

The Ranchos Independent

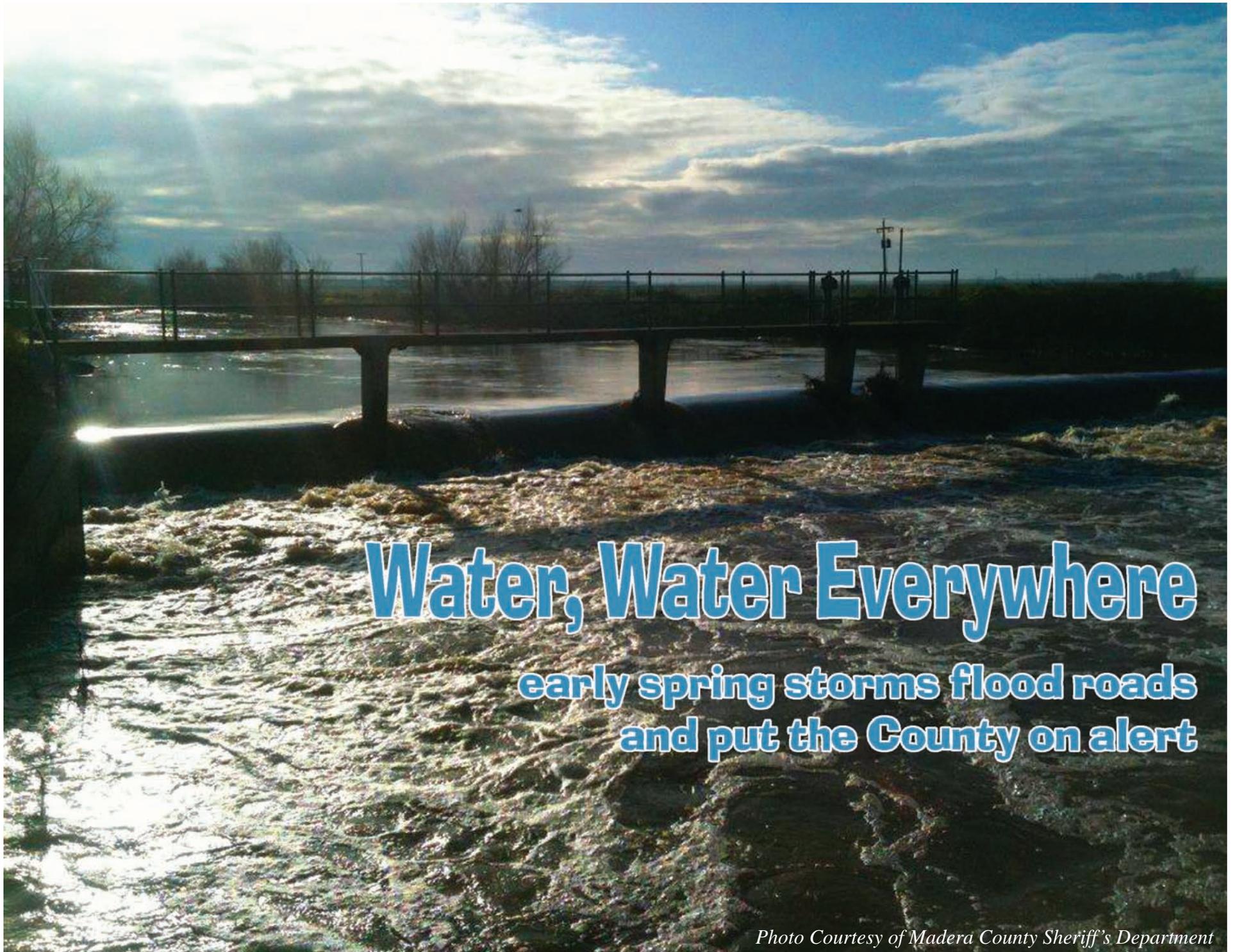


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Volume 7 Issue 3 2011

The Official Publication of Southeastern Madera County

50¢



Water, Water Everywhere

early spring storms flood roads
and put the County on alert

Photo Courtesy of Madera County Sheriff's Department

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Ex Trustee Offers Budget Solution

By Randy Bailey

Former Golden Valley Unified School District Trustee Steven Lewis has proposed a solution to the ongoing budget crisis the District is facing, that has the potential to save jobs and programs at Golden Valley schools.

At present, the solutions being considered entail laying off teachers, eliminating programs and even possibly closing school sites to satisfy a \$2.9 million budget shortfall over the next two years. In an email sent to District trustees and administrators, Lewis suggests that they are possibly considering, "... 'Just make the necessary cuts to meet the budget shortfall, hoping next year will somehow bring relief.' With no budget relief in sight, in another year, you will most likely be faced with another set of cuts that will go deeper than ever."

What Lewis is suggesting is the following: "I suggest an across the board percentage pay cut to EVERYONE for the next two years. The percentage target amount will be left in Jimmy's [Monreal] hand, but I would guess between 5 percent to 10 percent will be necessary. This would take the place of furloughs, layoffs and the cut of programs and site closures. I recommend coming up with two different percentages: One if the state budget does pass and one if not. You will only be

setting yourself up for a battle if you tackle this one year at a time. I would also recommend this percentage cut does NOT become a debt that must be repaid ... that will be too heavy of a financial burden for the district. When funding increases to target levels, then the percentage pay cut can be restored."

Lewis goes further: "At the last board meeting, I heard suggestions of: Eliminate one Assist Sup. Position; close a school site; close down our reading labs; let more teachers go and place more students in each class room; close before/after school programs ... the list goes on and on. These suggestions were not shared by the Board, but it was certainly discussed in the audience. As the discussions goes deeper on what to cut, you will begin to see the lobbying and fighting between staff members and more importantly the community ... all with the focus of what each stakeholder group feels should be cut."

At present the Board is considering an 8 percent cut for one year, which Lewis thinks is not effective. In a second email Lewis said, "An 8 percent cut is only a band-aid. The right move is to make one cut that will remain in place year after year until the state begins to increase the funding to education. This plan would require a percentage cut of 15 percent across the board from ALL employees."

Time will tell.

Ranchos Gospel Musicians Sought

Ranchos Café owner Chuck Rovens-tine is looking for musicians and/or singers to help form a country gospel band.

The group will perform regularly for a weekly non-denominational Cowboy Church Service at the Christian Mission Center on Avenue 12 in the Madera Ranchos. Church services will be one hour long and be held on either Sunday or Wednesday evenings.

Chuck and his wife Sherry own Central Valley Caterers and the Ranchos Café, also on Avenue 12. In 1980, Chuck got out of the restaurant business and hit the road as a country singer. For the next nine and a half years, Chuck toured the West Coast with his band

called "Charlie Red & the Gold Country Express," (he actually had red hair then).

A featured performer at country fairs and concert dates, "Charlie Red" and his band recorded four albums during that time and appeared on several national television shows.

If you are a musician and would be interested in joining this group, have a couple of nights a week to rehearse and enjoy having fun playing good music, please phone

Chuck at 559-917-7875 and chat. He is looking for a lead guitarist, rhythm guitarist, key-

boardist, singers and possibly a fiddle and/or banjo. You don't have to be a cowboy to participate.



When he's not flipping burgers, Chuck Rovens-tine plays a mean bass and can sing like a bird and is looking for others in the Ranchos to do the same.

County Water, Water Everywhere



Eastside Acres, located on the Madera County side of the San Joaquin River east of the City of Firebaugh near Avenue 7, is usually a trickle. Spring rains have pushed it to the limit.

The excessive spring rains have caused flooding and road closures throughout Madera County. At press time on Monday, March 28, the following roads on the Valley floor are officially closed:

Road 10 @ Ave. 24
Ave. 9 between Road 21 & Road 22
Road 25 between Ave. 9 & Ave. 11
Ave. 10 between Road 21 & Road 24 1/2
Ave. 10 1/2 @ Road 23
Ave. 23 1/2 between Road 15 3/4 & Road 15
Road 20 between Ave. 23 & Ave. 23 1/2

Road 10 between Ave. 24 & Ave. 25
Ave. 13 between Road 29 & Road 30

At the same time, there have also been power outages throughout the County, most recently at press time there were 55 outages affecting between 500 to 4999 estimated customers and the cause was unknown and was waiting assessment by PG&E.

Finally, the amount of water being released from Friant dam as of 8 a.m. on Monday, March 28 is clocked at 6,590 cubic feet per second and at Highway 41 the San Joaquin River Water outflow is travelling at 6,700 cubic feet per second.

Rolling Hills AM/PM Robbed

The Madera County Sheriff's Department is investigating an armed robbery that took place Sunday, Feb. 27 at the AM/PM located off Highway 41 and Road 10 1/2 in Rolling Hills.

According to reports, Deputies were dispatched to the store just before 9:30 p.m. Sunday night. Two armed men wearing white masks demanded cash from the clerk and before they left they reportedly stole the ATM machine and vandalized the shop's video surveillance equipment. Both men fled the store taking off in what was described as a full sized red pick-up, heading toward Children's Hospital or possibly Fresno.

The first suspect is described as being Hispanic, standing just over 6 feet tall with a

slim build and wearing a blue button up long sleeve shirt and blue jeans. He also sported a lipstick tattoo on his neck.

The second suspect, also Hispanic, stood just under 6 feet tall, wearing a white, long-sleeved t-shirt and brown gloves.

Both men were reportedly wearing white hockey type masks, similar to the mask worn by "Jason" in the Friday the 13th movie, and black beanies.

Anyone with information about this robbery is asked to call either the Madera County Sheriff's Department at 559-675-7770 or CRIME STOPPERS at 498-STOP. Any anonymous tip to CRIME STOPPERS that can help identify these two men could be worth up to \$1,000.

LHS Senior Wins Madera Art Honors

Liberty High Senior Ariel Sawall's "Through the Animal's Eyes" won Best of Show in the 2011 Youth Art Month show sponsored by the Madera County Art Council. Four local high schools participated with art teachers from Liberty, Madera, Madera South and Minarets high schools submitting approximately 140 examples of student work. Club YES artist teachers judged entries in four categories: drawing, painting, mixed media and three-dimensional. A second work by Sawall, titled "I See It Rising," received a 3rd place award in the mixed media category. All the entries in the Youth Art Month show can be enjoyed through April 4 at the Circle Gallery at 1653 N. Schnoor, #113, Madera, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Friday.

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3/11

Madera Ranchos Library Nominates Bill Cosner for Honorary Mayor

By Ellen Mester

Summer Reading Program

From mid-June to the end of July the Ranchos Library offers children in our community live entertainment, reading incentives and grand prize drawings in one of the most important FREE programs available. Yes! It's the Summer Reading Program! This year it is entitled *One World, Many Stories*. Every year the attendance has grown for our summer programs, and every year we have asked the businesses and organizations to help fund this valuable program because we receive no program funding from Madera County. This year we decided to ask individuals—especially those who have enjoyed the programs in previous years—to help us out with a donation of either time or money. At the kick-off party on June 16 we will need volunteers to run each game station in the library for two hours or more. Then each week we will need volunteers to help check reading logs, award prizes and manage the crowd on the days we have performers. And of course we need funds to pay for performers and prizes. So please contact me at 645-1214 if you can help.

Bill Cosner for Mayor

The Friends of the Ranchos Library have nominated Bill Cosner for Honorary Mayor of the Ranchos as part of the Kiwanis fundraiser for non-profit organizations. Bill is the chairman for the MD-10a water district committee, a long-time resident of the Ranchos and husband of our library assistant Barbara Cosner. Bill works as a sales representative for Golden State Flow Measurements out of El Dorado Hills. Please show your support for Bill by casting dollar votes in his campaign jar at the library. Seventy-five percent of the proceeds will go to the Friends of the Ranchos Library, who purchase all of our books on CD's, our DVD's and currently our new books. The library wouldn't survive without them.

Flatlander's

The spaces are filling up for the Flatlander's Craft Show on May 14. Each 12 foot by 12 foot space sells for \$30 and the proceeds go to the Friends of the Ranchos Library. It's our big fundraiser of the year. Our policy is first come first serve, so stop by the library, fill out an application, pay your fee and get ready for a fun day. If you want to enter a float or vehicle for the Flatlander's Parade, pick up an application at the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce.

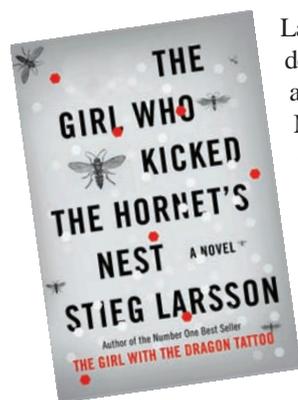
Scheduled Library Events

- Preschool Story Time:** Every Thursday morning at 11 a.m.
- After School Programs:** Every Wednesday at 2 p.m.
- Knitting Group:** Every Monday from 5 to 7 pm.
- Friends of the Ranchos Library:** The first Thursday of the month at 6 p.m.
- Citizen's Advisory Committee:** The last Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m.

