

The Ranchos Independent



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Tree Wars: The Judge Decides

By Randy Bailey

After a vitriolic war of words that had neighbors in the Ranchos choosing sides between CM&N Nursery's John Finley and Fernwood Nursery's Mona Diaz, a Madera County Small Claims Court judge reached a decision based on the evidence presented to him and has ruled for Finley's CM&N nursery.

The decision, which was entered Aug. 8, six days after their court appearance, required Diaz to pay Finley \$648.65 for the damaged signs Finley had accused Diaz of destroying. Diaz has 30 days to comply or appeal the decision.

In a case that revolved around legally and illegally placed signs for Finley's nursery throughout the Ranchos, the final decision by the judge determined that even if the signs were placed illegally, another party doesn't have the right to destroy them. Although Diaz claimed to have never touched any of Finley's signs, the judge determined that people associated with Diaz had.

The decision, at less than \$650, was a far cry from the \$5,000 Finley sought, but ultimately the judge ruled that the only compensation Finley was entitled to was for the cost of his signs that had been destroyed. Finley had sought the cost of his signs plus travelling expenses to pick up and place the signs, as well as lost income for the periods that the signs were down.

Both sides presented evidence at the hearing, including log records from Diaz' trucker husband stating he was not in town when the incidents were alleged to have occurred, but ultimately the judge found for Finley based on the strength of the evidence presented.

The bad blood between parties may end with this decision but rumors are already circulating that questions of proper zoning for BOTH parties may be the next round in these "Tree Wars."

Reunited

By Randy Bailey



In an emotional ceremony at the August Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce meeting, fire victim Mary Ann Rykema-Williams received what she tearfully said she missed the most in the aftermath of the fire that tore through her home in June: the flags that were presented to her upon the death of her veteran husbands.

"You have no idea what this means," Rykema-Williams said as Chamber President Ollia Ridge presented the two flags on behalf of the Chamber and the residents of the Madera Ranchos.

After the fire (see Ranchos Independent June 2006: "Teddy to the Rescue!"), Rykema-Williams stayed in contact with Chamber Secretary/Treasurer Virginia Vick. As they talked, the flags from Rykema-Williams' previous marriages kept coming up so Vick swung into action. After making several dead-end calls, she final-

ly reached the offices of Congressman George Radanovich. Upon hearing the story, Radanovich's office arranged to have two flags that had actually flown over the United States Capitol building shipped to Vick for the presentation, complete with a letter of authenticity from Congressman Radanovich.

Although shipped in square boxes, Chamber member Bill Whyman determined that the proper form for presentation of a flag to a veteran's widow was the traditional triangular fold with nothing but the blue field and four representative stars showing. Both flags were folded in that manner prior to their presentation.

Overcome with emotion, Rykema-Williams' graciously thanked all present and again marvelled at the sense of community she felt from people in the Ranchos.

"I'll never forget this," she said as she said her goodbyes and was helped from the Chamber of Commerce's meeting room by her granddaughter.

Dog Death Stuns Ranchos

A senseless, brutal hanging of a Border Collie on July 31 - Aug. 1 from a tree on Road 38 between Dublin and Avenue 13 has gained notoriety throughout the state, but with nearly \$6,000 in reward money posted for information leading to the arrest of the perpetrators, authorities are no closer to solving this barbaric act of cruelty now than they were three weeks ago.

To date, two tips have come into the Madera County Sheriff's Department but neither has panned out. "We've come up empty on both," said Erica Smith, public information officer for the Sheriff's department.

The story began with a call received by the Sheriff's department on Tuesday, Aug. 1 at around 7:24 a.m. It was reported that a dog had been found with a rope tied around its neck hanging from a tree. Whoever lynched the dog threw the rope over a branch approximately 10 feet high and

pulled on the rope until the dog's hind legs were barely touching the ground. The rope was then secured to the tree so that the dog could not break free.

Because of the heinousness of the crime and because no tips appeared to be forthcoming, in an unprecedented move, Fresno Area Crime Stoppers prepared a profile of the the shocking murder. While the coverage of an animal abuse case might seem unusual for Crime Stoppers, "It's the way in which the killing was carried out that has captured the attention of Crime Stoppers," said Sheriff John Anderson. "It goes beyond cruel and vicious, this calculated killing can only be described as horrific and sinister in nature."

Those involved with the tapping have the arduous task of trying to recreate what occurred without being so completely disturbing to viewers that it backfires and ruins Crime Stoppers'



The death of this male Border Collie that was cruelly hanged in the Ranchos has generated no leads or tips to date. At present, the reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrator is almost \$6,000.

number one goal - to help law enforcement find those responsible for the lynching.

Offers of monetary rewards have been streaming into the Sheriff's department since the news first broke and to date the reward fund stands at nearly \$6,000. Those caught could face

felony animal cruelty charges.

The Madera County Sheriff's Department is hoping a tip might help deputies find those behind the hanging. Anyone with information about the killing is urged to call the Madera County Sheriff's Department at 559-675-7770 or toll-free at 1-800-560-4911.

MID Claims Suit Victory; Taxpayer's Assoc. Vows Appeal

The Madera Irrigation District (MID) claimed victory Friday, Aug. 18 over the lawsuit filed by Jim Cobb's Taxpayer's Association of Madera County seeking a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) suit challenge to the board's waterbank plans. Based on a tentative statement of decision by the Madera Superior Court, the court found that the Taxpayer's Association had no legal basis to file the CEQA action because of its lack of compliance with the law. MID further stated in a prepared

release that Cobb, "... has caused a substantial waste of farmers' and taxpayers' dollars in pursuing this flawed lawsuit."

On Monday night, Aug. 21, the Taxpayers Association's Board of Directors voted unanimously to pursue an appeal to the judge's initial decision to dismiss the water bank lawsuit on a legal technicality.

"The Taxpayers' Association is furious that the MID board refused to agree to not sell water to developers without public

review" said Jim Cobb, the President of the Taxpayers. "Our County is over drafting at a rate of 100,000 acre-feet a year. We can not afford to leave our county's water supply in the hands of a group of people who, for some reason, feel that it necessary to hide critical information from the public."

CEQA's basic purposes are to inform governmental decision makers and the public about the potential significant environmental effects of pro-

posed activities; identify ways that environmental damage can be avoided or significantly reduced; require changes in projects through the use of alternatives or mitigation measures when feasible; and disclose to the public the reasons why a project was approved if significant environmental effects are involved. CEQA applies to projects undertaken, funded or requiring an issuance of a permit by a public agency.

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R.B.



with apologies to Johnny Hart and B.C.

Editorial

Strange, Sick Days in the Ranchos

By Randy Bailey

These are strange days indeed in the Ranchos. Visiting football teams come here and find the urge to violate their own players in the showers. Businesses destroy other businesses signage and end up in court.

And then there's that dog hanging.

Now I know how Chowchilla felt when they had that school bus hijacked. For all the reasons you want the world to know about what a great community you live in, it never fails that what gets you in the spotlight is a good ol' mass murder or kidnapping or world-class meth lab.

But who would hang a dog?

The first Ranchos Independent I published featured on the front page a baby calf on the Smith property that was shot by an arrow. That case has never been solved, despite rewards that were offered and an open "tip line" from the Madera County Sheriff's department. Now here it is almost two years later and we're faced with someone hanging a dog from a tree.

When I first heard about the story I thought it was possibly an accident. I have seen dogs that are tied to a doghouse twist and turn until they had about one foot of freedom left before that started to strangle themselves from their own restlessness. I have heard stories about people who had dogs that were "jumpers," dogs that would actually jump over a backyard fence if given the opportunity, and would be tied up to prevent such an occurrence only to have them jump the fence anyway and end up strangling themselves.

It *could* happen.

Then I received the pictures from the Sheriff's department.

This was no accident.

The dog was placed on one side of the tree with a loop, or noose, of synthetic rope around its neck and an opposing branch 10 feet high was used as a pulley. When the dog's hind legs just cleared the ground, the rope was tied off.

I have some questions:

1. How come no one heard anything? If a butterfly passes by my house my dog makes so much noise I have to go outside to get her to quiet down. Sometimes it can take awhile. My dog makes a godawful noise when she steps on a sticker -- I can imagine what kind of a fuss she would put up if she were being strangled. There are a couple of houses in the vicinity -- and it's possible no one was home or the TV was on too loud or they were dead asleep -- but I just wonder why no one heard *anything*.

2. Where's the owner? This was not some stray dog who hadn't eaten in weeks. This was not some bones-showing-through-the-ribs mangy mutt that had been abused. By all accounts this male Border Collie mix was well taken care of. By all accounts this was obviously someone's pet. Next to the Ranchos Independent office is a community bulletin board and there's another one over by the front door to Cat's Diner. These corkboards are constantly covered by people looking for lost pets or with notes from other good Samaritans who have found a loose animal. Why, in this case, has *NO ONE* come

Random Notes

I don't know if you're into trying something different when you go out to eat or if you order the exact same thing every time, but the next time you're in Cat's Diner ask them if they're making Monte Cristo sandwiches and try one. For the uninitiated, a Monte Cristo consists of ham, turkey and Swiss cheese between two slices of bread that are then soaked in an egg-based batter (like French toast) and then deep-fried. But wait ... there's more! After the sandwich comes out of the deep fryer it's dusted with powdered sugar and then you eat each bite with a dab of strawberry preserves. I can feel my arteries hardening just thinking about it. It is out of this world.



Owner Robbie Hammond will tell you the history of the Monte Cristo if you ask, but I'm still convinced it has all the earmarks of being created by a Cheech and Chong type after a night of serious partying. You decide which definition works best.



Assemblyman Mike Villines

One of the best kept secrets in the Ranchos is that on the second Wednesday of each month Assemblyman Mike Villines' Senior Field Representative, Ken May, plops down in the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce/Ranchos Independent office from 10 a.m. until noon for one reason: to talk to YOU. If you want a direct link to our state assemblyman, this is it! He'll listen, take notes, offer solutions and make sure that Villines gets a feel for what our concerns

are here in the Ranchos. This is an awesome resource and we need to take advantage of it. Just remember, if it's a federal issue, that's Congressman Radanovich; if it's a county item, that's Supervisor Bigelow; but if it's State of California related, Ken's your man.

The hot tip for the beginning of September is the big community picnic put on by the good people at Cobb's Ranch. It's great food, a lot of toys for the kids to play on, super music and just a lot of friendly interaction with your neighbors. The Chamber is also putting on a business extravaganza at the event so that should be cool. Sunday, Sept. 3 from noon to 5 p.m. at Cobb's Ranch. See you there!



THE RAY GUN

GOVERNMENT IS LIKE A BABY. AN ALIMENTARY CANAL WITH A BIG APPETITE AT ONE END AND NO SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY AT THE OTHER.

RONALD REAGAN

forward and said, "Say, has anyone seen my Border Collie mix? He's such a good dog. I love that dog. What a great pet. Has anyone seen a dog like that?"

Am I the only one who finds that a little strange?

People come into my office on a regular basis to report found dogs, lost cats -- we even had a lost turtle once and a sheep and a horse (according to the owner they always travelled as a pair) another time -- and run an ad for the lost or found pets, yet absolutely nothing has been said by anyone anywhere for a well-taken-care-of, obviously-someone's-pet Border Collie mix.

