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Four Valley Springs schoolgirls among 23 injured at county fair

By Nick Baptista

Four classmates from Valley Springs Elementary School were enjoying a day at the Calaveras County Fair aboard the YoYo swing ride when it collapsed at approximately 6 p.m. Friday.

The four were among 23 injured fair-goers who were sent to area and regional hospitals for treatment of injuries sustained in the accident that put a damper on the 2008 edition of the fair and frog jump.

By Sunday, all of those injured had been released from the hospitals and sent home, including Sarah Simons, a Valley Springs Elementary School sixth-grader, who was one of three accident victims airlifted from the scene. She was taken to U.C. Davis Medical Center in Sacramento. A 20-year-old woman was transported by air ambulance to Doctors Medi

(See Page 20)



Nurse Jaymee Loverin, left, was credited for helping Valley Springs Elementary School sixth-grader Sarah Simons receive medical attention following Friday's thrill ride accident at the Calaveras County Fair. Simons was one of three airlifted from the scene. Photo courtesy of Pam Kramer.

20-year-old man arrested Saturday after chase, crash

By Nick Baptista

A pursuit Saturday morning along Highway 26 ended in a two-vehicle crash near the entrance to Gold Creek Estates with two people sustaining at least moderate injuries, area traffic tied up for approximately an hour and the suspect being apprehended with the help of several neighbors.

Michael K. Sauve, 20, of Lodi was arrested following the accident. He sustained minor injuries in the head-on collision that also injured a 25-year-old female passenger in the white 1997 Chevrolet pick-up truck he was driving and a 69-year-old Valley Springs woman who was the

lone occupant in the other vehicle involved in the crash.

The passenger has been identified as Tiffany S. Gonzales of Lodi. According to the CHP, she was transported by air ambulance to Memorial Medical Center in Modesto for treatment of moderate injuries, while the Valley Springs woman is Georgia M. Harris who was airlifted to Doctors Medical Center in Modesto for treatment of major injuries. The injuries to both women did not appear to be life threatening.

According to the Calaveras County Sheriff's Department, a deputy observed an equipment violation on the pick-up driven by Sauve at 10:40 a.m. near Taco



Law enforcement personnel survey wreckage of a 1997 Chevrolet pick-up truck involved in a pursuit and crash Saturday morning on Highway 26 near Gold Creek Estates. Photo by Sharlea Nisbet.

Bell. The deputy intended to make a vehicle stop to investigate the infraction when Sauve accelerated through the parking lot at Mar-Val and began traveling westbound on Highway 26.

The deputy activated his overhead emergency lights and horn to warn shoppers in the parking lot.

The pursuit ended when the (See Page 19)