



GRIZZLIES CRUISE

MCCHS sweeps through marathon SAL week
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BUBBLE BURSTS

JV girls fall in overtime, but rebound with win
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CRAB COLLECTIBLES

Mankins' signed NFL gear up for grabs
See Page A-8

Bears' cheerleaders are national champs



THE MARIPOSA YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE BEARS NOVICE CHEERLEADERS ARE NATIONAL CHAMPIONS. THE SQUAD COMPETED AT THE JAMZ NATIONAL COMPETITION IN LAS VEGAS ON JAN. 30 AND CAME HOME ON TOP. PICTURED ABOVE WITH THE JAMZ STAFF ARE SAYLOR CRAMER, TAYLOR FOGH, NOVA GANN, DAHLIA HUDSON, SARAH HULL, TAYLIN JOHNSON, CALLIE NANCE, BAILEY O'BRIEN AND MARY WOODS. THE TEAM IS COACHED BY KIMBERLY BARNETT, LISA WOODS AND SHANNON O'BRIEN.

Candidates: See how they run

BY DAN TUCKER
GAZETTE PUBLISHER

Although the final filing date of March 12 is more than a month away, the candidate list for public office in Mariposa County is growing.

There are a number of incumbents that are running unopposed, but there are also a pair of high profile races.

For the position of Mariposa County Sheriff, two members of the sheriff's office and a retiring commander in the LA County Sheriff's Office have taken out "signature in lieu" forms, and have filed their Candidate Intention Statement with the Fair Political Practice Commission (FPPC).

Undersheriff Doug Binnewies, and Sergeant Mark Jones are the apparent front runners in the race for sheriff. Bobby Lindsey, who established residency in Mariposa County last November from Los Angeles has filed his intent statement, but hasn't made a public announcement other than on his Web site.

There are four candidates for the District 3 Board of Supervisors' position held by popular incumbent Janet Mankins-Bibby.

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NPS names Neubacher as Park's new superintendent

In a decision that has many in Yosemite shocked, the National Park Service has named Don Neubacher as the new superintendent of Yosemite National Park. Neubacher takes over from David Uberuaga who has been acting superintendent since Mike Tollefson retired last year.

"Don is a seasoned manager who has proven himself time and time again to be an exceptional leader," said National Park Service (NPS) Director Jon Jarvis.

"He brings a thoughtful approach to the vast range of issues faced by a modern park manager in protecting park resources, providing quality experiences to our visitors, and motivating a highly professional staff," Jarvis said. "Yosemite is a high priority position, and I appreciate Don taking on this new challenge."

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DAVE UBERUAGA

MCUSD holds special meeting

BY JILL BALLINGER
GAZETTE EDITOR

The Mariposa County Unified School District Board of Trustees will hold a special meeting on Thursday night at 5:30 p.m. On the agenda are the consideration of a sports floor in the Lake Don Pedro multi-purpose room, a number of classified employee layoffs and the discussion about the recruitment process for a new superintendent.

The board will consider a change order for the LDPE

multi-purpose room that will allow the district to install a sports floor. The board discussed the matter at its Jan. 14 meeting, and the general consensus was that it would be more cost effective to install the right kind of flooring while the building is under construction, rather than try to replace the floor it had planned at a later time.

The sports floor will cost the district an extra \$22,750 more than the previous estimate, bringing the new total for con-

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Candidate sues Mariposa County

BY JILL BALLINGER
GAZETTE EDITOR



THERESA CASTALDI

Embattled Coyote Springs Ranch owner and District 3 Supervisor candidate Theresa Castaldi has filed a law suit against the County she hopes to work for. The suit, filed Jan. 28 in Mariposa County Superior Court seeks "declaratory relief" and names each of the board members and Planning Director Kris Schenk as defendants, along with the County.

Among other things, the suit says Schenk "was intentionally discriminatory toward Castaldi and her property" and violated her civil rights. It says Schenk has "repeatedly stated" that he would block all attempts at permits unless Castaldi went through an expensive environmental review.

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Man sets himself on fire after argument

A Greeley Hill man suffered serious burns over most of his body after an argument with a family member. The man, Jimmye Johnston, has died as a result of his injuries.

According to the Mariposa County Sheriff's report, Johnston argued with a family member over a beer. The family member had reportedly accused him of stealing a beer from her. She said she yelled at him and told him she did not want him in her house anymore and called him a "thief" and a "liar."

Johnston went to his room, and the woman thought he had gone to sleep. Johnston's brother told the deputies at

the scene that his son ran out the back of the house on the night of Jan. 31 at about 11:15 p.m. He said Johnston was standing in the back yard holding a red gas can and was "completely on fire."

The man ran and pushed Johnston to the ground, and the son brought a five-gallon bucket of water to douse him with.

When deputies arrived, they found Johnston conscious and breathing. He had severe burns on his face, neck, chest and arms and was not wearing a shirt. The report says "most of his skin was peeling off of his body."

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Surveys show snow above 100 percent

The National Park Service daily report in Yosemite indicates that the Feb. 1 snow surveys have been completed and that things are looking up in terms of water availability.

Overall, water content for the Tuolumne drainage is at 117 percent of average. The Merced drainage is 107 percent of average. More heavy snow is expected beginning on Friday. The National Weather Service has issued a winter storm warning for the area through the weekend.

The first storm is expected to reach the area on Thursday night. While there may be little to no break between systems, a second, stronger system is expected to arrive on Saturday. The snow level is expect to fall to 4,500 to 5,000 feet by Saturday night. Total accumulation from Friday through Sunday is expected to range from one to two feet of new snow.

Heavy rain is possible at lower elevations, as well. The NWS expects two to four inches of rain at elevations below 5,000 feet. Gusty winds are also possible with these systems, but the winds are not expected to reach the damaging levels they did in several January storms.