Why is that? How could that be? Could they just not know their pet Border Collie mix is missing yet? Did they leave him with someone else while they're out of the country and that person hasn't had the courage yet to tell them their dog is missing? I just don't get that one.

3. Why'd they have to kill the dog? If you've lived in the Ranchos for any length of time you've seen your share of strays. I'm convinced the folks from Fresno dump their unwanted out here knowing we'll take them in. Our last "new" dog was found on our property. We put up the requisite signs on the power poles (which I would now NEVER do again) and knocked on plenty of neighborhood doors, but when no one answered the ads, we had another dog.

So, if someone just wanted to get rid of a dog, why'd they have to kill him when turning him loose would have achieved the same end? Why would someone get rid of a dog in a fashion that was calculated to absolutely, positively garner the maximum amount of attention?

Hmmm ... someone wanting to get attention ... maybe this is all starting to make a little more sense now.

Sick sense, but sense none the less.

The Ranchos Independent

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One Last Time ...

Road signs – you see them in all shapes and sizes, handwritten or professional looking in nature – and whether the sign is pleasing to the eye or not, many are by law a “visual nuisance,” and those choosing to post them could very well be breaking the law.

Complaints of illegal sign posting have been brought to the Sheriff’s attention. Sheriff John Anderson would like to think that no one would deliberately break the law but simply doesn’t know Madera County’s Codes. To get the word out Sheriff Anderson wants to remind citizens and business operators the do’s and don’ts when it comes to posting signs anywhere in Madera County.

Title 18 “ZONING” Madera County Code

Signs prohibited on public property

No sign shall be placed upon any public property, including sidewalks, crosswalks, roads, curbs, lamp posts, hydrants, trees, utility poles, buildings, fences and rights-of-way of any type, except such legal notices which are authorized by law to be so located. No sign shall project over any public property or right-of-way. (Ord. 525-C § 2, 1994: Ord. 525 § 1(part), 1989).

Signs which include advertising a business, product, service or entertainment, conducted, sold, or offered elsewhere than upon the parcel upon which the sign is located is strictly prohibited.

For more information on the do’s and don’t of posting signs in Madera County, please log onto www.madera-county.com and click on “Codes” then “Zoning.”

Letters

Dear Editor:

Hi to all, my name is Tome and I belong to a group called Eastern Star in Madera.

The reason I am writing is that a few months ago, a family printed the name and APO address of their son in the Letters to the Editor. A project that we have in Eastern Star in California is called the "We Care" program and we collect names and addresses of military personnel overseas and send them packages of snacks, soaps and many other things. This is what we did for that serviceman whose name and APO address was listed in your paper.

As the troops are cycled back home from foreign duty, names come off our lists. Consequently, as this is a statewide program, we are in constant need of new names. If there is anyone who receives this paper that would be willing to share names and APO addresses of military personnel deployed anywhere outside of the U.S.A., it would be greatly appreciated.

I guarantee that any person whose name and APO address we receive will get a number of boxes from our group statewide.

Thanks for your attention. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Tome' Martin-Duvall, Past Matron
Madera Chapter # 92
Order of the Eastern Star

tomeucce@hotmail.com
559-978-5182

Dear Editor:

I found the following news blog in a recent NAUS (National Association of Uniformed Services) newsletter:

President Signs "Freedom to Display the American Flag Act."

On Monday, President Bush signed the Freedom to Display the American Flag Act, an Act that would bar condominium and homeowner associations from restricting how the American flag can be displayed.

Sponsored by Rep. Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD), the resolution simply says that a homeowner or condominium owner cannot be prohibited from displaying an American flag on their own property. It also says that the association may place reasonable limits on the time and the manner of displaying the flag. The action is a commonsense accommodation of the rights of the associations to maintain the value of their properties and the rights of Americans to fly the flag.

Both the House and the Senate passed the bill (H.R. 42) unanimously.

"Americans have long flown our flag as an expression of their appreciation for our freedoms and their pride in our nation," Bush said in a statement. "As our brave men and women continue to fight to protect our country overseas, Congress has passed an important measure to protect our citizen's right to express their patriotism here at

home without burdensome restrictions."

My first thought about the whole thing is “Why are Congress and the Senate wasting their valuable time even addressing such a ridiculous issue?” I had read articles recently in local newspapers that some retired military personnel were not allowed to fly the American flag at their homes at certain homeowner and condominium associations throughout the U.S.A. and thought how un-American these associations must be! I also thought, “No, this must be a news reporter’s bogus idea of creating a non-news story, it’s absolutely ridiculous!”

Who are these so-called “Americans” telling an ex-military man, or even a patriotic American, that he can’t fly the American Flag? Just what are they thinking! It’s a sad state of affairs existing in our country today. I’m sure the associations are trying to keep their properties well kept and presentable to the eye, but where’s the common sense, stopping the flying of our country’s flag! The flag represents the freedom they enjoy and is a slap in the face to every retired, ex-military and active military man and woman who served or died to keep our country free.

If I owned a condo I would give every owner an American Flag when they signed the contract, have a place to prominently display it correctly, and encourage them to fly the flag daily.

I proudly fly the American Flag on a 14-foot flagpole in front of my house every day on Caron Way. It’s a beautiful sight.

Bill Whyman, USAF (Ret.)
Madera Ranchos

Annual Labor Day

Picnic

Community

Live MUSIC

You're invited Jim

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Lots of Games and Prizes

Bring a Blanket & Lawn Chairs

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Ranchos Hills Seniors Golden Valley
Chamber of Commerce
Deputy Sheriff's Association
Taxpayers Association of Madera County

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Suggested Donation for BBQ: \$6 per person or \$20 per Family

Terrific Summer at the Library

By Ellen Mester

What a terrific summer we've had at the Ranchos Library! Not only did we have wonderful guest performers, but we had excellent contest entries for best pet photo and best decorated pet container. Plus, each week we gave out a gift basket to the lucky winner of our Dragon Drawing. Most important of all, though, are all the children who read lots and lots of books throughout the summer. Congratulations to all the readers who participated in our Summer Reading Program.

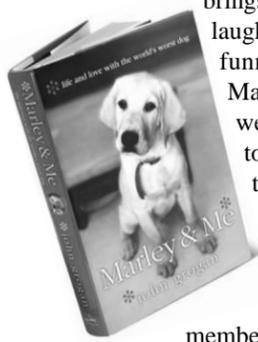
Before you rush out to the bookstore to buy the latest bestseller, stop by the library. We have many of the new releases straight from the publisher. All of the best-selling mysteries, fiction, biographies, science fiction, and non-fiction books are right up front by the circulation desk. If you can't find what you're looking for the library staff would be glad to help you find it. We can also place a request if it is located in another library in the San Joaquin Library System, which covers six counties.

Sept. 3 is the Annual Labor Day Community Picnic at Cobb Ranch from noon until 5 p.m. The Friends of the Ranchos Library will have a booth set up with library information and applications for a library card. Anyone who can show their library card or applies for a new card will be able to enter a drawing for a gift basket. You must have your library card with you to enter. It will be a great day. Hope to see everyone there.

The Grande Book Sale 2006 was a success despite the fact that it was the hottest week of the summer. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped set up and take down the tables and books. You deserve a special pat on the back for working through the heat wave. Remember we always have books for sale in the Friends Book Sale room in the library, and at the www.library-booksales.org website. Soon we hope to also be listed with bookfinders.com.

Book Recommendations

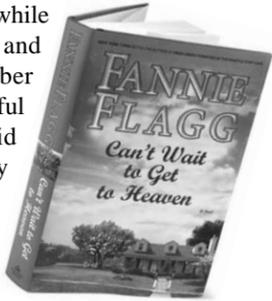
Adult Non-fiction: *Marley and Me: Life and Love with the World's Worst Dog* written by John Grogan. Many young couples have been known to prepare themselves for parenthood by honing their skills by way of puppy rearing. John and Jenny Grogan did just that by selecting a yellow lab who they named Marley. And what a dog he was! From the beginning they realized that Marley was not your typical dog. He was more than a handful; he was incorrigible — or so it seemed at first. John Grogan is an excellent writer who



brings you to tears of laughter with all the funny antics of Marley, the dog, as well as his marriage to Jenny and eventually the birth of their children. Marley is an integral and endearing

member of the family but not without hilarious misadventures that create many trials for John and Jenny. This is a must read for dog lovers.

Adult Fiction: *Can't Wait to Get to Heaven* by Fannie Flagg. Elnor Shimfissle is an active 80-something who is well-loved in her community of Elmwood Springs, Mo. When she falls off her ladder while picking figs for her neighbor, she gets the trip of her life (or death) while her family and friends remember all the wonderful things she did and how many lives she touched with her love and kindness.

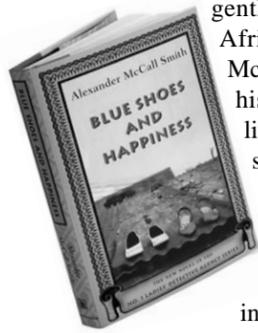


Elnor's wit and wry sense of humor along with all the eccentric characters in Elmwood Springs keep this book funny and delightfully charming.

Adult Mystery: *Blue Shoes and Happiness* by Alexander McCall Smith. Mma Ramotswe and the No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency are back solving mysteries in Botswana. Their cases may look mild compared to American crime-solvers,

but it is in this very gentle, slow-paced African way that McCall Smith brings his characters to life. It is with the subtlety of a good cup of bush tea and fine looking shoes. It is the changing times interwoven with the elegance of ancient customs. It is the Botswana way, yet it is also the way of many cultures. If you are looking for a gentle, upbeat but thoroughly entertaining book this is for you.

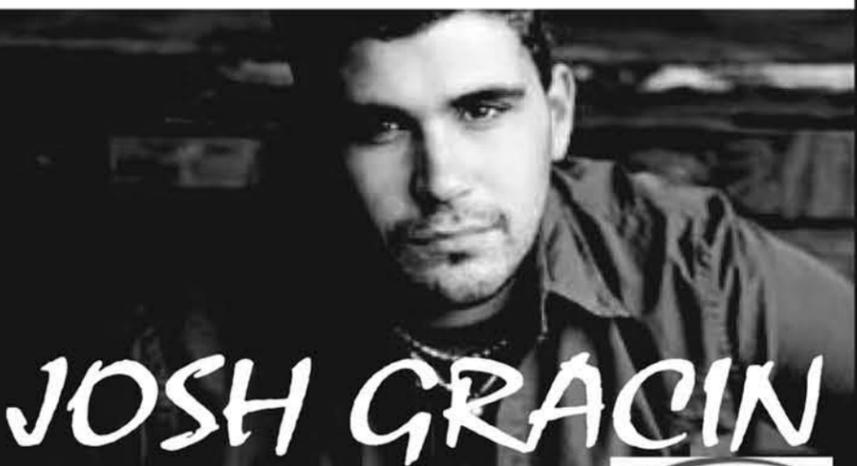
Check out these books and more at the library and remember your library card ... don't leave home without it!



