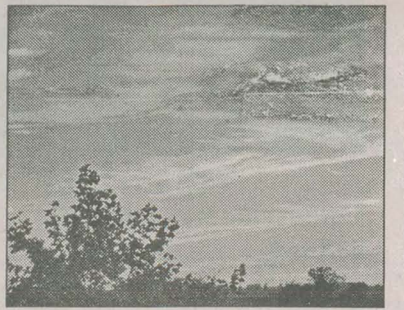


Lincoln Chan

Andrea (Andy Lee) Straatemeier

River News-Herald

& Isleton Journal



Quiet Moments See page A7

Vol. 121 No. 35

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50¢

Captain Clean tidies up Isleton

ARLENE RIVERA
Staff Writer

A voluntary clean-up effort was brought up by Isleton resident Ray Valine at the October 10 Isleton City Council meeting, to which the council responded favorably. Since then, Valine (also known as Captain Clean) has begun to clean the city. Valine's efforts met with mixed reactions though from the people of Isleton.

While Mayor Gene Resler thanked Valine at the meeting for his clean-up idea and willingness to spend his energy and spare time on Isleton's streets, Valine met with some problems. During his clean-up efforts, police were called out a few times by concerned citizens, business



owners and federal employees.

One person called the police to complain about dust on their vehicle as a result of the leaf blower. According to Valine, he cleaned up the area outside of the Chamber of Commerce headquarters, which had "weeds and cigarette butts," then put the disposed trash beside a sign he labeled "Free Isleton Souvenirs." For this he was charged with littering. Additionally, police were called for liability issues, when Valine tried to clean the Post Office area.

On Thursday, October 18, Valine was a guest at a Delta Network Associates meeting. The Delta Network Associates help

See Clean/ Page A3

Pumpkin patch rolls into town by train at museum

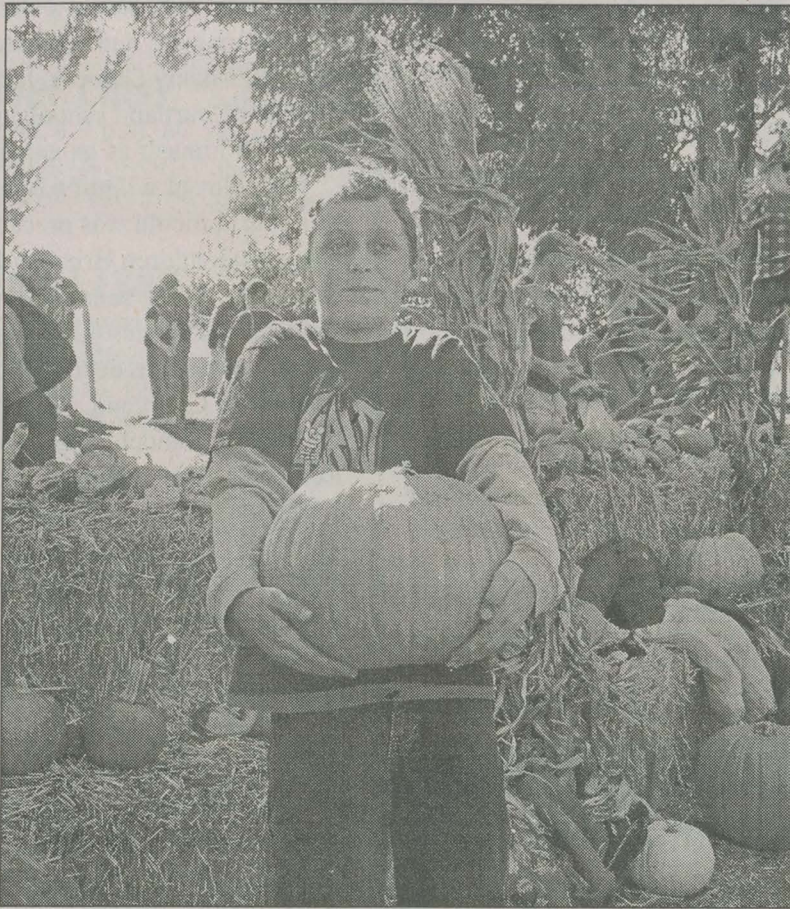


Photo by Arlene Rivera

Daniel Barron poses with his pumpkin at the Railroad Museum pumpkin patch.

ARLENE RIVERA
Staff Writer

Starting October 13 and running until October 28 (open weekends), the Western Railway Museum will run "Pumpkin Patch Trains" from 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. The Museum is located on State Highway 12 in Solano County, 12 miles east of Interstate 80, halfway between Fairfield and Rio Vista. Departures leave every half hour throughout the day. The trip takes visitors on a scenic five-mile ride to Gum Grove Station, a wooded glen with mountain of hay for kids to climb, a pumpkin flinging station, live performances by The Limberjim Bartz Band, hay rides, various stands with treats for sale and, of course, pumpkins of all sizes for kids and adults to pick out and take home to carve and display. This year's event was sponsored by the Western Railway Museum and various Rotary clubs.

