

# The Ranchos Independent

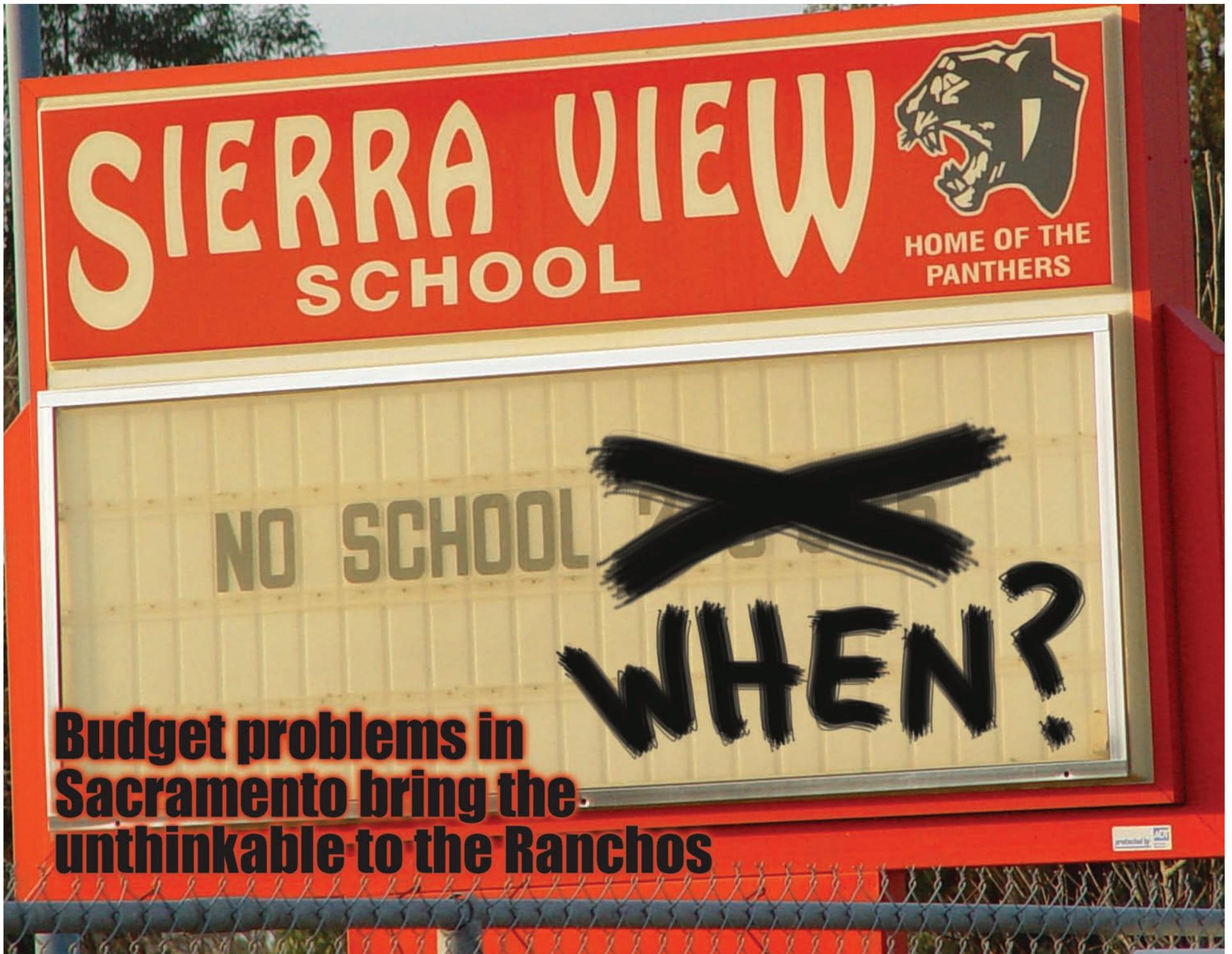


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50¢



**Budget problems in Sacramento bring the unthinkable to the Ranchos**

***In This Issue***

*The D.O.G. House • Page 4 / Editorial • Page 5  
Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes • Page 14 / Fun Pages • Page 30*

## School Closings Not an Option “At This Point in Time”

California Budget problems in Sacramento bring what was unthinkable to the Ranchos

By Randy Bailey

Golden Valley Unified School District Superintendent Sarah Koligian has a formidable task in front of her: She has to cut 1.7 million additional dollars from a budget that has already been squeezed and massaged to the point of anorexia.

Just a few months ago, she and the School Board had hammered out a budget that had to allow for an 18 percent “deficit revenue,” meaning a reduction in dollars by 18 percent from Sacramento, the school district’s primary source of funding. On January 8 of this year, Governor



er n o r Schwarzenegger told the state’s school districts that in order to balance the budget, an additional \$1.5 billion had to come out of educational funding. Koligian thinks that is a decision to balance the budget on the backs of our kids and their education.

“In order to do that it’s requiring – and we’re estimating that it would be – another \$225 less per student on top of the 18 percent ‘deficit revenue’ limit,” Koligian said. “So instead of getting about \$7,000 per student we can plan on about \$5,500.”

### The Rumors Begin

A drop in revenues means something has to give and rumors around the community have suggested that the District is going to close Sierra View Elementary and transfer its students to Webster Elementary.

“At this point in time the Board has not made any decision on closing any schools,” she said. “We are in the process of gathering suggestions for reducing our budget about \$1.7 million.”

A huge part of the problem is the

way Sacramento does its bookkeeping. Our schools have to budget not only for the current year but also two years into the future. They have to be able to show the state that the district’s bottom line is covered and that a minimum 3 percent reserve is created for the current and subsequent years. But since the state is the primary source of funding, the actual amount received can change overnight, as it did on January 8, leaving our school district with a budget that is 18 percent less than it was the year before and now

needs more taken from it. To put the budget in perspective, a person making \$50,000 a year would end up making \$41,000 a year after an 18 percent pay cut. Now imagine that the boss comes to you and announces that he needs to take “a little bit more.”

“Right now we’re planning a worst case scenario based on the information we have today and that our financial institutions tell us

we need for planning purposes,” Koligian said.

### A Mandate for Failure

Koligian feels that at the heart of the issue are the excessive mandates placed on schools by Sacramento – the majority of which are not funded by the state.

“There are 47 mandates that we are required to respond to, however they are only funding two,” she said, pausing for effect. She explains that the reality of that inequity is that the schools have to respond to those mandates with money from other sources within the school’s budget and failure to do so results in less money being dispersed from the state. “They’re not taking anything off the plate,” she said. “What kind of impact do you think that has on school districts?”

Koligian suggests that certain mandates could, and should, be waived during tough economic times, such as the schools are facing now. The amount of time and money that certain mandates require, specifically when the schools are

not being reimbursed or compensated by the state in any way for the performance of those mandates, could readily go back into the classrooms.

With the combination of funding reductions on top of additional funding reductions, coupled with unfunded mandates by the state, Koligian laid out how the District got to where it is today. The next logical step is to look at what measures can be taken to fix the problem.

### Possible Solutions

At meetings with concerned citizens, the question of the administration being “top heavy” is regularly brought up. Koligian is quick to respond to that charge.

“Before I came on board there were recommendations about how the district office should be staffed,” Koligian said in reference to an assessment in 2006, a year before she was hired, by the Fiscal Crisis Management Assistance Team, one of the financial advisors within the state. “They were hired by the district to see if staffing was at appropriate levels.” Koligian said its recommendation was to have three more administrators at the District level than

Please see **SOLUTIONS** on P. 21

## Radanovich’s Wife Falls to Cancer

Representing the Madera Ranchos, Congressman George Radanovich (R-Mariposa) released the following statement on Feb. 5 after his wife, Ethie Weaver Radanovich, 50, passed away after a long and courageous battle with ovarian cancer:

“Ethie was the love of my life. Her smile would light up a room and her boundless energy brought joy and beauty to everyone she met. Ethie truly lived life to the fullest — always thinking of King and me and those she loved. Last night, surrounded by our family and friends, she passed peacefully to be with God. Her tenacity and perseverance throughout her battle with cancer was evidence of her love of life and a commitment to the ideals she believed in. King and I so appreciate all the kind words and prayers from everyone — they kept our spirits buoyed throughout. She was a most wonderful wife and mom — we’ll miss her every day.”

Memorial services were held in Alexandria, Va. on Wednesday, Feb. 8 and will be held in Mariposa on Sunday, Feb. 21. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Mariposa Bears Football League, c/o Dave McNally, P.O. Box 2098, Mariposa, CA 95338 or to Mariposa Parks & Recreation Department for the Mariposa Little League, c/o Shannon Hansen, P.O. Box 732, Mariposa, CA 95338.

She is survived by her husband, George, 54, and son, King, 11.

## An Open Letter to the Community

from Sarah Koligian

Dear Staff, Parents and Community Members,

Like so many other school districts, we too are facing a very critical financial crisis. The Governor has proposed a budget which is grounded in questionable assumptions and fuzzy analysis. While the Governor claimed to be protecting education, he is instead using an old “divide and rule” approach to divert attention away from the reality of a \$1.5 billion cut to K-12 public education, which is on top of more than \$17 billion in reductions to K-12 education over the last two years. As for our own district, his proposal reduces funding \$1.7 million for the 2010-11 school year.

While reduction in funding from the State is not new to our district, the difference now is that we are spending down our reserves and Federal stimulus money and these funds will soon be gone. Because of a March 15th deadline for potential layoff notices for certificated and administrative staff we face an intense timeline for decision making. No decisions for potential reductions have been made at this time. It is important that we elicit stakeholder input through this process and have set the following dates for input gathering meetings.

Some immediate dates for consideration:

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| • Feb. 23, 2010  | Parent Meeting – Ranchos M.S. (7:45 a.m.)        |
| • Feb. 23, 2010  | Board Meeting – Budget Update Information        |
| • Feb. 24, 2010  | Parent Meeting – Webster Elem. (5:00 p.m.)       |
| • Feb. 25, 2010  | Staff Chat – Sierra View Elem. (3:00 p.m.)       |
| • Feb. 25, 2010  | Board Budget Study Session (5:00 p.m.)           |
| • Mar. 3, 2010   | Staff Chat – Webster Elem. (3:00 p.m.)           |
| • Mar. 4, 2010   | Staff Chat – Liberty HS (3:00 p.m.)              |
| • Mar. 9, 2010   | Board Meeting – Budget Update                    |
| • Mar. 9, 2010   | Staff Chat – District Office – (8:15 a.m.)       |
| • Mar./Apr. 2010 | Budget Steering Committee Meeting #2 (4:30 p.m.) |

Please see **LETTER** on P. 29

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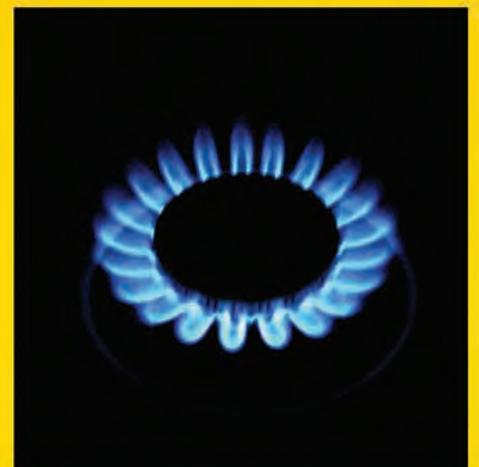
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*Another interesting Board meeting*

**Public Comment:** Ms Sitterding (our Head Librarian) proposed a citizen committee to look into the idea of some kind of emergency funding of essential services. I had a couple of discussions with her about the concept. It could be temporary and very restricted. Current essential services funding could not be diverted by the Board. Any money raised would restore, supplement and improve services.

Supervisor Wheeler jumped on the bandwagon and said he and other Board members were considering something like that. Something like a sales tax to fund police fire Library, Parks ... then he mentioned an Eastern Madera Fire District.

**DOG Comment:** *Why would Eastern Madera need its own Fire District? Don't we pay taxes for fire protection just like the rest of the County?*

I would like to support Ms. Sitterding's idea but I am afraid no matter what the committee comes up with the Board will heap on earmarks and other areas to fund while watering down restrictions. I think a better way to go might be to bypass the Board.

Yes. Form the committee, decide on the funding source, and then put a big lock on the funds to keep the Board out. Possibly, do it as a ballot initiative. Unless there is some kind of guarantee that our spend-happy board can't raid this trust fund, I will be fighting it all the way.