The Ranchos Library is located in the Maywood Center on Avenue 12. Call 645-1214 for hours of operation or questions.

Book Recommendations

Adult Fiction: *The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest* by Steig Larsson. In this third book of this best selling trilogy, Lisbeth Salander is seriously wounded, hospital-bound but still fixated on survival and revenge. Those who know her and call her friend, namely Mikael Blomkvist, are poised to reveal the government cover-up of those in the secret branch that allowed heinous and deviant behavior go unpunished not only by Lisbeth's father but by those with whom he came in contact. The continual monitoring by both sides keeps the plot tense and fast-paced with surprises and twists. The main characters are complex yet believable and somehow endearing. The reader wants Lisbeth to be exonerated and justice to be served on



those who have harmed her in so many hurtful ways. But can Mikael and her other friends get the story out before they themselves are harmed? Read the series and find out. It's worth it.

Juvenile Fiction: *Wild Girl* by Patricia Reilly Giff. Twelve-year-old Lidie arrives from Brazil with anxiety and excitement as she reunites with her older brother and her father in Queens, New York. Known as "The Horseman," her father trains thoroughbred race horses while her brother is an up and



coming jockey. It has been several years since they last saw Lidie and therefore don't realize that she has grown up and become an excellent horse woman in her own right. They discover her gift when they purchase a new Philly named Wild Girl and watch how the girl and horse share the uncertainties and angst of growing into the beings they were meant to be. It's a beautiful little story of discovery filled with love and hope.

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

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Schedule of Events

SATURDAY, APRIL 16
MAYOR'S CRAFT FAIR
Ranchos Market 8am-1pm
Come meet the candidates and enjoy... ENTERTAINMENT FOOD, FUN, CRAFTS, COMMUNITY INFORMATION BOOTHS
FREE KIDS GAMES AND CRAFTS
FACE PAINTING
Lowe's Craft Area • Ring Toss • Bean Bag Toss

THURSDAY, MAY 5
THE BIG COUNTDOWN
Pizza Factory 6pm
Kiwanis officials and your representative will COUNT THE VOTES!
Bring bank receipts or cash (no individual checks or credit cards)
(Non-profit checks will be accepted)

SATURDAY, MAY 14
FLATLANDER'S PARADE
10am
Mayor will ride on Kiwanis Float and be honored
Our great mayor will represent Ranchos and the non-profit will be recognized for such outstanding community spirit and fundraising efforts

Madera Ranchos Kiwanis has supported and helped make possible:
• High School & Middle School Scholarships
• Boys Scouts
• Sports Teams
• Football Snack Bar
• Ranchos Military
• Fire St. 19
• MDA Camp
• Special Education
• Community clean up & many more

Join Kiwanis: call 333-1913

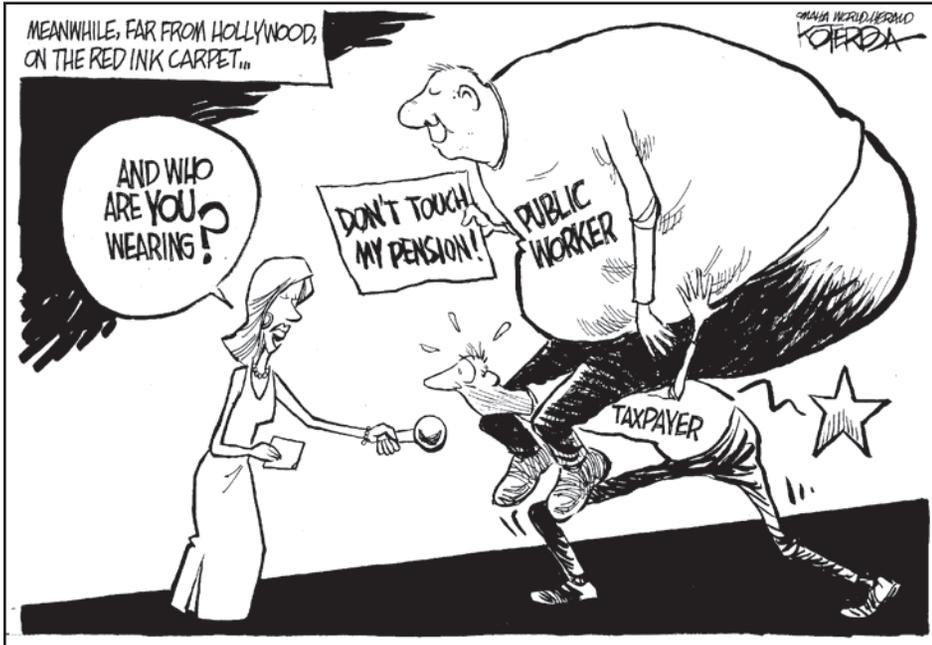
PHOTOS WITH THE EASTER BUNNY - \$5

MAYOR'S PHOTO 11 AM
FREE CONCERT 12-1 PM
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Editorial

Walking the Walk

My Mom, Faye Bailey, passed away on March 8, 2011. I presented the following at her Memorial Service on March 18, 2011 at Faith Community Church of the Nazarene in Clovis, Calif.

By Randy Bailey

Several people have come up to me recently and have expressed their condolences and my family and I are grateful for that. Usually, they follow that up with, "Your Mom was a good woman." That's what I'd like to talk about today.

I want you to understand what kind of a woman Faye Bailey was and understand that calling her a "good woman" is grossly inadequate. It is insufficient on so many levels.

Someone who is nice to her neighbor could be characterized as a "good woman" even though the depth of that goodness could very well cease the moment she turned around and walked back into her house. Someone could be viewed as being a "good woman" if she just made pleasant, non-offensive conversation at the church picnic, only to curse at every car that got in her way during the drive home. Anymore, someone could be confused with being a "good woman" by just talking the talk but I have a question for you: How many of them go that crucial step further and actually "walk the walk"?

Faye Bailey walked the walk.

In my mother's life she was guided

by key elements that can make anyone a great person. But for her, these elements weren't concepts that she slipped on like a pair of slippers whenever it was convenient, or took off whenever it was difficult and didn't quite fit her plans. These elements went to her core and were always tempered with a simple guiding principle: Do the right thing. Oklahoma congressman J.C. Watts said that character is doing the right thing, even when no one is looking. With my Mom, even the most unannounced, unexpected, surprise visit would always yield the same result: Mom doing the right thing. To do otherwise was unfathomable to her. On more than one occasion I would tell her the way the world was doing something and her simple answer was always the same: "Well, it shouldn't be like that."

With this as her foundation, Mom conducted her life with three guiding principles: compassion; forgiveness; and unconditional love.

Mom understood compassion. She felt the deep sympathy and sorrow for anyone stricken by misfortune, but what separated her from those just "talking the talk" was her accompanying strong desire to alleviate that suffering. Usually that meant opening her home to others until they could get back on their feet, and in the extreme it included giving someone who had no place else to go a place where she could live out her final days with peace, dignity and love. To Mom, all she was doing was giving a little of her time and of herself to do the right thing and she couldn't understand why others couldn't easily do the same.

Mahatma Gandhi said, "The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong." Mom's strength came through her forgiveness. In the course of her short life, unbelievable amounts of mental and physical debris were piled upon her delicate shoulders, but through the power of her forgiveness she knocked the wind out of those who would harm her by rendering them impotent. Luke 6:37 was the bedrock of Mom's view of the world. "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven." I'm here to ask you

Please see WALK on P. 21

The Ranchos Independent

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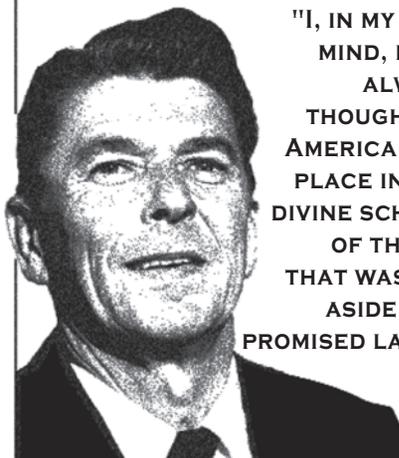
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Always Listen to My Grandma

My Grandma has always been many things to me, the keeper of the Hershey's Kisses, the only woman brave enough to let me play with crystal stemware, and most importantly, the dispenser of infinite pearls of wisdom. She has said many things to me over the years, none more than "Eryn, stop biting your nails," which regrettably never stuck, but the advice I remember most usually had to do with driving skills and road etiquette.

My Grams always took driving very seriously and would constantly tell me she would not have a member of her family driving like an idiot, an old person, or a girl. The last of which always concerned me because I had been under the apparently mistaken impression that she was in fact, a girl. Questionable gender identity aside, as an adult I have come to realize that her motor vehicle advice was not only spot-on, but timeless.

Often I think of my Grams, and her rants from behind the wheel, especially when I am driving down the interstate and suddenly some jerk in an over-sized, clearly over-compensating vehicle merges onto the freeway going about ten miles an hour slower than the rest of us. In between slamming on my brakes and veering into the adjacent lane, I get a flashback of my Grandmother gripping her steering wheel with her jaw locked and teeth clenched, she would always say to me, "Eryn, when you get older and start driving remember, when merging onto the freeway, merge with the flow of traffic!" The last words of which were usually bellowed through the windshield in the direction of the offender that prompted her little tirade in the first place.

For the longest time, I was concerned that this was a rule she had just concocted in her own head, until I began driver's education and found out that Grams wasn't a crazy old lady with a serious case of road rage, on the contrary, she was right again. Drivers are responsible for getting onto the freeway safely, and WITH the flow of traffic. Go figure. Which means, although I will make every effort to merge and allow you room to do the same, you need to hit your gas and get your four-wheeled, gas-guzzling hunk of metal onto the freeway without making the rest of us hit our brakes or swerve out of your way. I am truly stunned by how many ignore that little

GENERATION WHY
by **eryn b. nyre**

guideline all together, living in their own little bubble where they are the center of the universe and everyone around them will just have to find some way to avoid a collision even if it means spontaneously sprouting wings.

Another of my Grandmother's pet peeves was the fast-lane cruiser. I was reminded the other day of her irritation with someone cruising in the fast lane when I pulled up behind such a motorist, cruise control clearly set at the speed limit, just sauntering along while a parade of cars passed by her, horns blowing, inappropriate hand gestures flying, car after car had to change lanes and pass this little twit on the right. Clearly observation was not a gift she possessed, because she didn't seem to notice what had been happening. I fought the urge to pull in front of her and slam on my brakes as visions of how my Grandma might have handled this situation flooded over me, but I figured a five-car pileup certainly wouldn't have improved the traffic situation she had already caused, and so I took the high road and just went around like everyone before me.

I didn't blow my horn though, I think that would have disappointed Grams had she been riding shotgun. Grams used to say to me, "That little circle in the center of your steering wheel is not just to interject a little musical tone to break-up the monotony. Don't just give a toot, lay on that thing when you need to get someone's attention, maybe they need a little jolt to wake them up." My father may have physically taught me to drive, but whenever I am behind the wheel and I encounter a driver that clearly wasn't lucky enough to have a Grams like mine, it's her words I hear and her attitude I channel as I roll down my window and proceed to scream a driving lesson at them while traveling 70 miles per hour, after all, they might not listen to their own Grandmother, but they were certainly going to listen to mine.



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Golden Valley Chamber

2011 Flatlander's Day

Parade Day: Saturday, May 14, 2011 • \$10 Entry Fee

Group Individual Business

Group or Business Name _____

Individual Entry or Responsible Person's Name _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Theme of Entry: _____

Will youngsters walk with the entry? Yes No
Approx. number of participants _____ Approx. length _____ ft.

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

Horses (Single) Horses (Group) Explain: _____

Band/Music Name: _____

Floats (Non-profit) Name: _____

Floats (Business) Name: _____

Floats (Other) Name: _____

Children's Groups Name: _____

Dance Groups Name: _____

Single Entry (Children) Name: _____

Single Entry (Adult) Name: _____

Novelty Name: _____

Additional information: _____

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

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Bring, fax or mail this form by **May 2** to: **Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce**
37167 Ave. 12 Ste. 5C • Madera, CA 93636 • Fax 645-4002 • Call 645-4001

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

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The Stock Report

Seniors' Spring Festival Here April 2

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,
WOW! Great things are happening! Come one, come all to the fantastic annual local Home and Garden Festival over at the Ranchos Hills Senior Center on April 2. This is a great time to start the spring with new plants, flowers and trees for your garden and there will be exciting vendors, good food and lots of smiling faces too. This event starts at 6:30 a.m. Beginning with a biscuits and gravy breakfast, the event ends at 2 p.m. after a full day of events. The boutique, baked goods, jams and jellies and fresh produce will all be sold throughout the day inside of the Senior Center. The center is a good place to start your shopping. Outside in the parking lot you will find our Treasure House which is full of pre-owned treasures; this is where the trees, plants and flowers are located. There will be the Master Gardeners there to answer your gardening questions, The Ranchos Library for books, some Grand Jury people to tell you about their job and "Sparky the Vacuum Cleaner Man." This is just the beginning for there

will be lots of vendors with their specialty items, local businesses and health information for all ages. So come and check us out. The Boy Scouts will be there to carry your purchases to your car. You can park your car over at Hurst Hardware if you can't find a place on the street. There will be Bar B Que lunch available and the local Gun Slinger actors will entertain you. Come on by and say "Hi." I will be around as I am the chairman of this event, so be kind to me. I will probably need your kind words. It is not too late to sign up for a vendor space. You can go to the new www.rhse-niors.org for information or email rhse-niors@att.net or Fax 559-645-4830. Isn't technology wonderful? If you want to talk to a real person you can phone the Senior Center at 559-645-4864.

