

Joining the race for a cure

By Natalie Denn
Third Place, News Writing
Division: 3-4 Grade

One summer morning I did the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. It was in 2007 for breast cancer. I wore a badge that said, "I dedicate this race to my grandma," because she died of breast cancer. The survivors of breast cancer wore pink T-shirts and we wore white T-shirts.

Race for the Cure is held on Mother's Day weekend every year at Cal Expo in Sacramento. At the beginning of the race, these ladies were on a stage leading some warm-up exercises.

I walked 5 miles and after that my legs hurt really bad. I skated for part of the race, but then my heels hurt so I stopped. Something was sticking out of my shoe, and it cut my ankle. It was bleeding and some nice people gave me a bandage.

Twenty-five thousand people were there to support the walk, it was amazing. All together we raised thousands of dollars to help find a cure for breast cancer. Maybe if they thought about making a race for the cure sooner, then my grandma might still be alive. She was only 53 when she died. I never met my grandma Dolly, I've only seen pictures and I'm as sad as my dad is at losing her so young.

The author was a third-grader at Foxboro Elementary School when this was submitted in February 2008.

Crossing streets with the very best

By Kennedy Buriani
Second Place, Feature Writing
Division: 5-6 Grade

A crossing guard named Duke Schoell and a Lhasa Apso dog known as Chewy are having fun while guarding Browns Valley students and parents.

Mr. Schoell has been a crossing guard at the corner of Wethersfield and Wrentham for one year, and has only been bringing his white fluffy dog Chewy for a little more than four months. His dog never causes him any trouble because he behaves well and never leaves the sidewalk.

He and Chewy (short for Chewbaca) both wear matching orange and yellow reflective vests. Chewy got his vest from a retired school teacher, and Mrs. Schoell cut it down to fit him.

Mr. Schoell says he is going to be a crossing guard "until the good Lord" lets him. He enjoys the job because he gets to talk to the kids and make them happy.

The author was a fifth-grader at Browns Valley Elementary School in Vacaville when this was submitted in February 2008.

One tough job



CSI plays important role

By Austin Hart
First Place-News Writing
3-4 Grade Division

A crime scene investigator or CSI deals with different types of crime jobs. They deal with homicides, sexual assaults, armed robberies, home invasion and other crimes, such as burglaries.

Where there is a homicide, a CSI need to be at the crime scene to take pictures and see how the crime happened, whether the crime was accidental or on purpose. Sometimes they have to go to court and testify.

CSIs sometimes have to attend autopsies and take pictures of the crime scene.

There is a lot of paperwork to do, such as writing reports about every crime scene they have to investigate.

My Aunt Joanna is a crime scene investigator. She went to college at Diablo Valley College for one year and to Los Medanos College

for three years. She works for the Livermore Police Department. She says that her job "is never boring!" Joanna is always called out for crime scenes. She deals with murder, sexual assaults and a lot of car accidents that involve death.

When my Aunt Joanna has a murder crime to investigate, she takes a lot of pictures from different angles and talks to witnesses if there are any. She is involved in many difficult situations, but she is strong and handles the pressure very well.

I think being a CSI is very important to society because they try to make a difference for people who have been hurt or who have lost a loved one. They take their job very seriously.

The author was a third-grader at Foxboro Elementary School in Vacaville when this essay was submitted in February 2008.

School gets a campus facelift

By Aaron Lane
Second Place (Tie)
News Writing
Division: 5-6 Grade

Everything was 'ripped apart,' said Mrs. Valerie Rogers, Browns Valley School principal.

Over the summer vacation, more than 100 people worked to improve our school. The improvements took several weeks to complete and cost approximately \$44,000.

Our improved school now has new carpets, water fountains, fire drill lights, freshly painted doors and buildings, new locks and keys, and a new overhang outside the multipurpose room.

During the construction, workers had to remove the furniture and classroom supplies out of all of the rooms to replace the carpet.

Chris McCouff, one of our school secretaries said, "The carpet just didn't look good."

Custodian Dan Nash said the new carpet was a good idea because it lowers asthma attacks and helps keep viruses from spreading.

Another inconvenience was that workers had to dig up the ground around the blacktop and the grass area to install the new piping for the water fountains.

