

The Ranchos Independent



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35¢

Top 10 Ranchos Stories • 2006

from the pages of the Ranchos Independent

1 Dog Death Stuns Ranchos/Aug. • Sometime in the night between July 31 and Aug. 1, a well-cared-for Border Collie was hanged in a tree on the outskirts of the Ranchos. To date there have been no leads, no clues, no suspects, no reliable tips - nothing. And no owner has ever come forward looking for a missing, well-cared-for Border Collie. Why?

2 Superintendent Shepherd Quits/Dec. • After only 3 1/2 years at the helm of the Golden Valley Unified School District and without warning, Dr. Marilyn Shepherd announced she was taking a similar position with Monterey Unified on the coast. She said they came looking for her and we wish her the best ... but she could have said "no."

3 Measure "S" Passes/Jun. • A \$70 million school bond measure was added to every homeowner's plate with the passage of "S". Needing 55 percent of the vote to pass, 57 percent said "yes" to create the funding to complete projects within the Golden Valley School District. There were detractors to the bond measure but ultimately 1,193 voters was all it took to pass.

4 LHS Ends "Dream" Season/Nov. • After battling all season and losing only one game to Firebaugh, the Liberty High Hawks dominated other teams as they rolled on to a nearly perfect season. As fate would have it in the playoffs, the only team that stood between them and a shot at the Division V Championship was Firebaugh, who awoke in the second half and stunned everyone.

5 Teddy to the Rescue!/Jun. • Right out of a Lassie script, the Williams' family dog Teddy knew something wasn't right that night on June 6. He started acting like the house was on fire ... because it was. He alerted the whole family to the danger and everyone got safely out of the house. Good timing too because in a matter of minutes the heavy tile roof came down, crushing everything in the house.

6 Rock Quarry Approved/Sep. • After some contentious meetings involving neighbors to the project at Road 209 and 406 just northeast of the Ranchos, the Madera County Planning Commission voted unanimously in favor of the Madera Ranch rock quarry. Next up will be the Board of Supervisors for approval. With the heavy "not in my backyard" sentiment of the opposition, it is still not a done deal.

7 Ranchos Molester Charged/Jan. • A convicted child molester and registered sex offender was found with a 14-year-old girl from Fresno in his Ranchos home and was promptly brought up on charges. It brought into focus that we're not 100 percent safe anywhere, not even in our beloved Ranchos. The story made me (and others) hug our kids a little tighter and increase our vigilance.

8 Ranchos Drug Raid/Apr. • After the child molester how could it get worse? Try a drug raid at a Bonadelle home that netted methamphetamine, marijuana and a weapon. Most startling was the house's location: centered almost exactly equidistant from all four of our local schools. What a convenient location that I'm sure was purely coincidental. More hugging and more vigilance. Please see **LIST** on P. 7

GVUSD Selects Interim Superintendent

Retired Firebaugh District Superintendent Temporarily Fills Shepherd Vacancy

To fill the vacuum created by the sudden departure of Golden Valley Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Marilyn Shepherd, the GVUSD Board of Trustees has moved to hire an Interim Superintendent. After multiple candidate interviews, the Board has selected Violet Chuck to serve while the Board searches for the next Superintendent. An executive search firm will be selected by the Board in February to recruit for the position.

"She is very excited to serve in this role," said Shepherd. "Her experience and strong leadership qualities will be a real asset to Golden Valley during this time while the Board searches for the next Superintendent."

Chuck is already in the District and is working through a transition plan developed by her and Shepherd, timed to coincide with Shepherd's departure on Feb. 2.

Chuck spent 36 years in education in California, ultimately retiring from the Firebaugh - Las Deltas Unified School District as the District Superintendent. It was after her retirement that she formed the non-profit Educare Services, Inc. with two other educators to provide state-subsidized preschool programs to families in the Central Valley who couldn't afford fee-based preschools. Her organization now operates 10 preschool sites in Fresno and Kings County.

In 2002 she was recruited by the director of the California School Boards Association Executive Search Services to act as a consultant for school districts searching for superintendents. During the last two years she has been a part of



Violet Chuck has been selected by the Golden Valley Unified School District Board of Trustees to act as the interim district superintendent until a permanent replacement for Dr. Marilyn Shepherd can be found.

Springboard Schools as an external consultant to school districts in the Central Valley. Her function there is to assist in raising student achievement at individual schools.

A native of Southern California, Chuck was educated in the Los Angeles Unified Public School system from kindergarten through the twelfth grade and then graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree and teaching credential from University of California at Los Angeles.

She later obtained a Masters Degree and Administrative Credential from California State University, Fresno which allowed her to serve for several years as an elementary principal in Firebaugh

and then as interim high school principal after the Firebaugh district's unification. From there Chuck became the district Coordinator of Special Projects and later became the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction responsible for the K-12 curriculum. She learned the business of school financing and served her last ten years as the District Superintendent for the Firebaugh - Las Deltas Unified School District

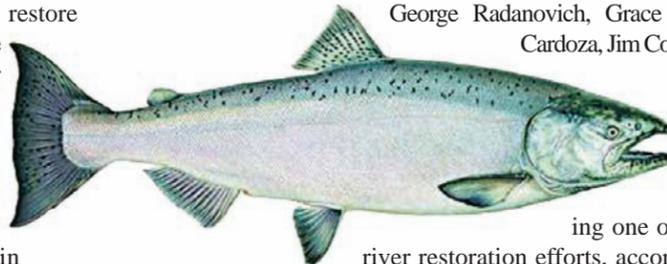
"This is the zenith of my lifetime's endeavor to support the community and serve its children," Chuck said in a written statement. "It is a challenging mission, however, it is extremely rewarding when students succeed."

River Restoration Bill Reintroduced

Historic Legislation Reintroduced on First Day of Legislation, Demonstrates Enthusiasm among Members of Congress

Bipartisan legislation was reintroduced in both houses of Congress on Jan. 4, the first day of the legislative session, authorizing the U.S. Department of the Interior to implement an historic agreement to restore water flows on the San Joaquin River below Friant Dam. The legislation, which was initially introduced on Dec. 6, 2006, did not come to a vote in either house in the last session but was quickly reintroduced on the 4th in virtually the same language.

Identical versions of the "San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act" were introduced in the Senate and House by California Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, and Representatives George Radanovich, Grace Napolitano, Dennis Cardoza, Jim Costa and George Miller.



The bills' sponsorship shows overwhelming bipartisan support for undertaking one of the West's largest river restoration efforts, according to the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and Friant Water Users Authority (FWUA). The legislation Please see **RIVER** on P. 9

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Editorial

School Board Stumbles with "Pro"

By Randy Bailey

Sometimes the runner stumbles. I look back on the record of the Golden Valley School Board and what they've been able to accomplish in such a relatively short time and I'm amazed. And I'm proud to say that I've supported them every step of the way. When the naysayers were talking trash about Measure "S" I was throwing it right back at them in support of the Board and the things we needed for our kids, and by extension, our community. Living in Bonadelle, I was a major cheerleader to anyone that would listen about hooking up with Golden Valley and walking away from Chawanakee - the sooner the better. Golden Valley just seemed to know what it was doing, what direction it wanted to go and how to get there. I mean, these guys built a complete middle school "from dirt to done" in just 120 days! I respect that.

But they've done something recently that I really question.

Who am I kidding? They've done something I really think is underhanded and wrong.

As Castle & Cooke moves forward with its Gateway Village project at Avenue 12 and Highway 41, it is without question what the impact of building homes and the families that will populate them will have on our school district. There are going to be additional people and additional students and additional classroom needs.

For the 12 years that Castle & Cooke has been developing this project (that's right - 12 years and not one shovel of dirt has been turned yet. Yay, bureaucracy!) they have been exemplary neighbors. Their contributions to the Chamber of Commerce, the Seniors Center and to other events in the Ranchos are well above the

requirements of just "good P.R." The projects that these guys build are world-class. Go on the Internet and check some of them out. Go visit the Bakersfield property and talk to people down there and see what they have to say about Castle & Cooke.

They're not only world-class, they're first-class.

They don't do things that reflect negatively on the communities that they build - that's *not* a good selling point.

So for 12 years we've had this good neighbor who's been open and above board about what they do and how they do it. Eight years ago they helped get Golden Valley Unified School District off the ground because they believed local ownership of the schools made for better stewardship of the schools. From the get-go their plans have allowed for schools and construction above and beyond what's required by the state of California.

You read that right - above and beyond what's required by the state. Basically "turnkey" schools to be handed over to Golden Valley once the project proceeds.

And for all of that how has the Golden Valley Board responded? By hiring a "hired gun" to wring every last penny out of Castle & Cooke and then go back for more. After 12 years of relationship, friendship and cooperation, it appears that the best course of action is to screw Castle & Cook for every last dime.

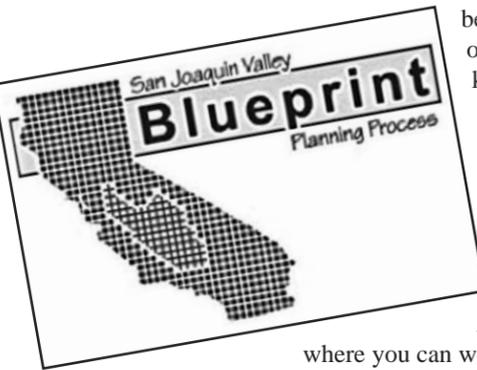
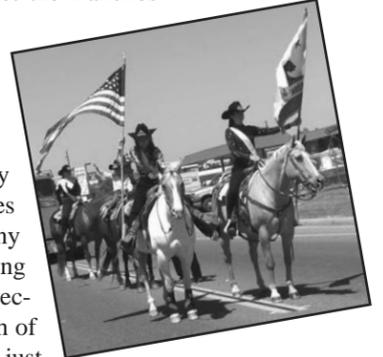
Has it occurred to anyone that a company that can sit on a multimillion dollar property for 12 years while offering the school district *more* than is required could just as easily retreat to the lesser state requirements and build its project anyway after the hired gun collects his retainer and leaves?

