

The Clearlake CONNECTION

Clearlake: The City Left Behind

by Frank Brumfield

Tourists visiting Lake County drive through the different communities and often ask citizens: "What happened to Clearlake?"

They want to know why the rest of Lake County's towns and cities seem to be steadily moving ahead while Clearlake is regressing.

All of the negative remarks don't just come from visitors to Lake County, either. Many school teachers, police officers and city-hall employees will not buy or rent a home in Clearlake. They will travel many miles to work in this city, because they will not live here.

There seems to be many reasons why people refuse to live here—rundown neighborhoods, trash, dirty roads and unkempt streets. A good example of this trash is the 15 junk automobiles parked within 300 feet of my home in Burns Valley.

But why is Clearlake's junk problem almost entirely ignored by city hall? Most likely, it's the same reason the city council refuses to deal with Clearlake's infrastructure problems—council members can't cope with it.

When we incorporated Clearlake Highlands in 1980 there were two reasons citizens voted to make the Highlands a city. Those two reasons were roads and a "little more" police protection.

In those days, there was only one deputy sheriff between the Oaks and the Highlands. Well, we got more police protection to the point that the whole police department went overboard in cost and enforcement. Law suits against the city for police problems were stacking up, and the department has still not recovered.

According to a recent quote in a local newspaper, the interim chief of police said, "I have never seen a police department in the condition this one is."

An incorporated city is usually graded by the services it provides its citizens. Clearlake doesn't provide anything to the public except some police services. City hall does a lot of boasting and the council members hand out awards and plaques, but providing services such as problem solving and long-range planning seems to elude their agenda.

Also, services such as street lighting, sanitary sewers and sewage disposal system, storm drain system, fire department, paramedic services and animal control are

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City Property Sale Meant to Stop Redevelopment Agency Shutdown

by Elizabeth Larson

CLEARLAKE—The Clearlake City Council voted recently to use redevelopment funds to purchase 61 vacant city-owned parcels and get rid of a fund surplus that could shut down the Redevelopment Agency.

"We have a very serious financial problem with the Redevelopment Agency's housing fund," City Administrator Dale Neiman told the council.

Neiman said "the state requires the city to use 20 percent of its tax increment revenues to help low- and moderate-income families with housing."

The state also mandates that the Redevelopment Agency's Housing Set-aside Fund can't exceed \$1 million for four years, reported Neiman. If it does, the state can shut down the agency and only allow debt service to be paid.

Clearlake's Housing Set-aside Fund has now passed the four-year mark of being more than \$1 million; Neiman said the fund balance was estimated at \$2.3 million as of July 1.

"Some of those housing funds may have been transferred to the city's general fund over the years," said Neiman.

If the agency is shut down, the city would have to cut \$230,000 out of its general fund because the city was expecting the agency to pick up that amount in administrative expenses.

Neiman and his staff came up with the plan to solve the problem, which involves the city selling the Redevelopment Agency 61-city owned parcels throughout the city's boundaries.

The 61 lots would cost \$1,531,100. Neiman's staff report said the city arrived at that number by looking at sales of comparable properties, with sales prices of lots of similar size averaging \$25,100.

"The sale would reduce the Housing Set-aside Fund to \$459,920," said Neiman, which would solve the coverage problem.

"The Redevelopment Agency would then use the 61 parcels in developing a first-time home buyer program, the guidelines for which would be developed over the next year, Neiman reported. That prospective use adheres to the city's General Plan for the properties in question," he added.

The city and the Redevelopment Agency would enter into a loan agreement to cover the purchase price, but the agency would not be able to begin paying back the loan until 2010, reported Neiman. That would give the city \$602,770 in interest earnings over the next three years.

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Schoolhouse Museum's New Bell Tower Finished

by Elizabeth Larson

LOWER LAKE—After missing its bell tower for more than a century, the Lower Lake Schoolhouse Museum's new bell tower is finally ready.

"It's complete, we're just waiting for the contractor to pull the scaffolding down," reported Kim Clymire, director of the county's Public Services Department.

Since then, the scaffolding has come down to reveal the tower, restoring the building to its original look.

The schoolhouse was built in 1877, and originally featured a bell tower, which the new tower replicates.

Then, the 1906 San Francisco earthquake hit. The quake was so powerful that it rippled northward, knocking down buildings in Lakeport. The school's bell tower also was severely damaged by the quake, Clymire said.

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by Garrison Keillor

When politics gets mean and dumb, you can cheer yourself up by walking into a public library, one of the nobler expressions of democracy. The library is the temple of freedom. Growing up, we kids were aware of how much of our lives was a performance for adults. In school, at church, in Scouts, adults were watching, cueing you, coaching, encouraging, commenting, but in the library, you didn't have to perform for the librarian. She simply presided over an orderly world in

The Liberating Silence of the Library

which you had the freedom of your own imagination. The silence was not repressive but liberating: to allow your imagination to play, uninhibited by others.

Of course, a boy's imagination headed in some directions that the public library could not satisfy, or would not satisfy—I thought that those particular books were kept behind the librarian's counter and that if she liked me, she would let me see them, so I was a very, very good boy, but then it dawned on me that she probably thought a very, very good boy wouldn't be interested in that sort of thing. (This would happen to me often with women.)

Libraries have rushed forward into the new age (whichever one we're in now) and the word "librarian" is out. They're information professionals now, and it's a media resource center, and it's wired to the max. Just as we novelists have become experiential document specialists producing sensory-data-based narratives encoded in a symbolic format that

informally we refer to as English. But a library is still a library. It's a place where serious people go to have the freedom to think without anybody poking and prodding them, in the company of other serious people who sit silently around us and yet encourage us in our own pursuits and projects.

My old hometown Carnegie library with the columns and high-domed ceiling was irreplaceable, and so of course it was torn down by vandals in suits and ties and replaced with a low warehouse-looking library that says so clearly to its patrons, "Don't get any big ideas. This is as good a library as you clowns deserve." But the spirit lives on, in the ranks of dedicated women and men who run the place. ■

Garrison Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion" can be heard Saturday nights on public radio stations across the country. Distributed by Tribune Media Services.

Kids' Financial Education Starts with an Allowance

by Marshall Loeb

Money management is the one subject conspicuously absent from most school curriculums, which means your child's financial education begins and ends at home. And one of the best tools for teaching your kids about managing their money is an allowance.

Here are some fundamental rules of allowances:

Start early. While many parents have a hard time deciding when to begin, a good rule is to start them off as early as you can. Studies have shown that kids as young as three understand the concept of money and are eager to learn more about it.

Determine an appropriate amount. How much to give? Many experts recommend calculating what you spend on your child every month and then determining which expenses he or she will be responsible for covering. (These might include school lunches, clothing costs or entertainment expenses.) Give your child enough to cover weekly expenses, as well as some

extra money to save or spend on other things.

Be consistent. The way you approach children's allowances can teach them a great deal about responsible money management. To ensure that they understand the importance of fulfilling financial obligations, make sure to pay regularly and on time!

Help them track their expenses. Initially most children run through their allowances without knowing exactly where the money has gone. If this happens, take the opportunity to explain about budgeting. Sit down with them and make a list of regular expenses so they can begin tracking spending.

Keep chores separate. If you make your child's allowance contingent on the com-



pletion of chores, you send the wrong message. Housework is a family responsibility and children should not be paid for pitching in. Experts agree, however, that offering kids an occasional opportunity to do "extra-credit" work around the house in exchange for pocket money helps teach the value of working. ■

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Lakeport Police Dept: FYI

by Kevin Burke
Chief of Police
Lakeport Police Department

The Lakeport Police Department is proud to have its newest police officer graduating from the police academy on August 24th. The officer's name is Jake Steely and he will be our 13th sworn employee, making us almost fully staffed. Jake has consistently been ranked number 1 or 2 in his class during the course of the police academy and will be a great fit for us. He will begin his field training program with us shortly after graduation. We hope to hire a 14th police officer over the next few months, which will bring us up to full staffing, and allow our school resource officer to spend more time on school grounds.

As a reminder, any signs posted on public fixtures, such as power poles and street signs are in violation of our local ordinance. We most often see this with yard sale signs. Unfortunately, although people are quick to put the signs up, they generally don't come back after their yard sale to take them down and the signs end up on the street or sidewalk as trash. Voluntary compliance with this ordinance will help keep our City free of clutter and trash.

Currently, there is no organized neighbor-

hood watch program in the City of Lakeport. I am currently working with a few community members that are interested in starting neighborhood watch programs in Lakeport. The key to the success of a neighborhood watch is that it is community based. The programs are staffed and run by dedicated and concerned community members, who hold regular meetings in their neighborhoods. As a police department, we will support the program by attending the meetings, providing information and crime prevention tips, along with updates about what crime is occurring in various neighborhoods. I can also assist with potential funding ideas so that neighborhood signs can be purchased and posted in order to advertise the program. As it gets going, we will assign one of our police officers to act as neighborhood watch coordinator and liaison for the Department. Anyone interested in starting or participating in a neighborhood watch program in their neighborhood, can contact me at (707) 263-5491. I will put you in touch with the community members who are spearheading this effort.

The Lakeport Police Department is very grateful to have the overwhelming support of our community. It is a privilege for us to work in a community that is so supportive and appreciative of its local police. Thanks,

Water Rights Memorandum Approved by Lake County Supervisors

by Joan Moss

Lake County Supervisors voted unanimously to approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Yolo County to "facilitate mutual support of water supply, water quality and flood control projects."

