

The Ranchos Independent

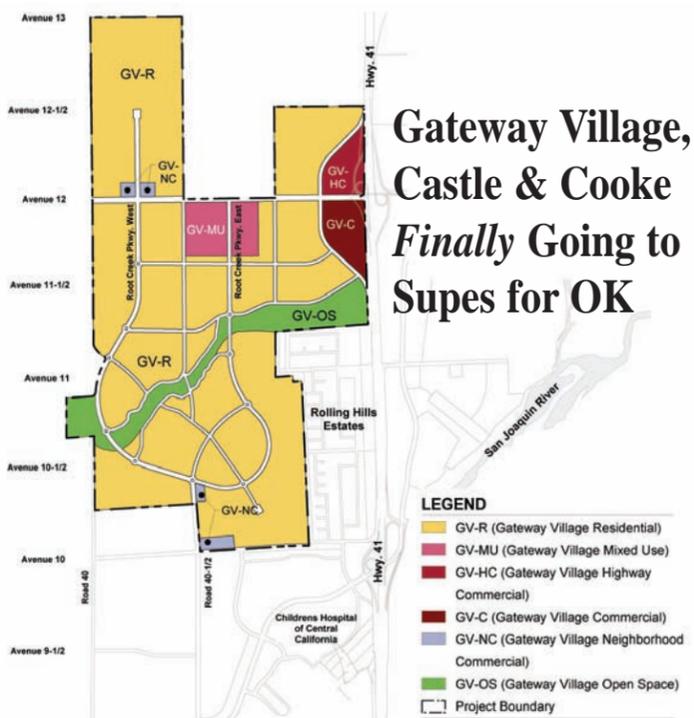


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Gateway Village, Castle & Cooke Finally Going to Supes for OK

By Randy Bailey

On Tuesday evening, May 22, Castle & Cooke's Gateway Village project and Environmental Impact Report won unanimous approval by the Madera County Planning Commission. Next up is the Board of Supervisors public hearing, scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 14 at 10 a.m. at the board chamber of the new Madera County Government Center on 4th street in the City of Madera.

After years in the planning process, Castle & Cooke's Gateway Village project may finally be positioned to break ground in the coming months. On Tuesday, Aug. 14, the project will be heard by the Madera County Board of Supervisors. Up for consideration by the Board of Supervisors are the Area Plan, Specific Plan, Infrastructure Master Plan, Development Agreement, and Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Gateway Village, located

just west of Highway 41 between Avenues 10 and 12, plans to provide 6,578 new residential units, along with more than 2,000,000 square feet of retail, commercial, school and public uses within its 2,000 acre boundary. The Village of Gateway is a "neo-traditional" or "new-urbanist" plan that incorporates a broad array of residential product types along with commercial, retail, schools and mixed-use products that are connected by

"... a surface water supply that is sufficient to serve 100% of the needs of the entire project at build-out, and enough additional water to balance the over-drafted underground aquifer."

a system of roads, trails, parks and open space. One of the goals of the plan is to encourage pedestrian and bicycle transportation.

A key element of neo-traditional planning is that community activity "nodes" (shopping, schools, work, recreation) are located a maximum 10 to 15 minute walk from residential neighborhoods. This design feature will, for instance, allow students who reside in Gateway Village to walk or bike to school, in lieu of riding the bus. It also means that residents of Gateway will be able to walk to the store to shop, or in some cases, walk or bike to work. There are approximately 200 acres of parks and open space and more than nine miles of community trails that help link the community.

Two areas of primary interest to the Ranchos community are Gateway's provision of water and new schools. Through a series of agreements, Gateway Village will

Please see C&C on P. 19

TRAGEDY IN THE RANCHOS



A single pistachio tree on Road 38 has become a makeshift shrine marking where 16-year-old Donovan Tessmer lost his life in an accident involving five Ranchos teens early Sunday morning on July 8.

By Randy Bailey

At approximately 1:30 a.m. on Sunday, July 8 on Road 38 just south of Avenue 12, a group of five teenagers travelling at speeds estimated at nearly 90 miles per hour, slammed into a pistachio tree, killing 16-year-old Donovan Tessmer and seriously injuring driver Danica Lacy, 16, and passenger Gavin Knobloch, 15. Two other passengers, 17-year-old Alexandria Rodriguez and Dustin "Missouri" Simpson, 16, received only minor injuries.

Based on conversations with parties close to those involved in the accident, the five were returning home from a night of movies at River Park in Fresno. Rather than come home down Avenue 12, they elected to take Avenue 9 to Road 38 where they turned north toward Avenue 12 and the

Ranchos.

Road 38, although relatively straight, has a series of undulations that when driven over at a high rate of speed can cause a car to get airborne and create a sensation of weightlessness. This sensation is heightened when no seat belt is worn, allowing the rider to actually become weightless and momentarily "float" in the car. It is assumed that this is what the three boys in the back seat were attempting, explaining why none of them had seat belts on.

When the car lost control and the driver's side of the 2005 Toyota Corolla slid into the pistachio tree, all three unrestrained passengers in the back seat were ejected from the car, killing Tessmer immediately and severely injuring Knobloch. Being at the point of impact with the tree, driver Lacy also received major

injuries although she was wearing her seat belt. Emergency crews arrived quickly as the result of a 911 call made by Rodriguez.

Knobloch and Lacy remain hospitalized as of press time. Tessmer received a Memorial service at Liberty High School on Monday, July 9 (see pictures of the event on page 2) and then had a full funeral service at Northpoint Church in Clovis on Friday, July 13. Tessmer's family elected to cremate his remains.

The Golden Valley Unified School District has established a memorial scholarship fund in Tessmer's name to benefit a future graduate of Liberty High School. Tessmer maintained a 3.8 grade point average in addition to excelling at sports and had received letters of interest from 25 colleges regarding his skill in football.

Support for Gavin Car Wash/BBQ Fundraiser, July 28th

The Knobloch family cherishes the Madera Rancho's love, support, and prayers for their son, Gavin, struggling to recover from the automobile accident on July 8th, 2007. Gavin has progressed very well, considering the extent of his injuries. Currently, Gavin is stable, but in critical condition with a long recovery process ahead of him. His family and friends have resiliently been at his side through every hour.

Every family knows of the potential struggles that an accident can bring. Having the Rancho's community love and support is a great comfort and stress reducer for the Knoblochs. Gavin's friends are preparing a fundraiser so that his family can continue to be at his side through every moment of his recovery.

A car wash, donation bucket and BBQ will be held on Saturday, July 28th at 9 a.m. in the parking area of Madera Rancho's Market.

Many of our Liberty High and Rancho's Middle School students are offering their energy and time to wash cars or offer a tri-tip sandwich to support the Knoblochs.

The community is invited to share their continued support and stop by for a car wash, BBQ or donation.

Please continue to pray for Gavin and the entire Knobloch family!

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July 31, 1990 DONOVAN HALEY TESSMER July 8, 2007

With one big crash, a whole community can come together and unite. Unfortunately, the crash has taken one before his time was up. Before he had a chance to fulfill his future. Before he had a chance to see what the stars had for him. Before he had a chance to see what the future had for him and people close to him.

We will never know what Donovan could have become. Was he destined for greatness? We will never know. Was he destined for stardom? We will never know.

However, all it needed to take was a second to reach over and click a seatbelt in. Just reach over, reach back and click the seatbelt into the connection and this tragedy could have been avoided.

This was and is an accident. There is no blame to be thrown around. What needs to be thrown around is love. Love to Danica, love to the Tessmers, love to Alex and Missouri and love to Gavin. Everyone needs to heal from this tragedy.

Healing takes time and healing takes helping hands. Don't hesitate to pat Missouri or Alexandria on the back for being heroes. Don't hesitate to give Danica a hug for what she is dealing with. Don't hesitate to give Martha or Duane a hug. Although you may be crying, they will be the ones who will support you. Don't hesitate to keep Gavin in your prayers. He is healing, but it takes time.

We have to take notice for those who helped. Do you know

what you would have done in that situation? Hopefully we will all never have the opportunity to find out. What Alex did, at her age, with what was happening around her, I cannot fathom what was going through her mind. I just hope that this tragedy will not go in vain. We need kids, everyone, to be award of speed limits, speed laws. They are not out there to just bug you, frustrate you or to make you drive like a grandma. There are reasons why laws are there. People just need to take their time, put their seatbelts on and use some simple common sense.

Tyler A. Takeda



The crowd was somber and seemed to just keep coming as the Liberty High gym filled with mourners on Monday, June 9.



Mementos of friendship were everywhere and reinforced the impact Donovan had on other people.



The floor of the gym silently filled with teammates, classmates and many, many friends.



The arrival of the Tessmer family, Duane, Megan and Martha, sent the crowd to its feet in a show of support and sympathy.

A memorial service was held for the community on Monday, July 9 at Liberty High School. Attendance estimates were between 1,000 and 2,000 people.



Pastor Karl Roth of the Flipside Church officiated the memorial and did an outstanding job.



Alex Rodriguez addressed the group. She was riding in the same car and miraculously wasn't hurt.

A funeral service was held Friday, July 13 at Northside Church in Clovis with a crowd every bit as large as at Donovan's Memorial.

Photos courtesy of Don Foster



The Tessmers were the first to receive candles for the vigil that was then held outside in the amphitheater area.



Donovan's parents, Duane and Martha, led the candlelight procession on the balmy evening.



With estimates at somewhere between 1,000 and 2,000 attendees, the candlelight vigil was awe-inspiring.



Memory books were available where friends could write words of comfort to the family or just say their last goodbyes.



Editorial

Goodbye, Donovan

By Randy Bailey

This is without a doubt one of the hardest papers I've ever had to put out. The images of Donovan Tessmer just rip my heart out. He's only a kid. Kid's don't die. Old people die. That's how it's supposed to work. That's how it always works.

But not this time.

I didn't really know Donovan, but I knew of him. That's pretty impressive when you're a 16-year-old kid and adults know of you. Adults usually know about this kid or that kid because of all the wrong reasons; but that wasn't the case with Donovan.

He truly was an inspired football player. It was great watching him run with the ball. This was the year he was going to come into his own. He was going to own defensive lines and chew up and spit out linebackers. According to his coach, over 25 colleges had expressed an interest in him. And why wouldn't they? In addition to his mad football skills he was also maintaining a 3.89 G.P.A., the highest on the team. These are all reasons why adults know of that 16-year-old Tessmer kid - they wished he was *their* kid.

I know his mom, Martha. We were on the Site Council together at Sierra View. She was a fixture at Sierra View, volunteering, picking up the kids, doing whatever. I think that every day, without fail, when I would go to Sierra View to pick up my kids, there would be Martha.

My oldest daughter is five months younger than Donovan so that was enough for them to be separated by a year in school, but that wasn't enough to keep her from knowing who Donovan was. He truly was one of those kids that all the girls adored, but the guys liked him too.

He was a buddy. He was a good kid, a good son, a good student, a good athlete, a good friend.

How do I know all this? Because it was written all over the faces of those kids and adults at the memorial service and then again at the funeral. Here was a life whose actions spoke louder than words.

Maybe I'm taking it so hard because my daughter is the same age and I'm projecting this all on her. What if it would have been her in that accident? What if I would have gotten that call at 1:30 in the morning? Thinking about it kills me. I cannot imagine how hard this would be to endure. I have absolutely no frame of reference to pretend to know the level of hurt the Tessmers are experiencing.

But I do know they have strong faith in God and it is helping them get through this. I also know that they have the assurance that they will see Donovan again one day, and I'm sure that the comfort of that knowledge is priceless.

My favorite Donovan story has to do with my wife. She's a bigger football fanatic than I am and knew all the Liberty players on sight. I remember her commenting on more than one occasion about what a cutie that Donovan Tessmer was. One day she was over at the school picking up my daughters after school and while she was waiting she saw Donovan getting on the bus to go home. When my daughters got in the car she turned to them as if they had absolutely lost their minds. "You guys want to ride with ME when you could be on the bus riding with Donovan??? Are you all nuts???" In unison my girls gave the only response girls that age have: "Mommmy!!!"

Goodbye, Donovan. You didn't know it but you were blessed with a wonderful gift: You made people glad they knew you.

