

# THE MUSTANG TIMES

A Publication by and for the students of Raymond Central Elementary School, Valparaiso, Nebraska

Fresh News from 2009-2010

May 2010 Issue

## Sixth Grade Science Fair

by Hunter Arias; illustration by Jon Herroon

The 6th grade will participate in a science fair soon. The students chose themes like, "Alternative Energy!!! (really?)," and "To Sing or Not to Sing."

Mrs. Johnson is one of the two 6th grade teachers, and she teaches math and science. Almost every day since the beginning of the year, she has been working with all of the 6th graders to get their projects ready.

The first step to getting a science project ready is to decide what the project will be about. The students got their ideas either from the internet, a book, or their own ideas. Next they filled out a sheet that asked them what their independent, dependent, and control variables are, their hypothesis, their problem, their materi-



als, and their experimental method. Once they got the sheet approved by Mrs. Johnson, they followed an outline to make a rough draft of their reports. Next is finishing the final draft.

In past years, the students have used a computer outline for their final draft. The students have to change the report from Jane Smyth's report to their own. Before they edit it, they print out the whole report and cut out the sections to put on their backboard.

The backboard is a whole different story. The students have to have at least 9 things on their backboard, the problem, hypothesis, procedure, graph, results, conclusion, materials, introduction, and variables. Some of them may have materials on display, too.

The science fair will be a great show.

## Mustang Times Adds Staff

by Jonathon Herroon

Three more students have joined *The Mustang Times* staff this semester. All three are filling general staff positions and working primarily as reporters.

Frances Holley, grade 5, signed on because it sounded interesting. Daniel Becher, grade 4, wanted to try something new. Mary Clare Linscomb, grade 4, wanted to share her writing with other people.



Left to right above: New staff members Frances Holley, Daniel Becher, and Mary Clare Linscomb.

*The Mustang Times* is published occasionally by Raymond Central Elementary School, Valparaiso, NE. Editorial Staff: Hunter Arias (Classroom News, Advertising, Town News, Humor), Jonathon Herroon (Spotlight on People, Opinions, Town News, Humor), Alex Schon (School Events, Sports, Town News, Humor, Art). Reporters: Frances Holley, Daniel Becher, Mary Clare Linscomb. PTO Advisor, Maria Cadwallader, Valparaiso Public Library Director. E-mail: [ValMustangTimes@gmail.com](mailto:ValMustangTimes@gmail.com).

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# Special Events

## Essay Contest

by Mary Clare Linscomb

Entries for the Americanism Essay Contest were due to teachers Monday, March 15, 2010. The theme was "What Is My Patriotic Role as a U.S Citizen?"

Ian White was the 5th-6th grade winner and Amanda Gyhra was the 3rd-4th grade winner for our school. There was a money prize.

Twenty-three people entered the essay contest from grades 3-6: 18 from 3rd grade, 0 from 4th grade, 1 from 5th grade, and 4 from 6th grade.

Third and 4th grade had to write 150-250 words, and 5th and 6th grade had to write 250-300 words. They could type or write by hand.

Monica Turdy collected the essays from the teachers to submit to the American Legion Auxiliary.

## Student Council's Winter Olympics Contest

by Mary Clare Linscomb and Daniel Becher

Mrs. Gravatt's 1st grade class won the Student Council's Winter Olympics Bingo contest on Feb. 18. They won a Gold Medal.

The Bingo cards were handed out on Monday, Feb. 16. Eight classes were involved.

Cade Jordan, the Student Council Spokesperson, pulled out two bingo cards every day. The cards listed Winter Olympic activities, such as bob sledding, figure skating, and snow boarding. The first class to get five in a row won the contest.



by Colton Arias

## Spotlight on Art

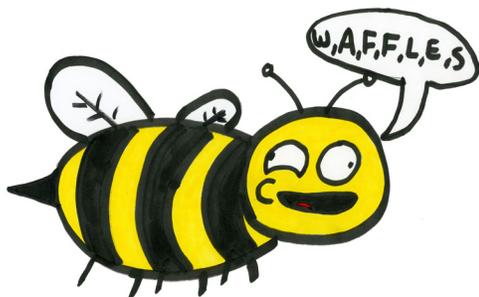
by Alex Schon



This is a cartoon of my grandfather. I drew it because I am thinking of becoming a cartoonist. I love to draw.