Why don't we hire a consultant to think about that?

Random Notes

First of all, Happy New Year! Every year I try to set a new goal and then follow through with it. My goal for 2007 was to get the Ranchos Independent in COLOR and here it is! I think it looks great, it'll make it more interesting to read, it should attract some advertisers who prefer color advertising and - the best part - the comics will be in full color! Yeah!

Have you enjoyed the Flatlander's Day Parades in the past? Well cling to those memories because it looks like there aren't going to be any more unless more people get involved. I'm talking about YOU! There's a bunch of little jobs that are necessary to pull the event off that, if done by a bunch of people, would be nothing. But when you've got just two people (like we did last year) trying to do ALL of those little jobs, it's nearly impossible. COME ON - WE CAN DO THIS! No one's asking you to give blood or clean out the stables or drink bathwater. Call the Chamber and ask what little job you can do to help. You'll be a celebrity as you walk around with your official pin and name tag. The only thing I know for sure is that if there's no public support, there will be no Flatlander's Day. Period. Call the Chamber at 645-4001.



where you can weigh in on how our Valley is going to look in the future. Air quality? Urban sprawl? Water? You can throw in your two cents' worth on all of those and then have them delivered to the governor. Cool, huh?

There are two things that happen in May in the Ranchos: Flatlander's Day (maybe) and the Karz for Kidz car show over at Children's Hospital. This is the fourth year that Bob Munier has put on the event benefitting Children's Hospital and he's looking for people to get their entries in A.S.A.P. It's going to be held May 19 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the grounds at the hospital. They always have great cars, great music, great food, great prizes, great fun ... the whole thing's, well, GREAT! If you need more info call Bob Munier at 645-7226.



If you've got kids, you know how fast they grow up. They're playing with Barbies and Power Rangers one day and getting ready for college the next. If college is getting closer for any of your kids, the Ranchos Middle School Mustang Parent Booster Club is sponsoring a College Night and Pasta Dinner for parents to help you get your child (and you) prepared

for college. It's going to be held in the Liberty High Cafeteria/Theater on Thursday, Feb. 8 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. You can get tickets in advance (only \$5 - CHEAP!) or pay \$6 at the door. Just call the Ranchos Middle School office to make your reservations at 645-3550. All the money goes to the booster club and the information should be very useful. Sounds like win-win to me.

The Madera County Treasurer-Tax Collector wanted me to let you know that they've got new offices in the new Government Center in downtown Madera. They're moving on Feb 9-11 and plan to be open to the public on Feb. 12. The new address is 200 W. 4th St., 2nd Floor. If you've got some taxpayer business you can even park in the new four-story parking complex that has access to their office. Might as well head over and see how your tax dollars are doing.

Again, Happy New Year and try to do what you can to make sure that Flatlander's Day doesn't go into a flatline.

The Ranchos Independent

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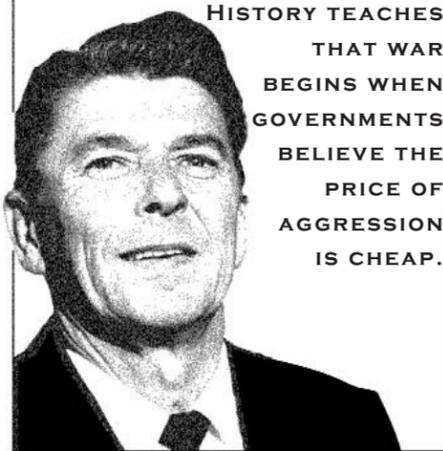
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THE RAY GUN



RONALD REAGAN

HISTORY TEACHES THAT WAR BEGINS WHEN GOVERNMENTS BELIEVE THE PRICE OF AGGRESSION IS CHEAP.

Dear Editor:

We do not hear enough about the good people who live among us - those who do nice things for others and receive little recognition. This is why we are telling our story here.

My husband had lung cancer surgery and while recovering at Christmas time the master bath toilet plugged up. It needed to be replaced and had never worked well anyway. Needless to say, an operating toilet was sorely needed. Bob was bedridden and could not walk to get to the other bathroom.

We called one or two people and neither one was available. A friend recommended Tony of Von's Drain Cleaning and Plumbing, a local businessman. We told Tony our story and he immediately dropped everything, changed his daily schedule and came to our home to help us immediately. It was not an easy job, and we truly needed his help quickly.

Tony took care of the entire situation, his fee was very reasonable and to us he was Santa Claus for sure and indeed a Good Samaritan.

We therefore recommend Tony of Von's Drain Cleaning and Plumbing at 645-1567 as our Ranchos Good Samaritan.

Thank you for printing this.

Barbara and Bob Vanderslice,
Longtime Ranchos Residents

PS - Wouldn't it be nice if we had Good Samaritan letters to the editor in each edition? BV

(You bet Barbara. If any of our other readers have local Good Samaritan stories I'd be happy to run them as well - Editor)

The Olde Cowboy By Woody Laughnan

Acquaintances utter shock and awe when they ask for my cell phone number and I tell them I don't have one. The truth is, I don't need one. Indeed, I receive so few calls at my age that I probably could get along without my kitchen wall phone.

"My goodness," a neighbor's wife exclaimed on learning I am cellphoneless, "how can you drive without a cell phone? I mean driving is so boring, especially on Freeway 99. In Madera to break the monotony I have two cell phones so I can talk to two different people while steering our SUV with my knees.

"My husband has three phones, one attached to his belt, another he carries in his pickup and a third one on the tractor. Also the hired man has one so my husband can lay out the day's work without taking time to drive to the field. My daughter has three cell phones, although she's lost two of them and my son has one but we plan to get him another as soon as he promises not to call any more pornographic numbers."

The truth is, I don't need a cell phone. Indeed, I receive few calls because a lot of folks my age have passed on to their reward (if any); are deaf; or confined to an old folks' home and don't even know it. Actually, I probably don't even need the old kitchen wall telephone because the calls I do receive don't amount to a hill of beans. For instance, one that I received last night from a banking firm suggesting I take out a reverse mortgage and experience a better life - like buy a new motor home and tour the continent; take a romantic around-the-world cruise and find romance; or take up residency in a luxury hotel on the Isle of Capri and rub bellies with gorgeous young sexy hot-trot models.

And about once a week I receive a call from a relative of a friend who just passed to inform me of the time and mortuary to view the remains. And there are occasional calls from so-called "call centers" telling me that I have just won a free vacation in Las Vegas. All I have to pay is round trip airplane fare, taxi to and from the air terminal, food and drinks and a \$25 entry fee if I want to play the jackpot tournament. But I do get a free room, value \$25.

Yet another call center-generated call gleefully informed me that I was in line for a million dollar grand prize for simply answering a few survey questions. The call center person was difficult to understand and I thought perhaps we had a bad con-

nection or the caller was recently arrived in this country.

"Where are you calling from?" I asked.

"Washington," she said, after a 30-second pause.

"What city?" I asked.

After a long silence, she said, "Portland."

The last call I received was a computer-driven invitation from Shady Oaks for Older Folks, inviting me to an open house for people my age who may be considering retirement. The caller said there would be dancing to a live band, games, prizes and free food and to be sure to wear dentures and bring a small saw. I assumed dentures would be needed to eat typical Shady Oaks for Older Folks meals: hamburger that has the consistency of tiny sponges mixed with floor sweepings, and the saw to cut up barbecued tri-tip pieces to put in a grinder to make them tender enough to eat.

But old folks' dances don't last over an hour because of lack of stamina, consequently there are intermissions every 10 minutes and an oxygen cylinder and mask available at all times.

Well, a free meal is a free mail so the missus and I decided to take advantage of it. We ate early so the special events could begin, the dance for instance with a live band. Unfortunately, the saxophone player was down with the shingles and the piano player, an Alzheimer's victim, was having a bad day and could remember only one song, "Daddy Won't Buy Me a Bow-Wow," and folks quickly grew tired of listening to it. The band was down to a drummer who had misplaced his hearing aid and either played so loudly he all but drove us out of the room or so softly nobody could hear him.

And a very bad accordionist.

But old folks' dances don't last over an hour because of lack of stamina, consequently there are intermissions every 10 minutes and an oxygen cylinder and mask available at all times.

Next came the games: cane throw, wheelchair and crutch race and the grand finale, the Denture Derby. The latter consisted of women placing their upper plate on a table with a number printed beneath in crayon. When the whistle blew, men rushed to the table and grabbed a denture and their date for the evening was the woman whose denture they'd chosen. One man became so angry when he picked his wife's denture that he attempted to smack it with his cane before an attendant stopped him.

It was not until late in the evening, almost 8:30, before the party ended. A good time was had by all except for the man who picked his own wife's denture.

What's Your Vision for Madera?

You are invited to attend a Visioning Workshop on Wednesday, January 24th at the Madera Municipal Golf Course. This workshop is your opportunity to help provide direction for the future of Madera and its outlying areas. We'll talk about everything from water and air quality to urban sprawl and transportation, and your opinion will be instantly registered through a new interactive "clicker" technology. It's your voice; make sure it's heard!

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For more information, contact:

Derek Winning, Madera County Transportation Commission
(559) 675-0721 ext. 17

New Year's Volunteers Needed

By Ellen Mester

Happy New Year! Have you made your New Year's resolutions yet? If getting more involved in the community is on your list, think about the Ranchos Library. Join the New Library Planning Committee, or the Friends of the Ranchos Library, or volunteer your time to help process or shelve books. We would love to have you be a part of this vital community facility. We're already planning the Flatlander's Craft Show and Parade for May 5, 2007. We are especially looking for volunteers to help with the parade. It takes a lot of time and effort to make this event happen. The truth is, if we do not get enough community involvement and support within the next few months, there will not be a Flatlander's Day this year. The parade, which is the hallmark of Flatlander's Day, is very expensive and takes a large number of people to insure safety and continuity. And if we don't have the parade then there is not much point in having the craft show. It would be a sad loss to our community if we have to give up this wonderful event.