The Western Railway Museum has become the success that it is

today due to events dating back to 1946, when a group of individuals learned that the old Oakland streetcar they had chartered for a day's outing was to be scrapped within a week. They immediately procured enough money to buy the car right away - saving it from the scrap yard. After this, in the spirit of historic preservation and philanthropy, the Bay Area Electric Railroad Association was formed to foster interest in streetcar, interurban and electric railroad operations, and to preserve these rapidly vanishing pieces of electric railway equipment.

Attending the event were Raymond and Michi Motoike who now live in Sacramento. They came to enjoy the event and remember the days they used the railway trains such as these as part of the "Key System," when they rode trains on the lower level of the Bay Bridge in San Francisco. They used to come to the Railroad Museum just to look at the trains before they were fully restored to be active and able to ride.

This year the pumpkin patch festival was a particularly busy one as announced by the conductor. A man from Fairfield spoke about the importance of the event for the community. He said this is something for the kids to do because there's not much in Fairfield, no skating, no public swimming pool, nothing. His wife expressed that the event seems to be growing every year.

People from all over California were at the festival, each claiming that they heard about it from "word of mouth." El Cerrito, Sacramento, and Fairfield are just a few examples of the distances traveled in order to attend the Pumpkin Patch event. Many had been there before, and came back because they had fun.

See Patch/ Page A3

A haunting festival on Main Street

ARLENE RIVERA
Staff Writer

The Rio Vista Chamber of Commerce organized and sponsored the first Harvest Festival in years on the evening of October 19. A total of 14 businesses on Main Street kept their doors wide open until 8 p.m. Many people participated in a Poker Run that later rewarded two lucky winners with \$100 each.

Other stores celebrated the upcoming Halloween holiday with special sale prices, hot cider, treats, wine-tasting, pumpkins, and more. Radio station, Radio Rio, broadcast the event by playing music for everyone to enjoy, while Rio Vista High School students, Michelle Sheldon and Chelsea Goar played DJ's for the night.

Other community groups were on hand to help celebrate. Students from Riverview Middle School sold hot dogs and drinks as part of an on-going fundraiser for their Washington D.C. trip planned for spring. They will host a garage sale and BBQ on October 28 from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. as another fundraising event. To help the students earn money for the trip you can go to the garage sale or donate items to be sold there by dropping them off between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Friday, October 26, and between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. on October 27. Contact Candy at (707) 374-2623 with any questions.

Rio Vista Pizza Factory participated in the event by not only staying open late, but also hosting a pizza-eating contest as part of the festivities. Down the hill from the pizza shop were Keith Bergquist, a dashing pirate, and Kenneth McWilliams II, a bloody doctor, who sold pumpkins near Bella Rouge and carried the extra large ones out to people's cars.



Photo by Arlene Rivera

A costumed bear helped people enjoy Harvest Night at Jill's Gems & Jewelry.

A small group of young ladies, about seven to 10-years-old, sold decorated rice crispy treats for their chapter of the "Strawberries," a younger version of the group originally started recently by Rio Vista High School students.

"The group does quite a lot for the community," said Belinda Hulet, mom of one of the Strawberry members. "Its about girls helping each other."

The young ladies sold treats in part for the United Nations Children's fund. Jill's Gems and Jewelry helped keep the mood light with her friendly and shockingly true-to-life fluffy, white bear - a friend of hers who walked around outside and inside her store and gave customers and curious people high fives and photo opportunities.

Tim Callahan, general manager for Radio Rio, revamped Rio Vista High School's student radio station, and stayed with the students to assure everything ran smoothly for Radio Rio during the event.

Callahan explained the radio station was rebuilt with more watts, after the equipment station had failed. He said the school district has been supportive vocally for the station, but not financially.

Rio Vista Fire Department pays for the Emergency Broadcast System for Radio Rio, and the

See Haunting/ Page A3

River News Vigil: Highway 12 Crisis

Highway 12 barriers possible hazard

ARLENE RIVERA
Staff Writer

On October 18, the Highway 12 Association, comprised of both citizens and government representatives, met to discuss the current changes to the Highway 12 situation. Some members of the group were very optimistic about the current status of the highway, but some expressed feelings of fear and doubt over the new changes, predominantly the new concrete barriers that have been placed on the narrow highway.

The Highway 12 Association was created in the 1960's for citizens of the surrounding communities to meet with members of Cal Trans, California Highway Patrol (CHP) and other California government representatives to voice

their concerns about the dangers of the road.

Lois Wolk, District 8 Assembly member, works with the association and has been instrumental in creating new legislation to improve Highway 12 - a highway that has been known for years as "blood alley." During the meeting, members of the group presented Wolk with a plaque to thank her for her efforts in the most recently passed legislation, which will make parts of Highway 12 a double fine zone and increase funding to allow more police patrols. The changes will be in January of 2008.

The new double fine bill will be one of many recent changes. Additional speed limit, no passing and daytime headlight signs, as well as the re-stripping of the highway in various places to remove passing zones and

concrete barriers designed to prevent head-on crashes have already been implemented.