Random Notes

It sure seems like school just let out but in less than a month a new school year starts up again. Where does the time go?

If you have any kids going to Ranchos Middle School I have information on their registration packets. On August 1, registration packets will be ready to be picked up at the RMS office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. August 8 is registration day with the 7th grade going from 9 to 10 a.m. and the 8th grade from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Pictures will be taken on registration day for yearbook and Id cards so whatever you do, DON'T get your child a haircut the night before! He or she has to live with that picture for the next year. There's no reason to get all crazy with a haircut before picture day. They're also going to have a Community Breakfast on Saturday, August 11 at 8:30 a.m. And last but not least, the first day of school is August 16. Yeah - a Thursday. Go figure.

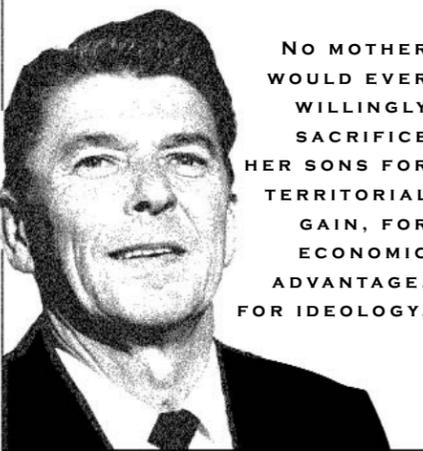
The other boy who was seriously injured in that horrific car crash on July 8 was Gavin Knobloch. He's recovering but it's going to be an uphill climb so we really need to remember him and his family in our prayers. Another way we can help out is this Saturday, July 28, there's going to be a Car Wash/BBQ Fundraiser over at the Ranchos Market at 9 a.m. in the parking lot. You can get your car washed, make a donation to the donation bucket or try some BBQ. Many of our Liberty High and Rancho's Middle School students are offering their energy and time to wash cars or offer a tri-tip sandwich to support the Knoblochs. This fundraiser has been put together by Gavin's friends so that his family can continue to be at his side through every moment of his recovery. Gavin is stable, but in critical condition with a long recovery process ahead of him. His family and friends have resiliently been at his side through every hour. Please continue to pray for Gavin and the entire Knobloch family!

Over at the Madera Ranchos Assembly of God, they just had their biggest tea party ever. Gail Krob, the missionette coordinator for that church, said they had 83 women and children on hand at 10 tables set up in their fellowship hall. "Though I have given many, many tea parties in my home for my missionettes club, this was my first time creating a sectional tea party," Krob said. "There were 10 beautifully decorated tables in our fellowship hall, each one decorated by different ladies of our church. My request was to make it an 'elegant tea party,' and they did just that! It was big hats, flowers, fancy ribbons, high heels, gloves, lace, pearls and fine china!"

They had a "high tea" consisting of cucumber sandwiches, scones with lemon curd and other goodies.



THE RAY GUN



NO MOTHER WOULD EVER WILLINGLY SACRIFICE HER SONS FOR TERRITORIAL GAIN, FOR ECONOMIC ADVANTAGE, FOR IDEOLOGY.

RONALD REAGAN

They also had Bev Delk (whom many of the girls knew as their substitute teacher for the schools in the Ranchos) and Lindsey Hawley as guest speakers. Bev spoke on the importance of manners and etiquette and Lindsey is a missionary for Stanford University and spoke about making Jesus a priority in our everyday life and how important it is to pray for missionaries. Personally, I think that the more we teach civility from an early age, the greater the likelihood that we can ultimately be a more civil society. Little girls having tea with their pinkies raised is a pretty good place to start. Good job, Gail.

The Ranchos Independent

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



While digging into how the County has spent the millions of dollars in fire mitigation money that has been collected from 1992 to today, I found another bone that needs to be dug up and checked out. I am finding way too many things that need to be looked at and just do not have the time or money to do them all, so I will be plugging along with what I can handle.

It seems that the Army Corps of Engineers has been paying Madera County well over \$100,000 per year to maintain the levy system in the county. The total comes to around \$2.7 million.

PROBLEM: *Madera County has not been doing the work on the levies.*

Now our levies are in such bad condition that the Feds are about to decertify the whole system – all 75 miles of levies in the county. What that means to the taxpayer is if you live anywhere near any of the levies, or in an area that a failure would affect you, you will need some very expensive flood insurance. On the other hand, if one of the levies that Madera County had been paid to maintain for all of these years were to break or fail I would imagine the county (we taxpayers) would be liable.

This looks like to be – at best – another case of “... rob Peter to pay Paul;” and at worst somebody had their hand in the till. Either way we are going to get stuck with the bill to clean up the mess caused by yet another dropped ball. My question is how many of these little ticking time bombs are out there waiting to be discovered?

I read in the Madera Tribune recently that Madera has a “COMMERCE TRIPLE-PLAY” about to happen. Three major developments all soon to begin. It seems that Madera City is giving the developer a pass on a lot of the normal fees – to the tune of many millions of dollars worth. In the paraphrased words of one of the City Council members, “... we've given away way too much – we're giving away the farm.” Six months ago Madera City was in need of our \$3.2 million of Measure “A” money. I am sure glad we were able to help *them* out so they could help out *their* developers so much.

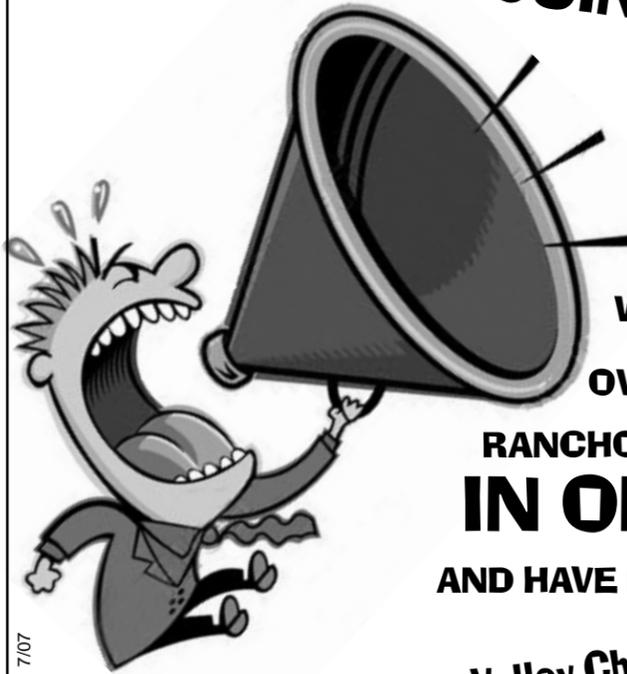
PROBLEM: *Madera County just passed an ordinance slamming development fees on everybody that builds, but the last I heard the cities of Madera and Chowchilla had not adopted the plan for their areas.*

The new development fees do not have to be spent in the area that is being developed or where the fees are collected. “They will be spent where the need is the greatest,” said Ray Beach, Planning Director for the Madera County Planning Department. I believe as it is written the money could even be given to either of the cities of Madera or Chowchilla, even though they are not willing to have developers in their cities pay into the pot.

We built our new Government Center in the middle of the city of Madera and it is a real pain to get in and out of there with no traffic lights to help you once you leave the parking garage. Why didn't we build the Center of our County Government

Please see D.O.G. on P. 8

CALLING ALL BUSINESSES!



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**Sunday, Sept. 2 from Noon to 5 p.m.
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Yosemite Sam

What's New or What Now?

Will it ever end? Or is the question, “Will they ever begin?”

In the ever-changing world of California environmental politics, you can always count on the fact that some bright young bureaucrat in some state or federal agency in Sacramento will cook up some new environmental headache for property owners to deal with. These “ideas” usually take the form of new regulations that, in effect, either limit what you can do on your property or prevent you from doing anything at all.

Now, I recognize that we all have a responsibility to be good stewards of the environment in which we live. I am an advocate of taking a reasoned approach – based on sound science – to solving problems involving environmental safeguards. After all, we have to make sure that our homes and our communities are sustainable. Without sound planning, we run the risk of spoiling our communities both for ourselves and for our children.

Where I have a bone to pick, however, is when certain individuals (see “bright young bureaucrats” above and the lawyers who support them) place the ever-changing “needs” of the environment above the needs of the people who reside in that environment. I believe that God created the world to be both a home and a resource for

mankind.

Here in California, the problem is getting worse. I thought, at first, that it would be a good thing when Arnold Schwarzenegger took over from Grey Davis. At first, it looked promising, but early on our new governor sold out to the radical environmental left. The Terminator allowed Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. and his pals at the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) to call the shots on environmental policy in the state. Yes, it's the same NRDC that fought with the Friant Water Users Authority for years over the waters of the San Joaquin River. Yes, it's the same NRDC that proposes to put Salmon back in miles of riverbed that has been bone dry for decades.

Under our current governor, radical environmentalists have assumed leadership positions in most all of the important environmental agencies in the state. Most of the agencies you've never even heard of. It's a Pandora's Box of acronyms. The problem is, these acronyms have an incredible amount of power to change the way you live.

One of the environmentalists' favorite play-toys is the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This law allows

Please see SAM on P. 15



**CAT'S DINER
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(TUESDAY THROUGH SUNDAY)**

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Letters

Dear Editor:

As a 28-year resident of the Bonadelle North subdivision, I want to share my reasons for opposing Superstition Builders, Inc. request for placement of a proposed strip mall at Avenue 15 and Road 36.

The County Master Plan calls for Avenue 12 to be the civic center of the Ranchos. "Leap frog" development = poor land management and leads to visual blight and poorly planned communities. Industrial use such as mechanic shops should be located in an area zoned for industrial purposes, not in residential backyards.

Time and again the best places to live not only have wonderful people, but also have visual or aesthetic appeal. I for one do not want Avenue 15 to look like Highway 41 – an auto row with inexpensively housed businesses. The installation of mechanic's shops and gas stations will likely pollute the water table, and definitely add to air pollution with noxious fumes.

Septic tanks are inadequate for this type of development and will eventually lead to all of us in Bonadelle North having to hook up to a drainage and sewer system at great personal expense to the individual household, and at disproportionate benefit to the developer.

Placing businesses at that corner will increase stop and go traffic and therefore increase air and noise pollution and increase the risk of accidents.

Light pollution from the nighttime lighting of businesses is intrusive and incompatible with the rural life of this area, where star gazing is still possible, and moonlit walks are still appreciated.

Wells are the source of our water on this end of the Ranchos. Multiple businesses on land designed for single family

dwelling will put an unnecessary strain on this vital resource.

This area floods on a regular basis and may even require protection under wetlands legislation. The proposed parcels lie in a drainage area for the entire Bonadelle North subdivision. They are composed of vernal pools, which are vital for local wildlife, birds and amphibians, and recharging the water table. In addition, these ponds are an important spawning ground for toads, salamanders and frogs which have been impacted already by development. Without these amphibians, insect pests will greatly increase thus requiring chemical controls that harm good and bad insects, and add to air pollution.

Because of its low-lying topography, the best use of that acreage is as open space or as a low-lying seasonal park area.

The carbon footprint of this proposed development is unnecessary and too damaging to this area of the Ranchos.

I encourage all who believe that this business belongs in the Master Planned business area on Avenue 12, or in an industrial area of Madera, and NOT in the proposed location, to contact the District 1 Planning Commissioner at 645-1132, the Madera County Planning Dept. at 675-7821 and District 1 Supervisor, Frank Bigelow, at 675-7700.

Catherine Moseley
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

This letter addresses the proposal to build a strip mall on the corner of Road 36 and Ave 15. As a home owner who is 125 feet from the corner of Avenue 15 and Road 36 I feel that it would serve no pur-

pose to have a commercial development on this corner. There is not enough of a customer base to support the amount of stores that are proposed for this strip mall. Seems to me that all commercial building should be retained down on Avenue 12.

