

NORTH SPRINGS SCENE

Pinecliff couples celebrate golden anniversaries



Gerda Wolff, left, and Janis Modrall both celebrate golden wedding anniversaries this month. Janis and Bill Modrall were married December 4, 1954, in Fort Worth. Gerda and A.F. Major "Ad" Wolff wed December 22, 1954, in Wiesbaden, Germany. Gerda and Janis are pictured at Monday's "Ladies Holiday Luncheon" at Marigold Café and Bakery. Nearly 30 members and guests of the Pinecliff Homeowners Association attended. It's been a neighborhood tradition since the early 1990s.

By CLAUDIA HOYLE

New DNA stuffed toy fun, educational

Years ago, as I was driving my son's preschool carpool, I overheard the little ones talking about Michelangelo, Raphael, Leonardo and Donatello. About the time I was patting myself on the back for selecting a school that immersed young students in the humanities, I heard the words "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles."

It was a sobering experience to discover the kids weren't talking about great Renaissance artists.

You don't have to be disappointed as I was.

This holiday season, purchase a plush DNA toy.

This educational gift is the brainchild of a D-20 couple, Christa and Doug Lundberg, both science teachers. She is a middle school instructor; before retiring, he taught at Air Academy High School.

They developed the one-of-a-kind toy as an inexpensive (under \$20) alternative to other pricey DNA models on the market. (To view it, log onto www.thednastore.com/dnastuff/toy.html. Further information is also available by calling 488-2654.)

Lundberg describes it as a different type of stuffed toy.

It's designed for 3-year-olds,

but it's also a simple, effective model for all ages interested in learning more about the double helix structure of DNA.

To facilitate learning, the major components of the DNA molecule are color-coded. It's been simplified, of course, but the 18-inch toy is readily recognizable as the "twisted ladder" that holds the keys to heredity.

Lundberg says young children can hug, twist and sleep on it now. Later, when he or she learns about DNA in school, Lundberg envisions a scenario where the child will recall this toy.

"I can see it now," he says. "Children will say, 'Oh yes, I had a stuffed [DNA] toy when I was younger.'"

This gift will ensure a happier outcome when you eavesdrop on kiddies' carpool conversations.

If you overhear them talking about "guanine, cytosine, thymine or adenine," you're not being duped as I was. They'll have really learned something about the molecule that contains the secrets of life.

You may also have budding biochemists on your hands... unlike my passengers who were awed by green, pizza-throwing cartoon superheroes!

VW "Bug" buffs sought

Cars and car clubs go hand in hand. There are Corvette clubs and antique car clubs. Now there are plans afoot to organize a local VW Beetle club...or at least regular get-togethers to



Several local Beetle owners have asked Colorado City Creamery owner Carrie Burris to host weekly kaffeeklatsches for "bug"