimp?

However, there are only two recorded incidents of someone hearing fowls pass gas: a chicken herder on a country estate in 1491 near Shropshire, England, and a wild goose that let one loose in 1520 near Plymouth Rock. Christopher Columbus, on return from a voyage and almost discovering the American mainland, reported to the Pope on his return to Italy that in the new country there was neither foul air or sin, to which the Pope exclaimed, "Amen."

"It was Heaven," Columbus was reported to have replied, "and I was tempted to hang around and play all day instead of coming back."

Anyhow, getting down to facts on air pollution here in the San Joaquin Valley, there have been no significant studies to determine who emits the most methane gas, the San Joaquin Valley's 30,000 cows or its 2.5 million folks, so probably it's time to call a phart a phart.

And, in a totally unrelated vein ...

"This stuff is crap, pure crap," said

the burly, unshaven man sitting at the table next to me in a fast-food emporium, his dentures struggling to hold together a lettuce-dripping hamburger with two patties, each about as thick as the worn out soles of his cowboy boots.

"I wish you wouldn't use the word, crap," said his good wife, seated across the table and blushing.

He scowled at her from under a battered old rancher hat.

"That's what it is," he said, lettuce and ketchup dribbling down his denim shirt and attempting to catch a piece of something that could have passed for meat that had broken off one of the patties, "it's just plain crap!"

"If you say that word again I'm not going to sit with you," she said.

"Hah!" he said, "Even the crap you cook is better than this crap."

She picked up her burger, moved to a table across the room and turned her head away. Frankly, I never thought the word was that bad, even though back in elementary school teacher Miss Eloise Baggy often expressed the same opinion, that the word is offensive. Actually Baggy wasn't her birth name but tagged on her by several generations of students witnessing her trying to push in a baggy part of stomach that had escaped the stays of her girdle, and on accomplishing this another bulge broke out from another part of her anatomy.

I recall that she also had a fetish about the commonly expressed: "Where you at?" arguing there is no place called "at," so how could one be no place?

Anyhow, after finishing the part of the hamburger that hadn't fallen to the floor, on the sleeve of his shirt or bib overalls, he got up, walked to the table where his wife was seated and told her, "When you get done eating that crap I'll be in the car."

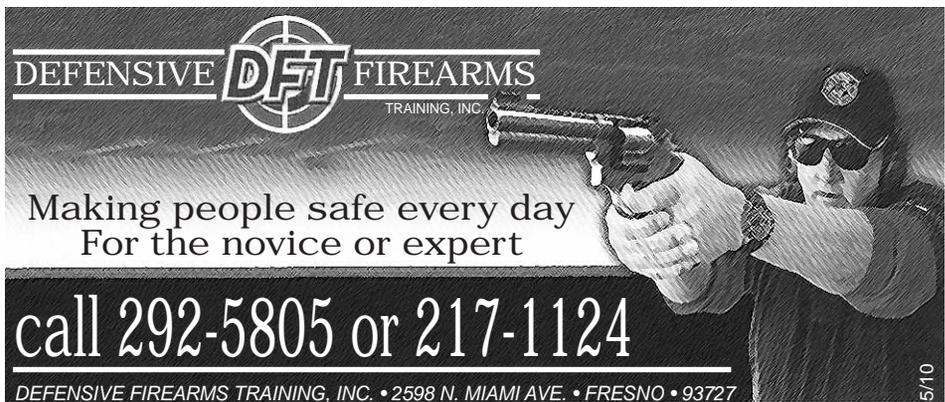
The poor flustered and embarrassed soul looked around the room as if to apologize for her husband's bad grammar and her eyes fell upon a stately woman in a hooded habit that suggested she was probably from India, sitting in a booth with a four-year-old boy, probably her grandson.

"I'm sorry about my husband's conduct and use of that word which may have ruined your appetite," she apologized.

"That was quite alright," said the stately woman with a smile, "it was simply a case of him calling this 'crap' crap."

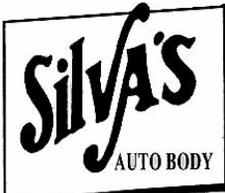


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# D. LYNN JONES

**SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE**



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for Judge Committee  
FPPC # is 1324843

5/10

## Election Day Recommendations *Courtesy of the Fresno Lincoln Club*

### **Governor**

Insurance Commissioner Steve Poizner is our recommended candidate. Steve is a tough conservative, successful business owner and classroom teacher. He understands clearly how big California's problems are, and he is fearlessly committed to doing whatever it takes to fix our State.

### **Lt. Governor**

State Senator Sam Aanestad is the only conservative on the ballot. His opponent has consistently joined with the Governor to raise taxes and spending.

### **Attorney General**

We recommend John Eastman, one of the most respected constitutional attorneys in the nation.

### **Congressional District 19**

The Lincoln Club was unable to reach a consensus, but we agreed that either former Fresno Mayor Jim Patterson or former Member of Congress Richard Pombo would be the best choice. State Senator Jeff Denham voted for two State budgets that directly created the mess California is in today. His negative attacks in this campaign have been both disappointing and false.

### **Assembly District 29**

Dr. Linda Halderman is our choice in this district. She has a solid background as a physician and surgeon, and has demonstrated a detailed understanding of the critical issues facing California. She has committed to end the cycle of bad budgets and higher taxes in Sacramento.

### **Madera County Sheriff**

John Anderson, well respected throughout the Valley and across the State, we highly recommend re-election for Sheriff Anderson.

### **Statewide Ballot Measures**

**Proposition 13.** LIMITS ON PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT. SEISMIC RETROFITTING OF EXISTING BUILDINGS. **Vote YES.** This initiative accomplishes vital cleanup of property tax codes by providing an exemption from reassessment for seismic retrofits.

**Proposition 14.** ELECTIONS. INCREASES RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN PRIMARY

ELECTIONS. **Vote NO.** Changes the primary election process for congressional, statewide and legislative races. Allows all voters to choose any candidate regardless of the candidate's or voter's political party preference. Ensures that the two candidates receiving the greatest number of votes will appear on the general election ballot regardless of party preference.

Effectively eliminates third party candidates from appearing on General Election ballots, and will allow Democrats to pick Republican nominees in primaries.

**Proposition 15.** CALIFORNIA FAIR ELECTIONS ACT. **Vote NO.** Repeals ban on public funding of political campaigns. Creates a voluntary system for candidates for Secretary of State to qualify for a public campaign grant if they agree to limitations on spending and private contributions. Each candidate demonstrating enough public support would receive same amount. Participating candidates would be prohibited from raising or spending money beyond the grant.

Allows any local government and the state legislature to create full public funding of all political campaigns, without future public vote.

Allows the State Legislature to fund public campaigns with general fund dollars. Ridiculous and unnecessary.

**Proposition 16.** IMPOSES NEW TWO-THIRDS VOTER APPROVAL REQUIREMENT FOR LOCAL PUBLIC ELECTRICITY PROVIDERS. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. **Vote NO.** Requires two-thirds voter approval before local governments provide electricity service to new customers or establish a community choice electricity program using public funds or bonds. Protects the PG & E monopoly utility from the single source of competition it may have. Government already has to get a 2/3 vote for any General Obligation Bonds, including general obligation bonds to fund new electricity projects so this measure is redundant and unnecessary.

**Proposition 17.** ALLOWS AUTO INSURANCE COMPANIES TO BASE THEIR PRICES IN PART ON A DRIVER'S HISTORY OF INSURANCE COVERAGE. INITIATIVE STATUTE. **Vote YES.** Permits companies to reduce or increase cost of insurance depending on whether driver has a history of continuous insurance coverage and has the effect of making some auto insurance discounts portable if you change insurance companies.

# There's Good News, Bad News

By Bob Crabb

I heard a joke the other day. A person becomes a follower of Christ and joins the church and the church greets him with open arms and they tell him that they have good news and bad news. "Which would you like to hear first?" So the guy says he wants to hear the good news and so the church says to the new Christian: "The good news is that you are redeemed and claimed by a loving God in the Name of Jesus Christ." And the new Christian says "Hey that's great, what's the bad news?" The church looks at their new brother and they shake their heads sadly and say: "The bad news is we're your new friends."

As a species we seem to be often struggling with each other. Yet we are called to somehow reach out to even our enemies with the love of God in Jesus Christ. You may remember Jesus commanded His church: "And you

*Like Peter, we can't do this perfectly and we will make mistakes. But it is ok, God is bigger than our mistakes and the Holy Spirit teaches how to say: "I forgive you, please forgive me."*

will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and all Judea, and Samaria, and to the very ends of the earth," (Acts 1:8). Taking the message of Christ to brothers and sisters from the same culture, religion and nation in Jerusalem and Judea must have made sense. But to take the message of the risen Christ to Samaria would be a very different matter because those Samaritans were people whose ethnicity, spirituality and nationality was seen as compromised. Not only that, in Acts 10 there is the report of a Roman Centurion. The Centurion was stationed in Caesarea in Judea. This Centurion receives a vision in which God tells him to contact Peter. Now just prior to this, a disciple named Ananias had invited the murderer Paul into the church. If you remember, the church wasn't entirely ready to accept Paul. Now a Centurion who was intimately associated with the Romans who crucified Jesus is reaching out to Peter! Will the people of God be able to accept folks who are not only NOT part of the home team, but who could legitimately be declared unacceptable to the home team? Can you imagine

how challenging this was going to be? Once again, God was challenging the people of God with change! Jesus did it. He was accused of violating the Mosaic Laws, the Sabbath laws, the spiritual purity laws, as well as the boundaries of class, culture, race, politics and religion. Now, the Holy Spirit was challenging God's people to include people who rightly might be called enemies.