**The Board has been very clear on the issue over the years:** *The people of Madera County exist to serve the needs of the Board.*

When money was available for capital projects they lavished it on themselves, building the "Granite Palace" while fire stations and sheriff facilities crumbled around our first responders. Administrative budgets grew at rates far exceeding cost of living while essential services budgets languished. When cuts were needed, among the first were from essential services. We have a ruling class on the fourth floor of the Palace completely out of touch with we peasants.

**Bottom line:** Linda Sitterding, I will support your efforts if it is grass roots and out of reach of our Board. If it is to be a citizen group to do all the hard work and simply make recommendations to the Board that shuffles papers and searched the internet while citizens speak, I wish you luck, but I already spend enough time spinning my wheels in that muck.

It is time to cut up their credit cards and put firm restrictions on their spending

**For some unknown reason, "Closed Session" has been moved to the beginning of the meeting** and, to add insult to injury, another closed session was thrown in just before the budget presentation. I guess you can't argue with success. The frustration of driving down the mountain to participate and then having the Board disappear into closed session will continue to discourage citizen participation. There was no Water Advisory Commission report presented, as usual. The chairman of the WAC hung in there for hours but finally had to leave so he could earn some money, to pay his taxes and keep the HMS Madera County afloat a bit longer. The WAC commissioner gets \$100 per WAC meeting and nothing for committee meetings or quarterly reports to the Board. As a gesture of simple respect, how about we schedule the next presentation as a timed item just after lunch.

Please see **D.O.G.** on P. 24



**The State has cut county revenues dramatically, leaving jobs in jeopardy. I've been successful in saving many, but there is only so much I can do. I have placed priorities on the essentials - Fire and Law Enforcement. These are tough times where my experience has and will be very important. Please pray for continued wisdom on my part.**

**Thanks, your County Supervisor.**

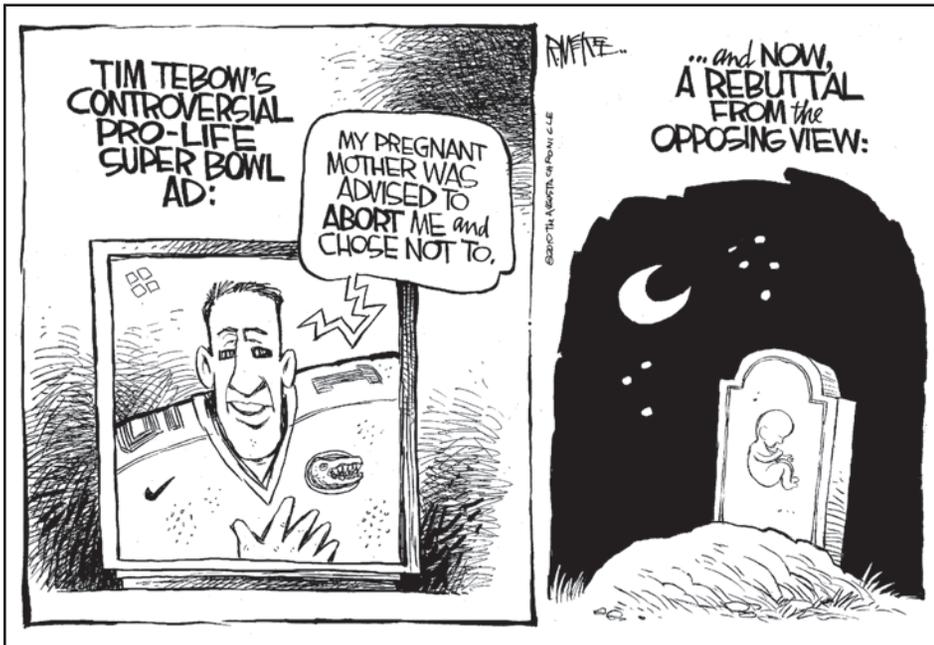
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Guest Editorial

The Budget Poseur

By Rich Lowry

President Barack Obama is a budgetary Don Quixote, with Office of Management and Budget Director Peter Orszag his enabling sidekick Sancho Panza.

Obama has donned his armor and picked up his lance to wage a thoroughly imaginary battle for fiscal restraint. He betrays not the slightest sign that his self-styled brave, tightfisted responsibility -- slaying wasteful programs and freezing spending all around him -- is all a dream.

"We simply cannot continue to spend as if deficits don't have consequences," Obama said in unveiling a budget with a record \$1.6 trillion deficit this year that will be the highest as a share of GDP since World War II. He warned against treating taxpayer dollars as "Monopoly money," even as he proposes a budget of \$3.8 trillion, and against ignoring the challenge of the debt "for another generation," even with a \$1 trillion deficit projected at the decade's end.

Anyone listening to him describe his budget would stock extra foodstuffs in the pantry for the lean times ahead -- and would be shocked to learn that Obama was speaking of the most extravagant budget in American history. It's a Keynesian blowout wrapped in an Eisenhower-era sensible Republican

cloth coat.

National debt will exceed GDP in 2012, a staggering fact. Internationally, we will share that distinction with such fine fiscal company as Iceland, Greece and Italy. Even Brazil, Pakistan and Malawi have a lower debt as a percentage of GDP.

Obama is not the first president to take office amid a deteriorating budgetary picture. So did Bill Clinton in 1992. He responded by jettisoning the \$200 billion "investment" program he promised in the campaign and adopting a deficit-reduction program in its stead. He caterwauled privately about losing his political soul, and his left-wing supporters predicted economic gloom. A decade of rollicking good times ensued.

Obama has taken the opposite tack: spending even more than he promised in the campaign as he inherited spiraling, recession-fueled deficits. The fruit of all the stimulus spending is hard to detect, but Obama still wants another \$100 billion in deficit spending on yet another stimulus program. Whether he's profligate or austere, Obama is always spending more.

One of his favorite riffs is that he is going through the budget "line by line" for savings. This purportedly adds up to \$20 billion in savings next year, which is about one-fifth of the cost of the new stimulus program and one-fifth of the average monthly deficit last year.

It's not that Obama is utterly incapable of finding savings and revenues. To fund his nearly \$1 trillion health-care reform, he's endorsed extensive Medicare cuts and tax increases, both of which are supposed to be relatively painless and beneficial to the overall health-care system. Why wouldn't he use them, then, to take a ready bite out of the deficit rather than devote them to a new, fiscally unsustainable entitlement program?

Ah, but don't disturb Obama during his epic budgetary quest in his own mind. Margaret Thatcher said the problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people's money. Obama may run out of ours while maintaining all the while he's cutting the budget down to size.

Rich Lowry is editor of the *National Review*. © 2010 by King Features Synd., Inc.

The Ranchos Independent

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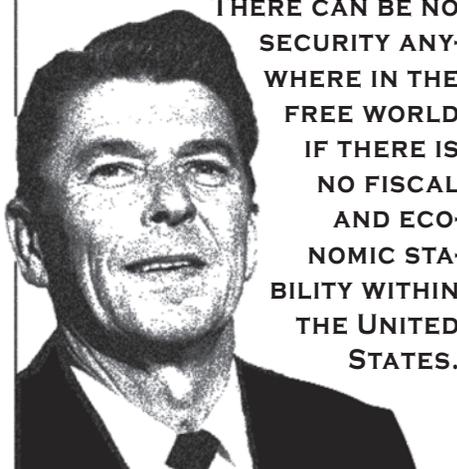
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RONALD REAGAN SAYING MORE IN ONE QUOTE THAN OTHERS SAY IN A LIFETIME

# Ranchos Library Fund Grows as Hours, Programs Continue to Change

By Ellen Mester

Our new library fund is growing! We have well over \$1,000 now in our special New Library account. Most of the new funding has come from our S.H.A.R.E.S cards that give us 3 percent of your purchases when you use your card at Save Mart or Food Max. Another revenue source has been through the Kids 4 Recycling program. Many people now bring their recycling to the back of the library on the first and third Tuesday of each month for Dianna VanWagonen to pick-up. Not only are we helping the environment but we are collecting needed start-up funds for our new library.

The Ranchos Library has reduced hours with furloughs in place for two Fridays in February, the 12th and 26th, continuing into March with furlough days on the 12th and 26th also. Call the library for an updated phone message.

Our proposed (pending Board approval) new hours beginning March 1:

Wednesday through Friday: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Closed Sunday through Tuesday

We will no longer be accepting checks for payment of library fines. Cash only. We are sorry for this inconvenience but it is necessary because of the high cost of the return check fee of \$25. If you have any outstanding fines, we would really appreciate it if you could pay them. There is approximately \$250,000 in outstanding fines within Madera County. Think how much that would help the library budget if everyone paid up!

### Notes of Appreciation

The Friends of the Ranchos Library would like to offer a big “thank you” to our new neighbor Wight Water Pool Service for their generous donation to the library. Wight Water Pools now reside in the old Central Valley Wireless store and will be open very soon. And another big “thank you” for Ed Ajlouny of Ajlouny and Tantoco, owners of the Maywood Center, for allowing the Friends to hold their book sales in the vacant stores throughout the Center. Right now there are no vacancies large enough for a book sale which is good for the center but means a large number of books are now in storage. We do have our book sale room in the library open during library hours so please stop by to see what new books we have for sale. We also have our adopt-a-book program with many great beginner reader books on sale. A personalized book plate in the name of your choosing is available to anyone who purchases a book for the library.

### Children's Programs

Every Wednesday at 2 p.m. there is something for children ages 3-11 at the library. The first Wednesday of the month is Read to Katie the Dog. The second Wednesday is Act Up Day where kids can dress up and tell a story about who they are. It's a lot of fun. Then the third Wednesday is Craft Day where we make something seasonal and very special. Finally the fourth Wednesday is Game Day with Wii Sports or a wide selection of board games. And most importantly, we have preschool Story Time with Mrs. Anderson every Monday at 12:30 p.m.

### Book Recommendations

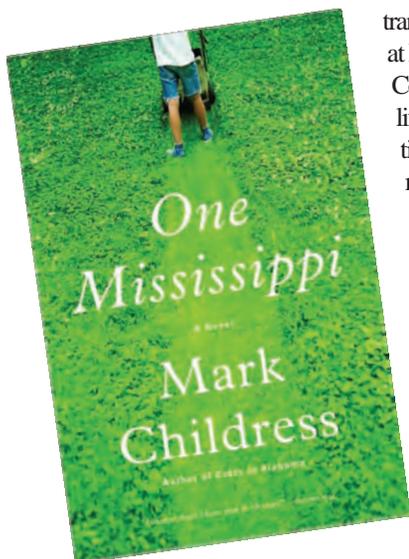
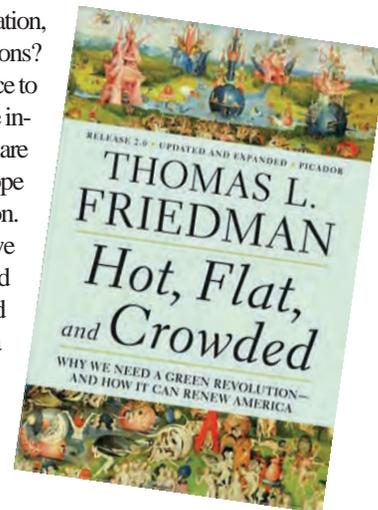
**Young Adult Fiction:** *One Mississippi* by Mark Childress. It's the 1970s and Daniel Musgrove, age 16, and his family move from Indiana when his dad gets a company transfer to Minor, Mississippi.

Basically the family is dysfunctional which doesn't make the transition any easier for Daniel, until he finds a kindred spirit at Minor High School on his first day of his junior year. Tim Cousins and Daniel share the sarcasm and irony of everyday life in Mississippi while trying not to draw too much attention to themselves. High school band competition, church musicals and priceless prom dates of the era make this book memorably funny, but it also hovers over the disturbing elements of racial inequities, bullying, homosexuality and the darker sides of keeping too many secrets. In many ways it seems that times haven't really changed that much, which makes this a great read for mature young adults.