Supervisor, Ed Robey, provided background information on the memorandum that has had an ongoing dialogue for the past 100 years. Presently, under the direction of Supervisors, Ed Robey, Jeff Smith and Anthony Farrington, it was decided to hire Antonio Rossman, Attorney for water-rights issues.

Rossman has been meeting with Yolo County officials in behalf of Lake County in working with the MOU that is preferable to a law suit that challenges Yolo County water rights to Clear Lake's water rights.

Rossman explained that in the late 1800's Yolo County residents constructed a dam and collected water for Cache Creek for irrigation purposes. At this time, entities claiming rights to water received them. "Whoever got there first got the water" Rossman recently stated.

Doctrines passed by the California Legislature; the Public Trust Doctrine and the Area of Origin Doctrine have opened new doors to discussion of water rights between Yolo County and Lake County.

Rossman explained that the Public Trust Doctrine passed in 1983 says residents cannot take water when it affects recreation activities, environmental qualities, fishing and drinking quality. The Area of Origin Doctrine established in the 1930's states that a resident cannot take water from the area of origin.

Rossman helped with working in a Wild and Scenic Bill passed last year that established Lake County as the Area of Origin of the Cache Creek Watershed. This bill is now law and puts Lake County on equal footing with Yolo County. According to Rossman,

negotiations can now take place.

The supervisors also passed Amendment No. 2 to the Water Supply Agreement of 1994. This amendment allows Lake County to "directly divert from Clear Lake up to 7,950 acre feet of untreated water each year between May 1 through April 30 for recharging steam generation at the geysers and other beneficial uses within the Clear Lake Basin."

Another amendment of Section 3 of the same agreement reads that Lake County agrees to divert water from Clear Lake to any location. These agreements may not work in years of drought when water is less available.

The supervisors agreed to establish a new contract with Rossman to allow the continuation of water rights in Lake County to include groundwater resources.

Rossman earns \$300 per hour and will work at a cap of \$20,000.00. Rossman is an established attorney and has worked on famous litigations throughout California to include the Mono Lake preservation area.

Boomers Demand Comfortable, Stylish Home Products

As older Americans embrace home ownership more than ever before, a top concern is how they can stay in those homes comfortably while maintaining their active lifestyle as they age. Half of baby boomers surveyed by Yankelovich, a leading lifestyle-research company, said they plan on staying in their current homes during their retirement years and beyond. This is driving a major demand for products that fit the needs and changing lifestyles of homeowners as they plan for the years ahead.

As a result, companies such as JELD-WEN, the world's leading manufacturer of reliable windows and doors, are highlighting low-maintenance, stylish and highly functional products to help ensure that today's homes age as well as their owners. Priorities for today's homeowners and products that are helping meet the demand include:

Easy, Low-maintenance Living

Homeowners looking forward to their retirement years are more active than ever. According to a Coldwell Banker survey, boomers want homes that will accommodate their favorite pastimes, including shopping, golf, biking, hiking and fishing. Other priorities, as well as having to maintain two and sometimes three or more homes, mean they aren't interested in spending a lot of time or money on home-maintenance issues. As a result, top-quality products that offer low-

maintenance features resonate well with this group.

Planning for Better Design

While many boomers are not yet at retirement age, many are wisely planning ahead, and thoughtful designers and builders are considering a variety of age-friendly features. Today, the concept for aging well at home involves much more than installing a stainless-steel bar in the shower and making sure the master bedroom is on the main. The latest design trends include ideas, such as relocating laundry rooms closer to high-use rooms to cut the heavy lifting from room to room.

To help improve foot traffic flow and to accommodate homeowners who may experience mobility issues in the future, JELD-WEN is experiencing increasing demand for doors that are not only taller, but also wider. Soundproofing features are also becoming important as builders and designers implement age-friendly plans. JELD-WEN doors with ProCore The Quiet Door® cores are up to 50 percent quieter than hollow interior doors. They can help silence areas such as noisy utility rooms that are often placed near more public areas of the home, such as the master bedroom, to help provide maximum privacy and convenience.

Good Taste Grows with Age

As much as older homeowners are concerned about functionality, they are just as concerned about style and quality. According to the Seniors Housing Council, adults ages 55 to 64 have the highest median net worth of any age group, with assets 21 percent greater than the average. Nation's Building News, a national Home Builders Association publication, states that 75 percent of homeowners who are 55 or older will settle for a smaller house if that's what it takes to get high-quality products and amenities; and 60 percent prefer name-brand products in the home.



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CPS Country Air Properties Acquires Keys Landing Real Estate

LAKEPORT—CPS Country Air Properties, Lake County's largest real estate brokerage firm, has acquired Keys Landing Real Estate.

"The Keys Landing office in Clearlake Oaks becomes our seventh sales office, and gives us branch offices in every major area in Lake County. Jim O'Dell and his eight agents have established a strong base in the Clearlake Oaks area and will add strength to our overall sales team," said Philip Smoley, broker/owner of CPS Country Air.

O'Dell, broker/owner of Keys Landing said he was extremely pleased to be joining the Country Air team. "They have the best marketing program in the county and will help us accelerate our growth in the greater Clearlake Oaks area," he said. "If you can't beat them, join them!"

The Keys Landing Lakeport office will remain open until later in the year, and will likely be incorporated into the Country Air Lakeport branch, located at 901 S. Main St., Smoley said. "Clearlake Oaks office will become the Keys Landing branch of CPS Country Air Properties. The conversion to our systems will start right away and take about four months to fully implement," he added.

CPS Country Air Properties, established in 1981, has 60 agents working from seven branches in Lakeport, Kelseyville, Cobb, Middletown, Lucerne, Clearlake and now Clearlake Oaks. This year, nearly one out of every five real estate transactions reported to the Lake County Multiple Listing Service involves CPS Country Air Properties.

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Lake County Gardening: Raised Beds Offers Benefits

by Gena Smoley

Have you ever wanted a vegetable garden, but felt it would be too much work? Well, to be honest, a vegetable plot does require effort, but I have found that raised-bed gardening, especially for vegetables, requires far less effort than working the flat ground. A raised bed has many advantages over the standard garden. Since you do not walk on a raised garden, the soil is not compacted.

Drainage is also better than a traditional garden, and you also get to choose the type of soil you want.

In my raised beds, I have high-quality topsoil, mixed with worm castings. Not only does this drain nicely, it is also very rich in nutrients, which allows me to grow many vegetables in a small area.

Raised beds can be as small or as large as you want, as long as the soil depth is 12-to-18 inches. I have four raised beds, three of which are approximately four-feet (or less) wide, 30-foot long and 17-inches high. One of these beds is perpendicular to the other three and is the same width and height, but only 18-foot long. From what I have read, you do not want to make a raised bed more than four-feet wide, since the center is easily reached from either side if it is two-feet (or less) wide. While length is less important, it takes the gardener less steps with two beds 15-foot long with a path between them, compared to one 30-foot-

long bed. My beds next to our home north of Lakeport are made with 2-by-6-inch cedar planks reinforced with rebar and posts. I have gravel on the paths between the beds.

If you are handy with a saw and hammer, a raised bed can be a great do-it-yourself project. I also found several Web sites for companies who sell ready-to-build kits, which eliminate guesswork because wood is precut. Another option is hiring a handyman do it for you.

Since I have trouble with gophers and moles where I live, I put wire mesh in the bottom of the beds before filling it with soil. So far, no gophers have had strong enough teeth to chew their way in!

Of course, Lake County is also full of deer, rabbits and other pests you'll need to guard against. There are many products for these animals on the market, including natural remedies you can try, although, in my opinion, building a high chain-link fence around your garden area is often the only absolute way of keeping unwanted critters out.

Watering is easy with the installation of an irrigation-drip system, micro sprinklers, soaker hoses or a combination. Since raised-bed soil drains more than a regular garden, more water is required.

Carrots and other root plants will also grow straighter, so you can space them closer together for a higher yield. In the end, a raised bed will enable you to plant more vegetables

in less space and grow plenty of extras to pass on to friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc. Last year, I had so many tomatoes, squash and cucumbers, I was taking some to work almost every day and still some went to waste.

There are many Web sites that elaborate on the construction, maintenance and uses of raised beds. One that caught my attention—especially since we live in an area where people enjoy spending their retirement years—is

www.hort.vt.edu/human/pub426020d.html. This is a great site that explains how raised beds can be useful to the elderly or the disabled gardener who might have trouble bending or stooping in a standard garden.

Gena Smoley is an amateur gardener and broker-associate with CPS Country Air Properties. She can be reached at gena@countryair.com.




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More than 100 Homes to be Held Open in Single Weekend

Largest Real Estate Marketing Event in Lake County History

LAKEPORT—CPS Country Air Properties has announced that this year's Country Trails will have between 100 to 120 Open Houses on the weekend of Sept. 15 and 16. Country Trails is an annual event sponsored by Country Air Properties where most of their residential listings are held open.

"In prior years we never had more than 60 homes open over two weekends," said Phil Smoley, broker/owner CPS Country Air Properties. "This year we opted to hold all of them open on one weekend, and we anticipate having many more open houses than prior Country Trails. In fact, we anticipate more open houses will be open in one weekend than ever before in Lake County's history."

