

## A petal-pushing farm tour south of Santa Barbara

**F**LOWER fanciers can get behind-the-scenes glimpses of some of America's biggest nurseries on a new tour package that focuses on the Carpinteria Valley, just south of Santa Barbara. There are opportunities for bird-watching too.

The package is offered the first weekend of each month through May. The first one is this Friday through Sunday.

Among stops on the all-day Carpinteria Naturally tour are the 48-acre Gallup & Stribling Orchids; Hollandia Produce, which uses hydroponic (soilless) growing methods; and Island View Nursery, featuring exotic ferns and palms, where guests stop for a picnic lunch. Also on the route are Carpinteria's 230-acre salt marsh, where herons and other birds can be seen, and a local historical museum.

Participants stay at the Comfort Suites Carpinteria or the Best Western Carpinteria Inn. They arrive Friday and tour from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, a spokeswoman said. Sunday is free.

The package, including two nights' hotel and taxes, is \$349 per couple, and \$50 per child (12 and older) in the same room as parents. Reservations are required. Contact Carpinteria Valley Chamber of Commerce, (800) 563-6900, Ext. 12, [www.carpchamber.org/naturally](http://www.carpchamber.org/naturally).



CHUCK GRAHAM

**FLOWERS:** *The Carpinteria Naturally tour visits Gallup & Stribling, said to be the nation's largest orchid grower.*

## Geo quiz

Place these cities on the Danube River in order from west to east: Budapest, Vienna, Belgrade.

(Answer on back page, last column.)

Source: National Geography Bee

## Northwest sets new rules for overweight bags

**P**LAN on traveling lighter on Northwest Airlines starting Dec. 15. That's when the airline will lower the weight limit for free checked bags. At the same time, it will