Madera FAIR .com

SEPT. 7-10th

Thursday, Sept., 7th at 7:30pm



JOSH GRACIN

General Admission: FREE with paid fair admission



Friday, Sept., 8th at 8:00pm



HEART

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Festival Seating - Free with paid fair admission



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8/06

New School Year Kicks Off Flawlessly as Progress Continues in GVUSD

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,

School has started! Please watch out for buses and children. Children move fast and they don't always look where they are going. Golden Valley Unified has done many things to get ready for the beginning of the new school year. Liberty High had a very successful registration day for 9th through 12th grades. Students turned in their important paperwork, had their photo identifications taken, bought their gym clothes and paid for their yearbooks all in one day.

Ranchos Middle School was very organized and registered their students in record time. Three photographers hurried up the photo identification shots. Students and parents were pleased when 1 hour later they could walk away with their photo identification cards and their class schedules in their hands. Ranchos Middle School new principal Shane Pinkard started the new school year with a get acquainted Community Breakfast on Saturday, Aug. 5. This is another first for Golden Valley Unified. No principal at Golden Valley has started his school year with a breakfast. About 80 people came to meet Principal Pinkard and to enjoy a delicious breakfast. Six of the teachers who worked under Principal Pinkard at his last school showed up at the breakfast to show their support and congratulate him on his new job. This was nice to see and spoke well of his administration abilities. One of Principal Pinkard's past administrators who has retired now, Mr. Gary Christensen, who was also one of my principals when I worked as a teacher in

Fresno Unified, was busy working in the kitchen getting the breakfast ready. Mr. Pinkard had called on his friends to help him put this breakfast together. It was fun to visit with Gary and hear how supportive he is of Mr. Pinkard. It was a great way to start off the new school year at Ranchos Middle School.

I visited all four of Golden Valley Unified schools the week before school started for the students. The district custodians were hard at work at each site. Lawns were being mowed, last minute repairs were being made and new computers and systems were being put in place for the opening day of school. The new wing of classrooms at Liberty High is on schedule to be finished by the end of August. The newly repaired classrooms at Sierra View Elementary are finished and the teachers have already decorated their rooms. Webster Elementary was busy covering up a ditch that ran to the classrooms on the East side of the campus. New electrical wiring was in the ditch and it got covered up just in time for school to start. As I talked to each school principal I found out that they were all working on last minute details at their schools but knew they would be ready for students on the first day of school and they were.

I had the opportunity to join the teachers, administrators and classified staff for Golden Valley's Camp "Me-No-Walk-Alon-E" for a team-building day. The day started with a 7:30 a.m. continental breakfast at the Liberty High cafeteria. Our first guest speaker was Mr. Carlos Garcia who is the vice-president of McGraw-Hill Publishing Company. Mr. Garcia was my area superintendent in my other life when

I was teaching in Fresno Unified. It was nice to see and talk to him again. I didn't know that he had left the educational field of work to go into the commercial field. He is a great motivational speaker now. It truly is a small world.

After Mr. Garcia's speech we took part in a mini-conference program. The sessions were broken in to six different strands. They were: Health and Wellness, Differentiated Instruction, Classroom Management, Vocabulary, Technology, and one strand called "Other" which included such areas as modeling for writers and developing web-based Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). I would have liked to have attended all of the sessions because they all sounded interesting but like all conferences you can only choose one area in each time slot. The presenters at all of the sessions were Golden Valley teachers or administrators. I was impressed with how professionally they conducted each session. There were four different sessions. I chose two Health and Wellness sessions to see how they would fit in with the new policies that the school board had just put into place. The sessions were good. The other session I attended was how to get students to a higher level of learning and the last session was how the Character Counts program can become a part of teachers' classroom programs.

Lunch was served in the Liberty High gym. After lunch Ms. Rhonda Murphy, the television Channel 30 fitness expert, led us all in stretching exercises, which was in keeping with the Wellness policy. There was one more session after lunch and we were finished at 3 p.m. It was a very full

and interesting day. I hope our teachers, administrators, and classified staff learned a lot from this mini-conference. I enjoyed what I saw and learned.

Webster Elementary has already had its Open House for parents to learn what each teacher expects from their students in the coming year. Sierra View Elementary held theirs on Thursday, Aug. 17. This is always an important time for schools because it sets the tone for the year. Students, parents and teacher need to be on the same page for students to get the most out of a school year. I wish only the best for all of Golden Valley teachers and students. What a challenge you all face!

Since I have been back on the Golden Valley Unified School Board I have seen many positive changes with new teachers and new classroom programs, just to mention some of what a school board over sees. Next we will be looking to move ahead rapidly on the Golden Valley building program. Since the school bond was passed last June everyone has been busy putting the pieces together so we can get started. There is never a dull moment when you are a school board member. School board members don't have the summer off and neither does the district office.

Don't forget to put on your calendar Sunday Sept. 3 for the Community Picnic at Cobb's Ranch. This is a family affair with lots of good food and fun activities for the children. Don't forget to bring a towel for the children that use the water slide.

The next Golden Valley School Board meeting will be held on Sept. 12, 2006 at Liberty library at 6 p.m. I'll see you there.

Hal Grant says "Thank You!"

I thank all of my supporters, each and every one of you that voted for me. Even though I was not elected to the office, I thank the voters in the Ranchos/Rolling Hills areas for honoring me with the *FIRST PLACE* position you gave me in the Webster Precincts:

GRANT - 409

FB - 379

Also in the Bonadelle (Sierra View) Precincts:

GRANT - 156

FB - 104

I am humbled by your vote of confidence.

If it is the Lord's will I will be a candidate in the next District 1 Supervisorial Election. If I can assist in any way, please email me at hal20sam@comcast.net or call me at 645-6345 or 930-6420.



HAL GRANT

CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS
16901 Monreal RD, Madera 93638
645-6345 or 930-6420
halgrant@comcast.net

HAL GRANT

Interesting Facts

There are 9,736 registered voters in the 1st Supervisorial District. In the last election, 5,343 ballots were cast, almost a 55% turnout. Almost 31% of the votes cast were absentee ballots (2,985). **GRANT** received 34.2% of the votes (FB - 52%). With **GRANT's** total campaign cost of \$5,500, **GRANT** received TEN times more votes per dollar spent.

Ranchos Library Summer Children's Program 2006 Essay Contest Winners "My Pet"

1st Place (tie)
Emily Gray

EMILY GRAY

The Strongest Day of My Life
By Emily Gray

One day while I was walking to school I happened to walk up to a dog that was lost. Feeling sorry for the poor thing, I decided to take the dog with me to school until I can get home and feed him. During class the only thing I had on my mind was the dog, I kept wondering where he came from, or where he lived. When I was drawing a picture of the dog, my teacher, Mrs. Osborn announced that two substitutes were going to go home. Suddenly, I jumped out of my seat and asked to go to the bathroom, I then ran outside hoping that he would still be there when I left him. When I got to the hill roll, there he was, lying down on the cool dirt in a shady spot in front of the shed. I stayed out there for a whole two minutes, then I knew I had to hurry and get back to class. I remembered that I stuck a piece of bread to my pocket at lunch. Knowing the dog must be hungry, I fed him the piece of bread. After school I took the dog home. The moment I stepped foot on the front porch, I had a bad feeling that sent chills down my spine. I kept hearing a voice in my head saying, "If the dog goes anywhere tonight follow him." After I heard that message I stopped and thought about it, I wondered, "How come I have to follow the dog if it goes anywhere?" Then I asked myself, "What can a dog possibly do at night?" Sooo it was nine o'clock and the dog hadn't gotten out yet. So I ate supper, and before I had a chance to go upstairs, my dad walked to the door, shouted "Wuzzup", it was getting late so I got my pajamas on and went to bed. Suddenly I heard a noise, I peeked my head out of the covers and saw the dog trying to sneak out of the house. I found an open window and went out through it. Now the journey begins here, I threw some clothes on and I followed the dog into a field. In the field there was a space ship with brightly blinking lights. I quickly followed the dog as he went inside. Inside the ship were the strongest looking aliens I had ever seen. They were slimy, had six eyes, and their bodies looked like flies. The dog walked to the center of the room. Suddenly, to my surprise, the dog's body shined to half, and out popped a alien. A large alien on the blackness inquired if he had found a new word. The alien, that once was a dog, said, "Wuzzup!" Then all the other aliens repeated the word a million times. So then it ended, the alien got what they wanted, a new word and I found out what I wanted to know, what the dog was up to. THE END

Tied for 1st place

1st Place (tie)
Augustina Villanueva

Augustina Villanueva

Honey

My dog Honey is my best friend in the whole entire world. One night, my dad, brother and I were sleeping outside and it was about..... 3:00 am ;so she comes and starts poking me with her nose!!! That same night, she started nibbling me !!!Trust me it hurts. After we give her a bath, she starts rubbing her nice clean fur against our dirty fence. After that she starts rubbing herself on the grass!!! It is so funny!!!You should see her when my mom asks her if she wants to go to walk. She starts crying and howling like a baby; it's so cute!!! One night she started barking , but it wasn't the way she usually barked .Then my dad went to see what was bothering Honey. Our neighbor had recently redesigned his house. He had bought new appliances and was out of town . There was nobody protecting the house. My dad saw two people sneaking through the back door. He grabbed Honey and went inside to call the police. The police arrived faster than you can think of. The police captured the burglars and told us that they had just got out of jail a couple of weeks ago. The owner came to thank Honey the next day. She gave us some treats for a gift. That is how Honey saved the day. I LOVE HONEY!

2nd Place (tie)
Elish Hayes

MY DOG MAX
BY ELISH HAYES

It was a cloudy day when we went to get my dog Max. He is black and white. Max is a Boston Terrier. He was five weeks old and very small. Max is a the first dog I have ever had.

We got Max in Firebaugh the day before Easter. My brother and I found the ad for Boston Terriers and showed it to our Dad and he said yes we could get a dog. So we went to the pet store to get puppy supplies and then went to Firebaugh. When we got there, we picked between three puppies. One was hyperactive and one was sleepy. The last one was just right. So we got the last one and went home to show our Mom.

When we got home we let him outside to explore around the house. As a family we voted on a name and all decided to name him "Max." My brother and I slept with Max the first few weeks and woke up every two hours to take him out to go to the bathroom. My Dad, brother and I built an outdoor kennel for him to play so he wouldn't run away. Everyday Max grew cuter and cuter.

Now Max is five months old. He is 1 foot 3 inches tall and he weighs 13 pounds. He sleeps with us every night and plays soccer with us. Max loves to chew on our socks and stuffed animals. He also likes to play fetch. I love Max because he is cute and cuddly.

2nd Place (tie)
Connor Hayes

My Pet Boston Terrier
by Connor Hayes

My pet's name is Max and he is a Boston Terrier. He is black and white and he is one foot and three inches tall. Once Max is a grown up his height will be 15-17 inches and weight will be 10-25 lbs. Max might live about 15 years or more.

I got Max because I wanted a pet. When I got him, Max was 5 weeks old. I was looking in the paper for days and days, then on Saturday, the day before Easter, my Dad said, "Yes, we can get him." We went to White's Pet store and got dog food and supplies. Then we went to Firebaugh and chose between three Boston Terriers that were there. One was hyperactive, one was sleepy, and the one we chose was just right.

