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The Weekly Valley Vantage

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News In Brief



Woman Suing Salon Over Alleged "Pot Cookies"

Jo Ann Nickerson, a patron of Blush Salon in Woodland Hills, has filed suit against the salon for negligence, strict product liability and infliction of emotional distress. The 72-year-old woman said she visited the salon last year and hadn't eaten anything all day. On her way out she grabbed a cookie from a tray set out for guests. Within the hour she developed "a severe reaction, including hallucinations, rapid heart beat, confusion, disorientation, light-headedness, dizziness, blurred vision, tingling, a headache and nausea," the suit says. "She found herself unable to speak or had delayed speech and was completely incapacitated." Thinking she was having a heart attack she went to West Hills Hospital, where a blood test proved positive for THC.



Al McKay Will "Sing a Song" at Park

Five-time Grammy award winner, Al McKay, above and the Allstars perform the music of Earth, Wind & Fire on the stage in Warner Park Sunday at 6 pm. McKay's writing skills also contributed numerous, double platinum compositions such as "Sing A Song", "Saturday Night", "Best of My Love" and the Grammy award nominated, "September." In 2000, He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame along with the other original members of Earth, Wind and Fire. Sunday's opening band is Dennis Jones Group with their dizzying hot guitar solos, smooth and soulful vocals and high-energy stage performance. This is the last concert presented by Valley



Photo: Ferne Saltzman

Children housed in a building supported by Rotary learn while their single mothers go to work.

Rotary Cares for Youngest Charges in Columbia

By Ferne Saltzman

There are as many different kinds of travel as there are people. Having traveled the world as a travel writer for over 30 years, I have at times been educated, elated, entertained, awed, or moved to tears. My last trip, though, gave me a totally different kind of experience.

As Rotarians, my husband Jay, now president of the Rotary Club of Woodland Hills, and I were invited to join a group of 120 Rotarians from our district on a humanitarian trip to Columbia. Columbia, I thought, "Why would I want to go to Columbia, the land of drugs and slums?" What, I thought, could I possibly be doing that is worthwhile in Columbia? Little did I know how huge my misconceptions of the country would prove to be.

Medellin has been taken back from the cartels by the government, and is now as safe to visit as any large city in the USA; a sprawling metropolis of beautiful hills and equally beautiful people. Our mission there was to view the results of thousands of Rotary dollars

and equipment sent there to aid people and organizations in need and to assess how we may further help with additional projects in the future.

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We are proud of the fact that the list of projects is long, including providing dental equipment for a clinic, distributing pamphlets and teaching courses educating women about the need for folic acid during pregnancy to prevent spina bifida, funding an educational center for single mothers, purchasing computers to help the disabled learn a trade, providing wheelchairs for victims of spina bifida and other crippling diseases, and supplying a hospital with much needed appliances to provide basic needs to patients.

Seeing the results of our efforts and the appreciation

with which we were greeted was heartwarming. However, nothing prepared me for the emotional response I had on the day we visited the hospital in Alejandria. Our group bussed out on a bumpy, dusty 2 1/2 hr. ride to get there, and we were met at the steps of the church with a warm welcome of music, children singing, and thank-you speeches. We were high over the welcome but sobered up quickly at the hospital. This facility services several nearby villages with a total population of 4,500 people. There are only two patient rooms, one operating room, one examining room, one full-time doctor, and one part-time doctor. To say that the rooms were all minimally equipped would be a huge understatement. How many of us would stay one night after surgery in a room with nothing more than a bed in it? No TV, no bedside table, no phone, no water pitcher and cup – just a bed. How much we take for granted in our country! Would our attitudes change if we could see what the rest of the world endures?

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Rotary Caring for Kids in Columbia

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It doesn't matter how many motivating speakers you hear, checks you write, items you donate, conferences or meetings you attend. There is nothing that can move you to do more, give more, or have more compassion, than experiencing first-hand the hardships millions of people in the world endure and the amazing results of what Rotary International has done, is doing, and will continue to do to improve the lives of all mankind. We feel privileged to have been a part of it.