What are you thinking about being? Do you like to draw?

Draw a picture of someone in your family (parent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, cousin, grandparent, or pet). Submit it to Alex Schon, Art Editor, for possible publication in *The Mustang Times*.



by Alex Schon

# Mustang News



by Frances Holley. Illustrations by Jon Herron and Alex Schon



## Newspaper Web Site Planned

by Jonathon Herroon

The Mustang Times has planned a website for the paper! We're accepting donations in cans set up around Valparaiso to buy software for the site.

The web site will have the newspaper on it in digital format and with color photos. We also might have a staff page and links to the school web site and library web site.

It also may have videos of what goes on in the workroom. (Some

funny stuff goes on in here.)

The basic idea is being designed on <http://www.Wix.com>, a website building site. We are hoping to buy Dreamweaver, a website building software program.

We noticed that most newspapers now are on the web, so we figured that it's best if we are on the web, too.

We will appreciate any support that you can give.

## Earth Day Puppet Show

by Mary Clare Linscomb

Student council presented a puppet show on 4-22-10. Four student council members made puppets and worked them during the show. Other members set up the stage and did the narration. The whole school came to the gym to watch.

The play was about ways to save the world, like recycling, saving electricity, and using things until you can't use them any more.

The first Earth Day was in 1970. This was its 40th anniversary.

## Sign up for Summer Reading

June 1 through August 4, 2010 for kids ages 3-16

Sign-up forms are available at the library and online at <http://www.ValLibrary.org>.

Enjoy special activities EVERY DAY the library is open. There will be weekly prizes for reading, end-of-summer prizes, opportunities for swimming in Wahoo, Tuesday evening Story Hour, "Come Read to the Library Dog" days, and "Pets in the Park" days.

Attend EXTRA-special programs every Wednesday, 1-3 p.m. Receive certificates for attending and take home the crafts you complete. Join in the fun for these programs:

- **June 2, Splash Up the Library with Color.** Draw with chalk on the outside of the building and sidewalk to illustrate the "Make a Splash" theme. Led by Alex Schon.

- **June 9, Make a Splash with Water Crafts.** Tie-dye t-shirts, finger paint, water color paint. Led by Alex Schon, Frances Holley.
- **June 16, Water, Wind, and Sky – Nebraska Weather.** Experiments, information, crafts. Led by Nebraska Climatologist Al Dutcher.
- **June 23, Make a Musical Splash.** Musical activities and crafts. Make watery musical instruments. Led by musician Jim King.
- **June 30, Learn to Fish.** Advance sign-up and permission required. If enough parent volunteers will provide transportation, we will go to Wildwood Lake. The alternative is dryland lessons across the street. Led by Game & Parks' Andrea Faas. Relative age 16 or over must accompany child under 6 to Wildwood Lake.
- **July 7, Fire and Water.** Learn



how our fire Department works. Explore fire house, trucks, equipment. Water play. Led by Fire Chief Dallas Fletcher.

- **July 14, How Do Our Water Works Work?**

Tour local water facilities with Greg Bouc. What's down there in the sewer? Where does our water come from? Led by Greg Bouc.

- **July 21, Water, Earth, and Us – Nebraska Water.** All about the water cycle, ecology, testing. Make a water cycle bracelet. Led by Lower Platte South NRD Youth Educator.
- **July 28, Jump in with Reptiles AND Make a Splash in the Creek.** Reptile zoo in the library. AND What's in our local creek? An ecology tour. Led by teacher Jaye Crouse.
- **Aug. 4, Make a Splash in the Park.** Party/Cookout/water play in park across from the library. Led by Harriet Gould and Maria Cadwallader.

# Spotlight on . . . The Student Council

by Jonathon Herroon

Have you ever wondered what goes on in the Raymond Central Student Council?

The Student Council has sponsored and held many events, like the D.E.A.R time, red ribbon week, pet shelter donations, book fair bingo, and the Olympic events.

Cassie Brenner is the Student Council President. The President is the leader of the Student Council and usually calls the meeting to order.

Hunter Arias is the Vice President. "The V.P. takes over if the President is gone," he said. "I also take over if the President isn't able to do their duties, and I help with anything they need help with."

Ellen Dexter is the Web Master. She said, "I search for things on the internet, mostly." She is the Student Council's source for the internet.

Dani Jo Munderloh is the Council Historian. "I'm in charge of photography and in charge of the bulletin board."

