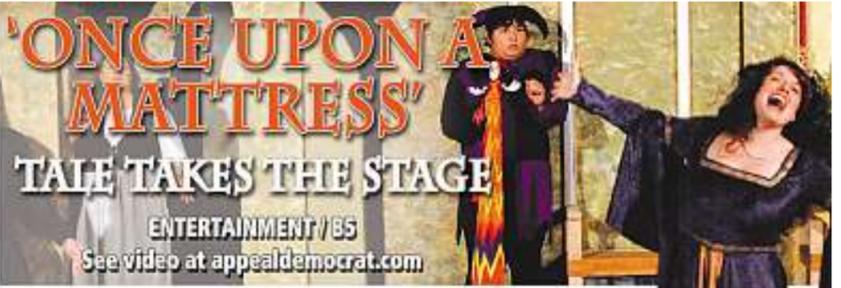


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APPEAL-DEMOCRAT

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Y.C.'s neighborhood niche



Photos by David Bitton/Appeal-Democrat

Teal McCracken, from left, Carleigh McCracken, Bailey McCracken and Cindy Wingfield, all of Live Oak, enjoy their meal at Straw Hat Pizza on

Wednesday in Yuba City. Straw Hat Pizza is one of the businesses that's found success in the Shanghai Bend area.

Shanghai Bend businesses show staying power

By Ashley Gebb
Appeal-Democrat

A cluster of businesses in south Yuba City may have found their niche for surviving the downturn – setting up shop in a neighborhood.

Subway, Quiznos, Starbucks and Sierra Central Credit Union are among businesses successfully settled and proclaiming success near Shanghai Bend, along with a few salons and other food services. Little Caesar's Pizza is the latest addition along Garden Highway.

"I think people wondered if it would ever work and it continues to thrive," said Darin Gale, Yuba City's economic development



Donna English, owner of Straw Hat Pizza, delivers food during the lunch hour on Wednesday in Yuba City.

manager. "Some people have taken a chance with commercial development in that area, and services provided for neighborhoods have done well."

Sales are half of what Donna English

anticipated they would be when she decided to open Straw Hat Pizza, but faithful pizza eaters and hungry neighbors continue to

Turn to **NICHE / A6**

Stabbing, death in Yuba City apartment

Woman dies after boyfriend wounded in chest with steak knife

By Rob Young
Appeal-Democrat

Yuba City police are investigating the stabbing of a 40-year-old man at a Plumas Street apartment complex, followed by the death of a woman neighbors said was his live-in girlfriend.

Neighbors in the Driftwood Apartments, 1200 Plumas St., called police at 7:25 p.m. Tuesday after Jason L. Clifford was found stabbed in the chest. Clifford told officers the life-threatening wound was self-inflicted and accidental, said police spokeswoman Shawna Pavey.

Clifford started walking to a hospital but collapsed from loss of blood. He underwent surgery at Rideout Memorial Hospital and was in the intensive care unit Wednesday, Pavey said.

A hospital spokeswoman said no information was available on his condition.

In 2005, Clifford pleaded no contest to a felony charge of assault with a deadly weapon and was sentenced by a Yuba County judge to two years in prison. He was accused of beating his ex-girlfriend and threatening her with a butcher knife when he found her on the phone with another man.

Clifford was arrested on domestic violence-related charges in June 2007, August 2000 and November 1999, all in Yuba County, according to Appeal-Democrat accounts.

Officers returned to the Driftwood Apartments early Wednesday afternoon after the woman was found dead in the second-floor apartment she shared with Clifford.

The Sutter County Coroner's Office confirmed a death at the address but did not release the woman's name or cause of death.

Pavey said officers did not arrest the woman Tuesday night because Clifford told them he had stabbed himself accidentally. Neighbors were interviewed and did not have contradictory information, she said.

"No information prompted us to make an arrest," she said.

Officers also interviewed the woman and found no reason to believe the stabbing was other than self-inflicted, Pavey said.

The woman is not a suspect, and the investigation is ongoing. The steak knife that Clifford was

Turn to **STAB / A6**

Cool reception for salmon enhancement plan on Yuba River

By Ben van der Meer
Appeal-Democrat

Representatives from Pacific Gas & Electric Co. and the Department of Water Resources told a fish story Wednesday evening. Yuba River landowners weren't exactly biting.

The proposal by the two agencies to spend \$20 million to enhance habitat for spring-run Chinook salmon on the Lower Yuba River got a mixed response at a

Marysville meeting. Comments on the proposal are being taken until Feb. 18.

"A lot of what you're going to hear is conceptual in nature," said Paul Kubicek, a fisheries biologist with PG&E, at the hearing's outset. "There's a lot of detail that needs to be worked out."

Under the proposal, DWR and the utility company would add gravel to create spawning beds on Deer Creek and an area below the creek on the

Yuba, and reconnect side channels in nine areas along the river to provide habitat for juvenile rearing.

A segregation weir to split spring-run and fall-run salmon could also be part of the plan, depending on studies of its potential effectiveness.

The goal would be to expand habitat enough to spur an additional 2,000 to 3,000 new salmon in the Yuba's spring run, though Kubicek and other speakers acknowledged their focus was only

on the habitat and not on any salmon numbers. To do such work, the two agencies need landowner approval to access the river.

But while those landowners didn't disagree salmon runs on the Yuba – particularly the spring run – have been in marked decline, they questioned whether the proposed habitat expansion would be worthwhile.

"The problem is not that there's not enough spawning ground, it's that

there's not enough fish," said Joe Wurm, 47, who lives on the river in the Hallwood area. He later said, "It's all for show. If they took the same \$20 million and spent it on a hatchery, they'd get thousands more fish."

Speakers from DWR and PG&E, though, said a hatchery wouldn't produce the same kind of self-sustaining populations that habitat expansion

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