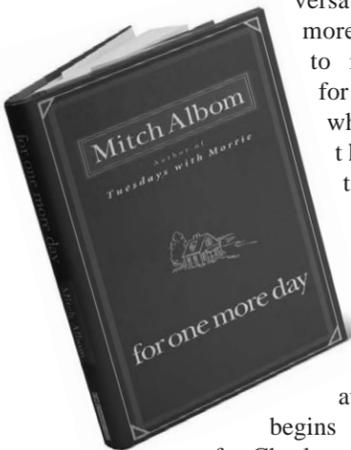
The Ranchos Library would like to start a "gold card" board for all those patrons who have continually had a Madera County library card for more than 50 years. Long time Madera resident Kenneth Leach has used his library card for 71 years. His wise 4th grade teacher took the class to the library to get them all cards. He's been using his ever since. So for those of you who are "gold card" holders please step forward. We would like to acknowledge you and perhaps inspire others to be lifelong library users.

If you have lost your library card, stop by for a replacement. The cost is only \$2. If you've never had a card it is free of charge with proof of address and a valid I.D. such as a driver's license. There are no age restrictions on library cards. With your library card you can check out books, books on CD or tape, magazines, videos and use the computers that have internet access and our subscription database EBSCO.

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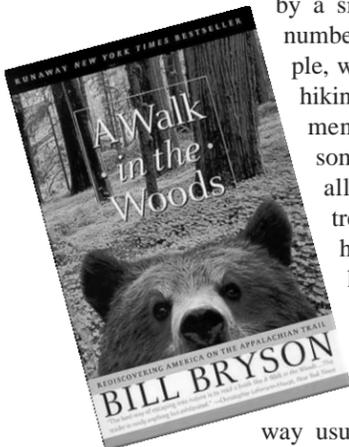
Book Recommendations

New Adult fiction: *For One More Day* written by Mitch Albom. "Have you ever lost someone you love and wanted one more conversation, one more chance to make up for the time when you thought they would be around forever," asks the author. So begins the story of Charley "Chick" Benetto who after years of regret, alcohol abuse, and attempted sui-



cide, returns to his family home and discovers his mother's ghost. At first he assumes he is just hallucinating, but as he begins to talk to his mother and actually hugs her, he realizes it is something greater. This is an opportunity to talk with her as he was never able to do before. What a wonderful story with all the drama and poignancy of real life. This author also wrote *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* and *Tuesdays With Morrie*.

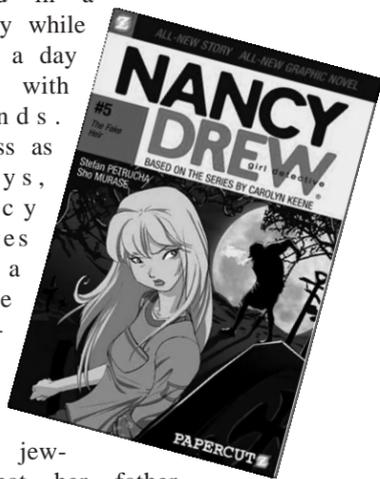
Adult non-fiction: *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson. If you enjoy a good laugh while you are learning a little about nature, history, politics and real life events, then I highly recommend this book. Bryson and his friend Stephen Katz set out to walk the entire Appalachian Trail – all 2100 miles of it. It's been done before



by a significant number of people, with some hiking in segments and some hiking all in one trek. Most hikers however leave the trail after a short way usually saying something like, "It wasn't like I thought it would be," often because they were ill prepared or uninformed about the difficulties of the trail. And according to Bryson there are many difficulties. In preparation for the trip Bryson goes on an amusing shopping spree for gear and supplies. His descriptions of the outfitter and the mountain of gear he buys are really funny. On the trail, Bryson describes the beauty, the dangers, the physical toll and the bond that is formed between fellow hikers and the solitude of the wilderness.

Young Adult Graphic Novel: *The Fake Heir* by Stephan Petrucha. Based on the series written by Carolyn Keene, a modern Nancy Drew – girl detective – gets tangled in a mystery while taking a day off with friends. Fearless as always, Nancy plunges into a case involving heirs to family jewels that her father, Carson Drew, is handling. These days, Nancy solves mysteries with a computer, cell phone and swift car. Not exactly the Nancy I remember but still a good story for kids. With a graphic format it reads like a comic book. Excellent choice for those less-than-enthusiastic readers.

Check out these books and more at the library and remember your library card ... don't leave home without it!



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1/07

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Senior Property Tax Rebates Can be Researched for Free

Sheriff John Anderson is issuing an immediate warning to senior citizens about a potentially misleading solicitation that offers to file forms on the senior citizen's behalf (for a fee of course) to find out IF that senior citizen qualifies for a property tax rebate.

The Sheriff's Department was tipped off by a Madera County resident who received a letter from an agency calling itself the Senior Advisory Center. The organization is located in our State Capitol, but this is NOT a government agency.

In a nutshell, the letter claims the agency will (for a fee of \$36) help senior citizens submit the necessary paperwork to find out IF they are eligible to receive a property tax rebate.

The letter targets not only seniors but anyone with disabilities who may qualify for a homeowner assistance claim which may entitle them to up to \$472.60 in the form of a property tax rebate.

Seniors as well as those on disability should know the process can be done for free.

To find out more about property tax rebates, senior citizens can contact the State Franchise Tax Board and request the Homeowners and Renter Assistance Claim Booklet. The toll free number to call is 1-800-338-0505 or you can visit www.ftb.ca.gov and type "hra" in the search field at the top of the page and download the necessary forms online.

Warrant Scam Targeting Maderans

Sheriff John Anderson has just issued a new warning about another trick to rob Madera County residents of their identity – this time it concerns alleged warrants, liens and judgments.

Unwitting residents may receive a call from someone claiming to represent Madera County Superior Court. The caller will claim to be investigating a possible warrant that will be issued for that citizen's arrest because that resident failed to appear in court. The caller's intention is to push the citizen into a state of panic so that when the caller asks for specific pieces of personal information to verify the person's identity to "... make sure who answered the phone is really the person the caller needed to contact regarding the bogus criminal investigation," the citizen will comply. The persistent caller may also

insist that "the records show" the intended victim has violated the law and the caller simply wants to get to the bottom of the problem to help that citizen avoid jail time.

Sheriff Anderson has been advised that complaints to Superior Court alerted officials to the latest scam but he adds, "What concerns us – should anyone receive a call like this – is that a person, out of genuine fear, may oblige the caller and give out personal information. The Madera County Superior Court does NOT make house calls."

The county NEVER asks anyone to divulge any sensitive identification information – that includes bank statements, credit card numbers and social security numbers – or anything else that contains personal and sensitive information.

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1/07



RCFE# 207203238

Mistletoe: The Vampire Plant

By Ramona Frances

Anyone driving around the Madera Ranchos might notice large bundles of green growth in otherwise bare trees. The spindly green clumps frequently identified as mistletoe are especially visible after deciduous trees drop their leaves.

Mistletoe is a broadleaf evergreen parasitic plant whose berries attract feeding birds that digest the pulp and excrete a seed that sticks when it lands on a branch.

Mistletoe feeds on the tree, absorbing both water and nutrients. Healthy trees tolerate a few clumps, but are eventually weakened. Ash, alder, birch, boxelder, cottonwoods, locusts, oaks, silver maples, walnuts and zelkovas are particularly susceptible. Bradford pear, Chinese pistache, crape myrtle, eucalyptus, ginkgo, goldenrain, liquidambar, persimmon and sycamore trees are less susceptible and even resistant.

The University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) recommends pruning mistletoe out completely as soon as possible. Infected branches need to be removed from the tree by cutting at least one foot below the point of mistletoe attachment. Simply removing the mistletoe clumps (without pruning the tree branches) is better than doing nothing, though it will likely resprout. Its spread, however, will be reduced since it takes several years before it flowers and forms new seed.

Mistletoe that has attacked a major branch of the trunk that is difficult to prune may be controlled by cutting off the mistletoe flush with the limb or trunk, then wrapping the area with a few layers of wide, black polyethylene to exclude light. Use twine or tape to

secure the plastic to the limb, but do not wrap too tightly or the branch may be damaged. In some tree species, callus tissue will form under the plastic, further weakening the limb. Broadleaf mistletoe requires light and will die within a couple of years without it. It may be necessary to repeat this treatment, especially if the wrapping becomes detached or if the mistletoe does not die. A chemical spray (ethephon) can be applied to mistletoe foliage when trees are dormant, but it too only provides short-term control before the mistletoe resprouts. To be effective, the mistletoe must also be dormant and the spray must thoroughly wet the mistletoe foliage.

Mistletoe comes out of dormancy before most trees, so the ideal time to treat is now until early February. An effective mistletoe control program requires a community effort. The long term benefit of mistletoe control will be healthier trees with an improved appearance.

UCCE has a publication called Mistletoe Pest Notes that is free to the public. Call the UCCE office at 675-7879, ext. 210 for information on how to get a copy.

Ramona Frances of Madera is a University of California Master Gardener. She can be contacted by e-mail at mgmadera@ucdavis.edu. This column is provided by the Master Gardener program in Madera County. The MG program extends research based information in home horticulture and pest management, verified by the UCCE Master Gardener program in Madera County.

Call UCCE office with your garden questions at 675-7879, ext. 210. Leave a message or stop by the office on Mondays from 1-3 p.m. to speak to a Master Gardener or visit <http://cemadera.usdavis.edu>.



Puzzle Answers

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

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Suspicious Activity in Ranchos Thwarted by Sheriff's Deputy

Suspicious activity in the Ranchos was thwarted when an alert Sheriff's Deputy saw a suspicious looking Honda pull into the driveway of a residence on Road 36 1/2 around 2 a.m. on Dec. 18.