There has not been an environmental impact report performed for this proposed development. I know for a fact that during heavy rain years that the lot closest to Road 36 will flood with up to 3-feet of water. I have lived in the same house for almost 32 years and believe me, when it rains like it did in 1982 and 1992 any buildings in that spot will flood. If this happens what will the disaster be when the fuel tanks start leaking due to being immersed in rain water? I'll tell you, any property downstream on Cottonwood Creek from Road 36 through Road 34 1/2 and from Avenue 15 over to Avenue 14 will be contaminated with petroleum contaminants as will any farmland adjoining Little Dry Creek and Cottonwood Creek where they join just before the creek gets to the Madera City limits just South of the Highway 99 off ramp to Avenue 12. This encompasses a lot of land and property belonging to dozens of people along the creek's path. This also affects the water table in the area if there is a scenario like the one above – and there will be if weather holds true to form. This will contaminate our drinking water; not only ours who live along the natural waterways but the water source of Madera Ranchos, Bonnadelle Ranchos and eventually Madera city when it spreads.

Last but not least, when I moved from the big city to my present location there was no Madera Ranchos, just one little flat-top house out in the middle of where Madera Ranchos is now, and the big house on the corner of Road 36 and Avenue 12, a few houses on Ave 14 1/2 and a few hous-

es north of Avenue 15, so you can say I moved out of the city to have some peace and quiet and be away from the hustle and bustle of city life. I have loved every minute that I have lived here. My neighbors are wonderful and I see no reason to support this strip mall proposal and do not want it.

So if any of my neighbors see this and concur, please send in your questionnaire and oppose this construction.

Thank you,

Kenneth D. Malding
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

This is a special thank you to a very special community.

My name is Tina Shannon, and I have

Please see LETTERS on p. 7

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.

Send your letters to:

The Ranchos Independent
37167 Ave. 12 #5C
Madera, CA 93638

or
FAX 645-4002

or
ranchosnews@theranchos.com

Castle & Cooke invites you to a Public Hearing before the Madera County Board of Supervisors concerning The Village of Gateway

The hearing is for the certification of the Environmental Impact Report and the approval of the project, including the Specific Plan, Area Plan and IMP. Your participation would be appreciated.

Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2007
10 a.m.

Hearing to be held at the Board Chambers
at the new Government Center • 200 W. 4th Street • Madera

Ranchos Library Seeking Grant, Chukchansi Possible Fund Source

By Ellen Mester

There was a murder at the Ranchos Library on June 23 at 2 p.m. All the suspects and detectives were there to investigate, interrogate and examine the evidence. In the end there was only one winner. Fortunately, there was no real victim, but the crime scene, the forensics lab and the evidence looked real, and the teens who participated had a great time solving the crime. The YNK Murder Mystery Party, organized by LHS Librarian Melanie Lewis and several Liberty High students, was a huge success. Likewise, the Mysterious Scavenger Hunt has been lots of fun too. There have been five students who have completed the hunt and were rewarded with prizes. The hunt is still on until the end of summer! Ranchos Middle School students have been the most successful so far. LHS students will you accept the challenge?

Over 100 kids of all ages have signed up for the Summer Reading Program this year! Many prizes have been awarded to readers who have logged in 150 minutes per week of reading and we have had wonderful entertainment from Norman Ng the Magician, the Chaffee Zoomobile and Micah Torres the musician. Each week we have given away gift baskets to the winners of our Dragon Drawing and there is more to come! So "Get a Clue @ Your Library" and check it out!

New Library Planning Committee Update

NLP Committee member Linda Bresee completed our grant application in record time. She did a fantastic job and the Committee is very grateful! Thank you, Linda! We will keep everyone posted if we are awarded the grant from the Chukchansi Tribe. The grant is asking for start up funds for the new library for informational material, consultant fees, and preliminary architectural renderings.

The NLP Committee is also in discussion with the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce about the possibility of combining a new library with a community center that has been proposed. There will be more Town Hall Meetings in the near future to discuss this prospect. We hope everyone will make a point to attend and voice an opinion.

Reminders: Bring your children to Monday Story Time at 11 a.m. with Mrs. Anderson. The Friends of the Library meet the first Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. The New Library Planning Committee meets the third Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped sell fireworks at the Chamber/Friends booth.

Book Recommendations

Adult Fiction: *Triumph of the Sun* by Wilbur Smith. This action packed adventure is riveting while also giving the reader an understanding of the Islamic culture of the Sudan. It takes place in the late 1800's when the British were in control of Egypt and establishing footholds along the Nile and surrounding countries. The main characters' lives become intertwined in the two cultures and reveal the beauty and ignorance of both. The reader is left to admire the complexities and heroism of both sides. The violence of the battle scenes and the way Islamic justice is meted out at times made me cringe, but the passion of the characters to fight for what they believed in was quite compelling. It's a good book to sink your teeth into on those hot afternoons when you need to escape the heat.

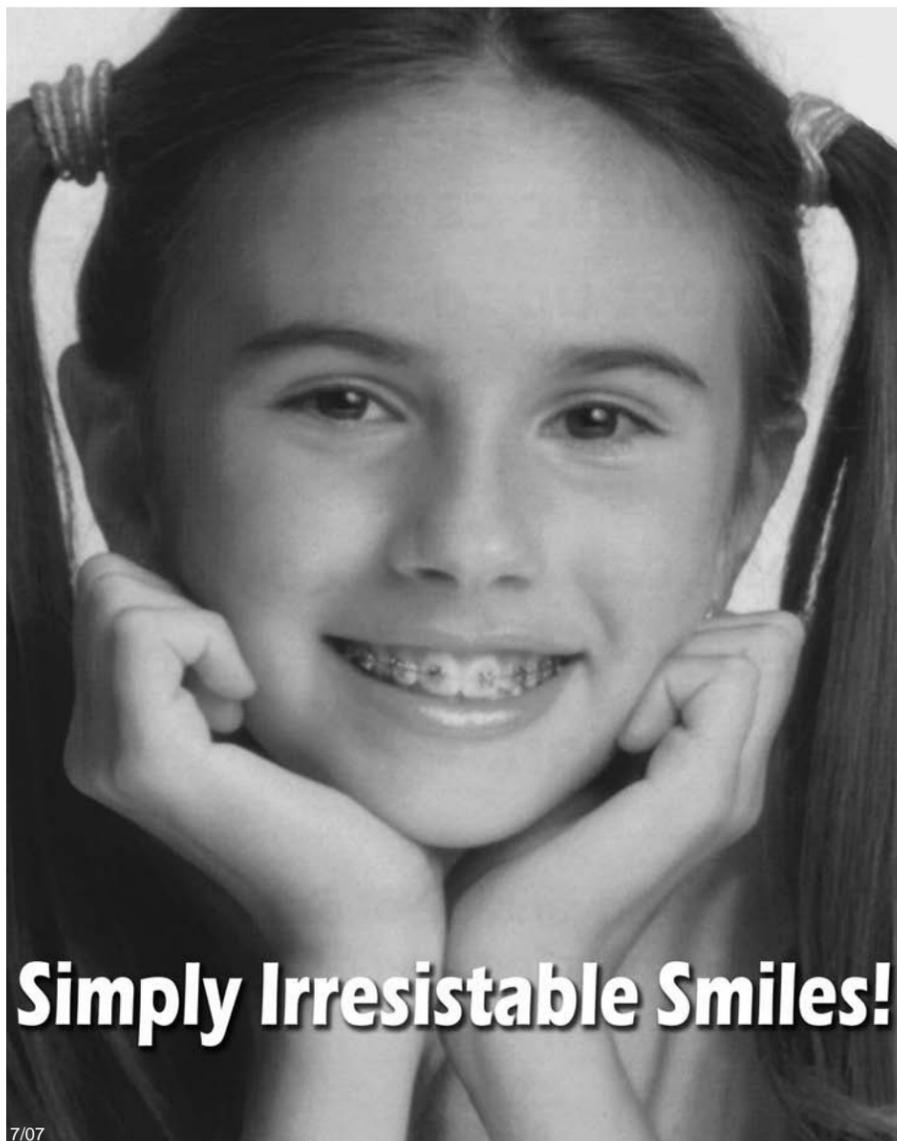
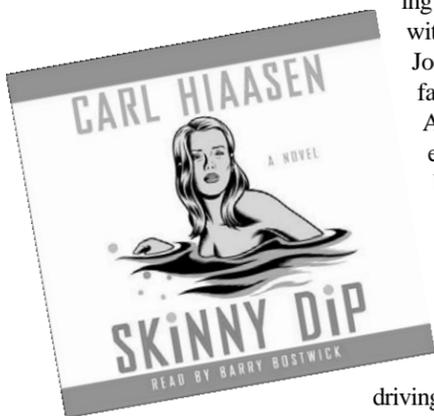
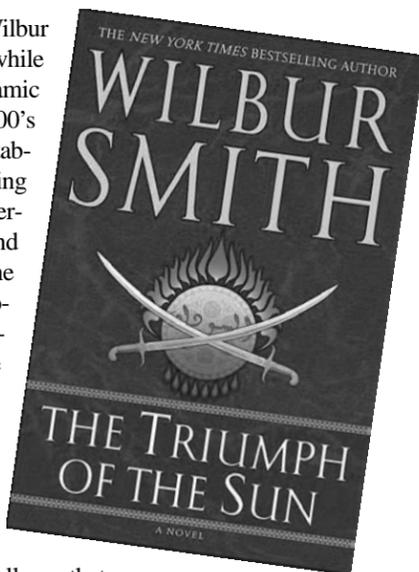
Adult Fiction on CD: *Skinny Dip* by Carl Hiassen and read by Barry Bostwick. Most patrons who listen to books on CD or tape will tell you that

the voice of the reader is crucial to enjoying a book. Barry Bostwick does a wonderful job with this one. When Chaz Perrone's lovely wife Joey is reported lost at sea presumably from falling overboard from a cruise liner in the Atlantic Gulf Stream, no one suspected her teary eyed husband — not even his girlfriend! Unfortunately Chaz, who earned a doctorate in marine biology, didn't remember which way the Gulf Stream flowed and thought his wife's body would float out to sea. Lucky for Joey, she was picked up by an ex-cop out fishing.

Together they team up to get even with Chaz — not by turning him into the police but by driving him crazy and revealing the truth about Chaz's side business with an unscrupulous businessman who is polluting the Florida everglades. It's a rollicking, raucous story that is for adult listening, not for a family ride in the car.

Juvenile Picture Book: *The Day of the Rainbow* by Ruth Craft and illustrated by Niki Daly. Three hot and cranky people in the summer heat of a big city lose something valuable. One is a little girl who loses her library book, another a young man who loses earrings meant for a gift to his girlfriend and finally the wife of a chef loses the recipe of his specialty raisin cake. How will they find their precious items in the hot, cross pushy crowd of people? The book is written in verse and is fun to read. The illustrations are soft and muted and let you imagine the sweltering heat and the bustle of the city. It's a nice summer book for reading to 3-8 year olds.

Check out these books and more at the library and always carry your library card — don't leave home without it!



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LETTERS *Cont. from P. 5*

worked with our local newspaper for over 15 years with three different owners. My job with the paper is advertising sales and billing.

Last month on June 23 our dear friends, Jay and Michelle Ford lost everything they owned in a terrible house fire. Jay is also one of our very own firefighters. The family members were all safe at the time of the fire. The cause of the fire is still unknown.

When I got the phone call from my husband, who is also a firefighter, my daughters and I went out to the house to see what we could do to help. When I saw Jay and Michelle standing there I knew I had to do something. This really hit me hard because my husband of 28 years lost everything he and his family owned due to a house fire back in 1978 when we were dating in high school. I remember how hard it was for the whole family and how long it took for the family to get back on their feet. So when this happened to the Ford family I new I had to do something. I made over 100 phone calls and asked people for help, I told them that the Fords needed everything from clothing, food and water to a stuffed animal or two for the Fords' girls as soon as possible. I could not believe my eyes when I saw families backing their trucks and cars in and unloading pickup loads of clothing, toys and other precious items for the Ford family before the fire was even out.

There were families that made homemade lunches and brought ice chests full of water and cold drinks. There was a lady that brought a huge jar with money in it. I also saw children with their parents bring their own toys to give to the Ford girls. There were teenage girls handing me their phone numbers and offering their child care services at no charge. Total strangers offered their own homes.