Smoley contributes the rise in open houses for this event to the changing market conditions. "Our company's market share skyrocketed, and we have much more inventory this year. More and more sellers are listing with us as they are attracted to our exclusive market-

ing programs, such as Country Trails."

CPS Country Air Properties will be holding a free drawing for a \$500 gift certificate for Piedmont Lumber. Buyers can enter to win at each open house visited. The more houses toured, the more chances of winning.

"This is the perfect opportunity to tour many great homes while having a chance at winning a fantastic prize," said Brandee Conger, business development coordinator for Country Air Properties. "Currently, we have 101 homes on the schedule, ranging from manufactured homes in parks to luxury lake front homes. There really is something for everyone."

On Sept. 15, homes will be open in Upper Lake, Nice, Lucerne, Clearlake Oaks, Glenhaven, Cobb, Middletown and Hidden Valley Lake. On Sept. 16, homes will be open in Lakeport, Kelseyville and Clearlake. Each open house will be held for up to two hours, giving the public the opportunity to visit every home.

For more information and for a list of homes that are to be held open, visit www.CountryAir.com and keep an eye on the *Record Bee Real Estate Guide* the week of the event for a schedule.



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Konocti Harbor Suit Settlement Awaits Judge's Approval

LAKE COUNTY—A court order that will settle a federal case over Konocti Harbor Resort & Spa is awaiting a judge's signature to become final.

As *Lake County News* reported in May, a tentative settlement was reached May 15 between the U.S. Department of Labor and trustees of Local 38 of the United Association of Plumbers, Pipefitters and Journeymen.

The Department of Labor filed suit against Local 38, its current and former trustees and pension plan administrator in November 2004, alleging the union had diverted more than \$36 million in assets from five employee benefit plans to operate and renovate Konocti Harbor.

By diverting the funds, the Department of Labor claimed the trustees, among them Lawrence J. Mazzola Sr.—business manager and financial secretary-treasurer of Local 38—violated the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA).

On Aug. 1, the Department of Labor filed an unopposed motion for entry of a consent order to make final the settlement, according to court documents obtained by *Lake County News*.

James Baker, attorney for Local 38, said Judge Phyllis J. Hamilton's signature is required to finally put the case to rest. Until the case is finally signed off, Baker said he couldn't comment about the settlement itself.

He did say, however, that it has taken time to get the required signatures from the 14 trustees, the Department of Labor and ULICO Casualty Co., the insurance agency which will pay the \$3.5 million agreed to in the settlement.

The Department of Labor has so far refused comment on the case when contacted by *Lake County News*.

Of that \$3.5 million settlement, \$2,916,667 million must be paid to the pension plan, with \$583,333 paid to the US Treasury as a civil penalty under ERISA rules.

The settlement terms require most of the trustees, including Mazzola Sr., to resign or retire from the board of trustees. Those who have not retired "have agreed to be permanently barred from serving as fiduciaries or service providers to any ERISA-covered employee benefit plan," the court documents state.

Mazzola's son, Lawrence J. Mazzola Jr., will be one of two trustees who may continue on the board so long as they complete training on their fiduciary responsibilities, the settlement explains.

The court has appointed a plan administrator who will have exclusive administrative authority over Local 38's ERISA plans for six years, according to the settlement.

WhiteStar Advisors LLC has been appointed as independent fiduciary, the doc-

uments show.

WhiteStar's "primary mandate" is selling Konocti Harbor Resort & Spa. Although the sale isn't required as a condition of the settlement, court documents show that the firm Page Mill Properties of Palo Alto is in negotiations to buy the resort—which Local 38's Convalescent Fund purchased in 1959 for \$200,000—for \$25 million.

Baker said he could not comment on the sale because it is under a confidentiality agreement.

Page Mill representatives reportedly toured Konocti Harbor earlier this summer.

WhiteStar previously worked with Kenwood Investments, which had expressed interest in establishing an Indian casino at the resort. But that plan met local resistance and culminated in a February vote by the Board of Supervisors to accept a resolution by Supervisor Rob Brown against Indian gaming at Konocti Harbor.

That roadblock led Kenwood to pull out of the deal earlier this year.

While it manages Konocti Harbor's sale, WhiteStar will have "independent control and discretion to operate, manage or terminate Konocti's operations to preserve its value until it is sold," the court documents state.

Proceeds from Konocti's sale must be distributed back to Local 38 and the pension

fund, with the first \$4 million owed to Local 38 for the outstanding principal balance and unpaid interest on a 2000 loan it made to the Convalescent Trust Fund.

What the sale might ultimately mean for the Mazzola family—whose patriarch, Joe, is the namesake of Konocti Harbor's indoor showroom—isn't yet known.

They own 10 parcels along Emerald Drive, Northslope Drive and Soda Bay Road in Kelseyville, many in Konocti Harbor's immediate vicinity. Two of the parcels—both purchased in 1999—amount to 215 acres.

One of the pieces of property is a 55-acre orchard that became a topic of concern during community meetings for the Rivas Plan in January. That property had been a candidate for rezoning because of the potential sale to Kenwood Investments, which had wanted to expand the resort to include condominiums and timeshares.

The Board of Supervisors decided to zone the orchard as rural residential rather than commercial resort zoning, which the Planning Commission originally had suggested, which means it can only be developed at a density of one home per acre.

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County Public Works Department Wins Grant

by Elizabeth Larson

LAKE COUNTY—The California Department of Transportation has awarded the Lake County Department of Public Works a grant for the purpose of replacing all county-maintained street name signs and replacing all county maintained 24- by 24-inch stop signs.

This project is to be funded under the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) in the amount of \$466,200.

CALTRANS received 355 applications from public agencies for this statewide competitive grant program. Of those, only 98 projects were recommended for funding.

The following grant application statements were instrumental in Lake County being successful in receiving the recommendation for funding:

"According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Lake County has the highest percentage of residents over the age of 65 within the State of California. This statistic, coupled with a high seasonal influx of non-resident visitors to Lake County, has created a need to improve the roadway and driving environment throughout the county-maintained roadway system. Increasing the size, letter height and retro-reflectivity of the county's street name

signs and minimum-sized stop signs will improve the visibility of these signs, especially at night.

"This project will improve the visibility of all county-maintained street name signs and approximately 25-percent of the county-maintained stop signs. The improved sign visibility will provide the driver with additional time to make necessary route selection decisions and better advance warning that an intersection with a stop sign is ahead."

For their work to acquire the grant, the Board of Supervisors gave special recognition to Public Works staff, and in particular Special Projects Engineer Todd Mansell.

Mansell is responsible for identifying available road safety and improvement project grants made available to local agencies, and for selecting candidate county road projects that meet the respective grant program's criteria.

His skill in selecting projects and crafting project applications has resulted in the Department of Public Works receiving millions of dollars in grant-funded projects during his 20-year tenure with the department.

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the ad, or call 707-264-5500 to be connected to the listing agent.

HOMES FOR SALE

16207 26th Ave. • Clearlake
MLS #103157 • EXT# 56219 • \$274,500



New, custom home. Maple cabinets, granite countertops and stainless-steel appliances in kitchen! Built-in 42" plasma TV in family room. Separate living rm. Landscaped. Natural flagstone walk leads to covered deck. [Ask for Phil Tyler and Nick Sorci](#)

14106 Olympic Dr. • Clearlake
MLS #103301 • EXT# 93619 • \$219,900



Great retail space with large, new parking lot. View of Clear Lake! [Ask for Elen Lawrence](#)

5525/5575 Wilkinson Ave. • Clearlake
MLS #103237 • EXT# 46239 • \$270,000



Beautiful 6.9 acres subdivided into 4 parcels! Rolling to level, seasonal creeks run along prop lines. Soils test and survey done. Private location, nice views! Can purchase one of the 4 lots separately. A must see! [Ask for Megan Sousa](#)

3328 14th St. • Clearlake Park
MLS #98951 • EXT# 25179 • \$24,900



Come and see the nicest lot in the park, leveled on paved street with new septic system installed. Several nice trees. [Ask for Gloria Huck](#)

9250 Glenhaven Dr. • Glenhaven
MLS #102972 • EXT# 74119 • \$325,000



Outstanding views and a lakefront lot. Lot with house is large enough to build another unit. Septic system inspected! Landscaping with mature Avocado tree. Unique and beautiful place. [Ask for Benno Heune](#)

18147 Deer Hollow Rd. • Hidden Valley Lake
MLS #102321—EXT# 86819—\$295,000



Garden paradise! 3 BR/1 BA. 1,436 sq. ft. Enclosed sunporch. Hot tub. Fenced large back yard and landscaped. Grapes and fruit trees add to the beauty. End of a cul-de-sac. Priced to sell! Bring your offer today. [Ask for Teresa Welter](#)

18409 Spyglass Rd. • Hidden Valley Lake
MLS #102307 • EXT# 86619 • \$338,000



3 BR/2 BA. 1,544 sq. ft. Spacious LR with vaulted ceilings and FP. Open dining and kitchen area. French doors. Large MBA with garden tub. Huge landscaped and fenced back yard with dog run, garden, shed, redwood deck and patio. [Ask for Teresa Welter](#)

18460 North Shore Dr. • Hidden Valley Lake
MLS #101206 • EXT# 86219 • \$150,000



One-of-a-kind! More than 1/3 acre to build your dream home. Unobstructed views. Your home would be directly across from Little Beach. Easy financing may be available. [Ask for Teresa Welter](#)

