



# School News

## Trustees approve Districts honor schools' helpers changing name

The unified district that will become official July 1 will be the Yosemite Unified School District.

The unified board voted in April to remove the word "Joint" from the name after they received a petition of local voters requesting the change.

District Superintendent Bill McCabe told the board that the official definition of a unified district is one that serves elementary schools and high schools in one or more counties.

The word "joint" in a district's name indicates that the district serves students in more than one county.

"Joint Unified is redundant," McCabe said.

The board voted 4-0 to approve the name change.

Voters approved the unification of Coarsegold Union School District and Yosemite Joint Union High School District last November.

The unification will become official July 1.

Until that time, the current boards of CUSD and YJUHS are meeting each month and the YUSD board is meeting twice a month.

July 1, the CUSD and YJUHS will dissolve and be replaced by the unified district.

Bill McCabe, who is superintendent of the CUSD and YJUHS, will continue as superintendent of the unified district.

Three area residents were honored by the Coarsegold Union School District and the Yosemite Joint Union High School District at the Golden Apple Awards Dinner earlier this month.

CUSD honored Jim and Ethel Rudd for volunteering every day at Rivergold School.

YJUHS honored long-time trustee Bert McSwain for his years of dedication to the district.

Mrs. Rudd has been a volunteer for 13 years and Mr. Rudd for five years.

Rivergold Principal Bob Rose said they are invaluable to the school and they are ready, willing and able to do any task.

Rose said when he returned to Rivergold School after being gone for a time, he saw the couple driving away each day and he wondered if they were employees he had somehow missed.

Mr. Rudd often helps students who are having difficulty with math and Mrs. Rudd checks papers and helps with history.

Although the Rudds have worked with nearly all grades, for the past four years they have worked in the fifth grade class shared by Kay Emmert and Terry Rich.

Mrs. Rudd says they enjoy seeing the children come to understand a lesson.

"Seeing those lights go on is a joy," she says, adding that when this moment comes, students will jump up and down and hug them.

McSwain was first elected to the Yosemite Joint Union High School board in 1988; he will retire when the YJUHS unifies with CUSD July 1.

As a member of the board, McSwain was instrumental in the many changes that have taken place within the Yosemite District over the



Rivergold Principal Bob Rose, left, is shown with Golden Apple recipients Ethel and Jim Rudd and with Rivergold teacher Kay Emmert at the awards dinner.

past 18 years. These changes include the \$30 million renovation and expansion project, and unification.

YJUHS Superintendent Bill McCabe noted at the dinner that McSwain is a very goal-oriented person and when he was elected to the board, he developed 10 goals.

Over the years, he saw all of them accomplished.

McSwain often represents the district at events, including both times Yosemite High School received the California Distinguished School award.

"We will miss Bert," McCabe says. "He has been a strong supporter of the district and its students. We can always count on him saying what is on his mind and giving us his best advice."

The Golden Apple Awards Dinner was hosted by the Mariposa - Madera County ACSA (Association of California School Administrators) Charter.



Yosemite Joint Union High School District Superintendent Bill McCabe, right, with the district's Golden Apple recipient, Trustee Bert McSwain, at the dinner honoring those who have helped local schools.

## Paula McCabe to serve on CDS executive board

Local educator Paula McCabe was invited to participate in "What are Teachers Saying-Voices from the Classroom Forum." She has also been named to the Executive Board for Community Day Schools.

The event was sponsored by the Policy Analysis for California Education in coordination with The Senate Office of Research. The sponsors were the Gates, Hewlett, and Noyce foundation.

The teachers addressed the impact that standards and accountability rules and expectations have on their teaching practice, the readi-

ness to address the unique needs and assets of English Learners in the context of teacher preparation and professional development.

Teachers were also asked to address their views on the kinds of working conditions that both keep teachers in the profession and positively affect learning.

McCabe was selected by the California Department of Education Community Day School.

The audience for the forum was made up of legislatures and legislative aides along with higher education staffers.

## Elementary summer school at Rivergold

Coarsegold Union School District will offer summer school this year at Rivergold School.

There will be a Skill Improvement program for at-risk students and there will be enrichment classes.

Classes will be from June 28-July 27 from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

After school child care may be provided if there is enough interest. This would be through the Hawk Club at a cost of \$3 per hour with snacks provided. The hours would be from 1:15-6:15 p.m.

Skill Improvement classes will include reading, writing and math.

Enrichment classes may include drama, art, comput-

ers and music. Teachers will be offering different courses, some of which are yet to be determined.

The Skill Improvement program is for students who struggled to meet academic standards the previous year and are anticipated to have problems next year.

Standards for the upcoming year will be the focus of attention in the Skill Improvement summer school program.

For more information, call Rivergold School, 658-7566; or Coarsegold School, 683-4842; or the After School Hawk Club, 474-2548. Parents may also send an email to: sbell@coarsegoldusd.com.

## Coarsegold construction projects to begin soon

The Coarsegold Elementary School multi-purpose room and modernization project will begin soon.

Soil testing has been done for the project and, according to John McMillen, director of maintenance, operations and transportation for Coarsegold Union School District, work should be started in mid-May.

Work is underway at Rivergold School to make room for some portable class-

rooms that will be moved to the campus this summer.

