

Browns Valley honors memory of Jennifer

By Ally Souza
1st place News Writing
Division: 5-6 grade

Jennifer Corral, a former Browns Valley Elementary School sixth-grader who died on June 3, 2006, is being remembered with a bronze plaque and a bench as a memorial.

Shortly after she passed away, Vickie Nixon's class came out with a fundraiser called "Pennies for Jenny," to help raise money for a memorial at the school. The kids raised more than \$2,000 in one week.

"I think she would be touched about how many kids helped out with the memorial," commented Mrs. Nixon, Jenny's sixth-grade teacher. "It sort of helped them heal, and not think about her death," she said.

Over by Portable 18, on the grass, a 4-foot-by-8-foot concrete slab, which is where the

bench will go, has been inserted in the ground. It was installed by Jamie and Sons Concrete, and they donated men to do the work and clean up. Mr. White, a parent at Browns Valley, also donated his time to help out.

So far, Barbara White, the wife of Mr. White, is handling most of the memorial. She said a few weeks ago that the plaque, made by Nadeau Funeral Home and paid for by Mr. White, had been lost in the mail, but luckily, the post office recovered it. The plaque has been sent to Wisconsin with the 6-foot French creme concrete bench.

"It's going to look very nice," exclaimed Mrs. Nixon. "We're really hoping it will be done by October, which is her birthday," said Mrs. Nixon.

Mrs. Nixon recently planted crape myrtles, a tree with magenta flowers that bloom in the



Ally Souza

spring and summer, (donated by El Rancho Nursery), around the bench to provide shade, and soon she will plant thyme, an herb which is a symbol of protection, to provide ground cover. Mrs. Nixon's present class will take care of the plants until they grow strong. There was still money left over from the "Pennies for Jenny" fundraiser so Mrs. Nixon bought six new books for the library, all about writers, musicians, or artists, all represent Jenny's interests. Also, the school made a \$1,500 college scholarship for the class of 2012, which would have been the graduating class for Jenny. The school is trying to make it available for Browns Valley students.

Jenny's death has affected the hearts of

many of Browns Valley's students. Katherine Feaster, a sixth-grader in Mrs. Campbell's class, was in Jenny's catechism class, a Catholic religion class.

"She was really nice; I would always sit by her. Our moms were best friends," said Katherine. Jessica Navarro, also a student in Mrs. Campbell's class, was also in Jenny's catechism class. She said she was very generous and they would always talk to each other.

Jenny touched many people just by smiling, and now Browns Valley will keep that smile alive with a memorial that will remind everybody what an amazing girl Jennifer Corral was.

The author is a sixth-grader in Vickie Nixon's class at Browns Valley Elementary School in Vacaville.

When dancers go toe-to-toe



Sydney Jewell of Notre Dame School took first-place in photojournalism in the middle school category for this photo of dancers Lexi Joyce, Sydney Jewell, Natalie Carquest, Taylor Benedict, Sarah Stocks and Kiely Edmonds in their pointe shoes.



Chorus sends custodian off to retirement

Lovely ending to a clean career

By Collette Wylie
2nd Place (tie),
News Writing
Division: Grades 4-6

Mary Wood was lead custodian at Browns Valley Elementary School, but is now retired. She worked here for 16 years and enjoyed every minute of it — well, almost, if you don't count the everyday routine of cleaning up the lunch area, retrieving playing equipment, shoes, lunch pails, and lots of other things off the rooftops of the buildings, and scrubbing away throw-ups and spills.

Mrs. Wood also did landscaping to make Browns Valley safe and beautiful. Being a custodian doesn't just have consecutive hours of labor.

Sometimes Mrs. Wood had to come to school on weekends, usually because of vandalism, alarms, or gas leaks. One weekend, she had to come and deactivate the alarm system after it went off four times!

Remember when you went to school the morning of Career Day and everyone had to wait outside for a half-hour? It was all because of a gas leak that was caused by vandalism.

Mrs. Wood just came to school one morning and smelled fuel in the air. She quickly solved the problem by shutting down the system and helping the staff evacuate the campus so we could resume a safe Career Day.

Even after so many cases of vandalism, she is still very grateful. "I'm glad

because most of the other local schools have a lot more vandalism than we do."

Mrs. Wood had to deal with broken windows, broken lights, and furniture in need or repair, power outages and leaks.

Mrs. Wood's most memorable moment during her career at Browns Valley School was when the Early Bird Chorus sang her a farewell song.

"It was so nice of them to do that for me. It made me cry." She says that she will miss the staff and students of Browns Valley and that the staff is just like her family.

Mrs. Wood is retiring because she wants to spend time with her family and travel to Hawaii in June.

The author is a sixth-grader in Vickie Nixon's class at Browns Valley Elementary School in Vacaville.



Collette Wylie

Solano proud to open new cemetery



Angel Uson

By Angel Uson
2nd place, News Writing
Division: Middle School

Do you know we have a new cemetery in Solano County? We do. It is called the Sacramento VA National Cemetery and it is located on Midway Road in Dixon. It is already open and serving military families in Vacaville, Dixon, Fairfield and surrounding locations.

My parents own and operate Vaca Hills Chapel Funeral Home. I had a chance to look at this cemetery when they went to drop off

paperwork there. The cemetery has had quite a few burials already.

Though the cemetery is still under construction, there is a shelter for services. All veterans receive military honors. The cemetery has a director and his name is Dean Moline. The address of the cemetery is 5810 Midway Road, Dixon.

