



Healthy smoothie

Businesses cater to customers' low-cal desires

BUSINESS, B7



Kicking it off

Northern Solano high school football teams open practice for 2007 season

SPORTS, B1



Net action

Area volleyball squads start prep workouts

SPORTS, B1

Rove helped – and hurt – Bush

Influential aide steps aside

By Ron Fournier
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Karl Rove deserves as much credit for spoiling George W. Bush's presidency as he does for creating it — which is to say he had a lot to do with both.

The strategist's political genius helped make Bush

president.

His arrogance helped make Bush a lame duck.

"Rove is the model for all future presidential advisers — disciplined, smart and personally tight with the commander in chief. With that power comes all of the negative baggage when policy and governing failures erupt out

ANALYSIS

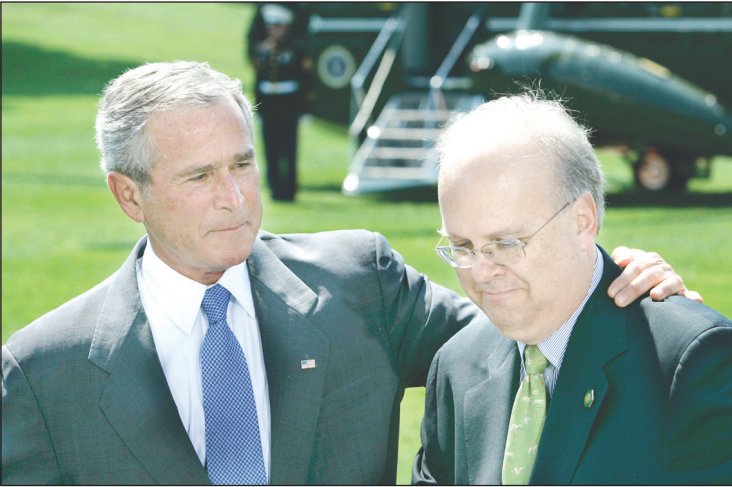
of control," said Republican consultant Scott Reed. "He has kept remarkably cool as the GOP has spiraled out of control the last 10 months."

Reed was pointing to the 2006 midterm elections that cost Republicans control of Congress and destroyed any chance that Rove would achieve his driving ambition —

create a governing coalition that would outlast the Bush presidency.

That goal was on Rove's horizon in 2000, when he helped Bush overcome long odds to defeat a sitting vice president. Democrat Al Gore won the popular vote, but Bush won Florida and the majority of the electoral votes when the Supreme Court vot-

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President Bush puts his arm around Karl Rove as they appear before reporters during a news conference on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, Monday.



BASS FESTIVAL
Rio Vista



LAMBTOWN FESTIVAL
Dixon



TOMATO FESTIVAL
Fairfield



FIESTA DAYS
Vacaville

Secret of city festivals' success is SUPPORT

Tomato Festival, Fiesta Days have reaped benefits

By Ian Thompson
Daily Republic

FAIRFIELD — Rio Vista's Bass Festival didn't make it this year.

Dixon's Lambtown Festival almost suffered the same fate.

But Vacaville's Fiesta Days and Fairfield's Tomato Festival, which returns Saturday, continue to be successful.

What makes some festivals successful while others go bust?

It's all a matter of drumming up vital volunteers and getting solid community/city support to handle all the work and some expenses, according to festival organizers.

"Festivals are run on none or minimal profit," said Emily Low, the Main Street program coordinator who is a driving force behind the

Tomato and Candy festivals. "Volunteers are essential. This would not be possible if we had to pay for them."

Fairfield strongly supports its festivals because "anything that draws positive attention to Fairfield and makes people want to spend time here should be strongly encouraged," Mayor Harry Price said.

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Jury finds man guilty of turning gun on officer

Defendant may get 20 years

By Jess Sullivan
Daily Republic

Crime

FAIRFIELD — When Gregory A. Moss saw the red lights of a routine traffic stop in the car's rear view mirror, he had a choice - move the loaded handgun from his waistband and slide it under the seat, try to make a break for it and run, or attempt to use the gun on the police.

The former convict and parolee chose to use the gun and may spend 20 years behind bars wondering if it was the best decision.

Before his jury trial, Moss rejected prosecutors' offer of a 15-year plea deal.

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Katrina aid used for football condos

By Jay Reeves
The Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — With large swaths of the Gulf Coast still in ruins from Hurricane Katrina, rich federal tax breaks designed to spur rebuilding are flowing hundreds of miles inland to investors who are buying up luxury condos near the University of Alabama's football stadium.

About 10 condominium projects are going up in and around Tuscaloosa, and

builders are asking up to \$1 million for units with granite countertops, king-size bathtubs and 'Bama decor, including crimson couches and Bear Bryant wall art.

While many of the buyers are Crimson Tide alumni or ardent football fans not entitled to any special Katrina-related tax breaks, many others are real estate investors who are purchasing the condos with plans to rent them out.

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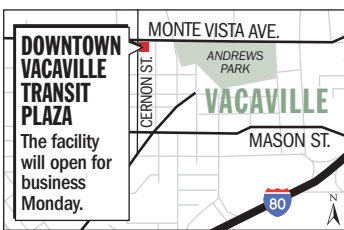
Vacaville transit center to take fuss out of catching bus

By Ian Thompson
Daily Republic

VACAVILLE — Vacaville City Coach bus riders will soon have a safer, more convenient place downtown to catch a bus.

The downtown transit plaza, which has been in the works for more than a decade, will be formally dedicated at 10 a.m. Wednesday and then open for business Monday.

The new facility is located on what was once a service station at the corner of Monte Vista Avenue and Cernon Street. Work started in October 2006 on the \$1.8 million



project.

"This offers us a great potential for many more people to see us in operation and to see that City Coach is a fast and frequent service," Transit Manager Brian McLean said. "It is a perfect location. It is only one block away from our current transit station."

At present, bus passengers catch the bus on the sidewalk

on Kendall Street in front of the Bank of America.

The transit plaza will feature five illuminated bus shelters, benches, a 33-foot-tall clock tower, rest rooms and a turnaround area for buses.

"It was built to accommodate an ever increasing number of transit riders in the city and help with the expansion of our transit services," city spokesman Mark Mazzaferro said.

What the transit plaza does not have is a lot of on-site parking, but the city has several municipal parking lots within close walking distance, Mazzaferro said.

"Parking will be addressed in the future for all of the downtown in general," Mazzaferro said.

The plaza is the city's latest step in an effort to improve Vacaville's transit system. Buses now arrive at each city bus stop once every 30 minutes instead of once an hour.

Ridership has increased significantly from a little more than 700 riders a day last year to just more than 800 a day as of June, according to Mazzaferro.

Vacaville is also in the planning stages for a major

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A worker makes adjustments to the clock tower on the new Vacaville Transit Plaza at East Monte Vista Avenue.