McMillen said the plumbing is ready and the electrical work will be completed soon. They are currently putting in the pads and doing earthwork for the portables that will be relocated to Rivergold from Yosemite High School.

YHS vacated the portable classrooms earlier this school year when a 23-classroom building was completed.

## Two summer school sessions set for YHS

Yosemite High School will hold two 12-day summer school sessions this year to give students an opportunity to make up classes in which they did not receive credit during the school year.

Session I, for Fall Semester make-up, will be held June 19-23, 26-29 and July 5-7.

Session II, for Spring Semester make-up, will be held July 10-13, 17-20 and 24-27.

All classes will be held from 7:50 a.m. to 12:50 p.m.

Summer school is for make up only, notes Randy Hyatt, who is principal of the summer session.

Classes scheduled to be

held during the first session are: Algebra I (second semester), Algebra A/D, geometry, English 9, English 10, English 11, health, world history, and US history.

Classes scheduled for the second session are: Algebra B/C, geometry, "Badger Connection," English 9, English 10, English 11, world history and US history.

The class offerings may vary depending upon the number of students enrolled.

Badger Connections is a special program providing a connection for students who will begin the ninth grade in August.

## Books for Coarsegold Library

The Coarsegold library hosted the 2005 Coarsegold Rodeo Princess Jackie Healy May 4. Jackie is a sophomore

at Clovis West High School. She enjoyed being a rodeo princess and wanted to find a way to show her apprecia-

tion to the town of Coarsegold before her reign ended May 7.

She decided to have a Royalty Contestant Book Drive. She challenged all the incoming royalty contestants to collect as many books as possible. She used her own money to buy a head-stall and reins for the person who collected the most books.

The royalty contestants collected over 1200 books. Adult books went to the Oakhurst library, 600 books went to the Coarsegold Library and other books went to the Veterans' Hospital.

Jackie spent the morning with the Coarsegold Librarian Robin Jacks, autographing pictures. The library was filled with students asking questions about the princess' horse, Libby, and her crown.



Coarsegold Librarian Robin Jacks (left) is shown with Coarsegold Rodeo Princess Jackie Healy and Coarsegold student Haley Nott, third grade, who was a contestant in the 2006 princess contest.

## Spring concert dates set

The Yosemite High School bands and choirs will perform their end-of-year concerts in early June.

The Band Concert will be Thursday, June 1, at 7:30 p.m. in the YHS Performing Arts Center.

The concert will feature the school's bands, percussion ensembles and jazz band. Selections will include John Williams Medley, Phantom of the Opera, the Incredible, Chronicles of Narnia and more.

The choir concert will be Tuesday, June 6, at 7:30 p.m. in the YHS Performing Arts Center.

The theme will be medleys from musicals or musical movies.

Tickets for each concert are \$5 for adults; \$3 for students and senior citizens or \$15 for families.

## Badger Connection offered in summer

A special three-week course, Badger Connection, will be offered during the summer for students who will enter Yosemite High School in the fall and who did not receive an eighth grade diploma or who might need a little extra time to connect with YHS.

The program will be held July 10-13, 17-20 and 24-27 from 7:50 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. Limited transportation will be provided.

Summer School Principal Randy Hyatt says the program will be "fun and challenging."

Students who successfully complete the program and enroll for study skills in the fall will earn the right to attend YHS on the main campus in the fall.

Students who do not participate will be recommended for enrollment at Mountain View High School.

The Badger Connection will include instruction in organization and time management, Cornell notes, study skills, team building and challenges.

There will be guest speakers and a special picnic and wrap up event the last day.

Phil Branstetter and Rebecca Hardison will be the teachers.

International Baccalaureate students will serve as mentors during the program. Hyatt describes it as "almost like a camp."

For more information, contact Hyatt at 683-4667 ext. 306, or send an e-mail to him at: rhyatt@yosemiteusd.com.

## Superintendent's Report

Bill McCabe



Not only is the 2005-06 school year drawing to an end, but two school districts in the area will also end as of July 1.

The Coarsegold Union School District will cease to exist after over 100 years of serving mountain children; the Yosemite Joint Union High School District will end also, after being in existence since 1973.

July 1, 2006, these two districts will become the Yosemite Unified School District.

It has been my honor to serve as superintendent of the YJUHSD since August 1996 and of the CUSD since December 2001. I am pleased to have the opportunity to continue as superintendent of the unified district.

One of the major projects since I became superintendent of the YJUHSD has been the expansion and renovation of the Yosemite High School campus. That school will celebrate 30 years of service this September. The original master plan for the campus had not been completed. In 1998, the voters within the district approved an \$11.76 million bond measure to make a number of changes on the campus.

I am extremely proud to say that we have accomplished what we promised.

Additional funds were secured through state matching money, state bond funds, developer fees, grants and private donations to complete the \$30 million project.

Thanks to the great community support we received at the time of the bond election, and the continued support we receive, we have a wonderful facility that will serve students for decades to come. We will continue to enhance the campus as needs arise.

The things we promised the community during the campaign for the bond measure were: A cafeteria, additional classrooms to replace most of the portable facilities, remodeling of the original open space classroom buildings, a central administration building for the district and YHS, infrastructure for technology, parking facilities, a swim complex, a performing arts center and upgraded athletic facilities.

