# ELDORADO

**VOLUME VII. ISSUE 8** August 2005

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Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

1 La Hacienda Loop, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508 ▼ (505) 466-4248 ▼ www.eldoradocommunity.org

# Horseplay, the Eldorado Way

ERTRAND LECLAIR, a well-known French essayist, once said horses are "the symbol of wide open spaces and freedom, synonymous with nature. In a mechanized world, the horse arouses great passion, and feeds our imaginations." The Eldorado stable amenity, with 36 barns and some 67 horses (and one mule), certainly gives our many Eldorado residents the opportunity for passion and imagination, whether it is as a horse owner, or simply as part of an evening walk through the stables.

The Eldorado stables are located just west of the 285 and Avenida Eldorado intersection. You know you are there when you see the beautiful south entrance framed by a coyote fence. The character of the stables has changed enormously in the recent past. We have an upper arena (engineered to last for many years with proper care and maintenance) and a lower arena, two round pens, a striking south entrance with a gate, gates on the back road and the 285 entrance/exit, hitching rails, a storage area (for jumps, barrels, and other equipment), and bleachers at the upper arena so the community can watch riding events, training and riding lessons.

We also now have aesthetic requirements included in the Stable Rules and Regulations, enthusiastic members of the stable community and their mounts participating in the 4th of July parade, cremany barns being improved or replaced, a greater sense of community and communication, and increased pride in the stables.

The stable amenity would not be what it is without the dedication of our many volunteers, whether they are on the Stable Committee, helping out with our recent clean-up day, putting together or contributing to our newsletter, helping out with fly control, or making sure our manure goes to a good home! It also would not be what it is without the help of the ECIA staff who maintain the common areas, including weekly harrowing of our arenas, fixing fences, ensuring the roads are graded, managing the manure pile (including removal of manure on a regular basis), keeping all paperwork required for horses and horse owners, and enforcing the rules and regulations of the amenity.

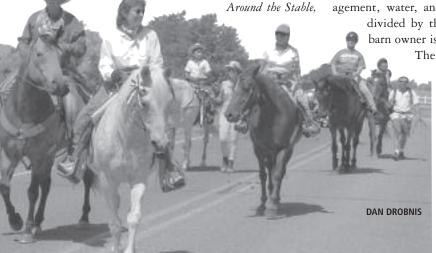
What does it take to be a horse owner or barn owner at the Eldorado stables? You need to be a resident of Eldorado (and a homeowner if you own or co-own a barn). You can also share a barn with a willing barn owner. Call Dina Sassone at 466-2516 for information, or post your request on our bulletin board, located halfway down the main entrance road. There is currently one barn for sale; call the ECIA at 466-4248 for details. The ECIA can also provide you with a copy of the Eldorado Stable Rules and Regulations, and we hope to have it on our website shortly. Horse owners are charged for manure management, water, and electricity. The total cost is

divided by the number of stables, and each barn owner is assessed on an annual basis.

> The Eldorado Stable Committee members and all barn owners/horse owners are a great group of people. Come on down, and introduce yourself to our horses and us. A word from the horses: Please do not feed us without our owners' permission. Thanks!

> > —Dina Sassone, Chair Stable Committee

ECIA Board Work Study Meeting, Community Center, Mon., Aug 15, 7 pm



ation of a newsletter,

Horses and riders from the Eldorado stable are always a hit at the annual 4th of July parade.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

# Share your comments with us!

For policy and deadline, see below

# Editorial **Policy**

Vistas invites opinions, ideas, stories, photos, and art from the community at large. Please include contact numbers for fact checking purposes. The newsletter will not publish unsigned letters or material deemed inflammatory. Material will be printed at the discretion of the editors. Letters over 150 words will be edited for fit. Community announcements are welcome; accompanying photos are welcome, too. DEADLINE: Newsletter deadline is the 3rd day of each month. Submissions can be dropped off or mailed to the ECIA office or emailed to info@eldoradocommunity.

## Mission Statement

org. Please include "Attn:

Vistas" in your message.

The mission of Vistas, the monthly newsletter of the ECIA, is to inform the Eldorado community about issues before the ECIA Board and the membership at large. By so doing, the publication seeks to foster increased neighborhood pride and community participation in the decision making process.

