

## MAKING A STAR



### It takes friends to shine

Three friends, Heather McKay, 17, Samantha Snow, 16, and Mike Roy, 17, all students at Buckingham Charter Magnet High School, demonstrate that it takes more than one person to "make a star." The image earned McKay an honorable mention in The Reporter's Campus Star competition in the photojournalism category. Heather is a senior in Jarden Austin's class at the Vacaville campus.

## From the sky, it's CALSTAR to the rescue

By Maria Nuño  
First Place, Featuring Writing Division: Middle School

**C**ALSTAR. Well, what is it? It is an ambulance in the air. CALSTAR stands for California Shock/Trauma Air Rescue. It takes people with severe injuries or who are dying to the hospital.

CALSTAR transports people throughout much of California. It's CALSTAR that gives us the choice between life and death. It's just a couple minutes that can make a whole lot of difference.

The American Trauma Society says, "Trauma is the No. 1 cause of death for people under age 44 in the United States." The annual cost of accidental death is expected to exceed \$110 billion.

A helicopter is a much better choice than an ambulance in a time of worry. You may not realize it, but if there was no CALSTAR, a lot of people would be dead right now. They are a real lifesaver to a lot of people.

CALSTAR has completed 30,000 transports, according to a company profile. There are bases in Vacaville, Concord, Gilroy, Ukiah and McClellan, South Lake Tahoe, Santa Maria, Salinas and Auburn. They have 13 helicopters and two Cessna 421 airplanes. In each helicopter there is one pilot and two registered trauma nurses.

CALSTAR helicopters may be a popular sight in the sky over a lot of cities in California, but when you see one, you always wish that you will never have to be in one.

That was not the case for my brother. Recently, my brother was playing in a basketball game and was knocked off his feet and fell very hard on his back. Luckily, he did not hit his head, but he did start to hyperventilate. He also had tingling in his arms and legs. After realizing that he might be severely hurt, a parent had to call 911.

My brother was put on a stretcher and airlifted to a hospital by a CALSTAR helicopter. Even though they thought he might have had a severe injury, it turned out that he didn't have any broken bones or life-threatening injuries.

My brother was having a real hard time walking for a couple of days after the accident, but

he is better now and can walk just fine. He really appreciates CALSTAR and what they did for him.

We now know how important CALSTAR is to everyone. It is not just a bunch of helicopters that transport people to hospitals, they carry crews that save lives every day.

Even if you know that something like this will never happen to you, don't be so sure of it! It can happen to anybody at any time.

When you are in a helicopter, it is like being in an ambulance or being at an emergency room hospital because they treat you like you are at a hospital and are in need of help. They always want to do the best they can to get you to a hospital quick and easy, even though sometimes it will not always be the easiest thing.

The nurses and pilots say that the most tragic calls are calls about kids and kids being abused. The nurses say that they always have to be at the ready because they never know what is going to happen.

On Feb. 4, 2007, CALSTAR was on the front page of The Reporter. The story addressed what the crew does and featured them going to Suisun City, to Crystal Middle School, to airlift a fall victim from the school to a hospital.

The crew discussed what it is like to be in a helicopter with a seriously injured person and having to make decisions on what to do for the patient at the time.

I was really shocked to see CALSTAR in the paper because it was just a few days after my brother's accident. It didn't talk about him, but it did talk a lot about the safety and procedures and how every decision is very important because if they do one thing wrong, it could have a serious consequence.

So, I learned that CALSTAR is one of the best companies there is! The crews save lives day by day.



Maria Nuño

## Countering crime with programs

The article was submitted in mid-February, so statistics only reflect the first six weeks of 2007. — Editor:

By Courtney Fisher  
3rd Place (tie), News Writing Division: 5-6 Grade

**S**olano County is surrounded by mountains and majestic beauty, that can take your breath away. Yet I always wondered why my mom feared my playing in my front yard or walking two houses down to my friend's house by myself.

So, being curious, I headed to the Fairfield Police Department, where I met a great lady who is the supervisor of records on violence in Solano County, Miss Andrea Rich.

In 2006, there were six homicides in Solano County. As of 2007, we have already had two for the month of January. In 2006, there were 34 rapes, 215 robberies, and 327 aggravated assaults, making the total number of violent crimes to 587.

There is also an increasing number of gang activity that has spread throughout Solano County. The gangs use different forms of names, symbols,



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and colors that they identify themselves with. They fight over turf, colors, chalking, territory, codes, hand signals and graffiti.