The controversy has stemmed from the new barriers causing problems on an already narrow highway. A community member at the meeting stated that the barriers made him feel "claustrophobic," and now he "rides on the sidelines" of the road. He also pointed out "once the fog and rain come it will really be a problem. The barriers need to be marked more clearly."

There were also complaints of more people using the narrow right side of the highway to illegally pass and the inability of pulling over on shoulder areas are either too soft or non-existent.

A CHP officer present at the meeting said they had received some complaints about the

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Victorian-style homes to boost Isleton's growth

ARLENE RIVERA
Staff Writer

The subject of growth has come up at the Isleton city council meetings on more than one occasion. Like many other surrounding Delta communities, Isleton has been slowly growing as more people realize the unique beauty and recreation opportunities the Delta lifestyle has to offer. With the Renovo Community almost complete, Isleton is expected to see more growth than it has in years, something that may benefit the city.

At a recent mixer in the newly revived museum in Isleton, Steve Rosenthal, project manager of the Renovo housing development, told the crowd of local community members, business owners, Chamber of Commerce members and city council members, that "Isleton is about ready to explode, so get prepared. Even if people don't buy any homes they will be here looking." This influx of people is expected to have a positive effect on business in town.

City Council member Elizabeth Samano spoke in favor of the new housing development, saying

that Renovo has "tried to boost the city during the development of the project, regardless of political issues." Samano predicts that the growth will take a three to five year period, which will give the city some time to adapt to the changes. "The city has needed growth for a long time. It has become almost stagnant," Samano explains. She expressed total trust in Renovo and project manager Rosenthal, saying that the company helped guide the city council through the proper procedures for growth. "They educated the Planning Commission and City Council on how a general plan should be, even if it put them behind, they made sure to do everything legally," Samano said.

Rosenthal, president of the Rotary Club, is a three-year resident of Rio Vista. He believes the company is "attempting to revitalize Isleton." According to Rosenthal, the character of the town can be preserved while still growing. He believes that it is a great town to live in because "you feel far away but you're really close to everything." In fact, for prospective buyers in Isleton, the city is within a 60-mile radius of San Francisco, Sacramento, Napa, Modesto and Vacaville. It is only 25 minutes to a

BART station and about 15 minutes to Brentwood. Once the new Hwy 4 bypass is complete, Isleton will be even closer to Brentwood.

Renovo also went as far as to rebuild the city's museum, keeping all the original architecture and structure in place. Pictures of the city before and after the Isleton fires tell a story of the town's history. Rosenthal says he believes it is possible to remember the history of a city and keep the important things as they are while adding on for necessary change.

Mayor Gene Resler also believes growth can be a good thing for the city. He said the city would benefit from more population who may be able to "donate time for Public Works." Voices of opinion at city council meetings suggested the idea of growth was positive in respect to boosting the economy through local business and the school

district.

The museum is open to the public to ask questions about the new housing development or just look around at the pictures of Isleton's past on the walls. Located at 203 2nd St., call (916) 777-4111 or visit www.villageonthedelta.com.

PATCH Continued from page A1

The multiple Rotary clubs were there to raise money for charity organizations they donate money to - local, national and international. Some of the non-profit organizations and private parties that benefit from the Rotary clubs include: Boy Scouts, individuals and families in need, Lillian's Green Thumb project, which grows over a thousand pounds of fruits and vegetables to donate to the homeless, polio eradication groups, which sponsors doctors to go to third-world countries to provide polio vaccinations. These are just a few of many programs the Rotary collected money from this event for, of which there will

be no overhead as the Rotary is 100% volunteer-operated.

Electric streetcars and interurban are coming back to our cities and towns. Today, it is called Light Rail or Rapid Transit and many operating on the same routes as their historic predecessors. Volunteers at the Western Railway Museum say, "we are proud to have saved the original (trains) and to operate them for public education and enjoyment. Understanding the future is easier when you can actually experience the past."

Membership and volunteer positions are available, call (707) 374-2978 for more information.

CLEAN Continued from page A1

businesses by mutually sharing referrals, individual business skills and methods with honesty and integrity. The group also holds fundraisers and discusses current community issues and events.

Valine told the group how he feels about a clean city. "A clean safe town will help the real estate market and attract a better kind of population to Isleton," said Valine.

Delta Network Associates heard his story. Patricia Romero, president of Delta Network informed Valine that she uncovered the process of what legal steps he needs to take with clean-up. She assured him the group would help, but that they want to make sure everything is done with the law.

When asked to comment about Valine's recent efforts, Mayor Resler said he "appreciates his energy." Resler emphasized the importance of coordination with Public Works, so garbage bags created by the volunteers are properly disposed of. He also emphasized how important it is to make sure everything is legal to prevent any liability issues.

"More people should step up to the plate and help," said Resler.

He believes if people take it upon themselves to be responsible for the 30 feet in front of their homes, then they would be "part of the solution, not the problem."

