

LIVING

**JOBS, HOMES,
CARS ... MORE**

CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE D3

AT YOUR LIBRARY

Homework Help program tonight, or get help online

Homework looms large in my memories of school, at least those that are less than happy.

I seem to have passed the homework angst gene on to my children, as well. In fourth grade, my daughter went on a homework strike: Her rationale was that the teachers had her all day and it was their job to cram that learning in. If she had to take work home with her, there was something fundamentally flawed with the system.

We managed to negotiate an end to that strike, but I don't think our homework experience was unique. Many families face a daily homework struggle. If the student in your family needs help to finish homework, the library can help.

The library is offering an online tutoring program called Live Homework Help. You can receive free help from tutors through the library via the Internet. Geared for fourth-through 12th-graders and introductory college-level students, this program connects you to a real, live tutor.

These experienced tutors include credentialed teachers and graduate students and they know how to help with homework. They are available every day from 1 to 10 p.m.

Spanish-speaking tutors are available Sunday through Thursday 1 p.m.-7 p.m. These tutors can teach your child to work independently and to develop and buff up skills learned in class. Students can receive help in math, science, social studies, and English. Go to our Web site at www.solanolibrery.com and click on the Live Homework Help icon on the left.

Students can also turn to the library's Web site to search online books and magazine articles. The articles from our online databases, such as EbscoHost, give you ready-made citations for your bibliography. The online books from the library's connection with NetLibrary are easy to search for a specific

See *Library*, Page D2

For some, a tough transition to fall's early darkness

By SARAH HENNING
ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS

Check all that are true:

On colder, darker mornings, escaping prison seems easier than get-



Christine Baker/Daily Republic photos

Six-year-old Joe Rohrer is learning to sew a quilt in his sewing class at the Marina Center in Suisun City.

NOT FOR GIRLS ONLY

Boys make quilts, clothes in Suisun City sewing class



Rohrer looks to his teacher as he organizes his pins in class.

By AMY MAGINNIS-HONEY
DAILY REPUBLIC

It's a Sunday afternoon, a time when many young boys could be home watching football or playing Nintendo.

Not so for Christian Hoehn, 9, a Vallejo fourth-grader who is working on a quilt with a monkey theme. He's sitting at a sewing machine in a small, yet festive, room in the Marina Center.

He's following in the footsteps of his sister, 13-year-old Caitlyn Hoehn, who just finished a Coca-Cola print apron for her cooking class at school. Caitlyn made a quilt as one of her first projects at the sewing school run by Catharine Anderson. Christian thought he should make one, too.

Next to him was 6-year-old Joe Rohrer, who was sewing a pajama top to match the pants he had finished earlier. The Vallejo youngster needed a stack of books for his

Learn to sew

For information on children, teen and adult sewing classes, visit www.LearnToSewToday.com or call 427-1127.

feet so he could reach the sewing machine foot control.

When he finished that project he planned on making his grandfather some green shorts. "I like sewing," he said matter-of-factly. He also scrapbooks.

For 8-year-old Brandon Bichler, also of Vallejo, it was realizing a dream. He's wanted to sew a quilt since he was 5, said his mother Mary Bichler. Brandon's quilt sports a sports theme.

In fact, she purchased him quilting squares but they had to wait for the right time. "I don't sew

See *Class*, Page D2

Class: Boys and girls learn to sew in Suisun City

From Page D1

a stitch," Mary Bichler said. "I'm excited (he sews). He hems his own pants. I used to spend more than the pants cost just to get them hemmed."

All three boys also belong to the Cub Scout Pack 118. There's an ongoing debate on whether they can earn any badges for their work.

Before long Christian was up on his feet cutting the threads off his quilt and working on the final touches.

While Anderson has had the sewing school for several years, this is the first time she's had

three boys enrolled concurrently. "One day they were all making strange noises at the same time. I've had to rearrange how they sit," she said.

The kids at Anderson's sewing school are there for a variety of reasons.

Stephenee Duran, an 11-year-old Fairfield resident, was making a sleeper gown for her baby sister. She's been sewing for about a year and has already made some shirts and pajama pants.

Sarah Souza, 10, just joined the sewing class. "She's into fashion and interior design, said her mother Stacey Souza.

Sarah, a Vacaville resident, will probably make a quilt first. "She already has an eye for fashion," her mother added.

Victoria Rohrer, 9, used to prop her feet up on books like her brother does. She's now ventured into sewing silk pajamas.

Caitlyn Hoehn makes her fashion statement by sewing her own clothes. "A lot of people will ask me 'Where did you buy that?' " she said. "It helps me to be original." She prefers to make dresses and T-shirts.

Anderson is assisted by Corrida Carr, an 18-year-old Fairfield High School graduate now

attending the Art Institute of California in San Francisco and majoring in interior design.

"They're fun," Carr said of the male sewers. "Sometimes they can get annoying. But I have a brother at home, so it's not that bad."

She started sewing at 11. Her last big sewing project was her senior prom dress. Her original career goal was being a doctor. But her chemistry grade ended it.

Reach Amy Maginnis-Honey at 427-6957 or amaginnis@dailyrepublic.net.