

2007



Rotary dictionaries give youngsters gift of words

By Jake Finch

Correspondent

The 10 students in Stephanie McHarg's special education class were just beginning to learn about dictionaries when they received an unexpected

Student dictionaries, one for each first- and second-grader in McHarg's class, were given to the Garden Grove Elementary students this month by the three Rotary clubs in Simi Valley.

"They were excited and flab-

grader in the Simi Valley Unified School District. Altogether, 1,540 second-graders at the district's 21 elementary schools received dictionaries they can keep and take home.

Additional copies of the dictionaries were given to each classroom and several extras to the teachers, in case any middle-year transfer students came to the district.

"This was the first year we did this program throughout Simi Valley," said Karen Stock, club president of the Rotary Club of Simi Valley.

Stock and the Rotary Club of Simi Valley decided to make it an annual program for second-graders.

Second-graders were chosen to receive the dictionaries because they are at an age when a dictionary is not overwhelming, said Lynn Friedman, director of curriculum for the Simi district.

She said the gift of the dictionaries is important because it equalizes the students' learning.

"I think it provides equal opportunity for all of these students to have equal access to a dictionary," she said.

Stewart said Friedman and other district personnel helped

coordinate the effort. "We have decided to make it an annual program for second-graders."



DICTIONARY PROJECT



A DAY AT THE RACES



Rotary clubs come together to clean up camp

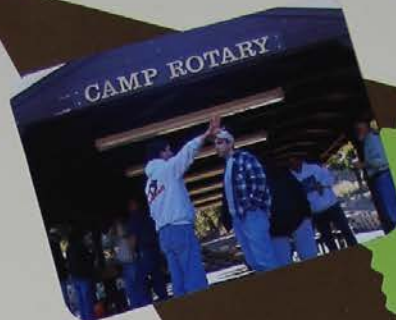
Four local Rotary clubs are combining volunteer forces for a "Rotary Gives Thanks" Community Service Day from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 24.

Volunteers from Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise, Rotary Club of Simi Sunset, Rotary Club of Simi Valley and Rotary Club of Moorpark will work together to spruce up Camp Rotary in Simi Valley.

The scheduled work projects include clearing out shrubbery and overgrowth around the campsite, amphitheater and fire pit areas; spreading additional decomposed granite around the fire pit; clearing debris and unwanted plants out of the creek bed; and graffiti removal from inside the wildlife tunnel under the 118 Freeway.

Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District will supply the volunteers with paint and rollers for the graffiti removal, a dumpster, trash bags, tools, decomposed granite and safety equipment.

The camp is at the eastern end of Corriganville Park, 7001 Smith Road, and can be reached either by the maintenance access road or the Park Loop Trail.



Rotary Club members tidying up



Alison Knox / Special to The Star
Caitlyn Hata, a junior at Royal High School, helps fellow Rotary Club members rid a creek bed of unwanted plants and waste on the site of Camp Rotary at Corriganville Regional Park in Simi Valley on Saturday. Rotary Clubs from four local schools — as well as members of a Rotary Club in Moorpark and all three Rotary Clubs in Simi Valley — combined efforts to clean up fire pits and remove debris from a stream bed. They also used paint and rollers to cover up graffiti inside a wildlife tunnel that runs under Highway 118.



MEXICALI



ROTARY



HUMANITARIANS—From left, Gary Stewart, Michelle Foster, Kathy Lowry and [unclear] are in Zambia on a fellowship visit on behalf of the [unclear]