The Christianity of the Centurion only comes after yet another vision given to Peter (Acts 10:10ff). In Peter's vision, he sees all manner of four-footed beasts and birds of the air being lowered from Heaven in a sheet. Then a voice commands Peter to eat. When he objects to eating those animals that are unclean according to the Law, the voice tells him not to call unclean that which God has cleansed. We may not really get it, we aren't from the first century, but this had to be difficult for Peter. It was a dismantling of

a fundamental religious practice of Peter's faith. This vision was unraveling centuries of religious thought about who and what was included in the Community of God.

Right after Peter's vision comes the knock on the door from three men who come from the Roman Centurion. It seems the Roman Centurion wants to join the church! When these men arrive, Peter understands that the vision he has received also permits the inclusion of the Gentiles. Later, when the two men finally meet, Peter tells the Centurion about Jesus and the Holy Spirit falls on everyone in the place. The circumcised folks with Peter are amazed that the Roman Centurion and the other uncircumcised folks are welcomed into the church and baptized! But when the church in Jerusalem hears that a Roman Centurion and uncircumcised gentiles were allowed into the church, they were taken aback. They became critical of Peter: "The apostles and the brothers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So when

Please see **PASTOR** on P. 25



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**SENIORS** cont. from P. 10

to 1 p.m. and Thursday evenings between 6 and 9 p.m. We currently have jellies, plenty of citrus, lemons, oranges, tangerines and onions for sale.

Our center is affiliated with FMAAA (Fresno/Madera Area Agency on Aging) 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 different places each month to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries. On Saturday, June 19, we will be having lunch at 11:30 a.m. at the Japanese Kitchen, 711 W. Shaw, Clovis. On Saturday, July 17, we will go to

The Golden, a Chinese restaurant located at 1135 N. Fulton, Fresno. The time is undetermined. Our August luncheon will be held at Black Bear Diner, 1209 E. Almond Ave., Madera and the time is not firm at this time. If interested in joining us for this or any of our events, call Joann at 645-4864. All of our members enjoy eating and having fun so we urge you to come and join us.

If you are new to the area, lonely or have just lost a spouse, we welcome you to come in to see us. We are here for you at 37330 Berkshire Drive. Many of our members have surely experienced your same situation so please call us at 645-4864.

**Senior Thought of the Day**  
**"An unkind word can never**  
**be forgotten, so it is best unsaid."**

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

**More Facts and Fun**  
 A nutritionally balanced lunch pro-

gram 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 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. The participants are getting more than just exercise by attending. They have fun, share laughs and meet new friends. There is room for you and you may attend all three days or just one or two of them. After lunch on Tuesdays, there is an opening for a pinochle player. If you enjoy playing pinochle yourself or know of someone else who would like to fill this vacancy, please call Joann at 645-4864. We have started a new craft session on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. and our 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**

June 5, monthly sale, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
 June 19, Birthday luncheon, 11:30

a.m., Japanese Kitchen, 711 W. Shaw Ave., Clovis

July 5, monthly sale, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
 July 17, Birthday luncheon, The Golden Chinese Restaurant, 1135 N. Fulton, Fresno

**Weekly Events**

Monday through Friday Lunch Program, 11:30 a.m. (Reservations needed, call Joann 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?

## MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION ENDORSES BIGELOW FOR SUPERVISOR

**"WE BELIEVE SUPERVISOR BIGELOW'S STRONG LEADERSHIP AND COMMON SENSE APPROACH IS VITAL TO MADERA COUNTY."**

**- MADERA COUNTY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION**

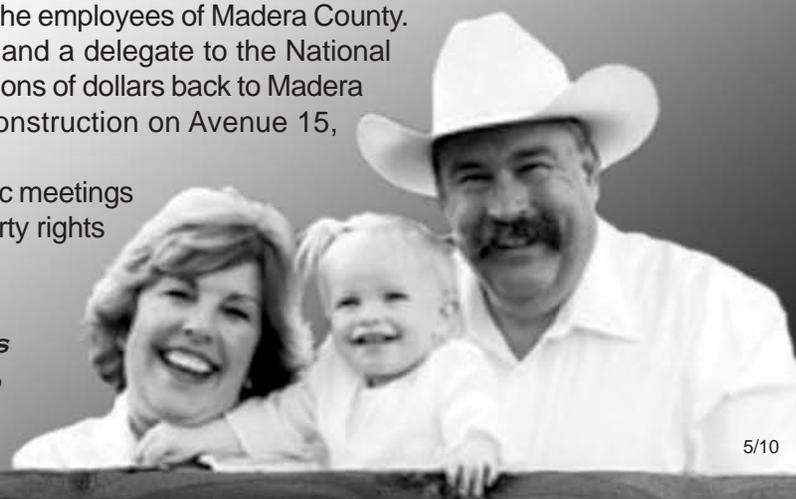
After careful consideration, the Madera County Management Association has endorsed District 1 Supervisor Frank Bigelow in his campaign for re-election. MCMA was the only represented unit in Madera County to defer the January 2010 COLA for a savings to the County of \$469,000. MCMA endeavors to always have the best interests of the County of Madera at the forefront of our considerations, and no less so when endorsing candidates to the position of Supervisor.

Combined with his understanding of management matters -- labor matters -- Frank gives us a strong sense of comfort that we have a leader in whom we can count on to not only represent District 1 but also the employees of Madera County.

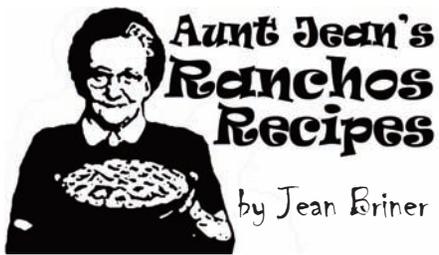
Supervisor Bigelow is past president of California State Association of Counties and a delegate to the National Association of Counties. He has fought hard at both state and federal levels to bring millions of dollars back to Madera County. These funds benefited local projects including the current improvement construction on Avenue 15, Avenue 7 and Roads 36, 400 and 600.

Bigelow has brought legislation to the Board of Supervisors and has spoken at public meetings in both Sacramento and Washington, D.C. in his battle to protect local water and property rights and is part of the statewide coalition fighting to protect the Williamson Act.

**"WHILE IN THIS CURRENT STATE OF FISCAL EMERGENCY MCMA BELIEVES THAT SUPERVISOR BIGELOW HAS THE ABILITY AND FORWARD THINKING TO SEE THE COUNTY OF MADERA INTO A BETTER FUTURE."**



5/10



# Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes

by Jean Briner

## Lemon Benefits

Not long ago we were sitting around the dining room table talking, and the subject of stale or bad room air came up. Think we were talking about men smoking at a poker game – not sure except I know we weren't talking about the room we were in. Anyway, my niece said she had read that if you put a shallow bowl of lemon juice in the room it would freshen the air. I had never heard that so I thought I'd look it up. And you know what? Lucy you are correct.

I not only found out about the clear air, but I also found out a lot I didn't know about the benefits of lemons. According to this article "The Health Benefits of Lemons," there are lots of reasons to take lemon juice. The article went on to say that it is effective in curing many digestion disorders of the lower intestines. Lemon juice is even known to relieve hiccups. I read that the Romans used it as their cure for all types of poison. I read in another article to use lemon juice to get rid of dandruff, to remove fruit or berry stains from your hands rinse hands with lemon juice. To clean your microwave, add four tablespoons of lemon juice to one cup of water in a four cup microwave bowl. Boil in microwave for five minutes, allowing the steam to condense on the walls, then wipe clean. Wow! And I've been scrubbing all this time. There was even a way to brighten and strengthen your fingernails with lemon juice. I guess this just proves that the old home remedies are best. I can remember as a kid we had to wash the windows in the house (and there were lots of windows in the house in San Francisco) and we used hot water and vinegar – no Windex for my mom – and we dried the windows with crumpled up newspapers. And I still swear

by baking soda and vinegar to clear a slow flowing drain, especially in the bathroom wash basin or the shower drain.

### I LOVE Lemons

As I've told you in previous articles, I love just about anything made with lemons, especially lemon meringue pie. There are a lot of other excellent ways to use lemons in cooking, especially desserts. In going through my mom's recipe cards there are a couple of lemon recipes that I remember. Lemon Cake Pudding (when finished baking, it is a cake on top with lemon pudding on the bottom) and Lemon Bars.