The next exciting thing that is happening in the Ranchos is the race between the 10 non-profit organizations to become the Honorary Mayor of the Ran-

chos. The Ranchos Kiwanis Club is sponsoring the race this year. Every vote will cost \$1 per vote for the candidate of your choice. There will be a sign-up booth to sign-up your candidate at the Home and Garden Festival. For every dollar that is collected 75 cents will stay with the non-profit organization and 25 cents will go to the Ranchos Kiwanis for their projects for children. If you see me walking around with my red mayor's cap, you can slip me a dollar for the Ranchos Hills Seniors.

The local Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce had another successful Crab Feed. It is so important that we support our local organizations and businesses. The local Chamber of Commerce sponsors the community Flatlanders Parade. This parade really showcases different children organizations, adult businesses,

churches, schools and more. If you want to be a part of the parade all you have to do is to go to the Chamber of Commerce office, pay your \$10 and fill out the form. The parade will be on May 14 this year.

You have probably heard about our legislature in Sacramento that's still trying to figure out how to balance

the California budget. California's finances have been out of control for years and all of us are paying the price now. If our legislature can't agree to get the tax extension measure on the ballot for a special election, California will be in an even worse shape. We are already paying these taxes. The measure is not asking for more taxes, just to extend the time that we will continue paying the same taxes we are paying now. For the last three school years school districts have been cutting back, cutting out and letting people go so that the district can balance their budget. Our school district is already cut to the bone and if this tax extension isn't passed, all school districts will have to make deep cuts that will affect children. Children can't vote but their parents and their teachers can vote. Don't be shortsighted and make our children pay for the mistakes of the political adults in Sacramento.

Come one, come all to the fantastic annual local Home and Garden Festival over at the Ranchos Hills Senior Center on April 2. This is a great time to start the spring with new plants, flowers and trees for your garden and there will be exciting vendors, good food and lots of smiling faces too.

Happy Easter

Before I start my article this month I want to take the opportunity to thank everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy for our loss last week with the passing of my sister, Randy's mom, Faye Bailey. The people that came into the office, who called and the beautiful cards I received all meant so much. Thank you!

Jean

Since Easter is my favorite holiday of the year, either Christian or secular, I couldn't let it slide by without writing about it. We celebrate Easter Sunday because Jesus was crucified for our sins (John 3:16) died on the cross on Friday, was buried and rose from death on Sunday (Mark 16:6). The resurrection of Jesus Christ is one of the fundamental principles and beliefs of Christianity. It's why we say, "Christ is Risen - He is Risen Indeed!"

Egg Dying Time

In our families, Saturday before Easter is egg dying day. Each family with children begins with two or three dozen eggs but don't always end up with that many. There are the one or two eggs that crack during the boiling, and invariably there are always the ones that "accidentally" hit the floor.

On Easter Sunday when we get home from church, there is always egg hunts for the kids - seems like every year there is one egg that just can't be found (until about July). Eggs are a traditional symbol of new life. According to the book *Festivals and Celebrations* by Rowland Purton, eggs were dyed in ancient times by the Egyptians and Persians who exchanged them with their friends. "It was in Mesopotamia that Christians first gave eggs to their friends at Easter to remind them of the resurrection of Jesus," Purton wrote.



by Jean Briner

Our Easter Feast is real simple - Baked Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, green beans, green salad, rolls and desserts. Oh, and deviled eggs. NOT the ones that were up in a tree, behind a lawn chair or stepped on a couple of times earlier that day.

I start the eggs (I usually boil about two or three dozen) in cold water, and after they start boiling, turn the fire down and cook at a light boil for about 10 minutes. After the 10 minutes I usually test one to make sure it is done then IMMEDIATELY drain the hot water into the sink and turn the cold water onto the eggs. I let the cold water run on the eggs until you can pick up an egg easily then crack and peel them, leaving them whole. I have found this method the easiest to peel the egg without tearing it up. I have read of other methods but this one works best for me - if you have a method you have used, then by

all means use it. After you have peeled them and they have cooled enough that you can handle them, cut them in half from top to bottom with a sharp paring knife, putting the yolks into a bowl and the whites on a flat surface. I have a Tupperware cake saver that I use. If you

aren't going to finish deviling them at this point be sure to put them in the refrigerator.

When the eggs have been separated, put the whites in the fridge until you have the yolks ready. All I do is smash the yolks with a fork until they are kind of like corn meal. Add enough mayonnaise or Miracle Whip (I prefer Miracle Whip for most things, but in these eggs, I use half mayonnaise and half Miracle Whip) to make them moist, but not runny. If you aren't used to doing this, start

My favorite Easter Hymn is Christ Arose! I get goose bumps when the chorus is sung, "Up from the grave he arose, with a mighty triumph o'er His foes, He arose a Victor from the dark domain, and He lives forever, with His saints to reign. He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!"
Have a blessed Easter.

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 9

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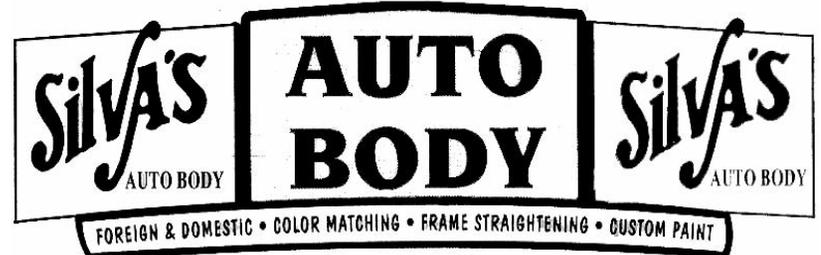
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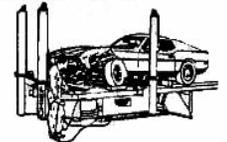


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3/11

RECIPE cont. from P. 8

with only a couple of tablespoons, and add a little at a time until you get the consistency you want. Add a squirt of mustard (not too much) and salt and pepper to taste. Last year I added just a couple of tablespoons of sweet pickle juice. After you have the yolks tasting the way you want, put them in the whites and refrigerate until ready to serve. I use a teaspoon to fill my whites, but a pastry bag with a pretty tip would make them more festive.

The Easter Ham

As far as the ham goes, I think everyone has their favorite glaze – and some people don't like any – but it is entirely whatever your family prefers. We drain the juice from a can of pineapple chunks into a bowl; add enough brown sugar to make a paste – not real thick – and a squirt of mustard. When the ham is almost done (about 30 minutes before it is ready) take it out of the oven and score the outside (not real deep) in diamond shapes. With toothpicks put the pineapple chunks on the ham and spoon the juice mixture over that. Put back in the oven until it is done.

When it comes to the potatoes we really cheat here! We have found that the boxed ones are good, and a lot less trouble. With our gang, usually between 15 and 20, we usually use 10 to 12 boxes. Can you imagine

peeling that many potatoes? You'd feel like you were on KP duty in the Army. We use about four disposable aluminum baking pans, cooking two pans at a time.

The balance of the meal is simple, and just whatever your family likes.

Like so many of our meals (we have seven households coming together) there are always a lot of desserts. My sister usually makes a coconut cake, I make a pineapple upside down cake (probably won't this year as my oven is on the fritz, and doubt if I can get it replaced before Easter), Adam will bring a couple of his apple pies and there will probably be a banana pudding (I can remember my grandma always made one for Thanksgiving dinner. But she made real pudding, not the boxed ones we use today).

I'm looking forward to more recipes from the Ranchos', Rolling Hills' or Bonnadelle's good cooks. Or how about kids? I'd love to do an article on kids' favorite foods – anything from hot dogs to s'mores.

An Easter Favorite

My favorite Easter Hymn is *Christ Arose!* I get goose bumps when the chorus is sung, "Up from the grave he arose, with a mighty triumph o'er His foes, He arose a Victor from the dark domain, and He lives forever, with His saints to reign. He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!"

Have a blessed Easter.

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Madera Community Hospital Foundation



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Kiwanis Korner

Ranchos "Mayor" is Kiwanis Brainchild, Community Fundraiser

By Carla Hart

"Kiwanis International is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time."

The Ranchos Kiwanis has many exciting fundraising events coming up in the months ahead, namely the Ran-chos Honorary Mayor's Race kicking off April 2 at the Ranchos/Hills Seniors Home & Garden show. The race is open to all nonprofit organizations in the community and welcomes candidates of all ages. Votes cost \$1 each and the one with the most votes wins, so there's no limit to how many "votes" you can cast. Twenty-five per-cent of the proceeds go to the Kiwanis Club and we, in turn, give those dollars right back to the community. Seventy-five percent of the proceeds go to the nonprofits. In February, \$1,700 has gone out to our youth in the community. If you are interested in participating in the Mayor's Race, contact Kiwanis President Mona Diaz at 333-1913 or Debbie Farr at 259-3325 for all the details.

Yours truly is the Kiwanis nominee for Honorary Mayor of the Ranchos so feel free to

buy lots of votes! Drop your money into my cute little bird houses at your favorite Ranchos establishment and remember that every dollar you donate to the Ranchos Kiwanis goes back to the kids in our community. Voter donation boxes are set up at Trophies, Gifts & Awards by Hart Photography, Beauty Club, Crafter's Cove, S&K Market, Pizza Factory, and Ranchos Market. You can also vote by check or money order made out to Ranchos Kiwanis at PO Box 37221 Ave 12 Suite #1C-29, Madera CA 93636. Please indicate "Vote for Carla" on the check. Donations will also be accepted at the kickoff on April 2 and the Mayor's Craft Fair on April 16 at the Ranchos Market parking lot. Votes are counted by the Kiwanis and nonprofits together on May 5. The winner will be announced during the Flatlander's Day Parade.

Kiwanis' first public service of the year began with the E-Waste recycling event the weekend of February 12-13. Thanks to your donations, we filled two semi trailers with electronics. Thank you Frank Panian and the Cadet Corp; Bruce Blair and his Boy Scout troop; and Mr. Tim Hayes and the kids of LHS Virtual Enterprise for your hard work. The money raised will ultimately be used for any special needs of

these organizations. We would also like to thank David Hill & Ethel Pronin for the use of the Ranchos Market parking lot, Mona and Charles Diaz of Diaz Trucking for providing the trailers and equipment, Hal and Maryann Parks of Pizza Facto-ry, parents and Kiwanians who worked the event, and those who gave cash donations.

Fundraising can be very serious business but somehow we Kiwanians always manage to have some fun in be-tween events. On February 13, General Dale Lucas hosted his 2nd Annual Valentine's Day party extraordinaire, arranging for a wonderful, catered dinner and providing us with entertainment "Viva Las Vegas" style. Elvis impersonator, Jeremy Pierce, got us all shook up after dinner when he sang all the King's greatest hits. He even handed out a few satin scarves to the ladies. Thank you, Dale. It was a magical evening. Your tremendous gene-rosity and enormous heart has touched us all. A big thank you also goes out to the Wildwood Mobile Home park for the use of their club house.

On Feb. 14 two of our members, Virginia Vick and Ollia Ridge both lost a loved one, Mervyn Vick, to a sudden illness. Our heartfelt condolences go out to these two wonderful ladies

and their families. Thank you to those members who were able to attend the services and lend a hand to the family in their time of need.

The Ranchos Kiwanis meets the first Thursday of every month at 6:45 a.m. at Alfresco Coffee and each Thursday thereafter at 6:45 p.m. at the Ranchos Pizza Factory. If you are interested in having fun while giving back to the community contact President, Mona Diaz at 333-1913.

www.ranchoskiwanis.com

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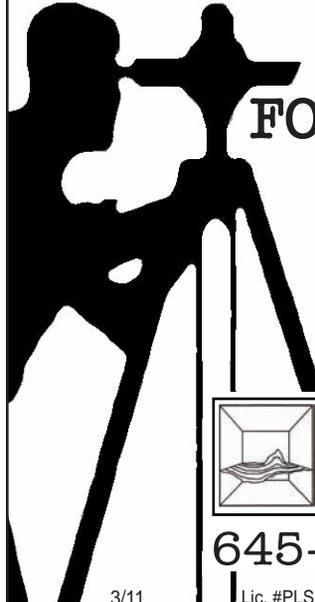
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In Memoriam

Faye Bailey

September 2, 1936 - March 8, 2011



Dorland Faye Bailey, known as Faye to everyone, was welcomed by the waiting arms of Jesus on Tuesday, March 8, 2011. She was 74 years old.

