

**Sponsor:** Lori  
**Home Address:** 1794 Restful Ct.  
 Simi Valley, CA 93065  
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**e-mail:** woodmanb@aol.com  
**Bus. Name:** Robert C. Mitchell Hardwoods  
**Bus. Address:** 1794 Restful Ct.  
 Simi Valley, CA 93065  
**Bus. Phone:** 805.582.2363  
**Bus. Fax:** 805.582.0459  
**Joined Club:** 07/01/88(85)  
**Sponsored By:** Dave McCormick  
**Paul Harris:** Yes  
**PRIS:** Yes  
**Master PRIS:** Yes  
**S. Sunrise Fellow:** Yes  
**Birthday:** 10/29/43  
**Anniversary:** 11/07/81  
**Interests/Hobbies:** Gardening, Skiing



2001 - 2002

## Rotary Club of Simi Valley members have great deeds

By Lori Denman  
 Staff Writer

**W**hen it comes to benefiting mankind, the Rotary Club of Simi Valley rises above the rest.

Rotary, the world's first-established club based on service, was first founded in Chicago, Ill., in 1905. There are now an estimated 1.2 million members, including men and women, who comprise about 30,000 Rotary clubs in nations worldwide.

The main ideals that all Rotarians live by include those of goodwill and peace. Its members are professional business leaders who have become active volunteers in improving the world. The club's international motto is, "Service Above Self," and their main objective is, "Service — in the community, in the workplace, and throughout the world."

The Rotary Club of Simi Valley houses two sections: the Simi Sunrise group and the Rotary Club of Simi Valley. Both groups meet on Tuesday at noon at the Grand Vista Hotel. The Simi Sunrise group is beneficial to those members who work in the area, yet live elsewhere. Both groups primarily focus on the raising of money through fundraisers that are sent directly to the com-

munity. Examples of these groups include community groups and local charities including the Boys and Girls Club, YMCA, Care and Share, Battered Women and ARC, the Association for Retarded Citizens.

The Simi Sunrise group also runs student exchange programs, along with a Rotary group called Scanex, which occupies 11 districts in various states. Scanex is a group that specializes in arranging the travels and acquiring Visas for students.

The Simi Sunrise group is heading a couple of upcoming fundraisers. The club is celebrating their 15-year anniversary. Overall, the club has given \$500,000 to charity.

## UNDER their BELT



Photo by Lori Denman

Mitchell explained a major fundraiser that his group is working on that is called the Belt Buckle Program.

"A total of 2,500 highly decorative Simi Valley belt buckles have been made that are sold for \$25 a piece. The belt's decoration shows the equestrian area, a rendering of the Ronald Reagan Library, the McCoy cross on McCoy hill, peach trees, picket fences and more items."

The belt buckle was designed by stu-

dents of Santa Susana High School. There was a belt buckle design contest and the winner turned out to be the combined efforts of two to three students. They were granted a check of \$750 that in turn was distributed to the Arts and Crafts Department of their school. The school's principal, Pat Hauser, is a Rotarian of Simi Valley.

The profits of the buckles are sent directly into the community of Simi Valley, to the groups mentioned above. Mitchell stressed the importance of this, and also explained that all profits generated by fund-raisers are sent directly to the community.

The buckles are available for purchase to the public. They are on display at various locations including Wells Fargo Bank and Basket and Bows by the Regal Theater at Tapo Canyon.

Membership in the Rotary Club of Simi Valley is open to professionals, managers, or owners of businesses. To learn more about the Rotary, log onto [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org). To learn more about the Rotary Club of Simi Valley, log onto [www.simivalleyrotary.com](http://www.simivalleyrotary.com), or call Anil Garg at (805) 520-9790. To find out more about the Simi Sunrise group and the Belt Buckle Program, contact Mr. Mitchell at (805) 582-2363.





September 11, 2001

Ms. Michelle Foster  
Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise  
P.O. Box 11  
Simi Valley, CA 93062

Dear Ms. Foster:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, volunteers, and staff of the American Cancer Society, we would like to thank you and Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise for your recent sponsorship of \$1,000 for our upcoming Relay For Life event in Simi Valley.

