

## Soaring buddies?



**So close and yet so far**

This image of a jet and a plane — only appearing to fly close together — earned an honorable mention in the photojournalism category for Christine Centron, an eighth-grader in Mary Iannarelli's classroom at Notre Dame School in Vacaville.

## Put belts in buses; save lives

By Brooke Schoonmaker  
1st place, Opinion Writing  
Division: 5-6 grade

School buses today do not have seat belts, because it would cost \$800 million to add this safety feature to all the buses in the United States.

I think that there should be seat belts on all buses as a standard piece of equipment, regardless of cost. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the National Association for Pupil Transportation disagree. Buses without seat belts seat three students per seat. By adding belts, buses could only accommodate two per seat, and therefore, more buses would be necessary. This increases the cost of adding seat belts even more. According to School Transportation News, it is estimated that only 11 passengers per year die in school bus accidents, and therefore, they don't think that spending \$800 million or more to outfit these buses with seat belts is warranted.



Schoonmaker

We are taught to "buckle up" when we are very young, and I think that children should buckle up in every kind of vehicle. Our Legislature should pass laws that always put child safety first.

The American Medical Association, The American Academy of Pediatrics and many others agree with me. Saving a person's life is more valuable than any amount of money.

What matters most, is that by using seat belts in school buses, you reduce the amount of serious injuries to children, saving lives and the heartache of losing a loved one.

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

## Busy life is just part of his routine

By Alex Saelee  
3rd Place, Feature Writing  
Division: High School

After school hours, my life gets hectic ... For many students, school is the vast majority of their daily lives. However, for senior Neal Pascua, school is just another part of his schedule. Although a senior at Armijo High School, Pascua enjoys being kept on his feet with his busy lifestyle off campus, too.

For the past year and a half, Pascua has been performing in musical theater, which accounts for three hours of his life, six days a week. In his previous performance, "Cinderella," Pascua played the role of the king. In his current play, he takes the lead role of Ryan, in "High School Musical."

Although performing arts takes a large portion of his time, Pascua enjoys the thrill of being on stage and performing in front of an audience. "One day I decided to do something new, and tried out

for a musical play. I fell in love with it ever since, and it feels like such a fresh new experience," he said.

On campus, Pascua is president of Armijo's Kiwanis Educating Youth (KEY) Club, a club focused on helping the community. This is a position that he takes great pride in.

He joined KEY Club in his freshman year and yearned to become the president because of his determination and enjoyment of bettering the community.

Now in his senior year, his hopes have been realized as he takes the club into his hands. As the president, Pascua oversees the club's planned service events, managing his officers, and essentially "keeping the group running."

Aside from theater and KEY Club, Pascua is also the secretary of Armijo's National Honor Society (NHS) Club, and vice president of the Armijo Band Council. Off campus, he also performs in his church

choir. When he isn't doing extra curricular activities, or performing community service, he is at work at Express in Solano's Westfield Mall.

To get to all these activities, Pascua is often stressed. However, he continues to be optimistic and cheery about life. When several of his friends were asked to describe him, senior Greg Bennett responded "energetic and creative," while senior Caitlin Verano said he was "huggable!"

As the year continues, Pascua is kept busy from worrying about graduating, as he enjoys his last year at Armijo to the fullest.

"Senior year has been by far the most enjoyable," he said. "It hasn't hit me yet that I'll be here only for a couple more months. Even though we all say we hate school, I know I'll miss it."

The author is a junior at Armijo High School in Fairfield.