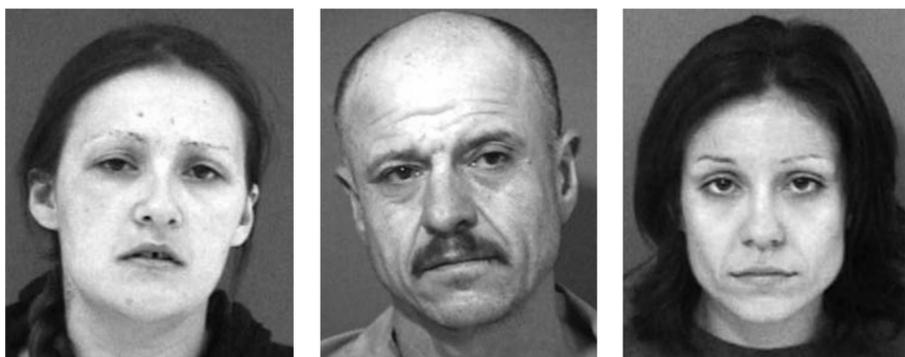
Deputy Luis Padgett was on patrol in the Madera Ranchos when he saw the vehicle and made the decision to pull into the same driveway. The deputy exited his vehicle and asked the three people inside the car if they lived at the residence. The backseat passenger, 29-year-old Natasha Castro of Madera, told Padgett her uncle (for whom she even provided a name) lived next door. The only problem was that the man she mentioned was well known by the deputy and the deputy knew he didn't live next door.

Padgett next talked to the driver, who identified herself as 25-year-old Charline Blair, also of Madera. Padgett ran her name and discovered she was wanted on a \$3,000 misdemeanor warrant for being an

unlicensed driver.

The front passenger told the deputy his name was Antonio Martinez Aguinaga. A run on that name came back clear but after a search of the vehicle deputies found and seized two methamphetamine smoking pipes with white residue. All three denied ownership and all three were taken into custody and transported to the Madera County Department of Corrections where both Castro and Blair posted their respective bails. As for Aguinaga, fingerprints never lie. A life scan revealed Aguinaga's real name was Jose Diaz Real, 43, of Madera, who was wanted on two no-bail warrants for probation violation for drug possession. Once his true identity was discovered, he was booked on the two outstanding warrants for possession of drug paraphernalia and providing false information to a Peace Officer.

Real remains behind bars on a no-bail hold.



Caught with drug paraphernalia in their car in a driveway to a home in the Ranchos where none of them lived were Charline Blair, 25, (left), Antonio Martinez Aguinaga, 43, and Natasha Castro, 29, all of Madera.

LIST con't from P. 1

Top 10 Ranchos Stories • 2006

from the pages of the Ranchos Independent

9 Flatlander's Parade in Trouble/May • It was a story I hated to write, but the facts were the facts. After 15 years of developing the Flatlander's Day Parade into a community black party, the reality is that there just aren't enough people involved to pull it off. We CAN do something about it though and we've got four months to prove it. Call 645-4001.

10 Madera Ranchos - 93636?/May • Citing growing pains for our community, the United States Postal service issued us our own ZIP code that went into effect July 1, 2006. They give us one year to get everything changed over, after that they won't forward letters with 93638 anymore. This story generated hundreds of calls to the Madera Post Office and they were thankful.

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SAY YOU SAW IT IN

The Ranchos Independent

Get Your Calendars Ready for 2007!

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,
HAPPY NEW YEAR! Yes, the new 2007 year has started with lots of exciting changes coming our way. You probably know by now that Dr. Marilyn Shepherd is leaving Golden Valley Unified for a new job at Monterey Unified. She will be leaving the first part of February. We are all sorry to see her go. She has helped Golden Valley come a long way in a short three and one half years that she has been our leader. I wish her all of the best in her new job.

Never fear, the school board has already selected an interim superintendent who will start work on Feb. 1, 2007. Her name is Mrs. Violet Chuck. Superintendent Shepherd is introducing Violet to the staff and the district so she will know her way around. Mrs. Chuck is a retired superintendent from Firebaugh Unified and very good with budgets. This is important as we work to put the 2007-2008 budget together for next year. It has to be ready by June 30 of this year.

The board is hiring a company who will search for people interested in becoming the Golden Valley Unified's next superintendent. This is a process and we hope to have a new superintendent hired before - or at least by - July 1, 2007. That is when the new school calendar year starts. The recruitment plan includes a state- and nation-wide search. Golden Valley School Board members want a high quality pool of people from which to select.

Golden Valley Unified has been a school district for eight years. When the people of the area voted to separate from Madera Unified in June of 1998, Dr. Sally Frazier, the Madera County Superintendent, became our interim superintendent for the first four months. Ed Costa became our first full time superintendent and was given nine months to create a school district from scratch, which he did. Ed Costa was here for two years and in that time he made sure that there were teachers in the classrooms, buses running, food for our students, etc. The area passed our first school bond, and Ed Costa started the process to build Liberty High. Ed Dorn was our second superintendent and he also served Golden Valley for two years. Liberty High was finished while Ed Dorn was superintendent. Golden Valley's third superintendent was Dr. Marilyn Shepherd and she has been with us for three and one half years. Dr. Shepherd watched the first four-year senior class graduate from Liberty High. Dr. Shepherd worked through the process of North Bonadelle area and Sierra View Elementary school

joining Golden Valley Unified. Last June 6, 2006 Golden Valley passed the second school bond to finish the second phase of Liberty High and build a permanent Middle School and modernize both Webster and Sierra View elementary schools. During Dr Shepherd's time here she has worked through a variety of problems with good results. The API scores at all Golden Valley schools are up. Webster Elementary has become a California Distinguished School and both Ranchos Middle School and Liberty High are eligible to become California Distinguished Schools. Our next superintendent will have to hit the ground running to keep up with all of the projects that we have started.

I told you that the school board meeting that we had in December was the time the District Organizational meeting is held. I didn't have the results at the time I wrote my article, so here are the results. The new Board President is Mike Kelly. Mike is a retired teacher from Golden Valley and has learned that being on the school board takes time, energy and commitment. He will be a good president. The new clerk of the board is Roger Schuh. Roger is our number man and I'm glad he is on the board. The representatives to the following organizations are:

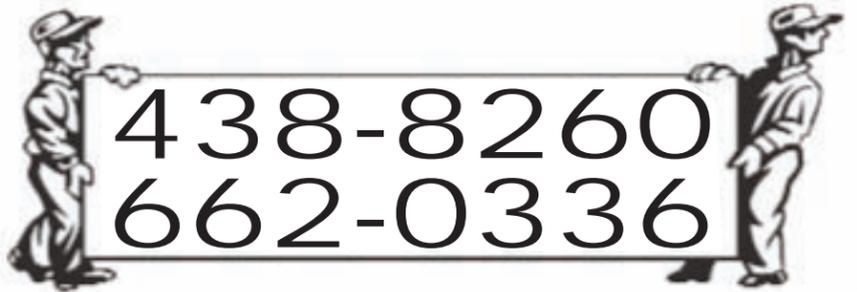
- To serve on the Board of the Madera County Schools Association is Audrey Stock.
- To attend Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce meetings is Audrey Stock.
- To attend California School Board (CSBA) and Small School District's Association (SSDA) Legislative Network is Mona Diaz.

These school board members will hold these positions for one year. They mean extra work and extra meetings for these members.

I hope that you have a new 2007 calendar ready for the upcoming events that are already filling it up. The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce annual Crab Feed will be held March 3 at Liberty High at 6 p.m. The cost is \$35 with tickets purchased at the Chamber office. On April 7 the Ranchos Hills Seniors will hold their annual Home and Garden Show. On May 5 the Flatlanders and local parade will be held. On Feb. 10-11 the Foundation for Golden Valley Schools will serve lunch as a fundraiser at Birdstone Winery at the Wine Trail. On March 24 "The Night the Stars Come Out" Dinner will be held at Birdstone Winery. Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased from the District office.

Don't forget the next School Board meeting will be Jan. 30, 2007 at the Liberty High library at 6 p.m. I hope to see you there.

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RIVER continued from P. 1

represents intent of several California Congressional representatives to see through a Settlement agreement ending an 18-year legal dispute between NRDC, FWUA and the federal government over the Bureau of Reclamation's operation of Friant Dam near Fresno, California. The Settlement legislation also enjoys strong support from state officials and numerous water districts around the San Joaquin Valley.

In addition to approving river channel and water flow improvements, the reintroduction of salmon and water management opportunities for current water users, as agreed to in the Settlement, the bill authorizes \$250 million in new federal appropriations to help pay for the project. Additional funding will come from Friant water user payments and at least \$100 million from the Proposition 84 water and parks bond that was approved in November by California voters.

Under the proposed legislation, authorization would be given to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation - which administers the Central Valley Project, Friant Dam and the Friant Division (along the southern San Joaquin Valley's East Side) - and other federal agencies to implement the Settlement. The legislation reflects historic San Joaquin River restoration and water management activities detailed in the Settlement as well as third party protections. Along with approving and

authorizing the Settlement, the bill includes a number of funding mechanisms. Those include a new \$250 million federal appropriation and Friant Division financial support through Friant water users' Restoration Fund payments under the 1992 Central Valley Project Improvement Act.

The bill has been expanded in the wake of approvals by California voters last November of two possible state funding vehicles, Propositions 84 and 1-E, and declares the federal government's intent to work closely and cooperatively with the state.

Authorization is provided to the Secretary of the Interior to design and construct the extensive list of San Joaquin River improvement projects contained within the Settlement, and implement the agreement. Interior would also be authorized to reintroduce California Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon and avoid reductions in water supply for or imposition of costs on third-party water contractors while approving Friant Dam operational changes to restore downstream flows at levels specified in the settlement.

Other sections would authorize Settlement provisions needed to implement its important water management goal. Those provisions would permit programs and activities of water recapture recirculation, reuse, exchanges or transfers to minimize impacts on Friant Division contractors and the 15,000 mostly small-family farmers on approximately one million acres.