Delta Network Associates will go before the City Council to initiate scheduling of a 100% legal, voluntary clean-up as soon as possible. For more information about the clean-up schedule or to sign up for the Delta Network Associates group, visit www.deltanetworkassociates.com or call Romero at (916) 213-4306.

HAUNTING

Continued from page A1

important part of the student's education - many of them will get grants and scholarships as a result of their participation. Radio Rio members said the night was a good turn out, and the students chose music specifically for this audience.

Jim Knapp, Rio Vista police officer, enjoyed the event. He was happy to see everyone getting along.

"Events like this should be done more often. Once a month we should keep the businesses open longer," said Knapp.

Knapp added that these sort of events may help the community bond and provide extra revenue for the businesses.

"We should do this for November and Christmas," he added.

Events like these help the police and public communicate with each other better, and Knapp feels it makes his job much easier.

Linda Lannon from the Rio Vista Chamber of Commerce helped organize the event and sees it as one of many new events the Chamber is doing to better serve the community.

The Meeting of Minds program, which takes place every third Wednesday of the month at 7 a.m., is where local businesses gather to share ideas and discuss

upcoming events. They are in the process of designing a new map of Rio Vista.

"This is a great advertising opportunity," said Lannon.

December 1 will mark their tree-lighting ceremony along with a day's worth of activities to celebrate the holidays. A new member directory is also underway for January, and a resident poll is being conducted to find information about the community member's shopping patterns and inspirations. The poll is designed to help merchants better serve the public and determine advertising strategies.

The Chamber of Commerce is planning next year's Harvest Festival, the above listed programs, and much more. While there was no Bass Festival this year, plans for next years festival will soon be underway.

With only one-part time employee, the Chamber is seeking volunteers to help with upcoming events. This year's Bass Derby was not as slow as reported in last week's paper - there were actually 900 participants who competed, as noted in the corrections page. It has been a good year for the Chamber, but the upcoming months and years to come will be even better.

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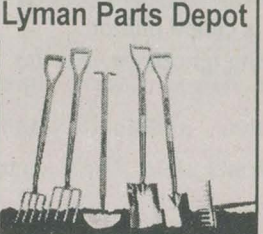
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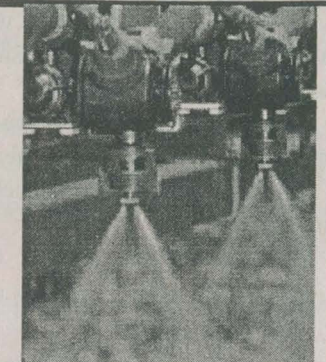
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QUIET MOMENTS

Continued from page B7

you again next month!

Delta Moments: A 3,000 Mile Away Hawaiian Perspective

This month I am sitting down to write my October Quiet Moments column in Maui, HI, 3,000 miles from home in the California Delta. We've been here for about a week on a special family vacation — one that's been very relaxing and scenic — and one that gives me a perspective on life that I very much appreciate and am thankful for.

So as I sit down to write this column, I find myself reflecting on the idea of being so far away from the Delta and in a place that many people around the world know as an Island Paradise. I ask myself, "Am I really in paradise, and if I am, how does the Delta we know and love compare to this?"

As to Maui being an Island Paradise, I read in today's Hawaiian newspaper that once again, Maui has been rated "The Best Island In The World" by a major travel magazine's annual readers' pole. Comments included, "Maui continues to capture the hearts and imagination of people around the globe. Our island's amazing natural beauty, culture and aloha continues to entice and inspire." That's a pretty strong endorsement.

There are probably very few people who would dispute that Maui and Hawaii in total could be considered a true island paradise. The natural beauty of Hawaii and here on Maui is spectacular — an ever-changing mix of tropical vegetation, colors, sky, clouds, water and light. The native Hawaiian culture and spirit, when and if you can still find it, do

indeed touch the heart and resonate on a scale recognized by all cultures.

But as I drive down the crowded main highways and observe how few, if any, driver courtesies I see, stop for a bite to eat and see how much less you can buy than for the same money back home, observe the rows of high-rise condos, time shares and new resort hotels built in the past 20 years on what was once some of the most beautiful native land in the world, I have second thoughts about this still being a true island paradise in the sense of the natural beauty that once made it so.

I know many people love the Hawaiian weather. For the most part, it is warm, moderate and seldom extreme. As for me, I am not a big fan of the humidity that comes with the weather package here. At night when I sleep, I much prefer the cooling Delta breeze to an in-room air conditioner. And give me four distinct seasons of the year — Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter — that change in look, feel, sounds, temperature and an always changing scenic panorama of open fields, levee banks, trees and other forms of habitat along with the changing character of rivers, sloughs and canals to look forward to in each season.

I guess what it all boils down to is that "paradise" lies in the eyes of the beholder. Maui may indeed still be an island paradise on a world-class level. It may be more spectacular than the Delta when it comes to its brand of natural beauty. But to me, the subtle, natural beauty of the California Delta makes for a true "island paradise" in its own right (all 58 islands and their 1,100 miles of levees!).

