

# LOCAL NEWS

## Grizzly cheer takes the national stage

The Mariposa County High School Grizzly cheer squad really has something to cheer about these days. After placing in the top four in a regional competition in Stockton, the girls will vie for a championship at the national level at the end of this month.

Until then, it's practice, practice, practice. Advisor Kristie Mitchell said the team practices two hours a day after school and is now

adding weekends as the competition approaches.

And this is not just run of the mill cheering. The girls' routines are full of difficult stunts and tricky dance moves. Mitchell said the competition season is a "different world" from cheering their team on during football season. "At games it's about school spirit and community pride," she said. "That's the easy, fun part."

Now that they are prepar-

ing for competition, things are a little more focused. "Competition is super intense," Mitchell said. She said while there is a lot of respect between teams based on skills, it is still "very stressful."

The cheer squad doesn't have a specific season. In fact, their tenure lasts nearly a full year. They start in May when the squad for the following year is chosen. The girls practice all summer, and begin cheering when football season starts.

Right after football season, the girls transition into competition season, which ends in late March. April is the only calendar month that Mitchell does not have a squad preparing for something.

The cost of the trip to nationals is about \$2,200, which has to be raised by the cheerleaders. Anyone interested in helping support their effort can contact Mitchell at 742-0260, extension 234 or mail a contribution to her at P.O. Box 127, Mariposa, CA 95338.

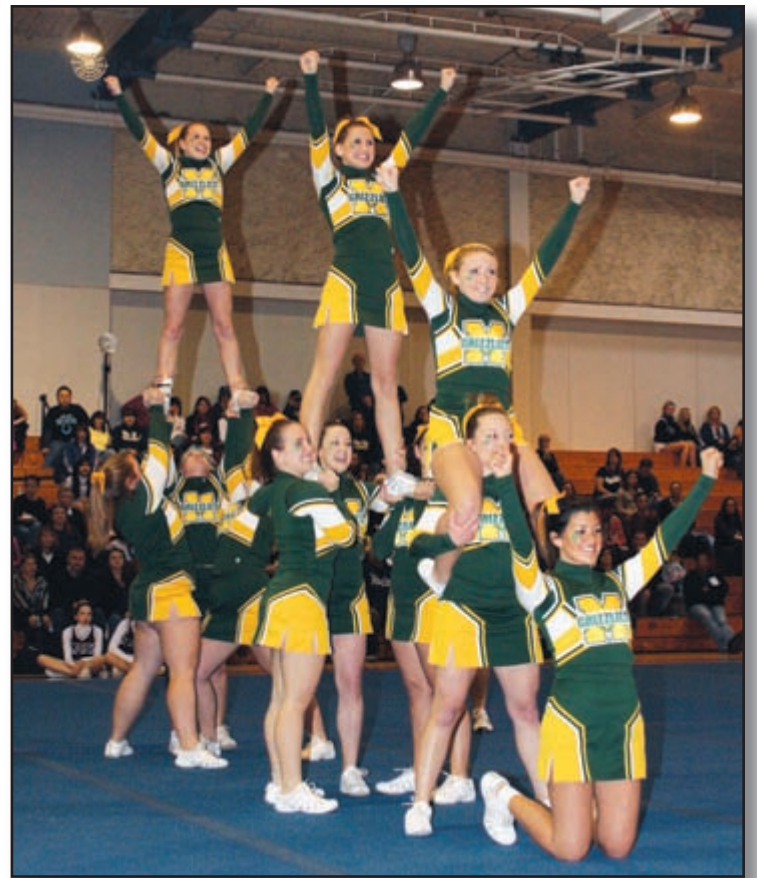


PHOTO COURTESY OF KRISTIE MITCHELL

MARIPOSA COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL'S GRIZZLY CHEERLEADERS PLACED FOURTH AT A REGIONAL COMPETITION IN STOCKTON. THEY WILL NOW COMPETE AT NATIONALS MARCH 26 THROUGH 28.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KRISTIE MITCHELL

THE MARIPOSA COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADERS PARTICIPATING IN NATIONAL COMPETITION AT THE END OF THIS MONTH ARE PICTURED, FRONT ROW, FROM LEFT, SAMANTHA ALLEN, DANIELLE WARDLE, BRITTANY GROGAN, MEGAN HOOPER, SUMMER STREET, SHELBY PETERS AND SAMANTHA DUBUQUE; AND BACK ROW, FROM LEFT, SHELBY KOUTSOUBOS, AMBER LUNDIN-HARTGRAVES AND KATIE WARDLE. NOT PICTURED IS SYDNEY BROWN.

## Saulter appears at Storytelling Festival

Featured storyteller, Sarah Saulter, a Mariposa favorite from 2004, will perform at the Mariposa County Arts Council's 23rd Mariposa Storytelling Festival, March 12 through 14.

Saulter grew up in the woods of the Pacific Northwest where she developed an affinity for tall trees, tall tales, wildlife and the wild and mysterious part of human nature. With her tales of strong women and tricksters, magical beings and wise fools, Saulter has dazzled audiences at the National Storytelling Conference and many festivals and universities in California. She loves telling tales, because a story is never really finished. It is recreated every time it's told. With a voice filled with warmth and respect, she can bring the most fanciful characters to life.



SARAH SAULTER

On Friday, March 12 and Saturday, March 13, festival events take place at Mariposa County High School. Sunday's storytelling performances take place in the National Park Service East Auditorium, in Yosemite National Park.

For tickets and a schedule of events, go to [www.arts-mariposa.org](http://www.arts-mariposa.org) or call 966-3155 or (800) 903-9936.

## CMWC serves breakfast

Company #32 Volunteer Fire Department and the Chowchilla Mountain Women's Club are offering a pancake breakfast on Saturday, March 13 from 8 to 10 a.m.

The breakfast will be held at the Ponderosa Basin VFD at 5618 Creel Road.

The breakfast is free and includes pancakes, eggs, sausage, juice and coffee.

There will be an Italian spaghetti and meatball dinner on May 5, 5 to 7 p.m.

On July 17 is the summer breeze social including old-fashioned homemade ice cream from 6 to 8 p.m. On Oct. 16 will be western barbecue tri-tip dinner from 5 to 7 p.m.

All proceeds support Ponderosa Basin Engine Company #32.

### First 5 changes its location

The First 5 Mariposa County Commission has moved to 5284 Highway 49 North, Suite 2.

The mailing address remains P.O. Box 966, Mariposa, CA 95338

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**For more information contact: Mariposa County Economic Development Office**

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M-F 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.                      P.O. Box 784, Mariposa, CA 95338  
E-mail: [mlidyoff@mariposacounty.org](mailto:mlidyoff@mariposacounty.org)

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