# New Water Board Members, New Skills

N MAY 17, 2005, residents of the Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District voted to expand the district's Board from three members to five, and to change the term of service from six years to four. Subsequently, the Board appointed two new members—Mary Ann Hale and Jerry Cooper.

Mary Ann Hale is Maintenance Director for a local real estate rental management firm, and was educated at the University of Wyoming. She is also a former flight attendant, and served her union as its National Safety Representative, working with the National Transportation Safety Board on aircraft accident investigations. "I learned there first-hand about dealing with government agencies," she comments.

Concerning the recent acquisition of the water system from El Dorado Utilities (EDU), she says, "Water is one of the greatest issues facing Eldorado, and it affects both daily life and future development. We are now fortunate that the utility is owned by the taxpayers of the District and managed by their representatives."

Conservation and education are primary goals for Mary Ann. She feels, "It is obvious that our area cannot grow beyond our resources."

Jerry Cooper holds a PhD in physical chemistry, geology and mathematics from the University of Oklahoma, and has had 25 years of experience as a consultant, engineering manager, and process engineer. Jerry feels that, "It is important to get our water system up to standards after some years of neglect by EDU," and looks forward to working with the state in evaluating area water resources and using them efficiently.

Jerry speaks highly of the people of the Eldorado area, both their skills and the willingness of some to volunteer. He originally became involved in cost analysis for water system operations, when longtime Board president, Ray Nichols, and volunteer operations coordinator, Bill Robens, asked him to help. He speaks highly of Ray and Bill, commenting, "They have simply been invaluable to the Board and the community."

He also praises OMI, the contractor hired by the District to operate the water system. Jerry points out that OMI also operates many other community water systems, including a half-dozen systems elsewhere in New Mexico-among them Las Campanas—and can bring additional resources to Eldorado as needed.

In other Water District news, long-serving Board president Ray Nichols has resigned, saying that his principal goal of seeing the water system into public ownership has been accomplished with the final bond sale and transfer of title from EDU to the Water District. As of early July, his replacement had not been appointed and the remaining Board members were awaiting a full five-member Board to elect a new president.

-Dan Drobnis

# Tip for Parents

**AYBE ALL PARENTS ALREADY** know about this, but I'll take a chance of reaching at least one. What do you do when your child asks something like, "Do whales sleep?" I'm sure some of you are practiced at looking things up in the Encyclopedia or on the web. I applaud your dedication. Here are a couple of websites that attempt to help you out and answer all those childhood questions (as well as adult curiosity): "How Things Work," from The University of Virginia (http://howthingswork.virginia.edu/), "How Things Work - The Physics of Everyday Life" (http://htw.wiley.com/htw/), and my favorite, "How Stuff Works" (www.howstuffworks.com).

So don't panic when your child poses a puzzling question; look it up.

Oh, yes, here is how www.howstuffworks.com answers the sleeping whale question: "Because of their undersea environment, whales and dolphins must be conscious breathers: They have to actively decide when to breathe. When you're a conscious breather, it's just not feasible to be completely unconscious—what if you don't wake up in time?

The solution for whales and dolphins is to let one half of the brain sleep at a time. In this way, the animal is never completely unconscious, but it still gets the rest it needs."

-Ken McPherson

Refer your kids to page 8 for more on





# 2005 CCR Activities Architectural Applications Through June

LL APPLICATIONS (2 copies required) are reviewed each month on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 7 pm. Plans must be delivered to the ECIA office by the Monday before the meeting. All submissions must be clear, concise and legible and include a site plan with setbacks, elevation views, materials and dimensions. Incomplete or illegible applications will not be submitted to the committee.

### Total number of projects submitted through June 2005

	3
▼ Projects submitted	142
▼ Projects approved	127
▼ Projects disapproved	
▼ Variance requests	88
Types of projects submitted for 2005	
▼ Fences and walls	
▼ Additions	
▼ Accessory buildings	
▼ New homes	

### COVENANT COMPLIANCE ACTIVITY THROUGH JUNE

### Here is a summary of covenant compliance violations through June 2005

▼ New violations January through June 30, 2005
▼ Violations corrected January through June 30, 200553
▼ Active violations outstanding as of June 30, 200530
Here are the most common covenant violations:
▼ RV screening

I want to thank everyone for your support and efforts in making Eldorado a place to enjoy all of the great New Mexico "enchanted views." Suggestion...try compliance, first! —Charles Smith, the ECIA CCR

2005, through June.