When we got home we voted, as a family, that his name would be Max. We let him explore the yard. My sister and I slept in the kitchen with him at night for two weeks and woke up to take him out to the bathroom every two hours.

Now, Max is four and a half months old and bigger and stronger. He likes to play soccer and fetch. He can also play tug-a-war. He's more cute everyday and I love him very much.

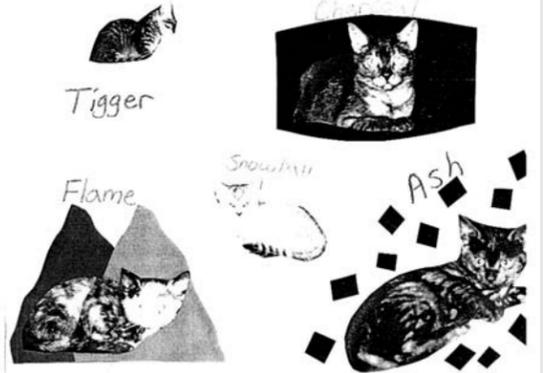
2nd Place (tie)
Anthony Borges

My Cats

Anthony Borges

One night, Tigger was bouncing around in the snow, when he stumbled upon a camp site. Tigger decided to use some charcoal to start a fire in the barbeque. As the fire grew, Tigger saw a big, red and orange flame. That is when Tigger grabbed a stick and started roasting his marshmallows over the flame. When he was done, he grabbed some snow and turned it into a ball. He used that snowball to put out the fire. Once the fire was out, all that was left was the ash from the fire.

This is the story of how my cats were named. Charcoal is the mother and her kittens are Tigger, Flame (the only girl), Snowball, and Ash. You can find all of their names in my story above.



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3	1	4	2	8	6	5	7	9
2	7	5	9	3	4	1	6	8
9	6	8	7	1	5	2	4	3
6	4	2	8	7	3	9	5	1
7	9	1	6	5	2	8	3	4
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Rainbows (Boys & Girls 3-4)

Tuesday
Adrenaline Youth.....7 - 8:30 p.m.

Ranchos Softball Strikes "Gold"



The winning Liberty Ranchos Softball League travelling team, the Liberty Ranchos Gold, are: Front row players (from left) Gaby Lomeli and Kayla Barber; Second row players are Jennifer Little, Paige Flores, Jessi Wallace, Tonya Hogue, Danielle Willingham, Cristina Martinez, Darienne Schmall, Shae Ortega, Randi Wallace and Kelly Willis; In the back row are coaches Gina Wallace, Jose Lomeli, Carrie Santa Cruz and Bob Barber.

Local Team takes on More Experienced Players - and Wins

The girls of the Liberty Ranchos Softball League just finished their second full year of existence, but being "rookies" didn't stop them from competing up and down the state and taking home two first place trophies and one second place trophy in tournaments ranging from Morro Bay to San Diego.

At the conclusion of its second season, the Liberty Ranchos Softball League put together an All Star Travel Team from each age division, calling the travel teams the Liberty Ranchos Gold (with the "Gold" for "Golden Valley"). Interestingly, since it is still such a new league from a smaller community, only 12 girls showed up for the 14 and Under tryout. Needless to say, all 12 girls made the team, seven of whom were only in their second year of playing softball. The Liberty Ranchos Gold players entered their travel season knowing they were a younger team with less experience than many of the teams they would be facing from other towns.

The Liberty Ranchos Gold played in five softball tournaments throughout the Central Valley and Central Coast. In their first tournament in Lemoore, the Gold was 4-0 heading into the championship game against Lancaster. Lancaster got the better of them and out scored them 7-6, giving the Gold their first-ever Second Place trophy.

Two weeks later the Gold traveled to Morro Bay to escape the valley heat and play more softball. After two days of intense softball, the Gold went 4-1 and beat Atascadero 9-2 in the championship game. With confidence growing and determination, the Gold took home its first First Place trophy.

Two weeks after the Morro Bay victory the Gold participated in the Central California Association Championship Tournament held in Clovis. This was a tournament that drew teams from all over the Central Valley and Central Coast and was a qualifying tournament with the top teams being invited to participate in the State Games being played in San Diego in mid July. The Gold saved their best softball for this tourna-

ment.

After two days of softball in Clovis, the Gold went undefeated, outscoring their opponents 35-4, and took first place and earned the right to compete in the California Games in San Diego.

San Diego Here We Come!

San Diego was an incredible experience for all of the girls with a wonderful tournament followed by a terrific vacation for many of the families.

This tournament had 14 and Under teams from Stockton to San Diego competing and after some intense competition the Gold came away with Fifth Place overall. On the final day of the tournament they were eliminated by a team from Coronado that eventually won the whole tournament. The score? 1-0. Amazingly, the Liberty Ranchos Gold with its 12 players was competitive to the end against a team that had over 100 girls to choose from in its initial tryout.

The players and coaches for this incredible, memorable 2006 season are:

- Kayla Barber – Pitcher**
- Paige Flores – Outfield**
- Tonya Hogue – First Base**
- Jennifer Little – Outfield**
- Gaby Lomeli – Second Base**
- Cristina Martinez – Third Base**
- Shae Ortega – Center Field**
- Darienne Schmall – Catcher**
- Jessi Wallace – Outfield / Second Base**
- Randi Wallace – Outfield**
- Danielle Willingham – Short Stop**
- Kelly Willis – Outfield**
- Bob Barber – Coach**
- Carrie Santa Cruz – Coach**
- Jose Lomeli – Coach**
- Gina Wallace – Coach**

The Liberty Ranchos Gold would like to thank its local area sponsors whose financial contributions made it possible for all players to travel and participate in the state tournament held in San Diego. They include A-C Electric Company, the Ranchos Kiwanis Club, Earthscapes, Continental Custom Homes and Exterior Designers.

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Ag Crimes, OHV Units Tackle Illegal OHV Riders

Illegal Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) riders aren't just tearing up neighborhoods; they're impacting Ranchers and Farmers too.

No matter how many times the Sheriff's Department has tried to educate the public about OHV laws in Madera County illegal riders continue to trespass without regard for the land they're destroying or the dust they're creating – dust that on any given day blankets portions of the valley – dust that the ag community is being blamed for, for making people sick.

"The blatant disregard for county laws isn't just affecting home owners, it's now impacting the ag community," said Sheriff John Anderson. "OHV's aren't just destroying their precious land, thieves have now turned to OHV's to steal from farmers and ranchers. They can slip easily in and out of orchards and fields making their great escape via routes that neither cars nor trucks can reach ... leaving thick clouds of dust in their wake."



The Ag Crimes Unit features the able skills of (from left) Detective Cliff Kirkes and Detective Bud Smith.

In an effort to combat the growing problem the Madera County Sheriff's OHV Team and Ag Crimes Task Force have now joined forces. It is hoped that by stepping up patrols the message will finally be heard.

Since launching the OHV program the OHV unit has issued numerous press releases warning the public about illegal OHV riding. "We have conducted a number of OHV random rides to warn and even cite those breaking the law but it appears our effort to enforce county codes have gone ignored," Anderson said.

Random Rides

In response, Anderson just introduced what deputies are calling "Random Rides"; OHV sweeps if you will. Deputies have already recovered one stolen motorcycle, arrested a man who had two outstanding warrants and took another man into custody for not only riding illegally but riding under the influence.

In letting the public know that a zero tolerance has been enforced, Anderson urges anyone who owns an OHV to learn the laws of Madera County and familiarize themselves with our county codes. "I would also advise that they study the laws BEFORE they take their OHV out for a ride," he said.

It's imperative that riders understand and obey the laws and county codes. If you are caught riding an OHV illegally in Madera County you risk arrest, having your vehicle impounded and you could face fines up to \$1,000.



The OHV Unit consists of (from left) Deputy Randy Belt, Team Leader Deputy Larry Rich, Detective Jason Clark and Deputy Dan Kerber.

Deputy Larry Rich leads the OHV 4-man team, patrolling with Deputies Randy Belt, Dan Kerber and Detective Jason Clark. The Ag Crimes Task Force is only a two-man team operated by Ag Crimes Detectives Bud Smith and Cliff Kirkes.

The Sheriff's Department currently has at its disposal two All Terrain Vehicles (ATV's) and three dual sport motorcycles with on road and off road capabilities.

Anderson credits two separate grants secured by the Sheriff's Department that have helped make both the OHV and Ag Crimes Units possible. "Without that financial support we wouldn't have the equipment, much less the man hours, to combat Ag theft and at the same time illegal OHV riding," Anderson said.

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Grandparents Don and Phyllis Becerra and mother Sophia Aguirre would like to congratulate Private Edward Aguirre from Whittier, Calif. who graduated from cavalry training Feb. 9, 2006 at Fort Knox in Louisville, Ky.

At present, Private Aguirre is stationed at Killeen, Texas at Fort Hood as a scout supporting the U.S. Army.

Private Edward Aguirre

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Here's a Hot "TIP" for Sept. 29: Saluting Heroes, Raising Funds

Trauma Intervention Programs, Inc. (TIP) is having a "Salute to On-Scene Heroes" Awards Ceremony & Fundraiser at Copper River Country Club in Fresno on Friday, Sept. 29.

TIP is a national non-profit organization that was founded in 1985. TIP establishes and operates TIP Chapters across the nation and in each chapter citizen volunteers provide support to family members who have just experienced a traumatic event. The events may include natural or unexpected deaths; victims of crime; disoriented or lonely older persons; victims of vehicle accidents; family members after a suicide or basically anyone emotionally traumatized by a crisis event.

TIP works hand-in-hand with firefighters, hospital personnel, paramedics, police/sheriff/CHP officers, coroners, the American Red Cross and chaplains. The proceeds from a "Salute to On-Scene Heroes" will help TIP continue to provide resource materials to families, educate new volunteers and expand its services. TIP trained volunteers are available 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.

The event is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. and will run til 9:30 p.m. The "Salute to On-Scene Heroes" Awards Ceremony & Fundraiser costs \$45 per person and tables of 10 are available for \$450. The Copper River Country Club is located at 11500 North Friant Road in north Fresno.

If you have any questions you can contact Sharon Biswell, Crisis Team Manager, at 559-265-8730 or email her at sharontip@earthlink.net.

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8/06

Local Expert gives VP Wine Lesson



Madera-based sommelier Nicole Darracq (left) handled the wine duties at the birthday dinner of Vice President Dick Cheney in Jackson Hole, Wyo.

When Vice-President Dick Cheney and his wife Lynne celebrated their birthdays with a private wine dinner this month in Jackson Hole, Wyo., they had a fun, educational evening with good friends, good food and fine wines. Their sommelier? Nicole Darracq, partner in Madera-based AgPRO Marketing with the Ranchos' Darren "Pizza Farmer" Schmall.

A wine educator and marketing consultant, Darracq was asked to conduct the five-course, six-wine dinner for 18 held in a private home and attended by close friends of the Cheneys. She had to select the wines to be paired with the menu and she kept her picks Californian, including the Central Valley's historic Ficklin Vineyards.