I also called Randy, the owner of the Ranchos Independent, and asked him to put something in the paper, asking the community for help. I never thought that we would get the

response that we did. As soon as the paper reached the homes, my phone never stopped ringing. I talked to the nicest people that also wanted to help. Within five days of the fire, we received enough stuff to COMPLETELY FILL a three bedroom, two bath rental home in the Ranchos, all donated from friends and families.

There were also families that helped from Merced, Madera, Chowchilla and Fresno . It just goes to show you how many people read our small local Ranchos Independent newspaper ... ALOT!!!

At this time the Ford family would like to say THANK YOU to each and every one of you for helping them get back on their feet. Michelle has decided that with the extra items donated that they are unable to use will be made up into care packages and taken to families in need. THANK YOU AGAIN.

A special note: Since the house fire, our community has been hit hard with another tragedy. The auto accident involving five of our local high school students, taking the life of one. My heart goes out to each and every family involved. Gavin Knobloch, who was seriously injured in the accident, is my neighbor. His family lives across the street. The other children involved I did not know personally, but I had seen them or a family member at one time or another around the community. We need to say a special prayer for them and help the families in any way we can, as it is going to be a long healing process now for all involved.

Thank you,

Tina Shannon and Family
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

To the friends and family who were kind enough to donate to the California

Please see LETTERS on P. 9

The Stock Report**Tragedy Touches LHS, Ranchos**

By Audrey Stock

Hi Neighbors,

This has been a sad week in the Ranchos community. It all started on Sunday, July 8 very early in the morning with a car accident involving five Liberty High students. The three boys involved are Liberty High football players. Donovan Tessmer was killed in the accident. He would have been a senior at Liberty. The community has rallied around Donovan's family to help them through this very trying time. There has been a scholarship in Donovan's name started. You can contribute by sending your donation to the Foundation for Golden Valley Schools at 37479 Ave. 12 Madera, Calif. 93636. Be sure to say " in memory of Donovan Tessmer." His family, friends and the community will miss Donovan.

A memorial service for Donovan was held Monday, July 9. Fellow classmates put the service together to honor Donovan's life. Pastor Carl Roth did an outstanding job in pulling all of the pieces together in such a short time. Eight girls put together a beautiful slide show with music. I don't know how they put it all together so quickly. Some other girls put together five memory books that people could write in for Donovan's family and the other students who were in the car at the time of the accident. Alex, who was in the car, spoke at the

memorial service and so did Donovan's sister Megan. The memorial service started in the Liberty High gym then moved outside for a candlelight vigil, where Martha, Donovan's mother, spoke to the crowd. The procession led into the Liberty Cafeteria where refreshments were served. Donovan's funeral was held Friday, July 13 at 10 a.m. at the Northside Church in Fresno.

Two of the students who were in the car are still in the hospital in serious condition. One boy and one girl escaped serious injury. My heart goes out to all five families as they deal with the aftermath of this terrible tragedy. Accidents happen in a split second but the consequences live on for a lifetime.

Now I have to change subjects and talk about what is happening in the school district. On a lighter note have you been by Webster Elementary School lately? It is a beehive of activity over there. I pass by every morning so I can watch the progress. At first it was all the tearing up of old roofs and old parking lot black top and cement. The parking lot was much more of a problem because of the mud sinkhole that was under the black top. Of course the first thing that happened was one of the big heavy machines got buried in the hole. If you live out here you know that our mud has no bottom until you reach hardpan. After the heavy equipment was

Please see STOCK on P. 8

My heart goes out to all five families as they deal with the aftermath of this terrible tragedy. Accidents happen in a split second but the consequences live on for a lifetime.

PROPOSED STRIP MALL ON AVENUE 15 & ROAD 36

Superstition Builders, Inc. inserted fliers in the last edition of the Ranchos Independent, a monthly local newspaper with a circulation of 4,200. The flier had a rough design for a strip mall the owners would like to build on two 2-acre lots they now own on the northeast corner of Avenue 15 and Road 36.

The fliers were printed on both sides with a stamp on one side and were to be returned to Superstition Builders, Inc. with an opinion about the project. The owners suggest 44,530 square feet of buildings. Their design shows:

Gas/Diesel Station Convenience Store Fast Food Ice Cream Parlor Community Building
Office Space Coffee Shop Farmers Market Oil Change Automotive Repair Restaurant

The two residential lots are owned by Scott Jordan/Superstition Builders, Inc. Its address is:

Superstition Builders Inc.
37193 Avenue 12 #G
Madera, CA. 93638

Superstition Builders have a small ad in the Ranchos Independent for steel buildings. Its phone number is (559) 645-1941.

STATEMENT OF OPPOSITION

1. Avenue 12 is the planned center for commercial development.
2. There is not enough vehicle or foot traffic to support the proposed commercial development.
3. Our wells would be at risk. The water level is dropping as it is. This strip mall would only add to the problem.
4. A waterway that drains water away from deep within the Bonnadelle Ranchos runs through these two lots. In 1996 the water flowed across the intersection at Avenue 15 and Road 36. Any change to this waterway will cause flooding.
5. We built our homes here to get away from noise, traffic and the lights of commerce.

**THIS STRIP MALL IS NOT A DONE DEAL.
IF IT IS NOT REZONED COMMERCIAL THERE IS NO PROJECT!**

We need to enlist the help of everyone we know in this area to call, write, email and talk to all involved in the rezoning process. Please email us if you have any questions or need a list of people to contact.

THE COMMITTEE AGAINST AVENUE 15 REZONE
Committee Chairman: Roberta Buttles • Committee Member: Sharon Cotter • Committee Member: John Grauer
nostripmall@gmail.com

STOCK Cont. from P. 7

pulled out the contractor realized that all of the wet dirt in this hole had to be dug out and the hole filled up with dry dirt before they could continue working on the parking lot. All is well now and the new parking lot looks beautiful.

About this time I asked for a tour of Webster so I could see for myself how things were progressing. Two months is not a long time to tear up and completely remodel a school but things happen fast in this school district. I learned that everything was on time and some things even ahead of schedule. Last Friday I saw that the first of two new portables had already been set in place and that the last one would be in place this week. There is still a rush to get the work done so that the teachers can have the time they need to get their materials out of the storage containers where everything was put at the end of the school year. I don't envy the teachers the job of putting their rooms back together. It is hard enough getting your room ready at the beginning of the school year, let alone having to

unpack boxes to find your materials and then find a place for everything. By the way school starts on Thursday, August 16. Webster has planned their open house for August 16 if everything goes according to plan. You might want to come see what has been done to remodel Webster.

Have you been down Avenue 13 lately? I happen to live on Avenue 13. I have lived here for 20 years and this is the first time any real work has been done on this road. The Madera Road Department had no idea what they were getting into when they removed the old black top and discovered the same kind of mud sink holes as was under the black top at Webster. Instead of the five days I was told it would take to finish Avenue 13 it has taken six weeks - but it sure looks nice. Now we need a white line down the middle and it will almost be done.

As always there are lots of things going on in the district. It is sure nice to have Superintendent Sarah Koligian on board and she has a lot of good things planned for us.

D.O.G Cont. from P. 4

closer to the Center of the County? Maybe out on Highway 145 between Highways 99 and 41. Or better yet, on the new foothill expressway. Now I hear the new Courthouse is planned for a few blocks south of the old one, again right in the middle of the city of Madera. The courthouse should be built out next to the county jail like other smart counties are doing. By building a tunnel between the jail and courthouse we could save the millions that it costs to move prisoners back and forth from the middle of Madera. We even own the property already.

The Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) is before the Board in the form of a report on how things are going. If you read the supporting documentation for the agenda item you would think this was one of the most open studies that was ever done with lots of public input. Boy, would you be wrong! I have been trying to get agendas posted before the meetings at it just hasn't happened. I tried to get them to follow the Brown Act and was told, "We checked with county counsel and he said we don't have to."

???

The fact is if you don't know someone you can't find out when or where the meeting are going to be. When you do find out they change the date. Many thousands of your tax dollars went into this

study that was supposed to have "STAKEHOLDER" participation. When it is all done and someone looks at how the money was spent and how little real public participation there was will it have to be thrown out and a new study done? Again, your tax dollars thrown out because those in charge did not want to be bothered by public participation.

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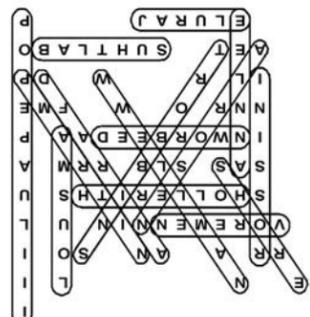
7/07

Puzzle Answers



Sudoku grid with numbers 1-9 in a 9x9 layout.

SUDOKU



MAGIC MAZE

LETTERS *Cont. from P. 7*

Coast Classic Ride for the Arthritis Foundation on my behalf, thank you so very much. Your support and faith in me means more to me than I can express. I'd also like to thank those who had planned to make a donation to the Arthritis Foundation on my behalf – your kind intentions mean a lot to me as well.

Unfortunately, I will not be able to make the ride after all and, believe it or not, I am very disappointed.

As some of you already know, I have accepted a new teaching position in a small school district in Madera County. I explained to the principal (my new boss) what I was planning to do and to put if delicately she was less than impressed with my charitable intentions. She reminded me that I had signed a contract to teach for 180 days and that I needed to be there for the students and all said in a tone that was less than apologetic. But to be fair, it is a small district and substitutes are difficult to come by and I did sign a contract (and happy to do so, by the way).

The Arthritis Foundation is a wonderful organization and finding a cure for arthritis is an important and a worthy cause, but I will be returning your money to you by check within the next few days. You donated it on my behalf and because I asked you to it is only right that the money be returned to you since I am not able to complete my part.

Again, my sincere and heart felt thanks,

Bev Delk
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

I am writing in response to the email you received from Officer Jeff Williams about his son Kyle's death. In February 1981, I came home one evening to find my

14 year old son unconscious. I called for an ambulance because I was just sure the paramedics could find out what was wrong and give him something to wake him up. He died from inhaling nitrous oxide.

When a child dies, it is the most unbelievable thing in the world. It just seems so cruel, unnatural and unbelievable. Having it sink in and become believable rocks you to your very soul. He just couldn't be gone – it wasn't supposed to be that way. You do NOT outlive your children!

After his death, like Officer Williams, I started looking for answers, information and anything I could find out about this idiocy. I found out that nitrous oxide could also be found in whipped cream cans and probably many other products needing propellants. The kids seem to be the only ones with this knowledge and, like Kyle and my son, Jim, one thing they don't know is that in addition to not knowing their level of tolerance, is that if they get even a little bit of the whipped cream into their lungs, they will not survive according to a physician I spoke to from the Department of Health. There is a lot of shortening in whipped cream and it coats the inside of their lungs. There isn't any way to get it out so it suffocates them.

I think the parents are the ones who need information. The kids evidently know that they can buy whipped cream, Dust Off and all the other cans with propellants without an ID, and without adults knowing about it for the most part. After Jim's death I mentioned to a manager in a grocery store that the two boys about 11 years old that had just bought whipped cream were not buying it for their mothers. They were, in all likelihood, buying it for inhaling. The manager told me that they couldn't do anything, as it wasn't illegal, but that this was something they were seeing several times a week – 26 years ago!

Many have said "all kids will try drugs once." There are all sorts of "drugs" out

there that are available to anyone, like the whipped cream and Dust Off, as well as street drugs, but when they are used, no one knows who will have an allergic reaction to some filler used, who will have an overdose on a small amount because of their individual makeup, or who might be on a cold medicine or a prescription that could react badly to any other "drug."

How can parents protect their children when they don't even know what "drugs" are available and that many of the "unknown to parents drugs" are at their local stores? There has to be an answer out there – and it has to be widely known by parents very soon.