Beginning in 1999 and ending in February 2006, we accomplished the following: A new cafeteria/multi-purpose building; a new 23-classroom building; a performing arts center; new classrooms for band and choir; a student parking lot; infrastructure to meet technology needs for many years to come; a swim complex; renovated football stadium and all-weather track; new baseball fields; renovated buildings for library/media center, administration, science, art and home economics; separated rooms for our shop classes; new roofs on some of the original buildings; infrastructure improvements; bridges to access the parking lot; and upgraded locker rooms in the

gym.

Our facilities are among the nicest in the valley. We were very proud this year to host the league track meet and the league swim meet in our new facilities.

We are still working on a new soccer field and we still need to install a riding arena at the farm on campus. We will be replacing all of the original wood roofs with metal roofs as funds become available.

This summer, the portable buildings along Road 427 will be moved to Coarsegold campuses. Some of the other portable buildings will be moved to other locations. One will go to the Mountain View High School campus and some will be moved to the farm.

While we are very proud of our facilities, we are extremely proud of our students and staff. Students from both districts have excelled throughout the year in all areas ranging from academics to athletics and fine arts, from agriculture to Cadet Corp.

Our students score well on the standardized tests, they bring home high honors from essentially all competitions, and they give us reason to be proud on a daily basis.

The students excel under the leadership of their teachers, classified personnel, administrators, volunteers and everyone who touches their lives during the school day.

I know that I have one of the finest staffs any superintendent can have. Our employees work hard, going the extra mile on a daily basis to meet the needs of the students. They give of their own time and resources to make the schools better places for the students to spend their time.

In tight and uncertain fiscal times, we have moved forward. We are one of the few districts that still offers comprehensive career technical education and fine arts programs. The trustees of both districts, and the trustees of the new unified board, are all committed to doing what's best for kids. We all recognize that students have a variety of interests and aptitudes and we strive to provide programs to serve them all.

My commitment, as a new era in education begins, is to work as hard as I can to meet the needs of students and staff and to be responsive to the communities we serve. Working with the board members, I will do everything fiscally possible to continue the strong tradition of education we have provided through the years. We want to provide schools that give students a strong educational foundation, an opportunity to explore areas of interest, a place where they can become creative thinkers and problem solvers and a place where everyone feels safe and valued.

## Business Report

Srini Vasan, director of business services



All endeavor calls for the ability to tramp the last mile, shape the last plan, endure the last hour's toil. The fight-to-the-finish spirit is the one characteristic we must possess if we are to face the future as finishers - Henry David Thoreau (1817 - 1862). Nothing can be farther from the truth. We are on our last mile to become a unified school district. A log of transitional work is being done to make this happen.

Whether it is a union of two people in matrimony, or union of two entities that merge or unify, there are always changes and challenges.

The challenges of change are always hard. It is important that we begin to unpack those challenges that confront us and realize that we each have a role that may require us to change and become more responsible for shaping the future of the unified school district.

Combining two to make one brings the synergy that never existed before. This is exactly what our business team is going through, and we are seeing nothing but progress. I am excited about

these changes and challenges because I know in my heart that these are transitional. The fruit of our labor is going to be sweet and rewarding.

Okay, let us talk about the state budget and the unified district budget process. April tax revenues for the state shot up - skyrocketed - \$2 billion over previous estimates. The May revision of the governor's budget will be interesting. Will the governor pass some of the fortunes to the educational system, or will he hold back? We will know very soon. If these are one-time monies, there will be no pass through. Such windfall is usually used to retire long and short-term debts.

The business office has to submit the 2006-2007 budget to the unified board by June 30. The board is expected to adopt the budget at the June 27 board meeting. The entire business team is working very hard to make this happen. I want to touch on budget basics as to how the pie is divided between various expenses. Salaries and benefits for teachers, classified and management staff account for 75 - 78 percent of expenses. Other huge expenses are

transportation (to bring students to school), facilities and maintenance of school campuses and special education. In addition, there is technology that needs updating every three years. In a recent study, California - home of Silicon Valley - was ranked 42nd in the nation on its use of technology in teaching.

The California Department of Education and the State of California mandate that budget managers work on district finances not only for the current year but also for the next two years. Trying to predict the future is like trying to drive down a country road at night with no lights while looking out the back window.

Budget managers' three-year projections are based on many assumptions. Such assumptions include the price of gas, propane and utilities; student population and attendance; government funding; salary expectations; strengthening infrastructure through highly qualified teachers; and many others. At the end of the day, every business manager's dream is a balanced budget. May the dreams come true!

## Alternative Education News

Roberta Tackett, principal



Summer is here -- what happened to spring?

Students have completed California Standards Tests and the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE).

Seniors are busy finalizing their Senior Projects. They were presented May 17-19.

Other students are working to finish classes and be sure they have earned the full five credits required in each class each semester.

As the year winds down we are also looking toward the future.

Mountain View High School students who plan to

attend Yosemite High next year have already selected their classes.

Students from other alternative schools have turned in petitions if they wish to go to YHS and will meet with counselors May 30.

Summer school will be offered this year for students who need to make up classes or need to prepare for the CAHSEE.