Grace Rittenburg is the Council Parliamentarian. Her job, she said, is to "watch the clock and talk about business and keep everyone on task."



Student Council members: back row, left to right: Kade Jordan, Dani Jo Munderloh, Grace Rittenburg, Hunter Arias, and Mrs. Crouse. Front row, Ms. Dostal, Ellen Dexter, Olivia Holly, Ms. Schiefen, Cassie Brenner, and Rebecca Hayward.

Rebecca Hayward is the Student Council Treasurer. This person keeps an eye on the Student Council's money and also loads the pencil machine.

Cade Jordan is the Student Council Spokesperson and announces things like book fair bingo and changes in meeting times and dates.

Olivia Holly is the Student Council Secretary. She said that the Secretary

keeps written records of meetings and when the meetings started and ended. She also said she usually starts the meeting with the last meeting's unfinished business.

See Mrs. Crouse or Ms. Schiefen if you are interested in being on the Student Council next year. They are the Student Council's advisors.



# Town News

## LIBRARY

### OPEN HOUSE

**LIBRI WEEK April 24-May 1**  
**Open House April 24-25**

by Daniel Becher

Val Library celebrated LIBRI week at the library from April 24 through May 1.

The celebration began with Open Houses on Saturday noon to 3 p.m. and Sunday 1-3 p.m., April 24-25.

Mrs. Kim Zweiner and her son Tristin Zweiner planned the events. They and *The Mustang Times* staff members and other Valparaiso youth made and distributed colorful publicity posters and decorated the Library bulletin board.

The Zweiners and *Mustang Times* staffers also hosted the events, which included refreshments, library tours, and of course a chance to look at all the new books.

During the rest of the week there were treats for kids and more tours. Starting that Tuesday, the books were available to check out.

The books are all hardbound and are on a ton of different subjects, with quality content and illustrations.

There is something for everyone from preschool through grade 12—fiction, poetry, science, history, and math; books about dinosaurs and horses and dolphins, and books about exploration and invention and space.

The Library Director, Maria Cadwallader, said that the Libri Foundation and the Val Womens' Club provided \$1150 for books and private donors provided another \$350 for books about science and math. "Our young readers will be enjoying these books for a very long time," she said.

If you didn't get a chance to visit the Valparaiso Public Library during LIBRI Week, come now.



Illustration by Alex Schon

## VAL DAYS

**June 5-6, 2010**

by Jonathon Herron and Alex Schon

Greg Bouc says, "Val Days is going to be wonderful."

There will be duck races, an old time baseball game, fireworks (in the ball diamond), fire truck rides, and water play. Greg hopes it will be warm enough to open up a fire hydrant for water fun.

Look for the train ride and foot races and lots of displays, too. The Boy Scouts and wood carvers will be on hand.

There also will be a bounce house and other activities, as well as lots of good food, including snow cones and hamburgers. And on Sunday, there's the parade.

Greg also said he hopes that the Village can provide other interesting

and fun activities for kids all summer, such as boat races in the lagoon.

You may want to watch when they inspect the water supply. A guy in an anti-bacterial suit dives into the Valparaiso water supply (90 feet underground) and inspects everything with a camera. The pictures from the camera show on a T.V. in the truck, so everyone can watch him inspect it. This is the water we drink and use every day.

The Village also checks the sewer pipes. They put smoke in to check if there are any leaks, because in some pipes there may be toxic fumes that can poison people without them knowing. They use smoke because they can see smoke.

# Opinions

## HOW SAFE IS FOOTBALL?

by Hunter Arias; Illustrations by Alex Schon

Recent studies show that football isn't as safe as you think.

Many concussions are not reported in high school, college, and professional football.

According to *Time* magazine, there are 4 main reasons high school football concussions are unreported. 66% didn't think it was serious enough, 41% didn't want to leave the game, 63% didn't know it was a concussion, and 22% didn't want to let their teammates down.



I asked them both how we can make football safer and, after a long while of thinking, Peter said, "Pads thicker and helmets safer."

My dad, who had a much more complex answer, said, "Well, helmets mostly protect the skull and not the brain. Concussions happen when

**FOOTBALL  
is  
DANGEROUS!**

your body stops suddenly and your brain sloshes against the side of your head. Shoulder pads help a lot with shoulder injuries but knee pads don't help at all with torn ligaments."