Sincerely,

Kathy Mattocks
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

As I sit waiting for the next attack of low-frequency bass-waves to reverberate through my house, shaking and rattling my windows, walls and floors, I find it very difficult to feel any sympathy for Mr. Cake's plight as the victim of a relentless neighborhood bully. After reading Mr. Cake's latest letter, I am left with the feeling that he, among others, see obeying laws and respecting their neighbors to be an assault on their civil liberties, and by extension, the very thing wrong with our government and country. I wonder how Mr. Cake would feel if he lived in my neighborhood, where every few minutes some inconsiderate adolescent with one of those specially built car stereos comes rolling through, thumping and bumping and generally disturbing the entire neighborhood. Would he see this as just another proud American letting us all know how it feels to be living the dream our found-

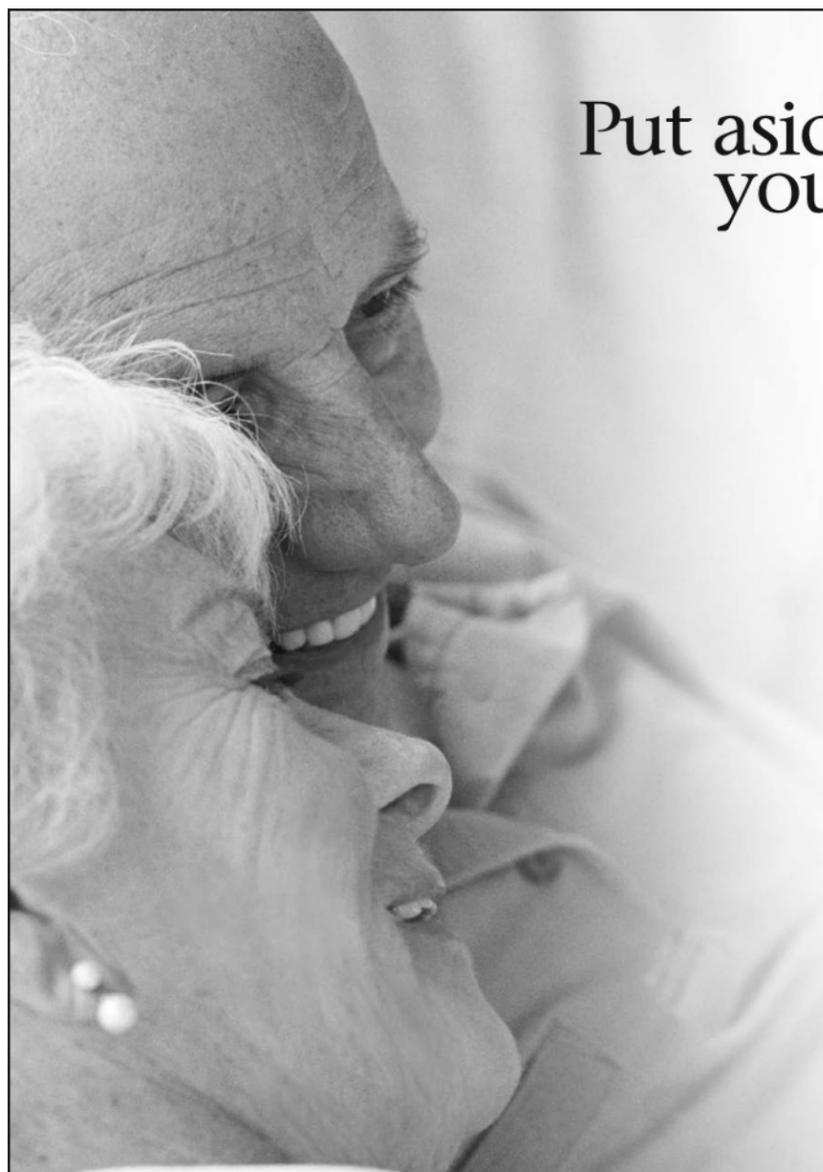
ing fathers envisioned?

I think what Mr. Cake forgot in his lesson on the founding ideologies of America was the limitations of civil liberties versus an individual's rights. This concept is generally referred to as the Umbra and Penumbra of law, after the two parts of a shadow. What it means in this context is that one's civil liberties end where they begin to interfere with another's rights. Every person has the right to a reasonable expectation of peace and quiet in their home, and when that right is impinged upon by the actions of another, then the only recourse is the law. One may think that an outrageously loud motorcycle, car stereo or a monstrous dust cloud is just another form of civil liberty, but when that civil liberty is arrived at through illegal means and interferes with another's rights it is foolish to attempt to defend it as anything else but a violation of the law. Simply stated, the real shame here is that the very laws that Mr. Cake claims to be victimized by were created to protect the majority of others from the thoughtless and inconsiderate actions of a minority of people.

Legal aspects aside, what of the moral aspects, wherein the real solution to these problems lie? According to Mr. Cake's letter to the editor some months ago, he was upset that a neighbor called the Sheriff to complain of the noise and dust created by his weekend off-road motorcycle riding activities. Instead of complaining about how unfair it is that another person called the Sheriff for relief from his actions, maybe Mr. Cake should spend a minute considering how his actions could be affecting those around him. This concept is called consideration of others, and it seems to be in short supply these days.

So who's really the bully here? Those

Please see LETTERS on P. 10



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who abide by the law and bother no one, or those who ignore the law and act as if everyone else should be subject to their every loud and dusty whim?

Sincerely,

C. Edward Wilkinson
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

This letter is to our dear friends of the Ranchos Community.

Some people claim that angels walk among us everyday. I used to think they were crazy until June 23, 2007. I now know that this world is full of everyday angels who do extraordinary things for others. My husband Jay, my daughters Shelby and Samantha and I lost most of our material possessions when our home was destroyed by fire. We felt helpless and alone for a brief moment on that day. And then we were visited by angels. They came in cars, on fire trucks, on foot and even riding motorcycles. One by one they comforted us, prayed for us and in some cases gave us the shirts off of their own backs. Most of these angels were you, residents of the Madera Ranchos community.

We would like to express our sincere, heartfelt thanks to those that have helped us through this difficult bump in the road. I tried so hard to keep a list of who was giving us what but it was all coming in so fast it was hard to keep track of all of the donations of food, money, gift cards and necessities. Some of you Jay and I were able to hug and thank personally, for that I am grateful. The others who dropped off items at our house or other places that we didn't get to thank in person, please consider this a heartfelt thank you for your generosity. All of your support, prayers and donations are appreciated.

I would like to send a special thank you to some extraordinary people in our lives. First, the members of Station 9 and 19 Madera County Fire Department. Thank you for putting your life on the line everyday for all of us in the community. Your dedication and commitment to us is incredible. Jay and I are comforted in the fact that you all did everything possible to save our house. Your response time, quickness to act and professionalism was top of the line. It was just our time and no matter how hard you try you can't save them all. We appreciate all of the sup-

port and prayers after the fire from you also. It has meant so much to our family.

Another family we would like to thank is Steven and Cathy Rutherford. They have been so wonderful in letting us stay in their home while we work with the insurance company to find housing. They basically let us move in with no questions asked. This made our tragedy so much easier to deal with knowing that we had someone to call home, even if it is temporary. They stuck their necks out on the line and for this we are eternally grateful.

And last, Jack and Tina Shannon and the entire Myers/Shannon family. I hope that all of you reading this get to experience friendship like the kind we experienced in the last month from this wonderful family. Words cannot express how grateful we are to have them in our lives. From the moment they knew we were in trouble they were at our side. I never felt so much relief and comfort as I did knowing that Tina and Jack were going to be at our side to get us through this. From the moment Tina stepped out of her daughter's car she was working her magic to just make everything ok. For this there is not enough ways to say thank you! She managed to furnish a three bedroom home with furniture, food, clothing, toys and personal items in FOUR days! The donations started to come in even before the fire was out. They opened up their home to our family for a week and disrupted their lives to help us out in our time of need. I don't know how we will ever repay them, but Jay and I will try, as long as we live.

Please accept this thank you for your generosity and comfort for our family in our time of need. Also, know that if any of you need help, we will try our hardest to be there for you or your family. Our promise to you is to help keep this community a great place to live and raise our families. Jay and I are committed to do anything we can to make this happen. We promise. If you happen to be driving by our property please stop by and say "Hi." We are out there often and hope to be rebuilding soon. And for all of you that have been asking about our holiday display, we might not have one this year but watch out in 2008! We will really have something to celebrate!

Sincerely,

The Fords
Jay, Micheala, Shelby and Samantha
Madera Ranchos

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Community Rummage Sale

To benefit RYF Cheer
Saturday, August 4, 2007
7 am to 2 pm @ Maywood Center



Ways to help – rent a space for \$20 to sell your items, donate your items for sale, or come by to purchase a treasure of your own. Tell your friends and neighbors. Call 645-1540 to reserve a space or for questions.

Local Wins National Tournament

James "Alex" Lee of Golden Valley Martial Arts can proudly say he is the FIRST National Medalist of his school. Alex captured a Silver and Bronze medal during the 2007 National Junior Olympic Taekwondo Championships recently held in San Jose, Calif. July 12-15 competing against students from all 50 states.

This was Alex's first competition season and his total medal count stands at 4-Gold, 3-Silver, 1-Bronze, and 1-Trophy. His parents say he finally found his niche. Alex is already planning on pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Taekwondo through Concordia University as soon as he completes High School. His instructor, Master Dave Johnson, states that, "Alex has really become a role model and leader within our school and is looked up to by the younger kids." Alex is looking forward to one more competition this season to be held in September and is confident he will increase his medal count. Members of Golden Valley Martial Arts celebrated with a party in his honor on July 20.



James "Alex" Lee is the first National Medalist from Golden Valley Martial Arts with his Silver and Bronze awards from the 2007 National Junior Olympic Taekwondo Championships held in San Jose, Calif.

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GAVIN KNOBLOCH



From the entire Knobloch family,

We would just like to take this opportunity to thank the entire Madera Ranchos community for their outpouring of support for Gavin in his time of need. We knew the Ranchos was a caring community, but the support we have seen since the accident has been unbelievable. We may never go hungry again with all of the food that people keep bringing to the hospital and the house. We still invite anyone and everyone to come and support Gavin. There is still a long road of recovery for him and I know he will have helping hands every step of the way.

We would also like to send our deepest sympathies and love to the Tessmer family. We are now linked forever because of our kids.

We would like to send our love and support to the Lacy family. We know Danica is recovering well and wish her the very best. There is no blame to be spread around and hope no one thinks there is. Accidents happen and this will only bring the community closer.

A special get well to Missouri and Alex. We don't know how we would be now without the two of you. You are really lifesavers and heroes. We can't express in words how much you two mean to us.

The five families will now be linked together. We hope that we never have a situation like this ever again. Kids, please, take the time to buckle up and be careful.

*Love always,
The Knoblochs
Pat, Maria, Kristin and Gavin*



SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

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The Ranchos Independent

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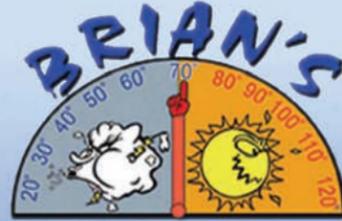
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7/07

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- 🌐 How to have real faith.
- 🌐 You can bridle a horse, now bridle your tongue.
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7/07

Business Profile

ItzSewLucy's Own Private Idaho

The Story Behind the Handcrafted, USA-made Vintage Aprons

After the test results came back, the allergist told Lucy Tangrady something she didn't want to hear.

"Move out of the Central Valley or your asthma will continue to get worse. Within a year you'll carry an oxygen tank, and sooner than later, you'll die."

The words were a harsh reality for someone who had called Merced and Fresno home for more than 30 years. She'd leave behind her long time job

with UBS, the church she was married in and attended regularly, her family and friends. The trips to Yosemite, the coast and the Bay Area would soon be a distant memory.

"Oh, and don't forget In 'N Out," Lucy says with a smile as she

looks up from sewing a pocket onto her latest apron. "Not to mention the fries and the chocolate shakes."

Everything would be in the rear view mirror except her husband Jim and their Golden Retriever Zoey.

"I did have one very driving force behind me that made it bearable," Lucy said as she straightened one of her patterns. "My faith in the Lord. I know He won't forsake me, I know He has a plan and sometimes I have to be reminded to just get out of the way."

In April of 2006, Lucy, Jim and Zoey moved their life to Meridian, Idaho, about 5 miles from Boise.

