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## COUNTY: Castaldi Sues

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The issue appears to stem from the long-standing difficulty Castaldi has had in getting proper building and use permits for her ranch. She believes the board of supervisors' decision not to allow a restroom facility to be constructed is wrong.

The board denied her appeal of the permit last February. Castaldi believes she is being targeted. The county denied the construction of a stand-alone restroom facility based on the fact that its size and scope did not meet agritourism requirements.

Castaldi's suit further alleges that Schenk's actions in the permit matters was "arbitrary and capricious" and "contrary to law." Her attorney, Gerald C. Weaver of Bass Lake, says Schenk "at all times...has failed and refused and continues to fail and refuse to perform his duty."

The plaintiff says she has "exhausted all available administrative remedies" in the matter, leaving only legal action as a solution. The suit

does not ask for a monetary settlement, outside of Castaldi's legal fees if the court were to find that the County violated her civil rights. Instead, it asks the court to mandate that the County reverse its decision and grant Castaldi's appeal of the permit.

Castaldi maintains that the application for the permit was in place before the County enacted a new ordinance in March, 2008. The suit states the ordinance is "unconstitutional and invalid" as applied to Coyote Springs Ranch.

Mariposa County Counsel Steve Dahlem said the County has been formally served with the suit. "We will file a legally appropriate and timely response," Dahlem said on Tuesday. He did not, however, offer any further comment as the suit is "pending before the court."

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A COMMENT ON THIS STORY, OR READ OTHER COMMENTS, VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT WWW.MARIPOSA.GAZETTE.COM

## MCUSD: Holds Special Meeting

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struction to \$4.25 million. The district did not install a sports floor when it built the multipurpose room at Mariposa Middle School and has been plagued by acoustic problems in the building.

The classified employee layoffs appear to be merely a formality that will allow the district to use American Reinvestment and Recovery Act funds to stabilize the budget. All

the positions are classroom aides and will be reinstated using ARRA money.

Finally, the board will consider the recruitment process for a new superintendent. Current Superintendent Randy Panietz has announced that he will retire effective June 30. There is no action expected on the item, as it is strictly for discussion.

The board meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. at the district office.



GAZETTE PHOTO BY JILL BALLINGER

VOLUNTEERS ARE PREPARING FOR THE 61ST ANNUAL ENCHILADA DINNER IN HORNIOTOS. THE MEAL HELPS GENERATE FUNDS FOR THE HORNIOTOS PATRONS CLUB TO USE FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE.

## Patrons plan for 61st enchilada feed

The Hornitos Patrons Club, a non-profit, is gearing up to once again provide great food and entertainment to raise funds to support their charitable efforts. This, the 61st Annual Hornitos Enchilada dinner, will once again offer the Gateway A's antique cars, equestrians Rancho Valencia, musicians, and local craftsmen. Dinner tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. The festivities will begin at 3:30 p.m., and dinner will be served at 4 p.m.

The group has begun work planning and invites anyone interested in helping to come to the Golden Stag Hall on March 5 when the main preparation takes place. This event draws people from a far-flung area with visitors from points south, the Bay Area, Sacramento and Sonora. For more information call 376-2320.

The Hornitos Patrons Club is a non-profit club which raises funds to benefit the local communities. The monies raised go to a variety of community activities, as well as new equipment for the county-owned hall in town. All bills are presented and voted on for approval, minutes are kept, and meetings are regularly scheduled. Current officers are Shaun Quinn, president;

Keri Ortiz, Vice-President; Delores Cabezut-Ortiz, secretary; Mary Ann Visher, treasurer. The main fund raising involves the Hornitos Flea Market the first Sunday in October and the Enchilada Dinner the first Saturday in March, as well as sales of tee shirts, hats, and visors.