# New Board Members

MICHAEL FULLAN, a leading educational writer proclaims, "Change is ubiquitous and relentless, forcing itself on us at every turn." Once again, change has been forced on the ECIA Board. After interviewing three excellent candidates for the two vacant seats on the Board, Michael Mariano decided to resign from the Board for family reasons, allowing the Board to name the three candidates to the then three-seat vacancy. The Board will miss Michael's skills, talents and his ready humor.

At the same time, we are very happily welcoming

three new members to the Board. Johnny Martinez, Andrea Cohen and Ed Benrock were appointed to the Board at the June business meeting. Each of these members brings enthusiasm and skills that will enhance the Board and allow us to continue to make decisions that benefit the community. To meet these new Board members and learn more about them, come to the August 18 Board meeting. We meet at 7 pm in the classroom at the Community Center.

> — Jeanne Klein ECIA President

### **ECIA OFFICE**

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s.macg@earthlink.net

Director Johnny Martinez

466-0696

Director

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Director

**Ed Benrock** 

466-2088 Director

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466-2982

pgbalcombe@cybermesa.com

### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

### Finance: Gisela Knight Architecture: Bill Schwent

Conservation: Steve Wust Stable: Dina Sassone

**Election: Vacant** Road: Ed Benrock

Information: Ken McPherson Neighborhood Watch:

Sandra Vreeland

# VISTAS NEWSLETTER

Ken McPherson

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### COMMUNITY RESOURCES Vista Grande Library

466-READ Security

204-2945

Fire and Rescue 466-1204

**Animal Control** 986-2430

For August's Artists' Shoptalk, we will be meeting Wednesday, August 10, 10 am to noon, at the home of George Henke, photographer. Join the art bunch for socializing and networking and to see fellow artists' work and studios. We're looking for new faces. Call 466-4988 if you need directions to George's house.

## 2006 ECIA Budget Discussions

The ECIA Finance Committee and the General Manager will start discussion of the ECIA budget for 2006 this month. ECIA members who wish to submit proposals for inclusion in the budget are encouraged to obtain a packet containing guidelines and forms from the ECIA office. Proposals should be submitted to the ECIA office by Friday, September 2. Budget hearing dates will be published in the September issue of the *Vistas*.

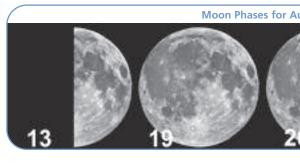
## **Seeing Stars**

Gaze the night away Thursday, on August 11, starting at 8 pm at the Community Center. The Conservation Committee offers this event to observe and learn about the night sky. We are pleased to have Juan Alvarez, Director of the Community College Planetarium, come with telescopes to show us the wonders of the summer stars.

As we gather and set up telescopes we will look at the visible planets through binoculars until the sky gets really dark. One spectacle will be Mars, as it will be the closest to Earth in recorded history and will look huge.

Eldorado has a proud history of being sensitive to the preservation and beauty of our night sky. We invite all Eldorado families to join us for this special occasion. Take an hour or two in your busy lives to look up and truly appreciate where you live and to learn from Mr. Alvarez and some residents. Mark that date now and bring the whole family (except the dog).

If you have a telescope you can share with us on August 11, please call **Cary Carlson** at 466-6073.



### Ice Cream Social Redux

This year's Ice Cream Social & Silent Auction—including a fabulous raffle—will take place on Sunday, August 28, from 1 to 5 pm at the Community Center, with all proceeds going to support the Vista Grande Public Library (VGPL). Tickets will soon be on sale at the library and other venues around Eldorado. Tickets for the Ice Cream Social are \$6 (free for children four and under), and raffle tickets are \$5

each or six tickets for \$25. The ice cream part of the afternoon features three flavors and toppings. The raffle tick-

ets give you a chance at winning exquisite Native American jewelry (necklace/bracelet/earrings), tickets for two on Frontier Airlines, and dinner for two and a night's stay at the Galisteo Inn. The silent auction will present hundreds of items, including gift certificates, furniture, jewelry and objets d'art, which await your bid (and credit card).