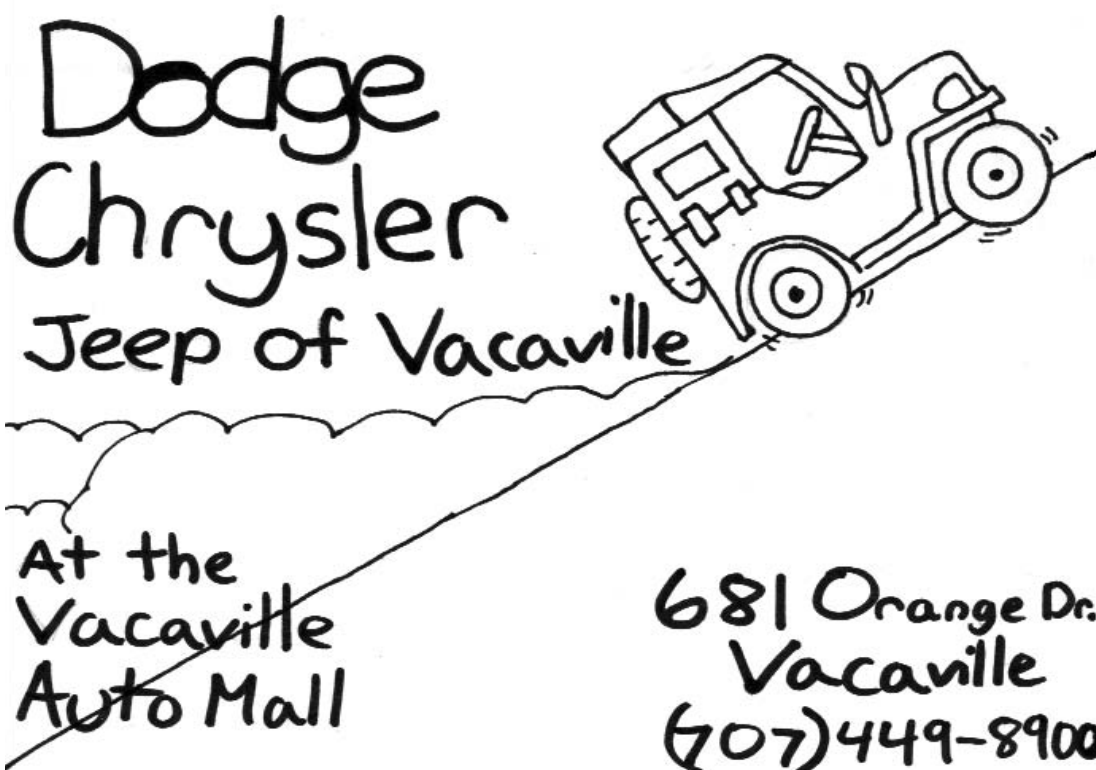
This cemetery is a national cemetery. All honorably discharged veterans and their spouses can be buried there. The only exception to this rule is if the veteran has a dependent adult child.

My grandfather served in World War II and when I told him about it he was very happy. He said that his generation is getting old and it is nice and there is a place so close to the Bay Area.

So next time you get a day off from school for Veterans Day or Memorial Day, think of all our brave veterans and maybe visit this cemetery to pay your respects to the men and women who gave us our freedom.

The author is a seventh-grader at Notre Dame School in Vacaville.

Design-an-ad winner



First-place winner in the middle school division for the Campus Star Design-an-ad contest went to eighth-grader Christina Centron (no photo available) of Notre Dame School, who designed this ad for Dodge Chrysler Jeep of Vacaville.

Puzzles, games, comics winner

NARNIA WORD SEARCH

Y	Y	D	J	J	D	H	C	T	I	W	E	T	I	H	W	A	ASLAN
Z	C	V	X	D	T	U	R	S	N	O	W	G	H	A	G	D	DWARF
S	Y	U	B	A	K	D	Y	R	U	E	F	F	E	H	C	F	EDMUND
T	A	S	L	A	N	S	S	S	I	W	E	L	S	C	Z	G	FAUN
T	T	E	H	G	K	U	U	T	R	N	D	I	G	Z	I	B	FOREST
S	E	E	T	Y	N	T	N	N	Y	A	D	K	B	A	F	F	GIANT
E	L	U	Y	M	E	G	K	Y	J	S	Q	G	N	V	Y	E	ICE
R	A	P	U	T	W	M	J	G	G	U	N	T	K	H	S	V	JADIS
O	M	T	H	G	I	L	E	D	H	S	I	K	R	U	T	A	LION
F	P	H	J	F	S	D	E	G	D	A	S	D	F	G	H	R	LUCY
D	P	S	V	E	M	D	G	B	E	A	V	E	R	S	N	A	NARNIA
K	O	L	F	U	Q	S	J	S	O	J	S	R	H	A	U	P	PETER
H	S	L	N	A	R	N	I	A	U	R	Q	U	S	G	A	R	SNOW
N	T	D	W	A	R	F	G	U	E	W	D	D	E	Q	F	I	SUSAN
O	W	D	K	S	S	S	A	P	E	T	E	R	M	G	J	A	TUMNUS
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BEAVERS CAIR PARAVEL STONE TABLE WARDROBE
C.S. LEWIS LAMPOST TURKISH DELIGHT WHITE WITCH



First-place in the Campus Star middle school category for puzzles, games and comics went to seventh-grader Kyra Matranga (above) of Vacaville Christian School for this word puzzle.