

*By Elaine Rodriguez and Rosie Pinones (4th Graders)
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There are 21 missions that were built in California. The first mission was built in San Diego in 1769. Missions were built because Spain wanted to teach the Native Americans Christianity and Spanish. The Spanish king also wanted to build powerful cities called colonies. The king of Spain also wanted to build missions near the ocean so that there would be ports nearby. They built all the missions from San Diego to Sonoma.

DUMB ROBBERS

*By Luis Aguilar (4th grader)
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Before you read this article I must warn you there are some dumb robbers in the world. These are some of the funniest and dumbest stories in the world. Here are two stories:

The first one was one day a man robbed a store and was eating popcorn. He dropped a trail of popcorn when he left. The police followed the popcorn and found the man who stole the stuff and he was sent to jail.

The second one was about a man robbing a store and yelling to the cashier, "GIVE ME THE MONEY." The man left his wallet on the counter, so the police opened his wallet and went to his house and arrested him.

FUN EDUCATIONAL GAMES FOR THE COMPUTER

*By Andy Lovanpheth (5th grader) and
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We recently found new educational online games for the computer. We had a hard time looking for new games to put in this article but we did find three. One of the new games is Sheppardsoftware.com. It's a fun educational place to play games. The most fun game on Sheppard software is the maze. The next one is www.iknowthat.com. First, you have to go to the left of the screen. Next, click on "thinking games". Finally, you can pick games there. The last website is www.coolmath-games.com. Some fun games from coolmath-games.com is "Pool Geometry", "Castle Defense", "Bloxors", and "Compulse".

So please try these games because they are fun.

Our Drought

*By Rachel Marchuk (5th grader)
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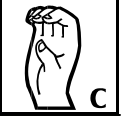
Droughts happen all over the world. There are so many ways that they start. That's why they happen a lot of the time. Droughts usually start when there is low rainfall. Even though we have had some of rainfall, we are still in a drought.

This isn't the first time Contra Costa County has been in a drought. Once, when my teacher was in school, there was a big drought just like the one we are in now. Only it didn't last as long as this one. Droughts happen all over the world, so just because we have a big drought on our hands, we can still try hard to get out of it. So don't sweat it, has to end some day!

Like I said before, droughts happen all over the world. That means that they can start in different ways. Some droughts can start from people being dumb and wasting water. Just because we have a lot doesn't mean we can waste it! Of course they can also start from lack of rainfall. So when your town is having lack of rainfall, take notice and start saving water right away because you want this drought in Contra Costa to end some day, right?

A few ways you can help is by taking short showers, turn of the water when you are brushing you teeth, and water your lawn at night so the sun doesn't evaporate the water you thought you were giving your plants. Do what you can to help Contra Costa's drought and it will be over before we know it. Water is important to us and to our earth. We need it every day!!!!

Saving water important and without it we would die! So saving it is important. Droughts happen all over the world so they can't be stopped. Even though they can't be totally stopped, we can lessen the damage. That is what matters!!!



Hopes running high for new president

By Crystal Lee

E.M. Downer Elementary (4th Grade)

President Barack Obama was born on August 4th, 1961 in Hawaii. His father was born in Kenya and he was a British servant. His mother was born in Kansas. (Her father had worked on oil rigs during the Depression, and her mother went to work on a bomber assembly line during World War II. After the war, both studied on the G.I. Bill. They bought a house through the Federal Housing Program, and moved west to Hawaii.) President Obama's parents met in Hawaii because his mother was a student there. His mother and him (Barack Obama) moved to Indonesia where they lived

for a few years.

President Barack Obama re-



membered how his mother taught him, so he went to law school. He went to Harvard in 1991, where he became the first African-American of the Harvard Law Review.

In Chicago, he was an organizer with a church group helping to improve living conditions in poor neighborhoods that had a lot of crime and high unemployment. The group had some success but President Obama learned that to change the community he needed to change laws and the politics of the state.

He had earned a large amount of money (\$100 million) so in 2004, he became the third African American since Reconstruction to be elected to the U.S. Senate.

His first law was a measure to rebuild trust in government by allowing every American to go online and see how and where every dime of their tax dollars is spent. He is trying to reform a law that would get rid of corruption in Congress. Senator Obama fought and helps Illinois veterans.

In 2004, he made a speech at the Democratic Convention and many people saw it. Many people wanted him to run for president in 2008. He ran and won becoming the first African-American President.

Octuplets

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he was first delivered he weighed one pound and five ounces. Luckily he has gained four pounds, and is now living healthy. Noah is one of the six boys and two girls. Nadya Suleman was only 23 weeks into her pregnancy when she was first hospitalized.

Nadya also has six older children, including 2 fraternal twins. "I did want more children after my twins, but I am definitely done having children. All the help I need is from my friends and family" she said.

Recently people have been saying that Nadya has been being selfish bringing these kids into the world. Nadya denied these comments on "Today". "I know I'll be able to afford them, after I'm done schooling".

"If I was just sitting down watching TV and not being as determined as I am to succeed and provide a better future for my children, I believe that would be considered, to a certain degree, selfish."

Although people say horrible

things about her, she still has the confidence to succeed and provide for her children through tough times and smooth times. I hope other people see her as a role model, as do I.

St. Patrick's Day celebrated the life of a real man

By Giselle Ramirez, Ruby Rodriguez (5th Graders)

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Everyone knows that St. Patrick's Day was Mar. 17 and that everyone wears green. But did you know that there really was a St. Patrick?

In the first place, St. Patrick wasn't really Irish. He was actually British. He was born near the end of the fourth century, and he died on March 17, 460 A.D. This is probably why we celebrate St. Patrick's Day on Mar. 17. When he was about 16, Irish raiders kidnapped Patrick - he hadn't

become "St. Patrick" yet - and brought him to Ireland. He spent six years in captivity where he had to work as a shepherd. During this time he was mostly away from people, and he felt lonely and afraid. After six years, he escaped Ireland by walking 200 miles to the Irish coast.

Soon after he returned to England, he had a dream in which he believed an angel was telling him return to Ireland as a missionary. He trained for 15 years to become a priest. Then he went back to Ireland to minister to the Irish people.