



art honors life
A gallery of original
FUNERIA contemporary urns & vessels
2860 Bowen St. | Graton
707 829 1966 | www.funeria.com



Vesta Marketing Services
graphic design
copy writing
editorial
public relations
marketing

Most of the ads in this newspaper - and the newspaper itself - are examples of my work. You can take a look at my portfolio by visiting westcountygazette.com and CLICK on my AD or go to ABOUT THE EDITOR.

My passion is to serve my clients with promotion that works.

Ads ■ Brochures
Catalogs ■ Maps
Signage ■ Posters
Mailers ■ Rack Cards

•••••

Vesta Copestakes
707.887.0253
vesta@sonic.net

Written by Readers

RULES & REGS: ALL submissions must have a complete name, address and phone number - just in case - but writers have every right to have me omit their names. We ARE small towns, and repercussions for strong opinions can hit home in ways that don't feel so good! But I'd hate to think that people are forced to not speak up for fear of retribution. So opine away. Just give me your data and tell me if you want to see your name in print.

LETTERS cont'd from page 7

Dear Editor,

I loved what Karen Timmons wrote on "Globalization with Altruistic Intent." I read it and found myself saying, "Right on!" Unfortunately in our imperialistic capitalistic country there is always going to be those of lesser financial mobility and no political and financial connections that gets screwed so that someone wealthier gets filthy stinking richer.

Unlike the greedy that give only when it is a tax write off, I have more of the attitude of socialism. I would pay more in taxes for a society that is higher educated so that it curbs antisocial behavior. Imagine a country with much less crimes against humanity and a smarter population!

I have taken in many a homeless stranger and friend in need for months at a time! I don't mind sharing what I have. I don't think good deeds are rewarded or looked favorably upon. No, in fact many people would rather rub shoulders with the rich and powerful to win brownie points and make a fast buck than help a stranger out. They would sooner go out of their way to help a politician steal a house from an elderly person or from a young financially struggling family under the guise of the environment to get their picture or name on the front page. Possibly in hopes that a windfall of cash will blow their way?

Hey, what ever looks good on the old resume to fit in with the good ole boys. Right? I believe we are stuck with government racketeering and being in the line of fire of some rich sleaze wanting to make money and financially abuse us and myriads of others. This nation is too entrenched in greed and "turning the other cheek" than to pro-actively do something about it.

There are too many with altruistic hearts that want to bury their heads in the sand to what is really happening around them in hopes that it will all just go away. Instead they would rather shallowly philosophize about the symbolism in what some politician said or wrote. They would rather imagine the world a pretty place with rainbows and sunshine and shiny happy people and continue to buy "new" homes cheaply constructed with no architectural merit and shop at "new" junk American chain stores that file bankruptcy in a few years.

Welcome to American junk values where your neighbors do not "want every American to own a home" and do not care if you and your kids are hungry or educated and *will* spit on you when you are homeless due to eminent domain abuse. It is time to wake up America and truthfully love thy neighbors!

Rachele Ketchem
Sebastopol

Many thanks to all who participated in our first Skatepark fundraiser on March 29th. We made about \$2000.00 and had lots of fun that day. We hope to have a few more of these fundraisers this year so we can at least get a temporary place for kids to go by years end. We expect to have bigger fundraisers as we go including a skating area for the kids (insurance wouldn't allow that last time) Special thanks go to Larks Drugs for use of their parking lot, Bill Guerne, Dave Dawson, and the rest of their crew who barbecued, and the 3 bands who played that day. (Peggy Day and the Gypsy Knights, Cringe, and Crawl of Time) Thanks also to the merchants who donated raffle prizes and of course thanks to all who came out to support us. Look for our upcoming events in May. Thank you Cary Ostrofe-Chairman-Friends Of the Russian River Skatepark-FORRS

Vesta,

Saw your paragraph in the last issue of the West County Gazette regarding the availability of sonic.net's satellite broadband and thought I'd share our experience.

Our little organization is so situated in our stunning west county landscape that not even sonic.net could help us. We thought we were stuck with dial up until someone introduced us to Top Speed Data out of Petaluma. (www.topspeeddata.com or 866-998-3282)

Long story short, we now have wireless broadband - it's fast, fast, fast and we have the capacity for 14 computers to work off of it for an extraordinarily moderate cost.

More than that, Allan Jaffe, "our" guy from Top Speed - and a Gentleman in every sense of the word - has come out multiple times to help us with the finer points of getting online - with no additional charges for his help!

We cannot recommend Allan and Top Speed highly enough!!

Kudos to the Graton Fire Department for informing the community about the use of child car seats. If people cannot afford a new seat and live in West County, they can contact us for reduced or free car seats for children. Our car seat technician will also show them the proper way to attach the seat and belt in the children.

Donna Roper, Executive Director
River to Coast Children's Services
www.rccservices.org
PS - loved the nursery tour info!!

The Definition of Blight

- Something that frustrates plans or hopes
- Something that impairs or destroys
- A deteriorated condition (urban blight)

The Supervisors decision to put Social Services at the bottom of the redevelopment list fails to realize how economic development is tied to

the quality of life in a community for working families.

Businesses need patrons who live and work in the area to utilize their services. These patrons need jobs in order to buy services or products. For people with children, they cannot work if they can't find or afford child care. Many people in the River area can't afford the full cost of child care. The average cost in the county right now is \$8,000 per year and the average minimum wage earner gets \$15,600. Without subsidized child care from River Child Care Services, how would families afford to live in Sonoma County - never mind be able to purchase from local businesses?

The rehabilitation on our 100 year old facility has been questioned many times. Yes, the building looks great. Yes, it is now handicapped accessible. And yes, it is a more efficient and effective place to do our work. But it is also where KinderGym is offered for new moms and isolated children who come twice a week for gross motor development, parent education and literacy programs. It's also where families get free diapers, food and formula when there is "more month at the end of the money". It's where a mom can come for emergency child care if she is a victim of domestic violence. And it is where child care providers come for 1st Aid training.

Now that the RRROC has given us a long term loan, it means these services will be available for the next 30 years. Isn't making the river community more family friendly and affordable for working parents a good use of redevelopment funds?

There are currently 2,845 on the countywide waiting list for subsidized child care (with potentially another 160 dropped from the program due to state budget cuts). These are people who are the working poor and need assistance while their children are young. Many are single parent head of households; some are grandmothers stepping in to keep the family together, others are back in school after a job lay off. They are our neighbors, friends and family members. They need our help. We are "redeveloping" them until they can afford to pay themselves.

I know the County is facing daunting economic times. Hard decisions have to be made but to say the services of River Child Care aren't necessary to the economic development of the community is just wrong. We are fighting blight each and every day.

Donna Roper
Executive Director
River to Coast Children's Services
(formerly known as River Child Care Services)

**"If you have an important point to make, don't try to be subtle or clever. Use a pile driver. Hit the point once. Then come back and hit it again. Then hit it a third time - a tremendous whack."
- Winston Churchill**