**Adult Non-Fiction:** *Hot, Flat and Crowded* by Thomas L. Friedman. Friedman does a good job of linking the current economic situation with the emerging global environmental crisis. He's not just talking about global warming but of the shortages of reliable energy sources that give us electricity. He also chastises the baby-boomers for becoming the grasshopper generation — devouring the

surpluses and sacrifices that our parents, the Greatest Generation, left for us. And now what will be left for succeeding generations? Not much in his estimation. Not only did we blow our chance to reign in the excesses of government and big business but we instead embraced the excesses with such glee that we ourselves are now the problem. Fortunately though, Friedman offers hope and inspiration for the next generation — the Re-Generation. They will not have the sustainability or the freedom that we once enjoyed, but will have to create both the economic and environmental sustainability by the way business is conducted and the relationships that are affected by every action. It's a complex world and the sooner we realize that changes need to be made the sooner we'll get headed in the right direction.

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



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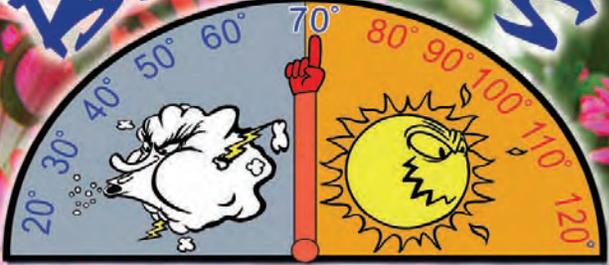
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Letters

Dear Editor:

The President's FY2011 Budget Proposal to Congress, released on February 1, included a \$400 billion investment into education but did not include specific funds for school libraries.

Even more concerning, the budget called for a consolidation of programs including Improving Literacy Through School Libraries, taking these funds out of reach for most school libraries.

These policies would weaken our nation's schools by stripping funding away from one of the most cutting-edge tools in our education system.

Research has consistently proven that school library programs with credentialed teacher librarians who collaborate with faculty to integrate information literacy skills across the curriculum and whose school libraries have sufficient staffing and collections positively impact student achievement.

Our country needs strong school library programs to ensure our students graduate with 21st century skills that they will need to succeed in college and the workplace and become productive members of society. These skills include the ability to effectively access, evaluate and use information and think critically as they create, generate and share knowledge in this digital age.

I call on Congressmen George Radanovich and Devin Nunes and Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein to reject these proposals by the Administration and include school libraries in the education increase and protect the Improving Literacy Through School Libraries Program.

Melanie Lewis  
Teacher/Librarian  
Liberty High School  
Ranchos Middle School

*The Ranchos Independent welcomes your letters. Whether you're a fan or someone looking for something to line the birdcage, we want to hear from you. There's only one rule: Be civil or forget about it.*

Send your letters to:

**The Ranchos Independent**

37167 Ave. 12 #5C  
Madera, CA 93636

or

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or

email to:

**ranchosnews@theranchos.com**

## Inga Barks to Speak at GOP Fete

Inga Barks, popular conservative radio talk show host heard on KMJ Talk Radio in Fresno, will be the keynote speaker at the Republican Party of Madera County (RPMC) Lincoln Day Dinner, the group's annual fundraising event. The event will be held on Saturday, February 27 at the Madera Municipal Golf Course Banquet Room in Madera, and will begin with a "no-host" social hour at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Cost is a \$40 donation per person to the RPMC and includes dinner as well as participation in live and silent auctions and a chance to meet many of the State and local candidates running for election in the 2010 election. Advance reservations are required. For more information or to make reservations, contact Bobbie, RPMC Secretary, at 559-683-0719.

## Fresno Looking for "TIP" Volunteers

The Fresno Trauma Intervention Programs (TIP) is looking for citizens that wish to help their fellow citizens at what may be the worst time of their lives. Its volunteers are on call to respond immediately to the scene of a tragic event when called by Fire, Ambulance, Peace Officers, Hospitals and Coroners. TIP volunteers provide immediate emotional support to the family, victims, witnesses or neighbors of a traumatic event. You can visit the TIP website at [www.tipfresno.org](http://www.tipfresno.org) for more information.

There is no special background that a

citizen needs to become a TIP volunteer, just attend a mandatory Training Academy and learn how to offer the emotional support so terribly needed in those first few hours following a tragedy. Training will be at American Ambulance, 2911 Tulare Street, Fresno. The next Training Academy is right around the corner and runs from March 18 through March 27. It is very important to attend all sessions.

If you are interested, or know anyone that is interested, please e-mail Zeeva Hammack at [zeeva@sbcglobal.net](mailto:zeeva@sbcglobal.net) or phone at (559) 265-8730.

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calendar to meet  
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**Tom Kellner**



**Supervisor**

**Kickoff Party!**

**Saturday, February 20, 2010**

**4:00 - 6:30 PM**

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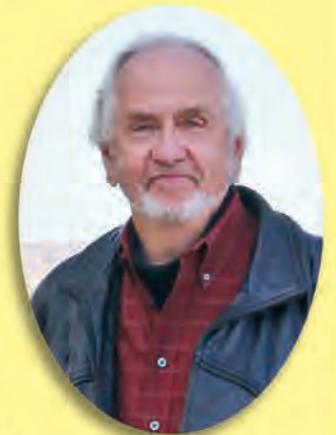
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# “Doctor, I can’t live this way any more!”

Dear friend,

Yeah, this isn’t the best thing to hear from your patient on a Monday morning, but that’s what I get. You see, I get the worst of the worst. Patients who have tried other methods without favorable results have ended up in my office.

Hi, my name is Dr. Lien T. Dao, D.C., the lady in the white lab coat next to my wonderful patient Tina. Let me give you an idea of the kind of patients I see in my office here in Fresno.

You see, the patients I take care of experience severe stabbing or “electric-like” pain all the time, disturbed sleeping patterns, Restless Leg Syndrome, fatigue, depression, numbness, spinal stenosis, peripheral neuropathy, fibromyalgia, and a host of other ailments. These, my friend, are a lot of symptoms.

That’s why I’ve put together the “Ultimate Pain Treatment Program” for anyone who is suffering from pain and wants to do something about it because when the pain is resolved, it’s not just improvement in quality of life, it’s really peace.

These types of results happen in my office a lot. You see, people hear about this chiropractor who also uses NEUROLOGY to diagnose and treat. Now because of this I am sent the hardest people possible! What a great way to spend a day in the office!

For one, it has to do with the advanced training that I have. I am one of only a handful of doctors with specific training using High Power laser treatments for patients in pain. I am, as of now, the only doctor in town with the Avicenna High Power Laser. This gives me an unfair advantage to help patients with all kinds of PAIN. The other thing is that I use tools and instruments that are cutting edge technology for getting patients better.

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Dr. Lien T. Dao, D.C. & Patient

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# Liberty Key Club Invades Pasadena For Rose Parade

By Randy Bailey

A group of Liberty High School students travelled to Pasadena on Dec. 30 of last year to help decorate a float for the 121st Annual Tournament of Roses Parade. The students were all members of Key Club, the high school version of the Kiwanis Club and were under the direction of their advisor, Sarah Burress, a Liberty High teacher.

The students decorated for the Phoenix Decorating Company which was responsible for the Bayer Advanced float entitled "We Are the Champions," reflecting this year's theme, "A Cut Above the Rest." The float depicted a history of the annual Rose Bowl football game.

The students' efforts were rewarded by winning the Queen's trophy which is awarded for the most effective use and display of roses.

The Kiwanis float, "Above the Rest," which the students did not work on, won the Isabella Coleman Award for best presentation of color and color harmony through floral use.



Liberty High School Key Club Advisor Sarah Burress (right) oversees a group of Liberty High students as they volunteer to work on a float for the 121st Rose Parade in Pasadena on Dec. 30, 2009.



Liberty High Key Clubbers ready to go to work on the Bayer Advanced "We are the Champions" float for the 121st Rose Parade.



Bayer Advanced's "We are the Champions" float.



Liberty student Andy Hart glues flower products to the "We are the Champions" float, depicting the history of the Rose Bowl.

Photos Courtesy of Hart Photography



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*The Stock Report***Spring Means Foundation Events**

By Audrey Stock

Hi neighbors,  
 What do you think of when you think of the month of February? Is it Valentine's Day? Valentine's Day has always meant flowers, chocolate candy and pretty Valentine cards. Now I have added the annual Wine Trail at Birdstone Winery, which this year was on Feb. 13-14, and the great lunch that the Foundation for Golden Valley Schools serves at the Birdstone Winery. The Wine Trail happens three times a year. This is a major fundraiser for the Foundation for Golden Valley Schools. This money goes to the Golden Valley teachers in the form of grants to use in their classrooms. On your April calendar circle April 10 as the date for "The Night the Stars Come Out." This is the night that teachers, operational staff members and Golden Valley district leaders, who have exhibited high standards of service to Golden Valley Unified throughout the 2009-2010 school year, will be honored. This is a gala event open to the community. The Foundation will also be awarding numerous Teacher Classroom Mini Grants. This year the "Night the Stars Come Out" will be held at the Birdstone Winery on April 10.

Another community event that you don't want to miss is the annual Crab Feed which is a major fundraiser for the local Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce. The Date is March 6 for the Crab Feed and the place is the Liberty High School cafeteria. The price is only \$35 for all the crab you can eat. It is great fun and for us crab lovers it is the one time of the year when we can fill up on crab to our hearts' content. Pick up your tickets today at the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce office in the Maywood Center.

Don't you just love the way the rumor mill works in the Ranchos? "Miss Information" can sure get around fast. The people of this community and your Golden Valley School Board have worked too hard to put together the award winning schools of this district to close any of them. Sacramento has a budget problem and they have passed that problem on to all of the school districts in the state of California. Golden Valley Unified in working on their next year's budget for 2010-2011. Since Sacramento has told Golden Valley Unified that their money will be cut over a million dollars for next year, Golden

Valley is working on how to make every dollar spent work the best it can. That doesn't mean that any one of the Golden Valley Schools will have to close. It does mean that there will have to be some cuts made to keep the district schools operating. Whatever is done will be temporary until things at both the state and federal government levels get better. California has been down before but we have always been the first state to come back. Golden Valley will also weather this storm.

Well folks, spring is just around the corner. My daffodils are blooming and my tulips are up about 10 inches. The tulips always know when it is time for Easter. It always amazes me. First the yellow and then the red ones bloom. Sunday, April 4 is the date for Easter this year. Golden Valley Unified Schools will be closed for the Easter break the week before Easter from March 29 through April 5, which is the day after Easter. The Ranchos Hills Senior Center will start making Easter Baskets for sale on March 16. If you have little ones in your family come by and check out the baskets and help out the Senior Center. Don't forget the monthly sale at the Center on March 6 which is the same day as the Chamber of Commerce Crab Feed. That will be a full day for the Ranchos.

So now that I have made you aware of things to come, I will also tell you that the Ranchos/Hills Seniors will be going on the Snow Train to Reno on Feb. 23-25. About 40 of us are going on the train. We are always busy at the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center and right now we are getting committees working on the annual Home and Garden Show which will be held on Saturday, April 3. We will just get finished with the Home and Garden Show when we start working on the annual "Bike Ride" on April 17 that is to benefit the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center. If you want to ride in the bike ride call the Senior Center at 645-4864 for the information you need for the ride. The Seniors provide food and water along the ride and lunch at the end of the ride. The ride starts at the Senior Center.

As always there is so much going on that it is hard to keep up with it all. Don't forget the dates for the March school board meetings which are on March 9 and 23. The time is 6 p.m. at the Liberty High library. The school board members need help figuring out this new budget.

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**Wednesday.....6:30 - 8 p.m.**

Worship Service

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2/10

**Golden Valley Chamber****2010 Flatlander's Day**

Parade Day: Saturday, May 8, 2010 • \$10 Entry Fee

Group  Individual  Business 

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Theme of Entry: \_\_\_\_\_

Will youngsters walk with the entry?  Yes  No

Approx. number of participants \_\_\_\_\_ Approx. length \_\_\_\_\_ ft.

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Parade begins at 10 a.m. Sharp!

Registration of entries begins at 8:30 a.m.

Parade route: Avenue 12 from Topper to Kensington

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

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Bring, fax or mail this form by **May 1** to: **Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce**  
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Parade Sponsored by the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce, Ranchos Kiwanis and Friends of the Ranchos Library.