"How do you pick six wines when you have the whole world to choose from?" Darracq said. "Once I had the menu and knew the types of wines I'd need, I tried to focus on small producers from around the state that made wines that were great representations of their appellations. I am also a huge foodie, so I often pick a great dinner wine over a big name or a high critical score."

Darracq came to the wine industry via restaurant work. "I waited on a lot of tables," she said. A stint as a trainer for Paragon Restaurant, Inc. led to a position in the marketing department for Napa's Beringer Vineyards where she met Tim Hanni, America's first Master of Wine and an innovative wine educator. As a result of his mentoring, Darracq began learning wine and food science in earnest.

After a series of marketing positions she began consulting and developed a class in Wine Sensory Evaluation for Mendocino Community College, which she still teaches on occasion. In 2005 she met third-generation Madera farmer Schmall and they created AgPRO Marketing, a consulting firm dedicated to helping family owned

wineries and farms survive in an evermore-challenging economy.

"I do a big wine dinner in Jackson Hole every winter, which is how the Vice President's dinner came about," Darracq said. "I also donate wine events to charity fundraisers and do private parties. There's a world of people out there who love learning about wine, and having dinner with them is the most fun part of my job. And of course, if I can introduce smaller producers to the consumer and help them understand how their purchasing power makes a difference to the little guys, so much the better."

Since partnering with the Pizza Farmer, Darracq has been increasingly a part of the Central Valley wine scene, most recently pouring at the Fresno Heart Association's annual fundraising gala. But none of that was as intimidating as pouring wine for the Vice President of the United States.

"The single most intimidating part of the evening was between the first and second courses," Darracq said. "At the beginning I had been formally introduced and had given my usual introductory talk, explaining a little food and wine chemistry and describing the first course. But walking around the tables during that course, I realized that the Vice President was very earnestly discussing the current situation in Lebanon, and I kept hearing 'Syria' and 'Hizballah' and 'Israel.' Suddenly it dawned on me that I was about to bang on my glass with a fork and actually interrupt him for no other reason than to tell them all about Chardonnay. It put all that cork-dork seriousness about wine in perspective pretty quickly, I can tell you."

She said the Secret Service were never seen as they moved about outside in the trees in their vehicles watching the perimeter of the building. "They've got the tough job," Darracq smiled. "THEY didn't get any wine."

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Safe & Sound

Your (and Your Kids') Environment

By Dave Johnson

Once again I would like to encourage you to give me your feedback, concerns, questions and suggestions. This column will only get better the more I hear from you. This month we are going to talk about Child and Teen Safety. Remember, Prevention and Preparedness should be our focus. Prevention comes from education, action and consistency. Preparedness reduces paranoia and increases self-confidence. Effective preparedness comes from realistic training. OK, do you remember the definition of "Defensive Awareness™?" That's Right! To be calmly and constantly aware of your surroundings (ALL of your surroundings) and mentally prepared to react appropriately to whatever, without feeling nervous, apprehensive, afraid or paranoid. In fact, done correctly, you should feel very comfortable, confident and secure. This mental and physical sense will in turn be very evident to the criminal element. Now let's get into this month's topic of Child & Teen Safety.

It seems that more than ever lately I've been asked to conduct training seminars for children and teens regarding anti-abduction techniques and personal safety skills. Personally, I'm thrilled that parents are finally asking for these types of courses. Maybe the plethora of news stories about missing and abused children has finally taken its toll. Truth is, I've been integrating this teaching in my classes for the last 20+ years and believe that it's a must if you are truly teaching self-defense skills. However, I would like to cover several areas that have been taught over the past 10 years or so that are just not correct anymore.

For example, we have all heard the phrase "Stranger Danger" and believe this sounds like a good way of teaching child safety courses. However, here in lies a very serious problem. Ask any group of children to describe a stranger and you'll hear things like, "Mean, Dirty, Dressed weird, Drug user, Gang member, etc. ...". They could not be further than the truth. The FACT is children are abducted and disappear too often because of this thinking because they are approached by just the opposite, i.e., a person looking like a Law Enforcement official, a Teacher, a Medical Professional, a CLEAN-CUT, WELL DRESSED, AVERAGE LOOKING ADULT WITH A GREAT PERSONALITY AND CARING NATURE. But here is the MOST important truth I want you to get! Very often these individuals

are persons that are already acquaintances of the child or teen, i.e., a relative, teacher, coach, mentor, youth or camp leader, or even a church leader. So please, let's eliminate the "Stranger Danger" way of teaching and start teaching children how to recognize "Lures" and most importantly, to obey their inner voice or trust their gut, however you want to say it. Help them understand how a Lure works and why it is so successful.

Simply put, Lures work by exploiting our good nature.

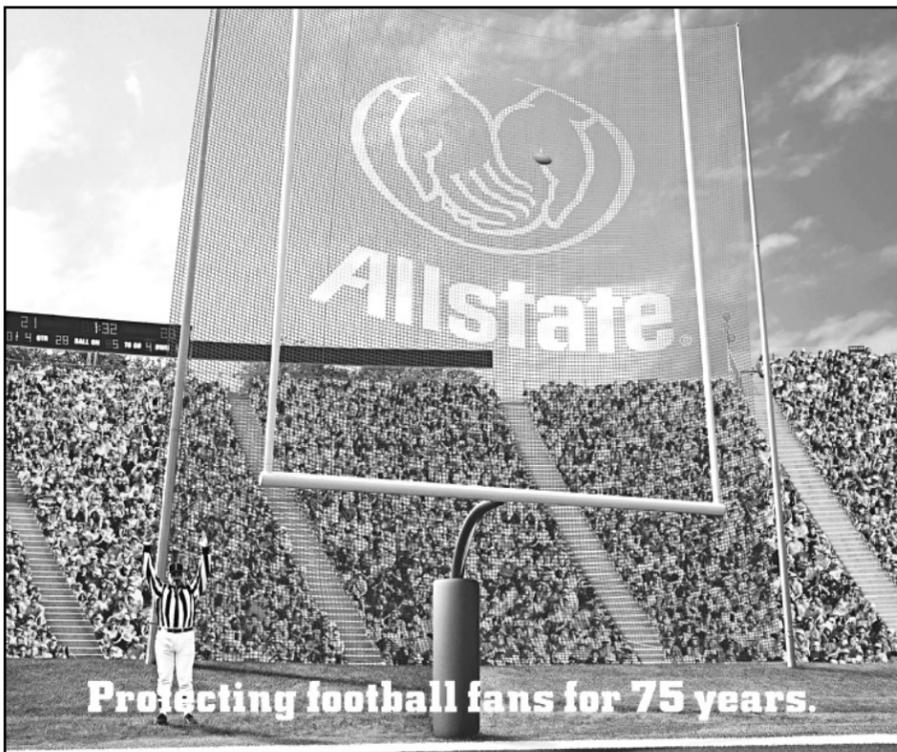
For example, an authority figure counts on the fact that a child has been taught to respect authority. When they are asked to come or go quickly or do something there is usually no hesitation. When a child is told they are very beautiful or talented, they are playing upon their need for attention, affection and recognition.

Now let's talk about that "Secret Password." What child can really keep any secret? A better approach would be to make sure children know clearly who is going to pick them up, what is acceptable behavior, where they are to go in the event of an emergency, places they should never go, and HOW TO DEFEND THEMSELVES IF FACED WITH AN ATTEMPTED ABDUCTION!

Other topics that should be addressed are how we go about teaching these subjects to children and prevention strategies. Please don't water down the teaching by using puppets or animals. Instead, develop a trusting relationship with your children so that you can talk frankly and to the point. From a preventative standpoint, stay aware of who is frequently around your children and remember that nobody is 100 percent safe. After all, they don't have to have a criminal past. Your child could be their first. Truth is, less than 20 percent of those caught in the act of molestation will actually be convicted or end up with a criminal record.

Regarding the subject of molestation, I would avoid the "Good Touch, Bad Touch" system of teaching. Offenders have become experts at convincing a child that their type of touching is normal and acceptable and it may not feel like a bad touch to them. Instead, employ the "Bathing Suit" system. Teach your children that NO person should ever touch them, under any circumstances, in the areas that their bathing suit covers. To do even more to help protect your children and teens, enroll them in a REALISTIC Self-Defense training program.

Please see SAFE page 18



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Labor Day? Don't Sweat it

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

The First Labor Day

The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, Sept. 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. The Central Labor Union held its second Labor Day holiday just a year later, on Sept. 5, 1883.

In 1884 the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday, as originally proposed, and the Central Labor Union urged similar organizations in other cities to follow the example of New York and celebrate a "workingmen's holiday" on that date. The idea spread with the growth of labor organizations, and in 1885 Labor Day was celebrated in many industrial centers of the country.

Through the years the nation gave increasing emphasis to Labor Day. The first governmental recognition came through municipal ordinances passed during 1885 and 1886. From them developed the movement to secure state legislation. The first state bill was introduced into the New York legislature, but the first to become law was passed by Oregon on Feb. 21, 1887. During the year four more states — Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York — created the Labor Day holiday by legislative enactment. By

the end of the decade Connecticut, Nebraska, and Pennsylvania had followed suit. By 1894, 23 other states had adopted the holiday in honor of workers, and on June 28 of that year, Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories.

A Nationwide Holiday

The form that the observance and celebration of Labor Day should take were outlined in the first proposal of the holiday — a street parade to exhibit to the public "the strength and esprit de corps of the trade and labor organizations" of the community, followed by a festival for the recreation and amusement of the workers and their families.

The character of the Labor Day celebration has undergone a change in recent years, especially in large industrial centers where mass displays and huge parades have proved a problem. This change, however, is more a shift in emphasis and medium of expression. Labor Day addresses by leading union officials, industrialists, educators, clerics and government officials are given wide coverage in newspapers, radio, and television.

The vital force of labor added materially to the highest standard of living and the greatest production the world has ever known and has brought us closer to the realization of our traditional ideals of economic and political democracy. It is appropriate, therefore, that the nation pay tribute on Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation's strength, freedom, and leadership — the American worker.

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Christian Concert Rocks the Ranchos and Rocks Some Lives



The amphitheater at Liberty High School provided the backdrop for the "Waking Dead" concert on Saturday, July 29, presented by Liberty Worship Center and Golden Valley Baptist church.



Don't all rock bands do this before their concerts? The members of My Second Chance, Innate and Chasing Truth have a word of prayer prior to cranking up the amps for their show.



Opening band Chasing Truth kicked off the night of rock music with some high energy sounds. The Gilroy-based band features musicians that haven't even started to shave yet, but can play like old pros.



For those who preferred a little hip-hop in their musical diet, Innate was the man with the rhymes. His songs reflected his Christian beliefs, but were also heavily mixed with good beats and a good sense of humor.



Members of the Golden Valley Baptist Church showed their support for the message of the bands that played, even if the musical style wasn't their particular cup of tea. Reaching kids who wouldn't usually step into a church was the goal.



The big finale was My Second Chance. Guitarist/vocalist Corey Kozlowski describes their sound as, "It's a mix of rock/screamo/emo/swing/creativity and passion." That just about sums it up.