Faye was born in Chowchilla, Calif. on Sept. 2, 1936 to Gladys and Orville Briner. She lived in Chowchilla until the war years when the family moved to San Francisco where her dad worked as a welder in the shipyards. After the war, she moved with her family back to Chowchilla and lived on the family's farm until 1946 when they moved to the family's home at Third and Alameda. Faye attended local schools and graduated from Chowchilla High in 1954.

In 1955 she married James C. "Jim" Bailey and over the next 10 years had five sons: Randy, Barry, Craig, Steve and Adam. In 1964 Faye, Jim and her boys moved to Montclair, Calif. where she was primarily a mom and homemaker. In the 1970s she began working for the San Bernardino County court system and retired over 21 years later as Courtroom Clerk Supervi-

sor. She also continued her education and received her Associate Degree from Chaffey Community College in 1981. After her retirement, Faye returned to the Central Valley and moved to Clovis, Calif. in 1998. Faye divorced in 1978 and never remarried.

Faye loved reading, music and doing puzzles, ranging from crosswords to the daily Sudoku and Jumble. She loved Faith Community Church of the Nazarene in Clovis, Calif., but more than anything she loved her boys, her grandkids and her sisters and brothers.

Faye was preceded in death by her mother and father, and by her brother, Lloyd Briner. She is survived by her sisters Maxine Briner of Fresno, Calif.; Jean Briner of Clovis; and brother George Briner and his wife Jorene of Fresno. She is also survived by her son Randy Bailey and his wife Vicki of the Madera Ranchos, Calif. and their three daughters Rachael, Lauren and Carolyn; son Barry Bailey and his wife Brenda of Los Lunas,

N.M. and their daughter Eryn; son Craig Bailey and his wife Lucy of Fontana, Calif. and their children Brooke and Brandon; son Steve Bailey and his wife Lisa of Clovis and their children Savanna and Austin; and son Adam Bailey and his wife Lori of the Madera Ranchos and his children Jessica and Joshua. She is also survived by her aunt Alma Moore and cousin Patty Aurelio of Hesperia, Calif., cousin Mike Moore of Southern California and many nieces and nephews as well as great-nieces and nephews.

A public visitation was held at Palm Memorial Worden Chapel in Chowchilla, Calif., on Thursday, March 17, followed by a graveside service at Chowchilla Cemetery on Friday, March 18. A memorial service and reception was held at Faith Community Church of the Nazarene in Clovis, Calif. later that same day.

Any remembrances should be sent to the Faye Bailey Foundation c/o The Ranchos Independent, 37167 Ave. 12 #5C, Madera, CA 93636.

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Times are tough... bills are overwhelming and raising kids is getting harder and harder! How can the story of Easter relate to me...where I'm at NOW?

Join us for Flipside Christian Church's Easter Celebration on Sunday, April 24th @ 10am to find out! It will be a unique Easter Sunday experience that you won't soon forget!

In an effort to help those in our community who are struggling to make ends meet...we are proud to be able to offer the **"Flipside Hope Store"** this Easter Sunday. It's our tangible way of showing God's love and mercy to those who may be asking the question **"what difference does it REALLY make?"** due to an unfortunate situation they find themselves in. We will have bags of non-perishable foods, toiletry items, diapers and other necessities that families may need in these difficult times.

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We encourage you to join us for our Easter Sunday Celebration... and fill up on some spiritual and tangible HOPE!



It Takes a Team

What's wrong with this picture? You walk into a fast-food restaurant and join a long line of people waiting to order while the manager runs from the counter, to the grill, to wipe tables and take drive-through orders. You're thinking, "This place isn't managed well." And yet in many families, the same thing is happening. The person who manages the affairs of the household (often times the mom), is trying to do it all. Newsflash – no one can do it all!

It takes a team. If you're raising a family here in the Ranchos, chances are your kids participate on one or more teams – sports, music, drama, academic, dance, cheer, etc. As responsible parents we make sure they practice, show up on time, come prepared with uniforms and equipment, obey their coaches and give their all for the success of the team. But somehow, when we arrive at home and the sports gear is tossed on the floor, the dirty uniform is left in the bathroom and dinner is expected on the table, the idea of teamwork is often left on the field.

If you think your kids are too busy to contribute at home, they're probably too busy. As parents we need to be working ourselves out of a job. We start with little, helpless babies and the goal is to equip them to someday walk out the door as capable, responsible young men and women. Not only should we desire their success in future occupations, we should be training them for success in their own homes and families. Modeling and expecting family teamwork will go a long way to promote success in every area of your child's life.

There are many facets to family teamwork besides chores, but let's tackle that one first. One of the tools I use in my Family Manager® coaching is called "Who's Responsible for What?" (You can request a copy by emailing me at info@organizedby-choice.com) It breaks down the many duties that keep a household running into departments like Time & Scheduling, Home & Property, Food, Family & Friends, Finances, and Special Events. The list effectively demonstrates that there are more responsibilities than one person can possibly handle effectively and provides a starting point for

distributing duties among the team members. Recognizing that everyone is needed to keep a household running smoothly is the first step toward building teamwork.

If you have a partner, sit down together and determine how the adult duties will be shared. When my husband and I first married we were both working fulltime and living in an apartment. We came from very traditional families and while there wasn't the traditional yard care role for him to play, there was more than plenty cooking, cleaning, and laundry for me to do. It wasn't long before we had a "discussion" and adjusted our roles to correspond to the amount of time we each had to contribute.

Once that is established, move on to determine age-appropriate chores for your children. If you need some help, there are lots of resources on the internet; just search "age appropriate chores." Even little ones can begin putting away their clean clothes and older ones can help with laundry, general cleaning, meal preparation and clean up. Create a chore chart (www.mykimbo.com, www.chorecharts.com) so that everyone can clearly see what's expected of them.

If assigned chores is a new step for your family, or even if you're just boosting your expectations, sit down together and take time to talk about how your family is a team. Engage them in sharing about how other teams they're involved in work, and help them see how vital each person is on the family team. Don't expect overwhelming enthusiasm, but do expect them to feel valued as they realize their important role. Make sure they view chores as a necessary part of a successful home and family rather than a punishment.

Just like the french fry guy needs to know how to dip the fries, your kids need training for each of the chores you expect them to do. Demonstrate and then check their work. Encourage them and show them that you value their participation on the family team.

Finally, be consistent. As the Family Manager it's your job to make sure each one is doing his or her part. Follow through with the rewards and/or consequences you establish. Yes, I'm a parent and I know how hard that is, but it is so essential.

Success in this area is a mixed blessing. When your kids grow up and move out, you suddenly have a lot more jobs to do around the house. I sure do miss my kids!

You can contact Brenda McElroy to have questions answered at Organized by Choice (because things don't always fall into place) at P.O. Box 26152, Fresno, CA 93729, email her at info@organizedby-choice.com, visit her website www.organizedbychoice.com or she can be reached by phone at 559-871-3314.

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Business Profile

Whipping the Ranchos into Shape

By Christi McKinney

Long time Madera Ranchos residents Kurt and Kelly Santoro are the proud owners of one of our community's newest businesses, Ranchos Fitness Unlimited. The full service gym located in the Maywood Shopping Center opened for business on January 1.

Kelly was motivated to change her life three years ago when she lost 75 pounds and has kept it off. Since then she has dedicated her life to helping other people get in shape. She started a running club about one year ago and she now has 14 people running with her. The group just completed their first marathon in November running 13.1 miles during the "Two Cities Half Marathon." They are currently training for another marathon coming up in May.

Ranchos Fitness Unlimited offers a wide variety of fitness classes as well as free weights, circuit training, cardio training and one-on-one personal training. Fitness classes include Yoga, Pilates, Spinning and even Boot Camp, a 55 minute head-to-toe workout offered five times a week. The most popular class by far has been Zumba. Kelly describes the Zumba class as, "A salsa, cardio fitness class led by an instructor to Latin music. The Jazzercise of the decade! There was standing room only at

the initial class so it's now offered four times a week." A six-week "Fit Kids" program is offered on Tuesday and Thursday evenings for children ages 7-13. Future plans are in the works to add MMF Boxing classes.

The Santoro's decided to open their new business after learning the only other gym in the Ranchos was closing. They have three children in the Golden Valley School District who are all involved in sports. They saw a need for their family as well as a place for students to go and work out.

Individual and Family memberships are available on either a monthly or annual basis. Student discounts are offered to anyone in the Golden Valley School district. Kelly promises, "We may be a small gym, but you are definitely going to get BIG results!"

Ranchos Fitness Unlimited is located at 37167 Ave 12 Ste 4A, Madera Ranchos. Their phone number is 559-479-8282. They are open seven days a week and their hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 8 p.m. Class Schedules are located on the Ranchos Fitness Unlimited Facebook page.

The Madera Ranchos Chamber of Commerce will be having a Ribbon Cutting ceremony Ranchos Fitness Unlimited on Saturday, April 30 at 11 a.m.

"Giving Month Challenge" in April

April is the "Giving Month Challenge" at Wight Water Pools at 37167 Avenue 12 #5D in the Madera Ranchos. The Giving Month Challenge is where they dedicate a month to help out our local charities, churches and organizations, understanding that just as small businesses are suffering in this tough economy, so have the non-profit organizations. Wight Water Pools is putting on this charity event to help out others in need and are searching for charities that would like to participate in this event in April. They are also asking other businesses to sponsor as well, asking that if you know of any, or if you would like to participate, either through contributions or donations, please contact Debbie at 395-2523.

In the month of April, Wight Water Pools will be sponsoring their top four chosen charities/organizations each week and will donate 10 percent of all proceeds to the organization that week. On Saturday, April 30, between 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Wight Water Pools will be ending its event with a BBQ that Leisure Supply will be hosting, music, a bounce house and other fun festivities. This event will be held at Wight Water Pool's Maywood Center location in their parking lot. The event is FREE and is open to the public. To give thanks to ALL of the charities/organizations that will be participat-

ing in the event, there will be a silent auction and 100 percent of all the proceeds will be disbursed to all of the charities/organizations.

For more information on the Giving Month Challenge, contact Debbie at Wight Water Pools at 559-395-2523 or you can email her at info@wightwaterpools.com.

Carlin-Guthrie



Mary Noelle Carlin, a graduate of Mississippi State University, is to be married to Vincent Guthrie, a graduate of Fresno State University. Ms. Carlin, the daughter of Douglas and Diane Carlin, is an Office Depot employee in Clovis, Calif. Mr. Guthrie, son to Roger and Joy Guthrie, is the manager of Valley Propane in Madera, Calif.

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By the Community

What is SEMCU and what does it do?

The South East Madera County United organization, or SEMCU, is a nonprofit, 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.

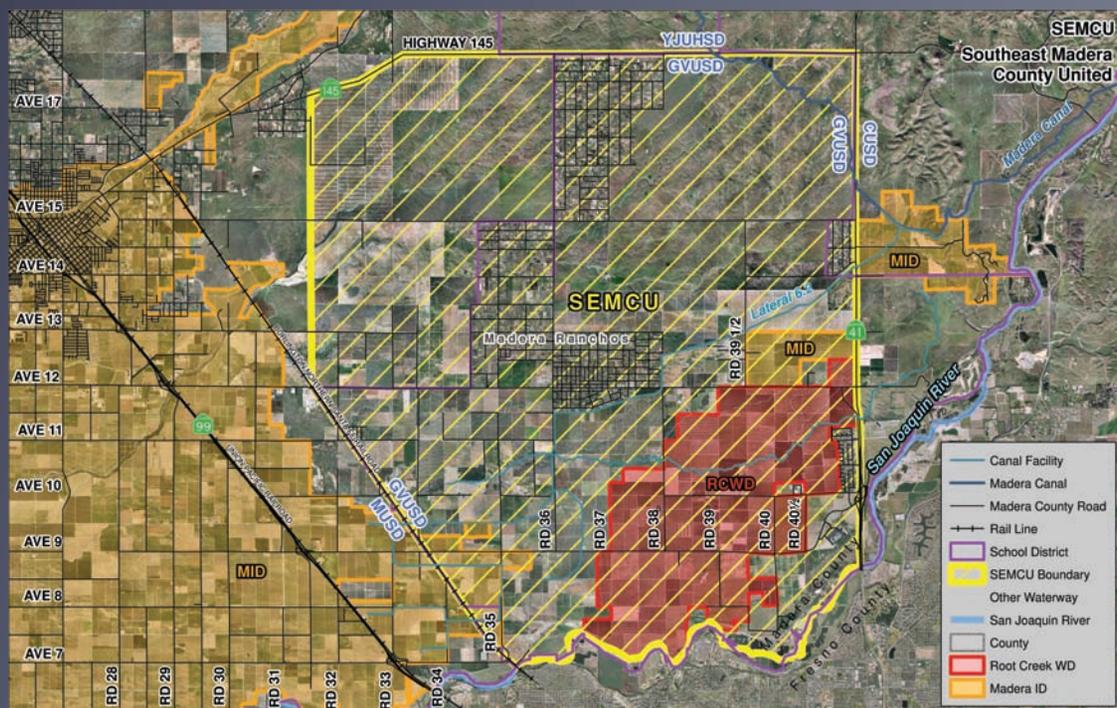
Who should join SEMCU?