Yosemite High will offer two three-week, rather than one six-week, sessions to offer students and families more summer-time flexibility. Students may take one course in

each session.

For students who need an Independent Study program, Rebecca Hardison provides IS classes at Raymond Granite High School in Raymond.

Anyone needing summer school should fill out a summer school request form with their teacher.

The culmination of every school year is graduation. The alternative programs will hold a graduation ceremony Friday, June 9, at 7 p.m. at Mountain Christian Center. Mark your calendars and please join us as we celebrate our students' achievements.

## Coarsegold School News

Randy Haggard, principal



Thank you to everyone in our community who worked so hard to make the events of the last few weeks fun and exciting for kids. I especially want to thank our PTA for a wonderful Country Fair, and Teri Gambriel for making Heritage Days and the Rodeo a great experience for our students.

Students will begin the California STAR testing soon. I am sure that everyone in our community would be proud to see how hard our students are working to prepare for taking these important assessments.

This exciting year is drawing to a close at Coarsegold School. We still have a very full calendar of events, so please check the "Events Calendar" on our web-site at [www.coarsegoldschool.com](http://www.coarsegoldschool.com), as well as our newsletter, the Paw Print to keep up with all the news. Don't miss our 8th Grade Graduation ceremony coming up on Friday, June 16, at 7 p.m. in the Coarsegold School Quad.

We always need volunteers, so please join us! If you have any questions or suggestions for how we can improve

at Coarsegold School, please contact me at 683-4842, ext. 254 or by e-mail at [rhaggard@coarsegoldusd.com](mailto:rhaggard@coarsegoldusd.com). All of our school and district information is on-line at [www.coarsegoldusd.com](http://www.coarsegoldusd.com).

**Academic Pentathlon**  
Coarsegold School was well represented by a great team of students in the Academic Pentathlon competition this year. We are so proud of the great job students did in preparing for this challenge! Congratulate these students and thank their coaches: Mrs. Graves, Mrs. Anderson, Mr. Sischo and Mr. Jackson.

\* Evan Ewert - Gold Medal (Literature)  
\* Gretchen Fruth - Silver Medal (Literature), Bronze Medal (Essay)  
\* Nia Ayala - Silver Medal (Speech)  
\* Alina Grady - Gold Medal (Essay)

\* 8th Grade Super Quiz team - 2nd Place in County

\* Mathematics - 1st Place in County

**Spring Performance**  
Coarsegold School students presented their annual "Spring Extravaganza" April

20. This year's performance was very special with our primary classes participating under the direction of Mrs. Hertwig. Students participated in special music and plays including Jack and the Beanstalk. The evening was a great success and was enjoyed by a packed house of proud parents, family members and friends.

**PTA Country Fair**  
The 11th Annual PTA Country Fair was April 22. Activities included a bounce house, a climbing wall, plus many more fun games and activities.

The food was delicious, and the entertainment stellar with performances by classes and the Yosemite Dixieland Jazz Band.

The Silent Auction was the biggest ever, and drawings included a wide array of items and gift certificates. Classrooms sponsored games and activity booths from the 8th grade's traditional cake walk to the 5th grade's "flush tank." A great time was had by all and our school appreciates the support of our community and our wonderful PTA!

## Rivergold Report

Bob Rose, principal



This year the Coarsegold Union School District recognized Ethel and Jim Rudd for their many years of help at Rivergold.

The Rudds received the Association of California School Administrators' Golden Apple Award on Monday May 8 at a dinner to honor

them and other recipients from Madera County. Congratulations to Ethel and Jim.

I would also like to thank all of the volunteers who have contributed to the success of Rivergold School this year.

On Wednesday May 31 we will be having a thank you celebration dessert at 2:45 in

the MPR.

We have so many levels of help from PTA events, Community of Readers, parking lot helpers and classroom volunteers to name a few.

If you have been involved in any way this year please attend. Child care will be provided.

## Editor's comments

Earlene Ward



One of the things that seems to come with getting older is the tendency to think back about how things used to be and to reflect on whether the changes seem positive or not.

When we are young, we chuckle at the "old folks" who seem to live in the past. Then, before we know it, we are one of those "old folks."

I often reflect on the changes in education from when I was a student. Some of the changes seem to be very good, but there are others I wonder about.

Many of the changes we are seeing are tied to the advances in technology. Just a few years ago we did not have massive amounts of data and information at our fingertips.

We have access to information today that was not even available a decade ago, or if it was it would have taken weeks to receive. There would have been letters to agencies, asking for the information which might have been supplied, or not.

Because so much informa-

tion is readily available, we want to use it, and so does the state, thus we are required to file numerous reports.

In the nine years I have been in the district, I have seen a tremendous increase in the number of reports required.

Students are tested much more today than they were years ago. When I was in high school we took one standardized test as freshmen and again as juniors and it took half a day.

Those who wanted to go to college took the SAT once.

Today, we set aside several days each year to test our students for the state standards and the California High School Exit Exam.

I certainly prefer working on a computer and using a copy machine to using a typewriter and carbon paper to make extra copies.

I still marvel at how easy it is to make changes in copy compared to re-typing a whole page if there was an error.