One of the rooms in the new house

was designated as "Lucy's Sewing Room." It faced the street and had big windows that let the bright Idaho sunshine in. While she was raising three daughters Lucy learned early on it was cheaper to make clothes than to buy them. And, inspired by her Mom who sewed frequently, Lucy learned to love sewing. Knowing how adept Lucy was at sewing, in the fall of 2006 one of her sisters asked Lucy to make her an apron for Christmas. "I just kind of winged it. I

had fun doing it, and when it was done, a few people saw it and wanted one of their own."

She pauses to take a sip of water and cut away a loose thread.

"I'm a nice person but I told them if I was going to make an apron they had to pay for my time." She spots yet another errant thread. "No one protested. In fact, I got more orders for more aprons. I guess that's how 'ITZSEWLUCY' was born."



Every ItzSewLucy Vintage Apron begins the same way with the selection and cutting of fabric. Throught their website, www.itzsewlucy.com, you can choose from hundreds of styles and patterns.

What started as a hobby in a bedroom has blossomed into a full-fledged business and that bedroom is overflowing with fabric bolts. "We have over 180 fabric choices now and every day there's more. It's starting to look like I

opened my own Jo-Ann's or Hancock fabric store."

"There are four stores carrying my aprons and I'd have more, but I just can't sew them quickly enough." Recently we started selling designer name fabrics on the site. In some cases, we're \$2 - \$3 per yard less than the upscale fabric stores."

Besides the stores in Boise, Kuna, Emmet and McCall, Idaho, Lucy and Jim sell the aprons at a Farmer's Market-type venue in the adjacent town of Eagle.

If the apron business wasn't time consuming enough, Lucy also works full time as a Branch Office Administrator in Meridian.

"It's daunting at times," Lucy says as she places her latest apron on her dress form to take a picture so it can be displayed on the "ITZSEWLUCY.COM website."

"Sometimes I just have to work at catching my breath," she flashes a wry smile. "But living here, it's much easier to do that." She begins cutting yet another apron pattern. "We really miss our friends. But with the phone and email we are able to stay in touch. I just wish In 'N Out was closer than Reno."

Next comes the hard part - putting the pieces together and stitching them up to create unique, truly hand-crafted reversible aprons that look like mini works of art.



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SAM Cont. from P. 4

state and federal agencies to routinely (and unilaterally) create, update and modify lists of species of flora and fauna that could be threatened or endangered. Now, don't get me wrong; some of these listings have been useful and constructive in preserving and/or restoring species to health and viability. The bald eagle is one example of a species that has been restored. However, there are literally HUNDREDS of plant and animal species that are "protected" by this law, and most of these species (like the acronyms) you've never even heard of, BUT woe be to you if you have a piece of property on which one of these plants or animals happens to make a home.

Now, you may ask, "...but how does this affect me?" Or you may say "...but I like bald eagles." Point well taken. I like bald eagles, too and I'm glad we took the steps to protect and restore them. But, let me ask you this: do you feel the same way about Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp (VPFS)? Are you enamored by the Arroyo Toad (AT)? Do you have a love affair with the California Tiger Salamander (CTS)? These are just a few of the hundreds of species that are currently listed as "protected" in the state of California, and could very possibly have a very large effect on you and on your neighbors.

Let me try to point out just how these "listings" have affected things. In southern California, the last link of a badly needed freeway project was in the last stages of approval prior to construction when a very peculiar thing happened. This roadway was to run parallel to Interstate 5 starting just below San Clemente and linking up with Highway 91 in the City of Anaheim. This last link of roadway would have taken literally thousands of cars off I-5 and greatly improved traffic circulation in the entire region. HOWEVER, at the eleventh hour, the Arroyo Toad made the list of "endangered" species. Now, where, you might ask, does the Arroyo Toad make its home? You may have already guessed the answer. The "Primary Habitat" for the Arroyo Toad in the state of California just happens to be along the few mile stretch of right-of-way that was to provide for the construction of the badly needed road.

Now, you might say "...thank God we caught it in time. If we were to allow that road to be built, what would ever happen to the precious Arroyo Toad?" I, however, have become a bit more skeptical in matters environmental. I recognize that the radical environmental community had once again interfered and delayed the construction of a needed piece of infrastructure. A roadway that was to be constructed FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC. If the Arroyo Toad needed protection, why wasn't it provided for in a timely fashion, so that the roadway planners had sufficient time to make the necessary adjustments to their plan in advance? To me, it's just another example of placing the needs of toads ahead of the needs of the people. To date, after many years, the badly needed piece of roadway is still tied up in an environmental spider web.

"Well," you might say, "those crazy people in southern California deserve everything they get." Not so fast. Do you know where the Primary Habitat in the state of California for Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp and California Tiger Salamanders is located? GULP! Right here in lovely Madera County. More particularly, southeast Madera County, including most of Rio Mesa! I have it on good word from a very reliable source in Madera that the state and federal environmental agencies have brought forth a very recent map that identifies very large tracts of land in Rio

Mesa as Primary Habitat for the California Tiger Salamander. If all of the area on the proposed map is set aside as "protected habitat," then the properties affected could be rendered "unbuildable."

This could prove to be rather inconvenient, not to mention extremely costly. Rio Mesa happens to be the primary "New Growth Area" in Madera County. The county was hoping to get a number of projects started in Rio Mesa over the next couple of years. Among the projects that could be impacted in Rio Mesa are Larry Freels' "River Ranch;" Bob McCaffrey's "Peck Ranch;" John Kesterson's "Northfork Village" project; and the Coombs Ave 12 Village project. These projects represent literally thousands of future housing units that were to serve the growth needs of the county over the next decade.

Now, I'm not saying that there won't be any units built. What I am saying, though, is that there will probably be a lot fewer units built, that it will take a lot longer to build them and that they will be a lot more expensive to buy. In the case of John Kesterson's project, the impact could be devastating. The set-aside for Salamander Habitat could render Kesterson's project "unbuildable." I suppose that Kesterson could go out and buy a bunch of land to give to the environmentalists to protect the Salamanders. I can just hear the cash register ringing as the cost of housing in Madera goes up again. I feel sorry for John Kesterson. He has waited patiently over the years to build his project. He was next in line to go to the Board of Supervisors for approval after the Gateway Village project. No telling how long he may have to wait now.

You may not feel sorry for Kesterson. Let me put it in another perspective. You should feel fortunate that you have your home in either the Ranchos or Rolling Hills. If the Fairy Shrimp and the Tiger Salamander had been around at the time, NEITHER ONE OF THESE COMMUNITIES WOULD HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED!

So, I guess we need to ask the question "Will they ever begin?" I guess we'll have to wait and see if the answer is yes or no. I suppose Rio Mesa will eventually get started. The more important question is "Will it ever end?" I think that the answer to this one is evident. As long as the bright young bureaucrats and the lawyers who work for the acronyms have the power they do, it will never end. What ever happened to our beloved "Golden State" any way? How did we allow it to get hijacked from under our very noses?

This is just hot off the press: The Governor recently fired the head of the state Air Resources Board because that head had the audacity to postpone the implementation of stringent air quality measures for the Central Valley. Now don't get me wrong. We need to provide solutions to the problem of air quality in our region of the state, however the rushed implementation of Draconian measures that are both costly and anti-business are not the answer. So who did the Governor appoint to replace the ousted head of the Air Resources Board? None other than Mary Nichols.

Now, who is Mary Nichols? Mary Nichols was the former secretary of the state Resources Agency under Governor Grey Davis. This is the most powerful environmental job in the State of California. Mary Nichols is an attorney with the Natural Resources Defense Council. Yes, the same NRDC that you read about near the top of this article. The same NRDC that has Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. and the rest of those east coast, Learjet liberals as members. Kinda' makes you wonder who's running the show ...

Teens and Automobile Accidents: Unnecessary and Very Preventable

By David Johnson

All of us, especially we who love to spend time teaching our teenagers, were once again recently stunned and saddened by the news of yet another tragic teen-operated vehicle fatality. Another UNNECESSARY and preventable fatality. I would like to dedicate this month's article to all of the family members and close friends hardest hit by this tragedy and loss and to all of the new and soon to be new teen drivers and to all of the parents of these teens in an effort to bring better focus to the problems encountered by teen drivers and to examine some of the things we can all do to help eliminate another unnecessary teen death. After all, these young people are our future, not to mention our children, brothers, sisters, best friends, school and teammates. They are each so precious beyond description.

First, as much as we would rather not, we all need to read the following stats with our teens. We need to be very involved. We need to communicate often with our teens. We need to know their plans daily. We need to know ALL of their friends. We need to establish a strict list of vehicle use rules but most importantly, we MUST make sure they are adhered to. WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. WE CAN PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING AGAIN.

Let me begin by repeating what one expert reported:

THE NUMBER OF TEENS KILLED IN VEHICLE-RELATED ACCIDENTS IS EQUAL TO A LARGE COMMERCIAL AIRLINER FULL OF PASSENGERS CRASHING EVERY WEEK.

Teen Driving Stats

Driving with your friends? Statistics say that teens ages 16-19 are four times more likely to experience an automobile accident than older drivers, and of over half of these accidents there are more than one teen in the car. Because of this, teens are disproportionately involved in crashes as drivers and as passengers.

Fact 1

14% of all deaths due to driving accidents are a teen driver.

Fact 2

53% of automobile deaths involving teenagers occur on the weekends.

Fact 3

45% of the time, teen drivers killed in automobile accidents also had a fellow teen or youth in the vehicle.

Fact 4

Of all teens that were fatally injured in a driving accident, 1/3 of those accidents were speed related. Don't speed!

Fact 5

Teen drivers' lifestyle of staying up late causes teen drivers to have a higher risk of automobile accident due to drowsiness.

Fact 6

On the basis of current population trends, there will be 23% more 16-20-year-old drivers on the road in 2010 than there are today - 26.1 million.

Fact 7

This age group makes up 7% of licensed drivers, but suffers 14% of fatalities and 20% of all reported accidents.

Fact 8

Crash rate per mile driven is twice as high for 16 year olds as it is for 18-19 years.

Fact 9

Teenage males are statistically at a higher risk for accidents than teenage females. Two out of every three teenage driver accidents involves a male driver.

Fact 10

Car crashes are the #1 cause of deaths for 16 year olds. Automobile crashes are the leading cause of teen deaths in the United States.

Fact 11

At 35 mph, a 2 second lapse in attention means you've traveled 100 feet without looking!

Fact 12

Teens have the lowest seat belt use rate of all drivers. This rate becomes worse when there are other teens in the car.

Fact 13

During the first year of licensed driving, 1-in-5 male and about 1-in-10 female 16-year old drivers will have a crash.

Recent Stats

In 2004, 5,610 teenagers died in the United States from motor vehicle crash injuries, making driving the leading public health problem among people 13 to 19 years old. The risk is particularly high during the first years in which teenagers are eligible for driver's licenses. In 2002, the latest year for which data are available, 41 percent of all deaths among 16-19 year-olds from all causes were related to motor vehicles.

Fact 1

16 year-olds have higher crash rates than drivers of any other age.

Fact 2

It is estimated that 16-year-olds are three times more likely to die in a motor vehicle crash than the average of all drivers.

Fact 3

3,657 drivers age 15-20 died in car crashes in 2003, making up 14% of all drivers involved in fatal crashes, and 18% of all drivers involved in police-reported crashes (NHTSA).

Fact 4

Crash risk is particularly high during the first years that teenagers are eligible to drive. The top five driver-related factors for teenage drivers involved in fatal motor vehicle crashes include:

- Driving too fast
- Running off the road
- Driving in the wrong lane
- Driving under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or medication
- Erratic or reckless driving

Fact 5

In 2001, two thirds of teens killed in auto accidents were not wearing seat belts. Belt use among fatally injured passengers ages 16-19 was considerably lower than among teenage drivers. Compared with other age groups, teens have the lowest rate of seat belt use.

Fact 6

Almost half of the crash deaths involving 16-year-old drivers in 2003 occurred when the beginning drivers were driving with teen passengers (IIHS). Statistics show that 16 and 17-year-old driver death rates increase with each additional passenger (IIHS).