The American Cancer Society appreciates your support in funding research to identify the causes and cures for cancer, for implementing educational programs within the community, and for providing services and assistance to those individuals who are currently coping with cancer. Although great strides have been made in the battle against cancer, we still have much work to do, and we cherish your dedication, support, and commitment.

Again, many thanks for your donation.

Best regards,

*Vickie Lo Bello*  
Vickie Lo Bello  
Community Services Director

1445 E. Los Angeles Avenue, Suite 207, Simi Valley, Ca. 93065  
(805) 527-5360 • FAX (805) 527-3357

1-800-ACS-2345 • [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)

# Simi Valley Relay For Life

September 29 & 30, 2001



The American Cancer Society

proudly presents this

Certificate of Appreciation

to

*Michelle Foster*

Team Captain

For your contribution to the success of our  
4<sup>th</sup> Annual Simi Valley

Relay For Life

September 29, 2001

*Marie Fagan*  
Event Co-chair

*Kathy Kramer*  
Event Co-chair



## Rotary names its businessman of the year

By Karen Hibdon  
Staff writer

When it comes to choosing the Business Person of the Year, members of the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise look not only for the successful businessman or woman, but also for someone with a community-minded spirit who lives what Rotary stands for.

The spirit of this year's 2001-2002 recipient is visible throughout Simi Valley. Dave High, owner of Dave High Ink, a Simi based T-shirt design company, received the recognition at Thursday's breakfast meeting of the club. He was presented with a plaque by club President Bob Mitchell.

High is well-known for the colorful logos and signs he has created in conjunction with local happenings. He has created all of the logos for the Simi Sunrise Memorial Weekend Cajun Creole Music Festivals and for years has designed the logos for Simi Valley Days. He has also designed the logos for local schools — all at no charge.

The recipient of the Business Person of the Year award must be a non-Rotarian but is someone who incorporates truth, fairness, building good will and better friendships into the business and whose work is beneficial for all concerned, Mitchell said.

"The club members feel he is an honorable businessman and does apply all of the above in his business dealings," he said.

High is a two-time winner of the Lew Roth Business Person of the Year Award. He donates time to the Salvation Army, the Samaritan Center, the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District and the Simi Valley Historical Society. He is a longtime member of the Elks Lodge.

He has owned Dave High Ink for 11 years and is a former animator for Disney and Hanna Barbera.

— Karen Hibdon's e-mail address is [hibdon@insidervc.com](mailto:hibdon@insidervc.com).



### GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE 2002 DISTRICT 4160



#### TEAM LEADER

- DR. CARLOS VÁZQUEZ ACEVEDO

#### TEAM MEMBERS

- LIC. SILVIA F. OCHOA MARTÍNEZ
- C.P. MA. CARMEN DOMÍNGUEZ OLVERA
- ING. NOÉ MISAEL NUÑO LEÓN
- ING. CARLOS Y. HERNÁNDEZ BRIBIESCA

#### GRATITUD TO DISTRICT 5240 FROM DISTRICT 4160 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA MEXICO

ARQ. RUBÉN MEDINA SÁNCHEZ  
GOVERNOR DISTRICT 4160

ING. ANTONIO HERNÁNDEZ MÁRQUEZ  
GSE CHAIRMAN DISTRICT 4160

SINCERELY:

