

## Fiesta contest open to students

As part of The Reporter's Newspapers In Education program, student journalists from third-grade through high school are invited to a press briefing Wednesday to set the stage for a new competition, sponsored by The Reporter's Campus Star project.

"Fiesta at 50" is the theme for a writing and photography competition, timed to coincide with Vacaville's weeklong festival.

Students will be able to pick any event during Fiesta Days, photograph it or write about it in a news feature, and submit it to The Reporter by the June 8 deadline.

Students can attend one of two press briefings — one at 3:30 p.m. and one at 6 p.m. — Wednesday at the Town Square Library. A team of journalists will be on hand to go over the rules of the contest, hand out student press passes and distribute Fiesta schedules to the students.

Fiesta Days kicks off May 21 and runs through May 28, with a number of events, including the Fiesta Days Parade, a diaper derby, an onion-eating contest, and more.

Winners of the writing and photography contests will be published in an upcoming edition of The Reporter and online. Winners will receive prizes for their efforts.

The contest is open to third-grade through high school students from Vacaville, Dixon, Fairfield and Suisun City.

For more information, call 453-8149.



## What a kick!



A turn on the monkey bars at Browns Valley Elementary School sends the feet of Laci Elfers flying into the air. The moment was captured by student photographer Francesca L. Martin-Minouei, and earned her first-place honors in the fifth- and sixth-grade division in the Campus Star photojournalism competition. Martin-Minouei is a fifth-grader in Ed Finkas' classroom at Browns Valley Elementary School in Vacaville.

## Festival honors diversity

By Elizabeth Baker  
Second place, News Writing  
Division: High School

What is diversity? Is it originality? Variety? Maybe it's a mixture of a little of everything?

Vacaville is on a mission to find out. This May, an extraordinary festival will be held at the Vacaville Cultural Center to promote diversity in today's society. People of all ages are welcome to attend this annual event and enjoy the festivities.

This year, the main theme of the festival will be music throughout the community. The idea of "One Song, Many Voices" will be broadcast to young and old, and will hopefully influence people everywhere to broaden their horizons both musically and intellectually.

Bands and groups of all genres will strut their stuff and try to ignite the passion that they hold for foreign tunes and instruments in others at the May 19 event.

Addison Cardoza, a junior at Will C. Wood and co-chairman of the event encourages people to get involved. Organizers are high school students from all high schools in the community.

"People who want to help can contact our chair, members, or visit our Web site at [www.culturaldiversityfair.org](http://www.culturaldiversityfair.org), he said. "There'll be lots of stuff to eat and people performing, so everyone should come and have fun."

In addition to the fun performances and great food, there are several contests being held. Students from kindergartners to seniors in high school have participated in a poetry and art competition. There is still time to sign up to compete in the art display competition. Go online to [www.culturaldiversityfair.org](http://www.culturaldiversityfair.org) for contest details.



E. Baker

The author is a junior at Will C. Wood High School. This article was originally published on the Wood Post Online.

## County needs to stop litterbugs from ruining the countryside



By Aaron Dobson  
Second Place, Opinion Writing  
Division: High School

An early morning jog while enjoying the scenery is one of the pluses of living in the country. The purple flowers on the side of the road add more to the pleasantries of the countryside, but the tattered vacuum cleaner creates a vivid contrast to the sunrise.

Maybe next time I will bring my computer tower to hook up to the dented monitor on the side of the road; or if I want to take a quick break, I can easily use the decrepit couch that is currently blocking the drainage pipe running under the road. Littering in the country is an outrage

and is completely out of control. People often throw large items such as monitors, washers and dryers, vacuums, furniture, and television sets to avoid the fees of dumping at local waste facilities or landfills; and since the county doesn't enforce fines, there is no motivation for people not to litter.

"Littering in the country is disrespectful for people who have to live with their garbage. Whenever I drive to my house and see garbage all over the side of the road, I think about how lazy and selfish people are because they can't even pick up their own garbage," says 16-year-old Tessa VanDeberg, an inhabitant of the rural Vacaville area.

Littering on county property or in rural areas is easier due to the lax consequences of violators. But just because littering in the country is easy and violators are hard to locate doesn't mean it's right.

Thomas Motes, a lifelong resident of the country, added his feedback on the issue, "People should consider their actions more when they litter. It's not always routinely cleaned up in the country. The city has more control and cleanup action on littering than country areas do. It's usually up to volunteers or property owners to clean up other people's trash since they are too lazy to throw it away themselves.

The fact that many people living in

country or rural areas have to clean up other peoples' common trash simply to keep their property clean is wrong. People need to realize soon how much they are damaging the country by dumping their trash there.

The country isn't just another dump or landfill, though it seems like people are struggling to make it so.

The county needs to start doing something about country littering. Punishment for littering should be made more serious so people will think twice before they litter.

The author is a sophomore in Stephanie Oates' classroom at Buckingham Charter Magnet High School in Vacaville.

### Design-an-ad winner



This advertisement for Jelly Belly Candy Co., designed by Cecilia Cajandig, earned the sixth-grader from Vacaville's Notre Dame School a first-place award in the fifth-sixth grade division for the Campus Star design-an-ad competition.



### Puzzles, games, comics winner

#### BIG BLUE BIN RECYCABLES

G X L J M C N E W S P A P E R S Z  
H C A R D B O A R D V U A T Q R X  
J B F S K T O G N A X M U C K T O H  
D H C R S F L U I C Z I G K T O S  
E U W I Z B A M B A G N G P F I S  
P W J C G W O V J N Y U I D Q D C  
V A S E T Y Q T O S C M M L N O I  
Q R N S I A X K T P F C H F B N Y  
H R J U N K M A I L L A E B I D A  
X E W X C T U M Y I E N O N J Y P  
U P A S M A G A Z I N E S U L U W X  
N P L A S T I C B O T T L E S C E

#### WORD BANK

- GLASS BOTTLES
- CARDBOARD
- PLASTIC BOTTLES
- PAPER
- JUNKMAIL
- SODA CANS
- JUGS
- JARS
- ALUMINUM CANS
- TIN CANS
- PLASTIC
- NEWSPAPERS
- MAGAZINES



This word search, designed by sixth-grader Joanna Chenaille of Notre Dame School in Vacaville, earned her a first-place award in the 5-6 grade division in Campus Star for puzzles, games and comics.