Fact 7

Young drivers are less likely than adults to drive after drinking alcohol, but their crash risk is substantially higher when they do. This is especially true at low and moderate blood alcohol concentrations. The estimated percentage of fatally injured passenger vehicle drivers ages 16-17 who had BACs at or above 0.08 percent in 2004 was 15%, down 63% since 1982.

Fact 8

Most of this decline took place in the 1980s. This age group experienced the greatest decline in alcohol involvement, compared with a 47% decline for drivers ages 18-20, a 23% decline for drivers ages

Please see SAFE on P. 17



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SAFE Cont. from P. 16

21-30, and a 35% for drivers older than 30.

Fact 9

Graduated driver's license programs appear to be making a difference. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety reports that the overall number of 16-year-old drivers fell from 1,084 in 1993 to 938 in 2003 despite an 18% increase in the 16-year-old population.

Fact 10

About two out of every three teenagers killed in motor vehicle crashes in 2004 were males. Since 1975 teenage motor vehicle crash deaths have decreased more among males (44 percent) than among females (13 percent).

Fact 11

Eighty-six percent of teenage motor vehicle crash deaths in 2004 were passenger vehicle occupants. The others were pedestrians (5 percent), motorcyclists (4 percent), bicyclists (2 percent), riders of all-terrain vehicles (2 percent), and people in other kinds of vehicles (2 percent).

Fact 12

The rate of nighttime fatal passenger vehicle crashes per 100 million miles traveled in 2001-02 was almost six times higher for male drivers ages 16-19 than for male drivers ages 30-59. The corresponding comparison for females yields three times the rate.

Fact 13

From 1994 through 2003, almost 64,000 youth aged 15 through 20 died in traffic crashes - 122 each week.

Fact 14

Young drivers do only 20 percent of their driving at night, but over half the crash fatalities of adolescent drivers occur during nighttime hours.

Fact 15

The risk of a crash involving a teenage driver increases with each additional teen passenger in the vehicle.

Fact 16

Fifty-four percent of motor vehicle crash deaths among teenagers in 2004 occurred on Friday, Saturday or Sunday.

SOLUTIONS

Read the afore mentioned statistics with your teen in a compassionate and concerned manner. Know and practice the traffic laws.

Your teen took driver's education, so he or she should know all the laws and rules of the road, right? Not exactly. Even though your teen may have learned the laws, that doesn't always mean they are remembered. By practicing and reviewing your city's or town's driving laws, your teen driver will have a better understanding of the laws and be able to apply the laws when it's his or her turn to drive solo.

Be a Good Role Model

If your teen driver sees you're speeding or driving aggressively, they're going to do the same, so if you're going to talk the talk, you better walk the walk! Not only will this help make your teen become a better driver, it will also help improve your driving skills as well.

Let Your Teen Do the Driving

Next time you're going to the store or to the movies, let your teen do the driving. This will not only offer extra driving practice, it will also let you see how he or she is doing behind the wheel. As a passenger, you'll also get the opportunity to correct any bad teen driving habits your son or daughter may be developing.

Enroll Your Teen in a Defensive Driving Course

Designed to provide real life training, defensive driving courses provide a more in-depth training on how to maneuver around an accident, handle changing weather conditions and different breaking techniques. Not only will this certification help prepare your teen for the open road, it could potentially provide you with a nice discount on your new driver car insurance rate.

Finding the Perfect Car for Your Teen

Your teen wants a new Hummer H3,

you want them to have an older, compact car like a 1994 Toyota Camry - guess what: you're both wrong. According to the Insurance Information Institute (III), parents should pick a car that offers good crash protection and speed control such as a Subaru Legacy or a Volkswagen Passat.

Limit Nighttime Driving

According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, 42% of teen deaths from motor vehicle crashes occur on Friday, Saturday or Sunday nights, between the hours of 9 p.m. and 6 a.m., so restricting your child's nighttime driving may be one of the best things you could do to help keep your child safe and secure.

Restrict the Number of Passengers Allowed in the Car

According to Mother's Against Drunk Driving (MADD), teen driving crash rates increase by 50% with just one teen passenger in the car, and by 400% with three or more teen passengers. All the more reason to restrict the number of passengers allowed in the car while your teen is driving. While it may not seem fair to your new young driver, it could help keep them out of harm's way.

Turn Off the Cell Phone and NO Texting

The best advice you could give your teen is to turn their cell phone off while driving. If they need to take a call while in the car, advise them to pull off to the side of the road, put the car in park and then talk. As I was writing this article there was a story on the Today Show about five teenage girls that were killed five days after graduating High School and the cause was believed to be the fact that the driver was texting while driving.

Seat Belts

Safety is vital for all drivers! That is why it is important to remind teens to wear their seat belts while driving - a small tip that could greatly help save their life.

Parent/Teen Driving Agreement

To prevent constant fighting over the car, develop a Parent/Teen Driving Agreement. This agreement outlines specific car rules and conditions for your new teen driver, while establishing some rules for you as well. However, it is only good if you stick to it and enforce it.

New Driver Car Insurance

Although it will increase your auto insurance rate, adding your son or daughter to your policy is more cost effective than if your teen had to purchase his or her own car insurance. We recommend shopping around for the best car insurance rate when you add a new driver to your policy. Insurance.com provides an auto insurance comparison application that helps you find the best auto insurance rate available by evaluating multiple rates from best-in-class insurance providers. You'll save money on your new driver car insurance and get the coverage you all need.

Sources

- drivehomesafe.com, carfax.com, teen-driving.com
- www.hsrrc.unc.edu/safety_info/young_drivers
- Insurance Information Institute - www.iii.org
- National Transportation Safety Board - www.nts.gov
- Allstate Foundation report on teen driving - www.allstate.com/Community/PageRender.asp?Page=teensafedrivingfacts.html

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

More to the Flag than just Colors

By Eleanore Burchell

The Ranchos/Hills Senior Center, located at 37330 Berkshire, celebrated the Fourth of July with the members having a traditional hot dog feed combined with games being played afterward. A good time was had by all!

July 4th is another patriotic day where the flag is flown in the United States. Our American flag is a beacon of hope, a symbol of enduring freedom, and an emblem of unity. The flag holds a great deal of history behind it, but we are never too old to learn new things. Our flag has had several nick names, such as "Old Glory," "the Stars and Stripes" and "the Star Spangled Banner." Do you realize the colors of our flag also hold a meaning? Red symbolizes "Hardiness and Valor." White symbolizes "Purity and Innocence." Blue represents "Vigilance, Perseverance and Justice."

Recently there is a controversy regarding our United States flag being manufactured in foreign countries. Several states have already passed laws restricting sales of foreign-made American flags. We understand that more states will soon follow the example that has been set.

The drawing results of the Fourth of July raffle is as follows: First prize, a beautiful quilt, was won by Mark Preo; second prize, \$250 Ranchos Market shopping spree, was won by Pat Brunett; and the one-night stay at Bass Lake was won by Lou Bradley.

Our next monthly sale will be held on Saturday, Aug. 4. Our garden staff has been kept busy keeping the plants and trees watered during this time of extreme heat. There are several Japanese maple trees still available and looking for a happy home as well as many other varieties of shade and fruit trees. Flats of pretty flowering plants are also available. As usual for the month of August, and due to the heat of baking, there will be no bake sale. However, cookbooks and produce as well as boutique items may be purchased in the main building. What is one person's discard is another person's treasure and our Treasure House has everything you might be looking for so please come in to find your personal treasure.

THE UP SIDE – a life with a purpose is more than a blessing, it is a pillar of encouragement. We don't want you to forget us during the week so remember the plant, produce and boutique sections are available Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, 6 to 9 p.m. and Thursday evenings between 6 and 9 p.m.

Our next travel adventure will be Oct. 9 through Oct. 22. We will fly to the East Coast then board a bus. We plan to see the fall colors of the Eastern U.S. and Canada plus many other sights in the area. For more information or if interested in joining the group, call Joann at 645-4864 as an immediate deposit is needed to hold a spot for you.

A Panama Canal cruise is in the planning for next April. We have more information now so call Joann at 645-4864 or come in for a flyer.

The June Birthday and Anniversary celebration held at Yosemite Falls was attended by 22 of our members. The food was fabulous and the service was great. The July Birthday and Anniversary celebration was held July 21 at County Waffle at 3851 N. Blackstone in Fresno. Our August Birthday and Anniversary commemoration has been planned for Saturday, Aug. 11 at 11 a.m. at Carrows, 1484 E. Shaw, Fresno.

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Bring your blanket and lawn chairs to Cobb's Ranch for the Community Annual Labor Day Picnic on Sunday, Sept. 2 from noon to 5 p.m. There will be lots of games and prizes as well as live music and plenty of food. The BBQ will be \$6 per person with lots of activities for the kids too.

Remember Tuesday is Bingo Nights from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

If you need someone to laugh with, 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 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 and they share laughs. There is still room for you and you can attend all three days or just one or two of them.

The Line Dancing class is also a great way to exercise. They meet on Fridays at 12:30 p.m. This combines fun and exercise. You do not need to be a member to attend these classes. We have a good group, but there is always room for one more – you!

Come to think of it, there is room for two more – you and your friend. Come in and check these classes out!

Our watercolor classes held on Wednesdays 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. are open and free to the Ranchos community adults. No prior watercolor experience is needed. The instructor can be reached by calling 645-1137. Starting soon, we will be holding a mini-series of painting classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays. For more information on these Classes, call Joann at 645-4864.

Up and Coming Events

Birthday and Anniversary luncheon, Saturday, Aug. 11 at 11 a.m. at Carrows, 1484 E. Shaw in Fresno.

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?

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

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

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

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

Thursday, 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, 12:30 p.m. Line Dancing Class.

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?

Our senior membership wants to relay our thoughts and sympathy to the families of the Liberty High School students involved in the recent tragic accident.

The Ranchos/Hills Seniors



Madera Ranchos Assembly of God

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Sunday

Kid's Church.....8:30 & 10:30 a.m.
Worship.....8:30, 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Adult Sunday School.....10:30 a.m.
Adrenaline Youth.....6 p.m.

Wednesday

.....7 - 8:30 p.m.
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C&C Cont. from P. 1

be importing, from outside the area, a surface water supply that is sufficient to serve 100% of the needs of the entire project at build-out, and enough additional water to balance the over-drafted underground aquifer. This will help stabilize the long term water supply for both the neighboring agriculture and the Rolling Hills and Ranchos communities.

Furthermore, after months of negotiations with Golden Valley Unified School District, Gateway Village has agreed with the School District on a set of business points for the provision of new schools for the project. The formal agreement is currently being drafted and it is anticipated that Castle & Cooke will have the agreement signed before the meeting with the Board of Supervisors. The

Gateway will pay 100% of the actual costs for new project schools. Per the terms of the agreement, the existing community and the School District will have no risk whatsoever for Gateway project schools.

agreement calls for Gateway Village to provide all of the school facilities necessary to serve all of the students that will reside in the project. Gateway will pay 100% of the actual costs for new project schools. Per the terms of the agreement, the existing community and the School District will have no risk whatsoever for Gateway project schools.

“We think we have answered all of the tough questions,” said project manager Steve Krueger. “You never know what can happen during the public hearing process, but we think we have the support of the majority of the Board of Supervisors.”

“We have been fortunate to have the support of a majority of the community. I would ask that those who have time to attend the Board of Supervisors hearing please do so, and voice your support,” said Krueger.

No Warnings: Illegal OHV Use Over

Sheriff John Anderson has announced “no more” in regard to people illegally driving Off Highway Vehicles (OHVs) in residential areas. “They’re breaking the law – they’re flouting the law – no more,” Anderson said.

The Madera County Sheriff’s Department’s OHV Unit routinely checks areas on the valley floor where illegal off highway vehicle use is prevalent, but complaints are now flowing in from foothill residents as well.

“Laws regarding off highway vehicle use have been in effect for some time now,” Anderson said. “Despite our continued efforts to inform and warn the public about illegal riding in residential zones, the activity prevails.”

Anderson has announced that, “Deputies who spot anyone riding an off road vehicle either on their property or on roads in residential areas not only face citation but their vehicle will be impounded.”