Too many kids get concussions playing football, so this is a warning for anybody who is considering playing next season.

I interviewed two different people with two totally different opinions about the football safety situation. Peter McNally, a local 6th grader at Valparaiso Elementary, thinks football is safe. My dad, Robert Arias, is a neuropsychologist and has seen numerous football injuries that include blown knees, broken necks, and many concussions.

I asked Peter if he thought football was dangerous and all he said was a big fat "NO." My dad's version was very different. He said that we need to do something about the safety of football, especially for your brain.

## Letters

The purpose of this section is for you, our readers, to have your say. Let us know what you think! Contact Alex, Hunter, or Jonathon, or e-mail us at [ValMustangTimes@gmail.com](mailto:ValMustangTimes@gmail.com).

## Our Thanks to all Valparaiso Mustang Times Readers and Supporters

Thank you from all of us to all *Mustang Times* readers and supporters.

Your comments have encouraged us and we very much appreciate your suggestions and your generous donations. Your donations have helped us afford printing.

Again, thank you to everyone.

Sincerely,  
The Mustang Times Editors and Staff

## Ghosts

by Jonathon Herroon



Ever get that weird feeling when you're alone or in a certain place,

and you feel like someone is watching, stalking, or following you?

If you're a skeptic, you probably think either someone's watching you or your mind is playing tricks on you. If you believe in the supernatural and paranormal activity (no, not the movie), you may think it's a ghost.

One on-going argument is: do ghosts exist? Nobody knows the answer for sure. I believe in ghosts. But even with reports like the brown lady of Ranham Hall, Lizzy Borden, and the Bell witch, you could still say, "Those are all hoaxes from crazy, attention-craving people."

Some hauntings are too bizarre for a normal explanation. Take Bell Farm. The story is that the ghost terrorized the residents of the Bell Farm. Then the dad of the family was poisoned and died. Supposedly the ghost was the attacker, because no one else was able to be proven guilty.

So, do ghosts exist, yes or no? E-mail us what you think at [ValMustangTimes@gmail.com](mailto:ValMustangTimes@gmail.com).

## Corrections

Our apologies for the follow errors which appeared in our first issue (January 2010):

Page 4, the first three picture captions misnamed Mrs. Crouse's snakes. Photo 1 should name Mrs. Crouse holding corn snakes; photo 2, the corn snakes; photo 3, the lined snake.

Page 4, credit for the line drawing of Ian White goes to Jonathon Herroon.

# COMIX and other cool stuff

## What Can You Do To Save the Earth?

by Mary Clare Linscomb

Recycle and re-use:

- bottles
- paperclips
- cans
- newspaper and other paper (wrap gifts with it!)
- plastic.

Save Energy!

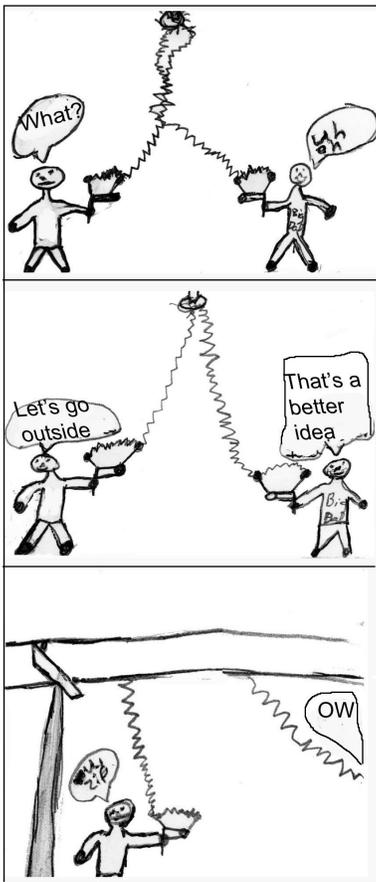
- Turn off lights when you aren't using them.
- Use a plug-in strip so you can turn off appliances completely.
- Walk more than you drive.
- Avoid using rubber bands.
- Use a digital camera.

Save Water!

- Turn off the faucet when you aren't using the water.
- Don't buy bottled water.

Protect Wild Life!

