

LOCAL NEWS

Red Cross restructures

During these difficult economic times the Red Cross throughout the Central Valley must be very efficient with the dollars that are being donated. After many meetings with board leadership volunteers across the Central Valley during the last few months it became clear that jurisdictional boundaries needed to be eliminated, staffing efficiencies need to be streamlined and volunteer training opportunities need to be expanded with the ultimate goal of delivering Red Cross Mission services to all families in the community.

Officials have announced the consolidation of Mariposa, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Tulare and Kings Counties into one chapter. Its new name is American Red Cross Central Valley.

The consolidation will help make a stronger Red Cross presence throughout the entire Central Valley. The only change the community should see is increased efficiencies in American Red Cross services being delivered. There will still be three Red Cross offices with in the new chapter area - Merced, Fresno and Visalia,

and the staff has been re-assigned job responsibilities.

The disaster volunteers in each of the prospective areas will still deliver response services to families in their local community. But when there is a larger scale disaster in one of the counties the Red Cross will now have the ability to use all of its material and volunteer resources to help with the sheltering and mass care response needs. It will now be able to consolidate its training resources in disaster response and offer classes that are in demand by volunteers.

The health and safety volunteers and instructors will continue to teach classes within their current communities. By leveraging resources in health and safety it will be able to expand water safety and life guard training. There will be more time for H&S staff to market programs to business and the community.

Officials will now be fund raising for "One Red Cross" throughout the Central Valley and it will be able to deliver a global reach and have a local focus.



MARIPOSA FFA OFFICERS ARE PICTURED, FROM LEFT, SECRETARY COURTNEY DAYHOFF, PRESIDENT RICHARD BALLINGER, TREASURER MEYER JAY, SENTINEL CODY PETERSON, VICE PRESIDENT CATHERINE CHASE AND REPORTER BROOKE EARLING.

FFA officers test Rotary

CONTRIBUTED BY JEFF HAMILTON

Mariposa High School ASB and FFA President Richard Ballinger, and five of his FFA officers: Vice President Catherine Chase, Secretary Courtney Dayhoff, Treasurer Meyer Jay, Reporter Brooke Earling and Sentinel Cody Peterson, along with their ag teachers and advisors Wayne Forsythe, Buz Arnold and student teacher Patrick Smith, put the Mariposa Rotarians to a test during their breakfast meeting last Thursday at the Senior Center.

During a power-point presentation by the ag students, the Rotarians were entertained by a little game known as "Are you smarter than an FFA member?" The Rotarians attempted to defend their honor by taking a 112-point test given by the students.

Continuing with a more serious aspect of the power-point presentation, Jay shared aspects of their October trip to the FFA National Convention in Indiana where some of our students serving on the National Resource Team placed tenth in the nation during competition. Also, Peterson continued, in January our FFA students attended a field trip to Yosemite in order to learn about the vast number of summer employment opportunities in the Park. Dayhoff noted that on Feb. 9,

Forsythe will be taking FFA students to the Tulare Farm Exposition.

Chase thanked the Rotarians for their continuing support each year at the county fair livestock fund raising program and invited Rotary members to attend the upcoming dinner/dance on April 24 at the fairgrounds, noting that the raffle grand prize to be awarded that evening will be a riding lawn tractor donated by Rotary's own Troy Foster of Foster's True Value Hardware.

During the closing question/answer part of the pro-

gram, Rotarian Kevin Cann commended both FFA teachers for the outstanding job that they do with their students. He noted that the night before he had had the pleasure of attending the Merced/Mariposa FFA Sectional Project Competition banquet and that each of the high school's six participants, Mikaela Williams, Jocelyn Barrington, Tim Andre, James Palmer, Carly Bryson, and Amber Kaus received Gold Awards, with Mikaela Williams receiving the award for being the "Most Outstanding Freshman."

JCF plans for 'Four Seasons' dinner

On March 20 is the annual "Four Seasons," Ewing Memorial Garden benefit dinner on. The dinner will once again, be held in the Sequoia Building at the Mariposa Fairgrounds.

"The table décor contest is very popular. Tables are judged by the people who attend the event. There is such variety and creativity in the tables. They range from whimsical to elegant, and everything else in between," said Avis Moulton, activity assistant of the Ewing Wing, and

the event coordinator. This fund raising event offers a tri-tip or vegetarian dinner. There are raffle prizes, a silent auction, the table judging. The funds raised are used exclusively to enhance the Ewing Wing and the Memorial Garden at the hospital.

Tickets for the dinner are \$12 each or \$90 for a table of eight, and are available at the admitting office of JCF Hospital. Those who want to enter the decorating contest can contact Moulton at 966-3631, ext. 264.



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