The state of California has more than 33,500 sex offenders living in communities like yours and mine.

Other violent criminal activity includes drug-related crimes. This year, 32 people have been arrested for possession of drugs, and we are only into the first six weeks of the year.

In January, a six-car accident on Interstate 80 and Lagoon Valley Road resulted in the deaths of four people. According to authorities, the cause appears to be drugs and/or alcohol.

While these facts seem depressing, there are other people who live and work in our communities who reach out to offer support, programs and guidance to help direct our youth in a better direction. One of these programs is the Fairfield High School band and winterguard.

The volunteers are usually parents whose children have gone to Fairfield High, and even though some of their kids are still in high school, some have moved on to college or a career. Consider Phil Doty, who for the last 17 years, has given his guidance and time helping out the band program.

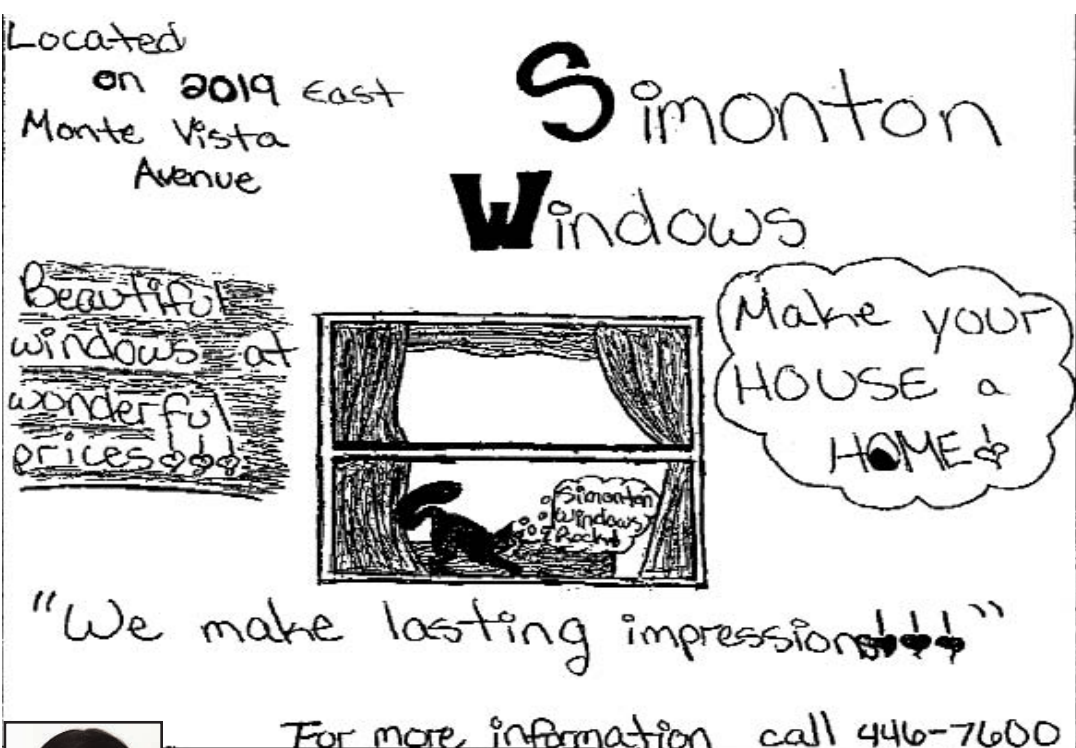
You will also find people such as Dave Thompson, Dale Longacar, Ken Patterson, Cliff Snuffer, Rich Winistorfer, and Fred Fisher, who for the past decade have dedicated endless hours of time and support to ensure the continuance of these much needed programs that help provide positive experiences for our youth.

They drive buses, haul uniforms, spend countless hours herding kids to the right destination, in hopes that they will put their talents and spirit and youth to positive ventures in their lives.

They generously give their time and love because our youth is our future, and our future is our hope.

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

### Design-an-Ad winner



Viviana Martinez earned third-place honors in the middle school division of The Reporter's Design-an-Ad competition for this advertisement that she designed for Simonton Windows. Viviana is a seventh-grader at Vaca Pena Middle School in Mr. Stiert's classroom.

### Puzzles, Games, Comics winner



This comic panel won Christina Centron third-place in middle school division of the Puzzles, Games and Comics category of The Reporter's Campus Star competition. Christina is an eighth-grader in Mary Iannarelli's classroom at Notre Dame School in Vacaville.