Carlos Vázquez

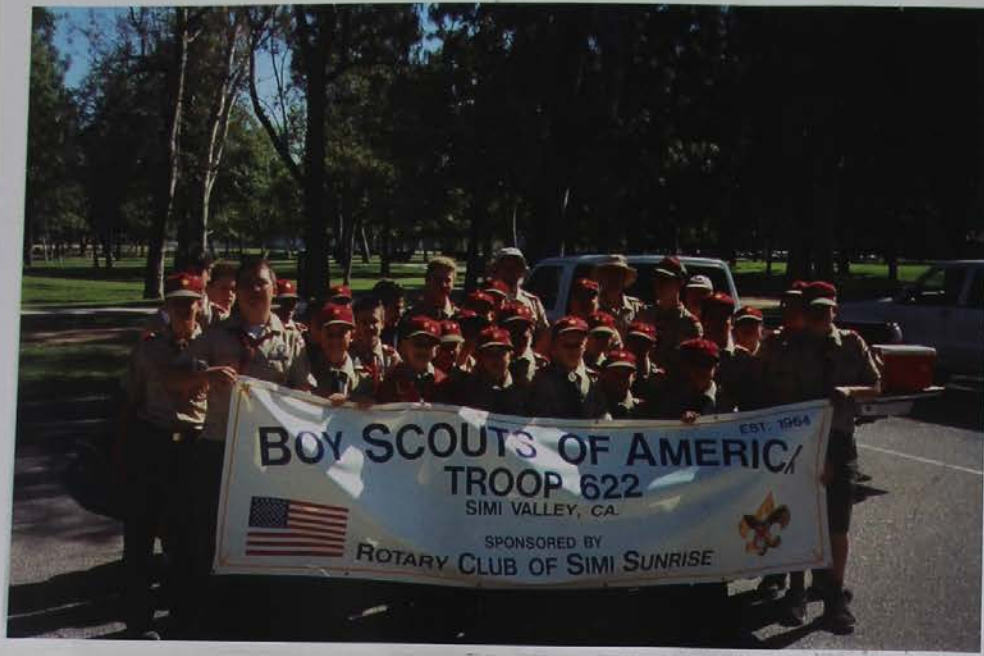
Carlos Y. Hernández

Noé Nuño

Ma. Carmen Domínguez







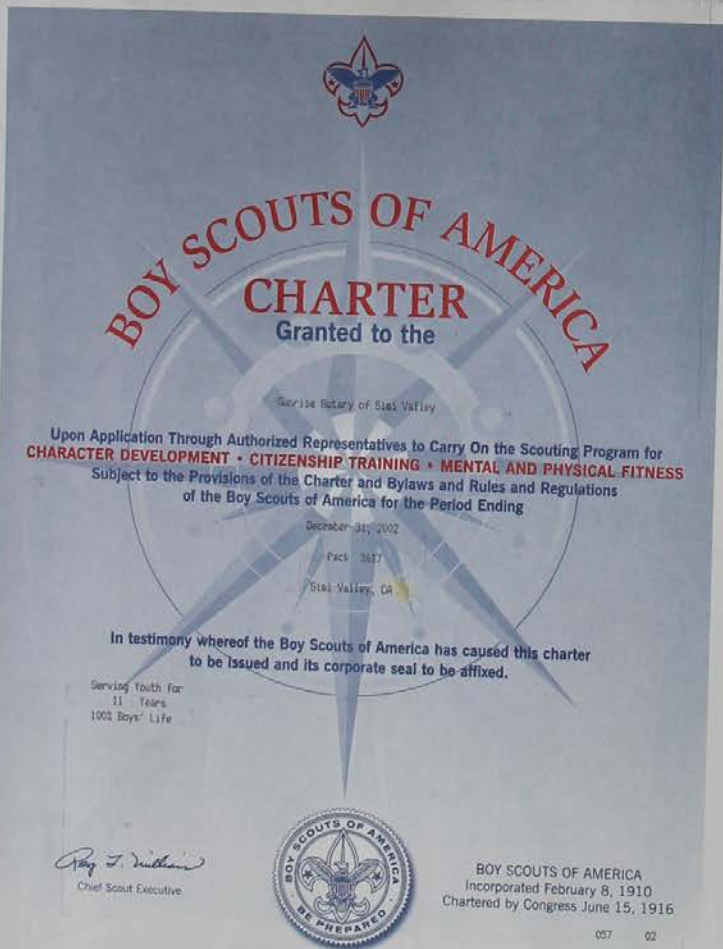
### Turkey dinner set at center

A free traditional Thanksgiving dinner will be served from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Simi Valley Senior Center, 9900 Avenida Simi.