#### Lemon Pudding Cake

Preheat oven at 350

- 1/2 C Sugar
- 1/3 C Flour
- 1/8 tsp Salt
- 3 T Butter
- 1/2 C Sugar
- 3 Eggs – separated
- 3 T Lemon Juice
- 1/2 tsp Grated Lemon Rind
- 1 C Milk

Sift together first three ingredients (use waxed paper and save washing another bowl). Cream together in large bowl butter and sugar then add egg yolks. Add the dry ingredients alternately with the milk, begin and end with dry ingredients, beating well after each addition. Beat the egg whites until stiff, but not dry. Fold into batter. Pour into greased 1 1/2 Qt. baking dish. Place in larger deep baking pan on oven rack. Before closing oven door, pour boiling water in lower pan to within 1/2 inch of top of baking dish. Bake for about 40 minutes, or until knife inserted in center comes out clean. Remove from pan of hot water at once. Best served warm.

#### Lemon Bars

Preheat oven at 350

- 1 C Margarine
- 2 C Flour
- 1/2 C Powdered Sugar
- 2 C Granulated Sugar
- 4 T Flour
- 1 tsp Baking Powder
- 4 Eggs – beaten
- 6 T Lemon Juice

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 31

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Worship.....10 a.m.  
Sunday School.....8:30 a.m.  
Youth.....6 p.m.

### Wednesday

.....6:30 - 8 p.m.  
Worship Service  
Royal Rangers (Boys 5-17)  
Missionettes (Girls 5-17)  
Rainbows (Boys & Girls 3-4)

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**THE END OF AN ERA** If you can remember driving across Hoover Dam after a visit to Las Vegas on your way to Arizona, that fond memory is about to become just that: a memory. The Mike O'Callaghan-Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge, or the Hoover Dam bypass as it's known, will be completed next year at a cost of \$160 million. The bridge will rise 900 feet above the Colorado River and will be over 1,000 feet long.



Sundays 10:30AM!  
 "Come and You Will See"

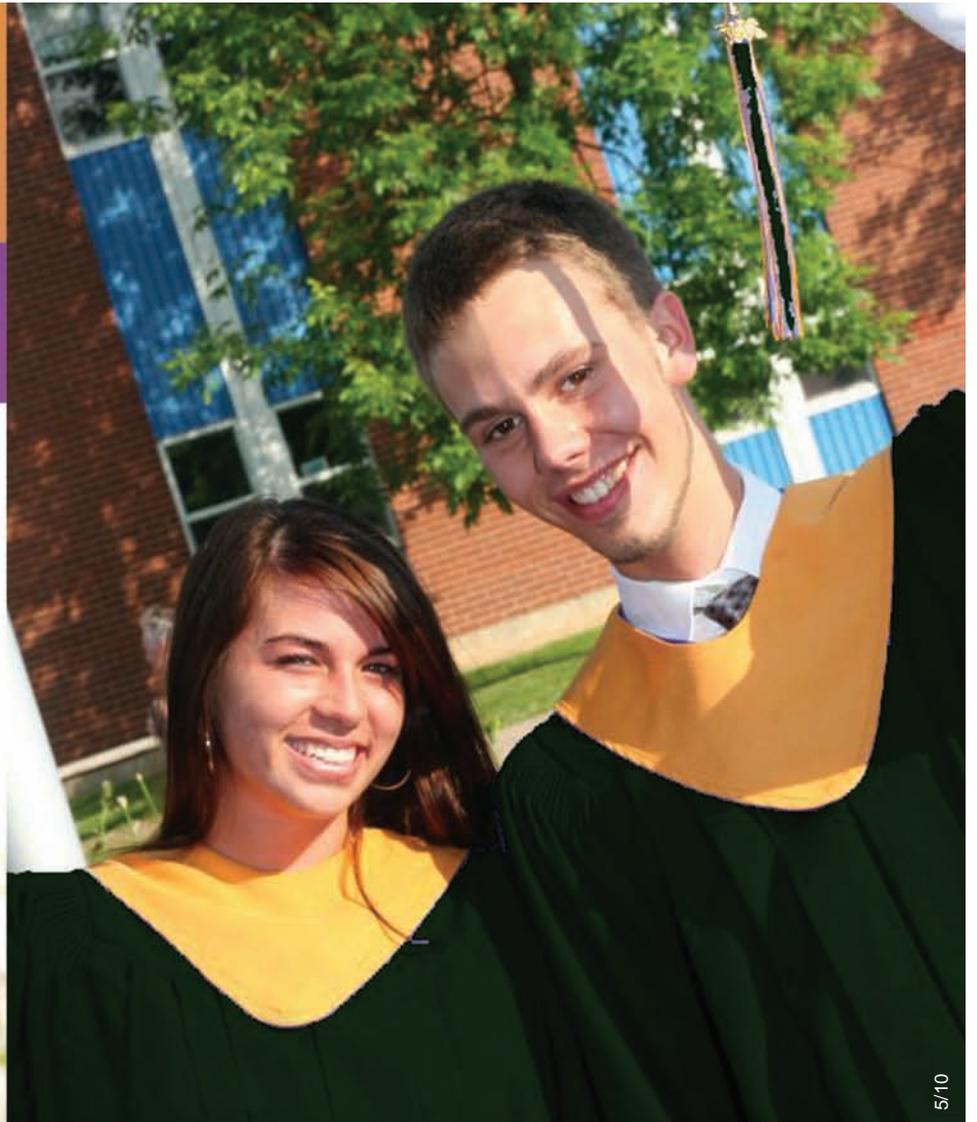
- Tuesday Dinner and Bible Study: 6:30pm
- Wednesday Bible Study: 10:30am
- Wed 1st Responders Lunch: Noon
- Youth Group: After Church on Sundays
- Sat's Share & Care Bible Fellowship: 10:30am

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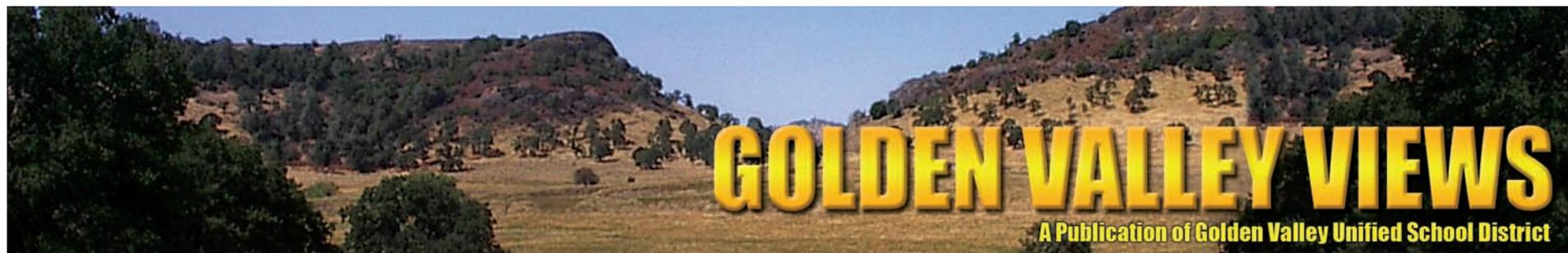
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## You're Never Too Young or Too Old to Read a Good Book



*Golden Valley Unified School District Superintendent, Sarah Koligian.*

*By Superintendent Sarah Koligian*

One of my favorite past times is picking up a good children's book and sitting down with my nieces and nephews to read to them. Of course, I used to enjoy this past time with my own children before they grew into young adults. And, I enjoyed those precious moments in my own classroom, right after recess, when I would pick up an exciting book and would continue reading the next chapter to my students – or as we used to call it “DEAR” time (Drop Everything And Read). These moments are few and far between now, but I make sure that at least once a year, I visit our Kindergartners and First Graders at Webster and Sierra View and read to them.

This past month, I was able to spend a few minutes in each Kindergarten and First grade classroom reading to groups of bright-eyed youngsters that were eager for story-time. What I found in these short precious minutes that I spent with our youngest students, is that

they are respectful, eager to share their knowledge, and confident that they are ready for the next grade level.

Our students come to us with a vast array of experiences that parents and family members provide for them. They are our children's “first” teachers. When our little ones begin their formal education in one of our elementary schools, they are most fortunate to have teachers at these early informative years who instill in them a love for learning and curiosity – participating in “real” learning experiences, such as, counting the first 100 days of school through real-world experiences, learning the season's of the year, decoding language and beginning to read, observing the metamorphosis of a caterpillar transforming into a glorious butterfly, and learning how to share and work cooperatively with one another, just to mention a few of those special learning moments.

Reading a good book with our children, whether at home or at school is one of those simple pleasures that is absolutely timeless and helps to instill that life-long love for learning. It is also inspiring to see how our students grow from year to year; from elementary, to middle, to high school, to the day they graduate.



