

Lodi News-Sentinel

Wednesday, May 29, 2013 www.lodinews.com An independent and locally owned newspaper since 1881 50 cents



A mixed bag for Lodi schools

API: Some LUSD schools among best in California; others are struggling

By Ross Farrow
NEWS-SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

As reflected by recently released test scores, Lodi Unified School District has some success stories, including Lodi High and Morada Middle School — but also several campuses that are lagging, including George Washington Elementary and

Millwood Middle. Academic Performance Index rankings released Friday by the California Department of Education show a wide variance within the district, from elite-level achievement at Elkhorn Middle School, a school for Gifted and Talented students, to scores near the very bottom statewide at several campuses.

Lodi High has a statewide ranking of 6, meaning that its students are within the top 60 percentile of the

statewide total — higher than 60 percent of the schools in the state. Meanwhile, Tokay High ranks slightly below average, scoring a 4 on its achievement test, according to the state.

However, when compared only to schools with similar demographics such as ethnicity, English language learners, parent involvement and parent education levels, Lodi High is in the top 80 percentile in the state in the “similar schools index.”

Meanwhile, Morada Middle School, with a student body dominated by low-income families, scored in

PLEASE SEE LODI API, PAGE 8

“I was very excited to see Morada break an 800 API at 802, and a similar schools ranking of 9 is an outstanding accomplishment ... There is always work that needs to be done, but our schools are doing a good job of continual improvement.”

DAWN VETICA
LODI UNIFIED ASSISTANT
SUPERINTENDENT FOR
SECONDARY SCHOOLS

insidetoday

STATE



‘Mickey and the Magical Map’

Mickey has reclaimed Disneyland's Fantasyland Theatre for a new song-and-dance extravaganza. **3**

AGRICULTURE



Finding the roots of a storied breed

A genetic analysis traces the Texas Longhorn's roots thousands of years to the Middle East and Asia. **16**

49ers build a stadium for the future



JEFF CHIU/ASSOCIATED PRESS

San Francisco 49ers project executive Jack Hill looks over the field at the football team's new stadium in Santa Clara on Friday.

New Levi's Stadium will feature cutting-edge tech, plenty of room

By Martha Mendoza
AP NATIONAL WRITER

SANTA CLARA — Goodbye cold, grungy Candlestick Park. Hello high tech, shiny new Levi's Stadium.

Fifty-four years after \$32 million Candlestick Park opened, the 49ers are building a new, \$1.2 billion showcase of a stadium which is almost twice as big, wired to the hilt, and opening its doors just in time to host Super Bowl 50 in the heart of the Silicon Valley.

Arriving just five years after Cowboys Stadium, Jerry Jones' \$1 billion showcase for his club, the 49ers are aiming to redefine state of the art, as team officials made clear on a recent tour.

“If you're a fan and you go to Candlestick, then you will really appreciate this new stadium,” said project executive Jack Hill, standing on the building's 200-foot-high roof, gazing out at the south tip of the San Francisco Bay. “It's go-



Fans cheer at Candlestick Park during the first half of an NFL football game between the San Francisco 49ers and the New York Giants on Oct. 14, 2012. The 49ers will soon be moving from 54-year-old Candlestick to a new home.

DON FERIA/AP FILE PHOTOGRAPH

ing to be the crowning glory of the NFL.”

The airy, open stadium had an intimate feel; with the largest lower bowl in the league, the 68,500 fans are close to the action. And that closeness is mutual. When players burst through the blowing smoke and blasting music on game day,

they'll be able to make eye contact with every seat, even the corner nosebleeds who are dwarfed beneath some of the largest high definition Jumbotrons in the league.

PLEASE SEE STADIUM, PAGE 8

Pair of Lodi police officers receive promotions



DAN EVANS/NEWS-SENTINEL

Talia Piombo, left, and Anthony Piombo, right, pin bars on their father, Capt. Chris Piombo, during his promotion ceremony on Tuesday.

Chris Piombo made a captain; Sierra Brucia is now a lieutenant

By Kristopher Anderson
NEWS-SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

Fellow officers, city staffers, district attorneys and more packed the Lodi Police Department community room Tuesday to celebrate the promotion of two officers.

Days after Capt. J.P. Badel retired, Chief Mark Helms appointed 25-year veteran officer Chris Piombo as the department's new captain, as well as promoting Sierra Brucia to lieutenant.

Capt. Chris Piombo

Piombo, who has served a variety

of assignments throughout the department, will be responsible for patrol operations, which entails keeping officers safe in an increasingly violent society, he said.

As captain, Piombo said a top priority is keeping officers prepared for potential violence with proper training.

“The big issue we have right now is making sure our officers are safe,” he said. “Society is getting more and more violent, and the idea is to teach drivers training, defensive tactics, shooting and also the verbal techniques. For me, the priority is to keep our officers safe.”

Piombo said that a revolving-door prison system means officers are routinely dealing with repeat offenders who don't fear serving time.

PLEASE SEE POLICE, PAGE 8

OTHER FINDINGS

The Pew study, based on an analysis of census data as of 2011 as well as interviews, also found:

- The share of married couples in which the wife is more educated than the husband is rising, from 7 percent in 1960 to 23 percent in 2011. Still, the vast majority of couples include spouses with similar educational backgrounds, at 61 percent.
- The number of working wives who make more than their husbands has been increasing more rapidly in recent years. Among recently married couples, including those without children, the share of “breadwinner wives” is roughly 30 percent, compared to 24 percent of all married couples.

— Associated Press

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Weather 82 high 50 low

Partly sunny today. Clear tonight. Plenty of sun tomorrow. Mostly sunny and hot on Friday. Full report, Page 16.