The 11th annual event is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise, Simi Valley Police Department Reserve Unit and Council on Aging.

Entertainment will be presented by local high school and youth groups.

Transportation is available by calling Dial-A-Ride at 583-6464, no later than Tuesday.



Living Hope  
Vladivostok Russia  
Homeless Shoe Program





**THE  
STAR**  
WEDNESDAY  
MARCH 13, 2002  
**SECTION B**  
Bureau chief:  
Karen Hibdon  
579-1946  
1720 Los Angeles Ave.,  
Unit H-1, Simi Valley,  
CA 93065



# SIMI VALLEY

## Richman tabs Simi Valley woman for district honor

*From staff reports*

Elaine Freeman of Simi Valley has been named 38th Assembly District Woman of the Year for 2002 by Assemblyman Keith Richman, R-Northridge.

Freeman will be honored on the floor of the California Assembly during ceremonies Monday in Sacramento.

"There are so many outstanding women in my district that could be honored," Richman said in a written statement Tuesday, "but Elaine stands out as such a community leader, always giving of her time and talents to make her community a better place."

Freeman is the owner of Urban Strategies, a land-use and government policy consulting firm that has been in business since 1989.

Her business was recently selected as the Business of the Year by The Chamber — Simi Valley.

"She has always been very active in her community. Whether she is tackling business issues locally or regionally, or helping a community organization, Elaine is a prime example of what a Woman of the Year should be," Richman said.

Monday, Freeman will join dozens of other women from around the state on the floor of the Assembly. She will receive a commendation certificate and will have her biography included in a commemorative book about the occasion.

A resident of Simi Valley since 1965, the 64-year-old has held executive positions with Murdock Development, Griffin Homes and is on the Legislative Committee of the the Building Industry Association of Ventura County. She is co-chairwoman of the Land Use Committee for the Calleguas Creek Watershed Management Committee and also serves on the steering committee of the Regional Civic Alliance of Ventura County.

Her company is currently involved in projects such as The Canyons at Alamos Canyon, the Selleck Project at Tapo Canyon Road and Alamo Street and the expansion of Simi Valley Hospital.

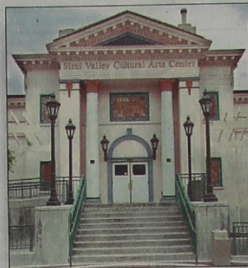
Freeman serves on the Strathearn Community Foundation board of directors, is on the board of the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise, is a Simi Valley Police Foundation board member, serves on the chamber's Business Development Committee and is a past president of the Simi Chamber.

As impressive as her extensive business involvement is Freeman's community service, Richman said. She gives of her time, talents and treasure to help make her community a better place through support of such organizations as the Boys & Girls Club, YMCA, Simi Valley Historical Society, the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, Red Cross, American Cancer Society and Casa Pacifica.

Freeman and her husband, Jack, have been married for 25 years.

She has one son, two stepdaughters and three grandchildren.

**THE  
STAR**  
TUESDAY  
APRIL 23, 2002  
**SECTION B**  
Bureau chief:  
Karen Hibdon  
579-1946  
1720 Los Angeles Ave.,  
Unit H-1, Simi Valley,  
CA 93065



# SIMI VALLEY

**"It was nice to be recognized for donating time back to the community, for making it a better place to live."**  
— Dave McCormick, owner of Dave's Towing Service

### GIVING BACK:

Dave McCormick, owner of Dave's Towing Service in Simi Valley, holds the personal trophy he was given Friday by Simi Valley Police Chief Randy Adams for his many years of service to the department. His name also will be engraved on a 4-foot-high perpetual trophy kept at the police department.



Staff photo by Dana R. Bowler

## Dave McCormick has been helping law enforcement most of his life Police group honors local tow-truck driver

By Karen Hibdon  
Staff writer

The owner of a local towing company, who has worked for almost three decades as a civilian to help police make Simi Valley one of the safest cities in the nation, is the recipient of the Simi Valley Police Foundation's 2002 Founder's Award.