*Superintendent Koligian (center) gets additional reading help with a group of energetic first graders at Webster Elementary.*

I recently participated in the Liberty High School Senior Exit Interviews – one of the culminating activities for our high school seniors before they adorn the cap and gown and accept their diplomas upon graduation. As I look into the faces of these young adults, thinking back



*Golden Valley Superintendent Sarah Koligian (center) gets some help with her reading with a group of first graders at Sierra View Elementary.*

to the bright, eager faces of our elementary students, I am often reminded why I chose to become an educator. The light bulbs of learning have been lit and have grown brighter for each of the thirteen years that our students have been in our school system. It is so gratifying to me to see the poise, intelligence and confidence that are graduating seniors have developed throughout their educational experience. It is now their turn to share that light with others and hopefully the love for learning will continue far into their adult lives. We are never too young or too old to recharge the light bulb of learning. As we approach the end of the school year, let us take stock in the accomplishments of our children and support them in their future learning endeavors, no matter their age. And, don't forget to enjoy reading a great book this summer!

## LHS Student Honored at Golden Apple



*Liberty High School Principal Kuljeet Mann, (left), congratulates Steven Hickman, ACSA Scholarship winner, at the Golden Apple Dinner in May. He is flanked by parents Maria and Kevin Hickman and Golden Valley Unified School District Board Member Mark Toole.*

Liberty High School student Steven Hickman applied for and received the ACSA Scholarship which is awarded to applicants based on their interest in pursuing a career in education or who have parents who are educators. Steven was chosen because he has a cumulative GPA of 3.8, taking AP courses, has played three years of football and is involved in ASB leadership.

Steven has been accepted to FSU for pursuing a degree in Business Administration and he is on the waiting list for the Smittcamp scholarship. Steven has also had substantial health challenges (Leukemia) that he has overcome.



## Sierra View Wins Second Bonner Character Award

Sierra View Elementary School earned the Bonner Center Character and Virtues Award and was honored at a ceremony on April 9. Sierra View Student Council members Junior Rodriguez, Preston Mayer, Elizabeth Alvey, Michael Sassano and Jamie Lewis accepted the award for Sierra View. This is the second consecutive time Sierra

View has earned this prestigious award for their proactive character education program.

The purpose behind the award is to recognize exemplary local schools where practices and emphases have been planned to enhance the moral thinking and behavior of students.

The actual awards ceremony is a joy-

ous, but dignified, occasion, conducted at the Annual Conference on Character and Civic Education, a yearly event sponsored each spring by the Dean of the School of Education at California State University, Fresno. Over 700 prospective teachers, local education dignitaries and university faculty attend the conference.

# New Foundation for Golden Valley Schools Web Site Promotes Fund Raiser

"Thanks to the students in Mr. Hayes ROP Webpage Design class, the "Foundation for Golden Valley Schools" website has received an exciting makeover that will encourage our community to continue to visit the website. You will find that this updated website is interactive, up-to-date, providing savings opportunities for eScrip shoppers and providing donations to support the Foundation," said Golden Valley Unified Superintendent, Sarah Koligian. The site which can be viewed at [www.gvschools.net](http://www.gvschools.net), promotes events and activities of the foundation and includes links to foundation fund raising programs.

## Fundraising Events Announced

The site's calendar page announces fundraising events such as the recent lunch on the Madera Wine trail at Birdstone Winery. Interactive notices for foundation meetings on the calendar enable users to download meeting agendas and financial statements. "This calendar makes it easy to comply with public financial disclosure regulations required of tax exempt organizations," said Foundation Treasurer Aimee Beintker.

One link on the site connects users with the eScrip program. Foundation Chairman Doug Reitz explained how community members could use eScrip to easily help support local schools. "The Foundation for Golden Valley Schools has partnered with eScrip to help our stu-

dents. In our small community we all participate in the fundraisers for each of our schools throughout the year. eScrip uses cutting edge technology to automatically donate a percentage of your everyday purchases to the organization

fied School District described the value of the eScrip program in these tough economic times. "In this age of diminishing education budgets, community participation and outside sources of funding are a necessity for all schools.

eScrip offers a solution to assist our school district in finding alternative funding streams. It is the true definition of a perfect fundraiser: small effort coupled with a high financial return. eScrip is proven to be a fantastic resource for fundraising where participating business partners contribute a percentage of your grocery loyalty cards, credit card, and debit/ATM card purchases to the school, group or organization of your choice. I encourage you to check it out and become an active eScrip shopper. Your support can make a difference for our students."

## Student Responses

"Creating this web site made me feel accomplished. Using what I learned in class to create something useful in the real world," said student Rachael Rudolfs.

"I was happy that I could use my creativity and interest in animation to assist people and help my school," added student Robbie Hallett. Both Hallett and Rudolfs are

part of the Liberty High School graduating class.

For more information, visit the web site at [www.gvschools.net](http://www.gvschools.net), or contact Sarah Koligian at 559-645-7500.



An actual screen capture of the new website for the Foundation for Golden Valley Schools that can be found at [www.gvschools.net](http://www.gvschools.net).

of your choice with no additional dollars out of your pocket. It is quick and easy to sign up and will help our students for years to come."

Sarah Koligian, Superintendent of Golden Valley Uni-

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[www.freemychronicpain.com](http://www.freemychronicpain.com) • offer expires Tuesday, June 15, 2010

## Webster Elementary Literature Week Ends in Fight ... Er, Sumo Wrestling



Aaron Black, left, gets ready for his Sumo wrestling match with Kevin Hatch, right, as Damian Carranza prepares to officiate as the two battle for supremacy in response to their Webster Elementary students reading 3,000 books for Literature Week during the first part of May.

May 3 through May 7 was Literature Week at Webster Elementary. The theme this year was "Sports."

Friday was the Literature Parade where all of the classes picked a sports-themed book to represent and all of the parade entries were spectacular.

The goal of Literature Week was for the Webster students to read 3,000

books and, although it was close, the students reached their goal. As part of the bargain with the students for reading so many books, Mr. Hatch and Mr. Black had to live up to their end of the bargain and battled it out as Sumo wrestlers.

It was a great ending to a fun week. Everyone at Webster ended up a winner.



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**2010 Academic Pentathlon Winners**



8th Grade Bottom Row: Agustina Villanueva, Andrea Hammond, Candace Hefley and Tony Hall. Top Row: Kayle Mulrenin, Kristyn Fletcher, Katie Grant, Kathryn Fletcher, Mrs. Shellie Roth (behind the scenes), Mrs. Emily Muccianti, Mr. Kevin Feramisco, Lillyanne Hermosilla, Mackenzie Malm and Mr. Ruben Iniguez.

Go Mustangs 'cuz Mustangs rock! This represents the second year in a row that Ranchos Middle School has swept the county wide Academic Pentathlon in both grades. RMS has once again been named the overall winner in the annual Academic Pentathlon sponsored by Madera County Office of Education. Principal Shane Pinkard is very proud of the growing success and compliments all of the participants and coaches for the big win.

The Academic Pentathlon, an exciting five-event competition for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders, was founded in 1984 to encourage and reward academic excel-

lence among students of all ability levels.

Events included math competitions (Square Root Beer, Banana Cluster, Apple Pi and Sugar Cubed Take Home); essay contest; literature contest; speech; and Super Quiz. Local schools included Chawanakee Academy, Coarsegold Elementary School, Dairyland Elementary School, Jack G. Desmond Middle School, Martin Luther King Middle School, O'Neals Digital Middle School, Ranchos Middle School, Raymond-Knowles Elementary School, St. Joachim School, Thomas Jefferson Middle School, and Wajima Middle School.



7th Grade Bottom Row: Garrett Lee, Tyler Ray, Mrs. Joan Forester, Stephen Rico and Andy Addington. Top Row: Katie Bennett Mrs. Shellie Roth, Mrs. Emily Muccianti, Halee Hoelzel, Vanessa Arellano, Adan Jauregui, Rigo Ceja, Luis Mata, Trevor Stephens, Jessica Stephens, Jessica Vived, Mr. Ruben Iniguez and Rachel Black.



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# GV Board OKs 2010/11 Calendar

On May 11, 2010, the Golden Valley Unified School District Board of Trustees approved the 2010/2011 school calendar. Please see key dates below:

- **First Day of School – Aug. 12, 2010**
- **Labor Day – Sept. 6, 2010**
- **Veteran's Day – Nov. 11-12, 2010**
- **Fall Break – Nov. 22-26, 2010**
- **Winter Break – Dec. 20, 2010 – Jan. 7, 2011**
- **Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday – Jan. 17, 2011**
- **President's Day Holidays – Feb. 14 and Feb. 21, 2011**
- **Spring Break – April 18-25, 2011**
- **Last Day of School – June 3, 2010**

There will be a few changes which are included in the overall calendar for the school district including a change to Board Meeting dates. The Board will hold their Regular Board Meetings on the first and fourth Monday of the month instead of Tuesday. This change will go into effect beginning Monday June 14, 2010. Board Meetings will continue to be held in the Lib-

erty High School Theater with open session beginning at 6 p.m., listed below are the 2010/2011 Regular Board Meeting dates:

- **June 14**
- **June 28**
- **July 12**
- **August 9**
- **August 23**
- **September 13**
- **September 27**
- **October 11**
- **October 25**
- **November 8**
- **December 13**
- **January 10**
- **January 24**
- **February 7**
- **February 23 (Wednesday due to President's Day Holiday)**
- **March 14**
- **March 28**
- **April 11**
- **May 9**
- **May 23**
- **June 13**
- **June 27**

## APPLE cont. from P. 2

school and district events.