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 by Linda Thistle

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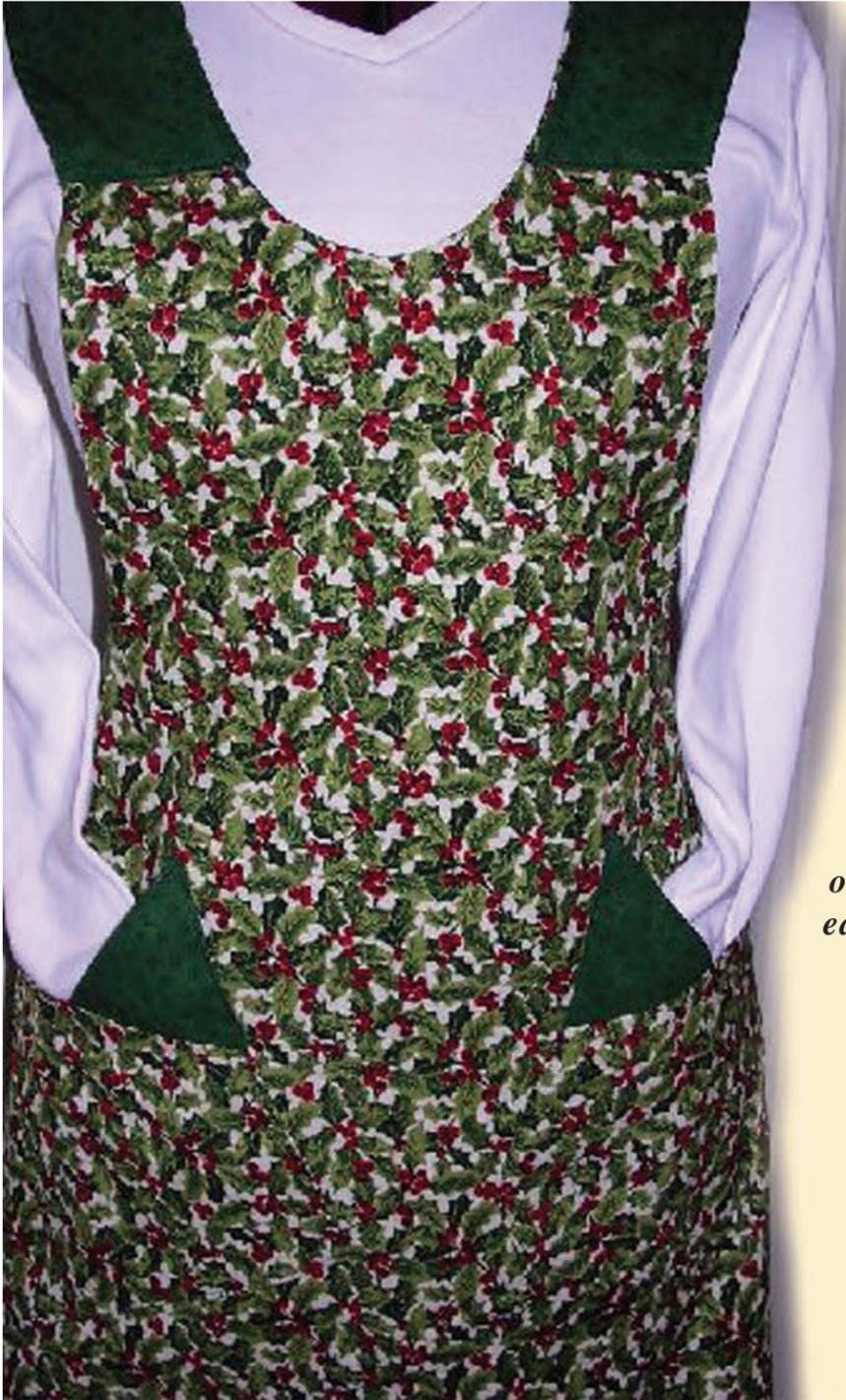
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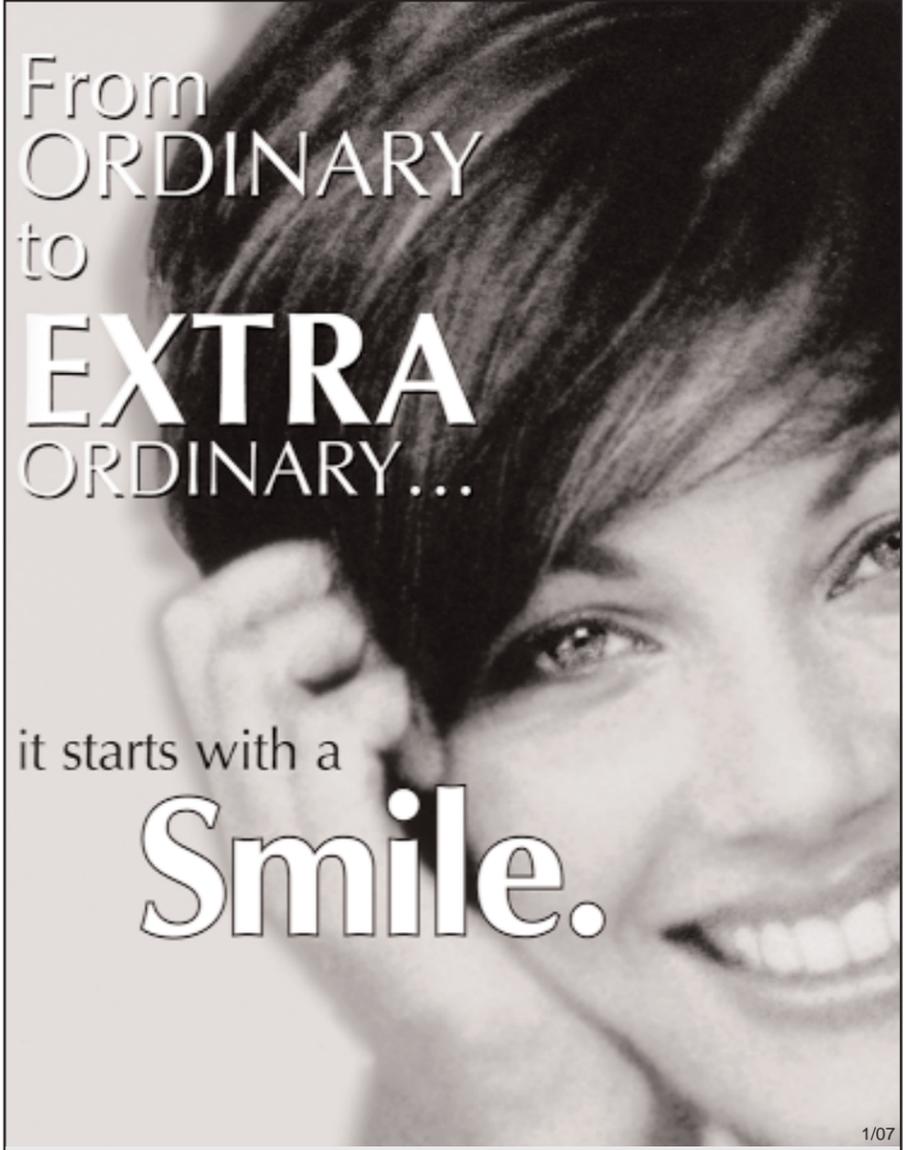
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Make a Friend at Senior Center

By Eleanore Burchell

The Ranchos/Hills Senior Center, located at 37330 Berkshire, would like to start 2007 by thanking the local Ranchos businesses and the community who have supported us this past year with their donations for our raffles, etc. We truly appreciate your help!

Winter brings snow and snow flakes. Do you realize every friend is like a snowflake: unique in beauty and design. Each sparkles in a different way – some are playful, some refined – but unlike fragile snowflakes that fade when the sun appears, friends grow yet more beautiful with every passing year! We would like to extend an invitation and a sincere welcome to anyone who needs a friend to come to the Senior Center and acquaint themselves with us. There are really nice, friendly people here and, like the snowflakes, some funny – some refined.

The next monthly sale will be held on Saturday, Feb. 3, 8 a.m. – noon. This is the perfect time of year to plant trees and shrubs as they absorb the shock of transplanting best when the weather is cool. We would like to encourage you to come in and check out the varieties. Bake, cookbook and boutique sales are found in the main building. The Treasure House will be open and filled with new sale items. New produce is coming daily. As of today, we have lemons, oranges, tangerines and persimmons. We still have pomegranate jelly. We don't want you to lose your habit of coming in to see us so remember the plants and boutique sections are available Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesdays, 6 to 9 p.m. when BINGO starts up again, and Thursday evenings between 6 and 9 p.m.

The January Birthday and Anniversary Luncheon will be held at 1 p.m. at Denny's, corner of Blackstone and Herndon in Fresno, on Jan. 15. Twenty-seven hungry seniors gathered for the December Birthday and Anniversary Celebration on Dec. 1 at Cat's in the Madera Ranchos.

Bring your questions and medications to Karla and Melody of the Madera County Health Department on Wednesday, Jan. 24 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Call 675-7893 to make an appointment with them.

Remember Tuesday BINGO Night will start up again on January 23.

Laughter is a lot of fun, good for your body and soul. If you need someone to laugh with, come join our Thursday evening potlucks with games played afterwards. There is a lot of fun here.

Helpful Hints

To convert a Fahrenheit temperature to a Centigrade do the following: a) subtract 32, b) multiply by 5 and c) divide by 9. To convert Centigrade to Fahrenheit, do the following: a) multiply by 9, b) divide by 5, and c) add 32.

More Facts and Fun

A nutritionally balanced lunch program Monday through Friday 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.

There is still room in the well-attended exercise class on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays, 10:15 – 11:30 a.m. The Line Dancing class will resume on Thursday, January 11 at 1 p.m. This combines fun and exercise. You need not be a member to attend these classes. The attendance has been growing but there is always room for one more – you!

Remember BINGO will soon be held again every Tuesday from 5:30 to 9 p.m.

Up and Coming Events

January 15, 1 p.m. Birthday and Anniversary Celebration, Denny's located on the Northeast corner of Blackstone and Herndon in Fresno

January 24, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Madera Co. Public Health Nurses, call 675-7893 for appointment.

January 25, 6 p.m. Monthly potluck with a soup/stew theme followed with Hand and Foot, Pinochle or other games.

February 3, Monthly sale, 8 a.m. to noon.

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 ???

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

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

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

Wednesday, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. Watercolor Painting Class.

Thursday, 1 p.m. Line Dancing Class.