This month's Quiet Moments image is an example of the subtle beauty I am referring to. The sky wasn't lit up in bright fluorescent oranges and glowing neon pinks like a couple of the best sunsets I've enjoyed here in Maui so far.

But the contrast of the quiet water of Sutter Slough and its levee vegetation, set in front of a California western sky, slowly transitioning from its late afternoon blue to its own unique, late-summer sundown colors of oranges and reds, and the wispy stratus clouds floating effortlessly through the skyline while the contrails of two jet planes fly through the evening sunset, made for a quiet Delta moment I cherish.

The Delta provides countless moments like these, day in and day out, year in and year out. Yet they are so easy to overlook in our busy lives, and their value is impossible to state in real dollars. Yet in their own special way, they are priceless.

That's where home and heart are for me — how about you? I am thankful for its quiet and subtle natural beauty and the source of tranquility, inner peace and inspiration it has been and continues to be for all of us who know the Delta and realize the value of its open spaces, natural beauty and habitat. And what's more, we don't have to travel 3,000 miles one way to see and enjoy it — it's right in my own backyard, and yours too!

Enjoy the natural beauty of the California Delta, and care for it wisely,

I look forward to visiting with you again next month!

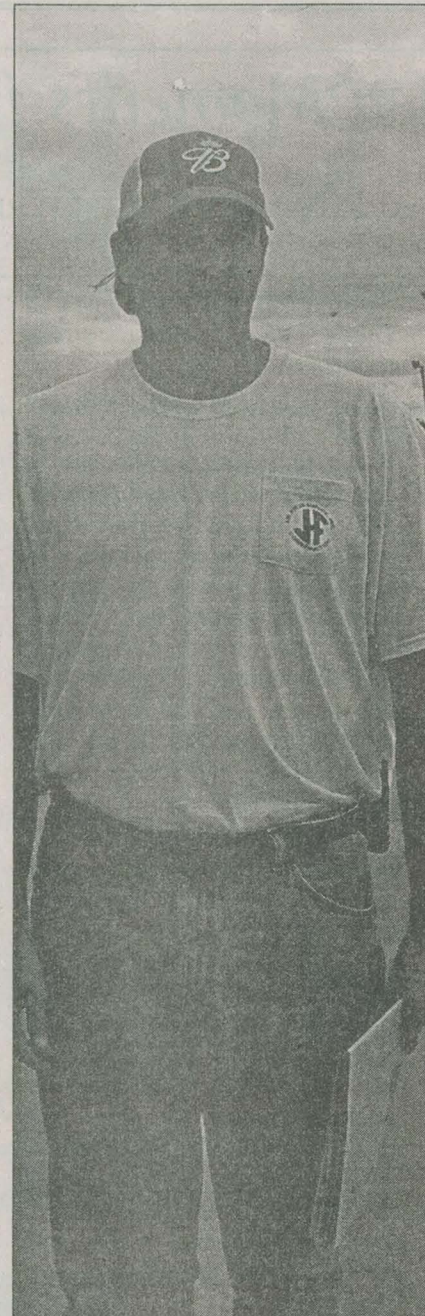


Photo by
Arlene Rivera

Ronald Eugene Brewer, whose name was misspelled last week, won this year's Bass Derby.

Brewer lost three out of the last four Rio Vista Bass Derbys in the final round on the final day. "It's not about the cash, it's about winning the tournament," said Brewer of his recent win.

He is now \$2,000 richer because of his 34.5 inches and 16.04 lb catch, and plans to take his wife out for her birthday with the money.

Congratulations Ronald!



ARLENE RIVERA
Staff Reporter

DirtySexyMoney — ABC Wednesdays @ 10 p.m.

DirtySexyMoney, starring Peter Krause (or Nate from Six Feet Under as some of us know him), is available on ABC or On Demand from Comcast. The show centers around Krause's character Nick George, a lawyer who finds himself working for the Darlings, a family his father worked for that he promised himself he never would. His father dies mysteriously in the first episode, and Krause decides that if he stays with the Darling family he may be able to solve his dad's murder. Evidence thus far points to the Darling family themselves, as Mrs. Darling had an affair with his father which enraged at least one member of the family.

The Darling family is used to having money define and save them, while George has been spending his time as a lawyer fighting for human rights, causes that believe in strength of character. His relationship to each of the Darlings is complex, as he grew up in their shadow, jealous of how much time they had with his father, who was also their lawyer. Mr. Darling seems to see him as a son, possibly the son he wishes he raised. One of the Darling daughters is in love with him, and the youngest son, a young man who is as intelligent as he is messed up, looks to him for advice and understanding he can't get from his father.

The juxtaposition between George's strong character and the Darling's way of life is interesting and humorous. The characters are extreme and yet still realistic, and the script is new and unpredictable. Due to the nature of the show, it is designated for children over age 14.