Copy machines are a lot nicer than mimeograph

machines and, because they are so easy to use, I'm sure we make more copies of more things to distribute.

Today's students won't be able to imagine typing a term paper on a typewriter or using carbon paper to make an extra copy. They most likely don't know what a mimeograph machine is.

It is interesting to me to wonder what new things will come along in the next 40 years that will amaze the students of today.

My high school journalism teacher told us in 1962 that in our lifetime we would not be reading a newspaper on paper but we would be reading it on something like a television screen.

None of us could imagine what she was talking about, but today we are not far from that prediction.

Things will continue to change and advance because the students of today are brighter than ever. They have so much information available and they will use it well. It will be fun to see what they develop.

## Yosemite and Coarsegold Districts School News

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Earlene Ward, editor

# Yosemite Joint Union High School District News



ROY BROOMFIELD

Yosemite High School band members recently participated in the 2006 Heritage Festivals at California State University, Fullerton. The Advanced Percussion Ensemble earned a gold award, ranking the group among the top percussion groups in the nation. The YHS Concert Band, Jazz Band, and Wind Ensemble each earned silver ranking. Schools from Alaska, Nevada, Oregon, New Mexico, Idaho, Ohio, New Jersey and Canada participated. In the photo above, YHS Band Director Randy Hyatt leads his students.



PHOTO BY LYNN FULMER

The Yosemite High School Concert Choir and Treble Ensemble came home with silver ratings from the 2006 Heritage Festivals competition. The students were rated on national standards with judges using the same system as is used at other festivals throughout the country. Above, YHS Choral Director Dr. Tony Mowrer, directs his students.

## District retirees will be honored

Retirees from the Yosemite Joint Union High School District will be honored at a Retirement/Awards Dinner June 8.

Those retiring are Janice Dissmeyer, Jerry Lebovitz, Joe Mahle and Ken Stouder.

Dissmeyer is a teacher at Yosemite Adult High School, Lebovitz teaches at Raymond Granite High School, Mahle is the welding teacher at Yosemite High School and Stouder has been a custodian / bus driver at YHS.

### Janice Dissmeyer

Dissmeyer has been in the YJUHSD for 13 years. In the past, she taught concurrent students in the adult program; she now teaches adults and she is the English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher.

Before coming to YJUHSD, she taught in Claremont High School and Claremont Adult School. She was the ESL teacher and she taught in the adult diploma program.

She has been a teacher for a total of 25 years.

Over the years, she has been pleased to see a younger population coming to adult school to earn their diploma. "That's a good thing," she says because they are realizing the importance of an education earlier.

Dissmeyer is seeing the impact of No Child Left Behind as the younger adults come in with more math skills than older adults.

She says it now takes the older students longer to get ready to take algebra, thus it may take them longer to earn their diploma. (Students must pass algebra in order to receive a diploma.)

The best part of her career has been helping individual students succeed. "It's very gratifying to help them get a diploma and measure up to the culture's expectation," she says.

When she retires, she will spend more time with her three little granddaughters and she will continue quilting and gardening.

She will miss helping students and she will miss her colleagues in the alternative education program. "We are a close-knit group," she says.

She and her husband moved to Oakhurst to retire, "except I didn't retire," she says.

"I always express my appreciation for the trust the people of this community have given me to work with their children," she says.

### Jerry Lebovitz

Lebovitz is retiring after teaching in the district since 1979. His first job was starting the continuation education program at Ahwahnee Hills Boys School.

He has taught at Raymond Granite High School for 15 years and will continue to teach two days a week after he retires.

Before coming to the district, he was an assistant teacher at Spring Hill High School in Mariposa and he had been a substitute teacher in the Bay Area.

Lebovitz says he likes the challenge of working with students in the alternative program; "there's never a dull moment," he says, adding that "they fit my personality, I'm just an alternative type of guy."

He sees the recent emphasis on testing as almost a negative thing. It takes away from quality subjects and quality time, he believes.

The most positive change he has seen is the growth of alternative programs and the fact that they now "represent a viable way to achieve graduation."

Alternative education is more of a regular part of education today and presents an

opportunity for students who would otherwise be dropouts, he says.

After he retires, he will spend time doing full-time maintenance on rental property he and his wife own in Mariposa.

"I'm retiring so I can go back to work," he says, noting that the rental properties will help create a nestegg for his three-year-old son.

Lebovitz says he has enjoyed working for the YJUHSD. The district offers great opportunities for all students, he says.

"It's been a great ride and I look forward to coming back part time. It's not over yet," he says.

### Joe Mahle

Mahle has been at YHS for 29 years and he will return next year to teach two periods of advanced Regional Occupational Program (ROP) welding.

He says he has thoroughly enjoyed his years at the school and, he says, "I have to best job on campus."

In addition to being the welding teacher, he taught a year of typing and a year of math. He also served as assistant principal for one year and he was a counselor for seven years.

He said when his year as assistant principal was over, he was very happy to go back to the classroom; "it's home," he says.

Before coming to YHS, he taught at Reedley College and at Fresno City College.

He has seen a lot of changes over the last 29 years, mainly in the physical plant and the number of students. When he started, there were 350 students and, he says, everyone knew them by their first and last names; today he may see someone at graduation who he has never seen on campus.