Remember, you get to enjoy an afternoon eating great ice cream and bidding on your favorite auction item; the library gets to benefit from the funds raised. Support your library; support your community.

## **Art Therapy**

Marian Miller of Santa Fe will present a program discussing art therapy at the regular monthly meeting of the Eldorado Arts and Crafts Association on Thursday evening, August 25. The meetings begin with a social time at 7 pm, and the program begins at 7:30 pm. Come

learn about this discipline of psychology that approaches treatment through art.

For more information or to join the EACA, contact Janet Amtmann at 466-3256.

### **Get Ready for the Fall Flea Market**

Time to start setting things aside from your garage and closets for the fall Community Flea Market on Saturday, September 17 at the Community Center. Vendors need to be there for setup from 7 to 8 am. Sales run from 8 am to





# Astronomy Corner

## Mars is Back!

In all the solar system. Mars is the one planet most like Earth. When it first formed, Mars may have had an atmosphere much thicker and denser more like Earth. Two-thirds of Mars are covered with a reddish, rust-brown dust, sand and rocks. Winds blowing at 125 mph cover Mars with dust, giving Mars its name of the red planet.

Theoretically, one way to make Mars a

good place for human exploration is terraforming, which would attempt to make the Martian environment more like Earth's (for information about terraforming, visit http://science. howstuffworks.com/terraforming.htm). From our backyards, Mars is just a bright pinpoint of light. This month a modest telescope will reveal the red planet as large as the full moon to the naked eye. The planets in August: Mercury, Venus and Saturn will form a triangle beginning in July; look at the sky at dusk in the direction west-northwest. Jupiter is visible from sunset to midnight high in the sky, and you can find Mars after midnight rising in the east.

> —Juan Alvarez Jalva88610@aol.com

noon. Once again the number of vendor spaces will be limited. There are no reserved spaces; it is first come, first served. Vendor costs are \$10 for Eldorado residents, \$15 for vendors from other communities, and \$20 for commercial vendors. Volunteers are always welcome to help with early morning parking and the coffee and donut table. To volunteer or for questions, call Joe Auburg at 466-1484.

# August Events

# Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

Email info@eldoradocommunity.org with your meeting/event information, or bring it to the ECIA office by the 8th of the month for publication in the following month's Vistas. Please include "Attn: Vistas" and be sure to indicate:

1. Type of Event 2. Location

3. Date & Time

4. A Resource Person (one who can answer questions both about the event and the sponsoring organization) and his/her telephone number.

Photographs (digital or snapshots) are encouraged!

Note: All meetings are at the Community Center, unless otherwise noted.

LR=Living Room, F=Foyer, CFR=Conference Room, CR=Class Room, RR=Railroad, K=Kitchen

### **AUGUST SPECIAL EVENTS**

Ice Cream Social & Silent Auction, Sun., Aug. 28, 1-5 pm, at the Community Center Stargazing at Community Center, Thurs., Aug. 11, 8-10 pm

