



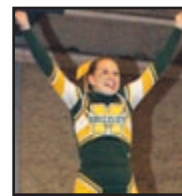
MAKING STRIDES

Lady Grizzlies crank up 2010 campaign
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FESTIVAL NEARS

Noted storytellers will ply their craft
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CHEERLEADERS VIE

MCHS squad takes the national stage
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County dips into contingency to balance mid-year budget

\$50,000 restored to tourism bureau

BY JILL BALLINGER
GAZETTE EDITOR

Mariposa County is in far better financial shape than many other California jurisdictions, but things aren't so great that the County wasn't forced to use some of its reserves to

balance the mid-year budget. The board of supervisors approved the mid-year adjustments at its regular meeting on Tuesday.

County Administrative Officer (CAO) Rick Benson said the mid-year process gives the County the opportunity to take a look at how the budget is performing. The second look is necessary "because cir-

cumstances have changed," Benson explained.

The state's dismal financial situation appears to be the culprit in many of the changes the County must make. Still, local problems are miniscule in comparison to other places. "Numerous counties have to come to the board and tell them they're off track," and must institute layoffs and fur-

loughs, Benson said. "I'm very glad I don't need to do that."

Benson said the budget is performing well in terms of expenditures, as all departments are operating within their means. "We're running right on track," he said.

The adjustments to the budget amount to \$278,857 following the board's approval. Benson had recommended the board dip into its contingency for \$228,857. Board members ultimately approved that and increased revenue projects in

Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT), with the extra \$50,000 going to the Mariposa-Yosemite Tourism Bureau.

Benson said the County now has about \$145,000 left in contingency, an amount he called "precariously low." The CAO said the amount "will get us through the year." State changes in funding, however, could "affect Mariposa drastically," Benson warned the board.

The board entered into
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Snooze bruise



GAZETTE PHOTO BY JILL BALLINGER

A YOUNG GIRL REPORTEDLY SCRAPED HER KNEE TUESDAY AFTERNOON WHEN SHE FELL OUT OF THE SEAT WHEN HER SCHOOL BUS CAME TO A STOP ON HIGHWAY 49 SOUTH NEAR CHOWCHILLA MOUNTAIN ROAD. THE YOUNGSTER HAD FALLEN ASLEEP ON HER TRIP HOME. EMERGENCY RESPONSE PERSONNEL AND CHP WERE SUMMONED TO THE INCIDENT BECAUSE THIS TYPE OF INCIDENT MUST BE REPORTED AS A "SCHOOL BUS ACCIDENT," ACCORDING TO MCUSD DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION BOB MORSE.

New building director welcomes communication

BY JILL BALLINGER
GAZETTE EDITOR

Mariposa County will welcome a new building director on March 15, and he couldn't be more excited about coming to town. "This fits us like a glove," Building Director Mike Kinslow said last week. "We're small town, rural people."

Kinslow will take the reigns at the department following a controversial tenure by the former building director, who resigned in the wake of grumblings by the Mariposa County Contractors' Associa-

tion. Kinslow met with MCCA even before he interviewed with the County, in order to get a feel for what the climate for builders was in Mariposa County.

Now, as Kinslow prepares to begin his new job, he is describing himself at "user friendly" and hopes to restore confidence in the department. "People are afraid to come in and ask questions," Kinslow said. He encourages the opposite. "Come in and talk to me," he said.

Kinslow is a third-genera-

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Patrons honor Bauer and plan for annual enchilada dinner

Dorothy Bauer was recently honored by the members of the Hornitos Patrons' Club with their back room at the Golden Stag Hall being named after her. Everyone can see the honor at this Saturday's 61st annual Hornitos Enchilada Dinner.

Bauer, who is in her 90's is a spry, hard-working member of the Patrons' Club. Anyone who will be at the enchilada dinner on March 6, can peek in

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Local activist found dead in Mariposa Creek

The body of a long-time environmental activist was found in Mariposa Creek on Saturday. Kenneth Gosting, 62, was the victim of an apparent suicide.

Mariposa County Sheriff Brian Muller said the official cause of death was drowning, as revealed by an autopsy on Monday. The coroner's office is awaiting the results of toxicology tests to indicate whether Gosting was under the influence of any medication. There were a number of prescriptions found at his home.

On Feb. 27, the Mariposa County Sheriff's Office was contacted by Barron Brouillette who stated he was supposed to meet his Stroming Road neighbor, Gosting, at 11 a.m. to take him to the bus stop. Barron stated that when he arrived at the residence the front door was ajar, but Gosting was not home.

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KEN GOSTING

MCUSD ponders loss of 15 teachers

BY JILL BALLINGER
GAZETTE EDITOR

When the Mariposa County Unified School District Board of Trustees convenes tonight, it will weigh the prospect of losing nearly 15 full-time teachers in the district. The board must take action to notify teachers that they may not have a job before March 15.

On the agenda is a resolution that would eliminate one high school English teaching position and 13.92 full-time equivalent (FTE) multiple subject teachers. The resolution also seeks to change the principal positions at Mariposa Middle School and Lake Don Pedro Elementary School to "teaching principal" positions, for which the pay is lower and

the administrator would spend part of his or her time in

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Davis to vie for County auditor

William E. (Bill) Davis, a local financial professional with a Masters in Business Administration (MBA), has announced that he is seeking the office of the Mariposa County Auditor.

Davis states that an MBA prepared financial professional is the highest qualification for the office. This education covers not only accounting skills but also finance skills and analytical skills. During his 25-year career,

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