Students today are much more aware and much more informed than they were 29 years ago. Computers didn't exist then and there were three channels on television.

However, he says the kids have remained the same. "They are really, really good kids; they're phenomenal," he says.

He enjoys having many of his former students as personal friends today. "They stop by the house just to visit," he says.

The job has been gratifying for him and even more-so because they have asked him to stay and teach parttime.

In his semi-retirement, he plans to increase the amount of time he spends on his auto upholstery business and he plans to play more tennis.

### Ken Stouder

Stouder worked in the district for five and a half years as a custodian/bus driver. He retired April 29.

For three years before coming to YJUHSD, he worked as the lead man at Vendo in Fresno. Before that he had been general manager of an electronics firm.

They moved to the mountains to retire, but he decided to put in a few more years in the workforce. He says he's going to take it easy for the rest of this year and then he may come back to do substitute custodial work.

The main change he saw in his time at Yosemite High School was the growth of the campus as new buildings were added.

He especially enjoyed driving the bus on activity trips and he liked to set up for games and special events.

"It broke the monotony and was a nice change of pace," he says.

He looks forward to spending time with his grandchildren this summer and doing projects around his home.

## Community Awards total \$110,295

Community organizations, businesses and individuals awarded \$110,295 to Yosemite High School seniors this year. The awards were presented May 10.

Donors and recipients were:

49 Ears (Disney), Sally Larson.

Academic Decathlon, Kim Usher.

Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), Lauren Cano.

Barbara Banich Memorial, Ricsie Hernandez.

Bass Lake Lions Club, Dori Blackstock and Krystal Kane.

Billy Vukovich III Memorial, Patricia Byers, Nicole Chirolo, Ashley Yaugher and Daniel Yoder.

Careers in Education / Bob Yohn Award, Alyse Stolp and Jessica Veater.

Central Valley Opportunity Center, Patricia Byers.

Coarsegold Elementary Teachers' Association, Jessica Boswell and Gregory Choate.

Coarsegold Market, Gregory Choate and Kim Usher.

CSEA - Yosemite High School, Marissa Daniels (former grad) and Daniel Vawter (former grad).

CSEA - Coarsegold, Tiffany Fitzpatrick and Jessica Boswell.

Dakota Lea Nelson Bradford Memorial, Megan Gardner.

Dave Nemeth, CFP, Dominic Di Tomaso.

Doctors Dennis Jones, Rodney Peter and Staff, Patricia Byers and Kim Usher.

Doris Horasanian Memorial, Ashley Yaugher.

Eakin Peirsol Memorial Award, Kristi Johnson, Alex Meeks and Jennifer Norman.

ECV Clampers, Danny Goldbeck Memorial, Brandon Magee.

El Capitan Education Foundation, Krisha Davis, Korina Gutierrez, Amy Lusk, Samantha Masai, Samantha Perry-Walter and Nicole Wood.

Eric Seger Memorial, Ashton Lewis.

Gerald Smith Memorial, Zack Howard, Caitlyn Johnson and Chris Prevel.

Golden Chain Theater, Korina Gutierrez.

Grant Mercantile, Dori Blackstock and Hannah Millar.

HOLIDAYS, Jacob Ortiz.

Harmelin Family Award, Amy Lusk.

Harry and Marie Baker Memorial, Dylan Thomas.

Heart of the Mountains Award, Jared Drosche, Jennifer McClellan and Paul Trujillo.

Helen Henderson Memorial, Sidney Moe.

James H. Watkins, Law Office, Shante Ross.

Kiwanis Club, Nicole Chirolo, Krystal Kane, Brogan Barrett and Hanna Millar.

Ladies of the Lake - YLP, Tami Daniel, Carmen George, Erika Muzychenko and Lucas Sandoval.

Lions Club (Devere Williams), Nicole Wood; Jesse Love), Ashley Yaugher; and (Red Havens), Blake Burrett.

Live Oak Associations, Jennifer Norman.

Madera County Arts Council, Jessica Tyson.

Madera County Employees, Sally Larson.

Madera County Retired Teachers, Tiffany Fitzpatrick.

Madera Farm Bureau, Jessica Boswell.

Manna House, Terah Sonderland.

Marine Corps League, Jennifer Norman and Dylan Thomas.

Mary Z. Smith Memorial, Jessica Veater.

Mountain Road Rattlers, Daniel Yoder.

New Community - United Methodist Church, Spencer Frasher, Mary K. Otterson and Mia Valentine.

North Fork Faculty, Rebecca Carter and Kristi Johnson.

North Fork Women's Club, Rebecca Carter.

Oak Creek Intermediate School, Ashley Yaugher.

Oakhurst Auto, Owen Martin and Alyse Stolp.

Oakhurst Auto - Spirit of Oakhurst, Dori Blackstock.

Oakhurst Democratic Club, Patricia Byers.

Oakhurst Elementary School, Ryan Fullerton, Aaron Hunt, Caitlyn Johnson and Kaitlyn Vaccaro.

Oakhurst Sierra Noon Rotary Club, Leah Clement, Sarah Harian, Robert Klang, Owen Martin, Shante Ross, Tyler Seib and Kaitlyn Vaccaro.