Dave McCormick was honored Friday night with the award, a personal trophy topped by a magnificent eagle. The perpetual trophy, which will include his name, stands about 4 feet high and is in the lobby of the Simi Valley Police Station.

The award was presented by Simi Valley Police Chief Randy Adams during the fourth annual Simi Valley Police Foundation banquet at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. About 200 people attended the fund-raiser for the foundation.

McCormick, 55, said the award surprised him and was for something he enjoys doing.

"It was nice to be recognized for donating time back to the community, for making it a better place to live,"

he said.

McCormick moved to Simi Valley 27 years ago from the Goleta area, where he had served five years as a reserve officer with the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department. He said his first love is being a tow-truck operator, a career he's enjoyed for almost 40 years. He owns Dave's Towing Service.

He said tow-truck operators and police officers "work hand in hand, handling all the upsets on the road. It's a natural thing for me to build up a good rapport with law enforcement."

McCormick has done more than just nurture a good rapport. A year after moving to Simi, he began working with the Simi Police Explorer program as a civilian adviser, helping with fund-raising and with coordinating a former program called the Youth Safety Run, which promoted safe-driving skills. Now he helps to promote the partnership between the post and local business.

He was also one of the founding members of the Simi Valley Friends of the K-9 program, which raised money for the city's canine program, and he is a char-

ter member of the Simi Valley Police Foundation, which serves as a nonprofit conduit through which business and individuals may donate funds to the police department. Simi Valley Friends merged with the foundation and McCormick serves as the organization's vice president.

He is a former city planning commissioner, past president of the Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise, former Simi Valley Days rodeo chairman and regularly serves as tournament director for the annual Pars 4 Paws golf tournament.

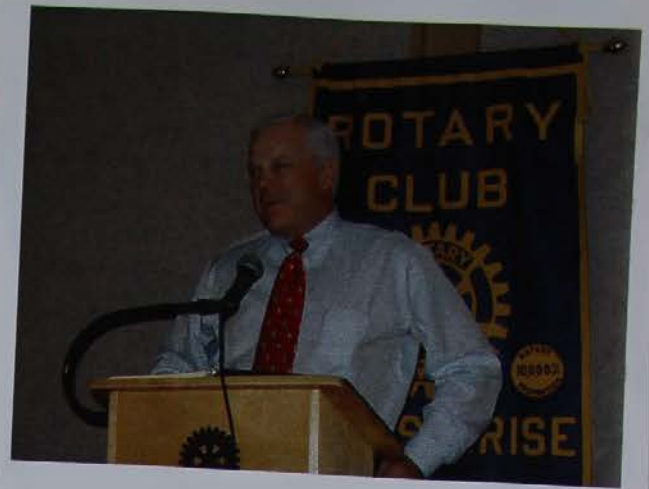
Michelle Foster, Paula Brannan and Helen Mitchell also were recognized at the banquet for their foundation work.

The following entities were among those saluted for being sponsors: Numbercrunchers, New Urban West, The Chamber — Simi Valley, Farmers Insurance Group and Simi Valley Pontiac GMC/Buick.

— Karen Hibdon's e-mail address is khibdon@insidestv.com.



# Guest Speakers



Michael Bradbury  
Ventura District Attorney

8D MONDAY, MAY 20, 2002 - USA TODAY

## Health and behavior

### Rotary will be honored for global polio effort

By Steve Sternberg  
USA TODAY

Most members of Rotary International are business people, not doctors or scientists. Yet in 1985, inspired by polio vaccine pioneer Albert Sabin, the group decided to take aim at the world's leading cause of juvenile paralysis — and help wipe it out by Rotary's centennial in 2005.

Now, with polio teetering on the brink of oblivion, Rotary is poised to reap some recognition for its role in the eradication campaign. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will today name the service organization as the recipient of the \$1 million Gates Award for Global Health.

