



**Monterey County**

**The Herald**

Wednesday, August 27, 2008

www.montereyherald.com

**Herald question of the day**  
Should the United States try to deliver humanitarian aid to the country of Georgia?  
 Yes  No  
Go to: [montereyherald.com](http://montereyherald.com) to place your vote.  
Herald surveys are unscientific

**Friend says Kenney not violent**

**"That's not Jack's way. Everything he did was within the system."**

**Army Col. Rene Burgess**  
defense witness

**TESTIFIES DEFENDANT 'INTIMIDATED'**

By **VIRGINIA HENNESSEY**  
Herald Salinas Bureau

A friend of murder defendant John "Jack" Kenney testified Tuesday that Kenney felt "he was up against evil" in his ongoing property dispute with

neighbors Mel and Elizabeth Grimes. Army Col. Rene Burgess said Kenney was frustrated with the situation — and angry about cronyism he felt was protecting the Grimeses from local law enforcement — but never talked about physically harming the couple.

"Absolutely not," Burgess said when asked by prosecutor Berkley Brannon if Kenney ever talked about "taking the law into his own hands."

"That's not Jack's way. Everything he did was within the system," Burgess said.

Dressed in full uniform, Burgess was called out of order as a defense witness because he is about to leave for an assignment in Kuwait.

Defense attorney Thomas Nolan tried to use his testimony to establish that Kenney was in "fear" of the

Please see **Kenney page A9**

**Hospital upgrade bond fails**

**PROBLEM ECONOMY DRAGS DOWN MEASURE W**

By **LARRY PARSONS**  
Herald Staff Writer

Voters in the Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System District failed Tuesday to pass a property tax-supported bond measure to help pay for major hospital upgrades.

Only a slim majority of voters in the special, all-mail election favored Measure W, which needed a two-thirds majority for passage.

With about 2,000 late ballots remaining to be counted, the Election Day margin showed only 52 percent of voters supporting the measure, well below the two-thirds threshold.

At 8:30 p.m., election officials released the first, and only, count of the night. Their tally of 20,547 ballots returned by Monday was 10,693 yes votes and 9,854 no votes.

County Registrar of Voters Linda Tulett said the remaining ballots will be counted by Friday.

But Measure W backers don't look for a miracle turnaround in the remaining ballots, which will push turnout to about 35 percent.

"It's not going to (pass) at 52-48 (percent)," said Measure W campaign manager Brian Higgins.

Brett Landon, who opposed the measure for the Salinas Valley Taxpayers Union, said, "We dodged a bullet — a billion-dollar bullet."

Measure W called for a \$392 million, 40-year bond issue to pay for two-thirds of a planned \$600 million upgrade to Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital in Salinas. Hospital officials said they

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**CLINTON THROWS SOLID SUPPORT TO OBAMA**

**CONVENTION HALL PACKED FOR APPEARANCE**



CHUCK KENNEDY/MCT

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton acknowledges delegates at the Democratic National Convention in Denver on Tuesday.

By **DAVID ESPO**  
Associated Press

**"We don't need four more years . . . of the last eight years."**

Sen. **Hillary Rodham Clinton**  
D-N.Y.

DENVER — Hillary Rodham Clinton summoned the millions of voters who supported her in the primaries to send Barack Obama to the White House late Tuesday, and drew thunderous applause at the Democratic National Convention when she declared her one-time rival is "my candidate and he must be our president."

"We don't have a moment to lose or a vote to spare," said the former first lady, writing the final chapter in a

quest for the White House every bit as pioneering as Obama's own.

The packed convention floor became a sea of white "Hillary" signs as the New York senator — Obama's fiercest rival across 56 primaries and

caucuses — strode to the podium for her prime-time speech. The signs were soon replaced by others that read simply, "Unity."

While her remarks included a full-throated endorsement of Obama, Clinton did not say whether she would have her name placed in nomination or seek a formal roll call of the states when the party's top prize is awarded by delegates tonight.

Clinton had been the prohibitive favorite for the nomination she

**On the Web**

[montereyherald.com](http://montereyherald.com)  
See the online version of this story for more convention coverage.

Please see **Convention page A9**

**Moscow's defiance echoes strained**  
Cold War relations with the United States

**Russia recognizes two breakaway regions in Georgia**

By **TOM LASSETER**  
and **ALLA BURAKOVSKAYA**  
McClatchy Newspapers



**Dmitry Medvedev**

Russian president says "We're not afraid of anything, of the prospect of a Cold War," in television interview.

MOSCOW — Russia on Tuesday formally recognized the independence of the two Georgian regions that its military occupies, further inflaming relations with the U.S. in a standoff that recalls the Cold War.

The announcement by President Dmitry Medvedev, in disregard of repeated U.S. warnings, confirmed Russia's return to the world stage as a military power willing to use force to recapture former Soviet territories. It raises the prospect that the two breakaway areas, South Ossetia and Abkhazia, eventually will join the Russian Federation or operate as satellites.

"We're not afraid of anything, of the prospect of a Cold War," Medvedev told Russian television in an interview Tuesday. "Of course, we don't want that.

Please see **Georgia page A9**

**Insurer says drivers changing tune**

**Dollars & Change**



Dollars & Change is an ongoing series that examines how gas prices, inflation and economic conditions are being felt by Monterey County residents.

By **LAITH AGHA**  
Herald Staff Writer

Being in the business of insuring vehicles, Ann Appel sees what people are insuring. Which means she knows what they are driving.

Because of soaring gas prices, she said, people are steering away from fuel-guzzling sport utility vehicles and buying smaller cars with higher fuel efficiency, Appel said. Some people are selling their less efficient vehicles, she said, while others are hanging onto them to keep as yard decorations.

"People are downsizing, not only the size of the cars, but the number of cars," said Appel, a Farmers Insurance agent in Monterey. "A lot of people are canceling that extra vehicle or trading in that gas hog for a more economical vehicle."

But drivers are not necessarily gravitating toward hybrids, she said.

"There's a slight uptick in motorcycles, but not so much for hybrids," Appel said. "They are still very expensive. It takes a long time to recover your investment" through fuel savings. The cheapest hybrid

vehicle, a Toyota Prius, starts at more than \$21,000, according to the Cars.com Web site.

The vehicle of choice, she said, is

Please see **Dollars page A9**



ORVILLE MYERS/The Herald

**Farmers Insurance agent Ann Appel helps Trinnaatee Chotimongkol save money on his insurance on Tuesday by signing up for a new policy.**

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Nation .....A3  
Obituaries .....B7

Sports .....C1  
Sudoku .....D1  
TV, Dear Abby .....D7  
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