If you are a resident, landowner or business owner in the SEMCU Area, you share common interests with SEMCU. Becoming a

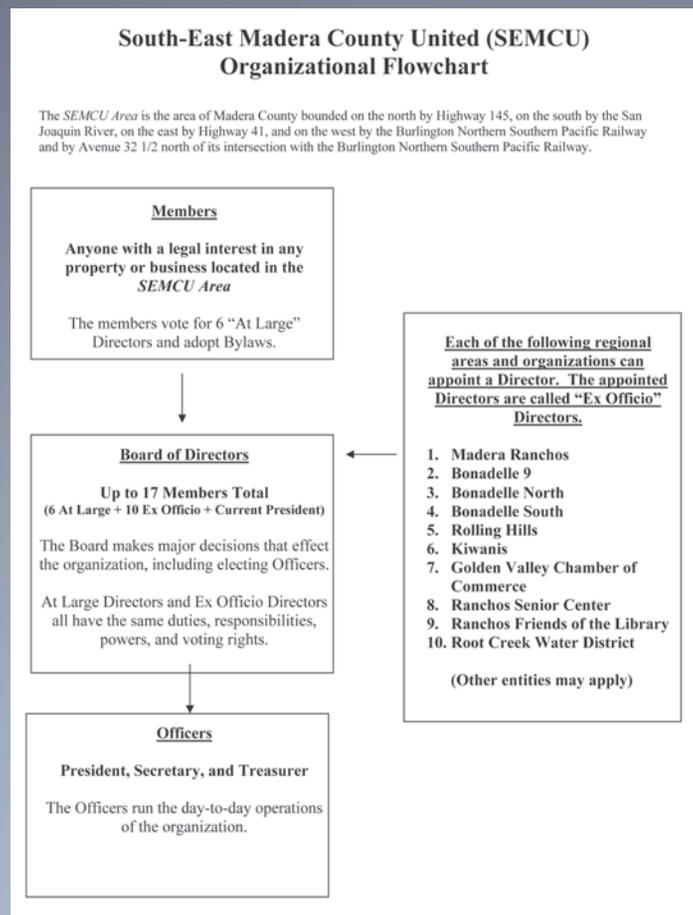
member of SEMCU will allow you to be a part of a collaborative group of individuals working for the benefit of the SEMCU Area and will give you the opportunity to have a say in how issues facing our area are handled.

Who is on SEMCU's Board of Directors?

Your neighbors. Tom Hurst, Tim Jones, Nancy Koontz, Brock Moore, Jim Powell, Bill Prince, Ethel Pronin, Seth Thomas and Igal Treibatch.



What is the SEMCU Area? The South East Madera County United, 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 the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway and by Avenue 32 1/2 north of its intersection with the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway.



◆ For the Community

**Got water problems?
Got traffic problems?
Got a Community Center?
Got a park?**

Get involved with SEMCU.

**for more info call 559-363-9095
or email info@semcu.com**

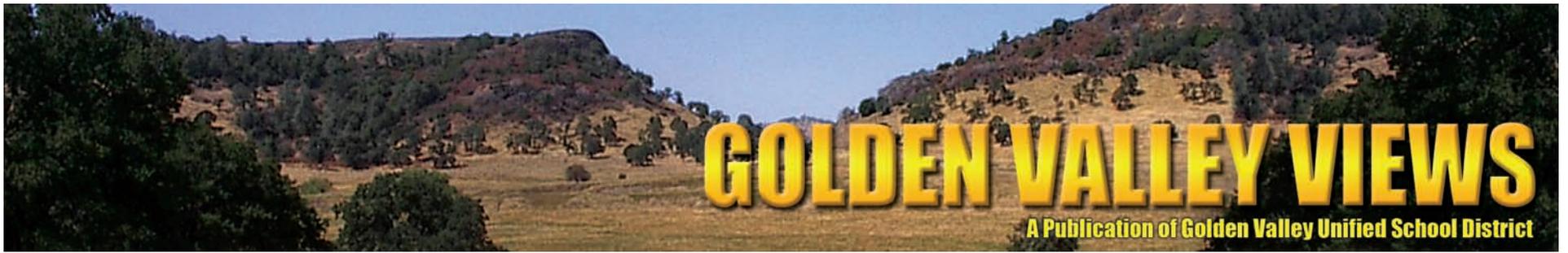
to obtain copies of SEMCU's meeting agendas and minutes visit www.semcu.com

**the next monthly SEMCU meeting
is scheduled for Monday, April 18**

at 6:30 p.m. at

the Ranchos Pizza Factory

37184 Avenue 12 in the Madera Ranchos



State of the State's Budget: Its Impact on Golden Valley Schools, Part II



Golden Valley Unified School District Superintendent, Sarah Koligian.

By Sarah Koligian

On March 24, 2011, Governor Brown signed the budget bills passed by the Legislature the previous week for a total of \$11.2 billion in budget solutions. This means the education budget and trailer bills are now law. However, the budget remains \$12.6 billion out of balance.

While the negotiations are continuing for placing tax extensions on a June special election ballot, Governor Brown indicated

that there is "still a week or two" before a late June ballot date is lost. The parties appear to be negotiating in good faith but still are apart on the major issues of redevelopment, regulation reform/repeal, public employee pension changes and tax extensions.

Many school district superintendents have asked what happens if the Legislature does not act to put taxes on the ballot for June 2011. Some people speculate that we may be facing an all cuts budget and possibly a later, November 2011, special election with revenue initiatives.

Regardless of what happens in the next few months, school districts are faced with statutory timelines to take certain actions to balance their budgets for the current year and the next two fiscal years. The first deadline has come and gone. March 15th is the statutory deadline to notify teachers and certificated administrators of possible reductions in particular kinds of services due to budget reductions. These notices are also known as "pink slips" or layoff notices. The deadline for finalizing a teacher layoff is May 15th. Between now and then the hope is that the district may find other ways to close the funding gap without losing critical staff.

Another statutory deadline is for notifying classified staff of potential layoffs. The date set by Education Code is 45 days be-

fore the end of the school year, which places the notification window no later than April 30th. Unfortunately, the state will most likely not have an answer for school districts by this time, even though school districts must adopt a balanced budget with a minimum 3% reserve no later than June 30th.

The impact of the state's indecision on how to close the remaining \$12.6 billion dollar gap leaves districts in a position for planning for the worse case scenario. What is Golden Valley's worse case scenario for 2011-12? Faced with approximately \$360 less per student if the tax extensions do not pass will incur a deficit of approximately \$450,000 on the district. This is approximately a 3% reduction in our overall \$14 million dollar budget. Closing this gap will be painful, but possible, through continued analysis of maximizing efficiencies in operations and through the ongoing collaboration with our employees.

The more devastating outlook if the tax initiatives do not pass is the 2012-13 school year. Public education will be faced with exponential budget deficits. The impact on Golden Valley could be another \$2 million loss in revenue or another 15% reduction. District and school operations, the length of the school year, class sizes, extra-curricular activities, elective offerings

could all be in jeopardy in this scenario.

What can we do as citizens of this state? We need to continue to lobby our local and state legislators to implore them to not reduce education funding further and to eventually start to restore the \$14 billion to education that has already been reduced over the past three years. We need to inform and educate our neighbors and friends regarding the impact on our schools if the tax extensions do not pass in June and encourage them to go to the polls in June.

Our students deserve no less than the best. Our goal is to continue to provide the highest quality education within the limitations that are placed upon us. We thank our community for their ongoing support of helping Golden Valley "grow a district of excellence".

Our local legislators may be contacted as follows:

Assemblymember Linda Halderman
District 29
assemblymember.halderman@assembly.ca.gov
(916) 319-2129.

Senator Tom Berryhill
District 14:
senator.berryhill@senate.ca.gov
(916) 651-4014.

Golden Valley Employee STAR Potential Recognized at Annual Event

Golden Valley Unified School District in partnership with the Foundation for Golden Valley Schools held its Fourth Employee Recognition Event on March 21 at Liberty High School. We recognized 38 employees who were nominated for the Star Employee Awards and awarded 14 grants submitted by teachers for a grand total of over \$20,000. These grants alone will touch over 1,100 of our students in the classroom. Over the past five years, the Foundation has awarded close to \$100,000 in teacher grants. We are very grateful for the ongoing generosity of the Foundation and for providing numerous expanded learning opportunities for our students.

The 2011 Grants were funded 100 percent thanks to the Foundation and the generous contributions of a few business partners who helped make it possible to fully fund each grant. The Grant Awardees were:

Melissa MacPherson, Document Camera, \$585.
Georgina Raymond, Document Camera, \$585.
Kristi Forshee, Document Camera and Projector, \$1,050.
Dennis Ready, Document Camera and Projector, \$1,200.
Chelan Shepherd, Document Camera and Projector, \$1,245.
Chris Simon, Document Camera and Projector, \$1,050.
Crissy McElhaney, Computer Lab Headphones, \$139.65

Fidi Cuevas, Student Response Systems, \$2,015.
Nola Neely & Wendy McCully, Smartboards, \$3,512.
Kandace Osborn & Laura Mayer, Smartboards and Short Throw Projectors, \$7,816.73
Jason Napier, A/V Recording Studio, \$2,500.
Emily Muccianti, Reading Lab Comprehension Games, \$862.39
Nicole Ullrich, Cow Eye Dissection, \$593.01
Leslie Wood, Athletic Pitching Machine, \$1,500.
Congratulations to our five 2011 STAR Employees who will be honored at the Foundation Stars event on September 10, 2011:
Nicola Lambert, Paraprofessional, Liberty High School – STAR Instructional Employee Award.
Gail Allen, District Technology Technician – STAR Operational Employee Award.
Frank Panian, Math Department, Liberty High School – STAR Secondary Teacher Award.
Chelan Shepherd, Second Grade Teacher, Sierra View Elementary – STAR Elementary Teacher Award.
Felipe Piedra, Principal, Webster/Sierra View Elementary – STAR Administrator Award.

LHS 9th Annual Golf Tournament

Liberty High School will be hosting its 9th Annual Liberty High School Golf Tournament on Saturday April 9 at Madera Municipal Golf Course. You can participate in two ways:

A. Become a sponsor (sponsorships due by April 1, 2011):

1. Hole Sponsorship-\$100

a. Sign on tee-box of a hole with company/sponsor's name; b. Listing in Liberty High School's 2011-2012 Yearbook; c. One season pass to all Liberty High Athletic Events (2011-2012)

2. Prize Hole Sponsorship-\$175

a. Sign on appropriate hole with company/sponsor's name; b. Listing in Liberty High School's 2011-2012 Yearbook; c. One season pass to all Liberty High Athletic Events (2011-2012)

3. Tournament Sponsorship-\$325

a. Sign at check-in with company/sponsor's name; b. Acknowledgment at post-tournament dinner; c. Listing in Liberty High School's 2011-2012 Yearbook; d. One season pass to all Liberty High Athletic Events (2011-2012); e. One player registered for 9th Annual Golf Tournament

4. Title Sponsorship-\$500

a. Title Sponsor on tournament

brochure; b. Sign at check-in with company/sponsor's name; c. Acknowledgment at post-tournament dinner; d. Listing in Liberty High School's 2011-2012 Yearbook; e. Two season passes to all Liberty High Athletic Events (2011-2012); f. Two players registered for 9th Annual Golf Tournament.

B. Play in the Tournament:

\$100 Per Person Fee Includes: Cart and Green Fees, Two Raffle Entries, Two Drink Tickets, Tee Prizes and Dinner. Get your teams in early, the Tournament is open to the first 100 players. Tournament will start at 1 p.m. with a Shotgun Start, please mail or fax entries by April 1, 2011.

We appreciate your continued support and look forward to seeing you at our games. If you have any questions regarding sponsorships, please feel free to contact Mike Mazzoni at 645-3500.

Please make checks payable to:

Foundation for Golden Valley Schools.

Mail check:

Liberty High School
C/O Suzie Dunn
12220 Road 36
Madera, CA 93636

Sierra View Starts Great School Year

Sierra View Elementary School has had a very busy and exciting first half of the school year. Intermediate grades have continued the electives program that includes music, art, puppetry and physical science. Students participated in Grandparents Day, Kindergarten

Circus, Donuts with Dad, Sixth Grade Science Camp at Calvin Crest, Character Counts Rallies, Spelling Bee and our annual Winter Program. We have also seen some great accomplishments from specific groups and individuals at Sierra View so far this year.

Middle School Takes Pentathalon

Ranchos Middle School had a stellar performance at Saturday's Academic Pentathlon event. The 7th and 8th grade teams both won 1st place in the Super Quiz event and the 7th grade team won Overall Sweepstakes among all the teams that competed. This is their third year defending the Sweepstakes title. Additionally, students won seven individual medals in the various categories. Thank you to the Pentathlon coaches and congratulations to the outstanding middle school students. Go Mustangs!