"This could go a long way towards changing Rotary's image around the country," says Bill Gates Sr., the foundation's CEO, "from a stodgy middle-class businessmen's luncheon club to a bunch of folks with a vision about how the world ought to be."

Nels Daulaire, head of the non-profit Global Health Council, which administered the award, says Rotary's selection seems "extraordinarily fitting" because "the Bill and Melinda Gates Rotary has recognized that making the world healthy is the best possible investment."

So far, Rotary has raised nearly



**Getting vaccine in Bangladesh:** The Rotary Club, winner of the \$1 million Gates Award, has raised almost \$500 million to vaccinate the world's children.

\$500 million to vaccinate the world's 2 billion children, some of whom were immunized by 1 million Rotary volunteers. And Rotary has now launched a second fundraising drive, hoping to raise \$80 million of an estimated \$275 million now needed to drive the vanishing poliovirus to extinction, according to World Bank estimates. Rotary's Polio Eradication Advocacy task force will ask the governments of wealthy nations to make up the difference.

Victory is drawing closer. Last year, 480 polio cases, down from 350,000 in 1988, Polio now circulates in just 10 countries: India, Pakistan, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Niger, Somalia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Sudan and Angola.

In Angola, Rotary volunteers

helped negotiate a five-day truce in the nation's smoldering civil war so that thousands of children could be vaccinated. In India, Rotary helped organize a National Vaccination Day in January that brought 150 million children to 30,000 immunization posts for Sabin's oral polio vaccine.

"So thousand children were vaccinated every second that day," says Luis Glaz, 62, the Argentine accountant who heads Rotary's charitable foundation.

Sabin drew Rotary into the effort to conquer polio with a speech at the group's 1984 meeting. Rotary launched its program a year later.

The award, with its \$1 million prize, will be presented May 30 at the Global Health Council's annual meeting in Washington, D.C.



getout



Courtesy photo

## Cajun will be ragin' in Simi

By Bill Lacey  
Correspondent

Once again, Simi Valley will be temporarily transformed into the westernmost parish of the Bayou State when the 13th annual Cajun/Creole Music Festival unfolds over this Memorial Day weekend.

What seems to be the height of incongruity, sort of like the best surfer in Kansas, this actually is a nationally recognized music event with top-of-the-line performers set to cause widespread outbreaks of dancing both Saturday and Sunday all over that 2,700-square-foot dance floor.

In addition to family fun in the sun with an unbeatable soundtrack, the event is happening for all the right reasons. The Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise hosts the festival, which is a fund-raiser for community service organizations including the Boy & Girls Clubs, the YMCA, senior centers and scout groups.

This year's event chairman, Marshall Shrugo, explains: "All the proceeds go back to the community — we give to probably 50 or 60 organizations throughout the year — and

logon



For a direct link to the Cajun/Creole Music Festival Web site, go to [insideVC.com](http://insideVC.com) and find this story in the Time Out section.

this is where the money comes from. We don't have any paid employees — we're all volunteers — and a number of people in the club have been involved with this event for many years.

"There is a reward of being able to give back to the community — and most of the Rotarians live and work here in Simi Valley. Each year this event just sort of fine-tunes itself."

This year's fine tunes will come courtesy of a lineup that will include such national acts as Geno Delafosse & French Rockin' Boogie, Jo-Ei Sonnier, and Keith Frank & Soileau

Zydeco Band, as well as local favorites, Acadiana. Missing for only the second time in the event's history is the raging redhead herself, Lisa Haley, who had scheduling conflicts this year but will be there in spirit.

"It's our 13th year, and each year, it just grows," Shrugo said. "We've added a band on each day, so now we have six bands scheduled for Saturday and five bands scheduled for Sunday, and these are recognizable bands within the Cajun-zydeco community. We are a nationally recognized Cajun festival and we do advertising that goes throughout the country."