# Getting to the Heart of the Matter

By Bob Crabb

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." (Matthew 25:35-36 NIV)

Last week I traveled to the East Coast to see one of my former Deacons who is doing life without parole in a prison in New Jersey. He has been incarcerated since 1998 after being convicted for murder. For the purposes of this article I'll call him Ken. Before he was incarcerated, Ken and I started a church together in the Bronx. He was an incredible evangelist. He always reached out to the young people in the community with mentoring and faith-filled discussions. I will always have this image in my mind of Ken preaching on a Sunday morning in our start-up store front church in the South Bronx. There were seven or eight children sitting around the pulpit. I

*Jesus makes the point that the Kingdom of God is not something we are waiting for but rather the Kingdom of God is something we participate in.*

remember the young people looking at him with such rapt attention! He was connecting with them in an extraordinary way. His ability to communicate the Gospel was a tremendous gift to the church. Ken was an enthusiastic advocate of grace and the love of God in Jesus Christ. One example of this that comes to mind was a bible study that Ken started in our South Bronx community. It was amazing how many folks that he brought to faith through that Monday afternoon bible study. Since Ken has been in prison he has been remarkable in his continued excitement for the Gospel. Despite conditions of duress and anxiety, Ken has been a blazing beacon for hope and faith. I remember a conversation I had with him early on after his conviction in 1998. He reported to me that after his arrival at the place of his incarceration, he went to God in prayer and asked, "What do you want me to do now Lord?" His understanding of his faith led him to carry a message of God's redeeming and abiding presence. In prison, Ken has worked to reach out to as many convicted offenders as possible with a message of agape love and an invitation to join the prison Christian fellowship. He has especially endeavored to connect with the young men in prison with a witness of repentance and hope in Christ. He leads the

prison choir and a bible study and is even allowed to preach in the prison chapel on occasion. Ken is a shepherd behind bars. In our meeting last week, Ken reported that in order to keep his sanity and his humanity he has found it necessary to reach out to his fellow inmates every day. He told me a story about how one of his cellblock mates has been increasingly hostile and aggressive to him. Ken is a fairly big guy and can take care of himself, I suppose. Ken reported in our conversation that he told this individual recently: "I don't care what you do to me, but as long as God gives me life, I will pray for your redemption and healing."

Which brings me to the words of Jesus in Matthew. In some ways they are counter intuitive. Jesus seems to be appointing the very least of "these" brothers of his – the

people at the very bottom of the social order – as his representatives in the world: "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40). Jesus identifies himself with His people's needs and then calls us to compassion, mercy, service and sacrifice in the name of God for the sake of the world. For Jesus, compassion, mercy, service and sacrifice for the least of the people in the world is the same thing as loving God. The heart of the matter for Jesus is given in six simple sentences which (with only slight variation) Jesus repeats four times in this one parable (Matthew 25:31-46):

I was hungry and you gave Me food.  
I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink.  
I was a stranger and you welcomed Me.  
I was naked and you gave Me clothing.  
I was sick and you took care of Me.  
I was in prison and you visited Me.

### The Kingdom of God

Jesus makes the point that the Kingdom of God is not something we are waiting for but rather the Kingdom of God is something we participate in. Jesus was passionate about rescuing those who were disoriented and off course and confused and who had gone astray from God. Jesus said: "For the Son of Man came to seek and to

Please see **PASTOR** on P. 20

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## Senior Report

### Much Needed Rain Hits Ranchos

By Eleanore Burchell

Most people know that the "water table" has something to do with ground water. The word "table" provides an image of a flat surface, like a table top, and it is commonly assumed that when a well is drilled it strikes water once it reaches below the water table.

There is also a general understanding that in times of serious drought, water table levels may drop and wells may run dry. Understanding the terminology used to describe sub-surface water can help explain why water tables may rise and fall.

Ground water is sub-surface water, but not all sub-surface water is ground water, OK?

Let's try to understand this statement. Having an appreciation of the types of sub-surface water and knowledge of local geology can explain why some water table levels may vary by tens

of feet and others in the same area may only change by inches and some hardly at all.

The upper surface of ground water is the water table. Below this surface, all pore spaces and cracks in sediments and rocks are completely filled (saturated) with water. However, this is a misconception. Some may contain water, some air, and some may only be partly filled with water. The vertical distance from the ground surface to the water table varies from place to place. It may be a few feet or several hundreds of feet. Generally, the water table is deeper beneath hills and shallower beneath valleys. It is hardly ever flat. Unfortunately, we know Madera Ranchos' water table could be better than we have. We can only cherish the rainy weather now as we know we depend on the underground water later in the year.

The Ranchos/Hills Seniors, Inc., located at 37330 Berkshire, has been holding planning meetings preparing for our 18th Annual Home and Garden Festival to be held on Saturday, April 3. Starting at 6:30 a.m., a biscuit and gravy breakfast will be served. A BBQ lunch will offer hamburgers, hot dogs and pulled pork sandwiches. Vendors will be here with many interesting

items. If you or a friend would like to be one of our vendors, please call Joann at 645-4864. Those in charge of the garden section are diligently working to obtain trees and plants of all kinds to have available and waiting for you. Also, the Treasure House is collecting and sorting its displays. Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) representatives will also be available. Everyone is invited to come and see us on April 3 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Did you notice this is our 18th Annual Festival? We are getting better each and every year. You are invited to come and spend Saturday, April 3 with us. We are also planning our Second

*Unfortunately, we know Madera Ranchos' water table could be better than we have. We can only cherish the rainy weather now as we know we depend on the underground water later in the year.*

Annual Bike Ride to be held on April 17. For more information on time, start, route, finish, etc., please call Joann at 645-4864. Please mark your calendar for both of these events so you don't forget. Remember, forget-

fulness is a "senior thing."

Approximately 50 people attended our recent Garden Grafting Seminar. Two other sessions are planned later in the summer and fall, however no specific dates are available now. We have had several day trips to Chukchansi. For information or to make reservations, call Joann at 645-4864. The Feb. 23-25 Snow Train Trip to Reno will be enjoyed by 52 of our members and friends.

Again, we must announce the loss of another one of our members. Ted Alumbaugh passed away on Jan. 13. Ted loved to come to the center and play Hand & Foot. We will dearly miss him. Our sympathy goes out to his family and many pilot friends.

Our next sale will be held on Saturday, March 6 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Many of our members will be there to greet you. Now is the season to plant bare root trees so plan to attend the sale and check out the trees available. The bake sale and Treasure House will have many new items. The boutique has jewelry and novelty items and much more. Please remember the plant, produce and boutique sections are available Monday

Please see **SENIORS** on P. 27



## Aunt Jean's Ranchos Recipes

by Jean Briner

*An Apple a Day Will Keep the Doctor Away* – We have heard that all our lives, and I have often wondered where that saying came from so I went searching on the internet. Sure enough, I found it. According to “Phrase Finder” the original phrase was “Eat an Apple Upon Going to Bed, and You’ll Keep the Doctor From Earning His Bread,” originated in Wales in February, 1866. In 1913 it was changed to the version we know today.

I can remember my grandpa would always buy a couple of lugs of apples from the fruit peddler in the fall every year.

They would then store most of them in the fruit cellar, but leave a large supply in the house. Applesauce, apple pies – both baked and fried – apple butter, and especially peeling and slicing or scraping them by the fire in the living room before going to bed.

Do you serve the same side dishes every time you serve a certain meat dish? My mom always served creamed peas and carrots and “broasted” potatoes with meat loaf; canned spinach with fish; and with pork – either a roast or chops – there was always applesauce.

I’ve told you I don’t like to make pie crust. I like apple pie if someone else cooks it – especially my nephew Adam. If I have apples to cook, I will make an Apple Crisp.

### APPLE CRISP

Preheat oven to 375

#### Filling:

6 cups peeled and chopped tart apples  
(this will take about 2 ½ pounds)  
Juice of ½ lemon  
3 T granulated sugar

#### Topping:

½ C Flour  
¼ C granulated sugar  
¼ C packed brown sugar  
½ tsp cinnamon  
½ tsp nutmeg  
1/8 tsp salt  
6 T butter, cut into pieces  
1/3 C old fashioned oatmeal  
1/3 C chopped nuts (optional)  
Butter or spray an 8 inch square baking dish.

Put all the topping ingredients in bowl and mix with two forks (or your hands) until mixture resembles coarse meal. Set aside while preparing the filling.

*There is a website that gives “Nine Reasons Why an Apple a Day Really Does Keep the Doctor Away.” Among the reasons are: Apples contain Vitamin C; they help prevent heart disease; they are low in calories; they help lower bad cholesterol and increase good cholesterol; and they help prevent tooth decay. So keep eating those apples.*

Place prepared apples, lemon juice and sugar in large bowl and toss until apples are coated. Pour evenly into prepared baking dish. Spread the topping evenly over apples. Bake 30-40 minutes until top is golden brown and apples are done. Let sit about 30 minutes

before serving.

### ADAM’S APPLE PIE

#### Pie Crust:

2 C flour  
1 ½ tsp salt  
2/3 C shortening  
½ C ice water

Mix together flour, salt and shortening with pastry cutter until like meal. Add water and mix into a ball. This will be a little moist, but when you put it onto floured board and flour before rolling, it should be perfect. Cut in half, and roll each piece to a circle just larger than the 9” pie plate.

#### Filling:

3 to 3 ½ pounds peeled and sliced tart cooking apples  
2 T flour  
2 tsp cinnamon  
1 C Sugar  
4-5 pats butter  
Mix together apples, flour, cinnamon and sugar in large bowl. Pour into pie plate on top of bottom crust. Add butter randomly on top of apples. Put top layer on and crimp edges to

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 15

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RECIPE cont. from P. 14

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seal. Cut air vents in top (before putting on top of apples, you could be fancy and cut apple shapes in top crust)

Bake in preheated 350 oven for 1 hour.

Ollia Ridge gave me this recipe – sounds wonderful and you don't even have to peel and slice apples.

**VONDA'S APPLE CAKE**

Preheat oven to 350

Mix the following ingredients together:

- 2 C flour
- 2 C sugar
- 1 can apple pie filling
- ½ C oil
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- 2 tsp baking soda
- 2 eggs
- 1 ½ C raisins
- 1 ½ C chopped walnuts

Pour into 9x13 pan and bake for about 45 minutes.

There is a website that gives "Nine Reasons Why an Apple a Day Really Does Keep the Doctor Away." Among the reasons are: Apples contain Vitamin C; they help prevent heart disease; they are low in calories; they help lower bad cholesterol and increase good cholesterol; and they help prevent tooth decay. So keep eating those apples. You have lots of choices: yellow, green and all shades of red and all the way from tart to sweet.

Before I close this article, I want to put on a different hat. I want to talk to the residents of the Ranchos (this includes the Bonadelle and Rolling Hills areas) about the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce. As you have no doubt heard by now, the annual Crab Feed is coming up on March 6. It is the one big annual fundraiser for the Chamber. You can purchase a ticket or a book of tickets from any member of the Chamber and for \$35 you get all the salad, pasta and crab you can eat at one sitting. PLUS, you get to see old friends and meet new ones. Oh, there's one other thing: YOU GET TO HELP THE CHAMBER! Trust me, it is money well spent.

While I'm on the subject of the Chamber, I want to let you know that the Chamber could use your help. With the Crab Feed just a couple of weeks away there is a list of "chores" that need volunteers to fill. Just call Virginia or Ollia at 645-4001 and ask how you can help. In addition to the chores, the Chamber also needs items for the two auctions.



2/10

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## Budget Status of Golden Valley Unified Schools: The Facts and Figures



Golden Valley Unified School District Superintendent, Sarah Koligian.

By Sarah Koligian

### **Question #1 – Why does GVUSD need to reduce our budget for the next two years?**

**Answer** – The state has under funded their commitment to K-12 education funding to help balance the state budget and address the state fiscal crisis. If the state had funded our revenue limit at expected levels without any increases, GVUSD would not need to reduce expenditures by \$1.7 million in 2010-2011 and \$750K more in 2011-2012. In order to meet a “positive certification” on our Multi-Year Projections, the district needs to prove that it can meet all of its expenses with the reduced revenues for the current year and the next two years out and still maintain a state recommended reserve of 3%.

### **Question #2 - What is the basic financial challenge we face as a district?**

**Answer** - We are forecasting a two-year deficit of approximately \$1.7m in 2010/2011 and \$750K in 2011/2012. By law we must maintain a balanced budget.

### **Question #3 - We made significant reductions last year, why are we faced with even a greater reduction next year?**

**Answer** - We have been able to operate this year without significant program reductions due to conservative spending and Federal Stimulus funds, which are one-time funds, and will be gone in the near future. This challenge is true in just about every

school district in the state, which is why many are saying that 2010-2011 will be the most difficult year for public education since the passage of Proposition 13.

### **Question #4 - How much has the state actually reduced funding?**

**Answer** - The Governor’s recent budget proposal for next year reduces funding to our district \$2.4 million dollars. From the fully funded Revenue Limit we will be receiving approximately \$1,500 less per student.