Oakhurst Sierra Sunrise Rotary Club, Jacob Ortiz and Lucia Pothast.

Oakhurst Sierra Sunrise Rotary Club - Interact, Ricsie Hernandez, Lauren Cano and Ashley Yaugher.

Our Lady of the Sierra Women's Guild, Ricsie Hernandez.

Pines Resort, Mia Valentine.

Positive Living Center (Ruth Ross Memorial), Allison Livermore.

Pride Award - Tommy and Donna Pride, Allison Livermore.

Service Organization of the Sierra, Courtney Anderson, Dori Blackstock, Jessica Boswell, Tiffany Fitzpatrick, Owen Martin, Samantha Masai, Erika Muzychenko, Jacob Ortiz, Jessica Tyson, Nicole Wood and Ashley Yaugher.

Sierra Ambulance, Bridget McBride and Jessica Tyson.

Sierra Pines Church, Christina Gray.

Sierra Cellular, Ricsie Hernandez.

Sierra Tel - Telephone, Blake Burrett.

Sierra Tel Business Center, Jason Koczanowicz.

Sierra Tel business Systems, Alex Meek.

Sierra Tel Internet, Hannah Millar.

Sierra Tel Long Distance, Lucas Sandoval.

Yosemite Tennis Club, Jessica Boswell, Tiffany Fitzpatrick and Jennifer Norman.

Skeahan Award, Megan Zane.

Smokey Bear Run/Walk, Daniel Yoder and Samantha Masai.

Soroptimist International of the Sierras, Inc., Evergreen Students, Tiffany Fitzpatrick, Samantha Masai, Shante Ross.

Swortzel Trust, Chelsea Withrow.

Tenaya Lodge, Jacob Ortiz and Rebecca Carter.

United Way - Oakhurst, Ricsie Hernandez.

Vision Academy - journalism, Carmen George.

Vision Academy of the Arts - Art, Kathleen Palmer.

Vision Academy of the Arts - Dance, Hannah Millar.

Vision Academy of the Arts - Drama, Korina Gutierrez and Jessica Tyson.

Vision Academy of the Arts - Music, Owen Martin.

Vision Academy of the Arts - Foreign Language, Sarah Harian.

Wasuma Elementary School, Sarah Harian.

Werner Family Limited Partnership, Dori Blackstock, Patricia Byers, Nicole Chirolo, Leah Clement, Tami Daniel, Alyse Stolp, Lauren Cano, Jennifer Norman and Ashley Yaugher.

Western Sierra Nursery,

Jessica Boswell.

Wild, Wonderful Women, Krystal Kane.

William Beau Bushman Memorial, Krystal Kane, Craig Norman and Shante Ross.

Wilma Ely Memorial, Jessica Tyson.

Yosemite Bank, Lucia Pothast.

Yosemite Gateway Association of Realtors, Lauren Cano, Nicole Chirolo, Tami Daniel, Ryan Fullerton, Ricsie Hernandez and Amy Lusk.

Yosemite High School Theater Arts, Sarah Harian and Kim Usher.

Yosemite Leadership - ASB Club, Samantha Masai, Hannah Millar, Sarah Tovar and Jessica Veater.

Yosemite Resource, Conservation and Development, Samantha Masai.

Yosemite Teachers' Association, Owen Martin.

Yosemite Youth Basketball Association, Dori Blackstock, Sonya Eggleston and Aaron Hunt.

## Top seniors honored at banquet

The top 14 members of the Yosemite High School Class of 2006 were recognized as valedictorians at the 18th Annual Paul and Martha Pitman Awards Banquet May 16.

This year's valedictorians are: Blake Burrett, Lauren Cano, Nicole Chirolo, Domenico Di Tomaso, Ricsie Anne Hernandez, Aaron Hunt, Kristi Johnson, Krystal Kane, Erika Muzychenko, Jennifer Norman, Jessica Tyson, Kimberly Usher, Mia Valentine and Megan Zane.

Guest speaker for the evening was Bill Coate, historian and teacher in Madera. He recently coordinated the Sesquicentennial wagon train that took several groups of students through Fresno County as part of the county's 150-year anniversary celebration.

The students were guests at the dinner and received gifts from the community.

The valedictorians are guests of Sierra Telephone at the dinner.

# Coarsegold Union School District News

## Academic Pentathlon



The Coarsegold Elementary School Math Team won first place at the county Academic Pentathlon. Team members are, front row left to right, Evan Ewert, Jackson Glines, Devin Grant, Gretchen Fruth and Niala Ayala. Back row, left to right, Skyler Towle, Shane Herold and Peter Dailey.

Coarsegold Elementary School was well represented at the Madera County Academic Pentathlon this year.

Among the winners were: Mathematics team, first place; eighth grade Super Quiz team, second place; Even Ewert, gold medal in literature; Alina Grady, gold in essay; Gretchen Fruth, silver in literature and bronze in essay; Nia Ayala, silver in speech.

Coaches were Sherry Graves, Kathy Anderson, Rich Sischo and Robert Jackson.



