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## Angels couple building boat of big proportions

BY JOE KLARER  
JOE@CALAVERASENTERPRISE.COM

On Friday morning, Leo and Billie Fogg had to have their garage door removed temporarily in order to remove the sizable creation they pieced together inside. They pulled out a completed 34-foot long first hull of what will soon be a trimaran sailboat that the couple is building.

"This one's even faster," than comparable catamaran boats, Leo Fogg said. Unlike the catamarans, which have two hulls of equal size, a trimaran features a main hull and two smaller outrigger hulls attached with lateral beams.

Leo and Billie are both 85 and have been married for 65 years now after falling for each other in high school. They're building this magnanimous vessel for free, for their son Lloyd to use.

"It'll save him probably \$150,000," Leo said. "To buy one this size would cost a quarter of a million at least."

The Fogg couple, originally machinists, has taken on several projects of this scale before and this is the third sailboat they've built from the ground up.

"We built a 50-footer way back in the '70s that became a charter boat in the Caribbean for 25 years. And I've helped others build other trimarans, and we built a catamaran up in Washington in my garage," Leo said.

The couple has also spent lots of time sailing over the years. Leo acknowledged that building a boat is an ambitious undertaking, definitely not for the faint of heart.

"You've got to be a little crazy; you can't be normal," he said. "We forgot that 70 percent of building a boat is sanding. That's most of the work."

The main hull took the Fogs a little over a year to build. They'll soon get to work on the outer two hulls to the boat, which will be 34 feet long. The entire boat will be 30 feet wide when finished.

"The floats should go a couple of months each, but then there's the finishing stuff," Leo said. "This is just the basic hull. There's all the wiring and tubing that goes in it. It'll probably be another year before it's completed."

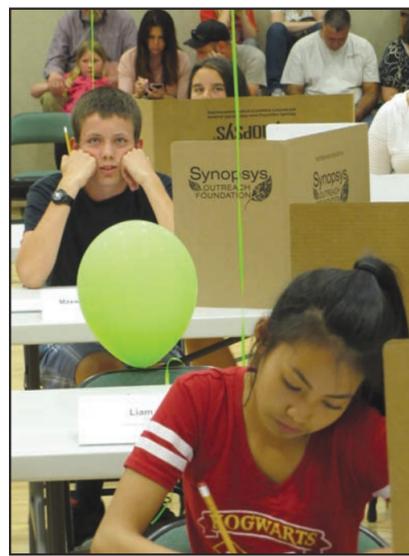
After the garage door was removed, the hull emerged with only 2 inches of headroom to spare. It was later moved to a San Andreas property. The Fogs look forward to continuing the construction of the sailboat for their son.

"Every piece you make on a boat is different," Leo said.



Enterprise photos by Mike Taylor

Above, Jackson Oliver, left, won first-place in sixth-grade, Jodie Hall in seventh-grade and Kaiya Hall in eighth-grade in the Calaveras County Spelling Bee. Cler Estoesta won second-place in ninth-grade and Max Stickle won first and they will represent the county at the state spelling bee. Below, Max and Cler compete.



## Student spellers make the grade

BY MIKE TAYLOR  
MTAYLOR@CALAVERASENTERPRISE.COM

In golf, players face off against each other, but they're really battling the fairways and bunkers and greens of the golf courses on which they compete. It's almost the same with a spelling bee, as contestants technically compete against each other, but they're at the mercy of the words that are announced.

And so it was one for the record books Thursday in San Andreas as

the 47th annual Calaveras County Spelling Bee Championship saw two students spell by themselves for almost a half-hour before a winner was declared.

It took 65 words and two hours to declare a winner in the marathon contest that saw two ninth-graders from Calaveras High School battle it out for orthographic supremacy. When all of the nearly 60 competitors had dropped away, Maxwell "Max"

see **Spellers**, A3

## Community run helps autism group reach goals

BY AMBER PAPPÉ  
AMBERPAPPE@COMCAST.NET

Gray skies and raindrops provided a backdrop for the fourth annual Off the Beaten Path road race in Murphys Saturday as runners and walkers of all ages, genders and abilities splashed their way along the rolling course.

Held each April during Autism Awareness Month, the event is a fundraiser for Mind Matters, a nonprofit organization serving individuals and their families experiencing autism spectrum disorders, attention deficit hyperactivity disorders and learning and social disabilities. Under the direction of family

physician Dr. Ryan Thompson and a team of professionals, the Murphys treatment center provides an array of services with the aim of assisting patients in achieving maximum potential.

"One of our goals is to help (clients) live a meaningful life, no matter how that is defined," said Tasha Unninar, the community outreach coordinator for Mind Matters, who organized the event. "We hope to grow the event so that next year is even bigger."

The day featured a 1K race for children, 5K and 10K races, as well as live music

see **Autism**, A6



Photo by Amber Pappé

Solay Summersett splashes to the finish in first place in the kids 1K with a time of 4:12. For the first time, Off the Beaten Path included a kids fun run for those 7 and under.

## Jumpers hit the road in a snazzy new Frogmobile

Enterprise report

A new Frogmobile is transporting Calaveras County's Celebrated Jumping Frogs on their annual public appearance tour. The State Captiol Frog Jump highlights the itinerary on May 6 in Sacramento, along with many other stops scheduled prior to the Calaveras County Fair & Jumping Frog Jubilee, May 14 through 17 at Frogtown.

The frogs and their entourage of Frog Jump Committee members/handlers are traveling in luxury in

a van wrapped with frog graphics – courtesy of donations from Angels Sewer and Drain and the Wintercreek Foundation. Graphics are by Eric Calialgro.

The frogs hit the road on May 5, appearing at Rail Road Flat Elementary School at 9 a.m. They then travel to the Government Center in San Andreas for the annual jump pitting county departments against each other, beginning at 11:30 a.m. The entourage

see **Frogmobile**, A6



Courtesy photo

The Frogmobile is ready to hit the road.

## Stanislaus water releases were for a few hundred fish, not six

By DANA M. NICHOLS  
DANA@CALAVERASENTERPRISE.COM

The sound bites and headlines mentioned six fish.

Some sources said it was nine fish. And many folks concerned about water shortages on the Stanislaus River in this drought year have been outraged to see good water that people could use flowing downstream to benefit those fish.

It turns out that the numbers weren't quite right. Hundreds of steelhead smolt, not six, or nine, or 29, were supposedly going to be pushed out to sea by the water released down the Stanislaus. Yet the substance of the underlying debate remains all too real even if overheated rhetoric casts the struggle as one between six fish and hundreds of thousands of people.

As Rep. Tom McClintock, R-Granite Bay, said on Wednesday in the House of Representatives, "In the last several weeks, the Bureau of Reclamation has released about 10 billion gallons of what precious little water remains behind the New Melones Dam in order to nudge a handful of steelhead trout toward the ocean."

And everyone involved acknowledges that is true, even if they might quibble over the definition of "handful" and the complex reasoning behind environmental flows.

McClintock, in that same speech, said that the flows were intended for "a few hundred smolts, almost all of which will be eaten by predators long before they reach the ocean."

Jim Milbury, a spokesman for the National Marine Fisheries Service, said staff members in his agency believe the confusion started with an email in which fisheries service staff members provided estimates of Stanislaus River steelhead populations to Rep. Jeff Denham, R-Turlock.

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