### **Question #5 - Is our district growing and doesn’t that help the budget?**

**Answer** - We pursued an active marketing campaign last year to increase student enrollment. The result yielded nearly 50 new transfer students to GVUSD but our total enrollment stayed the same or flat-lined. Without these new 50 inter-district transfer students we could have had a declining enrollment of 50 students.

### **Question #6 - How might our school district tackle this serious budget shortfall?**

**Answer** - Like all school districts, our personnel expenditures are approximately 85% of the budget. Therefore, when all is said and done it generally comes down to three main options. They are:

1. Reduce labor costs through programs and services reductions
2. Reduce labor costs by increasing class size
3. Reduce labor costs through salary reductions, furloughs, benefits caps, etc.

Each site and department manager has been given the task of reducing approximately 15 percent of their budgets for 2010/2011. If all sites and departments can reach this goal, it will bring us close to \$1.7 million in reductions for 2010/2011.

### **Question #7 – What are some potential areas of savings?**

**Answer** - Maximize Class Sizes for:

- K-3 CSR
- 1:25 = potential reduction of 5 teachers
- 1:30 = potential reduction of 9 Teachers
- Review Master schedules at the middle and high school for core and elective classes
- Reduction of Administrative Staff
- Reduction of Classified Staff
- Furlough Days
- 1 day for all staff = \$47,000
- PARS Retirement Incentive
- Reviewing options at offering to

certificated staff at least 55 years old as of 7/1/10 and at least 12 years of service – could reduce numbers of lay-offs

- Reduce Energy Costs – unplug personal appliances, solar options, water testing options

- Reduce other operating costs by site and department

- Other...

### **Question #8 - What about furlough days? What are they? How do they work? How much does a furlough day save the district?**

**Answer** - Furloughs are days off without pay. The end result is reduced annual earnings for employees. They would be structured so a full service year would still be counted toward retirement, but the compensation would be lower. Each furlough day for all employees saves the district approximately \$47,000 with today’s staffing. Any reduction in salary would need to be negotiated with the unions.

### **Question #9 - Why is the district offering a retirement incentive for teachers?**

**Answer** - The purpose is to provide a supplemental retirement plan for senior teachers to consider retirement as this could help reduce the number of potential layoffs of recently hired teachers. The district may also benefit initially with a better cash position as newer teachers cost less than experienced teachers. The down side

is that we may lose many wonderful teachers, with the result being a loss of wisdom and skill that only experience brings. The incentive is not offered to administrators or classified employees because there is not a significant difference in pay between new and senior staff members, as there is with teachers.

### **Question #10 - What happens next?**

**Answer** - While bargaining continues with our employee organizations, the Board will begin to identify possible program reductions and class size adjustments. We have little choice but to begin the process of preparing for layoff notices, which must go out to certificated staff (teachers, counselors, librarians, nurses, administrators, etc.) no later than March 15th. Stakeholder input meetings will be held at every site between now and then.

### **Question #11 - What if the budget picture changes?**

**Answer** - The Governor’s budget is just a proposal. Once a final budget is approved we would anticipate meeting with the Board and with our employee groups to reassess the situation. If the State financial picture improves, we could back away from some of the anticipated actions, and of course, if the picture is worse, we might have to consider even more severe modifications.

## Cowger Picks Sacramento State



Liberty High senior Ben Cowger is officially a Sacramento State Hornet and was featured on Channel 47 along with other top Valley athletes receiving full athletic scholarships. A football standout, Cowger also carries a 3.98 G.P.A. A signing party was held in the gym attended by Cowger’s parents, Andy and Angela, and GVUSD staff. The community congratulates Cowger for representing our community so positively.

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2/10

## Activities at Webster Elementary



Webster Elementary 2nd Grade students enjoy a field trip to the Ranchos Fire Station #19.



The Andersen Family celebrates Donuts with Dad at Webster Elementary on February 12.

If you would like to write our legislators about the financial situation with our schools, here is a sample letter you can use as a guide.

Editor

*Assemblyman Michael Villines, Fresno Office*  
 6245 N. Fresno St., Ste #106  
 Fresno, CA 93710

*Senator Dave Cogdill, Fresno Office*  
 4974 East Clinton #100  
 Fresno, CA 93727

Dear Legislator,

*There is no denying that the state finds itself in an extremely difficult situation on the budget. As the Legislature debates endlessly about possible solutions, educators, parents and community members are growing concerned that all the budget cuts being proposed would place a disproportionate share of the reductions on California students.*

*Public education in California has already shouldered a larger than fair share of budgetary cuts, even before the recession hit full force. In addition, studies commissioned by the Legislature last year clearly showed that education needs more funding, or at least the funding that was guaranteed before the deficits – not less – in order to meet the state standards for education. California already ranks 47th in the nation in education funding. How low do we want to go?*

*Maybe the question is how low do lawmakers want to go? California voters have continuously stated in polls and shown at the ballot box that education funding remains a high priority for them. It's time for legislators to reflect that desire of their electorate.*

*At the very least lawmakers ought to lessen mandates and provide flexibility that protects revenue limit programs and allows districts to decide how to manage the cuts at the local level. As a (parent, community member, teacher, school leader) I am staunchly opposed to onerous and unfair cuts to schools. We can no longer do more with less, but we are facing doing less with less, which will impact the children in our classrooms. I strongly urge you to consider what is in the best interest of our students and ask yourself, if that were my child in the classroom would these continued reductions to education be acceptable?*

Sincerely

Name  
 Title

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# Sierra View, Webster Elementary Kindergarten Registration Coming

## Sierra View Elementary

It is that time of year again! Yeehaw! Sierra View's Kindergarten Round Up is scheduled for March 9. Registration packets can be picked up Monday through Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. in the Sierra View Office beginning January 20. Also, if you have concerns about your medical records and would like our health clerk to verify before March 9 that your child has all of the necessary shots, you can show your immunization record to our Sara Gorman or Cheri Adams in the Sierra View Office ahead of time. If you have any questions or needs, please call Sierra View at 645-1122.

## Webster Elementary

Spread the word! Kindergarten registration will begin on March 5 at 9 a.m. at Webster School. Registration packets can be picked up Monday through Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. in the Webster Office beginning February 9 if you want to have them already filled out and ready to bring in on March 5. As much as possible, and within the parameters and guidelines of maintaining balanced class ratios, we will be assigning slots for AM/PM Kindergarten on a first come, first registered basis. Therefore, if you need your child to have one of the AM Kindergarten slots you will need to be one of the first parents to

register. Please bring your future kindergarten with you to registration. An assessment will be given immediately after the registration process. In addition, if you have concerns about your medical records and would like our health clerk to verify before March 5 that your child has all of the necessary shots, you can show your immunization record to our health clerk ahead of time.

### Requirements

In order to register your child at either of the elementary school sites, you will need the following:

1. **Your child must be 5** by December 2, 2010. You will need to bring in his/her birth certificate to verify this.
2. **Your child's immunization records** showing that your child is up-to-date on all of his or her shots.
  - A. TB Test (AGVUSD Requirement)
  - B. Polio (4)
  - C. Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (5)
  - D. Measles, Mumps, Rubella (2)
  - E. Hepatitis B (3)
  - F. Varicella (Chicken Pox) (1)
3. **Proof of residency** within the Golden Valley Unified School District boundaries.
  - A. This can be a utility bill, tax records, rental agreement, etc.
4. **A completed registration packet.**

## PASTOR cont. from P. 12

save what was lost." (Luke 19:10 NIV) The amazing thing is, that it is not those who are hungry and thirsty and who are strangers and who are without clothes and who are sick and who are in prison who are necessarily the lost ones. Many of them are "found." Jesus makes the case that it is those who do not or will not feed the hungry, who do not or will not give a thirsty person something to drink, who do not or will not welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, take care of the sick or visit those in prison are the ones who "... will go away to eternal punishment." (Matthew 25:40-46 NIV)

I realized when I was visiting Ken in prison that he wasn't lost. Ken was doing

what Jesus had asked his disciples to do. He was looking after "the least of these" in prison. I thought I was visiting Ken to "help" him, but it turned out I was the one who was blessed. Last week, one of the "least in the world" reached out to me and showed me another instance of how God loves his people. The love of God looks like one of the "least in the world" reaching out to another person who is also one of "the least in the world" with the love of God in Jesus Christ. For those of us who follow Christ, that is the heart of the matter.

*Pastor Bob Crabb is the Pastor of the Christian Mission Center meeting at 36875 Avenue 12 (Loren Way and Avenue 12). They worship Sundays at 10:30 a.m.*



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## Liberty High Standouts

*Liberty High School is fostering an environment where students are free to excel in both academics and sports.*



LHS Principal Kuljeet Mann (left) stands with Academic Decathlon winners Ryan Chaney, Jaspreet Dhaliwal and Caroline Warner as LHS Teacher Trent Wilson looks on.



Devin Kochergen received a full softball scholarship to Tallahassee Community College in Florida. Devin intends to ultimately transfer to Florida State.



Liberty's Victoria Burnell has scored more than 200 goals for the soccer Lady Hawks. She is second in the nation in goals scored and second in the nation for goals per game.



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

2/10

## RMS Names Students of the Month



The following Ranchos Middle School students received certificates for Student of the Month for January 2010. Students are nominated by teachers based on behavior, citizenship and character. The students are (from left, bottom row) Maximo Molina, Eli Williams, Agustin Mata, Mikaela Fringer and Adan Jauregui. The top row students are (from left) Clay Medlock, Salvador Bravo, Daniel Monastyrsky, Kelly Lock, Alex Romero and Juliet Olsen. Principal Pinkard congratulates these students for demonstrating leadership skills at Ranchos Middle School.

## Current Happenings at Sierra View



KSEE 24 News Anchor A.J. Fox, and a Sierra View parent, gives a science presentation in Mr. Ready's 5th grade classroom on Thursday, February 11. Mr. Fox is an outstanding teacher! The kids were engaged and they were having fun learning.



Sierra View Student Council members Samuel Glover and Michael Sassano are selling Valentine's Day Grams. This fundraiser is a great way to send encouraging messages and it is helping to raise money for Sierra View Elementary School.

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### SOLUTIONS cont. from P. 2

what she has now. "I chose to not follow that recommendation."

Koligian says that she has strived at the District level to be surrounded by multi-taskers; people who can handle several different jobs that a larger school district could afford to employ individually. Even though she is operating with less than what the state recommends for a school district our size, she still is asking her personnel to help find solutions. At a pair of District-wide "State of the District" meetings held on February 3 and 4, she charged the staff to think differently about Golden Valley Unified.

"I want you to think about our district as a business corporation," she said to the assembled personnel. "We are all going to look at our challenge of \$1.7 million from a business standpoint."

As a result of engaging the "stakeholders," as Koligian refers to the employees, she said that she has already started to see suggestions come in, several of which are quite novel that she had not thought of. Those ideas, in union with other ideas being considered, are as follows:

1. Maximize class sizes for all grades. At the Kindergarten through 3rd Grade level, increasing class size from one teacher per 20 students to 25 students yields a reduction of five teachers. Increasing class size to 30 yields a nine teacher reduction.

2. At the high school and middle school levels, look at the Master Schedules and evaluate core and elective classes and consider dropping the ones with minimal attendance.

3. Reduction of Administrative staff
4. Reduction of Classified staff
5. The concept of Furlough Days like the State of California has done with state

employees. Having one day for all staff save \$47,000.

6. An "Early Out" retirement plan offered to certificated staff at least 55 years old as of July 1, 2010 and with at least 12 years of service. This move could reduce the numbers of lay-offs as well.

7. Reduce energy costs from unplugging personal appliances to considering solar options and water testing options.

And finally, 8. Reduce other various operating costs by site and by department.

In addition, Koligian said that several "gung ho" teachers have offered their services for grant writing or working with community groups for help.

### The 15 Percent Solution

"I asked all of my site principals and my managers to work with their staff, after I presented the State of the District information to them, and I said, 'Here's what our challenge is; here's what our operating costs are; here's what our labor costs are for each of your sites and each of your departments, including my department ... if we all reduce 15 percent in our budgets, we would be able to meet that \$1.7 million deficit,'" Koligian said.