Photos Courtesy of Pastor Ken Cooksey

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by Linda Thistle

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Ranchos Dancers Take Top Honors in Tahoe Competition

The Madera Ranchos Star Force Dance team returned from the Star Power National Competition in Lake Tahoe in late July and did very well. Taking 14 dancers, 9 of whom did solo dances, the Madera Ranchos Star Force Dance team took the top junior soloist award and two other girls placed in the top five in the solo category out of 60 soloists from areas like Washington, Arizona, Nevada and other teams in California. The Star Force Dance Team was the smallest team at the competition but people from the Ranchos know it's the quality and not the quantity!

Congratulations to the team and its directors, Tammy Gomes and Kandace Osborn.

County Board Needs Members

Madera County Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board Plans and Advises County

The Madera County Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board currently has one vacancy and is looking for Madera Ranchos residents who have an interest in publicly funded alcohol and drug treatment services for Madera County.

Board members are appointed by the Madera County Board of Supervisors. Among other things, the Board participates in the planning process, advises the County Mental Health Director and the Board of Supervisors on aspects of the County Alcohol and Drug Program and reviews community needs, services, facilities and special programs.

The Advisory Board meets on the third Wednesday of each month from noon to approximately 1:30 p.m. and all meetings are open to the public.

If you would like a membership application, please contact Judy Comer at Madera County Behavioral Health Services at 673-3508, ext. 234, or by email at jcomer@madera-county.com.

Junktique Raises Scholarship \$\$\$

The American Historical Society of Germans from Russia is planning its huge annual fundraiser for its scholarship program.

"Junktique Days of Trash & Treasures" is a huge rummage, antiques and collectibles sale that is going to be held Friday and Saturday, August 25 and 26 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. The sale is held at the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia library at 3233 N. West Ave., Fresno.

The library is located near the corner of West and Shields in Central Fresno.

If you need any more information please call 559-229-8287.



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Ranchos Girl Wins Bike from Pizza Factory



Rachel Zumkeller shows off her brand new mountain bike she won from the Ranchos Pizza Factory's 10th Anniversary contest.

Summer got a little bit sunnier for a Ranchos girl when she discovered she was the winner of the Ranchos Pizza Factory 10th Anniversary Coca Cola Mountain Bike Drawing.

Rachel Zumkeller, 12, was the lucky winner on Monday, Aug. 14, when her name was pulled from a container of names from throughout the area.

"There was no purchase necessary," said Chris Parks of the Ranchos Pizza Factory. "Every time you came in you could enter."

Amazingly, Rachel won with only one entry. Her mother had stopped by one night to pick up a pizza to take home for dinner and she filled out two entry forms: one for Rachel and a second one for Rachel's brother. How did brother feel about how things turned out?

"He thought it was funny," she said. "I was really surprised when I found out I had won." Rachel further said this was the first prize she had ever won.

Rachel's plans for her new bike include riding it as much as she can and to show it off to as many friends as she can, but she needs a few minor adjustments first. From being on display for the duration of the contest the handlebars were loose and as Rachel tried to steer the bike as she walked it over to the photo area the handlebars went one way as the bike went the other.

"I need to fix that," Rachel said.



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Senior Report

Cool Opportunity to Give Back

By Eleanore Burchell

Our Ranchos/Hills Senior Center, located at 37330 Berkshire, has been declared an official Cool Down Center for the Ranchos. If you or someone you know needs a place to escape the heat during the extreme hot spells, please call Joann, 645-4864. This opportunity delights our members as we can now, in some small way, repay our community for their past support to us. That support includes the many residents who buy our raffle tickets; the Ranchos Market who recently donated \$100 worth of meat for our raffle; Friends of the Library and Ranchos Auto Repair, to name just a few who support us with their donations.

The next monthly sale will be held on Saturday, Sept. 2 from 8 a.m. to noon. Our fearless leader in the plant area, Olen Williams, just had a hip replacement and hopefully he will be able to be back with us by then. We have just received new shrubs and flowering plants so come in and check out the varieties. The Treasure House will be open and filled with new sale items. New produce is coming daily and as of today we have tomatoes, onions, potatoes, okra, pickles, grapes, Asian pears, Italian nectarines, figs and pomegranate jelly. We don't want you to get out of the habit of coming in to see us so remember the plants and boutique sections are available Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesdays, 6 to 9 p.m., and Thursday evenings between 6 and 9 p.m.

According to Nita Lackey, our Master Gardner, she would like to share information with all who have had a recent fight with the pesky grasshopper critters. Mix one cup of molasses and nine cups of water in a gallon jar and partially bury it in the ground. Cover the opening with a screen with large enough openings for the grasshoppers to get through it. The moral to this story is the grasshoppers get into the sticky mixture and cannot get out.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to John Sweeney for the loss of his granddaughter, Apryl Renee Sweeney Hammond.

Cobb's Annual Community Picnic will be held on Sunday, Sept. 3 from noon to 5 p.m. Bring your blanket and/or lawnchairs and enjoy the music, games and BBQ. It's only \$6 per person or \$20 per family.

We are still willing to share our air conditioning with you on Tuesday evenings so remember bingo from 5:30 to 9 p.m.

The September Birthday and Anniversary celebration will be held at 11:30 a.m. at Yosemite Falls, 4278 W. Ashlan (99 & Ashlan) on Sept. 23. Come and join us!

Remember, laughter is a lot of fun,

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

More Facts and Fun

A nutritionally balanced lunch program Monday through Friday 11:30 a.m. Suggested price for 60 years and older is \$1.75. Reservations are needed a day in advance so remember to call Joann at 645-4864. There is still room in the well-attended exercise class on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays, 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. You need not be a member to attend these classes. The attendance has been growing but there is always room for one more – you! Line Dancers are on vacation until September.

Another trip is in the making. A seven-day Hawaiian cruise in January. Interested? Call Joann at 645-4864 for particulars.

Remember bingo is held every Tuesday evening from 5:30 to 9 p.m.

Up and Coming Events

August 26, 11 a.m. August Birthday and Anniversary, Copper River Country Club, 11500 N. Friant Road.

August 31, 6 p.m. Monthly potluck with a Greek theme followed by Hand and Foot, or Pinochle.

September 3, noon to 5 p.m. Cobb's Ranch Annual Community Picnic.

September 23, 11:30 a.m., September Birthday and Anniversary, Yosemite Falls, 4278 W. Ashlan (99 & Ashlan).

September 28, 6 p.m. Monthly potluck with Italian theme followed by Hand and Foot, Pinochle or other games.

Weekly Events

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

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

Tuesday, Pinochle, noon until ???

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SAY YOU SAW IT IN The Ranchos Independent

Become a UCCE Master Gardener

The University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Master Gardener program is a volunteer program designed to meet the educational needs of home and community gardeners. The UCCE Master Gardener program is administered locally by participating county offices of UCCE, the principal outreach and public service arm of the University's Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources. UCCE Master Gardeners are volunteer agents of the University of California and purpose is to extend University of California research-based information to the home gardening public.

The University takes the UCCE Master Gardener training program and certification process very seriously. Each county has the privilege of tailoring the Master Gardener training program to local needs, while providing more than 64 hours of classroom instruction in such topics as: horticulture, plant diseases, insect pest, weed science, plant propagation, vegetables, soils, fertilizers, irrigation, controlling garden pests safely, fruit and landscape trees, lawn management, and diagnosing plant problems. Classroom instruction will last 16 weeks with additional hands-on instruction outside of the classroom. In exchange for the training and materials received from the UC, Master Gardeners perform volunteer services in a myriad of venues. After completing the training and passing a final exam with a score of 70 percent or above, Master Gardeners must complete 28 hours of volunteer service the training year and 25 volunteer hours and 12 continuing education hours in subsequent years to continue to be certified as a UCCE Master Gardener. The use of the title Master Gardener is to be used only for and exclusively in connection with the UCCE Master Gardener program and not for commercial purposes.

People from all walks of life are

attracted to the Master Gardener training program. Adults of all ages, ethnicities, and backgrounds with varying degrees of prior experience in home horticulture and pest management participate in the programs.

What do Master Gardeners do? Teach Classes to people of all ages; Answer gardening questions on plant problems; Provide expertise in planting and maintaining various gardens; Volunteer for various other community gardening projects; Educate home gardeners in all ways possible - such as newspapers, television, internet and by developing written materials. If you love learning about gardening and would like to share your knowledge with others, the Madera County Master Gardeners offer you the opportunity to use your knowledge to serve the community.

Master Gardener classes are offered every odd calendar year. Applications are being accepted from Aug. 1 through Oct. 9, 2006 for the class of 2007 which begins in January and runs through mid April. Classes are held at the University of California Cooperative Extension (Fresno Office), for 16 consecutive Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Madera County will be accepting 10-15 new Master Gardener positions. A training fee of \$150 is payable upon acceptance into the program. Applicants must demonstrate effective communication skills, the ability to work with the public and an interest in gardening. Eligibility and admission to the class is determined by a personal interview. Applicants should have some gardening experience and be able to volunteer their time on Master Gardener activities.

Applications are available on-line at cemadera.ucdavis.org, click on Master Gardener Program, or by calling the UCCE Madera Office at 675-7879. Applications are due by 5 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 9, 2006.

LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

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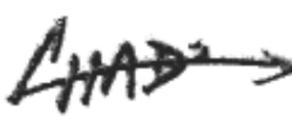
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8/06

Garden Tips

Conserve Energy in Hot Months

By Thea Fiskin

The hot, lazy days of August make it difficult to work in the garden, so don't! Instead spend time having barbecues, family reunions and picnics in the shade. The only real garden chore is watering and that you cannot ignore. For the avid gardener be sure to do any garden tasks in the early morning or early evening and dress coolly, drink plenty of water and take breaks.

Plant

Believe it or not August is the time to start planting that winter veggie garden. You can plant beets, bok choy, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, cilantro, garlic, lettuce, peas, radishes and spinach. Root crops should not be transplanted so be sure to direct seed beets, carrots and radishes. Sow seeds of annual flowers (calendulas, Iceland poppies, pansies, snapdragons, stock) and biennials (clary sage, hollyhocks, rose campion) in flats or pots for transplanting later in the fall. Biennial seeds planted now will usually bloom next spring, whereas in colder climates they don't bloom until their second year.

Watering

Holding the hose and watering is relaxing for the gardener but usually isn't giving enough water to our trees, they need deep watering. Deep water all fruit trees (deep means down to 3 feet). Since the majority of roots that take water up the tree extend beyond the drip line of the tree canopy, don't water next to the trunk. You can prevent fruit split on citrus, pomegranates and tomatoes by sticking to a regular irrigation schedule. Give container plants some extra water as they can dry out quickly.

Garden Chores

Encourage new blooms on your summer annuals and perennials by removing the wilting flowers, before seed heads form.

Harvest fruits and vegetables regularly. Pick up any fallen or decaying fruit. Throw away diseased or insect infested fruits.

Give support to fruit tree branches to prevent them from breaking.

Divide amaryllis, bearded iris and oriental poppies.

Check catalogs or online for unusual bulb varieties to plant, look for cyclamen, watsonia and lycoris.

Prune apricots and olives now rather than in winter to prevent susceptibility to disease in winter months.

Snip off rosehips, spent flowers and fertilize roses. Doing this now will give you beautiful roses in October.

Give azaleas, camellias, citrus and rhododendrons a final fertilizing for the year.