Bailey is a long-time resident of the Madera Ranchos and is a very involved parent and community member. He is an avid supporter of many school and co-curricular events. He is often seen attending athletic, music and performing arts events, just to name a few. He is currently volunteering, for the second year, as Liberty High School's Sober Grad Night Chairperson. He has also volunteered his time to assist the Liberty High School Journalism class in compiling their school newspaper.

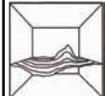
As a community volunteer, Bailey is the current Immediate Past President of the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce. As President, Bailey was instrumental in assisting the school district in publishing newspaper advertisements highlighting the district's marketing campaign.

I truly appreciate Bailey's enthusiastic and passionate quest to report current and relevant news updates to our community. His generosity to support our district through open lines of communication has greatly contributed to "telling the story" about our district and adding to the richness of growing our culture of excellence.



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DISTRICT WIDE CALENDAR GOLDEN VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 2010/2011																				
JULY - 2010				AUG - 2010				SEPT - 2010												
SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA	SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA	SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
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**PASTOR** cont. from P. 14

Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him and said, ‘You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them,’ (Acts 11:1-3). Peter tells them that everything is different now and it is like the world is upside down, right is wrong and wrong is right. The identity of the church is no longer based on tradition, the Law and only on the Old Testament. The identity of the church is now based upon the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. When we hear that not just ordinary enemies, but real honest to goodness enemies, like the murderer Paul and the uncircumcised Roman Centurion, are worthy of the outstretched hand of the followers of Christ – we may feel the desire like that early church to criticize. Even Peter relapsed and rejected the gospel of Jesus Christ occasionally. In Galatians, Peter tried to force the gentiles back to eating according to the dietary laws and getting cir-

cumcised. Paul said: “When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong,” (Gal 2:11ff).

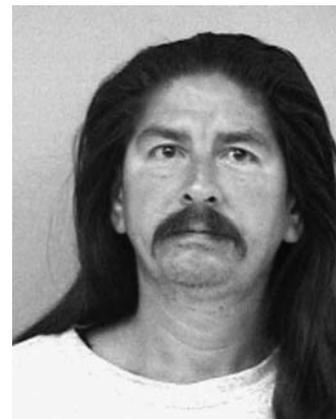
Like Peter, we can’t do this perfectly and we will make mistakes. But it is ok, God is bigger than our mistakes and the Holy Spirit teaches how to say: “I forgive you, please forgive me.”

God comes to us all and our lives are ruled by mercy, compassion, service and sacrifice for the sake of the world, in the name of Jesus Christ. Sometimes, we have to make room for change on how God wants us to deal with those who may look like our enemies. So when you encounter that person who seems a little too much like an enemy, take a chance and show them the love of God in Jesus Christ. Don’t forget to tell them that you also have good news and bad news ...

*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.*

# Coarsegold Parolee Accused of Growing Pot in Bed of Pick-up

Deputies with the Madera County Sheriff’s Mountain Division captured a parolee at large Tuesday, May 11 shortly after 5 p.m. on Road 417 in Coarsegold. It was there that Sheriff’s Deputies found 45-year old Ruben Sotello who was accused of cultivating more than 20 marijuana plants from the bed of a pick-up that was parked in his front yard. Deputies say that Sotello, who was consuming a beer when they pulled in, drank the last drop before being taken into custody.



*Ruben Sotello, 45, was tending a pot garden in the bed of his pick-up when Madera County Deputies arrived at his Coarsegold home.*

Sotello, whose criminal history shows at least two prior convictions of possession of marijuana

for sale, claimed that his neighbor (who has a medical marijuana card) was growing the weed, not him. But information Sergeant Tyson Pogue gathered tells a different tale. Not only does Sotello own the truck that served as a garden for the nearly two dozen hearty marijuana plants, it’s believed he was cultivating the crop, not his neighbor.

Sotello was transported down the hill to Madera County Department of Corrections and was booked for cultivation of Marijuana and violation of parole. He remains behind bars on a no-bail hold.

**ASSESSOR** cont. from P. 7

business inventory have all been removed from the definition of taxable property.

**A Changing Function**

The function of the Assessor has gone from doing mass appraisals, affecting many properties, to the individual appraisal of properties. Prior to the passage of Proposition 13 in 1978 the Assessor reappraised all properties on a four-year cycle, with entire neighborhoods receiving increases in value based on sales in that area. Under Proposition 13, however, values are established as a “Base Year Value”

based on the market value as of the date of acquisition or completion of new construction on individual parcels. However, Proposition 13 also requires an annual inflationary adjustment not to exceed 2 percent. In fact, for the 2010 Assessment Roll, real property values will decrease 0.23 percent by law. A property with a 1975 Base Year Value of \$25,000 would have a cumulative adjustment (over the past 35 years) of about 90 percent more than the initial value or, put another way, the property will have a Factored Base Year Value of \$47,468 for the 2010 Assessment Roll.

With the declining real estate market, the reappraisal of properties that have declined in value are now also required and

the lesser of either the market value or the Factored Base Year Value is enrolled until the market recovers and the Factored Base Year Value of all affected properties is reinstated.

When a property is reappraised for a change in ownership, the appraiser looks at comparable sales of like properties or, if the property produces income, the appraiser will do an income approach to value. Where the property is unique, the appraiser may use the cost of construction or costs based on industry-wide studies. Once a property has been valued, the owner is notified of the new Base Year Value and given the opportunity to discuss the value with the Assessor. If there is disagreement on the

value following that, the owner may apply for a changed assessment with the local Assessment Appeals Board.

Personal property, such as aircraft, boats, and manufactured homes, are assessed each year using published cost guides that are based on market sales. Equipment used in a trade or business is also assessed every year using a formula based on original cost and the age of the equipment.

If you have any questions on this, or any related matter, please contact Madera County Assessor Tom Kidwell at (559) 675-7710, or by email at TKidwell @Madera-County.com, or www. Madera- County.com/Assessor.

ANSWERS

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1	3	+	6	X

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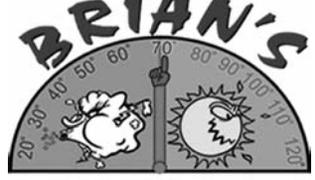
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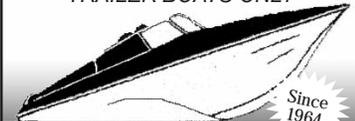
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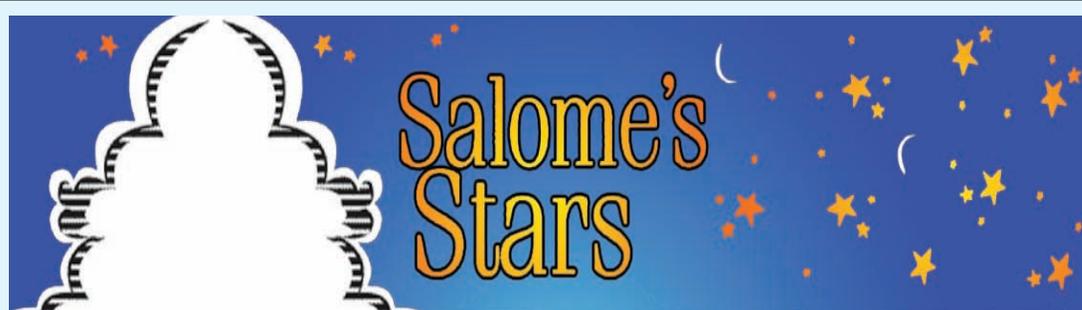
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**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) You might not like some people's idea of a surprise. But you could be in for a pleasant shock when someone finally sends a reply to a request you made so long ago that you almost forgot about it.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) It's a time to expect the unexpected. So don't be surprised if a decision that just recently seemed final suddenly opens up and leaves you with another chance to make an important choice.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) Taking a different tack on a work project might rankle some colleagues. But the positive results of your innovative course soon speak for themselves. Celebrate with a fun-filled weekend.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Meeting new associates can be awkward, even if you're in a high positive phase right now. Best advice: Make them feel comfortable, and you'll soon forget your own discomfort.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) It's a good time for you social Lions to blow-dry your manes, polish your claws and look like the Fabulous Felines you are as you make new friends and influence the influential.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) Expectations run especially high this week, and you should feel confident in your abilities to take advantage of what might be offered. A colleague has some advice you might find helpful.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) A recent flurry of activity leaves you in need of a little breathing space, and you'd be wise to take it. Close family members should have an explanation about an emergency situation that just passed.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) An insensitive act makes a difficult situation more so. But try not to waste either your physical or emotional energies in anger. Move on and let others fill the clod in on the facts of life.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) It's a good time to look into that training program or college course you've been considering. You might have a good place to use those sharpened skills sooner rather than later.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Education dominates much of your aspect during this week. You might want to start checking out those summer session courses that could help advance your career plans.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) Progress often comes in fits and starts. But at least you're moving straight ahead with no backsliding. You should soon be able to pick up the pace and reach your goals in due time.