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

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

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

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Sunday 10 a.m. -- Worship for all ages
11 a.m. -- Sunday School for ages 4 - 12 & nursery 0 - 3
11 a.m. -- Sermon



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Vision Statement

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

Mission Statement

The mission of Golden Valley Unified School District is to provide our students the means to achieve to their highest potential within a caring, secure environment.



Ranchos Middle Schoolers Honored



Travis Brown (left) and Marissa Moreno were honored at a luncheon by the Madera County Child Abuse Prevention Council for overcoming personal obstacles.

Travis Brown and Marissa Moreno were honored on Dec. 7 by the Madera County Child Abuse Prevention Council (MCCAPC) Luncheon. The council requested that the schools in Madera County nominate students who have overcome personal obstacles and whose accomplishments might be overlooked through standard school award ceremonies. Students received a \$50 gift card from Wal-Mart, an achievement award

from MCCAPC and Me-n-Ed's Pizzeria, and were served lunch as well.

Both students were excited and reported to Ranchos Middle School Principal Pinkard that this was the first time that they had ever received an award and were anxious to go shopping.

Dr. Julie O'Kane, former MUSD superintendent, presented the awards. The parents were also invited and attended the awards ceremony.

GVUSD Superintendent Shepherd Thanks the Ranchos Community

We all have dreams and one of mine was to live and work in a coastal area before I retired. When I was asked if I would be interested in the Superintendent's position in Monterey Peninsula Unified School District, needless to say I felt my dream had become a reality. However, the decision to consider the position was not done hastily because I have really enjoyed my work in Golden Valley. I have many regrets in leaving at this time but opportunities do not always come in our timeframes.



Dr. Marilyn Shepherd

The Golden Valley community has been very supportive and truly cares about the education and the future of the children. I continue to be amazed at how the community pulls together to meet the needs of the school district and the students. While it hasn't always been easy, it has been rewarding to work with such a great staff as we have overcome the challenges together for the benefit of the students. The District is flourishing and has an exciting future. I am very proud of the District staff and the accomplishments we have achieved together over the past three and a half years.

To ensure that the District continues to progress the Board of Trustees moved swiftly to hire an Interim Superintendent. After interviewing several candidates the Board selected Mrs. Violet (Vi) Chuck as the Interim Superintendent. She is very excited to serve in this role. Her experience and strong leadership qualities will be a real asset to Golden Valley during this time while the Board searches for the next Superintendent. The Board will be selecting an executive search firm in February to recruit the next Superintendent of Golden Valley. Mrs. Chuck has already been in the District and we have developed a transition plan to work together through Feb. 2, my last day in Golden Valley.

Our family will be maintaining a home in Fresno for several years until my husband retires and we will be commuting between the coast and valley. I have made many life long friends among the staff and community and I will continue to be in touch with you.

I feel fortunate to have served as Superintendent of Golden Valley Unified School District. Thank you for the opportunity to be part of your community and work with your children. It has been an honor and a privilege.

Sierra View Elementary is Happening!

Sierra View Elementary School is a happening, vibrant, hardworking and exciting place to be! Sierra View teachers and students have been very busy this past trimester. The annual Christmas Program, a 3rd and 2nd Grade Field Trip to the Discovery Center, The Jog-a-Thon, the 5th Grade field trip to the Challenger Aviation Center, Santa's Workshop, the 1st Grade Grandparents' Celebration, the 3rd grade classroom productions, Donuts with Dad, science activities, a 4th grade Field Trip to Sacramento on the Amtrak Train, Red Ribbon Day Celebrations,



Sierra View Principal Scott Tefft gets a light trim at the hands of students for hitting a Jog-a-Thon goal.

a Halloween Parade, Monthly Upper Grade Character Counts Rallies, a Kindergarten Circus, art projects and giving the Principal a haircut for reaching Jog-a-Thon goals are just a few of the awesome events that have taken place at Sierra View.

We are very excited about Sierra View's improved test scores and improved API! We are so proud of our hardworking Panthers!



Donuts with Dad was also a big hit with the kids (and with the dads too!).

Interim Superintendent Greet's Ranchos



Violet Chuck

A native of Southern California, I was educated in the Los Angeles Unified Public School system from kindergarten through to the twelfth grade and graduated from University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) with a Bachelor of Science Degree and teaching credential. My first teaching assignment was in a third/fourth combination class at Loyola Elementary School in west Los Angeles. I have always had the desire to teach school, I thoroughly enjoyed the initial years of my teaching career.

I moved to the Central Valley with my husband and raised three children in this area and they have since left the central valley.

My career in education spans 36 years of a rewarding experience and an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of children. After staying home for a couple of years, I felt the need to return to teaching, so I started with a part-time teaching position in a small rural elementary school district. This was a half-day kindergarten class and the following year I went full time and taught additional periods of eighth grade classes. I soon became a resource teacher for students with difficulty in mastering the English language and fluent reading skills. Analyzing assessment data for individualized instruction for these students resulted in success in these cases.

After obtaining a Masters Degree from California State University, Fresno, along with my Administrative Credential, I served several years as an elementary principal in Firebaugh USD and after the district's unification, as an interim high school principal. I moved on to be the Coordinator of Special Projects overseeing all state and federal categorical programs and later became the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction responsible for the K-12 curriculum. Interspersed along the way, I had the opportunity to learn the business of school financing and eventual-

Please see **CHUCK** on P. 14

GOLDEN VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



Liberty Boys Basketball Busy Over Winter Break

By Tyler A. Takeda

The Liberty Hawk varsity boys basketball team was one of the busiest teams over the winter break. Heading into the break and coming out of the break, the Hawks played 13 games and compiled an impressive 9-4 record with a second and third place finish in tournaments. The Hawks advanced to the Championship game of the South San Francisco Tournament and lost to Hillsdale 68-52. Cameron Crump averaged 17 point per game and Chris Norman averaged 16.6 points per game and both were named to the All-Tournament team.

At the Hawks Classic, played before the winter break, the Hawks advanced to



the third place game with a 2-1 record. They captured the third place title when Norman drained a three-pointer as the buzzer sounded for a 39-38 win over Division 2 Redwood. Sophomore point guard Will Lee was named to the All-

Tourney team. The Hawks won their pool at the CVC Tournament with three straight wins. However, they lost to host CVC 70-56 in the quarterfinals. Norman, who averaged 20 points per game, was named to the All-Tourney team.

Coming out of the break, the Hawks defeated Mendota 63-57 behind three players with double-figure scoring. Norman led the Hawks with 18 points and Crump added 12. Chris Gonzales recorded a double-double with 13 points and 10 rebounds. The Hawks most recently defeated the undermanned Tranquility Tigers 75-32. Every player scored in the game led by Crump's 17. Norman added 13 while Jeff Avedesian and Gonzales scored 10 points. Mitch Kohergen added nine for the Hawks.

LHS Wrestlers Working for League Repeat



Team captains Matt Escarcega, Garrett Vanni, Nolan Doss and Chris Avila are making sure that the Liberty Hawk wrestlers are ready to defend their League Championship. Last year, Vanni was the only Hawk wrestler to advance to the State Championship. This year the Hawks look to improve on those numbers. Vanni is currently ranked fifth in the Central Section in his weight class with a 16-2 record. He recently placed fourth at the Coast Classic in Scotts Valley. Doss is ranked seventh in the Central Section. He placed fifth at the Coast Classic and has a 10-5 record.

The Hawks will now shift their focus on dual meets before hosting the League Championship at Liberty High School Feb. 10.

Liberty High Sports



Girls soccer at Liberty High School has kicked off and the season progresses through February with games on Jan. 26 and 30 and then a final game on Feb. 9 ...



... and Girls basketball is in full swing at Liberty High as the Ladyhawks finish out their season with games on Jan. 25 and 30, and then again Feb. 2, 6, 8, 13 and 15 ...



... while the Boys soccer team keeps up the pressure on its opponents with games on Jan. 26 and 30, and then again Feb. 2, 6 and 9. For more details call Liberty High at 645-3500.



Student Leaders at Webster

Webster Elementary School is starting a Student Leadership Team. The team will consist of one classroom representative from each class in third to sixth grades. From these representatives a Pres-ident, Vice Pres-ident and other positions will be elected.

The Leadership Team will mainly have the responsibility of developing and running student activities at Webster. These activities will be competitive in nature, by having classrooms compete against each other from the first grade class-



A group of young leaders get ready to take the reins of responsibility for all of the student activities at Webster Elementary.

es to the sixth grade classes. The events will be held during the morning and lunch recesses. The Leadership Team will also be involved in reporting to the School Board, reporting to the Webster Parent Teacher Club and helping with events in the future, such as Webster's annual carnival. The Leadership Team is directed by Mr. Hammack and is funded by Webster Parent Teacher Club. We are looking forward to some fun events and competitive games. Go Wolverines!

Independence High School Students Spread Cheer at Children's Hospital

Children's Hospital patients were the recipients of huge envelopes full of games, crafts and activity sheets that were created by Independence High School students. The Independence High School visit was in conjunction with a performance of holiday music by the Children's Musical Theater Works of Fresno and was planned to raise the spirits of hospital patients and staff for the holiday season. Many patients were able to come out of their hospital rooms for the performance and visit where they were greeted by Independence students.



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CHUCK con't. from P. 13

ly served my last ten years in the Firebaugh-Las Deltas Unified School District as the District Superintendent.

Upon retirement from the public school system, two educators and I formed a non-profit organization, Educare Services, Inc., to provide state subsidized preschool programs to families in the central valley who cannot afford to enroll their children in quality fee-based preschools. Our organization now operates ten preschool sites in Fresno and Kings County. Our goal is to give young children the foundation they need to develop a lifetime of learning in an enjoyable, nurturing educational environment. This is the zenith of my lifetime's endeavor to support the community and serve its children.

In fall of 2002, I was recruited by the director of CSBA Executive Search Services to join their team as a consultant for school districts in their search for superintendents.

During the last two years, I have joined Springboard Schools as an external consultant to school districts in the Central Valley to assist in raising student achievement. It is a challenging mission, however, it is extremely rewarding when students succeed.