So for now, it is a delicate balancing act that Koligian, her staff and the State of California must negotiate. Although painful, she is confident that her people, and the people of the community, will come through and find a way to continue to provide quality education for our children without having to close any schools. But as California continues to wallow in a sea of red ink, and as legislators continue to believe that they can wave a wand and make money appear from school districts, the question mark in this equation is Sacramento and what it will do next.

Sarah Koligian is not looking forward to that.

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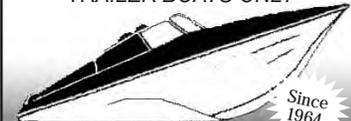
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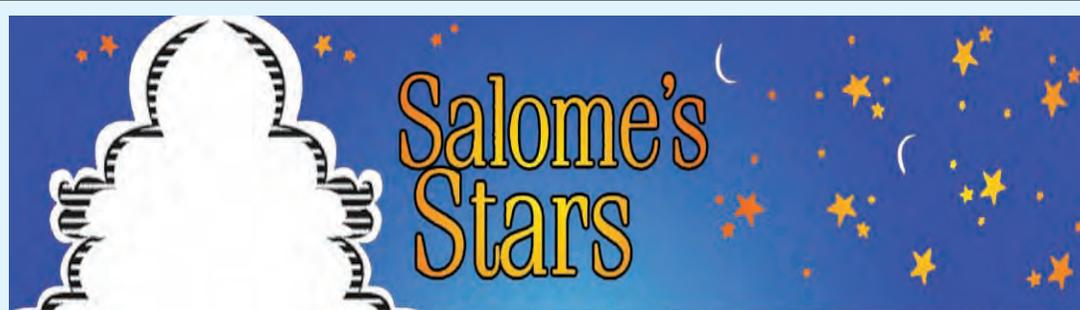
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**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) There could be some negative reaction to your tough stance when making a recent decision. But overall, your efforts result in well-earned recognition and all that can follow from that.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) Your financial situation seems confusing, even for the fiscally savvy Bovine. Maybe it's the conflicting advice you're getting. Check it out before things get too tangled to unknot.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) A relaxed attitude goes a long way in helping you deal with any of life's irritants that might be popping up this week. You're also a reassuring role model for others in the same situation.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Your aspect favors creativity, which should persuade you to work on your artistic projects. If time is a problem, prioritize your commitments so that your work isn't compromised.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) Scrutinize all the job offers that interest you. Most are honest and worth considering. But a few might not be completely forthcoming about what the job is and what the salary and benefits are.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) An unexpected snafu could delay the completion of a project you're eager to finish. Find out what's causing it, fix it, and if you need help, don't be shy about asking for it. Good luck.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) An idea that could be helpful to you comes from an unlikely source. Listen to it. Discuss it. If necessary, adjust it. If it looks as if it might work out quite well, go ahead and use it.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Be careful about allowing someone to share a very personal secret with you. This could cause problems down the line with others who are involved in that person's private life.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) A cooling down of a relationship could be the result of neglect, unintended or not. To save it from icing over, you need to warm it up with a large dose of hot Sagittarius passion.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) This is a good time to get involved with a number of family matters that involve money and other issues that might jeopardize the closeness between and among family members.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) Cheer up. That difficult person who appears to be deliberately stalling your project might just need to be reassured of the value she or he brings to it.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Good news! Expect to feel re-energized now that you've gone through that stressful energy-depleting period involving a lot of changes. Now, go out there and show them what you can do.

## Born this Week

You have a warm, giving nature that inspires many to follow your example.

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D.O.G. cont. from P. 4

The letter regarding the Board's position on high speed rail was put off for a couple weeks. This one was a bit frustrating.

First we had a lively discussion of the issue with several speakers, then public comment was closed then, as often happens, a bombshell was dropped and the discussion took a decided turn now around a meeting Supervisor Bigelow had with a constituent's plan to withdraw any consideration of using their land for the maintenance facility.

*If information presented by the board after public comment is presented that substantially changes the facts or if the motion made is something other than what was being discussed, the public should get another bite at the apple.* In this case, while public comment was open, we were all allowed to vent harmlessly about points in the letter, then public comment was closed. Then the new and restricted discussion was about sending the letter or not send-

ing the letter.

I know this will surprise a few of you. I have an opinion on the idea of high speed rail.

I predict the system will make the highly subsidized AMTRAK system seem like a bargain. This is going to be the deepest, most highly government subsidized, underused, money eating pit we have ever seen.

*Now on to the Fossil Discovery Center:* Three more contracts approved just under a hundred grand, and not a single one to a Madera County Contractor.

*Item 10 and 11 were about the Ellis St overcrossing. This just keeps getting better all the time.*

First the City takes \$3.2 Million from County projects. Next the State pulls funding because the Ellis St. overcrossing will in no way help the 99 freeway. Then the City begins shuffling money around between Ellis and another project in the city. Bottom line: in the shuffle a few more County project dollars had to be diverted.

This brings us up to the February 9 meeting. What was on the agenda were two agreements. The first item was asking the County to sign an agreement the County must sign with the State before they will issue a permit to build the overcrossing. One of the provisions, as I understand it, will require the County to accept responsibility for maintaining the overcrossing.

The item was continued until the next meeting.

Supervisor Bigelow asked staff to work on an agreement with the City where the City will take responsibility for maintenance costs. *The City representative said City staff would meet with County staff but he hoped if an agreement was not reached we would still sign.*

*Talk about insult to injury!*

*The next item was the agreement between the County and the City to cover damage to county roads during construction.* Sounds great until you ask where the money is coming from to repair damaged roads. Surprise! It will come

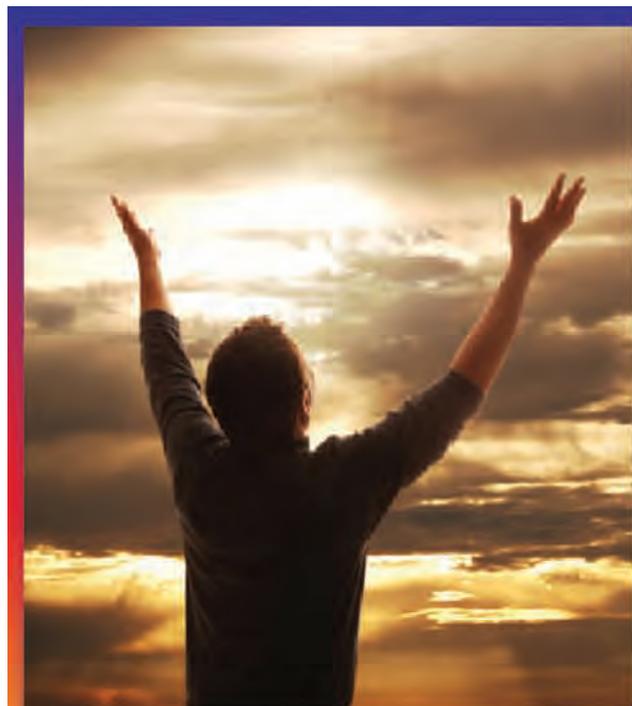
from yet another raid on Measure "T" money. The City is very efficient at spending their share so my guess is it will have to again be pushing County projects to the back burner.

Not long ago Madera passed new development and road fees. While not popular, I support the concept. Development pays for needed infrastructure as development creates the need. A bit farther back in history we passed Measures "A" and "T" to rebuild and repair our crumbling highway system. Madera County developers now pay to mitigate the impact they cause (excepting McCaffrey due to the sweet deal he was handed after large campaign contributions). Madera County citizens pay to maintain and repair with Measures "A" and "T".

So why is it the Ellis St project, clearly creating infrastructure to facilitate development in Madera City, isn't being funded by the City developers?

*Agriculture Weights and*

Please see D.O.G. on P. 25



At The Christian Mission Center  
We Have a Passionate and Absolutely Real  
Gratitude for What God Has Done  
in Jesus Christ!

"Come and You Will See."

Sunday Worship: 10:30AM  
Tuesday Dinner and Bible Study: 6:30PM  
Wednesday Bible Study: 10:30AM  
Wed 1st Responders Lunch: Noon  
Youth Group: After Church on Sundays

Christian Mission Center  
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www.cmc ranchos.com • Twitter.com: CMC Madera • www.myspace.com/cv1myouthgroup

2/10

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

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Invites you to a **TOWN HALL MEETING**

with Guest Speaker  
**Madera County  
District #1 Supervisor  
Frank Bigelow**



Be on hand to hear Frank explain what's happening both in the county and especially right here in the Madera Ranchos. Have your questions answered. Please attend for an interesting and informative evening with our own locally elected representative!

**Wednesday Evening, Feb. 24 at 6:30 p.m.**  
Ranchos/Hills Seniors Center • 37330 Berkshire, Madera Ranchos  
Refreshments • Call 645-4001 for More Information

D.O.G. cont. from P. 24

*Measures has raised their fees.* One speaker that has been in business in Madera County for 33 years just had his fee for inspection doubled. He is concerned that with the increased fees he will not be able to compete with other companies paying only half as much in inspection fees in other areas.

If the County is to make every business in the County pay for 100 percent of any services provided by the County, then I guess businesses should not have to pay any other tax.

Then I guess we should end Williamson Act subsidies to ranchers as well.

*The State of California is driving businesses out of the state, Madera County is driving them out of business in the County and our Board is doing the equivalent of buying lotto tickets hoping for the high speed rail system to be a big job producer.*

*Now for the CAO Budget presentation:* Today's metaphor will be nautical.

What we have been looking at is a cell phone video taken from the stateroom of an ill fated passenger on the HMS Titanic Madera County. Grainy and very limited in scope.

The CAO and Auditor have been doing both damage assessment and accident investigation. Last year's "balanced budget" it seems was achieved by a system of smoke and mirrors. To begin with, it wasn't really balanced but about \$4 million short. In order to get to the \$4 million short of balance we took out a \$9.6 million loan, reduced the contingency fund from \$3.3 million to \$2.2 million and, after beginning with a cash balance of \$10.5 million, we ended up with only \$2.1 million.

Using the way I balance a checkbook, that tells me our net worth bottom line was reduced almost \$20 million and we are being told even with all of the cuts we need to borrow another three quarters of a million dollars just to make it to July 1 of this year.

Thanks to a lot of work by the CAO and Auditor-Controller we are getting a clear picture. It is not a pretty picture but when the bow is already under water it is something we might want to know. The executive directors (our honorable Board of Supervisors) of the Falling Star Cruise Line are still partying on the fourth floor, while the crew is dog paddling in the icy waters trying to help the passengers to safety.

*The Board is going to have a budget workshop and they don't seem to be in any hurry.* The plan is for some time in March. The department heads have been listening to the same information I have meaning that if they need a month to think about it before they can discuss their budgets intelligently at the workshop, we need new department heads.

*Why not hearings beginning tomorrow - department by department?*

2/10

## Ranchos Chamber Delivers Needed Supplies to Veterans



Photo Courtesy of Travis Hart

Virginia Vick (left) and Ollia Ridge gather up bags of usable items to be taken to the Veterans' Hospital in Fresno, the result of the annual Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce community Christmas Tree lighting ceremony. At the event attendees are invited to take a star off of the tree with a list of items the veterans could really use. This year the Chamber was able to deliver 62 bags to grateful veterans in January.

## It's Official! Coffee Drinking is Good for Your Health!

Drinking coffee in moderate amounts during middle age may reduce the risk of dementia and Alzheimer's disease in the elderly according to a new study done in Finland and Sweden. Those who drank three to five cups of coffee per day in midlife were much less likely to have developed dementia or Alzheimer's disease in follow-up checks two decades or more later, the researchers said in a recent issue of the Journal of Alzheimer's Disease. Here's to your good health!

ALFRESCO  
COFFEE



37164 Avenue 12 #102, Madera Ranchos • 645-1225

## WE'RE ON THE WEB!

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

[www.theRanchos.com](http://www.theRanchos.com)



### Save the Date!!

You are cordially invited to attend the 6th Annual "Night the Stars Come Out" event hosted by:

The Foundation for Golden Valley Schools

Saturday April 10, 2010  
7:30 pm (Doors open at 6:00 pm)  
Birdstone Winery  
9400 Road 36, Madera  
\*Evening attire—adult event

Tickets per couple \$50.00  
Please RSVP to Aimee Beintker  
at the Foundation #645-7500.

Come join the fun and see the Golden Valley Stars shine  
Cocktail Party with gourmet hors d'oeuvres to be served, Grant and Award Presentations, Dessert and Dancing

2/10

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Absolut 1 Ltr. (100 Proof) \$17.99	Corona, Heineken, New Castle 12pk. \$11.99	Sauza Gold/Silver 1.75 Ltr. \$19.99

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beer wine market

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Sun - Thur 6:30 p.m. - 2 a.m. only!