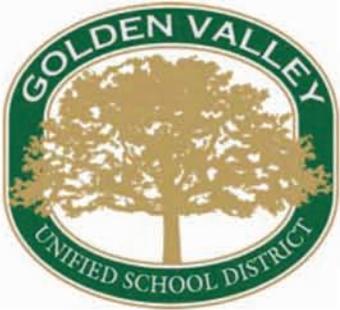
**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Be wary of a deal that gives confusing answers to your questions. Remember: It's always risky swimming in unknown waters, so you need all the help you can get to stay on course.

## Born this Week

You have a way of bringing people together  
and creating close friendships wherever you go.

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## Knights in Shining ... Escalade?

Chivalry isn't dead, despite what some may say. There are gentlemen out there who hold doors open for women, pull out their chairs and stop and lend a hand to a scared, stranded girl, even though they are perfect strangers. These men that I speak of are a credit to our species, and deserve respect and admiration.

It's stressful enough to have your car break down, but when it happens in the middle of the night, in the middle of nowhere and in the middle of a steep freeway off ramp, that stress is significantly amplified and you find yourself up that proverbial creek not only without your paddle, but also with a big hole in the bottom of your canoe.

It was about 2 o'clock in the morning as I pulled onto the off ramp that leads me home, when suddenly my car started convulsing. In a desperate attempt to keep her alive, I stroked the dashboard, begging her to hang on just a little longer, I was almost home, but she couldn't be persuaded. She died, and there I sat, no power, no heater, and only the traffic light to see by. I jerked on the emergency brake and stared out the windshield, wishing my mechanic would ride up on a white steed, mysteriously carrying with him all the parts and tools necessary to bring my car back to life. Five minutes went by and no mechanic, no steed, no magic bag of car parts, I was alone.

At this point, I did what any single woman, stuck on the side of the road, alone, would do; I called and woke up my parents. I had to mooch a service call from their Auto Club membership because at the time I didn't think it was worth the money to have my own. This is what we call opportunity cost.

I sat there waiting for my Mom and the tow truck to come rescue me. The wind was blowing, some wild animal was howling hungrily in the distance, and I was just about in tears. As if things weren't bad enough, I caught sight of a large dark vehicle in my review mirror. It eased off the freeway and onto the off ramp, and all I could think about was, isn't this how horror movies start?

The dark, foreboding SUV pulled to a stop right next to me. I couldn't really see clearly through the tinted windows, but I could tell there were multiple passengers inside, and I swear they must have been able to hear my heart pounding. I kept thinking that it felt like a decade since I had called my mother, and evidently she had decided to walk. The passenger in the front seat rolled down his window and signaled for me to do the same, which was only going to happen over my dead body. I shook my head. He asked from his passenger seat, through my closed window, if I needed help. I thought, not from a truck full of potential serial killers in training. I figured I was better off taking my chances with that animal bellowing in the distance. I had convinced myself it was a

**GENERATION WHY**  
by **eryn b. nyre**



werewolf that just hadn't locked onto my scent yet.

He must have been able to read my terrified look because his softened his tone. He said they weren't there to hurt me, and he could see I was scared. He told me to just stay in the car and keep the windows and doors locked; they were going to push me to the side of the road. Right on cue, the doors of the SUV immediately opened up he and his four friends all walked to the back of my car. Seriously, where was my mother?

Not sure what else to do, I did as I was told, and put the car in neutral. They gingerly pushed me over to the side of the road. At this point, all I could think about was that they obviously liked to toy with their prey before they ate it. As they all climbed back into their SUV, the same passenger who had been speaking to me stopped at my window and asked me if I had called someone for help. I nodded, not able to speak. I was shaking from the cold and the terror.

He told me his name was Scott, and he and his friends were going to pull up in front of me and wait until help came, just in case. This floored me. What an incredibly selfless and kind act, they were going to just sit there and wait to make sure nothing happened to me. They didn't even know me, yet they felt obligated to protect me. This whole time I was thinking they were all sharpening their axes, but instead, they were just nice guys looking out for someone in trouble. Go figure. They sat there with me for the half-hour it took my mother to travel five miles, just standing guard, expecting nothing in return.

Later, after my mother and the tow truck arrived, I thanked them profusely and waved goodbye. I was so grateful to these young men, who were under no obligation to stay and help me, yet they parked on the side of the road in the middle of the night and waited, just to make sure I was safe. Not many people today would put themselves out like that, but there they were, braving a werewolf attack to protect me.

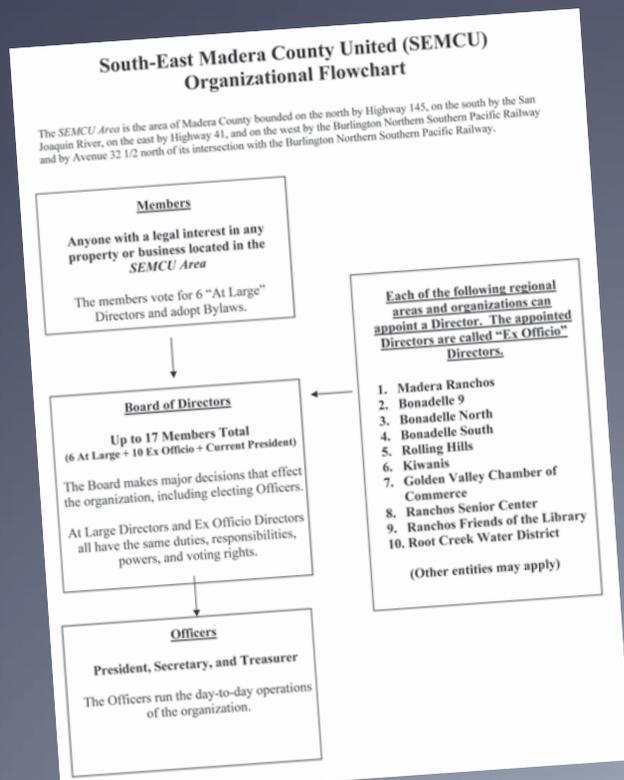
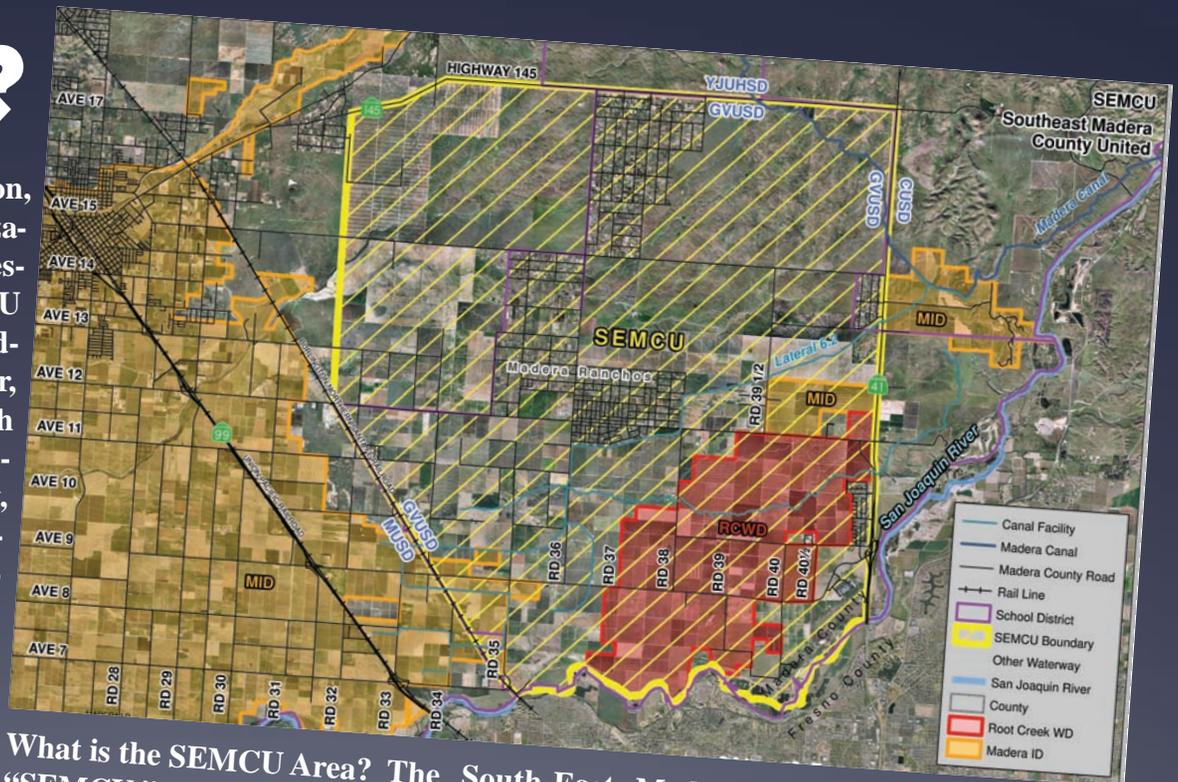
I haven't seen Scott since, but I will never forget what he and his friends did for me that night. Needless to say, I now have an Auto Club membership, because next time, Scott and his crew might not be available to stand guard, and clearly my mother cannot be trusted to exhibit a sense of urgency at 2 o'clock in the morning.

