

# Gold Country Living

## Master Gardener Public Education Class

Thought about a community, cooperative, or church garden? Then, this is the class for you! Gardens can be as small as a few families working together or up to a large church or community garden. The kick-off to our 2010 Master Gardeners Public Education classes will be "Community Gardens" on February 20th from 9 am until 12 pm in the Ag Building large conference room located at 12200-B Airport Road, Jackson.

Kevin Marini, Master Gardener Program Coordinator, Placer and Nevada counties, will be our guest presenter. Kevin has been involved in numerous community gardens and has given presentations to a number of organizations and community groups.

Following Kevin will be two of our Amador County Master Gardeners and our Program Coordinator talking about community and church gardens they have been involved with here in Amador County. This will give you all the information you need to start a community garden, keep it going, and most importantly, the benefits both for those involved and for the community. We hope you will join us.

## EDMT Opens the Classic 50'S Musical 'Grease'

El Dorado Hills, CA— Take yourself back to a simpler time of life and see El Dorado Musical Theatre's top talent at our Encore production of the classic musical, *Grease*, Feb 5—21 at the Oak Ridge High School Theater in El Dorado Hills.

'Grease' is the all-American musical based on the subcultures of high school life in the 1950's. Filled with foot stomping tunes such as "We Go Together", "Greased Lightning", "Summer Nights" and "Look at Me, I'm Sandra Dee", this production is sure to delight all audiences.

Tickets for 'Grease': [www.edmt.info](http://www.edmt.info) or by calling (916) 941-SING. Prices are \$12 to \$25. [www.edmt.info](http://www.edmt.info)

## Avatar

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...amazing films ever released, James Cameron's *Avatar*, in this historic location. Movies will never be the same! Call (916) 443-4629 for show times or more information, or visit their website at [www.imax.com](http://www.imax.com). For more details about the Esquire IMAX Theater, equipment and more: [www.imax.com/sacramento/theatreinformation/imaxexperience.htm](http://www.imax.com/sacramento/theatreinformation/imaxexperience.htm)

## Seeds of Kindness Goes Countywide

CALAVERAS COUNTY – What once started as "Good Neighbor Day" in Angels Camp in 1994, 15 years later has burgeoned into a county-wide Kindness Week to take place Feb 15-21, 2010. This good-will event is the brainchild of Jim and Judy Bergantz of Angels Camp.

In those early years as owners of Bergantz Nursery, Jim and his family, with the help of their suppliers, gave out thousands of roses - a dozen to each person. Each recipient was instructed to keep one rose and give the other 11 out to those who did a good deed.

In 1995 the Angels Camp City Council officially claimed Feb 17 as "Kindness Day." On Jan 12, the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors unanimously proclaimed the second week of February as "Kindness Week," as well as making Calaveras a "Kindness Zone."

This year Seeds of Kindness Week reaches out to Calaveras County schools, businesses, co-workers and individuals, and actually, anyone who wants to participate. 13,000 light blue ribbons with pins will be passed on as "ripples of kindness" activities commence throughout the week-long event.

All 22 Calaveras schools have been invited to participate. Miles of light blue ribbon will be tied around trees, light posts, signs and more, resounding the kindness message throughout Calaveras County. Sign your ribbon. When you notice someone being kind, give them your ribbon to wear, asking them to pass it forward. Kindness activities could include anything from a smile to donating clothes to the Calaveras Crisis Center. Info at: [theseedsofkindness.com](http://theseedsofkindness.com) or [actsofkindness.org](http://actsofkindness.org)

## Plymouth Elementary School Gardens #17 January 2010 Crabs Walk Sideways, Lobsters Walk Straight By Michael and Little Amber Spinetta

Amber cannot pen this month's column because she is playing with the "MusicNotes" and "Rooster Piano" apps on the iPhone.

### Arboretum All-Stars

Six new plants are part of our UC Davis Arboretum All-Stars experiment at the school this year: *Aster novae-angliae* 'Purple Dome'; *Bulbine frutescens*; *Salvia clevelandii* 'Winnifred Gilman'; Floribunda rose 'Korbin' or 'Iceberg'; *Osmanthus x fortuneii* 'San Jose'; and *Ribes viburnifolium* Evergreen Currant. These will be described in following columns.

At this point, I feel the aster and currant will perform quite well. I like looking at roses, but I am not a rose person; I prefer someone else to care for a thorn bush. I promise I will water this plant sometimes, Karrie, but if it gets powdery mildew ... arrrgh

Heidi likes the look of the osmanthus - the budding leaves are very showy. The sage tastes very nice this time of year: it's a bit sweet and I want to cook with it already.

We repotted these plants, and they will be kept out of the new Arboretum All-Stars bed (by the school cafeteria) until a bit later in winter. It's a chilly year when the snowgirl on my lawn lasts a whole week, and the aloes and geranium on my porch melt while under a shelter.

By the way, Amber and her cousin Sierra put six pink roses in place of the snowgirl's "hair." They also wanted to play outside when it was ten degrees on that cold December Monday. I said no, how about hot chocolate and marshmallows? Okay!!! Later, we and lots of others tromped down the middle of Main Street in the snow! Interested in local precipitation history? Visit my family's winery website.



Many attended Plymouth Elementary School's playground fundraiser at the Amador County Fairgrounds January 16. Photo courtesy to the Gold Country Times

### PEP Club Crab Feed

The kids need playground benefactors right now - the photo from my October column shows a jungle gym that is no longer there. Almost 200 attended the 6th Annual PEP Club Crab Feed on January 16th at Pokerville Hall in Plymouth. *The Esquires* put the funky blues to everyone there, and even the crabs got up off the plates and did the eight-legged boogie woogie.

The fifth graders raised some cash for their Science Camp trip with the big tip jar and the sales of the yummy desserts they made with their parents. Everything went well - however - even after the tally from this event, the first phase of the improvements is barely met.

If you, dear reader, are interested in lending your body, sponsoring a piece of equipment, donating some soil or other materials, contact Sara Dentone of the PEP Club at the number at the end of the article. There will be many volunteer construction days coming up. The PEP Club is very grateful to the MANY local folks and businesses who

participated in this event - you really care, and the kids will know that. Think globally by acting locally, your dollar is bigger when it is kept closer to home. These kids are part of the "plugged in" generation, let's get them outside in the garden and on the playground! PEP Club is a nonprofit now, like Plymouth Elementary School Gardens, so keep this in mind at tax time, too.

### FFA Dinner in March

If you're hungry now, Argonaut High School student and Future Farmers of America Historian Leanne Weese has got the solution. Leanne says, "Come to the First Annual Argonaut FFA Booster Club Dinner at the Evelyn Bishop Hall in Ione Sat, March 27, 2010. Social hour begins at 6:00 p.m., dinner follows at 7:00 p.m. *Electra Road* will provide groovy music for dancing. More details forthcoming next month in this column. Contact Ryan Mendosa for tickets at 209.257.7726."

### iPhone Applications

A couple of apps are useful for

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