9025 Hwy. 175 • Kelseyville
MLS #99570 • EXT# • \$300,000



Flat property in wooded area with creeks and ponds. Well. Power. Soil test for septic complete and on file. Possible RV park. Konocti Harbor Resort is only minutes away. Buyer to check it can be done. [Ask for Travis Lipscomb and Teresa Welter](#)

10639 Edgewater Dr. • Kelseyville
MLS #103786 • EXT# 46229 • \$495,000



PHOTO UNAVAILABLE

3 BR/3 BA, 2,400-plus-sq.-ft., 2-story custom home. Great room, dining area, open kitchen w/granite countertops and private patio, MBA with Jacuzzi, wood and tile floors. Game room, den, office and deck downstairs. Beautiful lake view [Ask for Megan Sousa](#)

9210 Wildcat Rd. • Kelseyville
MLS #101515 • EXT# 88319 • \$1,475,000



Family compound or campground? 4 dwellings and large barn on this majestic property. Natural artisan spring with output of 100 gpm. 24 ponds. Per county, property may have multiple splits. Value in the location and land! [Ask for Travis Lipscomb](#)

5375 McKee Rd. • Kelseyville
MLS #102400 • EXT# 93519 • \$431,000



Pristine 3 BR/1 BA on 2 oak-studded lots! Hardwood floors, family room, formal dining room. Bonus room. New upgrades in 2003. Inside paint, heating and air, carpet, water heater. [Ask for Elen Lawrence](#)

4700 Louis Ln. • Kelseyville
MLS #98908 • EXT# 79319 • \$322,000



3 BR/2 BA, 2-car gar. 1,471 sq. ft. Ready to move into! Well maintained. Walk to schools (K - 12). Back yard newly landscaped. Fenced. Parking on side drive for boat/RV. [Ask for Jarth Oates](#)

7295/7365 Adobe Creek Rd. • Kelseyville
MLS #100171 • EXT# 88269 • \$825,000



Appraisal on file! Prime ag land, house is block construction and was once used as a safe house. Currently arranged as 2 homes (1 up/1 down). 3 wells, 2 irrigation ponds, apt, creek, walk-in fridge and more. [Ask for Travis Lipscomb and Irene Rivas](#)

For more information on these properties,
dial **1-800-224-4566** and enter the **EXT#** listed in
the ad, or call 707-264-5500 to be connected to the listing agent.

HOMES FOR SALE

4355 Cruickshank Rd. • Kelseyville
MLS #103234 • EXT# 44189 • \$359,000



Less than 1 acre! 2 BR/2 BA with den, open kitchen/dining/living area. Carport, room for RV/boat (hookup with all utilities). Huge 1930s barn and workshop. Fenced w/fruit trees, landscaped, cabana, drip system! 2 storage sheds. Minutes to town/schools. **Ask for Cheri Farrell**

4770 Louis Ln. • Kelseyville
MLS #102308 • EXT# 8425 • \$315,000



3 BR/2 BA. Near schools, shops, recreation and observatory. Corner lot, landscaped front and back yards, patio, fenced, RV/Boat/ATV parking, 2-car garage, family room, FP. Buyers 1-year home warranty and washer/dryer. Hot tub and entertainment center goes with right offer. **Ask for Tonya McWethy**

4418 W. Hill Rd. • Lakeport
MLS #101979 • EXT# 22619 • \$163,000



Build your dream home on 1+/- acre! Close to hospital and minutes to town. Water hookup paid for, encroachment is in. Beautiful mountain and valley views. **Ask for Irene Rivas and Justin LaFazio**

1060 N. Main St. #30 • Lakeport
MLS #99082 • EXT# 81119 • \$145,000



Lived in part-time in a great family park! Bonus room off living room. Open floor plan. Just minutes from schools, post office, shops and hospital. Includes lake access with pier, dock, boat slips, laundry facilities and showers. **Ask for Cheri Farrell**

3283 Compton Ave. • Lakeport
MLS #103273 • EXT# 58319 • \$495,000



Country living! 2,234 sq. ft. 4 BR/3 BA, attached 2-car garage and detached 2-car 24'x 24' gar/shop! Room for RV/boat. 1.18 acres. Short distance to lake, shops and Hwy. 29. Super-clean home in a very nice neighborhood! **Ask for Cassie Palmer**

17330 Black Oak Hill Dr. • Middletown
MLS #101713 • EXT# 86319 • \$395,000



Unique opportunity to own a parcel in the upscale Black Oak Hill Estates. Close to everything, yet so far away from the hustle and bustle. Power at pole, paved roads, 20 GPM well, survey and soils test done. **Ask for Teresa Welter**

3157 Riviera Heights Dr. • Riviera Heights
MLS #102658 • EXT# 20679 • \$85,000



Great lake view potential from second floor when you build your dream home! No water moratorium! Gentle upslope lot! Soils test passed '84. Shared dock and boat slip, pool, clubhouse, rec area, beach rights. **Ask for Kurt Inman**

2880 Riviera Heights Dr. • Riviera Heights
MLS #101544 • EXT# 80349 • \$310,000



Very nice and clean 3 BR/2 BA home with a very beautiful lake view. 2-car garage, carport and fenced yard. Washer, dryer and fridge included. **Ask for Bryan van Lingen**

3416 Pine Terrace • Riviera West
MLS #96421 • EXT# 79219 • \$125,000



Not effected by water moratorium. Only lot you can build on for sale in this area. Engineered house plans approved. Water meter. Soils analysis on file. Standard septic system. .20 acre. HOA offers lake access, pier, pool and clubhouse. Consider reasonable offer! **Ask for Jarth Oates**

6444 Soda Bay Rd. • Soda Bay
MLS #103152 • EXT# 80139 • \$179,900



Rare find! 1950s dollhouse cottage! Shared private beach and dock! Large 1 BR. Sunroom. Woodstove in cozy LR. Monitor heater. Covered side porch. Huge back yard. **Ask for Shevaun Stanfill and Zac Bassham**

3755 Spring Valley Rd. • Spring Valley
MLS #101721 • EXT# 72319 • \$110,000



Level 1/2 acre, fenced. Rural feeling and country views! Older 2 BR/2 BA home needs some work, but has great potential! Woodstove, separate laundry room. Garden tub in MBR. **Ask for Dean Crumley**

3329 Wolf Creek Rd. • Spring Valley
MLS #102693 • EXT# 60719 • \$209,000



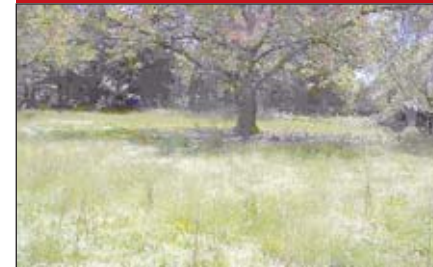
Beautiful 2 BR/2 BA house! Set on 1/2-plus acre. Bonus room w/ entry. Screened back deck has spa. Landscaped. Extra storage room in garage. **Ask for Nick Sorci and Phil Tyler**

10545 Bachelor Valley Rd. • Upper Lake
MLS #102819 • EXT# 57919 • \$780,000



Rare 46-acre parcel w/older mobile home and outbuildings. Utilities in. 2 existing walnut orchards and parcel is dividable! **Ask for Cassie Palmer**

11407 Elk Mountain Rd. • Upper Lake
MLS #86602 • EXT# 21619 • \$395,000



17+/- acres. Small portion in front by Sign. Remaining level acreage in back of neighboring house to left. **Ask for Irene Rivas**



Great Moments in Science

by Dave Barry

Settle back because today I'm going to tell you the dramatic true story of what happened when some Japanese researchers decided to recreate the historic discovery of the law of gravity:

As you recall, this discovery occurred in an English orchard in 1666, when, according to legend, Isaac Newton, the brilliant mathematician, fell out of a tree and landed on an apple. No, hold it. Upon reviewing the videotape, I see that in fact the apple fell out of the tree and landed on Newton. Had this occurred today, of course, Newton would have simply put on a foam neck brace and sued everybody within a radius of 125 miles. But those were primitive times, and Newton was forced to settle for discovering the law of gravity, which states: "A dropped object will fall with an acceleration of 32 feet per second, and if it is your wallet, it will make every effort to land in a public toilet."

Later on, Newton also invented calculus, which is defined as "the branch of mathematics that is so scary it causes everybody to stop studying mathematics." That's the whole point of calculus. At colleges and universities, on the first day of calculus class, the professors go to the board and write huge, incomprehensible "equations" that they make up right on the spot, knowing that this will cause all the students to drop the course and never return to the mathematics building again.

This frees the professors to spend the rest of the semester playing cards and regaling one another with hilarious stories about the "mathematical symbols" they've invented over the years. ("Remember the time Professor Hinkwattle drew a 'cosine derivative' that was actually a picture of a squid?")

Yes, Newton made many contributions to science, but gravity was definitely his biggest. That's why a group of Japanese

researchers decided, as an international goodwill project, to recreate the original discovery, using an apple tree that was descended from the original Newton tree.

I found out about this project thanks to an alert reader named Harley Ferguson, who sent me a story about it from an English-language Japanese newspaper called *The Daily Yomiuri*. The article states that in August 1996, researchers at the Construction Ministry's Public Works Research Institute in Arai, Japan, received a sapling descended from the original Newton tree. This sapling, according to the story, came from the U.S. Commerce Department's National Institute of Standards and Technology, or NIST, which is in charge of weights and measures (so if your pants don't fit the way they used to, this is the agency to complain to).

