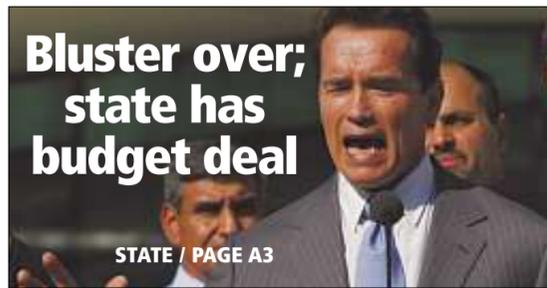


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APPEAL-DEMOCRAT

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Yuba-Sutter home sales remain sluggish

Realtors say stats don't reflect rising interest

By **John Dickey**
Appeal-Democrat

Home-sale prices dipped below the \$200,000 mark in Sutter County last month, part of a sharp year-over drop locally and statewide that was driven by foreclosures.

Figures released Thursday by MDA DataQuick showed median price declines of more than 30 percent for homes in Yuba and Sutter counties for August compared with

August 2007.

Sutter County's home price dipped below \$200,000 to a median \$190,000 last month – well below the \$275,000 figure reported for August 2007.

MDA DataQuick figures showed homes in Yuba County dropped to \$178,000 in August. That's down from \$274,000 for August 2007.

While MDA DataQuick figures suggest that the quantity of sales was scarcely changed from a year ago in Yuba and

Sutter counties, local Realtors say home-sale activity is picking up.

"There's a lot of buyers out there, hovering for deals," said Lloyd Leighton, a Realtor who has the Yuba City firm Lloyd Leighton Realtors.

Leighton said he sold one home that received four offers. Another Realtor's listing received 13. But with so many foreclosed homes out there, price was the key to getting the buyers off the fence.

HOME SALE FIGURES

	MEDIAN PRICES SUTTER COUNTY	YUBA COUNTY
August 2007	\$275,000	\$274,000
July 2008	\$203,000	\$183,500
August 2008	\$190,000	\$178,000
Change	-30.9 percent	-35 percent

Source: MDA DataQuick

"The sellers who want to be successful have to be willing to compete with the foreclosures," said Leighton.

Realtor Jay Johnson, of American Home Realty, said prices in Plumas Lake have begun leveling off at about 15 to 20 percent

lower than a year ago. But he says there is a jump in sales in the big subdivision Turn to **HOME SALES / A6**

Yuba schools meld nicely

Students learn just how familiar diversity can become

Story by **Nancy Pasternack**
Photography by **Ana Pimsler**
Appeal-Democrat

It was only seven months ago that parents of Alicia Intermediate School students gathered in the auditorium of that now-defunct institution and shared – with the help of Spanish and Hmong interpreters – concerns about their children's immediate future.

Plans to bus Alicia's roughly 400 students from Linda to Yuba Gardens School, three miles away in Olivehurst, prompted fear that an already-existing student population there would prey upon the newcomers.

But on Thursday evening, many of the same parents were in attendance at a Back to School celebration in the schoolyard outside Yuba Gardens School.

They looked on as their kids laughed and played with new friends, watched Hispanic and Hmong dancing – activities imported from Alicia School – and marveled at all that was familiar and unfamiliar.

"We worried about fighting," said Alma Gonzalez, mother of an eighth-grader who made the move.

"It was scary. I didn't know the teachers."

But things seem to have worked out nicely, she said. She is no longer worried.

Special efforts, some which were spearheaded months before the start of the school year, have been largely responsible for the peaceful transition, said Yuba Gardens

"We are very fortunate because we have all the flavor."

Gloria Castro

Outreach teacher, Yuba Gardens Intermediate School



Dancers in Aerodynamix, from Lindhurst High School, cheer for the Yuba Gardens' YG Boys dance team during Yuba Gardens' Back to School Night on Thursday.



Above Malik Jones, 13, breakdances with the YG Boys, while, at right, members of Hearts of Five perform a traditional Hmong dance during Yuba Gardens' Back to School Night on Thursday.

Co-Principal Cindy Thomas.

Those efforts, like the early introduction of ethnic dance programs and a break-dancing club, are largely the work of teachers who volunteer extra time.

Thomas gestured toward a well-organized dance troupe, and the large cluster of kids and parents who were cheering them on.

Turn to **SCHOOLS / A4**



Yuba Gardens seventh-grader Alex Berry goes up for a shot while classmate Solomon Her looks on during the school's Back to School Night. Her went to Alicia Intermediate School last year.



Non-union nurses say end of CNA fairly close

Union rep says certification petition count likely skewed

By **Andrea Koskey**
Appeal-Democrat

Employees for Self-Representation say they need less than 50 registered nurses at Fremont-Rideout Health Group to sign a petition to decertify the California Nurses Association without an election.

That goal, Self Representation representatives said, is within their grasp.

"We're getting really close," said Jan Brundage, spokeswoman for the employee group and registered nurse at the Feather River Surgery Center. "We're less than 50 signatures away."

Brundage said they need a total of 235 signatures to decertify the union without an election. Roughly 450 nurses are employed by Fremont-Rideout.

Pro-union nurses said that number is surprising to them.

Turn to **UNION / A6**

Retired CHP officer dies in bike accident

By **Howard Yune**
Appeal-Democrat

A longtime California Highway Patrol officer died Thursday in Yuba City after he veered into traffic and his bicycle slammed into a truck on Highway 99.

The cyclist, 73-year old James Silsbee of Yuba City, was found in the northbound lanes of the highway, north of Hunn Road, shortly after 2 p.m., CHP Officer Jeff Larson said.

He was pronounced dead at the scene. Silsbee served 30 years with the CHP – the last 23 in Yuba City – before retiring in 1991 as a sergeant, according to his son Scott Silsbee, himself a former CHP captain in Yuba City.

Turn to **ACCIDENT / A6**

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