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Friday, February 5, 2010

FORECAST



High
40s
Low
20s

Chance of rain.

SPORTS



Homecoming Game

The Tigers take on Bishop Manogue at tonight's homecoming game. Follow it live on recordcourier.com

Online

PEOPLE



Miss Nevada
Gardnerville's Christina Keegan talks about competing in the Miss America pageant.

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Consultant: Close Valley middle school

by Scott Neuffer

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IF YOU GO

What: Town hall meeting

When: 5 p.m. Feb. 25

Where: Carson Valley Middle School

Info: View plan online at <http://dcsd.k12.nv.us>.

Developers of the school district's new 10-year facilities master plan are recommending closing one middle school in the Valley, moving ninth-graders to the high school and converting one elementary school

into a kindergarten through eighth-grade operation.

MGT of America, which was awarded a \$200,000 contract last summer to develop the plan, laid out their recommendations Tuesday night at Carson Valley Middle School in front of about 50 school board members, staff and parents.

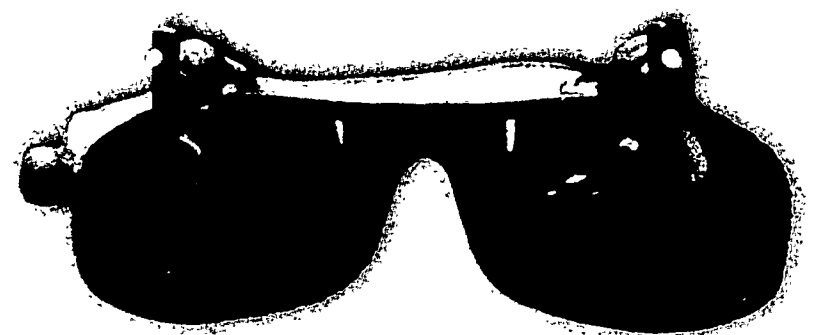
"It's a dynamic facilities master plan," said MGT Principal William

Carnes. "There will be adjustments made in the next 10 years as the plan unfolds."

At the Lake, the plan calls for the consolidation of Zephyr Cove Elementary and Whittell High School into a kindergarten to 12th-grade

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Inventions show students' vision



Minden Elementary event enters fourth year

by Scott Neuffer

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The creative minds of Minden Elementary School were on full display Tuesday for the school's fourth annual invention convention.

"Some of the kids in sixth grade this year started this in third grade and have kept coming up with different ideas every year," said Minden Elementary teacher and event organizer Lauren Spires. "They start with a problem around the house, something that bugs them that they want to solve. If they have seen a similar invention, we ask them to think about that, too, and also, once their invention is complete, how they could improve it or change anything else."

This time around, the third-, fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade students produced 75 projects. More than 15 judges from the community volunteered to evaluate the inventions.

"I'm always frustrated when my zipper gets stuck," sixth-grader Kelly Gonzalez explained to judges Rich Alexander and Lyn Gorrindo.

The 11-year-old had designed a prototype for her idea the Zipp-Zipp. Consisting of string with strategically split plastic cups on



Shannon Litz

Minden Elementary School fifth-graders Flavi Lopez and Brian Leon with their invention, The Switchable Cane, that allows the user to have traction while walking on slippery surfaces. At top, Nathan Cruz's wiper glasses on display.

either end, the Zipp-Zipp can be attached along the length of a person's front zipper, weighing down the low end to prevent fraying, and extending up toward the neck to smooth the track and prevent snags.

"What's the major reason zippers get stuck?" Alexander asked.

"Sometimes, you zip them up too fast, or they're old," Kelly answered.

She clarified that her prototype is only a model, and that she would

like to use more suitable materials if possible.

"(It could be made) out of needles that can hook up," she said. "And maybe metal to make it portable."

The effect would be the same, though.

"One part clutches and weighs down, and the other pokes around for material that might have gotten stuck and straightens out the zipper," Kelly said.

Fifth-graders Flavi Lopez and Brian Leon, both 11, teamed up for the Switchable Cane.

"My mom uses a cane and sometimes slips in the snow when it's icy," said Flavi. "I don't want anyone to fall and get hurt."

In fact, Flavi's older brother Carlos, now a seventh-grader, won top honors at last year's invention convention for his electronically lighted

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Saturday: BBQ Night - Ribs & Chicken \$7.99 from 4pm

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