

# LOCAL NEWS

## CASA gets new volunteers



COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES WERE RECENTLY SWORN IN AT THE COURTHOUSE BY THE HONORABLE F. DANA WALTON. THE NEW CASA VOLUNTEERS ARE, FROM LEFT, BRYCE EVANS, ERMA KARNES, PEGGY COCHRAN AND SHERYL CIBULSKIS. PICTURED ON THE RIGHT IS FENTON KARNES WHO WAS SWORN IN AS A MEMBER OF CASA BOARD OF DIRECTORS. NOT PICTURED IS BEVERLY HIBPSHMAN.

## 'Katerpillar Kids' area expands

The Mariposa Butterfly Festival is a three-day event. There is a myriad of activities that take place throughout the weekend that attract thousands to the festival. The highlights are always the butterfly releases over Mariposa Creek.

This year the "Katerpillar Kids" area is expanding. The area is designated especially for preschool through primary grade ages.

The three-day event will take place during regular festival hours, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, April 30, May 1 and 2.

It is a great way for service clubs and individuals to get involved in the festival for a relatively minimal cost. Groups may bring organization re-

lated material to share and perhaps even recruit new members. Commercial vendors will be screened so applicants must submit a photo of their product with their application.

Spaces are free if an activity is provided for the children. Some suggestions are a craft project, a demonstration, story telling, book reading, puppets or games. Festival officials will be glad to help with ideas but encourage everyone to be creative. Groups are encouraged to make their activity butterfly related.

In addition to spaces, the festival will provide a performance area for entertainment. This could include any kind of entertainment geared toward children. There are a limited number of times in half-hour segments available.

For more information or an application go to MariposaButterflyFestival.org or call Trish Nady at the Company Store 966-3232. Applications are available online and at the Company Store and the Mariposa Visitors Center.

## Summer field research program registration opens

### Course offers teens personal and intellectual challenges

Yosemite Institute, a campus of NatureBridge has announced a unique opportunity for 15 to 18-year-old students to take part in a two-week long adventure and learning program in Yosemite National Park. The two-week long inquiry-based field research course lets students earn college credit while learning how to create their own ecological research projects, learn wilderness survival skills, and more.

Participants work in partnership with the National Park Service to answer pertinent questions about the Park's ecology and management. They will spend part of their time working on National Park Service research projects and will then generate and answer their own questions on a 10-day backpacking adventure in the Yosemite wilderness. Students who complete the course are given community college credit from Columbia College, in Sonora.

The course is led by Dr. Adam Burns, Yosemite Institute Field Science Project Manager. He describes the program as, "the perfect antidote to nature deficit disorder, this is student-centered, inquiry-based learning at its most adventurous. These stu-

dents will explore beyond the basic natural history of the area to learn field research skills that can be transferred to high school, college and beyond."

The program runs from July 31 through Aug. 13. Students interested in the program are encouraged to contact Dr. Burns directly at 379,9511 ext.33 or aburns@naturebridge.org.

To learn more and to download the registration form, visit the field research course Web site [www.yosemitefield-research.org](http://www.yosemitefield-research.org)

Yosemite Institute is a campus of NatureBridge, the largest residential education partner of the National Park Service. It is committed to educating the next generation of environmental stewards. For almost four decades its field science education programs in Yosemite National Park have been connecting youth from diverse cultural and economic backgrounds to nature and inspiring them to service. They use core science education to inspire future generations to lifelong environmental stewardship.

Their inquiry-based programs ensure that students return to their home communities with a broadened view of the world and the tools to make positive impacts in their neighborhoods.

## Cogdill applauds governor's signing

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger last week signed Senate Bill 85, legislation authored by Senator Dave Cogdill (R-Modesto) to make property tax distribution more equitable for rural counties.

"I applaud the governor for signing this law to help our rural counties get their fair share of property tax dollars.

This legislation will help counties put more locally-generated tax dollars to work closer to home," said Senator Cogdill. "During these difficult economic times, all counties are faced with the difficult choice of putting important programs on the chopping block. However, funding shifts that were intended to help local government have actually hurt some counties, creating an even larger budget challenge."

To help counties offset local revenue losses from the passage of Proposition 13, the state in 1978 increased general fund support at the local level for education, which helped increase funding for 52 counties. But six counties, Alpine, Lassen, Mariposa, Plumas, Stanislaus, and Trinity actually lose money each year due to this funding shift. Senate Bill 85 limits the amount that the county must transfer to local schools for the next two years and then creates a baseline for future years to save counties hundreds of thousands of dollars annually.

In addition, this bill provides relief to Yolo County, which currently receives the smallest share of local property tax revenue, 9 percent versus the statewide average of 17 percent.

Senator Cogdill represents part or all of the counties of Fresno, Madera, Mariposa, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tuolumne.

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**We will be closed  
February 26  
through March 8.**

**Thank you to all our  
patients as we  
celebrate 30 years  
in Mariposa.**

**We will be in Hawaii  
with our staff to  
thank them for their hard  
work and dedication.**

**Dr. Tim Barnes, DDS  
Dr. Dennis Miller, DDS  
(209) 966-2436**