COL	ИВЛІТ	TEE	MEET	INGS

COMMITTEE MEETINGS							
Road Committee	Mon., Aug. 1, 6-7 pm	Ed Benrock	466-2088	CFR			
Conservation Committee	Tues., Aug. 2, 7-9 pm	Stephen Wust		LR			
285 Coalition	Wed., Aug. 3, 7-9 pm	Kathy Pilnock	466-1598	CFR			
Architectural Committee	Tues., Aug. 9, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR			
Finance Committee	Wed., Aug. 10, 9:30-11 am	Gisela Knight	466-2568	CFR			
EAW&SD*	Wed., Aug. 10, 7-9 pm			CFR			
Board Work Study	Mon., Aug. 15, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR			
Neighborhood Watch	Mon., Aug. 15, 7-9 pm	Sandra Vreeland	466-6079	LR			
ECIA Board	Thurs., Aug. 18, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR			
Information Committee	Mon., Aug. 22, 7-8 pm	Ken McPherson	466-4161	F			
Architectural Committee	Tues., Aug. 23, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR			
Stable Committee	Tues., Aug. 23, 7-9 pm	Dina Sassone	466-2516	LR			
MONTHLY MEETING	S						
Book Club	Sat., Aug. 13, 1:30-3 pm	Barbara Rugg	466-2559				
Book Club/Pot Luck	call for date and time	Ken Fischer	466-2537				
Library Book Group	4th Thurs., 7-9 pm	Shelley Moore	466-9636	Lib			
Search & Rescue	Thurs., Aug. 11, 7-9 pm	Dave Burdett	466-9765	CR			
Troop 414 Committee	1st Wed., 7:30-9 pm	Bruce Blossman	955-0880	CR			
Venturing Crew 414	2nd & 4th Wed., 7-9 pm	Vera Hayduk	466-1726	C			
Cub Scout Pack 414	4th Tues., 7-9 pm	Ty Ransdell	466-2579	Sm Gym			
La Canada Wireless	Mon., Aug. 8, 7-9			LR			
MOMS Club	Call for date and time	Shannon Ratcliff	986-9050				
WEEKLY MEETINGS							
AA	Tuesdays, 5:45-6:45 pm			LR			
AA	Wed., 10:30-11:30 am			LR			
AA	Fridays, 6-7 pm			CFR			
AA	Sat., 10:45-11:45 am			LR			
AA	Sun., 5:15-6:15 pm			LR			
Boy Scout Troop 414	Wednesdays, 7-9 pm	Paul Tuck	466-4815	RR			
Men's Bridge	Thursdays, 1-4 pm			LR			
Bridge	1st & 3rd Mon., 1-4 pm			LR			
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fri., 1-4:30 pm			CR, LR			
Bridge	2nd & 4th Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Pat Lavengood	466-9765	CR, LR			
Bridge	Wednesdays, 9-noon	Nancy Rost	466-2832	LR			
Community Band	Thursdays, 6-8 pm	Joel Hopko	466-8412				
Fire & Rescue Training	Wednesdays, 7-9 pm	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station			
Fire & Rescue Work Duty	Saturdays, Call for time	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station			
	Jataraays, Can for time						
Senior Lunch**	Wednesdays, 12-1 pm	Therese Janowski	466-1397	CR			
Senior Lunch** Knitting Club		Therese Janowski Joyce Hanmer	466-1397 466-3018	CR F			
	Wednesdays, 12-1 pm	Therese Janowski					

# PERSONALITIES

# Eldorado Teenager On Her Way



Jessie Zepeda enjoying a rare moment of relaxation.

ANY OF US HAVE HAD the experience of reading a bragging holiday letter from relatives extolling the accomplishments of their children while wondering, "Can all of this be true?" With 17-year-old Jessie Zepeda, such a letter would not only be true—it would have to be several pages in length.

In her short lifetime, Jessie has done a number of things that most adults do not accomplish until they are well out of college and are "thirty-something" in age. Born in Payson, Arizona, a no-stoplight town south of Flagstaff, she has lived in the wilds of Montana and the Pacific Northwest, before coming to live in Eldorado when she entered high school.

Jessie's "short" resumé lists work as a reporter for the youth pages of the Santa Fe New Mexican, secretarial work for the California Social Studies Association and a job as the News Editor for the Capital High School newspaper.

It would be hard to put Jessie into one of the categories that high school students once used to sort out fellow students, such as "geek," "jock" or other pejoratives. She starred in soccer and volleyball, excelled in math and science and had such great success in English that she was made a member of the New Mexico Journalism Association.

It is often reported that Harvard College, undergraduate section of Harvard University, turns down the vast majority of those who apply for admission. What is less well reported is that some 20% of those to whom Harvard says yes actually turn down the college. Because she could not obtain financial assistance to help pay for its huge tuition, Jessie Zepeda is one of that small group. Instead, she chose and has been admitted to the University of Arizona where she will major in Pharmacy. "Arizona is number four in terms of its excellence in the field of pharmacy," says Jessie. "None of the Ivy League institutions rate at all in that area of study, and it's the one I am interested in."

Parents who pay or help pay for their children's board and tuition these days are well aware of the high and regularly increasing costs of those elements of a college education. Jessie has been helped again by her achievement. With a combination of a high grade point average and a long list of successes in math, science and the humanities, she was recently awarded the \$10,000 Los Alamos National Lab Employee Gold Scholarship and the very prestigious \$2,000 Robert Oppenheimer Scholarship.