Feed chrysanthemums until buds

begin to open.

Harvest herbs in the morning. If you don't use them right away, then dry the cut herbs on a screen in the shade or make an herb "bouquet" for your home.

Fertilize bermuda, St. Augustine and zoysia lawns. Don't fertilize fescue and other cool season lawns until the weather cools off in another month.

Avoid "Lawnmower Blight" – don't damage tree trunks as you mow around them.

Weed Control

Did you have annual bluegrass in your flowerbeds and lawns areas last winter? To prevent all that winter weeding, apply a preemergent herbicide toward the end of August; believe me, it really works.

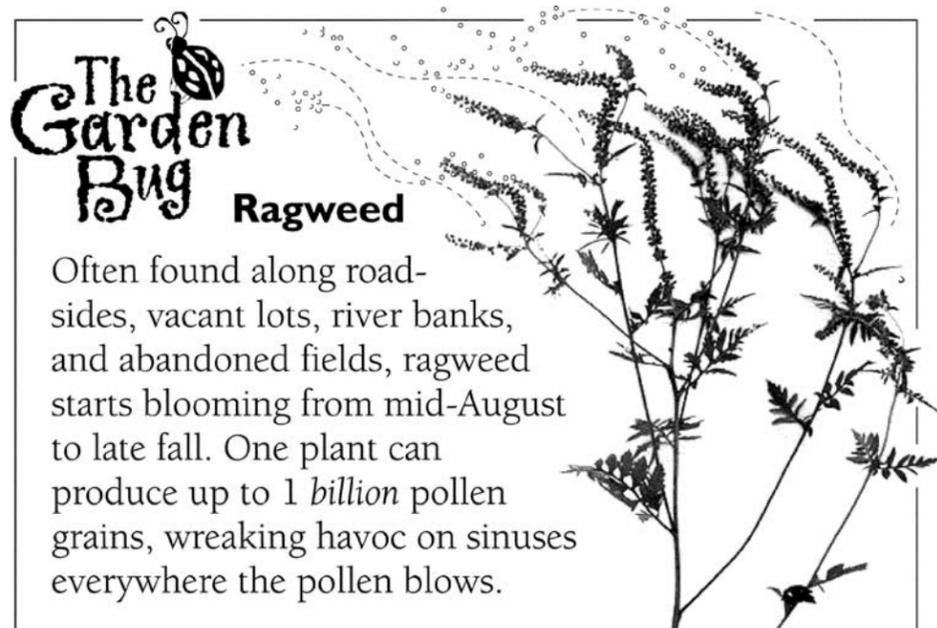
Critter Control

The struggle between the gardener and garden pests is ongoing, so keep a lookout for them.

When trying to get rid of unwanted pests, choose the method with the least toxicity to people and pets. Sometimes an insect needs no pesticide spray because beneficial insects are ready to take them out, if given a chance. Handpicking worms and blasting foliage with sharp sprays of water helps dislodge unwanted insects. When using any pesticide please follow label instructions exactly and never use more than is recommended. We can all do our share to help the environment. Store chemicals in their original containers, in a cool, dry area where children and pets can't reach. Don't spray pesticides when temperatures are over 80 degrees which means if you must spray it is probably best to spray in the early morning.

Help prevent West Nile Virus by controlling mosquitoes. Keep water from standing in bird baths, potted plants and even pet bowls; change them frequently, at least twice a week. Never leave water standing in sprinkling cans or buckets. Prevent mosquitoes in your water garden, add fish, add a fountain or water fall or use Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) donuts control larvae. Remember mosquitoes bite, suck blood and spread disease.

Thea Fiskin is a UC Master Gardener with Tulare/Kings County. Master Gardeners are members of communities who are trained by UC Cooperative Extension experts in different aspects of plant science and then volunteer to extend that information to their community. The mission of the Master Gardener program is to provide research-based information for gardening practices and technologies of home horticulture, integrated pest management and environmental resource conservation.



Often found along roadsides, vacant lots, river banks, and abandoned fields, ragweed starts blooming from mid-August to late fall. One plant can produce up to 1 billion pollen grains, wreaking havoc on sinuses everywhere the pollen blows.

SAFE continued from page 11

Don't wait until something happens! Remember, "The WORST time to start Self-Defense training is AFTER an attack." Contact me. I would love to hear from you. E-mail me at info@masterjohnson.com. Your participation is vital and appreciated. Remember, since we are all in this together, let's make it a community project, have some fun, and increase our level of safety.

Parental Guidance

Spend some time with your children reviewing the following sites: www.amw.com/kids, tcs.cybertipline.com and www.missingkids.com/adCouncil.

Self-Defense Tips

Seek professional instruction. If someone makes you feel uncomfortable, turn and look them in the eyes with confi-

dence and tell them so. Protect your space. Always stand at a slanted angle with one foot back spaced at about shoulder width. Hands should be relaxed and held between waist and chest level. **KNOW YOUR ENVIRONMENT.**

Master Johnson is a world recognized security and self-defense expert specializing in executive protection, hand-to-hand, multiple opponents, and weapon disarms. He is listed in the "Who is Who" in Martial Arts and was named "Master Instructor of the Year" 1996 by the World Martial Arts Hall of Fame. He is the owner of Golden Valley Martial Arts, Tactical Training International, Dave Johnson Real Estate, and operates the World's only online self-defense and Black Belt training course at www.masterjohnson.com. He can be contacted at 559-917-5262.

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Twenty-first Annual Station 19 "Fire BQ" Raises Needed Funds in Style

By Randy Bailey

As the cool breezes of the evening swirled among the stately oaks at Coombs' River Bend Ranch on Saturday, Aug. 19, another fundraising goal for Station 19 Volunteer Fire Company was reached.

"We definitely hit our target," said Chuck Hoover, Captain of Station 19.

The target that was hit was raising \$5,000 to replace the small fire pump on the Station's 4,000 gallon water tender.

A water tender is a pretty specialized piece of firefighting equipment, and of

particular value in the Ranchos. The water tender transports water from a water source to a fire scene and can draft water from a stream, lake or a hydrant. Although not necessarily powerful enough to pump the same quantity of water as a fire engine, they're used primarily when there's not a working fire hydrant within reach of other fire equipment. Usually used in a supporting role, a water tender can carry fire fighting equipment and crew like a fire engine.

When the new pump is purchased and installed the unit will be able to pump twice the amount of water to the fire

engines and increase the firefighter's ability to knock down a fire faster.

If raising the money was the goal of the evening, the festivities were the means.

In addition to the limited number of dinner tickets sold at \$25 each, the primary source of fundraising has historically been the auctions. Items were offered at a live auction that was emceed by TV personality John Wallace. Items ranged from pizza to vacations and each new bid added another dollar to the firefighters' kitty. There was also a silent auction where people could bid on items by merely writing down their names.

It was also a night for presentations. Chris Parks, president of the Ranchos Kiwanis, was on hand to present the cov-

eted Kiwanis Community Service Award. The award this year went to two Ranchos residents, Al Jackson and the Ranchos Independent's Tina Shannon. Their selfless involvement in a number of projects throughout the Ranchos over the last year caught the eye of the Kiwanis and resulted in their nomination and final selection.

For those who just had to dance, the three-piece Executive Rockers played selections ranging from "Keep Your Hands to Yourself" by the Georgia Satellites to "Stacy's Mom" by Fountains of Wayne from 9 p.m. until midnight.

Tina Shannon, who coordinated the event this year for Station 19, said that it was a very good event and she fully expected it to exceed last year's totals.

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Of course, the main purpose of a barbecue is to sit down and have some food. Chicken, tri-tip and all of the necessary side dishes were available, as were a variety of beverages.



Television personality John Wallace kept the live auction going fast and furious with items ranging from a year's worth of Pizza Factory pizza, trips to Disneyland and Carmel, to a custom-made bathroom vanity.



Al Jackson (left) and Tina Shannon received the Ranchos Kiwanis Community Service Award from Kiwanis President Chris Parks for service to the Ranchos that went above and beyond the call of duty.



One of the hotspots was the auction payment table after the silent and live auctions closed. The cash, checks and credit cards flew as successful bidders picked up their new-found treasures.

Photos Courtesy of John Glueck
 Additional Photos at www.station19.org

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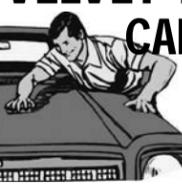
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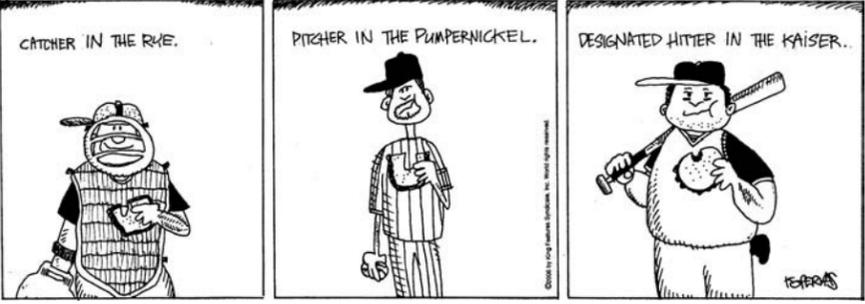
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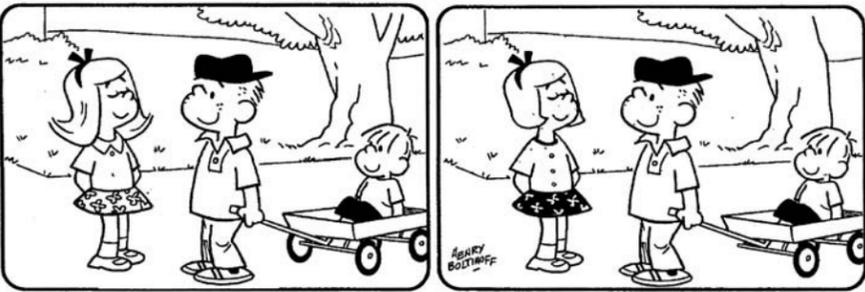
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



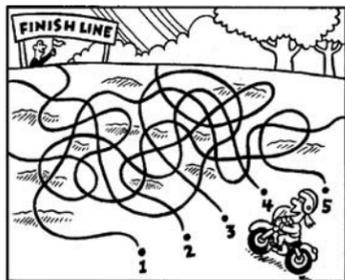
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



FIND AT LEAST 6 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS.

Differences: 1. Skirt is different. 2. Wheel is missing. 3. Limb is missing. 4. Collar is different. 5. Buttons are added. 6. Hair is different.



A BUMPY RIDE! Which route will take this trail biker to the finish line? You're a winner if your first or second guess is correct.

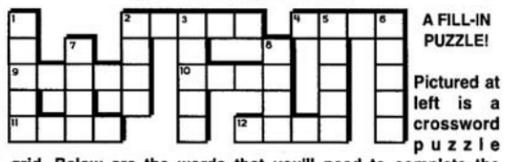
THICK AS A BRICK! Barney, a local bricklayer, asks the following question: "If a brick weighs 9 pounds and half a brick, what does a brick and a half weigh?"