Hellsing Ultimate Series: III - DVD

Originally, Hellsing was (and is) a Japanese Graphic Novel created by Kouta Hirano and published by Young King Ours and Dark Horse Comics. The first Hellsing animated series was based on this graphic novel, and was finished and released on DVD five years ago. The idea to bring the comic to life was voice director and head writer Taliesin Jaffe's.

This first series of episodes met with mixed reviews, people liked it for the most part; the writing was great and the animation unique and full of striking color combinations. Jaffe was not satisfied with his own work, however, and decided that he could re-do the series and stay more loyal to Hirano's comic. Thus, he created Hellsing Ultimate Series, containing the same characters and similar animation. What's different is he included more information in the episodes to tell a story more true to the comic. The animation and writing bring the characters to life as they should have been in the first Hellsing series, according to Jaffe. On October 16, the newest addition to this series was released.

The series features Arucard, a centuries-old vampire who hunts other vampires for the Hellsing organization. Every episode is spectacular from the depth of character, to the details of the writing and the always unique animation and use of color. This series uses color and innovative animation style and angles to create scenes heavy in symbolism and metaphor, along with action like nothing

you've ever seen. Only available by DVD, it is worth buying. The subject matter, violence and language designate the film for age 18 and over. GREAT FOR HALLOWEEN!

Transformers — DVD

Transformers came out October 16 on DVD and is loosely based on the original cartoon series of the same name. The graphics are fantastic, and so is the action, but the story line and dialogue are sadly lacking. This movie doesn't know if it is an action film or a wanna-be comedy. Cheesy, pop-culture jokes and trite moments take up too much time. The actors are really good, but that just makes it sadder. It could have been great. Good for all ages, but probably best for children who can't speak or understand English yet.

Next two films are great for Halloween:

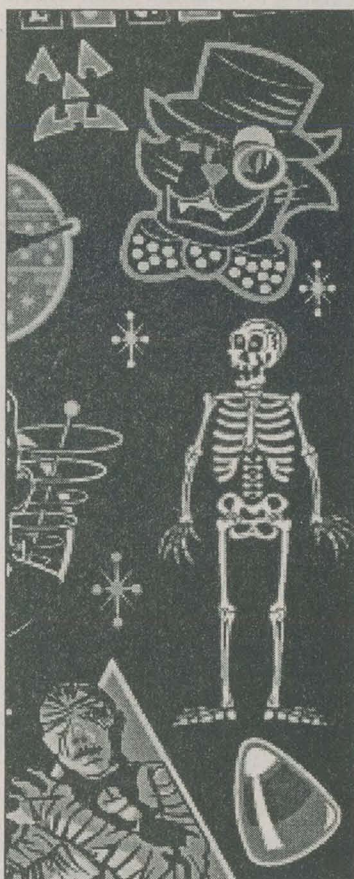
Planet Terror — DVD

The second half of the Grindhouse matinee (sold as one movie in the theatres), Planet Terror, by writer and director Robert Rodriguez, was released on October 16. Quentin Tarantino wrote and directed the first-released Death Proof. These movies were both a combination of '60s and '70s films along with a combination of advances in technology and depth of script from then to today. Scripts have caught up to books in many people's opinions. Tarantino even sells his scripts as books.

Planet Terror is deliciously gruesome and funny. Scantly clad women are a part of the film, but instead of running from the scary monster throughout the movie they end up being the heroes just as much, if not more than, the men. The same can be said for both films in this matinee. The film is as inspiring as it is creepy and frightening. Over 18 only.

Night of the Living Dead — DVD

Remember this classic horror movie about brain-eating zombies from 1968? It has been re-released to DVD in an all-new color version along with its classic black and white original version. This movie scared many people into loving zombie movies as kids and adults. The new version features an audio commentary by Mike Nelson from Mystery Science Theatre.



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HOSE JOB

Q I listed my home a month ago, still no buyer. Homes like mine were selling in just a few days; has the market gone flat?

R.J. Rio Vista

A Typical of a brisk market is that home owners decide to "test" what buyers are willing to pay by asking obscene prices for their homes. I always counsel sellers that two things will determine the selling price: appraised value and what a buyer is willing to pay. When an appraisal comes in for less than the buyers offered price, you can bet that the buyer will immediately go to the appraised value and renegotiate down to that value, and will refuse to buy the home for more. I had a situation where the ask was \$460k, the accepted offer was \$445k, but the appraisal was \$435k. The home ended up selling for \$435k.

I've had other situations where the seller was stubborn and would not come down to the appraised price and then lost the deal.

Pricing a home for sale and subsequent appraisal are not exact science; but, seasoned real estate people can certainly give a seller the upper hand on where the market is going and what buyers are likely to pay. Dealing with these issues hour by hour day to day is the life of real estate agents, and I never fail to be amazed at the clowns that refuse to listen and set their own prices based on some alcohol fueled conversation with a neighbor.

Because some bozo polished a couple of doorknobs and threw out some grass seed doesn't make his home worth more by \$50k. You need to know who your likely buyer will be, and where they will likely come from, and then market that area. Price will then be based on the SIZE of the home and land, recent sales, condition, competition, rate of sale, days on market, and much more. Let's say that, for example, you find that a high percentage of buyers in your neighborhood are from Fairfield/Vacaville. Obviously the draw would be lower prices here by a large margin. If you close down that margin by overpricing, why should they buy here and face the commute?