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**SENIORS** cont. from P. 13

through Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Thursday evenings between 6 and 9 p.m. We currently have jellies, plenty of citrus – lemons, oranges, tangerines and grapefruit – for sale. We also have plain and sugared walnuts in the produce section.

Our center is affiliated with the Fresno/Madera Area Agency on Aging (FMAAA). We invite you to come in and check with Joann about programs which can help you.

Did you know two nurses from the Madera County Health Department Periodically come to the center to give FREE checkups? The screenings include personal health history reviews, blood pressure checks and blood sugar checks. Low-cost blood tests are available, nutrition and health education is available and referrals to medical providers and community services, if needed, can be made. Their health screenings of adults, age 50 and OVER, at the center result ONLY when they receive your calls. If you are interested in taking advantage of their services, call Melody at 675-7893 to make an appointment.

Our members and friends go out for breakfast, lunch or dinner at different places each month to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries. Our new March plans are not firm at this time. If you are interested in joining us for this or any of our events, call Joann at 645-4864. We enjoy eating and having fun and we urge you to come and join us.

**Senior Thought of the Day**

*An effort made for the happiness of others lifts us above ourselves.*

If you are new to the area, lonely or have just lost a spouse, we welcome you to come in to see us. We are here for you

and many of our members have surely experienced your same situation so please call us.

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

**More Facts and Fun**

A nutritionally balanced lunch program is available Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. Suggested price for 60 years and older is \$1.75. Reservations are needed a day in advance so remember to call Joann at 645-4864. We have a growing exercise program being held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. The participants are getting more than just exercise by attending. They have fun, share laughs and meet new friends. There is room for you and you may attend all three days or just one or two of them. After lunch on Tuesdays there is an opening for a pinochle player. If you enjoy playing pinochle yourself or know of someone else who would like to fill this vacancy, please call Joann at 645-4864. However, we have started a new craft session on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. Next project will be sweat-shirts. If you would like to learn to knit or crochet here is your opportunity to learn while having fun. Card BINGO meets on Fridays from noon to 1 p.m. We have a large group but there is always room for one more: you! Fill your car with your friends or neighbors as they will enjoy finding new friends here too. Come in and check these classes out.

**Up and Coming Events**

February 23-25, Snow Train trip to

Reno

March 6, Saturday monthly sale, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

April 3, Saturday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. 18th Annual Home and Garden Festival

April 17, Bike Ride,

**Weekly Events**

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

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

Tuesday, Pinochle, noon until?

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

Thursday, 12:30 p.m. Crafts and lots of fun

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

Friday, Exercise Class, 10:15 – 11:30 a.m. Friday, Card BINGO, noon – 1 p.m.

Remember to plan to come to our 18th Annual Home and Garden Festival on April 3.

Please feel free to come in and visit our Senior Center and get acquainted with our members. We welcome you to come and be one of us as our organization offers and promotes social, educational and civic activities in order to provide a better quality of life for all senior citizens. You have received an invitation – hope to see you soon?

*In Memoriam*

**Andrew “Veto” Wilson  
November 10, 1918 - January 28, 2010**

Mr. Andrew “Veto” Wilson Madera Ranchos, and his cousins passed away on Thursday, January 28, 2010 at the age of 91. Jeanne and Millie of Boston, Mass.

Veto was born in Lynn, Mass. and was a resident of the Madera Ranchos for the past 22 years. Veto was a retired Warehouse Manager for Sears Department Store until his retirement after 25 years of service.



He is survived by Irene, his wife of 37 years, of the Madera Ranchos, his step-daughter Pam Tariff and her husband Mike of the

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Wednesday, February 3 at St. Joachim Catholic Church in Madera followed by interment at the Fresno Memorial Gardens in Fresno.

The family asks that any remembrances be made to Optimal Hospice Care, 6760 N. West Avenue, Suite 103, Fresno, Calif. 93711.

ANSWERS

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**Firewood - Dry, seasoned almond firewood** for sale by the bin. Almond wood 13" to 20" in length. 1/2 bin - \$25, 1 bin - \$45, 2 bins-\$90, 3 bins-\$130, 4 bins - \$170. **Will Deliver - Call 559-259-7122.**

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## For Rent

**For Rent - 4BR/2BA - 2200 sq. ft.** Newer home built in '06. On Ave. 12. \$1,400. per mo. **Call 999-9005.**

**For Rent - 3BR/2 1/2 BA - With pool on 1/2 acre.** \$1,500. per mo. **Call 905-7780 or 706-9505.**

## For Sale

**For Sale - 1924 "T" Roadster - Car is registered and street legal**, also meets vintage racing rules with the WRA (Western Racing Association) and the other vintage race organizations. Box frame, Ford Disc brakes front, Ford shoe brakes rear. 500 ci. Cadillac V-8, low time on motor. Low RPM cam, 10.5/1 aluminum pistons, single 4 bbl. carb, K&N air cleaner, runs on hi-octane gas.

Chevy 400 auto trans, new set of Hurst pavement tires, new street tires, lexan windshield, bucket seats. Car runs and looks as new. Pictures available on request. **Asking \$16,500. Delivery possible. Call 645-7226 or 559-269-9871.**

**For Sale - Antiques!** Antique Sleigh, Wood Burning Stove, Dolls! Lots of China cabinets & Dining Room Sets. **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY! Call 645-1770.**

**For Sale - All new QUEEN PILLOW-TOP Mattress/Box**, Still in package. Cost \$700. Sacrifice \$225. **Call 559-438-0248.**

**For Sale - BEDROOM SET** - Sleigh Bed, Nightstands, Dresser/Mirror, Chest. Solid Cherrywood - All Dovetailed! Cost \$8k Sacrifice \$1,750. New in Boxes! **Call 559-277-2511.**

**For Sale - Brand New KING PILLOWTOP Mattress/Box**, Never Used, In Plastic, Cost \$900. Sacrifice \$350. With Warranty. **Call 559-275-8813.**

**For Sale - POOL TABLE** - Solid Wood, 1" Slate, Leather Pockets, Never Used W/Accessories. Cost \$5k Sacrifice \$1,375. Can Move! **Call 559-230-0486.**

**For Sale - Kenmore Washer & PROPANE Dryer.** Energy Star. Stackable. Excellent condition. Front load washer and matching dryer. Both heavy duty & dryer is extra capacity. \$400 for set. **Call 645-4469.**

**For Sale - Baby Crib**, like new. \$75 - \$100 or best offer. **Also for sale - Electric Spinet model organ**, good for beginners or small church. Best offer. **Call Karen at 645-0170.**

**For Sale - Electric Piano** - Yamaha Clavinova - Excellent Condition. \$3,000 Value - Asking \$800. **Call 645-5290.**

## Gutter Services

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electrical, plumbing, or any handyman chores? **Call Ohan for free estimates. 559-645-4583.**

## Help Wanted

**Bookkeeper - Midland Tractor**, ranked in top ten places to work in central California past three years, is offering a career bookkeeping position for the right candidate. Must possess strong bookkeeping and computer skills. Top wages and excellent benefit package provided. **Midland Tractor 1901 W. Cleveland Madera, CA 93637. Email Patk@Midland-Tractor.com**

**Help Wanted - The Ranchos Independent** is **STILL** looking for a solid worker to call on advertising accounts to maintain relationships and develop new business. Yes, there is selling involved. Yes, you can make money. **Please call 645-0634.**

## Home Repair

**Local contractor available** for all phases of home repair and home improvements. **Call Kurt White at 284-1362.**

## Housecleaning Services

**Housecleaning Services - Ranchos Area. Reliable, references, reasonable rates.** Job includes: All house duties except windows. Call for rates or have questions? **559-776-6790.**

## Lost Dog

**3 yrs. old - Black & Tan Shepherd/Rottweiler Mix.** Male, about 50 pounds. **Call 559-645-4323 or 303-919-9999.**

## Painting Services

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

## Tractor Services

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

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

## Window Cleaning Services

**Window cleaning special.** Most windows \$5 inside/out. Screen, track and sills included. Hard water stain and cobweb removal available. Fully insured. **Call Nick at 285-1723. Free estimates. SENIOR DISCOUNT!**

## Yard Sale

**YARD SALE - March 6, 7 a.m. to Dusk.** Horse, Paint Gelding, horse tack & saddle, housewares, clothes, skis & boots, running board for truck. **37715 Cloverleaf.**

## SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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# Real Estate



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If you are considering buying or selling a home, call Nancy Watson. She is an experienced agent who has served the Ranchos with honesty and integrity for 20 years. A Ranchos resident since 1977, Nancy is dedicated to serving her clients with the highest level of care and commitment. Please call Nancy Watson for all of your Real Estate needs.

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A Ranchos resident for over 27 years, I am a full-time professional agent working the Madera, Fresno and Clovis areas. Inventories of homes for sale are at a long term low. Now is a great time to sell as competition is low. And it is a great time to buy with record low interest rates and multiple tax incentives. Call me today!

2/10

### LETTER cont. from P. 2

- Mar. 16, 2010 Staff Chat – Ranchos MS (3:00 p.m.)
- Mar. 18, 2010 Staff Chat – Ed. Opts. (3:30 p.m.)
- Mar. 25, 2010 Staff Chat – District Office (2:30 p.m.)

What can you do right now? First, I encourage all of you to carefully read "Facts & Figures" (on page 18). It is important that everyone be as knowledgeable as possible about our situation. Secondly, I encourage you to stay involved and supportive of the Foundation for Golden Valley Schools, Parent Teacher Clubs and Booster Groups at your child's school as local support will be more critical than ever. Finally, you might want to call or write to our local state legislators and ask what they are doing right now to keep public education viable in California. I have included a sample letter template. To be fair, they are only a small part of a much larger economic and political picture, but both of our local legislators campaigned in large part as strong proponents of public education. They can be contacted as follows:

- Senator Dave Cogdill: Capitol Office (916) 651-4014 / District Office (559) 253-7122
- Assemblyman Mike Villines: Capital Office (916) 319-2029 / District Office: (559) 446-2029

Please know that the Governing Board of Trustees and the District will do all they can to protect the programs that serve our students and to keep our valued teachers and others staff members employed as they serve the children of the community. We are also committed to keeping parents, staff and other community members fully informed as we work through these difficult decisions. I will be seeking your valuable input throughout this process. If you have questions or comments during this process, please feel free to contact me via email at skoligian@gvusd.k12.ca.us or call me at #645-7500.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,  
Sarah Koligian  
Superintendent



## DRILLING AND PUMP SERVICE

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Madera

Family Owned  
Since 1976

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**NEED MORE SPACE?**  
barns big and small,  
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S.J. LEACH CONSTRUCTION**  
**559-269-1956**  
CCL #526211

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### GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

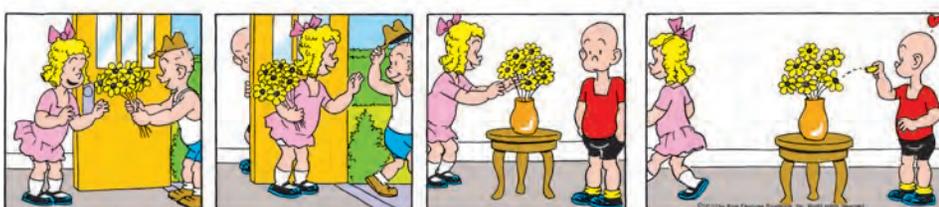
The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each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

	-		x		25
+		x		+	
	÷		+		2
+		-		x	
	x		+		20
23		29		12	

1 2 3 4 5 6 8 8 9

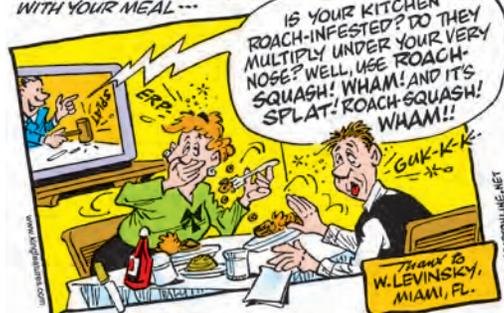
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# FUN PAGES

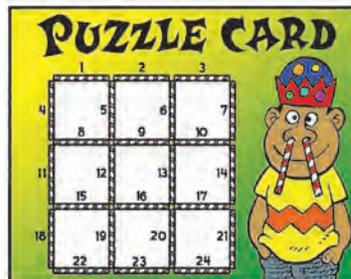


## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

NOTHIN' LIKE ENJOYING TV WITH YOUR MEAL---



## BY AL SCADUTO



**FREDDIE FLUNKED STRAWS 101!** See if you can remove eight straws from the 24 shown here and have three squares left.

Answer: If you remove straws 3, 5, 7, 8, 17, 18, 20 and 22, you will be left with two large squares and one small square.