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**3 Bed
2.5 Ba.
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2 Ba.
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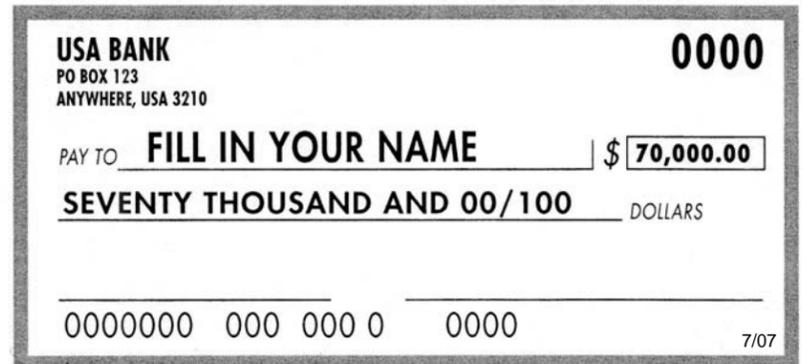
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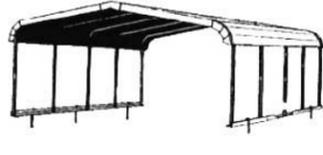
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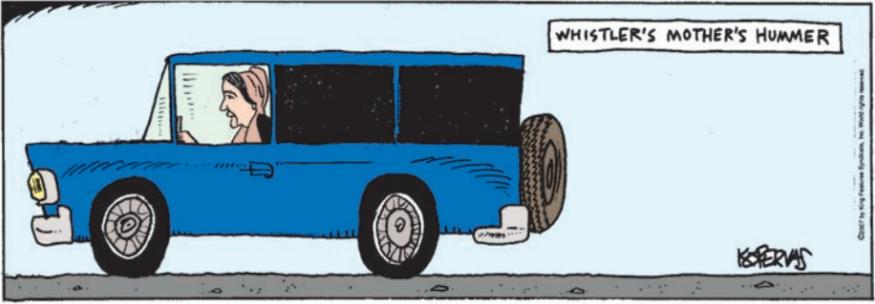
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



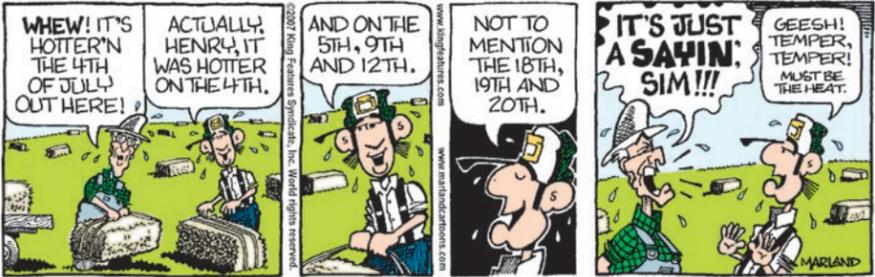
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Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Bushes are missing. 2. Apron is missing. 3. Earring is different. 4. Window is smaller. 5. Man's nose is different. 6. Briefcase is larger.



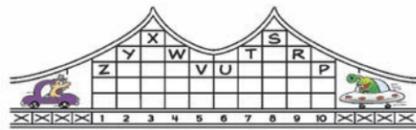
TWO OF THESE HERBIES are exactly alike. You have two shots to knock them down. Answer: Numbers 2 and 7.

A POSTAL PROBLEM! Fred handed the postal person a one-dollar bill and said, "I'll have some 2-cent stamps, 10 times as many 1-cent stamps, and the balance in 5-cent stamps, please!" How many of each was he given? Answer: 5 2-cent stamps, 50 1-cent stamps and 8 5-cent stamps.

A SUMPTUOUS SELECTION OF SUPERLATIVES! In this puzzle all of the words get progressively longer, and they all start with SUM. Some hints: 1. SUM (in place). 2. Drainage pit. 3. A small tree. 4. A type of conference. 5. A condensed report. 6. One who calls forth.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



Illustrated by David Coulson

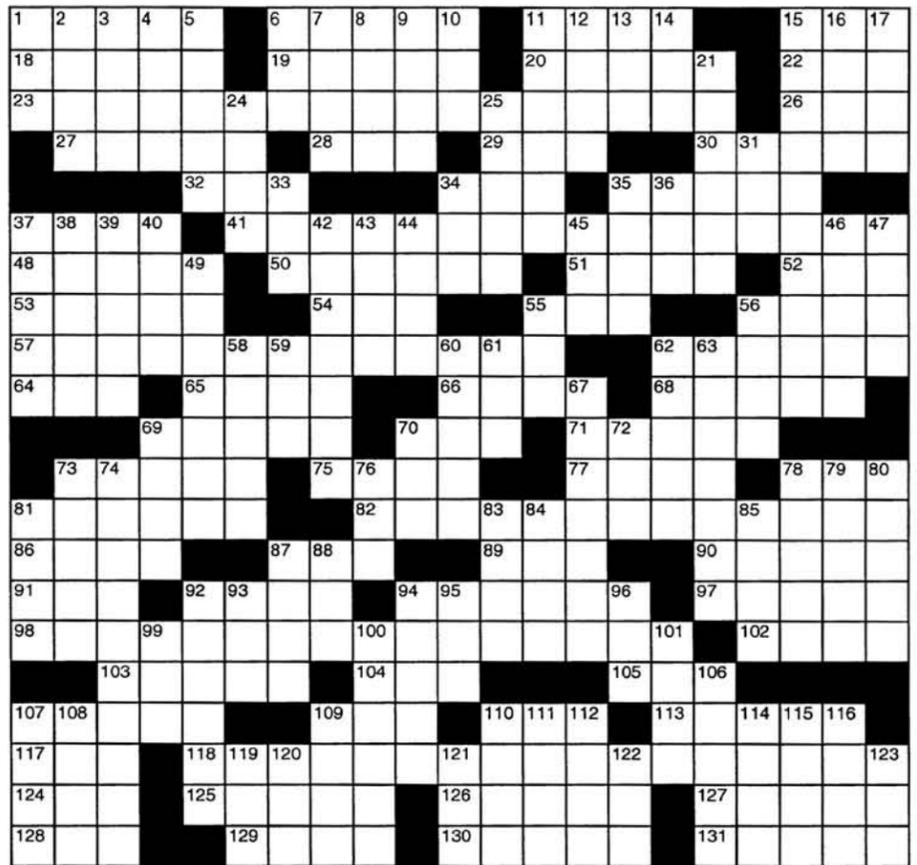
A WORD-BRIDGE! The bridge above contains 10 supporting words. We give you the first letter of each word plus plenty of hints.

1. A sharp turn.
2. A small sailboat.
3. Type of gas.
4. Found in garden.
5. To annoy or puzzle.
6. A container.
7. Strained; tense.
8. A small, rich pastry.
9. Tough part of watermelon.
10. Seed container.

Answers: 1. Zig, 2. Yawl, 3. Xenon, 4. Wed, 5. Yax, 6. Urn, 7. Taut, 8. Score, 9. Hind, 10. Pod.

Super Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Home —" ('90 film)
 - 6 Faithful
 - 11 Elated
 - 15 Tighten the tent
 - 18 Nigerian city
 - 19 Actress Verdugo
 - 20 Paddled
 - 22 Multi-purpose vehicle
 - 23 Photography event of 1900
 - 26 "Unforgettable" name
 - 27 Snicker sound
 - 28 Mexican Mrs.
 - 29 Have a mortgage
 - 30 Attack
 - 32 Sniggler's quarry
 - 34 Baseball's Piniella
 - 35 TV's "Green —"
 - 37 Young follower?
 - 41 Literary event of 1900
 - 48 Roberts or Tucker
 - 50 Only just
 - 51 Olympic VIP
 - 52 Med. test
 - 53 Take in, perhaps
 - 54 Big bang letters
 - 55 Distress
 - 56 Terror
 - 57 Exhibition event of 1900
 - 62 Solidarity city
 - 64 Weldon or Wray
 - 65 And others
 - 66 Utah city
 - 68 Way to go
 - 69 Donizetti's "L'elisir d'—"
 - 70 Queler or Arden
 - 71 Heavenly hunter
 - 73 Meir's successor
 - 75 Knight's wife
 - 77 Clasp
 - 78 Scale notes
 - 81 Ease a situation
 - 82 Musical event of 1900
 - 86 Huck's craft
 - 87 Service div.
 - 89 "— Doll" ('64 hit)
 - 90 Urania's sister
 - 91 Skater Midori
 - 92 Act catty?
 - 94 Anesthetic type
 - 97 Object
 - 98 Transportation event of 1900
 - 102 90 Across' instrument
 - 103 Moshe of Israel
 - 104 Shady character?
 - 105 High peak
 - 107 Multivoiced Mel
 - 109 Coach
 - 113 — terrier
 - 117 Massage
 - 118 Culinary event of 1900
 - 124 Every last bit
 - 125 Humpback's home
 - 126 Luncheonette lure
 - 127 Gawk
 - 128 Payable
 - 129 Makes lace
 - 130 Actor Gary
 - 131 Detection device
 - 115 Down
 - 21 Rubble
 - 24 Boat bottom
 - 25 Commodious
 - 31 Guitarist Paul
 - 33 Tennis stroke
 - 34 "— Abner"
 - 35 Cain's victim
 - 36 Actor Gulager
 - 37 Rod
 - 38 Actress Shire
 - 39 Threshold
 - 40 Bread and booze
 - 42 Upset
 - 43 Bond foe
 - 44 New York team
 - 45 "Raid on Entebbe" weapon
 - 46 Rub out
 - 47 Bogarde or
 - 49 Apollo's sister
 - 55 Veneration
 - 56 Hawthorne's was marble
 - 58 Make amends
 - 59 Mideastern letters
 - 60 Fly a chopper
 - 61 Trams transport it
 - 62 Barbecue
 - 63 Drew while distracted
 - 67 Connecticut native
 - 69 Border on
 - 70 Aussie walker
 - 72 Hugo's "Le — s'amuse"
 - 73 Lasso
 - 74 Priced right
 - 76 Canine grp.
 - 78 Full of froth
 - 79 Pianist Schnabel
 - 80 A little night music?
 - 81 Wet blanket
 - 83 Junket
 - 84 Fade away
 - 85 Songwriter Jacques
 - 87 English architect
 - 88 — deco
 - 92 '60 Hitchcock classic
 - 93 Actress Thurman
 - 94 Like some
 - 95 Petite pooch
 - 96 Thompson or Salonga
 - 99 Rocker Whitcomb
 - 100 August shows
 - 101 554, to Tiberius
 - 106 Preserve a petunia
 - 107 Nail type
 - 108 Berg opera
 - 109 Blind as —
 - 110 Callao's country
 - 111 Desire deified
 - 112 Use a stopwatch
 - 114 Division word
 - 115 With
 - 117 Down, famed saxophonist
 - 116 51 Across' missis
 - 119 Pretend
 - 120 "Cry — River" ('55 song)
 - 121 Yak
 - 122 Aye
 - 123 Augsburg article
- DOWN**
- 1 TV ET
 - 2 Cafe au —
 - 3 Fairy-tale fiend
 - 4 Snack
 - 5 Cosmetician Lauder
 - 6 Papal name
 - 7 Auto pioneer
 - 8 Century



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TRIVIA TEST By Fifi Rodriguez

1. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What do you call a group of baboons?
2. ANATOMY: What is another term for the human trachea?
3. SCIENCE: What natural painkiller is produced by the brain?
4. GEOGRAPHY: What is the largest country on the continent of South America?
5. MOVIES: Who played the android in "Blade Runner"?
6. MUSIC: Which country music star was once a professional football player for the USFL?
7. FAMOUS QUOTES: Who said, "Some cause happiness wherever they go; others whenever they go."?
8. TELEVISION: What city was the setting for the TV show "The Golden Girls"?
9. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which U.S. coin features the estate of Monticello on one side?
10. HISTORY: What was Robert E. Lee's middle name?

Answers

1. A troop
2. Windpipe
3. Endorphin
4. Brazil
5. Sean Young
6. Toby Keith
7. Oscar Wilde
8. Miami
9. Nickel
10. Edward

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