Seventh Grade Award Winners:

Literature: Meg Mercer, Gold
Grace Hall, Silver

Speech: Adriana Hayes, Silver

Eighth Grade Award Winners:

Literature: Steven Rico, Gold
Math: Augustin Mata, Bronze

Speech: Rachel Black, Bronze
Sydney Horanick, Bronze



Front row from left to right; Claire Copher, Grace Hall, Samantha Smith and Cassandra Garibay. Standing; Nicole Ullrich, Sarah Koligian, Dalton Hill, Michael Sasano, Joan Forester, Kevin Feramisco, Emily Mucciante, Bethany Samarian and Shellie Roth is hidden.

Algebra I English CHSEE Algebra II Spanish

Calculus Geometry Statistics

SAT Pre-Algebra Chemistry Trigonometry Reading ACT

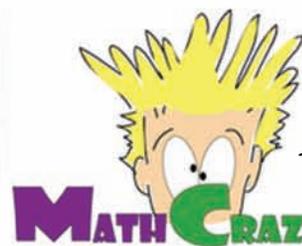
Are your kid's grades driving you **MATH CRAZY?**



Math Crazy owner and tutor Tom Filer, right, helps a student understand high school geometry.

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Spotlighting Women's History Month

By Verlaine Elinburg

Born in San Rafael, Calif. in Marin County and named Nancy-Ann after both her grandmothers, Nancy-Ann Palazzo is the current Ranchos/Hills Vice President. Her parents Celia and Linus McFarland are from California and she has two older brothers who reside at present in New Hampshire.

Upon graduation from San Rafael High School she began work in a bank, married and had two sons and continued her work in the banking business. She then became a single parent and eventually remarried and had two additional sons. In 1962 she settled with her family in Fresno and was widowed in 1967.

Having four kids to raise, Nancy chose to change her career and returned to school. She graduated as a Respiratory Therapist specializing in breathing disorders and blood-oxygen levels. She became nationally registered with the American Association of Respiratory Therapy and held the position as Respiratory Supervisor at St. Agnes Medical Center from 1971 through 1979. She then became the Department Chief at the Veterans Administration Center where she did research and trained others to perform pulmonary care, both routine and critical. Nancy-Ann also established procedures on the process of care to be given to patients. She sat on the Respiratory Boards for Fresno City and San Joaquin College. After 13 years with the Veterans Hospital she furthered her career and joined the staff at Kaiser Permanente as a consultant and Pulmonary Function Technologist and helped plan the Respiratory Care Department for the new hospital.

Nancy held this position for six years and officially retired to enjoy life and her family, and Nancy has a large family to enjoy. In 1989 she married Antonio Palazzo who had four adult married daughters. Combined with Nancy's four adult married sons the combined family has eight children and their spouses, 21 grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. This is just family members – add friends and what a party it would be for anniversaries, birthdays and the holidays.

Nancy still remains connected with her career. She has volunteered for the American Lung Association of Central California for the last 20 years and has performed as an instructor for Smoking Cessation Classes. In 1993 she joined the ALACC that revises guidelines for laboratories performing microbiological and chemical testing. Nancy has chaired various events, served on committees and has held leadership positions. She represented the ALACC on the State Board of the Lung Association of California for two years and also served as president for the California Society of Respiratory Care.

Nancy also enjoys her connection with the Beta Sigma chapters, national smooth dancers, serving on the Madera Arts Council, and most recently as one of the founders of the Central Valley Mission Church which commenced in 2005. She enjoys creating craft projects and her passion is collecting all types of buttons. Nancy lives in Rolling Hills and joined the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center a couple of years ago and is serving at present as the Ranchos/Hills Senior Board Vice Present. She is very involved with the activities and since she loves crafts she has joined forces with our boutique group.

This is a very active and exciting time for the Ranchos/Hills Seniors. Like little bees that come to life after the cold and dreary days of winter, the Seniors are in full swing preparing for the Home and Garden Festival Saturday, April 2; the Bike Ride Event on April 16; and the campaign for the Honorary Mayor of the Madera Ranchos with Audrey Stock as the candidate for the Ranchos/Hill Seniors. "Vote for Audrey.

The Department of health comes periodically to the center for free check-ups. The screenings include: Personal health history review, blood pressure and blood sugar test; nutrition and health education and low cost blood test is available; the health screenings are for 50 and above. For referrals to medical providers and community services the contact number is 675-7893 to make an appointment.

A nutritionally balanced lunch program is available Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. with a suggested price for 60 years and older of \$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 at 10 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. Check your calendar for daily events for each day of the week. If you do not have a copy, stop by the Senior Center for a copy, additional copies are available at the Ranchos Market, Hurst Hardware and the Golden valley Chamber of Commerce.

April Activities

April 2 - Home and Garden Festival
April 5 - Board Meeting 6 p.m. Membership is invited. 1st Monday of the Month.
April 11 - General Meeting, 2nd Monday of the month. 7 p.m.
April 16 - Bike Ride event
April 18 - Planning Meeting 12:30 p.m.
April 23 - Birthdays and Anniversaries – Black Bear Restaurant 1209 E. Almond, Madera 11:30 a.m. 559-675-1332.

Can you help me?

My name is Daylinn McFerrin. I'm a senior at Liberty High and I need your help.

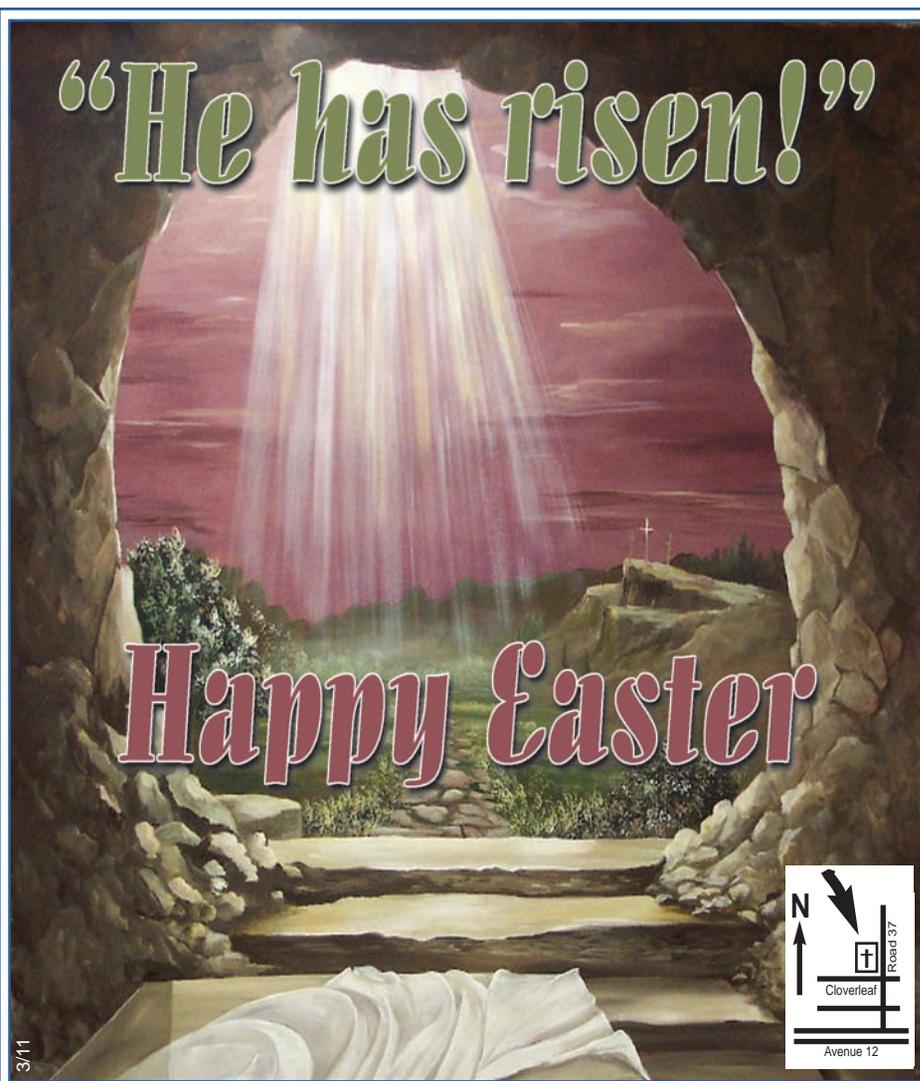
It is my dream to cheer in college. The University of Hawaii conducts an annual training camp called CheerHawaii USA from June 29 through July 6. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity since it is the only cheer camp that prepares you for college cheerleading. College cheer coaches will be there helping and giving advice. Since college cheer is so much different than any other cheer, it would be such an advantage and honor to get the chance to go.

My coach had to send in an application/nomination and the Cheer-Hawaii USA staff had to evaluate it and make sure I was a good applicant with the ability, good grades and school involvement. It's a great program, but it's expensive. I've saved up almost enough money to go but I'm in need of donations/sponsors to put me over the top.

Any help would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Please send any contributions care of
California Solar, 17924 Road 38, Madera, CA 93636
 or call (559) 297-6527 for more information

3/11



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Golden Valley Baptist
 Pastor David Jones



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Senior Pastors Bernard & Linda Morris/ Resident Pastors Stoney & Amy Berna

Service Schedule
Sunday 10 a.m.

Midweek Service Thursday 7 p.m.
Children's Ministry & Youth Group

3/11

The Pastor's Desk

A Great Big Bag Full of "Marvels"

By David Jones

I have always enjoyed the "Dear Abby" column. I thought you might like to read three of the old favorites:

Dear Abby: I am a 23-year-old liberated woman who has been on the pill for two years. It's getting expensive and I think my boyfriend should share half the cost, but I don't know him well enough to discuss money with him.

Dear Abby: Will you rush me the name of a reliable illegitimate doctor?

Dear Abby: My 40-year-old son has been paying a psychiatrist \$50 an hour every week for two-and-a-half years. He must be crazy.

I never cease to marvel at the things people write about and talk about and email about, but then you know you're old when you've lost all your marvels.

I marvel at the number of people who are sucked into "media" thinking vs. Biblically thinking. It's as though they wash their brains in TV every day and guess what – their thinking processes reflect the comments of the "spin artists." If we would wash our thinking in the scriptures, we would have "Biblically thinking." Lots of folks have a Bible; few have ever read it. I remember my first semester at Santa Rosa Junior College back in '66. The English instructor for "English 101" informed us that if we had not read the Bible we were ignoramuses. He went on to talk about how it was the greatest piece of literature ever written and whether we thought it was all a fairy tale or not was not the point; he simply said if we were to be educated people, we must be Biblically literate.

If an English instructor made such a comment today, he would probably be brought up on charges of violating separation of church and state. He would at least be guilty of being politically incorrect. The truth of what he said still applies just as it did 45 years ago.

The fact is that most Americans have not read a book all the way through since they graduated from high school. They have however allowed the TV to entertain their minds and have thus acquired "lazy thinking."

We come home at night, dog tired but still gotta get a quick bite to eat, do the necessary chores, get the kids to bed and finally collapse only to get up and do it all over again tomorrow. Even retired folk report to me that they are so busy there aren't enough hours in the day. Oh, did I forget social media? Oh yes, gotta check

Facebook and return some text messages as well as my email. Oh well, as long as I get to bed by midnight and I can go to sleep watching CNN or FOX. We all seem to enjoy fretting about things there is nothing we can do anything about.

And so it is that I marvel at the lifestyle we are all living. Television brings to us people who just never seem to stop talking and participating in shouting matches. Yet their agenda becomes our agenda. Not because it really is important but because it is our entertainment. I fear we will suffer the consequences of "lazy thinking" at some point soon.

The world seems poised for the end of time. With the re-establishment of the nation of Israel and most recently the horrible earthquakes in divers places, people are in amazement. Movies are being made on end-time subjects. A preacher who fancies himself a prophet is buying billboard signs up and down Highway 99 declaring the end of the world on May 21. I don't marvel at the crazy preacher, I marvel at the lazy thinking that causes people to give him absurd amounts of money.

I'm on a one-man crusade to get people to read the Bible and start thinking for themselves. If you want to start a study on your own of end-time Bible prophecy, email me and I'll send you some starting places, but don't take my scriptures only and try to build a personal belief system. Become a student. Be what Jesus called a "Disciple." A disciple is a disciplined learner.

I hope I haven't lost all my marvels. I hope I soon marvel at the number of people who are willing to pick up their Bible and start thinking for themselves. When the times get tough, we need a life foundation to stand on.

I want to marvel at the unity of our community in the coming days.

I want to marvel at the way our folks help each other.

I want to marvel at the community spirit and the love of neighbors and friends.

I pray that each of you will have a bag full of marvels to brag on. God bless us all and God bless the people of Japan in these difficult days.

David Jones is the Pastor of Golden Valley Baptist Church at 12414 Road 37 in the Madera Ranchos. You can reach him through the church website at www.goldenvalley-church.com. You can send him an email from the website and he'll write back.