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Radanovich's Wife Recovering From Ovarian Cancer Surgery

On Thursday, Jan. 11, Congressman George Radanovich's wife, Ethie, was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. She underwent surgery on Friday, Jan. 12, at Washington Hospital Center in Washington, D.C., and is now recuperating.

"As one might expect, Congressman Radanovich has focused his full attention on his family over the past several days," said Ted Maness, Chief of Staff to Congressman Radanovich. "Anyone who knows the Congressman knows how strongly he feels about the importance of family, and his family obviously is his top priority during this difficult time. As a result, the Congressman missed some floor votes. He has resumed a limited work schedule, but much of his attention will continue to be focused on helping Ethie during her recovery."

Maness further stated that Congressman Radanovich and his family were dealing with a health issue that, unfortunately, many other families throughout the country are also dealing.

"Congressman Radanovich under-

stands his position as a public figure, but he respectfully requests that he and his family be allowed to deal with this situation in a private manner," Maness said. He added that Radanovich thanks his friends and supporters for keeping Ethie and the Radanovich family in their thoughts and prayers.

The National Ovarian Cancer Coalition estimates that one woman in 58 will develop ovarian cancer during her lifetime, and the American Cancer Society estimates that there are some 20,180 new cases of ovarian cancer diagnosed each year. Because of those alarming statistics, the Congressman is urging women to talk to their doctors about ovarian cancer, particularly because its symptoms are subtle and hard to pinpoint.

For more information on ovarian and other forms of cancer, Congressman Radanovich urges people to visit the American Cancer Society's website at www.cancer.org or the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition's website at www.ovarian.org.

Ovarian Cancer Symptoms

Survival rates for ovarian cancer are significantly increased when diagnosed early, yet it is difficult to diagnose because it often has mild or no symptoms during this period. Also, routine gynecological examinations and Pap smears cannot diagnose this disease.

The most common symptom is back pain, sometimes accompanied by:

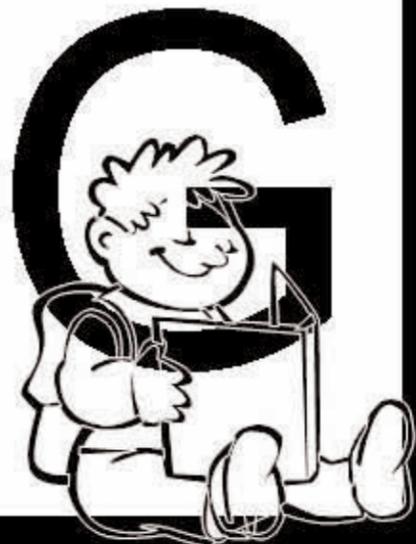
- Fatigue
- Bloating
- Constipation
- Abdominal pain

• Urgent need to urinate
In more advanced stages symptoms may include:

• Swelling of the abdomen for a prolonged period (due to fluid accumulation or a mass)

- Abdominal cramping
- Abnormal vaginal bleeding
- Leg pain

It is important to note that many of these symptoms can be caused by other, less serious disorders, so contact your gynecologist if you are having these or other symptoms.



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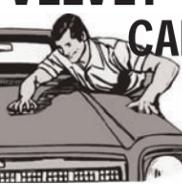
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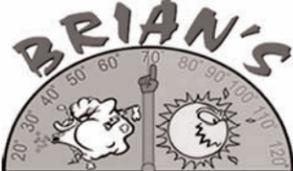
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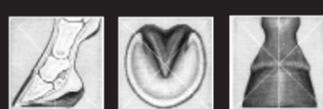


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**5 Bed
3 Ba.
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17194 Mark Road

Beautiful brand new home on 2.25 acres zoned for horses. Vaulted ceilings, fireplace, double door entry, vinyl windows and more. Open floor plan with great room, dining room and huge kitchen. Master suite has two huge closets and a spa tub in bath. Covered rear patio and front porch. Large 3-car garage. MUST SEE!



**3 Bed
2 Ba.
\$459,000**

12336 Waverly

Beautiful park-like yard makes this home a showcase. Just updated kitchen features porcelain counters and floors, maple cabinets and lots of storage. Living and family rooms as well as eating area in kitchen and larger dining area. Master suite features French doors to back yard and tons of decorator charm. Sheds, RV parking and mature landscaping.



**4 Bed
3 Ba.
\$429,000**

36027 Ruth

New custom near Liberty High on 1.25 acres. Features an open great room with vaulted ceilings and spacious kitchen with a breakfast bar. An isolated bedroom and bathroom are perfect for guests. Master suite has two closets and Jack & Jill bathrooms between bedrooms. There's a nice utility room and pantry and a finished 2-car garage.



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



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GREAT PROPERTY/GREAT PRICE - 3 BD/2BA @ 36954 Sparta. RV parking, newer comp roof, freshly painted in/out, security alarm, sprinklers front/back. Many extras. \$299,000.

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For Sale

For Sale - Vance & Hines 2 into 1 perf. exhaust for Yamaha Roadstar \$195 o.b.o. H.D. Lumber rack for long bed \$100. Wanted - Box scraper. Call 645-5848.

For Sale - Horses AQHA Registered horses for sale. Call (559) 645-5290 or (559) 304-5073.

For Sale - Fireplace insert in excellent condition. \$400. Call 645-4178.

For Sale - Dining Room Set - solid cherrywood. Double pedestal table with 2 leaves, 6 chairs, china cabinet, all dove-tailed drawers. Never used. In boxes. Cost \$9k, Sacrifice \$2375. Call 277-2511.

For Sale - 2006 Pool Table. Never used w/accessories, warranty, can deliver. Cost \$4k. Sacrifice \$1,195. Call 559-447-5066.

For Sale - 2006 Hot Tub, never used! Loaded, 33 jets, ozone, waterfall and therapy seats, Brand new! Cost \$7,600. Sacrifice \$3,475. Call 559-360-9047.

For Sale -7 pc. Bedroom Set. Solid cherry wood, sleigh bed, nightstand, TV armoire, chest. All dovetail, Ethan Allen quality. New in box. Cost \$8k. Sacrifice \$1,875. Call 559-438-0248.

For Sale -1 Brand New Queen Pillow-top mattress/box. Cost \$600, sacrifice \$195. King cost \$295. Never used in plastic-Must Move! Call 559-230-0486.

Gutter Service

The Gutter Doctor specializing in both continuous and standard rain gutters. Unusual jobs. Air conditioning service also avail. Yearly cleaning. 29 years working in the area. Call 559-822-2759.

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Rancho Handyman - when you need a helping hand then you need the Rancho Handyman. Whether the job is big or small the Handyman can do it all. Call Ohan for estimates. Now available: house painting. Call 645-6924.

Help Wanted

Help Wanted - Looking for in-home help. Will do light housework and help the lady of the house. Call 645-1200.

Help Wanted - Tina's Day Care, where learning is fun! Educational enrichment

program for your pre-schooler has a full time opening. Call 645-0834.

Help Wanted - Ranchos Mortgage is now hiring Loan Officers. Experience is preferred, but will train the right person. Call Patty at 645-5219.

Help Wanted - Dental Assistant Needed. Great local dental & orthodontic office seeking the right dental assistant for an awesome practice. Call 645-5320 to set up an interview or drop your resume by Ranchos Dental Care & Orthodontics at 37144 Ave. 12, Suite 104, Madera Ranchos

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Underground utilities installed. Call 645-1500.

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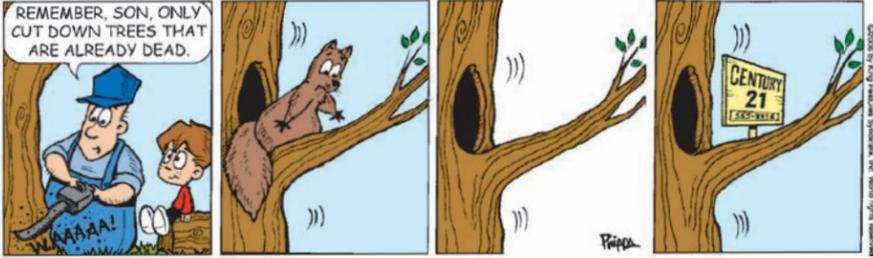
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by Dave T. Phipps



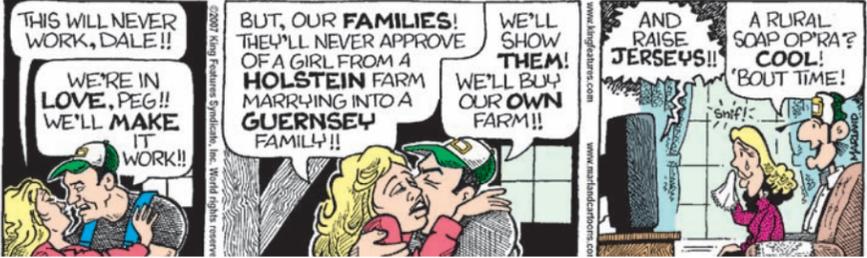
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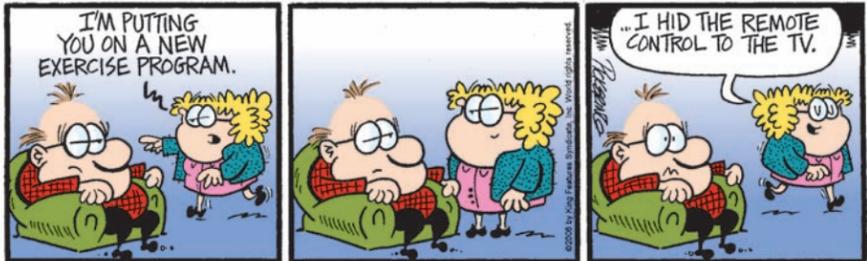
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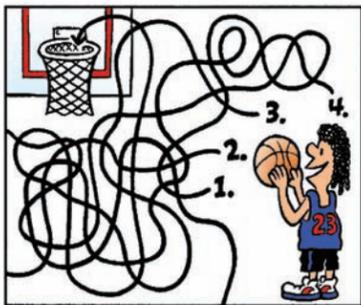


HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIKOFF



FIND AT LEAST 6 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS. Differences: 1. Tie is different. 2. Wall is missing. 3. Belt is shorter. 4. Parts are different. 5. Jacket is different. 6. Tree is moved.