**A REVOLUTIONARY REBUS PUZZLE!** What historic American event is represented in the rebus pictured to the right?

Answer: In the rebus, a "T" is being dropped into a "C". Therefore, this must represent the Boston Tea Party.

**DON'T MANGLE THIS ONE!** In this puzzle, all of the words get progressively longer, and they all start with MAN. Some hints are:

1. MAN (in place).
2. Found on a lion.
3. Tropical fruit.
4. To control.
5. An aquatic mammal.
6. A musical instrument.

Answers: 1. Man, 2. Mane, 3. Mango, 4. Manage, 5. Manatee, 6. Mandolin.

## Wishing Well®

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

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

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## MAGIC MAZE ● ALONE

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

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

- |            |             |          |               |
|------------|-------------|----------|---------------|
| Hermit     | Marooned    | Recluse  | Stranded      |
| Individual | Myself      | Self     | Stray         |
| Isolated   | No one else | Single   | Unaccompanied |
| Lonely     | Only        | Solitary |               |

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# Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

CAN YOU SURVIVE THE FOLLOWING FIVE TESTS?

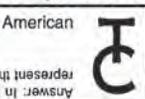


**DARE**  
**RARE**  
**RASE**  
**RISE**  
**RISK**

You have four minutes to solve these problems and move on to the next challenge. In this type of puzzle, you are given a word that must be changed into another word in a series of moves. During each move, you must change one letter in the previous word so as to form a new word. In our example, we changed DARE to RISK in four moves. See if you can change the following five words in four moves.

1. LOAN to PAID
2. RATE to COST
3. SAND to PILE
4. TAPE to WORM
5. WAND to SILK

Illustrated by David Coulson



## TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. LANGUAGE: What country once was known by the Latin name of Caledonia?
2. GEOGRAPHY: Guadalcanal is part of which island group in the Pacific Ocean?
3. MOVIES: Which actors voiced the two main characters, Woody and Buzz, on the "Toy Stories" movies?
4. INVENTIONS: Who is credited with inventing the Hula Hoop?
5. TELEVISION: Who played the character Latka Gravas on "Taxi"?
6. MYTHOLOGY: What was the domain of the Greek god Aeolus?
7. HISTORY: In what war were tanks first used?
8. U.S. STATES: What is the only letter of the alphabet that does not appear in the name of any U.S. state?
9. MEASUREMENTS: The term "vicennial" refers to a period of how many years?
10. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the symbol for the zodiac sign Capricorn?

## Answers

1. Scotland
2. Solomon Islands
3. Tom Hanks and Tim Allen
4. Richard Knerr and Arthur "Spud" Melin
5. Andy Kaufman
6. God of the winds
7. World War I
8. The letter "Q"
9. 20 years
10. The goat

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Click on "Local News" at

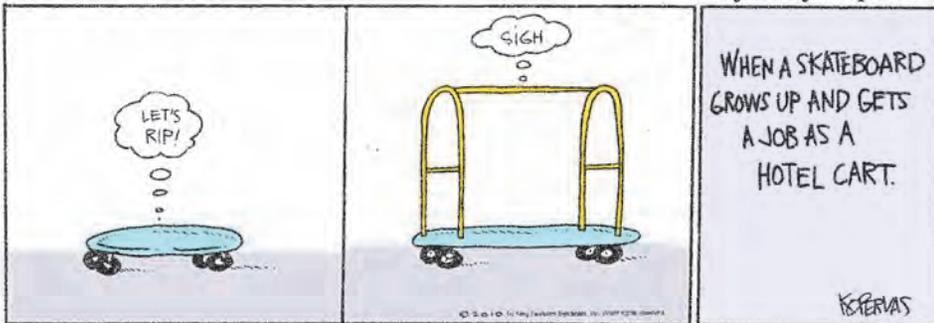
### Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



### Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



### R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



### MAMA'S BOYZ

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JERRY CRAFT



### The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



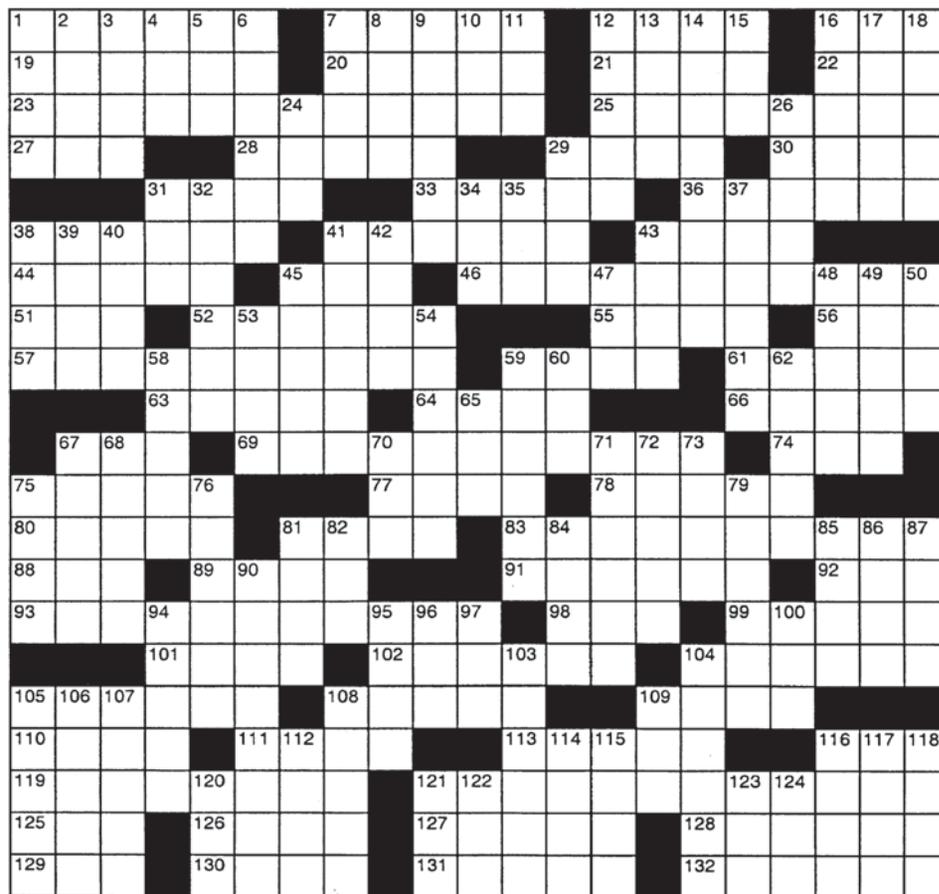
### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Snowman's hat is bigger. 2. Man's coat has a zipper. 3. Toddler is wearing boots. 4. Utility pole is missing. 5. Window curtain is longer. 6. Shovel handle is shorter.

## Super Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 WWII site
  - 7 Serenity
  - 12 Brazos River city
  - 16 Clerical garb
  - 19 Point the finger at
  - 20 Synthetic fiber
  - 21 Christiania, today
  - 22 Remote
  - 23 Riddle: Part 1
  - 25 Gershwin's "— in Blue"
  - 27 Beatty or Buntline
  - 28 Gaggle gal
  - 29 Watch part
  - 30 Fountain order
  - 31 Rocker Marc
  - 33 Nature spirit
  - 36 Sable, for one
  - 38 Lee of "The Fall Guy"
  - 41 Cantaloupe's cousin
  - 43 Team
  - 44 Skater
  - 45 Bleak critique
  - 46 Riddle: Part 2
  - 51 Papua New Guinea port
  - 52 Contaminates
  - 55 Butz or Warren
  - 56 Sapporo sash
  - 57 Tactful
  - 59 Consider
  - 61 Ford flop
  - 63 Maine town
  - 64 Space
  - 66 Al — (cooking term)
  - 67 Lear, to Goneril
  - 69 Riddle: Part 3
  - 74 Fleur-de- —
  - 75 Desert
  - 77 — Romeo
  - 78 Heap of Dickens
  - 80 Coeur d'—, ID
  - 81 Cartoonist Silverstein
  - 83 Hard to describe
  - 88 Hurried
  - 89 Little one
  - 91 Prate
  - 92 —4 (Toyota model)
  - 93 Riddle: Part 4
  - 98 Loafer part
  - 99 Gladden
  - 101 Alan of "Gilligan's Island"
  - 102 Frequent Funicello co-star
  - 104 Scanty
  - 105 Roller-coaster feeling
  - 108 1970 World's Fair site
  - 109 Chatterley or Windermere
  - 110 Director Nicolas
  - 111 Skip
  - 113 Turbine part
  - 116 — Goncalo, Brazil
  - 119 Avoidance
  - 121 Answer to riddle
  - 125 Swell
  - 126 Actor Barry
  - 127 Murcia mister
  - 128 Farm adolescent
  - 129 Weaken
  - 130 — Neisse Line
  - 131 Early German
  - 132 Spanish —
  - 5 Shake-spearean snake
  - 6 Equine exclamations
  - 7 Kelly's possum
  - 8 Goofs
  - 9 Tabloid subjects
  - 10 Dot follower
  - 11 Minnesota twins?
  - 12 Merit
  - 13 '75 Wimbledon winner
  - 14 More humid
  - 15 "Alley —"
  - 16 In progress
  - 17 Soup scoop
  - 18 Adams or Ferry
  - 24 Actor Chaney
  - 26 It needs to be threaded
  - 29 Boom or gaff
  - 31 Swindle
  - 32 Wind instrument?
  - 34 Spitz sound
  - 35 Exec's deg.
  - 37 Perplexed
  - 38 Blend
  - 39 Jai —
  - 40 Army vehicle
  - 41 "Makin' Whoopee" singer
  - 42 Pro foe
  - 43 "The King and I" setting
  - 45 Brendel's instrument
  - 47 Pigskin
  - 48 Mubarak of Egypt
  - 49 Helps a hood
  - 50 Mosaic bit
  - 53 Singer Tori
  - 54 Torah, e.g.
  - 58 Shade of green
  - 59 Realm
  - 60 Big bird
  - 62 Indian city
  - 65 Oven setting
  - 67 — Lama
  - 68 Improve
  - 70 — kwon do
  - 71 London borough
  - 72 Furious
  - 73 Short movie?
  - 75 Funny fellow
  - 76 Deadly instrument?
  - 79 "It's a deal!"
  - 81 — terrier
  - 82 Drill sergeant's shout
  - 84 West. alliance
  - 85 Improve oneself, in a way
  - 86 Behind schedule
  - 87 Always
  - 90 Aged, as paper
  - 94 Poultry serving
  - 95 Cobbler's need
  - 96 Palindromic name
  - 97 Asian ox hood
  - 100 Nonclerical
  - 103 It's down in the mouth
  - 104 Vandellas' leader
  - 105 Lock
  - 106 Biblical book
  - 107 Summarize
  - 108 Ocean vessel
  - 109 Christie or Costello
  - 112 Lion's pride
  - 114 Melville work
  - 115 Like Hitchcock's curtain
  - 116 Couch
  - 117 Served well
  - 118 Creole veggie
  - 120 — trip
  - 121 Ltr. addenda
  - 122 Where flocks frolic
  - 123 "Tell — No" ('65 hit)
  - 124 Outer edge

# FUN PAGES

# Who wants to help the Ranchos?

**FIRST MEETING**  
MONDAY, FEB. 22  
6:30 p.m. at  
**RANCHOS**  
**PIZZA FACTORY**

2/10

## That's what we thought ...

A non-profit group is forming in the Madera Ranchos to finally give us some say over what happens here, specifically regarding our water. County representatives are doing what they can but they can't do it all. This organization of local people will answer to one group only: the people of the Ranchos. If you have a passion for the Ranchos or if you want to get involved in water issues, this is for you. Please call to see how you can be a part of this history making group. 559-363-9095 or email [ranchos.community@gmail.com](mailto:ranchos.community@gmail.com).

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

**559-363-9095**  
**[ranchos.community@gmail.com](mailto:ranchos.community@gmail.com)**