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Monday, 1

- News
 - City
 - County
 - Education
 - North Coast
 - Politics
 - South County
 - Silas Lyons
- Business
- Columnists
- Community
- Entertainment - Ticket
- Food & Wine
- Letters To The Editor
- Obituaries
- Sports
- Central Coast Living
- Tax Time

[Back to Home >](#)



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Posted on Mon, Feb. 27, 2006

OPINION OF THE TRIBUNE Bouquets and Brickbats

Retired janitor gets top marks

An A+ bouquet to recently retired school janitor **Walt Hawley**, who kept Grover Beach Elementary School shipshape for an impressive 36 years — all the while dispensing the smiles, songs and small kindnesses that endeared him to generations of students.

He's a shining example of the scores of behind-the-scenes employees who are so indispensable to our kids' educations. Rosebuds all around to the school secretaries, bus drivers, noon-duty aides, food service workers and the many others who, like Walt Hawley, keep our SLO County campuses running smoothly and efficiently. And a special thank-you to Walt, for teaching us how to add grace and humor to spit and polish.

Alleged van thieves get two thumbs down

Just in time for the Academy Awards, we present an Oscar-sized brickbat to the duo from Bakersfield who allegedly absconded with a van from Allan Hancock College's PCPA Theater in Santa Maria. They drove to Arroyo Grande, where they allegedly broke into a church and stole some food, damaging the building's windows and a door handle in the process. Stealing from a college drama program is bad enough, but performing a church break-in as an encore is one dirty, rotten act. In the final scene, though, the van was located and returned to PCPA. A round of applause to police officers involved in the recovery.

A toast to Poly grads for winery work

We raise our glasses and extend a well-constructed bouquet to Steven Pults and Tim Woodle, two Cal Poly architecture grads who helped put SLO County's viticulture regions on the map with their innovative, tasteful designs for several local wineries. Their firm, Steven D. Pults, AIA & Associates, is responsible for 20 winery projects in the past 10 years — including about 80 percent of SLO County's projects built over the past decade. Even more impressive, Pults and Woodle have 27 more projects in the works, ranging from simple tasting rooms to a high-end, 85-room hotel, spa and winery planned for Highway 46 East in Paso Robles. Their designs not only make excursions to our local wineries all the more memorable, they also showcase the excellence of Cal Poly's architecture program. Now that deserves another toast.

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TRIBUNE STARS



Parents, coaches and rec league officials are invited to submit their sports stars of the week. Please remember that kids can appear only once a month. And if your star doesn't make it the first time, try, try again.

» [Click here to nominate a star](#)



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