## Dad loves job as a mechanic

By Tyler Liow  
3rd Place, Feature Writing  
Division: Grade 3-4

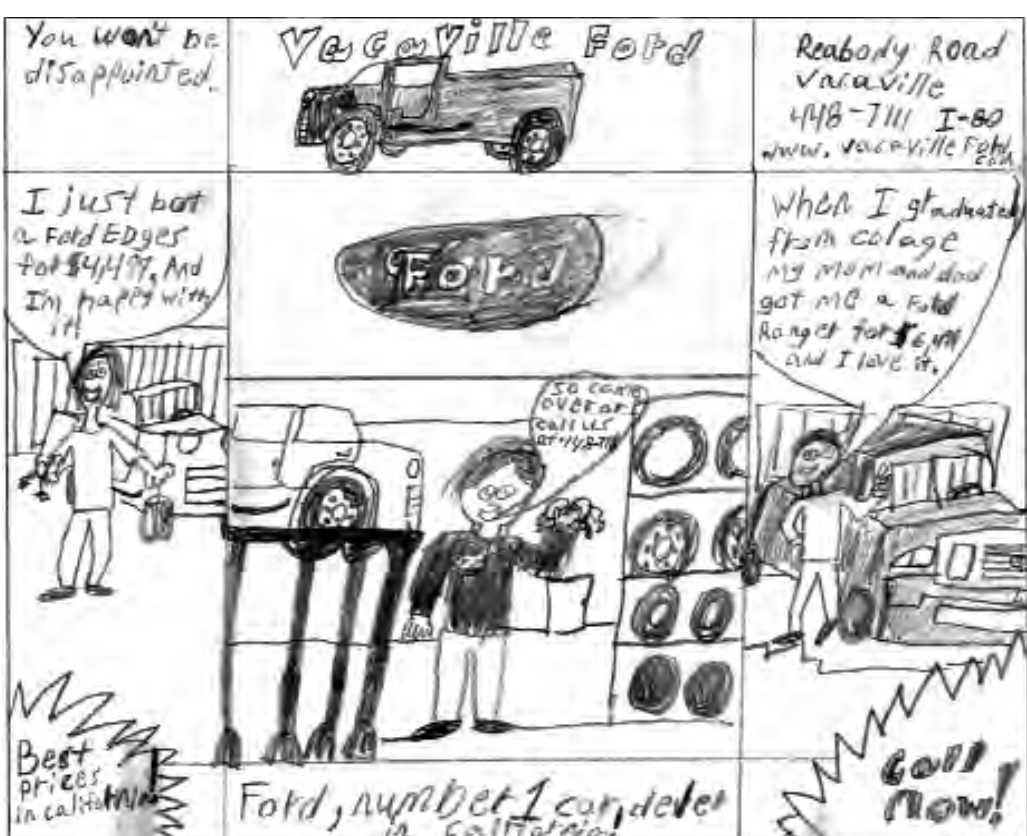
They work in garages, they have lots of tools, they love fixing cars, and we know who they are. They're mechanics. My dad is a mechanic and works at Quality Tuneup. My dad's talent is fixing things like, bikes, computers, and especially cars.

When he got his job, he was so happy. Sometimes all the days of work sucks all of his energy like a vacuum cleaner, but he doesn't mind. My father works every day except Sundays. When he fixes cars he doesn't like the oil leaking onto his hands.

When the smelly oil gets on his hands, it takes forever to wash off. His job hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. He works a lot and gets exhausted. He loves his job so much he will do anything to keep it.

The author is a fourth-grader at Dan O. Root Elementary School in Suisun City.

### Design-an-Ad winner



Ryan Bartoli earned a third-place award in the 5-6 grade division in the Design-an-Ad competition of The Reporter's Campus Star for this advertisement he designed for Vacaville Ford. Ryan is a fifth-grader in Ed Finkas' class at Browns Valley Elementary School.

### Puzzles, Games, Comics winner

#### Greek Gods

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

#### WORDS

APHRODITE  
APOLLO  
ARES  
ARTEMIS  
ATHENA  
ATLAS  
CRONUS  
GAEA  
HADES  
HEPHAESTUS  
HERA  
HERMES  
HESTIA  
MOUNT OLYMPUS  
POSEIDON  
PROMETHEUS  
RHEA  
TITANS  
URANUS  
ZEUS



Michael Borge tied for third-place in the 5-6 grade division in the Games, Puzzles and Comics category of The Reporter's Campus Star competition. Michael is a sixth-grader in Laurie Brunke's classroom at Notre Dame School in Vacaville.