And it's a hit, big-time. The event began in a barn with three bands and is now the largest Cajun festival west of the Mississippi. The attendance has grown every year over the first several years, but lately the crowds have been around 15,000 for the two-day event. According to Shrugo, this, mercifully, does not necessarily translate into some sort of parking hell scenario.

"Pretty much the parking is under control."

See CAJUN FESTIVAL on Page 27

## Cajun Creole Music Festival



### Getting There

#### CAJUN/CREOLE MUSIC FESTIVAL

The 13th annual event, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise, will be held 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday at Rancho Santa Susana Park, Los Angeles and Stearns Avenues, Simi Valley. Admission is \$15; adults, free for children younger than 12. Information: 520-4894.

### CAJUN FESTIVAL

From Page 26

This will be our third year at the present site, and we've been able to manage the parking without any real problems. We have the option available to us of using shuttles from Simi High School if we're getting feedback that we need to do that and the crowd is larger than expected."

Music, music, music — certainly, but there's lots of other stuff, too.

"We have about 25 food booths, with

lots of Cajun food; the alligator-on-a-stick booth will be there. We will have 65 other-than-food booths, which mostly are arts and crafts, plus some of our corporate sponsors will have booths. There's a children's area that will have two Moon Bounces and two climbing walls.

"And we, as a Rotary Club, provide a 40-foot tent where the kids will be able to do crafts; there will be no charge to the parents or the kids. They can create a Mardi Gras mask for the parade that will be held on both days around 3 o'clock."

Unlike Louisiana, Simi Valley has infinitely fewer mosquitoes and swamps, plus it's much closer than New Orleans, and no one cares about the ongoing tragedy that is the Saints. According to Shrugo, it's going to be blues skies and green lights this weekend.

"The weather report says it's going to warm up by the end of the week. You know, the weather rules. Last year, it was cool and misty; the year before, it was almost 100 degrees. About 80 degrees would be perfect for us."

The event logo is a cartoon of a dancing alligator, a critter infinitely

happier than those involved with the alligator-on-a-stick food booth.

"We try to put on an event that is totally family-oriented. It's in a fenced-in area and the kids can do their thing and, hopefully, they can't get out of the gate without the parents. And for the parents, there's a number of things they can do besides eating and drinking. As I said, we've added a band each day, so you can be there from 11 to 8 on Saturday and 11 to 7 on Sunday, and you can just picnic for the whole day."

E-mail Bill Lacey at [blacey@pacbell.net](mailto:blacey@pacbell.net)



Simi Sunrise Rotary Presents

Memorial Day Weekend

Saturday and Sunday

May 25 and 26, 2002

May 23, 2002

May 23, 2002

May 23, 2002

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Mike Long of Simi Valley holds 4-year-old daughter Ashley as they dance at the 13th annual Cajun Creole Music Festival in Simi Valley on Saturday. On the day's menu: crab cakes and jambalaya.

Photos by Juan Carlo / Star staff

## Simi partyers eat alligator on a stick

Cajun Creole music, food continue today

By S.L. Salamone  
Correspondent

All in a line, wearing glittering, feathered face masks, children marched in a parade that snaked around the festival grounds.

led by a colorful stilt-walker and musicians from the Cajun band Acadiana, the Children's Mardi Gras Parade was just one part of a weekend of entertainment at the 13th annual Cajun Creole Music Festival in Simi Valley.

The event, which continues today, is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise and is the nonprofit organization's biggest fund-raiser of the year.

Standing in the middle of a gaggle of small children, in hat and sun glasses, Wade Byrum of Simi Valley was busy hustling the youngsters into line for the parade.

"This is our third year," said Byrum. "We attended three years ago and had so much fun we said, 'We have to go again.' And we've been back every year

since."

In attendance were Byrum's wife, Michelle, and their two children, Kyle, 10, and Kaitlyn, 5.

"This year we brought our two kids and two of the neighbor's kids, and my wife's mother is here, too. This is her first time."

Of Cajun decent, Carmen Moreno, Byrum's mother-in-law, who now lives in Westlake Village, said the music reminded her of home.

