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Friday, August 3, 2012 • www.VisaliaTimesDelta.com • Your newspaper since 1859

Schools receive healthful donation

Some county schools to get salad bars

By Brian Maxey
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Students at 28 Tulare County elementary schools will pile leafy greens and locally-sourced fruits onto their plates in a new way when they return to school campuses over the next few weeks.

The schools, spread across nine districts, will now serve

fresh fruits and vegetables from crisp, new salad bars installed in cafeterias.

The addition of salad bars have grown in popularity in recent years as schools have revamped lunch menus to provide healthy options alongside cafeteria staples like chicken nuggets and deep-dish pizza.

The salad bars make it easier for schools to make fresh fruits

and vegetables available to students or to schools who cannot afford the \$2,500 price tag, said Kathleen Nave, president of the California Table Grape Commission.

"We want to encourage [students] to eat as healthfully as possible," Nave said. "And having these salad bars communicates that message."

In March, the organization

donated the 28 salad bars and will donate 5 more over the next two months as part of its participation in First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move Salad Bars to Schools" initiative.

The initiative, an offshoot of the first lady's signature campaign to reduce childhood obesity, "Let's Move," has helped place more than 1,000 salad bars at schools across the nation since its launch in 2010, according to the campaign's website.

Nani Rowland, project coordinator for the Network for a Healthy California which partnered with the grape commission to get the salad bars into the school cafeterias, said the salad bars are a step toward winning the fight against childhood obesity.

"Forty-four percent of the kids in Tulare County are not just overweight, but it's going beyond that into the next level of obesity," she said. "So the need

See **NUTRITION, Page 3A**

Staking out new territory



Smitty's hotdogs on Main St. has closed. The restaurant was located at 302 W. Main St., next to the Fox Theatre. STEVE R. FUJIMOTO

By Mark A. Peinado
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New dining spots open their doors downtown, on Mooney Boulevard

The restaurant grapevine in Visalia has been busy over the past two weeks.

The Firkin and Hound, All Pro Pizza and Smitty's Awesome Gourmet Hotdogs were thought to have closed up shop. Well, as it turns out, it's true of two of the businesses while the other one is moving about a mile down the street. Also, Me-n-Ed's is on the move while a new restaurant is opening downtown.

All Pro Pizza, which moved from its location on Ben Maddox Way to Mooney Boulevard just two years ago, is once again switching locations. This time, it's relocating to where the Me-n-Ed's used to be a few blocks down the road on Whit-

endale Avenue, Visalia project manager for economic development Ricardo Noguera said.

As for Me-n-Ed's, it has already moved to a new location. The pizza parlor is now located further south on Mooney just across from the Olive Garden in the Packwood Creek shopping center.

Manager Micah Bui said business has

been good but it can only get better as customers find out about the move.

"We've been open for a month here," Bui said. "People are still trying to figure it out. We're doing pretty well and the building is a lot nicer here. They think we're a new Me-and-Ed's but we're not, we just moved."

Noguera said there are various reasons tenants decide to relocate.

"It's a nice, larger space [for Me-n-Ed's]," Noguera said. "Another business [a retailer], not a restaurant, will take over at All Pro Pizza. It's like musical chairs."

"What happens is the rent becomes more attractive in certain shopping cen-

See **DINING, Page 3A**

LIVESTOCK FARMS

EPA can't regulate what it can't find

By Tammy Webber
Associated Press

CHICAGO — The report to Congress was blunt: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency had failed to regulate pollution from the nation's livestock farms — many capable of generating more waste than some cities — because it lacked information as basic as how many farms existed.

Four years after the U.S. Government Accountability Office raised concerns and 40 years after the Clean Water Act gave the EPA the authority to protect the nation's waterways, the agency still doesn't know the location of many livestock farms, let alone how much manure they generate or how the waste is handled.

Collected elsewhere

Most of that information is kept by various state and/or local agencies — or not collected at all.

At the same time, water-quality experts throughout the country cite livestock waste as a major contributor to water-quality problems, including in areas like the Chesapeake Bay, where manure runoff is believed to be responsible for up to one-fourth of phosphorus, which stimulates algae growth. If the EPA knew all the sources of that waste, it might be easier to stop it, environmentalists say.

So they were flabbergasted when the EPA recently decided against adopting a rule that would require livestock operators to provide the agency with information, opting instead to try to cobble it together from other

See **FARMS, Page 4A**

High: 99° Low: 64°

Pollen forecast today: 6.5



Saturday: 6.8
Sunday: 7.3

Predominant pollen: Juniper and grasses.

Source: Dr. A.M. Aminian

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A GANNETT NEWSPAPER
VOLUME 154, ISSUE 35



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QUICK NEWS

Pot grow site near SCICON found

Tulare County Sheriff's Department deputies destroyed a large marijuana grow site. See full story, 1B

Prisons profit from immigration

The U.S. government is locking up more illegal immigrants and private prisons are benefiting. See full story, 4A

Plan to tap Mojave Desert gains ground

CADIZ (AP) — A plan to draw massive

Visalia man fences despite vision loss



Visalia's Kent Moore, right, practices at the Los Angeles Fencing Institute. See full story, 5B. SUBMITTED

amounts of underground water from the Mojave Desert has taken a step forward. The Los Angeles Times says the project's environmental impact report was approved Tuesday by the Santa Margarita Water District. A private company, Cadiz Inc., wants to tap a huge aquifer 200 miles east of Los Angeles and sell enough water annually for 100,000 Southern California customers.

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