- Don't pollute!
- Dispose of things very carefully.



by Daniel Becher

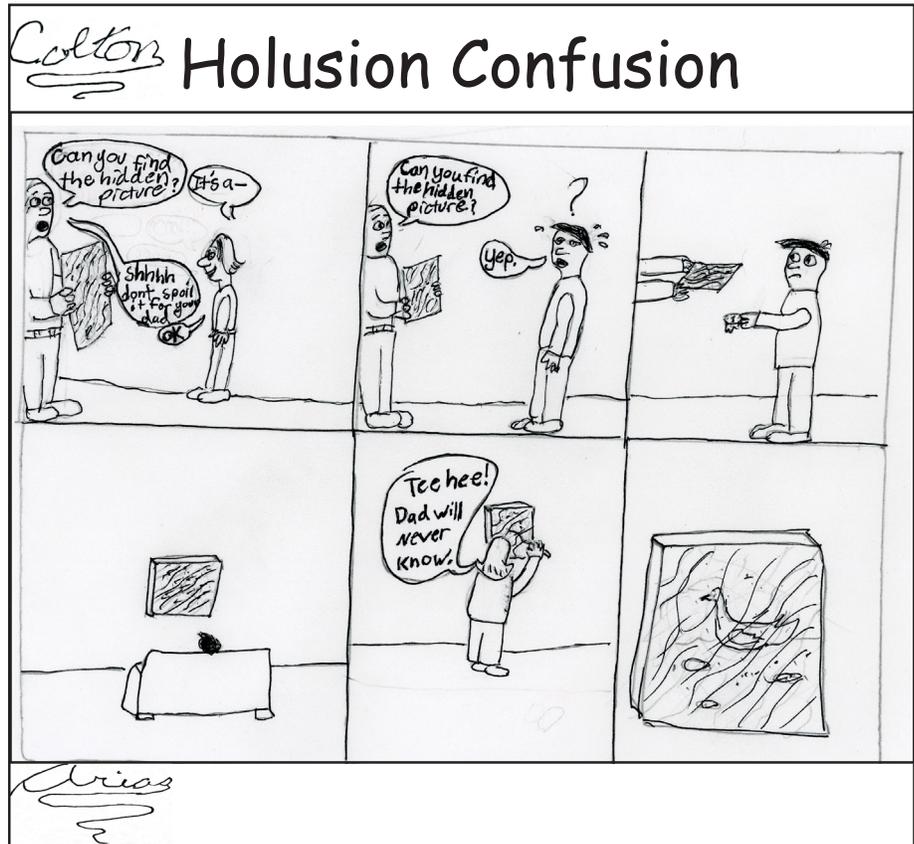
## ANIMAL Word Search

by Frances Holley, Daniel Becher, and Mary Clare Linscomb

Find these words that name kinds of Dogs, Cats, Horses, and Snakes:

Pekinese - Siamese - Arabian - Garter Snake - Chihuahua - Jaguar - Quarter Horse - Lined Snake - Poodle - Tiger - Mustang - Boa Constrictor - Pitbull - Himalayan - Morgan - Corn Snake - Hound - Domestic - Tennessee Walker - Rattler

T	O	C	H	I	H	U	A	H	U	A	G	R	O	M
B	O	A	C	O	N	S	T	R	I	C	T	O	R	O
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P	E	A	D	N	U	O	H	E	L	D	O	O	P	S



Colton

### Advertising Rates

Classified ads, 5 cents per word, minimum \$1.00. To include photo(s), add \$1.00 each. Display ads, \$2.00 per column inch, minimum \$2.00. Deliver copy, photos, or camera-ready display ad material, with payment (cash or check), to The Mustang Times, Main Office, Raymond Central Elementary School, 406 East 3rd Street, Valparaiso, NE 68065, OR to the Valparaiso Public Library. For more information, contact the Publication Advisor, Maria Cadwallader, at 784-0321 (res.) or 784-6141 (library).

## Classifieds

### LOCAL BUSINESSES

**Nelson Gas & Oil**  
101 N. Cedar St., Valparaiso, NE  
784-3201

**Shear Paradise Salon**  
312 W. 2nd St., Valparaiso, NE  
Tues.-Sat.  
Owner/Stylist: Jamie Johnson  
784-6022

**Tvrdy's One Stop**  
100 Cedar St., Valparaiso, NE  
784-2244

**Val Tavern**  
210 W. 2nd St., Valparaiso, NE  
784-9911

### Oak Creek Valley Bank

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MEMBER F.D.I.C.

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