



- ▶ Controversy shakes Twin Cities Rescue Mission / **Page C1**
- ▶ Appeals court orders resentencing for Yuba City killer / **Page C1**
- ▶ Illiteracy slows Hurricane Katrina recovery in New Orleans / **Page C3**



# APPEAL-DEMOCRAT

Wednesday, August 27, 2008

Marysville-Yuba City, California

Online: [www.appeal-democrat.com](http://www.appeal-democrat.com)

Single copy 47¢ + tax

## Big bust near Bullards Bar



Ana Pimsler/Appeal-Democrat

Gene Frailey, a Yuba County sheriff's deputy, ties down marijuana plants Tuesday after members of Campaign Against Marijuana Planting

removed them from U.S. Forest Service land near Bullards Bar Reservoir. The previous Yuba County record was about 8,000 plants seized.

### Raid nets more than 11,000 pot plants

By Rob Young  
Appeal-Democrat

A chance sighting by a state Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement pilot led to the eradication Tuesday of 11,251 illegal marijuana plants near Bullards Bar Reservoir, the highest number found in recent Yuba County history, authorities said.

Food items and Spanish language reading material found near the garden in the Tahoe National Forest indicated it was being tended by Mexican nationals, all of whom had fled by the time agents arrived at about 8 a.m.

After a sweaty morning of cutting mostly immature plants 1.3 miles southeast of the reservoir, agents were plucked from the thickly wooded area by a helicopter and brought back by twos to the Dark Day boat ramp, dangling at the end of a cable beneath the aircraft.

The cool ride beneath the helicopter was a meager reward for a half-day of exhausting work in 100-plus degree temperatures, one agent was heard to say.

The eradication was a joint effort by the state Campaign Against Marijuana Planting, or CAMP, task force, the Yuba County Sheriff's Department and the Yuba-Sutter Narcotic Enforcement Team, or NET-5.

Plants found with buds – the most valuable part – were buried in a landfill at an undisclosed location. Stems and leaves of budless plants were left at the scene to rot.

The number of plants seized was average compared to seizures statewide, said Holly Swartz, a spokeswoman for CAMP, which last year eradicated 2.9 million plants compared to just 354,202 in 2002. Mexican drug organizations are behind most of the gardens found, she said.

The rapidly increasing numbers don't mean more illegal marijuana is being grown every year, rather that CAMP and other agencies are getting better at spotting it, said Mike Hudson, NET-5 commander.

Stepped-up seizures are making it harder for Mexican drug organizations to make a profit on the gardens, which cost tens of

Turn to **POT / A5**

See the video at [appealdemocrat.com](http://appealdemocrat.com)

## Furniture store quits YC location

### Bad economy sinks McMahan's

By Robert LaHue  
Appeal-Democrat

A West Coast furniture retailer with a long history in Yuba-Sutter announced Tuesday it plans to close after almost nine decades in business.

McMahan's Furniture said it will shut all 15 of its stores, including Yuba City, within the next few months.

McMahan's did not say how many employees are at the Yuba City store or how long it has been in business in the Mid-Valley.

Sutter County records indicate the store's location at Colusa Avenue and Stafford Way was originally constructed in 1969, and McMahan's was the occupant, said Estelle Lester of the county Assessor's Office.

The company, which has been in business for 89 years, cited a slump in the home furnishings business that has been ongoing for two years.

"McMahan's has experienced downturns before and always managed to rebound; however, this decline dating back to late 2006 has been considerably longer and deeper than anything (McMahan's) previously experienced," the company said.

Along with the Yuba City store, the other Northern California McMahan's stores closing are in Woodland, Oroville, Chico, Red Bluff, Redding and Eureka. Chico and Redding also have additional La-Z-Boy gallery locations the company operates.

Earlier this month, McMahan's stores in Bakersfield and Medford, Ore., were shut down. The compa-

Turn to **MCMAHAN'S / A6**

## Biggs-Gridley hospital listed in critical condition

By Howard Yune  
Appeal-Democrat

The smallest of the Mid-Valley hospitals will stop taking overnight patients at year's end, leaving Gridley and Live Oak-area residents looking for hospital beds elsewhere.

No more patients will enter Biggs-Gridley Memorial Hospital's 30 beds after Dec. 31, Theresa Hamilton, chief executive of Fremont-Rideout Health Group, confirmed Tuesday.

"Given the financial drain on the system, it just isn't viable to keep inpatient operations going when we have a daily census of about seven," she said.

Fremont-Rideout is slated to formally announce the closure to state and federal regulators on Oct. 1.

Outpatient services will continue at the 60-year-old Gridley center at 240 Spruce St., and Hamilton said the hospital group hopes to open a round-the-clock urgent care clinic at the site.

A small, rarely filled hospital is a luxury Fremont-Rideout can no longer subsidize, said Hamilton, who also pointed to stricter earthquake resistance codes in 2013 that could have forced costly retrofits or a new building.

"For at least the past 10 years, (occupancy) has been at a level that doesn't support the hospital," she added.

As a tax-exempt organization, the hospital files

Turn to **HOSPITAL / A5**

## Hillary's message: 'No way. No how. No McCain'

By Larry Eichel  
The Philadelphia Inquirer

**MORE COVERAGE**  
John McCain says Barack Obama is confused about America's role in the world. / Page A4

DENVER – With a forceful and gracious Hillary Rodham Clinton setting the tone, the Democratic Party on Tuesday night called for unity behind Barack Obama and escalated its verbal assault against Republican John McCain.

The unequivocal call to come together was sounded by the New York senator, who ran the most successful presidential campaign

ever by a woman and whose most devoted supporters have had trouble accepting that she came up just short.

"My friends, it is time to take back the country we love," Clinton

Turn to **DEMOCRATS / A4**



Associated Press

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., in Billings, Mont., watches Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., speak at the Democratic National Convention on Tuesday night in Denver.

**FREEDOM COMMUNICATIONS, INC.**  
Vol. 157 ▾ No. 240  
DAILY  
6 50863 00009 1

HIGH: 102  
LOW: 61

Bridge	<b>D5</b>	Lottery	<b>A2</b>
Calendar	<b>A2</b>	Movies	<b>B5</b>
Classified	<b>D3</b>	Nation	<b>C3</b>
Classic Comics	<b>D4</b>	Obituaries	<b>C2</b>
Comics	<b>C5</b>	Opinion	<b>B7</b>
Crosswords	<b>B6</b>	Sports	<b>B1</b>
Dear Abby	<b>B6</b>	State	<b>A3</b>
Entertainment	<b>B5</b>	Sudoku	<b>D5</b>
Finance	<b>B8</b>	Weather	<b>A6</b>
Local	<b>C1</b>	World	<b>C4</b>

[appealdemocrat.com](http://appealdemocrat.com)  
Want to know the latest?  
Sign up for breaking news alerts by e-mail at [appeal-democrat.com](mailto:appeal-democrat.com)

**80 lbs. of Heart**  
Follow a dad's journey to get fit to donate a kidney to his daughter at [appealdemocrat.com](http://appealdemocrat.com)

THE FREMONT-RIDEOUT HEALTH GROUP  
exceptional care, close to home

### Feather River Pain Management Center "We Strive for Quality of Life."

Feather River Pain Management Center is located inside Feather River Surgery Center and specializes in treatment of people who have ongoing (chronic) pain.

Ask your Doctor for a referral or to learn more call (530) 751-4776.

Feather River Pain Management Center  
Dr. Muhammad Alghannam  
Fellowship Trained in Pain Management