At present, biding her time before she enters college in the fall, Jessie is working as a medical service intern in the Eldorado Medical Center on Caliente Road. There she performs the basic tasks that we are all familiar with, taking patient blood pressure, checking and recording their temperatures and weighing them in. She has also gained some important life experience, she says, in dealing with insurance companies—a field that for some medical practitioners in our country today has become a vital specialty, not of medicine but of economic survival.

Asked what she likes most about her summer job as a medical service intern, Jessie said, "It's the atmosphere. It is an exciting job. My boss, Joanne (Joanne Kargul CNP, head of the Eldorado Medical Center) is a lot like Dr. House (on the TV series of that name); she is as clever, but a lot nicer."

This year, a number of high school graduates will join Jessie, leaving their homes in Eldorado and finding real freedom away from their respective nests here. We wish all of them great success.

-Frank Schober

# Turkey Vultures Keep Our Landscape Clean

WAS DOING THE BACKSTROKE in the Eldorado pool when a large form sailed over me against a bright blue sky. I wasn't surprised to see a Turkey Vulture (TV) here this time of year. However I wished I'd had time to stop my car a few days earlier when I glimpsed a TV standing awkwardly on the ground. These large birds (26 inches long, wingspan 5 to 6 FEET!) can be seen soaring effortlessly throughout the summer. They are easily recognizable as the largest bird in our sky, with front edges of wing and body black, back edges of wings and tail appearing gray, and a featherless red head. They have weak bills and feet (unlike hawks and other hunting birds). Males and females are similar. They may look clumsy when flapping their wings, but soar gracefully, trying to locate food by sight. TVs seem to have a highly developed sense of smell, but it is probable that odors are dispersed in the air and the sense of smell is not useful for finding food (this point is still being debated; nobody really knows how to tell).

Paul Erlich writes, "Vultures...fly with their primary feathers extended, creating slots between them. Each primary serves as an individual high-aspect wing, reducing wingtip turbulence and lowering the stalling speed of the wing so that the birds can remain aloft at a slower speed." We see vultures taking advantage of thermals which help them circle upward, followed by long glides.

The naked (featherless) head is easier to clean after TVs scavenge from fresh kill and carrion. Although they are best known for feeding on dead animal carcasses. some texts say TVs also prey on small helpless young birds (also up for debate).

If a vulture is cornered or threatened, it has the ability to regurgitate the contents of its stomach, a repulsive habit that is very effective in frightening away an attacker. It is not known whether this is simply an act to scare an enemy or a way to lighten the bird's load so that it can fly away faster.

TVs seem to be highly resistant to microbes and toxins found in rotting meat. In times of food shortage, they have been seen eating vegetables. TVs can gorge on large carcasses, which is helpful as they cannot depend on readily available food. They do not have a call but make clicks and hisses when feeding.

> The long-term monogamous pair usually lays 2 eggs in a crude nest, either on a cliff, dead tree

> > hole or snag, and sometimes on the ground where they scrape stones and dry sticks together. Both parents sit on the nest and eggs hatch at about 40 days. The parents regurgitate food for the which young, fledge between 66 and 88 days (dependant on growth rates and food supply). Chicks stay with parents for several months.

Other facts: DNA analysis indicates that TVs closest relatives are storks. Bald heads may also help with

> temperature regulation. These birds migrate to Central South and America. One bird lived to be 33 in the San Francisco zoo. A group of vulis called a "Venue." Vultures circling

in the air are a "Kettle." There is even a Turkey Vulture Society (see their website at http://vulturesociety.homestead.com/).

-Pam Henline

Don't miss this year's Ice Cream Social and Silent Auction, which takes place in August of this year. Read about it on page 4.



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# Inquisitive Child (excerpt from The Interview)

Do doodle-bugs sleep all curled up in a ball? Or for that matter, Do they sleep at all?

And what about fish? They never seem to sleep, Close their fishy eyes, and sink down to the deep.

Bears sleep all winter, And here's what puzzles me, How in the world do they not get up to pee?

You might see a horse asleep, standing on all fours. Can you really know though? Maybe if he snores.

—Lynn McPherson