Using the philosophy that you need to price high to have room

REAL ESTATE

Q & A

BY SAM RICHARDS

to negotiate will guarantee an offer under the asking, and the appraisal will either meet the offered price or go below. Conversely, a home priced slightly under the market will draw all the buyers and could be bid well over the asking price, while they walk right past the overpriced home.

Make your price more attractive and your home will sell, the market still has buyers poking around.

Q I've been in my home 60 days, and already the toilet leaked water and flooded the surrounding

carpeted area with 2 inches of water. I can't believe this faulty toilet wasn't picked up on inspection or disclosed by the seller. Who do I go after?

C.P. Rio Vista

A My plumbing experts tell me that the only thing that could leak continuously and profusely enough on a toilet to cause such flooding would be the pressure hose bringing water into the toilet. This hose comes up to the toilet from a low spot on the wall or from the floor, and is attached to a shut off valve, which is exposed at the base of the hose beside or just behind the toilet. Turn off the shut off valve and take off the hose. This hose is about 1 foot long and can be replaced for less than \$20.

I hardly see a reason for concern on this issue, since this hose is a regular maintenance item and gives no warning prior to failure.

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HIGHWAY

Continued from page A1

barriers, but "as long as they're doing their job [the barriers], keeping people from hitting each other head on, then oh, well." The barriers have been keeping motorists from hitting each other head-on, but what about the head-on collisions with the barriers themselves?

Since the barriers have been installed in September there have been at least three traffic accidents, one fatality. A 54-year-old Santa Rosa man was killed after hitting the center divider as he was traveling westbound near Denver Road. Two days later an almost identical accident occurred when a truck going the same direction near the same location overturned after hitting the divider. There was also an accident just east of Suisun City which resulted in a big rig teeter-tottering on the divider as a result of trying to avoid a vehicle passing on the right.

"Whatever caused the accidents, the barriers did their jobs," said Daryl Halls, Executive Director of Solano Transportation Authority.

Cal Trans recognized there are still problems with the highway situation as it is, and plans to keep making improvements, such as fixing pot holes and widening the shoulder in some areas. The narrow

highway with barriers and, in many places, no shoulder at all, has been a huge problem for emergency vehicles.

A representative from the Montezuma Fire District said the emergency response vehicles have had to turn their lights off during emergency responses; the highway is too narrow for people to turn off, so they often "panic and just stop" their vehicles when they see emergency lights, causing traffic to come to a stand still and preventing emergency vehicles, such as fire trucks and ambulances, from moving anywhere at all.

The Highway 12 Association maintains their goal is to have the highway widened into four lanes. However, Cal Trans' position on the matter is "a four lane highway is nearly impossible because of the wetlands. A new highway would cost roughly \$1 billion dollars."

Reportly, the changes so far have been slower driving, but there is no specific plan available as to what changes, if any, will be made to make the barriers more safe.

Show off your family and friends!

Submit pictures with captions of events that occurred between September 21 and October 26 for the October 31 Scrapbook to rveditor@citlink.net or drop them off at the office at 21 S. Front St. in Rio Vista by Friday, October 26 at noon.

Thank you for your contributions!

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Fish hatchery swimming to Rio Vista schools

Arlene Rivera
Staff Writer

Parents and administration of Riverview Middle School and Rio Vista High School are in the process of adapting their curriculum to include Fisheries Science, complete with a hands-on, on-site hatchery.

The project has been a couple years in the making, and is scheduled to be completed late November of 2007. The hatchery project began as an idea discussed between Principle Jim Lake and parents Howard Branton, John Cronin and Bill Mortimore. They discussed all the positive effects that a hatchery could have on both the student's learning as well as the community, and then took a trip to Chester where they met Gary Coe of Kokanee Power.

"The rest is history," said Lake.

According to Lake, Coe of Kokanee Power has been instrumental in making this hatchery dream a reality.

"It wouldn't be a possibility without him," said Lake.

On Tuesday, October 16, Coe presented a check of nearly \$10,000 on behalf of Kokanee Power for the hatchery project. Kokanee Power is a non-profit organization of volunteers and members who are dedicated to enhance California's Inland Kokanee, trout and salmon fisheries. They also provide assistance to the California Department of Fish and Game, an organization who also helped realize the hatchery project.

Dennis P. Lee, whom Lake calls one of the top fishery scientists in America, designed the program. The hatchery system itself has been installed in a building next to the schools at Second Street. Lake has taken this project step by step with the intention of making it last for generations to come.

