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HEADLINE: ARE YOU LOOKING FOR CHILD CARE?

BYLINE: By DENNIS ROBERTS, Bee Staff Writer

BODY:

Manteca entrepreneur Larry Madoski, owner of Century 21 Realty and Ability Mortgage has acquired a new venture called Carematch. Modeled after the "1-800-DENTIST" program, Carematch links up parents with qualified child care facilities in their area when they call 1-800-238-3170. Carematch currently serves Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties, with plans to expand into Sacramento County. Madoski also hopes to add a referral service for senior care services, according to Director of Marketing Todd Dorff.

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A couple of months ago my girl friend's sliding patio door needed a new screen, so I volunteered to "save her some money" by replacing it myself. After all, I am a Man, and Men have a special chromosome that makes them think they can fix things.

(This is the same chromosome that allows us to believe we can change car oil in the driveway without spilling any. And to pick up hernia-inducing objects while saying, "It's not -- grunt -- really heavy. It's just -- gaaack -- BULKY.")

I carefully laid the door frame on the kitchen floor on top of the cat. After apologizing to the cat, I began putting in the new screen nice and tight. Then I cut away the excess screen, being sure to slice my fingers in several places.

Once done, I proudly stood the door upright, making certain to break out the kitchen light on the ceiling.

Voila! The door frame was bent in the middle like an hourglass, a testimony to my ability to stretch a screen REALLY tight.

In the end, I did save my girl friend money by paying a professional to rescreen the door.

If you're faced with a similar situation, and don't have the time or a large enough vehicle to haul the broken screen to someone who knows what they're doing, one alternative is The Screenmobile. For about \$35, owner Roger Ramey will come to the house, replace the screen and "tune up" the door -- oil the rollers and fix the latch.

Ramey has owned his Screenmobile franchise for a year. He said business has been mostly good, and this month it's taking off "like a rocket." He owns exclusive franchise rights for Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties. And although Screenmobile is a new idea to me, Ramey said the company's been franchising for about 11 years.

He also fixes window and regular door screens and can replace frames as well. The number, if you can overcome your fix-it chromosome, is 825-6955.

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Doug Wesson of Wesson Hearing Aid Center, 129 E. Center St., recently attended a training and certification seminar in New Jersey for the new Oticon MultiFocus "Real Ear" Instrument. Only 11 hearing instrument specialists in the nation were invited to the seminar.

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The Manteca Chamber of Commerce is looking for local restaurants to provide one or two trays of food apiece for an evening mixer Thursday, April 23 at 5:30 p.m. at Country Nissan, 1515 N. Main St. The chamber is billing this as a "sampler" event for members and prospective members. It will include wine and beer as well as non-alcoholic beverages. For information call 823-6121.

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The Manteca Board of Realtors will present its second annual fashion show at 11:30 a.m. May 7 at the MRPS Hall, 133 N. Grant St. Twenty-five male and female models -- all local real estate people -- will show off this year's spring fashions. Tickets are \$15 each. Proceeds will go to local charities to be named later. For information, call Kathy King at Ability Mortgage, 825-0222, or Tom Wilson at Wilson Realty, 825-4700.

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