I was curious as to why a U.S. government agency would be providing Newton saplings, so I called NIST and spoke with the official archivist, whose name is Karma A. Beal. She sent me a bunch of information, which I will attempt to summarize here:

The original Newton tree—for simplicity's sake, let's call it "Bob"—died in 1814. But before Bob went to the Big Orchard in the Sky, cuttings were taken, and over the years these cuttings became trees, and cuttings were taken from those, and so now there are genetically identical offspring—let's call them "Boblets"—all over the world.

One Boblet lives at the NIST facility in Gaithersburg, Md. It produces apples, but not many; the information Karma Beal sent me refers to the tree as (I am not

making any of this up) "a very shy fruiter." The story gets a little murky at this point, but apparently the sapling sent to Japan for the historic recreation of Newton's discovery was grown from a seed from one of the NIST Boblet apples.

This is significant because if the sapling came from a seed, as opposed to a cutting, it is probably not a pure Bob descendant. As the NIST documentation states, "the original flower was almost certainly pollinated by some other tree." (Trees are total sluts this way.)

But let's not be picky. The important thing is that the Japanese researchers had a sapling that was in some way connected to the original historic Bob. According to *The Daily Yomiuri*, their plan was to videotape the exact moment when the very first apple fell.

The sapling was planted, and eventually it produced a single apple. The researchers set up a video camera. All was in readiness as, day by day, the apple grew riper and riper, getting closer and closer to the big moment. And then, finally, it happened: A local resident, who knew nothing

about any of this, wandered by, saw the apple, and ate it. So the researchers never did get to videotape the apple falling in a historic manner, although the article states that, "they did get scenes of the man munching on the apple." The man is quoted as saying, "It just tasted really bad."

But this does not mean the project was a waste of time. Often, in science, so-called "failures" produce the greatest discoveries. And this project resulted in a discovery whose value to humanity cannot be overemphasized. I refer, of course, to the fact that "Shy Fruiter and the Saplings" would be a great name for a rock band. ■



BUYERS SLOW TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF BUYERS MARKET

Great Deals Being Made by Experienced Buyers

by Ray Perry

LAKE COUNTY- What has been bad for sellers has been great for buyers. As the Lake County real estate market softens, more savvy buyers are entering the market and making deals. While most buyers tend to sit on the sidelines in a soft market and jump in when prices are going up and availability is low, the most experienced and successful buyers see the current market as a bonanza. "Most buyers are watching and not acting. It's counter intuitive," according to Phil Smoley, broker/owner of CPS Country Air Properties. "This is the best buyers market in nearly a decade, and yet there are very few buyers, and many of them are seasoned investors taking advantage of what's happening." Smoley believes that patient buyers stand to make small fortunes buying property right now way under market, and when things pick up again, their equity will skyrocket. "Very few people see the opportunity, and it's slowing down the recovery. Once the market turns and all of the procrastinators jump in, these early investors will be able to flip the properties for a tidy profit, and late comers will end up paying far more. In a few years we will be hearing from people saying 'we should have bought in '07 when prices were so low,'" according to Smoley.

How good is it for buyers right now? Consider: Home sales decreased 2.6 percent in July in Lake County compared with the same period a year ago, and the median price of a home decreased 10 percent, according to data pulled from the LAKE COUNTY MULTIPLE LISTING SERVICE (MLS) in mid-August.

Closed escrow sales of homes in Lake County totaled 76 in July according to information collected from the MLS. Countywide home resale activity decreased 2.6 percent from the 78 sales pace recorded in July 2006.

The median price of a home in Lake County during July 2007 was \$270,000, a 10 percent decrease from the \$300,000 median for July 2006, the MLS reported. The July 2007 median price increased 0.4 percent compared with June's \$269,000 median price.

"With just over a 18-month supply of homes for sale on the market, there could be some further softness in prices in the coming months," said Smoley. "Inventory continues to rise so sellers by necessity are lowering prices to attract what buyers we have out there. There has not been a better opportunity for buyers to enter the market in a long time."

"Unlike the downturn we experienced in the early 1990s, the sales decline is not driven by weakening economic conditions," he said. "Both the California and U.S. economies con-

tinue to expand."

Highlights of Lake County's resale housing figures for July 2007:

Lake County's Unsold Inventory Index for homes in July 2007 was 18.5 months, compared with 17.5 months for the same period a year ago. The index indicates the number of months needed to deplete the supply of homes on the market at the current sales rate.

Thirty-year fixed-mortgage interest rates averaged 6.69 percent during July 2007, compared with 6.68 percent in July 2006, according to Freddie Mac. Adjustable-mortgage interest rates averaged 6.37 percent in July 2007 compared with 5.71 percent in July 2006.

The median number of days it took to sell a single-family home was 167 days in July 2007, compared with 135 days for the same period a year ago.

Statewide, the same situation exists with buyers not taking advantage of a fantastic buyers market. "The focus on foreclosures and subprime lending is ongoing and, coupled with higher inventories of homes for sale, is prompting many would-be buyers to play a 'wait-and-see' role," said CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® (C.A.R.) President Colleen Badagliacco. "However, well-maintained homes with curb appeal that are priced for today's market continue to sell.

It's often a matter of counseling buyers and sellers to set realistic expectations on both sides of the transaction."

"First-time buyers continue to be impacted by tighter mortgage underwriting standards and the affordability challenge, which has not improved significantly despite price declines in most regions of the state," she said.

Even with the tighter loan criteria, Smoley believes that most potential buyers can still get good financing. "The mortgage situation has blown some buyers out of the market, but has had little impact on most qualified buyers," Smoley said. "If you want to make a great deal and have some money and/or good credit, we can get you into a house. Don't wait for prices to go up 20 percent because on a \$300,000 house, that will add \$60,000 to the sales price!" Smoley added.

What's the best advice for a buyer on the sidelines? "Get pre-approved by a reputable lender and go find an experienced Realtor, preferably one who works at CPS Country Air Properties," Smoley suggested. "Then start making offers."

Ray Perry is a Realtor with CPS Country Air Properties. He can be reached at (707) 277-9255 or at ray@rayperry.com

July 2007 Residential Home Sales By Area

	No. of Listings	Median List Price	Average DOM	No. of Sales	Median Selling Price	Average DOM to Sell
ANDERSON SPRINGS	6	\$335,000	143	0	0	0
BLUE LAKES	1	\$475,000	90	0	0	0
BUCKINGHAM	19	\$712,500	129	0	0	0
C.L. OAKS	35	\$229,000	96	5	\$254,000	56
CLEARLAKE EAST	80	\$234,999	161	5	\$227,000	80
CLEARLAKE KEYS	38	\$342,450	117	5	\$350,000	180
CLEARLAKE N/NW	62	\$208,725	105	2	\$177,500	101
CLEARLAKE PARK	56	\$249,999	136	1	\$156,500	276
CLEARLAKE S/SW	61	\$69,000	157	1	\$155,000	114
CLR LK RIVIERA	106	\$315,000	120	7	\$312,000	98
COBB	53	\$335,000	143	3	\$260,000	147
FINLEY	3	\$429,000	93	0	0	0
GLENHAVEN	3	\$325,000	177	1	\$257,000	263
HIDDEN VALLEY	202	\$367,000	139	9	\$239,000	192
JAGO BAY	6	\$637,000	58	0	0	0
KELSEYVILLE	45	\$329,900	137	2	\$255,000	140
KONO TAYEE	5	\$459,000	74	0	0	0
KONOCI BAY	1	\$898,500	216	0	0	0
LAKEPORT NORTH	95	\$499,000	162	8	\$305,000	179
LAKEPORT SOUTH	36	\$402,700	104	2	\$331,500	94
LOCH LOMOND	8	\$242,000	84	1	\$290,000	44
LOWER LAKE	17	\$399,000	103	2	\$258,500	198
LUCERNE	37	\$273,000	102	7	\$207,000	245
MIDDLETOWN	20	\$532,250	149	1	\$278,000	121
NICE	17	\$297,000	163	3	\$204,000	277
PARADISE COVE	5	\$985,000	181	0	0	0
PILLSBURY	4	\$213,500	74	0	0	0
RIVIERA HEIGHTS	26	\$379,000	168	0	0	0
RIVIERA WEST	20	\$432,000	181	2	\$363,250	240
SCOTT VALLEY	2	\$1,154,500	93	0	0	0
SODA BAY	2	\$229,450	46	2	756,500	106
SPRING VALLEY	14	\$294,700	143	4	\$348,750	151
UPPER LAKE	12	\$354,000	103	1	\$329,000	247
WINDFLOWER POINT	3	\$1,029,000	437	0	0	0

City Property Sale Meant to Stop Redevelopment Agency Shutdown

continued from page 1

Neiman said "there are still a number of procedures that need to be fulfilled before the sale can be complete, including going before the Planning Commission for a finding that the property disposition adheres to the city's General Plan."

The only person to speak out against the plan was City Councilman Roy Simons, who has made redevelopment one of his key issues.

The Redevelopment Agency, he said, has "been a total disaster for 16 years, and now you're going to burden it with this?"

Instead, he suggested putting the parcels on the market immediately and using the money for road repairs and development.

Neiman explained that selling the property on the market wouldn't address the fund overage or the Redevelopment Agency's obligations to provide low- and moderate-income housing. He said the plan was beneficial for both the Housing Set-aside Fund and the city, and solves a problem he originally didn't think had a workable solution.

