

Lions snag win

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Where's this wine bar?

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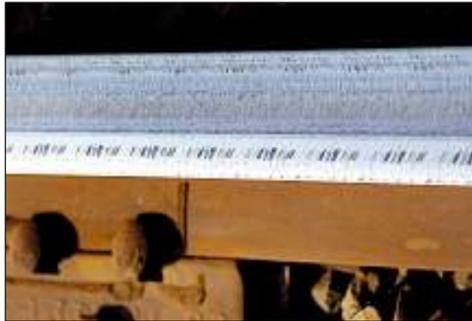
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TRAIN TRACK MAINTENANCE

Smoothing the rails



Photos by Colleen Cummins/Appeal-Democrat

ABOVE: Operator Matt Spooner does routine maintenance on the Loram rail grinder while waiting at Binney Junction for a train to pass. The rail grinder consists of a crew of six and operates in conjunction with four Union Pacific Rail Road workers that work a 12-hour shift grinding the rails. **TOP:** A rail that was put through the process bears the marks of the 44 individual motors that control each grinder.

Grinder removes cracks before they get worse

By Ashley Gebb
 Appeal-Democrat

Sparks have been flying along Yuba-Sutter railroad tracks in the last few days. Loram Maintenance of Way Inc. wrapped up its periodic grinding of area Union Pacific Railroad rails Tuesday after smoothing nearly 100 miles of local tracks. The routine maintenance eliminates cracks caused by typical train traffic.

Grinding improves rail safety by maintaining the wheel-rail interface, and it also raises fuel efficiency, minimizes noise and increases ride smoothness, said Joe Ashley, manager of marketing and business development.

Turn to **TRAIN / A8**



Moving at about 6-10 miles per hour, the Loral rail grinder shoots sparks as it grinds the rails on Saturday in Marysville.

YUBA CITY SCHOOLS

Trustees decline pay cut

\$15 monthly drop 'a nice gesture,' but not enough

By Ryan McCarthy
 Appeal-Democrat

No pay cut will take place for Yuba City Unified trustees, one of whom said Tuesday that talking about a \$15-a-month reduction was almost insulting when teachers said they worry about making their mortgage payments.

"At best it's a nice gesture," Trustee Lonetta Riley said before the board of trustees took no action on cutting their compensation.

A 5-percent pay cut for trustees, who can make a maximum of \$400 a month, was among proposals.

Riley referred to statements by teachers at the start of the meeting about a 5.5 percent cut in pay for instructors that some teachers said will mean about \$300 less a month in compensation.



James Ferreira
 YCUSD trustee

Teacher Paula Manning, speaking about cutting pay for trustees, said she was worried about a proposal to end the \$559 the school district contributes monthly to health care plans that trustees can have through the school district.

Manning said she didn't want to see people lose their health insurance.

"This is why I love the teachers in Yuba City Unified," Trustee James Ferreira said of such concern about the loss of benefits.

The meeting began with instructors supporting a Yuba City Teachers Association proposal to cut their pay by 5.5 percent through measures that include five fewer school days.

Dina Luetgens, president of the teachers association, said the proposal would save more than \$2 million, reflects instructors recognizing economic realities and will allow an end to contract negotiations and a focus on teaching and learning.

Luetgens said the next scheduled contract negotiation is April 13.

Turn to **TRUSTEES / A8**

OBAMA SIGNS HEALTH CARE BILL

President: 'A new season in America'

By Jennifer Loven
 Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Claiming a historic triumph that could define his presidency, a jubilant Barack Obama signed a massive, nearly \$1 trillion health care overhaul on Tuesday that will for the first time cement insurance coverage as the right of every U.S. citizen and begin to reshape the way virtually all Americans receive and pay for treatment.

After more than a year of hyperpartisan struggle - and

numerous near-death moments for the measure - Obama declared "a new season in America" as he sealed a victory denied to a line of presidents stretching back more than half a century. Democratic lawmakers cheered him on, giving the White House signing ceremony a rally-like atmosphere as they shouted and snapped photos with pocket cameras or cell phones.

Not everyone was cheering. The Democrats pushed the bill

Turn to **OBAMA / A7**

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- Find out more about the impact the legislation can have on your life.
- See a timeline detailing the bill's path from February 2009 to Tuesday.
- Thirteen states' attorneys general sue the federal government.

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What are your thoughts on the health care bill passing?

- It's a great day for America
- This is going to destroy America
- I'm not sure yet
- I really don't care

Tea partiers not discouraged by vote

By Kathleen Hennessey
 Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON - Leaders of the movement that bloomed in opposition to the health care reform bill say activists are only further galvanized in defeat and closer to the Republican Party they once claimed to scorn.

But "tea party" activists have not made it easy for mainstream Republicans to return the embrace.

The bill's final push to passage last weekend brought

reports that protesters on Capitol Hill had directed a racial epithet at a black Democrat and twice shouted a derogatory term at a gay lawmaker. Some House Republicans engaged the crowd of protesters with "Kill the bill" signs, but Republican leadership did not take the stage at the protest. Instead, they found themselves having to answer for the racial outbursts while trying not to alienate the most visible and vocal source of opposition.

Turn to **TEA PARTY / A7**

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