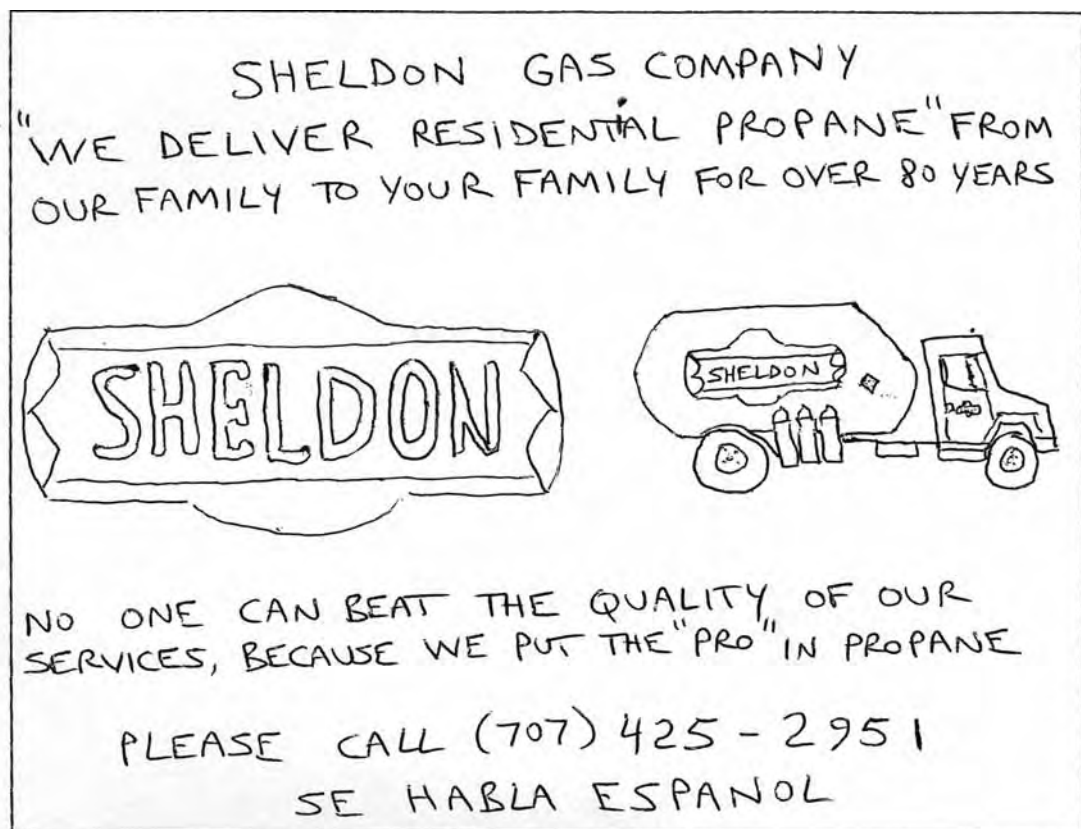
Some of the completed improvements were for safety and security reasons.

According to Mr. Nash, the overhang by the M.P. Room was added so the kids who ride the bus everyday can have shade while they are waiting for their bus to come. The overhang also provides general shade to anyone after or before school.

The new locks and keys will provide added security for our classrooms and buildings. Another added feature is the fire alarm lights. These will help ensure that kids with hearing problems will be quickly alerted to a fire emergency.

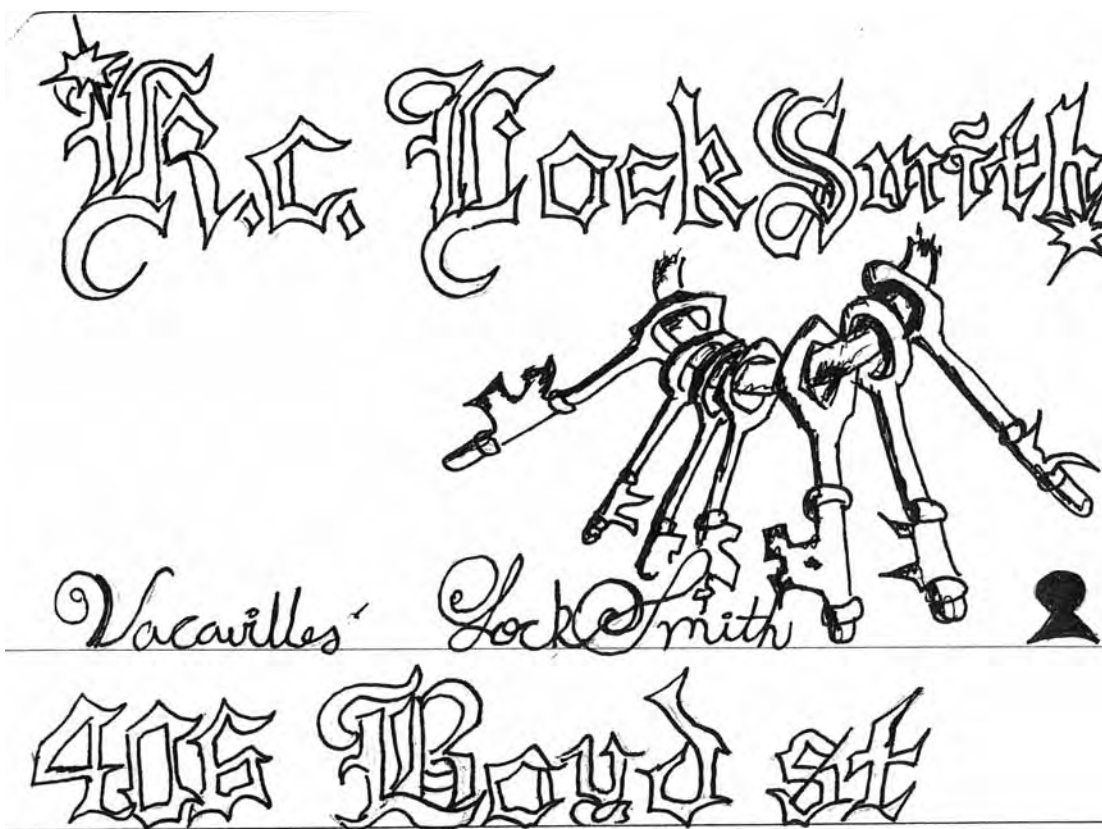
The author was a student at Browns Valley Elementary School when this essay was submitted in February 2008.

Design-an-Ad winner



This advertisement for Sheldon Gas Company earned an honorable mention for Bradley Murfin Jr., who was a seventh-grader at Vaca Peña Middle School when this was submitted in The Reporter's Design-an-ad competition in February 2008.

Design-an-Ad winner



This advertisement for K.C. Locksmith earned Chris Peal an honorable mention in The Reporter's Design-an-ad competition. Chris was a senior at Country High School when this was submitted in the Campus Star student journalism competition in February 2008.