

## IN MEMORY



Photos by STEVE THORNTON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hairstylist Leah Downs shaves off the hair of Tovashal Elementary School teacher Rod Amstutz on April 11 after he issued a challenge to students to raise funds for heart research.

## Heartfelt gesture

Students at Tovashal Elementary School in Murrieta recently participated in the American Heart Association's Jump Rope For Heart program, raising \$7,000 for heart research in memory of Terry Olson, the former principal of Tovashal Elementary School, who died in January due to complications from heart surgery. Jump Rope For Heart is a national educational fundraising program. Tovashal teacher Rod Amstutz told students he would have his head shaved if they raised enough money. The event promoted physical fitness and allowed Tovashal students to do something in memory of their principal and help others who suffer from heart disease.



Amstutz shows off his newly shorn hair.

## Founders Day award winners honored by PTA

■ Temecula council notes overall, school site contributors

THE CALIFORNIAN

TEMECULA — In recognition of the founding of the PTA in 1897, the Temecula Valley Council PTA annually asks each school unit in the Temecula Valley Unified School District to nominate a member to be recognized for outstanding PTA support and contributions to the children of this community.

Judges then select three

people to receive a Temecula Valley Council PTA Founders Day Award. The 2007-08 winners are Samantha Elliott, Great Oak High School; Susan Houston, Temecula Valley High School; and Pamela Sorensen, Margarita Middle School.

The Council also recognized 26 school unit PTA/PTSA award winners. They are: Alamos Elementary — Dana Newton; Abby Reinke Elementary — Laura Estrella-Vaezazizi; Bella Vista Middle School — Taylor Ernisse; Crowne Hill Elementary — Tess Crawford; Chaparral High — Dan Kenley; James L. Day Middle

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COURTESY PHOTO

The 2007-08 award winners of the Temecula Valley Council PTA Founders Day Award, from left, Samantha Elliott, Great Oak High School; Susan Houston, Temecula Valley High School; and Pamela Sorensen, Margarita Middle School.



Photos by DAVID CARLSON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Great Oak High School students Lacey Downing, left, and Adriana Villagran rehearse a scene from "Little Women," which will be performed Thursday through Saturday at the Temecula campus.

## Great Oak performs 'Little Women'

THE CALIFORNIAN

TEMECULA — "Little Women" will continue its run at Great Oak High School at 7 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

The show is about chasing your dreams, being true to yourself, the bonds between family and the importance of love and forgiveness.

It features actors Adriana Villagran, Ethan Tapley, Lacey Downing, Danielle Ouimet, Mariela Riat, Courtney Duncan, Gregory Dernbach, Jordan Chuplis and Caitlin Zimmer. They are part of the first group of students to spend four years in the Great Oak theater department, which started in 2004.

"They are a wonderful ensemble who have grown in

very clear and significant ways since their first show in '04," director Justin Girard said.

Tickets cost \$10 for adults and \$7 for students, children and senior citizens. Discounted tickets are available online at [www.sellingticket.com/gotc](http://www.sellingticket.com/gotc).

The school is at 32555 Deer Hollow Way. For information, call 294-6450, Ext. 3901.

## 'Into the Woods' to open new theater

THE CALIFORNIAN

ROMOLAND — Fairy tales with a twist of reality, all set to music, will be on tap when Paloma Valley and Heritage high schools join together to perform "Into the

Woods" this week and next. Performances will be at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and May 2 and 3. It will be the first production in Heritage High's new theater arts facility.

The 500-seat theater is equipped with a fly system, to

lift scenery in and out of place, six complements of electronics, to light the stage, accessible by catwalks, and the capacity to use 16 body microphones in any given scene. The width of its

► THEATER, B-4

## ROCKIN' AND LEARNIN'



Photos by STEVE THORNTON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The band Rockin' The Standards played at Wildomar Elementary School recently. The band has created a CD to help children improve in math.

## Schoolhouse rock

The band Rockin' The Standards played to a large audience recently at Wildomar Elementary School. Wildomar teachers Michael Anderson and Tim Bedley are members of the band, which produced a CD called "Math," that is made up of songs to help students remember math facts. "Math," the group's second album, consists of 14 rock sing-a-longs for children in second through sixth grade. Songs include "Parallel or Perpendicular," "Mean Mode Median" and "The Place Value Rap." Bedley, a fourth- and fifth-grade teacher, created the lyrics based on academic state standards that his students struggled with in class.



Students at Wildomar Elementary School were an enthusiastic part of a concert featuring the band Rockin' The Standards.