"This is wonderful, and the kids are having a blast," she said. "I love the music, and the food's not bad either."

On the menu at several of the food booths were crab cakes, jambalaya and alligator on a stick.

Byrum's son Kyle tried the alligator and liked it.

"It was good," said Kyle. "I like just about everything on the menu, but I like the crawdads best."

See CREOLE on B2



Russell Ardoin of Oxnard plays washboard with the group Acadiana, one of six bands taking the stage Saturday in Simi Valley for the 13th annual Cajun Creole Music Festival.

## Cajun fest sponsors expect 15,000 people

CREOLE from B1

recognized event the Cajun Festival is today.

The not-too-hot weather is expected to draw close to 5,000 people to the two-day fest.

"We've got a huge following," said Shrago. "We advertise out of state, and as a result, we've got a lot of people who attend this event from out of state. And the national recognition allows



## Sea Scouts win second-highest award in competition

From staff reports

Sea Scout Ship Albatross competed in the 50th annual Ancient Mariner Regatta over the Memorial Day weekend in Stockton.

The Ventura County ship's crew included: Boatswain Jonathan O'Connor, 17, Thousand Oaks; Boatswain's Mate Ricky James, 15, Simi Valley; Shawn White, 16, Simi Valley; Chris Williams, 18, Simi Valley; and Kyle Cyran, 17, Westlake Village.

Additional crew members from the Conquest of Long Beach and Triton from Newport Beach rounded out the competition crew.

The Albatross came home with Schooner, the second-highest class honors, having completed an average 69.7 percent in the required events and with satisfactory completion of seven team events. Included in the team events were "Hoisting the Scuttlebutt" and "Breeches Buoy."

"This was the first time we have completed both of these events successfully," said Skipper Michael Tronillon. The team did Scuttlebutt in 2 minutes and 20 seconds the first time, which was enough to

qualify, but they managed to shave off nearly 30 seconds on the second run. On the third and final run they spilled a bit of water, which disqualified them on that run.

Scuttlebutt involves the rig-

ging of a tripod over a open drum of water. It must be completed in silence and in under 2 minutes and 30 seconds.

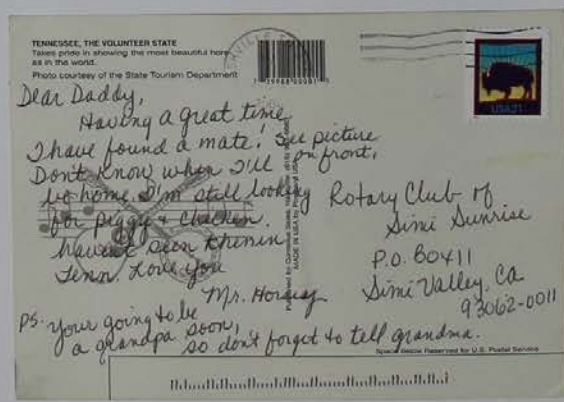
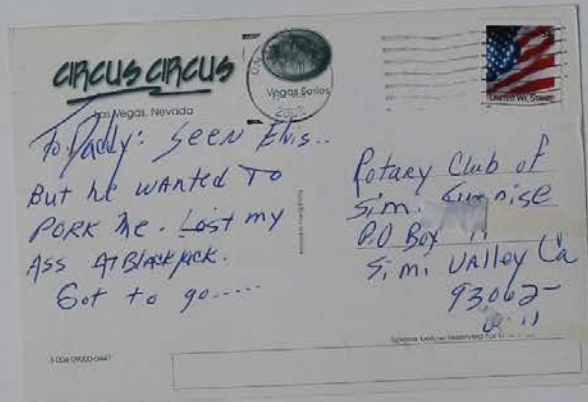
Albatross is seeking new members who wish to learn about boat-

ing. Membership is open to boys 14 to 20 in the Simi Valley area.

Information can be obtained by contacting Michael Tronillon at 573-3725 or mtronillon@earthlink.net.











**BOB MITCHELL  
GOT DEMOTED!!**







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