

Gold Country Living

Enjoy flowers in Winter

It's easy to transfer the image and color of garden flowers straight to plain ribbons, wrapping paper, gift bags, and fabrics like covered buttons. Start by selecting strong-hued fresh flowers or leaves, like pansies or ferns. Then layer paper toweling over a medium-sized cutting board securely positioned on a solid surface and lay flat the material that you would like to embellish.

Place a single flower face-down on the material and secure the edges of the flower or leaf with adhesive tape. Place another single layer of paper toweling over the flower. With a small flat-faced hammer, firmly pound the area covering the flower. Carefully remove the top layer of towels and flower petals from the material with a craft knife. Run a warm iron over the image to set.

Arithmetickles

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...own kids' reluctance to learn math through traditional classroom methods, the Bendors decided to apply their comedy skills and theatre experience to inject humor and creativity into an often-dreaded school subject.

The result? Arithmetickles, a show that makes math cool and fun, not only for elementary and middle school students, but also for their teachers and parents.

The response from both kids and adults has been overwhelmingly positive. "When I told [the 3rd and 4th graders] that the assembly was about math, there was a collective moan," said a math teacher about a recent Arithmetickles show. "But before the assembly was over, they were cheering for more," she continued. "This was educational and entertaining, and there are not many times these two words can be used at the same time in one sentence!"

Reflecting our belief that the arts should enrich our lives and bring people together, ArtsEcho is a national non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the arts and artists who create them, and to originating and presenting high-quality theatrical productions that educate and entertain both children and adults nationwide.

Founded in 1987, ArtsEcho (originally Children's Theatre Center of New Jersey) has created and presented more than 30 original theatre works for young people and families. Fourteen years ago, ArtsEcho developed Arithmetickles.

For more info about Arithmetickles and Arts-Echo or to book a show for your school, please contact Crystal Hargreaves or Sandra Bendor at 1-800-341-3585 or visit the site: www.arithmetickles.com.

Calaveras Mentoring Foundation

The Calaveras Youth Mentoring Program will celebrate National Mentoring Month during January 2010 by announcing the establishment of the Calaveras Mentoring Foundation. Thanks to the tireless efforts of several dedicated members of the mentoring program's advisory committee and community, the long-held dream of a non-profit foundation to support the Calaveras Youth Mentoring Program is now becoming a reality.

The Calaveras Mentoring Foundation is recruiting additional board members. Please contact the Calaveras Youth Mentoring Program if you are interested in becoming a part of this exciting new organization. January 2010 marks the 9th annual National Mentoring Month (NMM) campaign to recruit volunteer mentors for youth mentoring programs across the country. This year General Colin L. Powell will headline the volunteer recruitment drive.

The Calaveras Youth Mentoring Program will focus its National Mentoring Month efforts on a public awareness campaign to recruit mentors for local young people. The mission of the Calaveras Youth Mentoring Program is to connect Calaveras County young people in 1st through 12th grades with safe, positive, adult role models who will offer support, guidance, friendship, and help the youth make healthy life decisions.

Potential mentors are thoroughly screened to ensure the safety of the youth in the program. Once matched, mentors and mentees spend a couple of hours a week together for a year doing things they both enjoy—sports, going out to supper, seeing a movie, or working on a project. Mentors receive extensive pre-match training and then additional training each month, plus weekly monitoring of the friendship, as-needed support, and invitations to group field trips and events.

A highlight of the NMM campaign is Thank Your Mentor Day™, celebrated on January 21. On that day, many Americans will reach out to thank or honor those individuals who encouraged and guided them, and had a lasting impact on their lives. For more information about the Calaveras Youth Mentoring Program, please call 209-736-6078 or visit online at: www.calaverasmentoring.org.

Internet Privacy with "InPrivate Browsing"—keep all of your history in one private session that is deleted directly after you're done. Just press Ctrl+Shift+P and then shop, browse and scheme.

The Book of Eli – Mad Max meets The Bible

There seems to be a growing Hollywood trend of wanting to bring us some form of apocalyptic or post-apocalyptic story but not many of them are believable. "The Book of Eli" is no exception. Eli (Washington) is on a mission to carry a book across the continental United States to an unknown point in the west. This is a holy quest for him.

It appears that 30 years prior to the time of the story, the earth suffered a major mass destruction war, leaving charred remains of buildings, cities, cars and people strewn like confetti during a tickertape parade. Most of the books, especially the one Eli is carrying, have all been burned.

Unruly cannibalistic gangs rule the roads, killing, maiming and raping whomever they wish. Food and water are the basics of survival and, in this wasteland, law is dealt with by he who is best armed. If you have ever watched any of the "Mad Max" series with Mel Gibson, you know exactly the condition the world is in, the types of vehicles people drive and just how stupid this movie really is. In all this mass destruction and confusion is a lone villain named Carnegie (Oldman) who is looking for one book – the book that Eli is taking west.

Carnegie believes that with the book Eli is carrying, he can build and run a whole society beholden to him and his messages. He so very much believes the book has ultimate power that he orders his gangs of illiterate

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COMPUTER SAVVY Auto Correct



Do you ever have this problem when using MS Word or Works for your word processor? When you hit enter to go to the next line, it capitalizes the first letter of the next line (or sometimes the preceding line). It's disgusting, but here is how you fix it in either Word or Works.

- 1) Click on Tools
- 2) Click on AutoCorrect
- 3) Click to remove the checkmark in front of "Capitalize first letter of sentences"
- 4) Click on OK

Why Microsoft made "Capitalize first letter of sentences" a default setting is way beyond me. It causes so many problems that it seems to be rather stupid. And remember, if your screen ever shows sideways, do this: Press ALT & CTRL while pressing the UP arrow. *Dave George*

Plug in at traffic.com, indicate which days and at what times you'll be traveling and the site will send you real-time traffic alerts via text messaging, or a phone call if not text-savvy.

Uncle Joe had to get a job. The farm hadn't worked out so well, so this time he tried a local ranch. The rancher took pity on him and decided to give him a chance. "This," he said, showing my uncle a rope, "is a lariat. We use it to catch cows." "I see," said Uncle Joe, trying to seem knowledgeable as he examined the riata, "And what do you use for bait?"

I thought about the 30 year business I ran with 1800 employees, all without a Blackberry that played music, took videos, pictures and communicated with Facebook and Twitter. I signed up under duress for Twitter and Facebook, so my seven kids, their spouses, 13 grandkids and 2 great grand kids could communicate with me in the modern way.

I figured I could handle something as simple as Twitter with only 140 characters of space. That was before one of my grandkids hooked me up for Tweeter, Tweetree, Twhirl, Twitterfon, Tweetie and Twitter-erific Tweetdeck, Twitpix and something that sends every message to my cell phone and every other program within the texting world. My phone was beeping every three minutes with the details of everything except the bowel movements of the entire next generation. I am not ready to live like this. I keep my cell phone in the garage in my golf bag.

Want the color of a Kansas wheat field on your walls? Snap a photo of whatever inspires you with an iPhone, and the "ben Color Capture" free application searches Benjamin Moore's 3,300 paint options. A strip of colors appears below the photo with the closest paint match highlighted. AppStore Web Site (apple.com).

CD Recycling Center

CD's, DVD's take hundreds of years to break down. Visit online at: www.cdrecyclingcenter.com for more information .

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