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

# by the community ... for the community

## What is SEMCU?

The South East Madera County Unified organization, or SEMCU, is a non-profit, mutual benefit organization dedicated to representing the interests of the residents, property owners and businesses in the SEMCU Area. In representing local interests, SEMCU studies issues facing its members, such as access to water, transportation, schools and energy, and works with local governments and private entities to find working solutions to regional problems. Additionally, SEMCU strives to advocate for its members wherever and whenever the opportunity arises and to obtain grant funding to help address area needs.



What is the SEMCU Area? The South-East Madera County United, Inc., or "SEMCU," Area covers the area of Madera County bounded on the north by Highway 145, on the south by the San Joaquin River, on the east by Highway 41, and on the west by Burlington Northern Southern Pacific Railway and by Avenue 32 1/2 north of its intersection with the Burlington Northern Southern Pacific Railway.

### Why Should You Join SEMCU?

If you are a resident, landowner, or business owner in the SEMCU Area, you share common interests with SEMCU. Becoming a member of SEMCU will allow you to be a part of a collaborative group of individuals working for the benefit of the SEMCU Area and will give you the opportunity to have a say in how issues facing our area are handled.

**For more information, come to an organizational meeting JUNE 21, 2010, 6:30 PM at the Pizza Factory**





It wouldn't be a parade without cheerleaders.



Crowds everywhere! A great turnout for the 20th Anniversary.



Riding in style was this year's Grand Marshal, Kent Ridge (center).



I don't know much about horses, but this seemed a little unusual.



A new feature this year was a chili cookoff among the firefighters. Yum!



Now why didn't I think of that? Ride in a parade and get your hair done!



The Sanger Paranormal Society's passenger got everyone's attention.



The crowds started lining the streets early for this year's parade.



Old glory in the hands of Boy Scouts. Now that's America!



Parades mean fire engines and, in an election year, candidates.



A new entry this year was the Central Valley Tea Party members.



The Gunslingers have become a regular fixture at Flatlanders.

**SCENES FROM A SATURDAY MORNING IN MAY THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY FLATLANDERS DAY PARADE**

All pictures courtesy of Bill Whyman and John Glueck



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**RECIPE cont. from P. 16**

Blend together margarine with 2 C flour and powdered sugar. Pat in bottom of 9x13 pan. Bake 15 minutes.

Sift sugar, flour and baking powder together. Add eggs and lemon juice, blending well. Spread this mixture over the baked crust.

Bake for 25 minutes. Cool, cut into squares and dust with powdered sugar.

**Lemon Coconut Bars**

**Preheat oven at 350**

**¾ C Sifted Flour**

**1/3 C Chilled Butter**

**2 Eggs, beaten**

**1 tsp Grated Lemon Peel**

**½ t Vanilla**

**1 C Brown Sugar – firmly packed**

**¾ C Flaked Coconut**

**½ C Pecans, coarsely chopped**

Cut butter into flour until thoroughly blended. Press into bottom of 13 x 9 baking pan and bake for 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, beat eggs, lemon peel, vanilla and brown sugar together until creamy. Stir in coconut and pecans. Spread evenly over baked layer in pan.

Return to oven and bake for 20 minutes. As soon as you take pan from the oven, spread on the lemon glaze. Cool in pan and cut into squares.

**Glaze**

**¾ C Sifted Powdered Sugar**

**2 T Lemon Juice**

Blend together ¾ C sifted powdered sugar and 2 T lemon juice.

I don't have a lemon tree and I don't like to buy too many lemons at a time unless I need them for a special recipe I'm making. But I do like to have lemon juice on hand so I purchased one of the little yellow plastic "lemons" in the produce department. If you do have an abundance of lemons and don't use them all, I'm hoping you squeeze them and freeze the juice in the old fashioned ice cube trays and store in zip lock bags to use as you need it.

**A Little Help, Please**

Ladies and gentlemen, if you are reading this, I need your help. I am running out of ideas for this column – I really had to stretch to do this one. I have one more thing I want to write about and then that will be it. Call me and give me some ideas. Thanks!

# Classified

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## GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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

	X		+		9
+		-		X	
	÷		+		5
÷		X		-	
	X		-		10
3		9		4	

1 2 3 4 5 5 6 8 9

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## SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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## STICKELERS<sup>inc.</sup>

by Terry Stickels

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

Call *The Real Estate Network* at 645-1102 or Eileen (Burgess) Tiso at 706-0301.

5/10



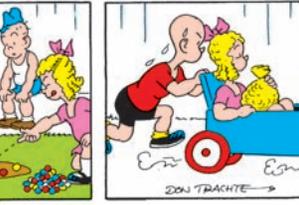
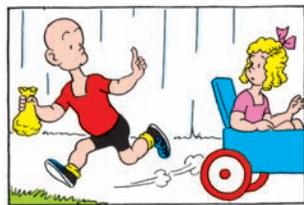
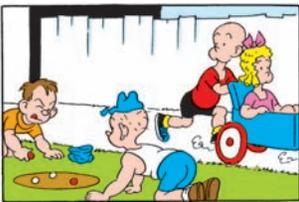
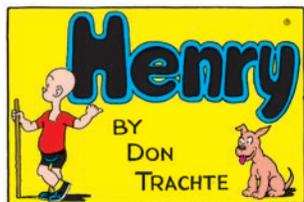
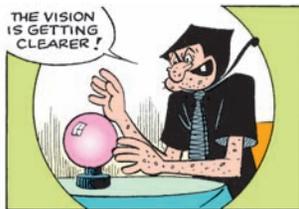
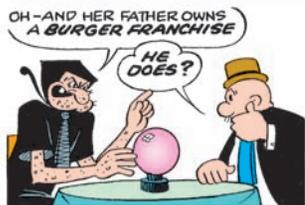
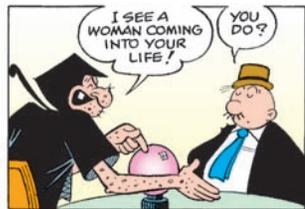
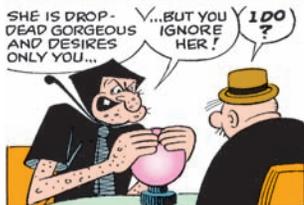
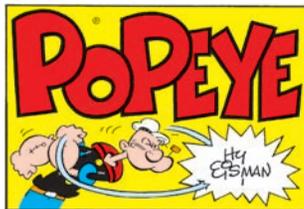
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# FUN PAGES



## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

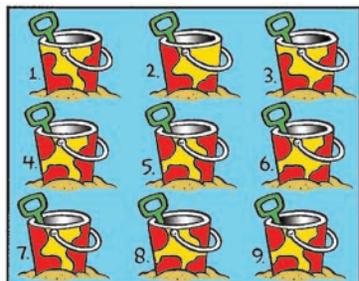
YOU KNOW YOU'RE GROWING OLD WHEN—



**SHOCK WAVES DEPT—**  
YOU'VE REALLY OUTDONE YOURSELF PREPARING FOR YOUR WEDNESDAY LADIES' AUXILIARY CLUB LUNCHEON... WHEN THE PHONE RINGS AND YOU GET THIS GOOD NEWS...



## BY AL SCADUTO



**TRY "DIGGING" UP** the answer to this one in 30 seconds. Can you spot the two pails and shovels that look exactly alike?

Answer: Numbers 4 and 9 are the ones.

### PROFESSOR FLUNKUM IS IN A "VOWEL" MOOD!

One of his students claimed that he had found four words in the dictionary that didn't contain a single vowel, and he challenged the professor to find them. Can you help him?

Answer: We found tsq, shh, h'm and nhh. Did you find any others?

**CHAIN REACTION!** Take the seven letters printed below our diagram and place them in the circles so that eight four-letter words can be read, top to bottom, along the connecting lines. All the words will begin with the letter in the top circle.

Answers: Top to bottom, left to right: Baby, babe, baab, band, bone, bond, bold, bolt.

## Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

### A FISHY PROBLEM!



Hidden in the above diagram are the names of 20 freshwater and saltwater fish. They can be found by reading up or down, or side to side. You'll even find them diagonally going up or down. Letters can be used more than once. Listed below are the fish that you are trying to catch.

