



LEDGER DISPATCH

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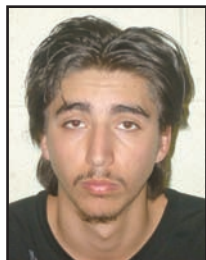
Officials examine 'transient gang activity' after Jackson Rancheria Casino shooting

By **SCOTT THOMAS ANDERSON**
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For more than a year, Amador County law enforcement has quietly battled to keep a violent gang called the Norteños from establishing a local foothold.

While debate continues on how severe the threat of a home-grown movement toward the gang really is, debate about what the Norteños are capable of ended Sunday morning.

At 5 a.m., six known members of the Norteños strolled into a gaming area of the Jackson Rancheria Casino. At least two of the members were dressed entirely in red, the Norteños' official color



GILBERT ZARAGOZA

within the California gang world. The group quickly confronted two teenagers. According to the Amador County Sheriff's Office, Norteño Gilbert Zaragoza allegedly drew a gun and shot one of the teens in the

neck and the other in the face. Both victims were documented members of the street gang, the Sureños, according to deputies.

Amador County law enforcement locked down the Rancheria within minutes of the gunfire. Sheriff's SWAT members captured four Norteños inside the casino's parking structure. Zaragoza took flight through the oaks and manzanita above Dalton Road. He was soon caught by law enforcement. Sheriff's detectives credited the Rancheria's security officers and high-tech video system for helping them quickly identify Zaragoza as the trigger man. He's currently charged with attempted murder. Both gunshot victims — one 15 and the other 18 — survived.

SEE SHOOTING, PAGE 12

Large show of support for Ione Police Department

By **MATTHEW HEDGER**
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More than 200 people, including representatives from nearly every law enforcement agency in Amador County, turned out in a show of support for the Ione Police Department.

The agency is the target of a ballot initiative to disband the department.

At the Tuesday meeting of the Ione City Council at Evalynn Bishop Hall, City Manager Kim Kerr provided an explanation of the initiative being sought by self-described "long-time Ione Police Department critic/victim" Jim Scully, on behalf of Ione resident Denise Robertson.

Scully does not live within the city limits. Kerr said the city was obligated to follow through on Scully and Robertson's legally filed request for the initiative, despite the fact City Attorney Kristen T. Castanos has said, in her opinion, the initiative is "illegal and unconstitutional."

Kerr said in order for the initiative to be placed on a county elections ballot, Scully and Robertson need to collect and submit 206 signatures from registered voters living within the city limits of Ione. After submitting the signatures, the

SEE SUPPORT, PAGE 12



IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Five villages in the highlands of Papua New Guinea will soon receive fresh, clean water because of a water project partially sponsored by Faith Lutheran Church in Pioneer. The project has become even more important as the island nation of Papua New Guinea struggles to contain its first outbreak of cholera in 34 years. SEE STORY, PAGE 17.

HIGHLIGHTS, 39

Woody Guthrie Revue plays in Angels Camp



AMADOR NEWS, 3

AWA to study solar, will hold special meetings to develop plan

AMADOR NEWS, 6

Voters to decide on Gold Rush, assessor

FOCUS, 20

Bella Imagio Skin Care and Day Spa arrives in Amador

Index

Weather.....	10
Perspective.....	11
Obituaries.....	13
Lifestyles.....	17
Religion.....	18
Focus.....	20
TV schedule.....	27
Highlights.....	39
Entertainment.....	42
Classifieds.....	47
Sports.....	back cover