A COOL PROBLEM! Don't slip up on this one. In this puzzle, all of the words get progressively longer, and they all end in ICE. Use the following definitions:

- ICE (in place).
- Mickey and Minnie.
- Fruit drink.
- Place of business.
- Ornamental molding.
- A candy flavor.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

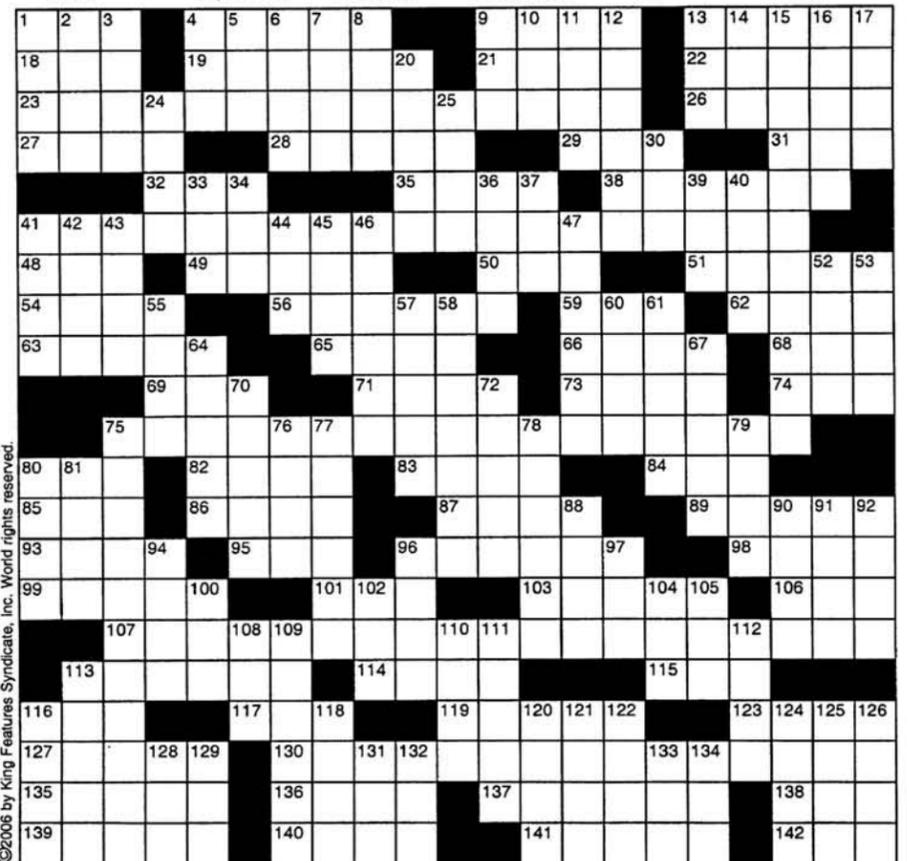


grid. Below are the words that you'll need to complete the puzzle, using the trial-and-error method. Keep an eraser handy!

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 4-letter words | 5-letter words |
| CHIN | ABASH |
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| ECHO | KHAKI |
| HALO | LATHE |
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|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 56 Dicta | 103 Maguire of "Spider-Man" | 5 "Quiet!" | 44 Pi follower | 97 "Six Feet Under" network |
| 1 "One — Apple" ('71 song) | 59 Seek change? | 106 Singer Barry | 6 Dove sounds | 45 Cooking fat | 100 Pro-gun grp. |
| 4 Broadway org. | 62 Coasted | 107 Undecided activists? | 7 In — (bored) | 46 Close | 102 PD alert |
| 9 Presidential pooch | 63 Cock and bull | 113 Roman writer | 8 Cuban currency | 47 Trinidad's neighbor | 104 — Marie Saint |
| 13 Loudly, to Liszt | 65 Sup in style | 114 Hit hard | 9 Evergreen tree | 52 Moreno or Hayworth | 105 Evergreen tree |
| 18 Spud bud | 66 "Rule Britannia" composer | 115 Reverence | 10 Exist | 53 Inspector Dalglish | 108 Expert |
| 19 Propped (up) | 68 Call — day | 116 It may be fake | 11 Speech problem | 55 Engage, as gears | 109 The gods guzzle it |
| 21 Author Murdoch | 69 Fill in | 117 Author Umberto | 12 Take for granted | 57 "— Gay" | 110 — Spumante |
| 22 Menotti title character | 71 — Scotia | 119 Adjusted an Amati | 13 Too big for one's breeches? | 58 Party animal | 111 Newscaster "ER" Connie |
| 23 Over-laundered muumuu? | 73 Sculptor Bernini | 123 Lhasa — | 14 Doolittle's digs | 60 Palladino of "ER" | 112 Nut part like a beaver |
| 26 Aquarium fish | 74 Snead or Spiegel | 127 Come in | 15 Type of philosophy | 61 Behaves like a beaver | 113 Feeling |
| 27 Viscount's better | 75 Tarzan the Studious? | 130 Good source of minerals? | 16 Hurl | 64 Kid stuff? | 116 Dread |
| 28 Walked off with | 80 Ingot | 135 Cold sound | 17 Panache | 67 Methuselah's dad | 118 Phil Donahue's birthplace |
| 29 Baby beagle | 82 Airhead | 136 "Ritorna vincitor!" singer | 20 Dutch pottery | 70 Borg or Ulvaeus | 120 Neighbor of Mont. |
| 31 Noun suffix | 83 Fruit-tree spray | 137 Piston packing | 24 Sitka's st. | 72 Subside | 121 Gaelic |
| 32 Objective | 84 Biol. or chem. | 138 Shelley's "— Skylark" | 25 Work in Vegas | 75 Reliable | 122 Luke, Bo, or Daisy |
| 35 Lose luster | 85 — Dhabi | 139 Versify | 30 By means of | 76 As many as | 124 Prepares cherries |
| 38 One of the Sopranos | 86 Art deco designer | 140 Inn offering | 33 Cover the cake | 77 Essential | 125 Glasgow guy |
| 41 Embarrassed late-night host? | 87 Sicilian volcano | 141 New Hampshire campus | 34 Wrestling surface | 78 Elaborate | 126 Hunky-dory |
| 48 Humble abode | 89 Humble abode | 142 Hog heaven? | 36 Labor leader Eugene | 79 Brilliant display | 128 Accounting abbr. |
| 49 Hawke of "Training Day" | 93 Gershwin heroine | 143 Every "You Take" ('83 hit) | 37 WWII area | 80 Movie piglet | 129 Singer Tommy |
| 50 Start to cry? | 95 Wordless greeting | 144 New Hampshire campus | 39 Qty. | 81 Explorer Tasman | 131 Maestro de Waart |
| 51 Pageant prop | 96 "Every — You Take" ('83 hit) | 145 Every "You Take" ('83 hit) | 40 Erncee's site | 88 Energy source | 132 Hat for 125 Down |
| 54 Jack of "Rio Lobo" | 98 Cheer competitor | 146 Every "You Take" ('83 hit) | 41 '54 James Arness film | 90 Offensive successor | 133 Game pieces |
| | 99 Singer John Organ of equilibrium | 147 Every "You Take" ('83 hit) | 42 A shake in the grass? | 91 Churchill's successor | 134 Canonized Mile. |
| | 101 Organ of equilibrium | 148 Every "You Take" ('83 hit) | 43 List ender | 92 Time to give up | |
| | | 149 Every "You Take" ('83 hit) | | 94 Head for the clouds | |
| | | 150 Every "You Take" ('83 hit) | | 96 La — Tar Pits | |



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TRIVIA TEST By Fifi Rodriguez

- TELEVISION: What was Lurch's job on "The Addams Family"?
- LITERATURE: What was the name of the airport in Arthur Hailey's book "Airport"?
- MOVIES: Who played the president of the United States in the movie "Mars Attacks!"
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What old-time baseball team played home games at Ebbets Field?
- HISTORY: When was the so-called hot-line between Washington and Moscow established?
- POETRY: Who wrote: "I think that I shall never see / A billboard lovely as a tree / Indeed, unless the billboards fall / I'll never see a tree at all."
- RELIGION: Whose teachings are recorded in a collection called "The Analects"?
- ART: What is chiaroscuro in artwork?
- THEATER: Who wrote the play "Major Barbara"?
- MATH: What is the Roman numeral for 900?

MAGIC MAZE — BEAN



- Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
- | | | | |
|--------|--------|-----------|---------|
| Alan | Cocoa | Judge Roy | Soy |
| Black | Coffee | Kidney | String |
| Butter | Green | Lima | Vanilla |
| Castor | Jelly | Orson | |

- Answers:
- Butler
 - Lincoln International
 - Jack Nicholson
 - Brooklyn Dodgers
 - 1963
 - Ogden Nash
 - Confucius
 - Renderings of light and shade
 - George Bernard Shaw
 10. CM

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2 Bed
1.5 Ba.
\$376,000

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Large elegant Northeast Fresno home in newer desirable neighborhood. Fully accessible balconies front and back, private movie/media room with built-in surround sound, full security system, front security gate, complete intercom system, fully finished 3-car garage, spacious master bedroom with sitting area, jetted bath, walk-in closet, true dual

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Continental Realty PRESENTS



3 Bed
2 Ba.
\$449,000

36757 Fender Ave.

Beautiful new home over 2,000 sq. ft. w/soaring ceilings, custom tile and custom paint on 1/4 acre lot. Great room w/gas fireplace, formal dining w/bay window and deluxe kitchen w/latest appliances and granite counters. Master w/huge walk-in closet and deluxe bath w/spa tub. Professionally landscaped.



4 Bed
3 Ba.
\$439,000

36729 Blanca

Custom home on 1.15 acre. Nice floorplan, living room w/bay window, family room w/vaulted ceiling and plant shelf, master w/walk-in closet. Isolated bedroom and bath, spacious open kitchen, dining nook w/bay window, walk-in pantry, laundry room, finished 2-car garage.



4 Bed
3 Ba.
\$499,950

37645 Ave. 17 1/2

Over 2200 sq. ft. home on 2.14 acre lot zoned for horses. Plush, plush, plush on the inside. Formal room with bay window, tile floors and counters throughout. Nice master suite with vaulted ceilings and jacuzzi tub. Fully finished garage with large covered porch in front of home and covered patio in the back. Look at this one!



3 Bed
2 Ba.
\$370,000

37178 HWY 145

Great Sierra view! Big 2.36 acre lot zoned for horses. Great room set up for big family gatherings and front gazebo takes the party outside. Tiled kitchen floors and counters leading to breakfast bar. Three spacious bedrooms and ceiling fans abound to keep energy costs lower. Completely fenced with some fruit trees.



3 Bed
2.5 Ba.
\$479,000

36617 Blanca

Beautiful home on 1.15 acre lot. Featuring a great room with fireplace, built-in shelving and cabinets. Huge master suite with sitting room, spa tub and fireplace. Ten foot ceilings and tile throughout. Oversized four car garage with 1/2 bath. Fountain in front yard and covered patio in back. A must see!

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For Sale – 2 1/2 Acre home w/pool. 2 yr. comp. roof, carpet, new dual-pane windows. Upgraded appliances and more. Prime piece of property. Don't buy until you look at this one. I will look at all offers. **Deal of a life time! Kimberly 645-7010**

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