

School News

CLAYTON VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

In its most successful performance season in five years, the CV Eagle Marching Band and Color Guard realized what it is like to be true winners this fall.

With early placements showing growth in music and movement, the band earned second and third placements in their events in Grass Valley, Pleasanton and Lodi. As the competitive season came to a close, the Eagles flew ahead of the competition with first place finishes of sizable margin in Napa and the Review of Champions in Stockton.

"Overall, a really good job. You have really improved a lot during the course of the season," Art Holton of San Joaquin Delta College said of the band. "It's nice to hear the

flutes and clarinets being featured."

Bob Flentge, former president of the California Band Directors Association, noted how well the percussion contributes to the show. "So many field percussion groups tend to dominate rather than accompany," he said. "Your group has been playing very tastefully and very well controlled."

The woodwinds were recognized as Best of Show at the Nov. 10 event in Napa, and they also ranked highest in their class at the Oct. 27 event in Pleasanton.

"This season was definitely a success," said sophomore Cory Kick. "I believe that we really improved from last year."

The band started with a bang this fall, earning Best Percussion and Best General Effect at its first show on Sept.

29. The event, sanctioned by the United States Scholastic Band Association, was held at Nevada Union High School in Grass Valley and drew adjudicators from around the country. The band finished in second place to



Photo by Steve Jacobson
Chris Jacobson and Yanaki Lopez, both of Clayton, perform with the Clayton Valley Eagle Marching Band during the Review of Champions on Nov. 17.

Galena High School of Reno. The Eagle Marching Band's show is based on the Cirque du Soleil troupe production of "Quidam." Clayton Valley is the only high school in the district that performs in the contemporary field band category.

Assisting the band this fall were Bryan Shaw, Jackie Rowell and Doug Slocum of Concord, and Jim Briggs and Beth Wiesendanger of Clayton. Debra Peterson of Clayton was the summer auxiliary coordinator. Mundy Viar directs the Eagle Band.

"I will be sad to leave this ensemble," said senior Sheila Mirzai. "It was the best way for me to break out of my shell and learn to play quality music. Hopefully, the bands of the future can continue to improve."

For more information about the Eagle Marching Band, contact Viar at ClaytonBands@aol.com or 682-7474, ext. 3125.

Horizon kids prepare for geography bee



Tamara Steiner/Clayton Pioneer
From left: Matthew Williams, Colleen Elvy, Ambriel Busse, Kayla Elvy, Emma Hall, Melayna Pratt and Alexa Barger.

A strong interest in learning about other cultures and lifestyles in the world sparked an enthusiastic group of Horizon Homeschool students (MDUSD) to get together this fall. Each week they have been busily studying maps, globes, books and more in preparing to participate in National Geographic's Geography Bee in January. The nationwide Bee takes place first at the school level and Horizon's program is excited to be having their first Geography Bee this year.

The student who does the

best in Horizon's Bee will qualify to take National Geographic's written test to see if they make it to the next ranking at the state level. The top written scores of 100 students in California will participate in the State Bee in April. The National Bee is in May in Washington, D.C. and last year a 14 year old homeschooling student from Washington won the Bee.

The Clayton Library staff has shown their full support by providing a room for the study group to discover the world together each week.

Church News

CONCORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The church is having its 13th annual carol sing at 7 p.m. Dec. 8 in Oglesby Hall, 1645 West St., Concord. Ladies First and Houseblend will be featured.

This year, the congregation will make a presentation to the Marines Toys for Tots drive, therefore, admission is a toy.

Come and enjoy an evening with lots of goodies and singing of Christmas carols, accompanied by the debut of the Community Orchestra.

The Marines will be meeting everyone in Friendship Circle between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. Santa Claus will also be there, so bring your cameras.

ETERNAL LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

On Dec. 12 and 19, the church will have Advent Evening Prayer suppers and services. Each service will be preceded by a soup supper from 6-7 p.m. The devotional services begin at 7:15. All are invited for an evening of family and fellowship that focuses on Jesus.

Meanwhile, all children of the community are invited to Christmas for Kids, 10 a.m.-noon Dec. 15. The free program will focus on "Jesus:

The Greatest Gift" and include Bible storytime, songs, craft and activities that teach about the birth of Jesus the savior. See the insert in this issue of the Pioneer.

Eternal Life will also have a Christmas Eve candlelight worship service at 7 p.m. Dec. 24. The church's regular Sunday schedule is 10 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Study and worship at 11:15 a.m.

Eternal Life is at 5554 Clayton Road, Suite 1B, Concord. The church is a member congregation of the WELS. For more information, call 524-0295 or email eternallife@wels.net.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Concord Council # 6038 is sponsoring its 9th annual California State Essay Contest. The contest is open to all Catholic Students in three grade groupings, 4-6th grade, 7-8th grade and 9-12th grade.

Competition moves through the council, regional and state levels. Winners will receive \$50 to \$100 savings bonds and a certificate at council and regional levels. State awards will be \$50 to \$250.

The subject matter is: grades 4-6, What does being a Catholic mean to me? grades 7-8, How can I display charity in my daily life? and grades 9-12, As a Catholic youth, how can I promote advocacy for the culture of life?

Deadline is Jan. 31. For more information, contact Claire Tryon at 673-8564 or greycototo@sbcglobal.net.

Weather, from page A11

annoying static discharges that the dry fur produced. The fur was dry when relative humidity was low, and relative humidity was lowest when fair-weather producing high-pressure systems formed.

Before weather instruments

were invented, certain animal behaviors were well correlated with weather conditions. For example, crickets were good temperature indicators since they chirped faster when the temperature became hotter. Many animals were good indica-

tors of wind direction since they typically grazed opposite to the direction the wind was blowing. Grazing animals wanted to pick up the scent of predators behind them and see predators downwind.

Advances in science and technology allow us to replace the folklore methods of forecasting with weather computer

modeling techniques. We should not forget, however, that many of the weather indicators that were passed down from generation to generation had real forecasting value.

Woody Whittlatch is a meteorologist with PG&E. Email your questions or comments to clayton_909@yahoo.com

Join us this Christmas
for a traditional message in a non-traditional setting
Christmas for Kids, Dec. 15, 10 a.m. to noon
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Dec. 24 at 7 p.m.

Eternal Life
LUTHERAN CHURCH

10 am Sunday School & Bible Class, 11:15 am Worship

Bible-based & Christ-centered worship, education & fellowship

5554 Clayton Rd., Concord (in the Farm Bureau building)
(925) 524-0295 www.EternalLifeLutheranChurch.org
William Kant, Pastor Member of WELS (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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Sunday, Dec. 23 Worship at 8 and 10 a.m.

Monday, Dec. 24 Worship at 5 p.m.
Children's Christmas Eve service

Monday Dec. 24 Worship at 10 p.m.
Celebration of Christ's Nativity

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