The following is a list of how the monies raised have been expended: supply backpacks and school supplies for area children (18-24 students per year), a new stove for the County-owned Golden Stag Hall's kitchen, air coolers for the hall, termite spraying of the hall, field trips paid for Cathey's Valley Elementary School, donations to Mariposa's Manna House, Sober Graduation, scholarships, Red Cross for Hurricane Katrina Victims, money to flood victims in Hornitos and toward purchase of emergency kit for town of Hornitos, weed abatement in town of Hornitos, donations towards foster care children when they turn 18, preservation of Hornitos town history with maps, plaques, donations toward student trips for Mariposa County High School FFA members, and the rock-work barbecue in Hornitos Park.

## BURNED: Man Succumbs to Injuries

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The pants Johnston was wearing were also badly burned.

The deputy asked Johnston if someone else had done this to him. He said "no." When asked why he lit himself on fire, Johnston replied, "I'm tired of being in the way." He

also said several times, "I want it all to be over."

Johnston was transported to Fresno for treatment of his burns, but according to Mariposa County Sheriff Brian Muller, he died Tuesday morning.

## ELECTION: Field Gets Crowded

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Local engineer, Floyd Davis, along with real estate broker and rental property manager, Tolley Gorham, have both filed for the District 3 post but haven't made a public announcement. Embattled Coyote Springs Ranch developer, Theresa Castaldi, has also joined the fray. In a bizarre twist, last Monday Castaldi filed a law suit against the members of the board of supervisors, Mariposa County, and Planning Director Kris Schenk over issues with the development of her ranch facility.

In the only other contested County posi-

tion, former supervisor Lee Stetson is running against District 1 incumbent Brad Aborn. Stetson was unseated by Aborn in a very close race just four years ago.

Incumbents running unopposed are District Attorney Bob Brown, County Auditor Chris Ebie, County Assessor/Recorder Becky Crafts, and Treasurer/Tax Collector/County Clerk Keith Williams.

The primary election will be held on Tuesday, June 8. The GAZETTE will hold a Candidates' Forum in early May. The date has yet to be established.

### AccuWeather 6-day Forecast for Mariposa

THU. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Rain	Rain	Rain	Cool with clouds and sun	Partly sunny	Mostly sunny
42°	53° 41°	52° 37°	52° 35°	54° 33°	55° 34°

### California Cities AccuWeather.com

City	Friday			Saturday			Sunday		
	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	
Alturas	43/30/c	44/21/sn	43/20/c						
Bakersfield	64/46/r	61/42/r	56/41/pc						
Barstow	61/42/pc	60/41/r	59/38/pc						
Big Bear	44/27/pc	39/22/r	37/20/s						
Chico	56/43/r	57/40/r	57/40/c						
Crescent City	57/45/r	55/41/r	54/43/c						
El Centro	69/46/s	70/47/c	68/43/s						
Eureka	57/44/r	54/40/r	53/40/c						
Fresno	58/46/r	56/42/r	56/40/pc						
Lemoore	58/46/r	58/40/r	56/38/pc						
Livermore	57/45/r	58/37/r	55/35/c						
Los Angeles	62/50/r	62/48/r	62/48/s						
Madera	57/46/r	56/40/r	56/38/pc						
Merced	57/45/r	55/38/r	56/36/pc						
Modesto	58/45/r	57/41/r	55/38/pc						
Napa	56/46/r	58/42/r	57/39/c						
Needles	69/48/pc	67/47/sh	66/44/pc						
Oxnard	60/50/r	60/46/r	62/44/s						
Palm Springs	66/50/pc	66/47/sh	67/46/pc						
Palo Alto	59/48/r	57/45/r	57/43/c						
Pasadena	60/48/r	61/45/r	61/45/s						

W-weather, s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

### Moon Phases

Last	New	First	Full
Feb 5	Feb 13	Feb 21	Feb 28

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2010

### Yosemite National Park

	<b>FRIDAY:</b> Rain. High: 52°
	<b>SATURDAY:</b> Rain, mixed with snow early. High: 50°
	<b>SUNDAY:</b> Periods of sun. High: 49°

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