SLAM-DUNK this one on the first try! See if you can guess which is the winning shot.

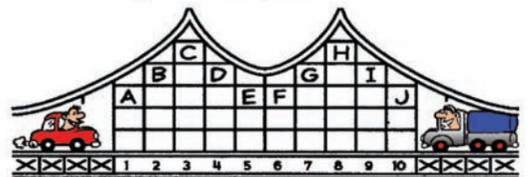
A PIRATE'S GAME! See if you can take the letters in this pirate's call for wagers and use them to spell out two numbers. The letters in RUM BETS NOW can be rearranged to spell out TWO NUMBERS. (Isn't that what we asked for?)

DON'T BE SNOWED IN! At right is a word square. You are challenged to find the four five-letter words that match the definitions below. All words used must read the same both across and down.

1. A pile of snow (DRIFT, in place). 2. One source of news. 3. A work avoider. 4. Feudal estates. 5. Trunk of the human body.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



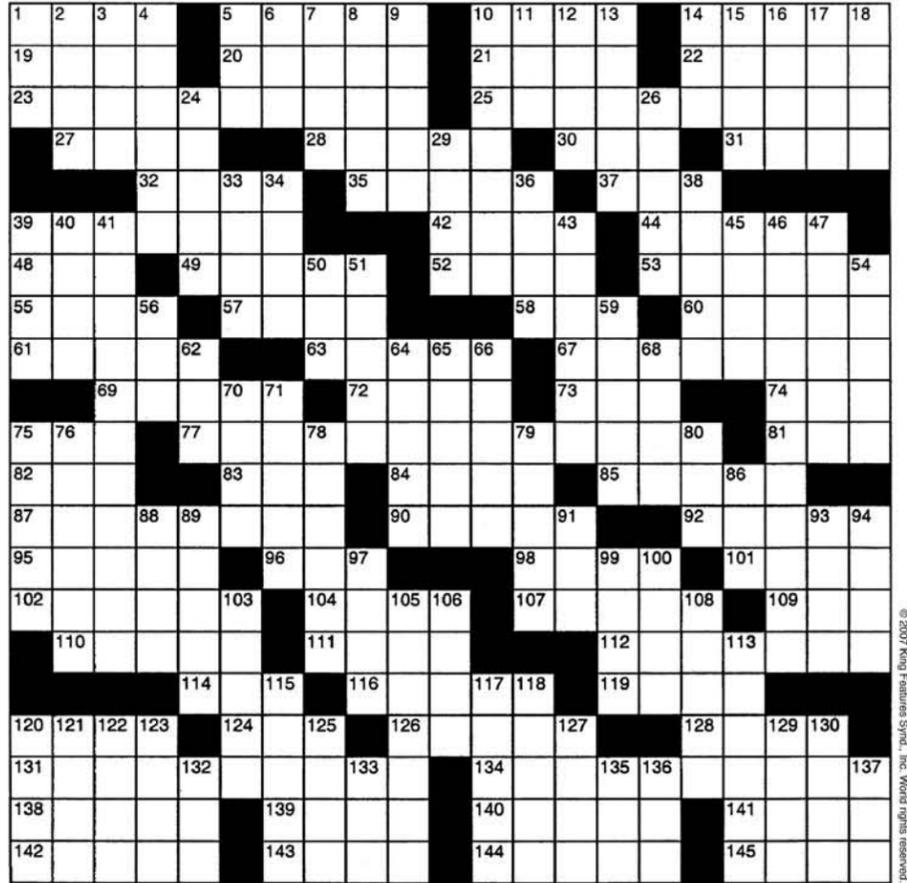
A WORD BRIDGE! The bridge above contains 10 supporting words. We give you the first letter of each word plus plenty of hints:

1. An axlike tool.
2. Modern unit of speed.
3. Criminal plan.
4. Speaker's platform.
5. Recede.
6. Mediterranean hat.
7. Valley.
8. Absence without permission.
9. Irritates.
10. Type of dance.

1. Aft. 2. Band. 3. Capet. 4. Dais. 5. Ebb. 6. Fez. 7. Glen. 8. Hooky. 9. Hks. 10. Jig.

Super Crossword RHYME TIME

- ACROSS**
- 1 Covenant
 - 5 Come out of one's shell
 - 10 King or queen
 - 14 Tracking tool
 - 19 "— patriae"
 - 20 Moscow's locale
 - 21 Clarinet kin
 - 22 Cover story?
 - 23 Deception
 - 25 Gibberish
 - 27 Detergent target
 - 28 Roman fountain
 - 30 British bar
 - 31 Nut part
 - 32 Achy
 - 35 Civil Rights org.
 - 37 Baseball's Kluszewski
 - 39 "Moby-Dick" narrator
 - 42 Canvas cover
 - 44 Some are deviated
 - 48 — -Locka, FL
 - 49 Equine exclamation
 - 52 — gin fizz
 - 53 Sufficient
 - 55 Actress Reid
 - 57 Misplace
 - 58 Vane letters
 - 60 Ring championship
 - 61 Caribbean isle
 - 63 Song-writers' org.
 - 67 Idol's perch
 - 69 Stiller's partner
 - 72 Mediocre
 - 73 Mohammed
 - 74 Rage
 - 75 Firms: abbr.
 - 77 Disorderly
 - 81 Marsh
 - 82 Circle section
 - 83 Damage
 - 84 Ibsen's "— Gynt"
 - 85 Flight segment
 - 87 Migration
 - 90 Remove varnish
 - 92 — stop
 - 95 Less available
 - 96 Pie ingredient?
 - 98 Holler
 - 101 Kenton or Getz
 - 102 Hardened
 - 104 "— Indigo" ('31 song)
 - 107 Sign of spring
 - 109 Golfer's gadget
 - 110 Islamic ruler
 - 111 Singer
 - 112 Climb a trellis
 - 114 "Uh-uh!"
 - 116 Extra
 - 119 Jim Morrison, for one
 - 120 Lost
 - 124 Tiny
 - 126 Peter of "Casa-blanca"
 - 128 Arizona city
 - 131 Disorganized
 - 134 Weak
 - 138 Spout like Cicero
 - 139 Close noisily
 - 140 Richard's veep
 - 141 Austin or Garr
 - 142 "The — Drop Kid" ('51 film)
 - 143 Use the VCR
 - 144 Rocky Mountain range
 - 145 Pile
 - 3 Fashion's Chanel
 - 4 Platitude
 - 5 Cool
 - 6 Fuss and feathers
 - 7 Savoir-faire
 - 8 Make butter
 - 9 Biblical book
 - 10 Amusing
 - 11 — Dhabi
 - 12 Frolic
 - 13 Premiere
 - 14 Scott's "The — Quartet"
 - 15 Grad
 - 16 — novel
 - 17 Eban of Israel
 - 18 Disturbance
 - 24 Ashcan artist John
 - 26 Too heavy
 - 29 Puncteons
 - 33 Rod's companion
 - 34 Designer Fiorucci
 - 36 Freighter front
 - 38 AI — (cooking term)
 - 39 It comes before kappa
 - 40 Practice punching
 - 41 Reckless
 - 43 Foreign correspondent?
 - 45 "Petits —"
 - 46 Kind of confection
 - 47 Blazing
 - 50 Youth org.
 - 51 "Siddhartha" author
 - 54 Soprano Traubel
 - 56 Presidential nickname
 - 59 Ridges
 - 62 Ooh's partner
 - 64 Military unit
 - 65 Selling point
 - 66 Hearth
 - 68 Forgo the fudge
 - 70 San —, Italy
 - 71 Consternation
 - 75 Inner circle
 - 76 Journalist Fallaci
 - 78 Shock
 - 79 Author Jong
 - 80 Prison pariah
 - 86 Taxing org.
 - 88 Withered
 - 89 Act like an egret
 - 91 Norm
 - 93 D-Day site
 - 94 "... my banjo on my —"
 - 97 Mount —, FL
 - 99 Schubert song
 - 100 Carson's successor
 - 103 Haggard
 - 105 Connecticut town
 - 106 Extinct bird
 - 108 "The Bristol —" ('61 hit)
 - 113 Christmas decoration
 - 115 Criminal caper
 - 117 Director Lubitsch
 - 118 Dais covering
 - 120 Way off base?
 - 121 Lassie's father
 - 122 Jack of "Rio Lobo"
 - 123 Choir member
 - 125 Poet
 - 126 Wilcox
 - 127 Give off
 - 129 Hook's mate
 - 130 Steinbeck character
 - 132 Craving
 - 133 Drink like a dachshund
 - 135 Street salutation
 - 136 Hither and —
 - 137 Puppy protest



TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: How long is the Panama Canal?
2. ANATOMY: Which finger on the human hand also is known as the index finger?
3. LANGUAGE: What does the adjective "vulpine" mean?
4. HISTORY: Who was the commander of the ill-fated Challenger space shuttle?
5. TELEVISION: Who was the star of the series "Hogan's Heroes"?
6. TECHNOLOGY: What does the acronym IMAX stand for?
7. MUSIC: Which group released the 1979 album "The Kids Are Alright"?
8. MOVIES: What kind of accent does actor Michael Caine have?
9. LITERARY: Who wrote the children's book "Where the Wild Things Are"?
10. INVENTIONS: Who is credited with inventing the artificial heart?

MAGIC MAZE SUB WORDS



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

- Subclass
- Subdue
- Subfloor
- Sublease
- Submarine
- Submerge
- Submit
- Subscribe
- Subset
- Subsidy
- Subsist
- Subsoil
- Subtitle
- Subvert
- Subzero

Answers

1. About 50 miles
2. The second, or pointer finger
3. Foxlike
4. Francis R. "Dick" Scobee
5. Bob Crane
6. Maximum image
7. The Who
8. Cockney
9. Maurice Sendak
10. Robert Jarvik