NOTIFICACIÓN PÚBLICA

LA COMISIÓN DE TRANSPORTE DEL CONDADO DE MADERA DA AVISO DE AUDIENCIA

La Comisión de Transporte del Condado de Madera (MCTC, por sus siglas en inglés) celebrará una Audiencia Pública para tomar testimonio en cuanto a las necesidades de transporte dentro del Condado de Madera. La audiencia tomará lugar el miércoles, 20 de abril, 2011 a las 3:00 p.m., en las oficinas de la Comisión de Transporte del Condado de Madera, en el 2001 Howard Road, Sala 201, Madera, CA 93637.

First Transit proporcionará transporte público gratis a las oficinas de la Comisión de Transporte del Condado de Madera. Llame a Doug Thompson al 559-661-7435 antes de las 5:00 p.m. del 12 de abril, 2011, para reservar su espacio. Un intérprete del idioma español estará disponible durante la audiencia pública para aquellos que desean atestiguar ante la Comisión en español. Si usted desearía atestiguar en un idioma que no sea ni inglés ni español, o si requiere otros arreglos especiales para poder atestiguar, haga el favor de ponerse en contacto con la Comisión antes del 12 de abril, 2011.

Bajo el Acta del Desarrollo de Transportación de California (TDA, por sus siglas en inglés), esta oportunidad de audiencia se proporciona anualmente para tomar testimonio sobre las posibles necesidades no cumplidas dentro de la región. La Comisión tiene que, posteriormente de la audiencia, hacer una determinación de si las necesidades presentadas son "razonables" como para cumplirlas. Después que todas la necesidades "razonables"

han sido cumplidas por medio de la ampliación de servicios ya existentes, o por la creación de nuevos sistemas de tránsito, La Comisión podrá soltar fondos restantes del TDA para propósitos de calles y caminos (reparación, reconstrucción, etc.).

A los miembros del público, agencias interesadas, y grupos cívicos se les anima a comparecer y dar testimonio sobre cualquier necesidad de transporte que no se esté cumpliendo por el sistema actual. El testimonio ha de ser tan específico como sea posible en lo que toca a aquellos ciudadanos, o grupos de ciudadanos, que actualmente no sean servidos por el tránsito, el tipo y cantidad de servicio de tránsito que se esté pidiendo, el área geográfica en la cual se necesite el servicio, y cualquier otra evidencia de datos en apoyo, que ayudarán en la evaluación de lo "razonable" del servicio pedido.

A aquellos que desean hablar se les anima a comunicarse con el Sr. Dylan Stone, Planificador de Transportación de la MCTC, en el 2001 Howard Road, Sala 201, Madera, CA 93637. El número telefónico de la MCTC es (559) 675-0721. No se tiene que programar una petición para hablar, los individuos pueden sencillamente comparecer a la audiencia y pedir ser reconocidos, sin embargo, se le anima programar una comparecencia para ayudar a organizar el testimonio. A aquellos que no podrán asistir a la audiencia pública se les anima someter sus comentarios por escrito antes del 20 de abril, 2011 para ser incluidos en el registro público.

3/11

LEGAL NOTICE

“MADERA COUNTY HAS DECLARED THAT THE GROWTH AND ACCUMULATION OF WEEDS IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF THE COUNTY POSES A FIRE SAFETY AND PUBLIC HEALTH RISK AND THEREFORE HAS DECLARED WEEDS A SEASONAL AND RECURRING NUISANCE. THE RESPONSIBILITY TO ABATE SUCH NUISANCE LIES WITH THE INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY OWNER. THIS YEAR THIS NUISANCE MUST BE ABATED ON OR BEFORE MAY 1, 2011.”

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

3/11

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3/11

PUBLIC NOTICE

MADERA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION GIVING NOTICE OF HEARING

The Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC) will hold a Public Hearing to take testimony regarding transportation needs within Madera County. The hearing will be held on Wednesday, April 20, 2011 at 3:00 p.m., in the Madera County Transportation Commission offices, 2001 Howard Road, Suite 201, Madera, CA 93637.

First Transit will provide free public transportation to the Madera County Transportation Commission offices. Call Doug Thompson at 559-661-7435 before 5:00 pm, April 12, 2011 to make a reservation. A Spanish language interpreter will be available during the public hearing for those who wish to testify before the Commission in Spanish. If you would like to testify in a language other than Spanish and English or require other special accommodations in order to testify, please contact the Commission by April 12, 2011.

Under the California Transportation Development Act (TDA), this hearing opportunity is provided annually to take testimony on potential unmet transit needs within the region. The Commission must, subsequent to the hearing, make a determination whether the needs presented are “reasonable” to meet. After all “reasonable” needs have been met through the expansion

of existing services, or the creation of new transit systems, the Commission may release remaining TDA funds for street and road purposes (repair, reconstruction, etc.).

Members of the public, interested agencies, and civic groups are encouraged to appear and testify to any transportation needs not being met by the current system. Testimony should be as specific as possible with regard to those citizens, or groups of citizens, not currently served by transit, the requested type and amount of transit service, the geographic area in which service is needed, and any other supporting evidence of information, which will help in the evaluation of the “reasonableness” of the requested service.

Those wishing to speak are encouraged to contact Mr. Dylan Stone, MCTC Transportation Planner, at 2001 Howard Road, Suite 201, Madera, California, 93637. The MCTC telephone number is (559) 675-0721. A request to speak need not be scheduled, individuals may simply appear at the hearing and request to be recognized, however a scheduled appearance is encouraged to help organize the testimony. Those that are unable to attend the public hearing are encouraged to submit their comments in writing prior to April 20, 2011 for inclusion in the public record.

3/11

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WALK cont. from P. 5

today: Do you understand forgiveness? Do you understand its importance? Do you understand its power? Its strength? Jesus stressed that forgiveness is crucial. In Matthew he said, "For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." Mom understood this. She lived it. It was one of the things that characterized her. It was the second area where her walk eclipsed her talk.

There's an old joke that if someone you know is particularly annoying, when you look up "annoying" in the dictionary you'll find a picture of that person. You can do something similar in the Bible. If you want to define "unconditional love," simply go to 1 Corinthians 13 "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." If you cut to the end of the chapter you find, "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."

You have just seen a picture of Faye Bailey.

For her five sons who had the honor of growing up with her as their Mom, they knew her patience. They knew her kindness. And although she always wanted a better life for her boys, they never saw her envious of others. Mom didn't express her love through arrogant boasting or pride. We never saw her dishonor others and she didn't get easily angered, which, with five sons, was a miracle in itself. But at the heart of Mom's unconditional love was that her love for us, and others, kept no record of wrongs. She loved us because she loved

us. She could conceive of nothing else. Her love for us was not based on what we did for her today or what we could do for her in the future or what we had done for her in the past. Her love was the purest form of love known: totally, completely and wholly unconditional. Her love always protected us, was always based on trust, was always full of hope and always persevered to the end, usually way beyond wherever my brothers and I were.

I hope you can see now that Faye Bailey was indeed a "good woman," but she was much, much more than that. And now that she has passed on to glory, the question remains: What shall her legacy be? Forget about the death of Faye Bailey – what can we learn from the life of Faye Bailey? How can we – each and every one of us – honor the memory of Faye Bailey?

The answer is simple and begins by taking stock of where you are right now. Do you do the right thing to the exclusion of all else? Do you do it even when no one is looking? If not, you need to start now.

Are you compassionate? Do you understand compassion? Do you get it when Jesus said, "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of

these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

Do you show compassion to the exclusion of all else? Do you show compassion even when no one is looking? If not, you need to start now.

Are you forgiving? Do the words of Jesus in Matthew resonate with you? "For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." Do you show forgiveness to the exclusion of all else? Are you forgiving even when no one else is looking? If not, you need to start now.

Do you put conditions on your love to others? Do you love them "if" they do something for you? Do you love them only "when" they do something for you? Do you love them only by "how" they do something for you first? Can you fully – even partially – wrap your mind around the concept that true unconditional love keeps no record of wrongs or that it always protects, always trusts, always hopes and always perseveres? Do you express unconditional love to the exclusion of all else? Is your love unconditional even when no one else is looking? If not, you need to start now.

The passing of my mom, if it shows us nothing else, points out the grim reality that if she can go immediately without warning, any of us can go immediately without warning. In that twinkling of eye will you next hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" or "I don't know you or where you come from."? If you don't know which you will hear, you need to start now. Do the right thing. Be compassionate. Forgive others. Make sure your love is unconditional. If we can all do these things, Faye's legacy will burn brightly in all of us and we will all be the best we can be and humanity will be better off for it.

Thank you.



A Plot to Bankrupt Us?

By Serafin Quintanar

In January, several California Mayors crawled to Washington D.C. to beg President Obama for, among other things, more money for High Speed Rail because Mayor Swearegin of Fresno says that it will already go over budget. Central Valley mayors also clamored for congress not to cut "block grants" to California cities, having received over \$29 million in 2010 out of a total of \$2.5 billion doled out nationwide.

Of course, this is money that we just do not have. Every single penny of that \$2.5 billion has to be borrowed from nations unfriendly to us, like China. To top it all off, every single American will have to pay either higher taxes or higher prices due to inflation to repay all this borrowed money. With a projected \$1.3 trillion (that's 1,300 billions) budget deficit for 2010, this means that our children and grandchildren will also have to pay for all this for decades to come. As if this all were not bad enough, how do you like the idea that the good people in the Madera Ranchos have to pay an equal share, even if the money went to Fresno or Sacramento and not to your town?

This madness must be stopped. Maybe it's time for people in our smaller communities to let the "big city" mayors know that they do not appreciate them racking up debts that we have to pay back.

For more information contact John Smedley in the Madera Ranchos at 645-7031 or jcsmedley@comcast.net. Visit www.centralvalleyteaparty.com, the Central Valley Tea Party's Website.

ANSWERS

21	18		2
7	9	+	17
X	X	+	
2	4	+	16
-	-	÷	
5	6	-	22

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

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Bait
RUEL

Appeal
RAMCH

Lush
XEDUEL

Rush
SHWIK

"There he is—behind that _____."

TODAY'S WORD

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		-		22
-		-		÷	
	x		+		16
x		x		+	
	+		+		17
21		18		2	

1 2 4 5 6 7 8 8 9

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SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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

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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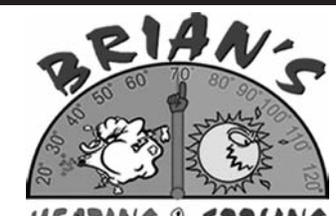
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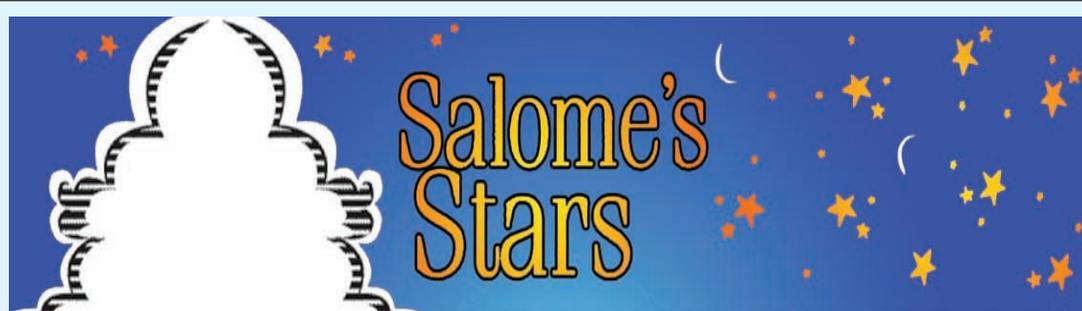
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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) The week promises a calmer aspect. Although there might be some lingering effects of a recent job problem, things should continue to ease up. Also expect a change in a home-based situation.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) If you feel uneasy about a colleague's suggestion, it might be that your wise inner Taurean guide is alerting you to a potential problem. Stepping away could turn out to be the right thing to do.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A family get-together opens up new opportunities for renewing ties. It can be especially effective in dealing with disagreements that should have been, but never were, fully resolved.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You might be surprised at the response you get to a recent decision. You might be even more surprised by the reasons behind it. In any event, you'll learn something important.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Your aspects favor resolving any tensions left over from a recent incident. You might want to consider having a "clear the air" talk as soon as you can. A call can lead to a change of plans.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Avoid repeating yourself. If your first few efforts fail to connect, maybe it's because you haven't found the right way to get your message across. Try changing your approach.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Good intentions plus a strong resolve to succeed can take you where you want to go. Don't give up just because someone suggests you might be pursuing an impossible cause.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) An unexpected setback can be a blessing in disguise. Use it to recheck your facts and how you've presented them. Meanwhile, look for ways to expand your contacts.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You should finally be seeing a positive change in a recent personal situation. However, an on-the-job matter might need more attention than you realized. Stay with it.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) While you should be close to completing an important matter, you still need to focus on being focused. But things ease up in time for weekend fun with family and friends.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A certain matter might take an unexpected turn. Don't simply accept it; ask for an explanation. What you learn might be helpful in shifting the situation around to your benefit.