Councilman Chuck Leonard agreed. "We've got to look at the bigger picture

here and not just take these narrow views of things," he said to Simons, adding that they can't continue to focus on how the agency was operated in the past.

City resident and Supervisor Jeff Smith, who was in the audience, said as part of public comment that the solution was a "win-win" for the city.

"If you didn't take this opportunity you'd be nuts," Smith said.

When the council—which also sits as the Redevelopment Agency board—makes decisions on redevelopment issues it must pass separate resolutions on behalf of both the city and agency.

Four separate motions—two on the city's behalf and two for redevelopment—were necessary to approve the property sale plan. Leonard moved all four items, all of which were approved 4 – 1, with Simons voting no on all of them.

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Manufactured Housing Survey has Surprising Results

by Janis Paris

LAKE COUNTY—The results of a survey mailed to local manufactured-home owners earlier this year are in, and it has revealed some surprising information.

In Lake County, manufactured housing accounts for approximately 700 new homes (of the approximately 2,000 new housing starts) per year; at 33 percent, that's slightly higher than the national average of 25 percent.

In the spring, the Manufactured Housing Citizens Group mailed 42 surveys to people who had voiced complaints about their manufactured homes. Of those mailed, 17 people who bought their homes in the last five years completed the survey.

This sample does not provide information about the number of buyers unhappy with their purchase (compared to the total number of buyers of manufactured housing in the county), but the survey does reveal something about the type of problem buyers experience when buying a manufactured home in Lake County.

The survey supports the conclusion by the famous AARP study (in 1999) that most buyers pay for manufactured housing defects out of their own pockets. In the Lake County study, only one buyer was successful in getting the dealer to correct defects, one other buyer paid for his own repairs and in 15 cases the problems remain uncorrected.

Buyers did seek help in resolving prob-

lems. More than half the people in the survey filed complaints with one or more government bodies, usually the state Department of Housing and Community Development (of HCD, the manufactured housing ombudsman) and to a lesser extent the Contractors State License Board.

Although the HCD ombudsman was helpful in procuring missing paperwork for some buyers, these agencies were not influential in obtaining a single repair for buyers at the time of this study.

Two-thirds of the buyers in this survey consulted an attorney; of these, five are currently in litigation, one has won in court and another six were advised against legal solutions largely because of the expense.

It was known at the outset of the study that only those experiencing problems with their manufactured homes were polled; however, the level of dissatisfaction was surprising. Not one person was "more satisfied than dissatisfied," and a whopping 16 of 17 respondents said they were "extremely dissatisfied." Only three of 17 described their experience as moderately inconvenient while 14 characterized their experience as "highly disturbing."

When buyers purchased their manufactured homes they were told that they would be able to move in within a few months of purchase; however, in this study 14 of 17 buyers had to wait six months or more, including nine buyers who were homeless for a year.

A significant finding of this study is that

although buyers think they are signing up for the "turnkey" purchase advertised by local dealers (meaning the dealer is responsible for all aspects of construction), another pattern is emerging in Lake County. That is, even though installation is included in the original sales contract, dealers are asking buyers to sign an additional contract with a private licensed contractor.

A few buyers report that the dealer waited months after the initial sale and then informed them the work could not be accomplished within a year unless they engaged a private contractor. In all eight cases where buyers signed with both a dealer and a contractor, the homes took from six to 12 months to finish.

The group will present the findings of this study to the Lake County Board of Supervisors in connection with a request that the board enact legislation requiring local dealers to inform buyers of their legal rights regarding the purchase of manufactured housing prior to the transfer of funds.

The group also will request that the county's consumer affairs division furnish a free clinic on small claims court to help buyers who are not able to afford legal assistance.

Anyone wishing to contact the manufactured housing group may phone 998-0249.

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Schoolhouse Museum's New Bell Tower Finished

continued from page 1

In about 1908, the tower was taken down, said Clymire. "The structural integrity was so compromised it was dangerous."

At one point, the schoolhouse was in danger of being torn down. But the efforts of John and Jane Weaver and the Lower Lake Schoolhouse Preservation Committee stepped in, along with the county, to keep the historic building, said Clymire.

And one of the goals was to restore the building's original look, which included the bell tower, said Clymire.

The \$400,000 project was funded by a one-time allocation from the county's general fund, said Clymire. The contract went to Middletown contractor R&C Construction.

The contractor started building about six months ago, said Clymire, and had 90 days to complete the tower, with time out for inspections and concrete drying.

The tower measures 10 feet by 10 feet and is 70 feet tall, said Clymire. It consists of a steel frame with stucco siding and a metal roof.

Its base contains 80 yards of concrete, he added. A membrane was placed between the tower, which is earthquake proof, and the museum, which has yet to be retrofitted for earthquake safety.

The museum's earthquake retrofit is estimated to cost about \$1.2 million, said Clymire. The county is working with Congressman Mike Thompson to find the funding for that project.



TWIN PINE CASINO

September "hi-rev" event

Win a "Softail Deluxe" on Sept. 2nd or a "Fat Boy" on Sept. 15th. We also have weekly drawings for \$1,000 discount coupons good at Golden Gate Harley-Davidson. Over \$47,000 in cash and prizes!

THERE'S MORE...

INDIAN DAY CELEBRATION

Sept. 15th • 3:00–6:00 pm Native cuisine, live music, handmade crafts, four traditional dance groups, cash drawings and the Harley-Davidson® Fat Boy drawing!

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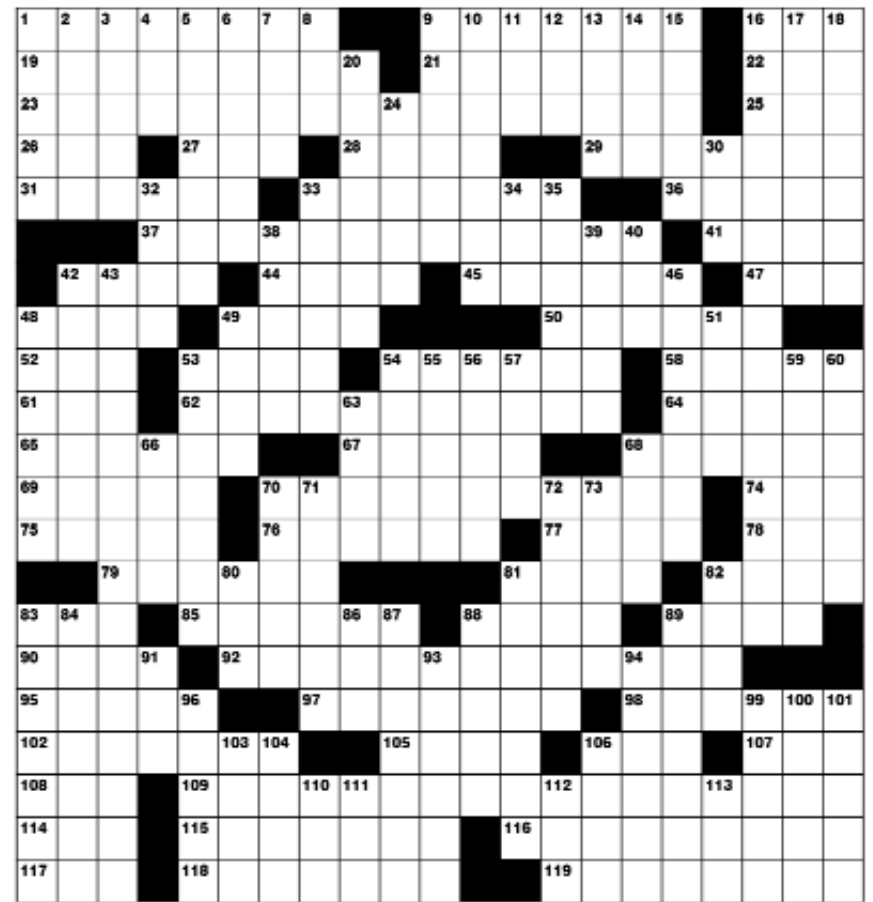
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TH-TH-TH-THAT'S ALL FOLKS! BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