The Coarsegold Elementary School eighth grade team took second place at the Academic Pentathlon. Pictured are, front row, left to right, Niala Ayala, Devin Grant, Gretchen Fruth, Malissa Furin, Skyler Towle and Alina Grady. Second row, left to right, teacher Kathy Anderson, teacher Sherry Graves, Evan Ewert, Grant Hendricksen, Shane Herold and Jackson Glines. Back row, left to right, Jennifer Schoonard, teacher Rich Sischo and Principal Randy Haggard.

## Spring Performance



Jack, played by Will Boyer, listens to his mother, Crystal Miller, in Jack in the Beanstalk.

Coarsegold Elementary School's Spring Extravaganza was held April 20 and included music and plays including Jack and the Beanstalk.

This year, the primary classes participated under the direction of Anne Hertwig.

"The evening was a huge success," says CES Principal Randy Haggard.

Additional photos of the event are available for viewing on the school's Web site at [www.coarsegoldschool.com](http://www.coarsegoldschool.com) under the "Wuz Up with Kids" section.



Jack's cow, portrayed by teacher Josh Jones, is sold for magic beans. Students taking part were Shelby Werber, Quinn Whitely, Maria Rivas, Cody Melson, Kayla Furin, Erika Robichaux, Melissa Goodall, Walker Wilkins, Darian Diaz, Nicholas Medina and Breanna Balto.



Allie Donnell (right) sings The Goose that Laid the Golden Egg at Coarsegold School's Spring Performance. Also shown are Chance Bendz, seated at left, and, left to right, Darian Diaz, Olivia Pearson and Natalia Levashoff.

## Meadowbrook students build wall structures



Meadowbrook Community Day School is an alternative education program in the Coarsegold Union School District for fifth through eighth grade students who are involuntary transferred to the program based on education code violations. Students developed partnerships and gathered scraps of material to build wall structures (shown at left). Students then researched the Great Wall of China, Berlin Wall as well as other famous walls. Currently, students are studying career education and the world of work as they set goals for their future. Paula McCabe is the principal/teacher of the school.

## Rivergold 8th grade goes to Catalina



Eighth graders at Rivergold School had a once in a lifetime experience at the Catalina Island Marine Institute. The three-day adventure consisted of Marine Biology labs, snorkeling and kayaking.

The students experienced marine life first hand with pods of dolphins swimming next to their kayaks and leopard shark sightings on the night snorkel.

In the photo at left, Kalie Zimmerman and Anthony Nasca check out the Fox Landing marine life tank which gave students the opportunity to touch a shark and bat ray.



The Rivergold girls' soccer team finished the year undefeated. The team defeated Oak Creek Intermediate 2-1 in the finals of the Mountain Area Tournament. Elise Maggio scored the winning goal with three minutes remaining in the game. Top row, left to right: Vanessa Magee, Sam Dominici, Riley Cooks, Sydnie Carrol, Shawna, Neidenbach, Gena Benzie, Kalie Zimmerman and Olivia Tovar. Middle row: Naomi Reimer, Bethany Davenport, Hillary Prince, Danielle Holt, Elise Maggio, Kim Wiggley, Kela Nehf and Brittney Baker. Bottom row: Tiffany Longcor and Lyndsie Carton.



Fourth and fifth grade third quarter Gold Honor Roll students at Rivergold School are: front row, left to right: Ben Nelson, Matthew Davenport, Craig Talbot, Brianna Neufeld, Mary Jo Cassaro and Kayla Davis. Second Row: Kylee Bernardoni, Mitch Pritchett, Laurann Fowler, Danielle Reimer and Kathryn Tovar. Third row: Kylinn Gunderson, Andrea Whitcomb, Shane Smith, Stephanie Brown, Maria Guedea, Heather Reichard and Angela Du. Back row: Tiala Manning, Mariah Lincoln, Nicholas Tapia, Morgan Masuen and Flecher Haggard.



The students at Rivergold School who were named to the Gold Honor Roll for achieving a 4.0 grade point average the third quarter are: Front row, left to right: Mary Gomez, Jordan Ellis, Bailey Reis, Kelly McLaggan, Hillary Prince, Bethany Davenport, Erin Casey, Naomi Reimer, Tiffany Longcor, Ashley Hansen-Sedor and Camille Subia. Second row: Brittney Baker, Brianna Shockley, Kayla Hayner, Sarah Goodfellow, Kylie Wood, Bianca Lopez, Syema Jakhar and Elizabeth Avina. Third row: Jazmin Jones, Dana Day, Jack Lundberg, Lindsay Asadurian, Nick Hansen-Sedor and Steven White. Back row: Clint Kelly, Riley Cooks, Samantha Dominici, Thalia Holingue, Amanda Bausch, Matthew Thompson, Rodney Corless, Drew Tapia and Dillon Jones.

## Coarsegold Home School will hold activity for students May 26

Coarsegold Home school students were involved in state testing during the week of May 8-12 at the Lighthouse Assembly of God Church in Coarsegold. Testing was for students in second through eighth grades.

This month's school activity will be held on May 26 from 1-3 p.m. for all students. An individual grade level activity will also be organized

for June. Students will be learning about and building with Kapla Blocks. Kapla is an educational set with an artistic calling. It helps to develop the child's manipulative skills sense of balance, concentration ability and creative spirit.

The eighth grade students were able to join with Rivergold eighth graders and take a field trip to Catalina.