- |          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|
| Bass     | Hake     | Sardine  |
| Bluegill | Halibut  | Shark    |
| Bonito   | Herring  | Snapper  |
| Bullhead | Mackerel | Striper  |
| Catfish  | Mullet   | Sturgeon |
| Flounder | Pickrel  | Tuna     |
| Haddock  | Pike     |          |

## Wishing Well

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

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

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### BURIED IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY

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

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

- |              |             |           |            |
|--------------|-------------|-----------|------------|
| Anne Neville | Chaucer     | Henry VI  | Olivier    |
| Browning     | Darwin      | Henry VII | Richard II |
| Chamberlain  | Dickens     | Kipling   | Tennyson   |
| Charles II   | Elizabeth I | Newton    |            |

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## TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. U.S. PRESIDENTS: During which president's administration was the Thanksgiving holiday officially declared to be the fourth Thursday in November?
2. FOOD & DRINK: In the preparation of food, what is a garde-manger?
3. GEOGRAPHY: What body of water does the Danube River flow into?
4. ADVERTISING CHARACTERS: What was the name of the grocery-store manager who told customers: "Please don't squeeze the Charmin" bathroom tissue?
5. TELEVISION: What the name of Radar O'Reilly's hometown in the TV show "M\*A\*S\*H"?
6. POLITICS: "Wobblies" belong to what group established in the early 20th century?
7. RELIGION: What group of people celebrated the ancient holiday of Samhain, which later became Halloween?
8. LANGUAGE: What is something that can be described as "quadripartite"?
9. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What about the Basenji dog makes it unique?
10. HISTORY: What was the name of the German mercenaries who fought for the British in the Revolutionary War?

### Answers

1. Franklin D. Roosevelt
2. A cook who specializes in preparing cold salads, meat or fish
3. Black Sea
4. George Whipple
5. Ottumwa, Iowa
6. Industrial Workers of the World
7. Gaelic cultures
8. Divided into four parts
9. It doesn't bark
10. Hessians

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Click on "Local News" at

# Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



# Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



# R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



# MAMA'S BOYZ

WWW.MAMASBOYZ.COM

JERRY CRAFT



# The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



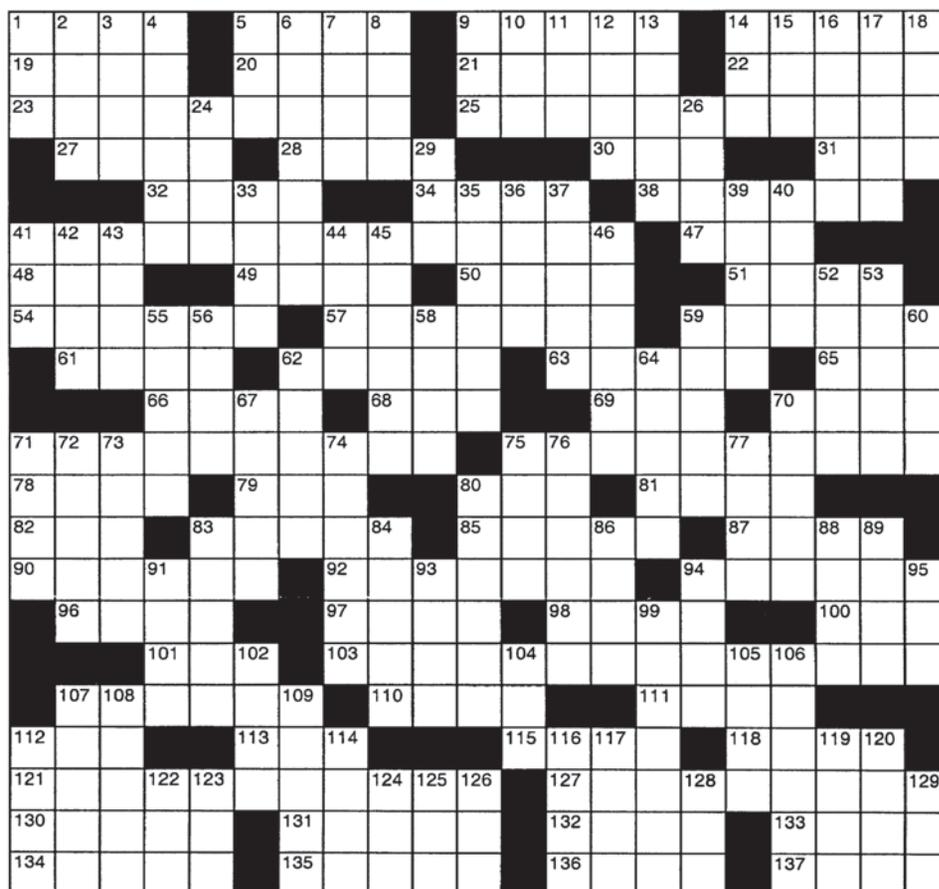
# HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Hat is different. 2. Man's nose is smaller. 3. House number is different. 4. Earring is gone. 5. Chimney is missing. 6. Briefcase is different.

# Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 TV's "The — Show"
  - 5 Pinnacle
  - 9 Elfman of "Dharma & Greg"
  - 14 Terra —
  - 19 Bum remedy
  - 20 Make murky
  - 21 "There's — Out Tonight" ('61 hit)
  - 22 Took on board
  - 23 Clingy critters
  - 25 Start of a remark
  - 27 Self-smitten
  - 28 Change for a five
  - 30 Papal name
  - 31 Pipe cleaner?
  - 32 — impasse
  - 34 Part of CPA
  - 38 Hackney's home
  - 41 Part 2 of remark
  - 47 Ram's ma'am
  - 48 Teachers' org.
  - 49 — mater
  - 50 Guitar accessory
  - 51 Neighbor of Can.
  - 54 Calculus
  - 57 Went along with
  - 59 Like some attics
  - 61 Commoner
  - 62 Dentist's weapon?
  - 63 Macabre
  - 65 One — customer
  - 66 Jury member
  - 68 Nonclerical
  - 69 Deli delicacy
  - 70 Gourmet
  - 71 Part 3 of remark
  - 75 Part 4 of remark
  - 78 Set up the ball
  - 79 First lady?
  - 80 Letters of desperation?
  - 81 Place for a patch
  - 82 Woodworking tool
  - 83 Hunt like a hound
  - 85 Atlanta campus
  - 87 February forecast
  - 90 Knight wear?
  - 92 Breakfast food
  - 94 Singing Wonder
  - 96 Baseball's Nolan
  - 97 Cassette
  - 98 Pons or Ponselle
  - 100 Shady character?
  - 101 "For shame!" remark
  - 103 Part 5 of remark
  - 107 Treasure
  - 110 "The Wind in the Willows" character
  - 111 Sink or swim?
  - 112 PC key
  - 113 Cutesy suffix
  - 115 Hammett hound
  - 118 Basics
  - 121 End of remark
  - 127 Turnpike feature
  - 130 "— Gay"
  - 131 More advanced
  - 132 Moro of Italy
  - 133 Soho streetcar
  - 134 Mouth-watering
  - 135 White wine
  - 136 Regensburg refusal
  - 137 Tropical tuber
  - 7 Bearing
  - 8 In addition
  - 9 — alai
  - 10 Cassowary kin
  - 11 Figs.
  - 12 Yuletide
  - 13 Acon-cagua's locale
  - 14 Comic Margaret
  - 15 Garage supply
  - 16 Sing like a soprano
  - 17 Topol role
  - 18 "Zip- — -Doo-Dah"
  - 24 Pro foe
  - 26 Lug
  - 29 Patriotic org.
  - 33 At a distance
  - 35 "Northern Exposure" town
  - 36 Dressed
  - 37 Home on the range?
  - 39 Mindful
  - 40 Bartok or Lugosi
  - 41 Cable channel
  - 42 Bucket of bolts
  - 43 Butz or Warren
  - 44 Actor Epps
  - 45 Glib
  - 46 Sings on a mountain
  - 52 Out to get
  - 53 Salt away
  - 55 Not so hot
  - 56 Cain's victim
  - 58 "The Great Pacificator"
  - 59 Forward-looking
  - 60 Dry goods measure
  - 62 Ambition
  - 64 Foe of Apollo
  - 67 Vertical
  - 70 New Hampshire city
  - 71 A Four Corners state
  - 72 More up-to-date
  - 73 Savalas of "Kojak"
  - 74 Duration
  - 75 Major —
  - 76 Tristan's tootsie
  - 77 Unisex garment
  - 80 One of the Finger Lakes
  - 83 Austen title start
  - 84 Characteristic
  - 86 Sudden attack
  - 88 "Glad All —" ('64 hit)
  - 89 Feral
  - 91 Lauer or LeBlanc
  - 93 Lhasa —
  - 94 Content completely
  - 95 Printer's measures
  - 99 "The Four Seasons" composer
  - 102 Military chapeau
  - 104 Nutritional abbr.
  - 105 Grouch
  - 106 Costello's crony
  - 107 Skater
  - 108 Barber's need
  - 109 Early emancipator
  - 112 Blows away
  - 114 '52 Winter Olympics site
  - 116 Laurel or Lee
  - 117 Lacquered metalware
  - 119 Puppeteer
  - 120 Old Glory feature
  - 122 Ransom — Olds
  - 123 Deranged
  - 124 Actress Lupino
  - 125 Neighbor of Calif.
  - 126 SAT's big brother
  - 128 Cambodia's — Nol
  - 129 Medical grp.

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# FUN PAGES



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## Now it's time to get to work

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

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

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

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

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