CROSSWORD
PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
- 1 Basis for the first commercially successful video game
 - 9 Just folks?
 - 16 Mugger?
 - 19 They may have smiles and frowns
 - 21 Athlete's slump
 - 22 Grosse-____, Québec
 - 23 Somebody else's soaking dentures?
 - 25 Tour stop
 - 26 Outstanding
 - 27 Aviation pioneer Eugene
 - 28 Palm Beach County city, for short
 - 29 One who might stand in front of a map
 - 31 Prefix with sphere
 - 33 Life stories
 - 36 Yellowish brown
 - 37 Ghost in a battery?
 - 41 Experimental figures
 - 42 Wing: Prefix
 - 44 Their mascot is Handsome Dan
 - 45 Was wistful
 - 47 Thataway
 - 48 Comedian Jay
 - 49 Thin opening
 - 50 Vegetarian's credo
 - 52 Prefix with metric
 - 53 Actress Barbara
 - 54 Whence the phrase "Brevity is the soul of wit"
 - 58 Love, in Livorno
 - 61 Former pol. div.
 - 62 Avoid being captured by guitarist Richards?
 - 64 1986 Indy 500 winner
 - 65 Neighbor of a Pole
 - 67 Fluttering sound
 - 68 Deity featured on California's state seal
 - 69 Fed-up cry
 - 70 Baby twins?
 - 74 Bar fig.
 - 75 Some NCO's
 - 76 Isolate
 - 77 Possessive on Chinese menus
 - 78 One of the "Magnificent Seven"
 - 79 Skywalker portrayer
 - 81 Circle
 - 82 Middles: Abbr.
 - 83 One of the Bushes
 - 85 Ballade endings
 - 88 In a jiffy
 - 89 Joyous sounds
 - 90 Org. with the motto "The power to make it better"
 - 92 Sherlock at the Space Needle?
 - 95 Drub
 - 97 "Unh-unh"
 - 98 Repeated sounds in "Hey Jude"
 - 102 Poet Omar
 - 105 "Can that be true?"
 - 106 PC linkup
 - 107 ____ cit.
 - 108 Magazine with a fold-in
 - 109 Billionaire's last dollar?
 - 114 "What Is ____?" (Tolstoy essay)
 - 115 "Gather Together in My Name" writer
 - 116 Get set
 - 117 ____ degree
 - 118 Start of a trip in a bathysphere
 - 119 Made blue
- DOWN**
- 1 Remains undecided
 - 2 Poker player's declaration
 - 3 Observant one
 - 4 Classic muscle car
 - 5 Batter's material
 - 6 Nocturnal feline
 - 7 Too inquisitive
 - 8 Vitamin supplements store
 - 9 Farm animal, in kidspeak
 - 10 Tabloid fodder
 - 11 In the back
 - 12 "The Eyes of ____" (public TV science show)
 - 13 Bug spray ingredient
 - 14 Cracker spread
 - 15 Nirvana attainer
 - 16 Good eating and clean living?
 - 17 Not recognizable by
 - 18 "You've Got Mail" co-star
 - 20 Change, as a manuscript, in Britain
 - 24 Quinces, e.g.
 - 30 Heel
 - 32 Great server
 - 33 Character actor Alfred
 - 34 Thor Heyerdahl craft
 - 35 Official seal
 - 38 Spiral: Prefix
 - 39 Egyptian god of wisdom
 - 40 Something that's turned up
 - 42 Some residents, by census classification
 - 43 Very detailed scope?
 - 46 Shortages
 - 48 Wife, colloquially
 - 49 Its cap. is Regina
 - 51 Asian nurse
 - 53 Comment made with a shrug
 - 54 Garden output
 - 55 "A View to ____"
 - 56 Ruckus
 - 57 One of TV's Munsters
 - 59 Highly opinionated sorts
 - 60 Lifts up
 - 63 Spitting sound
 - 66 "La Dolce ____"
 - 68 Above
 - 70 Go (into)
 - 71 Borrowed
 - 72 "Becket" star
 - 73 Route from Me. to Fla.
 - 80 Connections
 - 81 Gets bounced by
 - 82 "Call Me Irresponsible" lyricist
 - 83 Actor Hugh of "X-Men"
 - 84 First woman to earn the Distinguished Flying Cross
 - 86 "Am ____ believe this?"
 - 87 Apostle known as "the Zealot"
 - 88 Line of text?
 - 89 Done
 - 91 Reward
 - 93 Left hurriedly
 - 94 Not impressed
 - 96 "Oops!"
 - 99 Detective Pinkerton
 - 100 Dark time in Italy
 - 101 Suffered
 - 103 Rook's spot on a chessboard
 - 104 Board events: Abbr.
 - 106 Fictional princess
 - 110 P.I.
 - 111 World Cup chant
 - 112 Time sheet abbr.
 - 113 Put away



P U Z Z L E
answers

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Clearlake: The City Left Behind

continued from page 1

either provided by the County of Lake or they are nonexistent. This is not the type of city that was envisioned by the Highlands' citizens 27 years ago; if we had known this would be our fate, we would have stayed with the county.

The cost of the city government in Clearlake is prohibitive. According to recent information from the city clerk, the 2007 payroll and benefit budget for Clearlake is right at \$5 million. To put this payroll amount into perspective, you need to review the salaries of city administrator, chief of police, city engineer and others when the city first incorporated. The salaries for those who work in city hall have risen by 300 to 500 percent. There are 63 employees working at city hall and the number will increase to 74 when the full staff, including city council, is on board. History tells us there were 34 total city employees in 1983, not counting city council members.

The payroll of the City of Clearlake is one of the largest within the boundaries of the city. That's not what city governments are supposed to signify. City employees are supposed to be the public servants, and not the citizens working for city hall. When operating costs of city governments reach the level of Clearlake and don't have a full

service agenda and the necessary departments, then the way of this government is backwards.

Keep in mind that the Highlands had the same county services that the rest of Lake County had in 1980 and our road system was better maintained at the time than it has been for the 24 years by the City of Clearlake.

When an incorporated community cannot afford the city hall they built or their own police department, and continually tell the public that they can't afford to repair any streets, then there is a fiduciary problem within the government of this city. When elected representatives talk about bringing "fiscal responsibility" to an already stressed city government, they should be concerned about the very first dollar in the treasury and not just the last dollar they spent at the end of each month.

The Clearlake city government has had 27 years to show the rest of Lake County that Clearlake Highlands could grow into a city of responsibility and wisdom. The last 24 years have been a dismal failure. I believe the present city government should open up public discussion, asking for citizens' input about Clearlake returning to a town in Lake County under county government.

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Justice for All

Dear Editor,

I wish to write words of support for the people of Lake County and our ability to decipher the guilt or innocence of those accused of crimes, no matter what their ethnic or racial or educational backgrounds.

Having recently discovered the autobiography of Nelson Mandela in a thrift shop, I am moved deeply by the struggle in Africa for freedom, and the apartheid that was considered legal there in the past.

Our laws here in the United States have not always been just either, and our elected officials not always objective and fair and some may not even be honest.

We are waking up now. Our newspapers, beginning with the *New York Times* and abuses of inmates at Abu Graib, are beginning to look at all sides.

We here in Lake County are not to be lead around like a bull with a ring in its nose. Some very important trials have taken place in which the jury found the defendant not guilty.

We are not sheep here in Lake County. We are independent thinkers who may not follow blindly what our leaders and elected officials tell us.

We as individuals must now begin to take responsibility for what we have, fresh air, a beautiful lake, room to move around and clean up our government and our personal lives.

Myself included.

Joan Moss

Kelseyville Indian

Dear Editor

I'm writing to compliment you on your article about Indian Names in the *Kelseyville Real Estate News*. I think it was a very well-reasoned and reasonable treatment of the subject. I'd also like to know if you submitted it to the *Record-Bee* and *Clearlake Observer*. I didn't see it in the *Bee* and I don't take the *Observer*. It needs to run in both of those papers.

Bert Atwood

Dear Editor:

Your article in the paper was a breath of fresh air in a mad world. Your thoughts are met with widespread approval amongst my friends at least. It would be very interesting to find out who "sponsors" the movement to abolish Indian names from the public. Having gutless leaders in the community to stand up for such things is beyond hope for this disgruntled

Kelseyville grad. Thank you for your voice on the matter.

Dan Goff

Dear Editor:

I read your piece on "...Indian Related Names..." in *The Lakeport Lamppost* with some interest. I am a legal Indian, but one raised by a mother who only wanted "to be an American." Her idea of our country was that it is the most open and welcoming culture on Earth.

I have Lake County Museum's "as told" eye-witness account of the murders of Kelsey and Stone by William Benson as reported by William Ralganal. According to the record five Pomo-Elems, who were joined by others over a 24 hour period, tortured Kelsey and Stone finally putting Andrew Kelsey out of his misery with a watermelon-sized rock to the head on the banks of what is now Kelsey Creek. This is not the behavior of the noble, principled or admirable in any way.

While it is politically correct to massage the images of the duntrod-den, some have well earned disdain. The 7,000 Indian tribes here when white men came were not a nation and all were at war. Some were eating one another. None had invented the wheel. None had writing, reading, numbers, math or religion. They were Stone Age people, starving much of the time. They should have been glad to see a superior culture come to their rescue.

The Indian claim they came first has been denied by at least seven European skeletons found of people that had walked over from Europe during the last ice age when North America was covered with a mile high glacier all the way down to Saint Louis. The wandering Mongolian ancestors to our many tribes came after the Europeans. There may have been an earlier small migration from Micronesia to the west coast of South America, but it was insignificant and none came north of Central America.

The Indians today want their names removed from our schools because they are there. They would want them installed if they were not. Such are the ways of angry opportunists. They want what they do not have. They have what they do not want. They have no respect for what they have received free. Their reservations are examples of what pure communism does to people and is ironically supported by a free enterprise economy they hate.

The reservations are fading because young Indians see more

opportunity beyond their fences and rebel against the enforcement of "the old ways." Who wants to eat rodents tossed onto the coals of a dying fire by a fading culture in a smoke-polluted teepee when a warm pizza parlor with cold beer is a mile away and has a sign in the window, help-wanted?"

If a young Indian dares to achieve excellence in our schools he or she is belittled in the tribe because elders must be superior. What they don't know is not to be known. This is parenting opposed to the selfless evolution of man where caring, trusting parents are willing to die for progeny. We do not keep our young from assimilating superior cultures and by that measure are better parents. The old Indians are poisoned by their own ideas. In three generations they will be gone. What is the sense of preserving a culture of helpless hardship and hate?