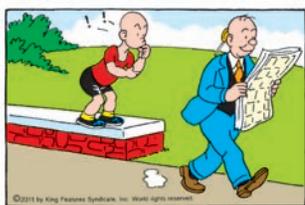
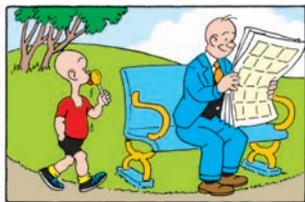
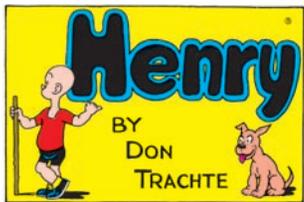
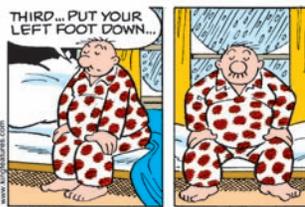
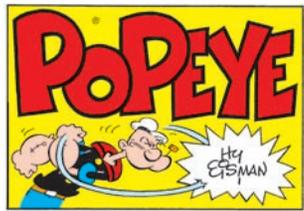
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Projecting a positive attitude helps restore calm even when you're confronting some pretty stormy situations. Stay the course. The outcome will be well worth your efforts.

Born this Week

While you enjoy tradition and stability, you also appreciate the good things that change can bring.

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FUN PAGES



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

ANY MOM WILL TELL YOU—LITTLE LOOPINA TALKS A BLUE STREAK ALL DAY TO MOM AND DAD—BUT TRY TO SHOW HER OFF TO FRIENDS... *WHA—*

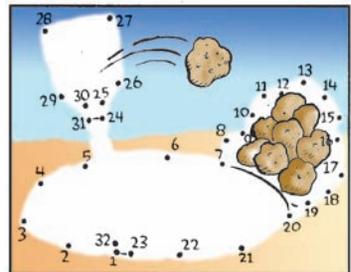


AS THE SAYING GOES... "THEM THAT HAS, GETS!"

Thank to K. O'DONALD, SEATTLE, WA.

BY AL SCADUTO

LIKE IT IS—THIS IS SON HEKKIE'S ROOM AFTER HE CLEANED IT UP WHEN MOM TOLD HIM TO—HEH-HEH—



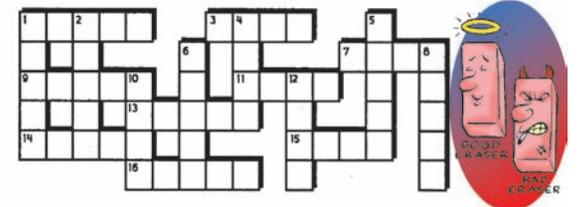
CONNECT THE DOTS and find out what grows bigger the more you take away from it.

Answer: A hole in the ground.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

A FILL-IN PUZZLE



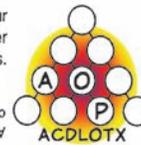
Illustrated by David Coulson

TRY MOWING DOWN THIS PUZZLE! Replace the letters in this AlphaMath puzzle with the digits 0, 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 so that you have a correct addition problem. The same letters get the same digits. Can you get a higher total than we did?



Our Answer: S=1, E=9, D=0, R=2, A=5, I=8, N=6, L=4, W=7, (1996 + 2586 = 4576).

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: Coax, coal, coop, cool, clod, clod, clod, clod.

Pictured above is a crossword puzzle grid. Below are the 17 words that you'll need to complete the puzzle using the trial-and-error method. Keep a good eraser handy!

AGES	BAKED	ICED
ACHED	BENCH	KEEPS
AFAR	DOMED	OWNER
AGATE	DREAM	SALON
BADE	EBBS	SODA
BADGE	FAIR	

Answers: (Across) 1. Badge, 3. Afar, 7. Ages, 9. Keeps (Down) 1. Baked, 2. Dream, 4. Fair, 5. Agate, 6. Bench, 8. Salon, 10. Soda, 12. Ebbs.

Wishing Well

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

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

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MAGIC MAZE ● PASSED AWAY IN 2010

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

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

Billingsley	Curtis	Hopper	Nielsen
Bosley	Fisher	Linkletter	Olsen
Byrd	Graves	MacArthur	Parker
Culp	Haig	Meredith	

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TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: What two nations lie directly north of the Gulf of Oman?
2. U.S. STATES: Which state's name is Spanish for "snow clad"?
3. MOVIES: What was the name of the Volkswagen made famous in "The Love Bug"?
4. FAMOUS PEOPLE: What abolitionist was the first black woman to win a court case against a white man for illegally selling her son as a slave?
5. LITERATURE: In what book did the characters Tweedledum and Tweedledee first appear?
6. LANGUAGE: What's another word for a plebiscite?
7. HISTORY: How much did the United States pay Russia for the Alaskan territory in 1867?
8. MUSIC: Who wrote "The Theme from Shaft"?
9. GAMES: Which chess piece looks like a castle tower?
10. U.S. PRESIDENTS: What was Harry Truman's home state?

Answers

1. Iran and Pakistan
2. Nevada
3. Herbie
4. Sojourner Truth
5. "Through the Looking-Glass"
6. Rook
7. \$7.2 million
8. Isaac Hayes
9. Rook
10. Missouri

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Click on "Local News" at

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



MAMA'S BOYZ

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JERRY CRAFT



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



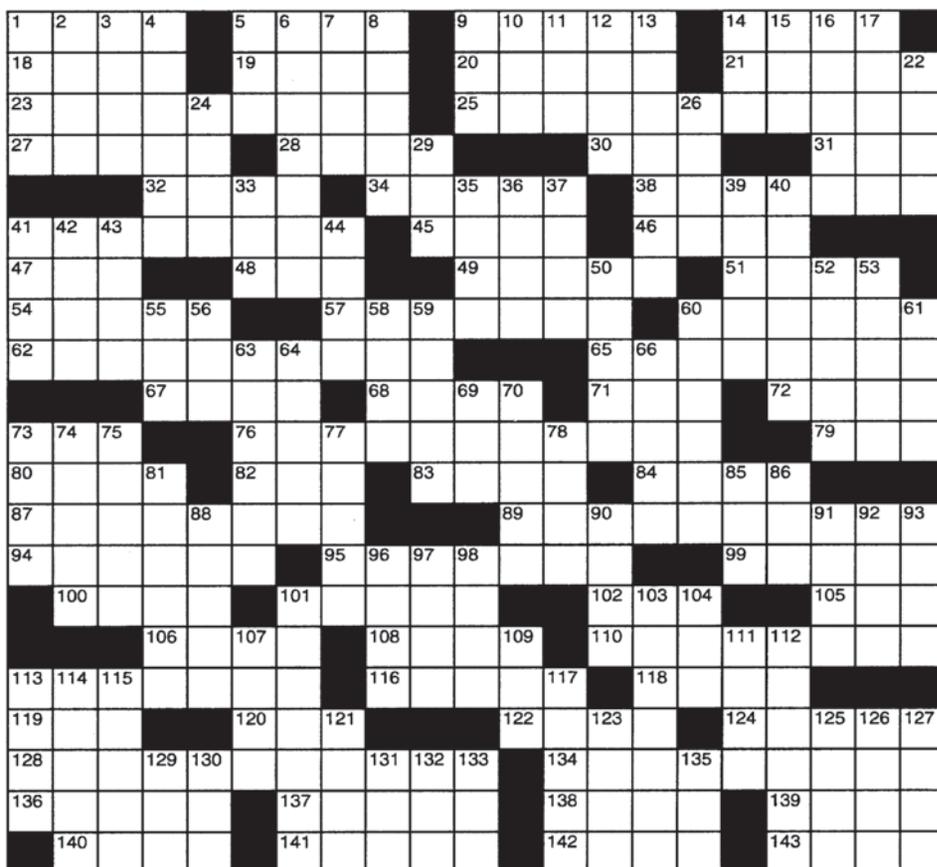
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Differences: 1. School sign is different. 2. Bow is missing. 3. Tree is gone. 4. Hat is different. 5. Girl has briefcase instead of books. 6. Boy has short sleeves.

Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Tiller
 - 5 Grandpa McCoy
 - 9 Michelangelo masterpiece
 - 14 Ward of "Sisters"
 - 18 "Typee" sequel
 - 19 Callas or Caballe fountain
 - 23 Stubborn
 - 25 Courageous
 - 27 Fantastic bargain
 - 28 Envelop
 - 30 "Xanadu" rock group
 - 31 Trams transport it
 - 32 "Red —" '88 smash)
 - 34 Girl Scout unit
 - 38 Diplomacy term
 - 41 Winked or waved
 - 45 Journalist Buchanan
 - 46 Former autocrat
 - 47 Actress Massen
 - 48 Scrape by, with "out"
 - 49 Light weight
 - 51 Reformer Lucretia
 - 54 Montessori
 - 57 Less plentiful
 - 60 Van Dyke role
 - 62 Powerfully built
 - 65 Tractable
 - 67 Wooden strip
 - 68 Flight maneuver
 - 71 "— Days" ('75 tune)
 - 72 Hypocrisy
 - 73 Bikini half
 - 76 Foolhardy
 - 79 Pigment
 - 80 Masterson colleague
 - 82 Ginger —
 - 83 — Haven, CT
 - 84 Job opening
 - 87 Ceylon, today
 - 89 Coarse-featured
 - 94 Tahini base
 - 95 TV's "Three's —"
 - 99 Loudly, to Liszt
 - 100 Betting setting
 - 101 Shallow area
 - 102 Spring mo.
 - 105 "Sat — tuffet . . ."
 - 106 Humorist Bombeck
 - 108 Illinois city
 - 110 Maritime
 - 113 Nutritional
 - 116 "Frasier" pooch
 - 118 "— my lips!"
 - 119 Loser to DDE
 - 120 Vitamin bottle abbr.
 - 122 Tony winner Robert
 - 124 Young cadet
 - 128 Very slender
 - 134 Sharp-sighted
 - 136 Malice
 - 137 Practice piece
 - 138 Cut short
 - 139 Mlle., farther south
 - 140 Pants part
 - 141 Inflexibility
 - 142 Some bills
 - 143 Jets, Mets, or Nets
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Brewery supply
 - 2 Give off
 - 3 Theater section
 - 4 "Drums Along the —" ('39 film)
 - 5 "Tobacco Road" character
 - 6 Wednesday
 - 7 Done
 - 8 Egyptian
 - 9 Chum
 - 10 Infamous Amin
 - 11 Philips of "UHF"
 - 12 Antler part
 - 13 Strawberry, for one
 - 14 Police hdqrs.
 - 15 Drop a brick
 - 16 Divulge
 - 17 Ward off
 - 22 "— fixe"
 - 24 Designer Fiorucci
 - 26 Billions of years
 - 29 Common affix
 - 33 Vane dir.
 - 35 Aroma
 - 36 Responsibility
 - 37 French-door part
 - 39 Emulated Gebel-Williams
 - 40 Amatory
 - 41 Fiasco
 - 42 Genesis redhead
 - 43 Wilson or Weathers
 - 44 "— Set" ('57 film)
 - 50 Vocalize like Vallee
 - 52 Riser's relative
 - 53 Metallic
 - 55 Unwell
 - 56 Literary
 - 58 Soccer superstar
 - 59 Hacienda material
 - 60 Hawk
 - 61 Diminutive suffix
 - 63 Natural gas component
 - 64 — talk
 - 66 Sanctify
 - 69 "... man — mouse?"
 - 70 Turkish title
 - 73 Myerson or Truman
 - 74 Not as common
 - 75 Originate
 - 77 Arrive at
 - 78 "Blame — the Bossa Nova" ('63 hit)
 - 81 Telescope sighting
 - 85 Oven setting
 - 86 Eastern "Way"
 - 88 Donizetti's "L'elisir d'—"
 - 90 Jeri of "Star Trek: Voyager"
 - 91 Gator's cousin
 - 92 Sicilian volcano
 - 93 Distribute the deck
 - 96 Trickle
 - 97 A sweeping
 - 98 Soldier on
 - 101 More granular
 - 103 Ideal
 - 104 Woody herb
 - 107 Director Nair
 - 109 Long or Peebles
 - 111 Surveyor's need
 - 112 Most indolent
 - 113 Cat's dogs
 - 114 Harvests
 - 115 Davis of "Evening Shade"
 - 117 Vote in
 - 121 — Spumante
 - 123 Challenge
 - 125 Fontaine role
 - 126 — carotene
 - 127 Cheeseboard choice
 - 129 Harper Valley grp.
 - 130 Rainy
 - 131 Yank
 - 132 Maestro de Waart
 - 133 Wagner's —
 - 135 Audio "fliegende Hollander" antiques?

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FUN PAGES

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south east madera county united

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Monday, April 18 at 6:30 p.m.
Ranchos Pizza Factory

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**The Ranchos Pizza Factory is located at 37184 Avenue 12 in the Madera Ranchos
For copies of SEMUCU's meeting agendas and minutes visit www.semcu.org**