"This hatchery should become a part of the school, going beyond the current administration to

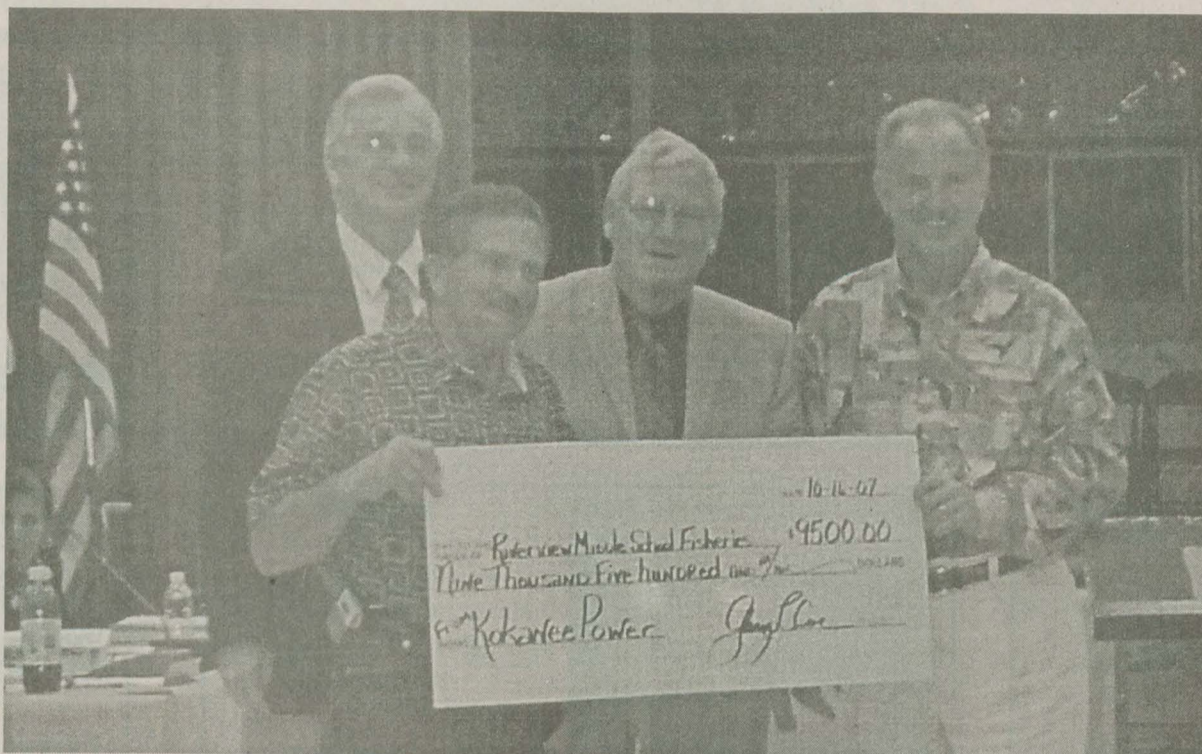


Photo by Arlene Rivera

Gary Coe from Kokanee Power presents a check to Principle Jim Lake for the Hatchery project at the school

be part of the educational culture of Rio Vista," said Lee.

Lee has also been helping the schools find Fisheries Science teachers. While the equipment is now in place, the program will not officially begin until they hire new teachers and train existing on the new curriculum.

Once the program is in place, students will work with the Department of Fish and Game and Kokanee Power to obtain eggs from fish in the wild to hatch and grow in the fishery. Fry, otherwise known as very small and newly hatched fingerlings, will be raised in classroom tanks. After growing to size, they will then either be released in local lakes and streams or sold. The curriculum is an important part of the process; seventh and eighth graders will gain fisheries science units and high school students will take one or more of a variety of classes –

biology, environmental science and agriculture plant and animal science production – while they learn how to handle the fish.

For the last two years Rio Vista students have had the opportunity to experience a ride on the Brownlee, a educational vessel where students go out on the water to experience fish trolling and plankton biology labs (also on the boat). Lake hopes to make the Brownlee trip an annual event; each year the trip would prepare students for the hands-on lessons they will learn in the hatchery.

Lake is excited about the many possibilities the hatchery project may hold. The schools will become


members of the American Fisheries Society and the Hutton Fisheries where students participating with the government agencies in the summer, work programs in the area of fisheries and environmental management.

It will open the door for students to be eligible for scholarships and summer work during and beyond high school. It is likely that the Hutton Foundation may provide \$3,000 scholarships for students who participate in summer fisheries projects. The hatchery program is for both students who want to go to college, as well as students who may not. The high school will have career opportunity classes that will lead to employment in the fisheries industry or environmental sciences.


The possibilities go beyond science oriented careers; if the fish are sold, the schools will be able to implement various kinds of related projects as a result. For example, business courses in conjunction with how to handle the selling process, public relations work, graphic and artistic design to market the fish and more. The possibilities are just beginning.

"Fishery Science is a skyrocket industry," said Lake.

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Trilogy E News Alert

The Special Meeting regarding
Roads that was called by the Master
Association Board of Directors on
October 25th at 3:00 P.M.
has been cancelled.

The TRVMA Board of Directors HOA Vision Meeting
will still take place on October 25th, at 2:00 P.M. at
the Delta Club in the Marina Room.
All Members are invited to attend.

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