Adrian Vance

Dear Editor:

Read your article re: removing India-related names, etc. I am totally in agreement with you. Takes a bit of nerve on your part to write this, seeing as how some of your clients will be of various political bents.

Keep up the good work. We need more clear-thinking folks like yourself to save America from a very large confused society out there.

John Kockos

Dear Editor:

The issue that I find to be missing from the national discussion on the subject of "Indian"-related names is simply the propriety, or lack thereof, of using the term "Indian" at all. You say that one can't help but think of courageous heroes from our history when hearing the name, but to me the word "Indian" conjures up images of a Portuguese sailor lunging ignorantly across the ocean and setting in motion events that would doom an entire continent of peoples to an era of brutality and subjugation that honestly has not ended today. We claim to have established systems of reservations to protect a way of life and a people, but even if they were large enough to support it, the land has been changed by our deliberate efforts (including government-funded planting of walnut trees) to the point where that life is no longer sustainable.

I feel that the issue of what spirit was intended while choosing the name is secondary to whether we

ought to be using the word to describe people who hail not from India but from the land of northern America. Isn't it possible that our familiarity with this misnomer is contributing to the acceptance of abuse and inequity.

Martin Espinoza

Dear Editor:

Just a note to let you know I wish you had been around when my high school team name was changed from the Pompano Beach Beanpickers to the Golden Tornados.

P. Tyler

Security at the Geysers

Dear Editor:

On Thursday, July 26, I had the good fortune to be able to attend a presentation at the Calpine Visitor Center concerning the future of the Calpine operation at The Geysers. It really is encouraging to see through a slideshow presentation as well as hear from local residents in the audience how Calpine responds to needs within the community—be it a tremor or an unpleasant odor permeating the air.

Without a doubt, the biggest problem at The Geysers is one which has nothing to do with steam, but everything to do with safety. The problem? In a word, Securitas. Unfortunately, Securitas is still handling clearance and traffic security. That means the security operation at The Geysers is more cosmetic than it is real. In a post-911 world, this kind of bogus operation should not be tolerated.

One can only hope the security mess at The Geysers is NOT typical of other power plant operations across our county. If it is, we have a national problem—not just a local one. But, I believe the good people of Lake County will NOT continue to tolerate the cosmetic brand of security promoted by Securitas. No, I believe they will demand security be responsive to their needs.

It is understandable that Calpine may be too preoccupied with getting out of bankruptcy to notice ALL the Securitas deficiencies. Calpine is not a security company, but an award-winning supplier of geothermal power. Therefore, it is up to the good citizens of Lake County and all those who care about the area to take proactive action. What kind of action? Demand that all three guard locations be linked through a network and have traffic records accessible via a database at the click of a mouse button. No more of this ridiculous reconciling and filing of handwritten traffic records eight to

24 hours after-the-fact. And, there should be a clearance back-up procedure to make sure no contractor scheduled to work within The Geysers is denied access.

Here are some folks who need to hear your concerns:

- 1) Ed Robey, Lake County District 1 Supervisor, P.O. Box 796, Lower Lake, CA 95457.
- 2) Department of Homeland Security, Washington, DC 20528. There is also a comment line: (202) 282-8495.
- 3) Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, State Capital Bldg., Sacramento, CA 95814.
- 4) Fox News Channel. Call 1-888-369-4762. (Be sure to thank Fox for coming to Middletown for "Middletown Days" in 2006.) Encourage them to send a camera crew to The Geysers to report back to the American people what they see.

The world's largest geothermal operation deserves the best security money can buy for its employees, guests and property owners. But, they don't have it. They have Securitas, instead. The Geysers deserves better. Let's help them get it.

Lamar Morgan

Taliban at Lake Co. Jail?

Dear Editor:

D Pod at the Hill Rd. Jail has visiting behind glass, and all mail is screened. They are observed through glass 24/7. So why would the jail staff believe there were threatening substances anywhere in the Pod to warrant 15 CO's with guns, and a dog, to break in at 3 am on June 21; throw people off their bunks, one who was hit hard in the face; one inmate at the urinal was pepper sprayed; and then all 40 or so inmates put on their kees against the wall, stripped and stripped searched and then thrown out into the cold for 2 hours without clothes on.

Then all of their personal books, Bibles and personal items confiscated for 2 days. I would think this is a bit harsh!

Also, this event caused trauma to a few of the inmates!

If the jail staff cannot monitor the inmates more effectively than this; something is really wrong. The alleged complaint was that some of the inmates were up talking and making too much noise. I think the jail policy should be revised to be a bit more humane. Does anyone care what is being done about this; or is this common practice?

Madelyn Martinelli

For more information on these properties,
dial **1-800-224-4566** and enter the **EXT#** listed in
the ad, or call 707-274-1990 to be connected to the listing agent.

HOMES FOR SALE

3652 Cypress St. • Clearlake
MLS #99541 • EXT# 24019 • \$112,000



2 BR/1 BA Manufactured home. Fenced lot. Carport. Well. Covered deck. Repainted in/out. **Ask for Irene Rivas and Justin LaFazio**

11135 Lakeshore Dr. • Clearlake
MLS #103600 • EXT# 96189 • \$795,000



Lakefront in Pirates Cove. 3 BR/2 BA on more than 1/2 acre of waterfront property. Brand-new home with tile, granite, plush carpeting, lake views from almost every room. **Ask for Debra Sacco.**

15633 35th Ave. • Clearlake
MLS #102191 • EXT# 77619 • \$239,000



Remodeled 2 BR/1 BA on 1/2 acre. Seasonal creek. New: laminate floors, appliances, garden window, solid-oak trim and cabinets, laundry room and bonus room! **Ask for CC Summerfield and Megan Sousa.**

6936 Meadowbrook Dr., Clearlake
MLS #99589 • EXT# 99639 • \$220,000



Great 2 BR/1.5 BA home on large, corner lot. Covered patio in back yard. New paint inside. RV parking! Great for vacation or first-time buyer! **Ask for Steve Shields.**

15693 22nd Ave. • Clearlake
MLS #103085 • EXT# 32979 • \$260,000



New 3 BR/2 BA! Open floor plan. Padded carpets in all BRs, bamboo flooring in all common areas! Vaulted ceilings, ceiling fans in LR and MBR. Modern kitchen! **Ask for Annie Peters.**

3528 Covelo St. • Clearlake
MLS #100184 • EXT# 80169 • \$189,500



1950s gem with so many possibilities! Lot behind the house included in sale! Storage unit and another unit with "granny" potential. **Ask for Shevaun Stanfill and Zac Bassham.**

16174 36th Ave. • Clearlake
MLS #103128 • EXT# 99819 • \$235,000



Large 3 BR/2 BA, quality, stick-built home on paved street. Hardwood floors, walk-in closet in MBR, rear deck, open floor plan. 2-car gar. 1,347 sq. ft. **Ask for Steve Shields.**

11783 Widgeon Way • Clearlake Oaks
MLS #103228 • EXT# • \$260,000



Panoramic views of Clear Lake, Mt. Konociti and hillsides. Remodeled with a modern, artistic flair. Hardwood floors, free standing wood FP. Family room and large deck! Remodeled BAs! **Ask for Yolande Muller.**

11460 Lakeshore Dr. • Clearlake Park
MLS #100750 • EXT# 5321 • \$525,000



Lakefront 3 BR/3 BA! Main house 1,000 sq. ft., detached granny unit 400 sq. ft. with kitchen, BA and deck. Beachfront! Dock is shared! **Ask for Shelly Reed.**

2965 Silverado Ln. • Clearlake Park
MLS #102880 • EXT# 21699 • \$499,000



Unique home built over the water. A rare find! Boat lift/ramp/sun deck. Impressive views! **Ask for James Kellis.**

12956 Napa St. • Clearlake Park
MLS #102202 • EXT# 67629 • \$249,000



Charming 2 BR/2 BA older home in a nice, quiet neighborhood with lake views. 2-car gar. Bonus room! 1,200 sq. ft. **Ask for Beth Turman and Dean Crumley.**

13445 Santa Clara Ave. • Clearlake Park
MLS #101391 • EXT# 79619 • \$380,000



Great condition! 2 BR/2 BA. Woodstove. Bar. Hot tub. Pool. Big garage. Many upgraded features! **Ask for Dawn Kompaniet.**

3960 Oak Dr. • Clearlake Park
MLS #102848 • EXT# 21639 • \$1,300,000



3-story 3 BR/2.5 BA on Monitor Pt. Deep-water docking. Decks. Hardwood floors. Double FP. MBR w/sweeping views. Walk-in pantry. **Ask for James Kellis.**

13468 Arrowhead • Clearlake Park
MLS #102727 • EXT# 52919 • \$380,000



Lake view! Almost 1 acre. 3 BR/1.5 BA w/modern features! Open floor plan. 2 FPs. Interior laundry room. Huge garage. Separate room could be apartment w/BA! **Ask for Shelly Reed.**

16350 Daly Pl. • Lower Lake
MLS #102376 • EXT# 32949 • \$195,000



3 BR/3 BA manufactured home surrounded by a great variety of flowers. Covered back deck. Large patio. 2 sheds. **Ask for Annie Peters.**

3755 Spring Valley Rd. • Spring Valley
MLS #101721 • EXT# 72319 • \$110,000



Level, 1/2-acre lot, fenced. 2 BR/2 BA home with great potential! Woodstove in LR, laundry room. MBA has shower and garden tub. **Ask for Dean Crumley.**



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