INTERNATIONAL

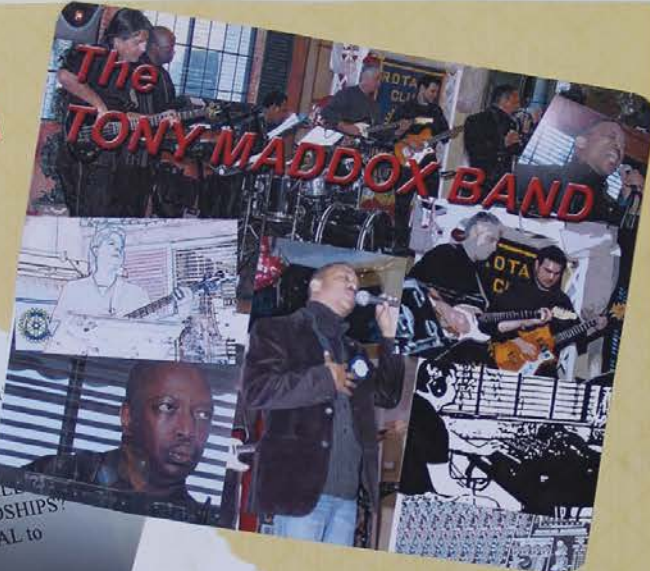
WORLD

"Our mission is to create lifetime humanitarians. We want them addicted to giving service."
—JUDY ZONE



THE FOUR-WAY TEST

- Of the things we think, say or do:
- 1st...Is it the truth?
 - 2nd...Is it fair to all concerned?
 - 3rd...Will it build GOOD WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
 - 4th...Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?



The TONY MADDOX BAND



Longtime police advocate crosses thin blue line in search of new challenges

'It was a natural step,' says former Chamber coordinator

By Miguel Morales
migu@hawaii.com

Simi Valley native Jessica McCormick was first introduced to the police department through her father, owner of Dave's Bowling, often worked together with members of local law enforcement.

That familiarity eventually led to her involvement, beginning at age 13, with the Simi Valley Police Foundation. She eventually became co-chairperson of the foundation, a position she held for that decade. Her father, who is the acting president of the police department has said, "It's been a part of my life for as long as I can remember," the 27-year-old said. "And it's always been a good way."

The woman who did so to help raise money for local police is joining the force.

McCormick, former program coordinator for the Chamber of Commerce, began her new job in the police department's records division on Tuesday. It's a position



Jessica McCormick

tion, she said, that has her doing much of the same kind of "office-style work" she did with the Chamber.

After working closely with police through the foundation to fund services like the DARE program and Simi's K9 teams, McCormick said transitioning into the department was "naturally the next step for me."

McCormick's parents have lived in Simi for 32 years. Dave's Bowling, still run by the McCormick family, has worked with the police department for the past 30 years.

"Working with the community

came naturally for Jessica," said her father, also a former president of the Chamber of Commerce. "It was the way she was raised."

In 1999, for her services with the police foundation, Jessica McCormick was awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship Award by the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise, the highest honor a Rotary club can bestow. She also received the police department's Founders Award in 2004 for her contributions to the force.

As program coordinator for the Chamber of Commerce, McCormick helped raise membership by facilitating networking capabilities between members. She was also staff liaison for the Simi Valley Community Foundation, an organization created to strengthen the community through educational programs, recognizing cultural resources and assisting with health services.

"It's nice to give back to a community that has kept me safe in school and safe in the streets," McCormick said.

McCormick said she has no plans to leave Simi or the police department but intends to go back to school for a business degree. "I want to buy a home and raise my family in Simi," McCormick said. "I foresee myself staying in Simi as long as I can."





CAJUN



KICK OFF!



anyone that to dance to it when Gino Delano starts singing that box.

Crawfish Pie and Filé Gumbo

Like from culture, the Cajun Creole music festival has a great sampling of Louisiana food. Jambalaya, gumbo, crawfish, not beans and rice, corned and potatoes.

Probably the most symbolic of Louisiana food is the crawfish, also known as a mudbug or crayfish. Boiled in a spicy mixture of herbs, this delicacy does take a bit of work, but it's worth it.

Last year I was surprised to learn from some of my neighbors "initial-gory" that they thought that crawfish was just about the worst thing they had ever eaten. They complained that the taste was gone and it was difficult to eat. After expressing disbelief I discovered the problem. I asked one neighbor to try the crawfish. "Why is it simple," he exclaimed, and crunched the whole crawfish into his mouth. "I was dumbfounded. With a hearty waving from his mouth, he tucked in a small red claw and crunched down. The crawfish is a crustacean with

keleton like a miniature was just chomping away at a crusty exoskeleton. I explained that the fun a crawfish by twisting the head from the tail, then sliding the thumb along the back tail to pry away the tail meat. The next moment it then popped into your mouth. The group soon changed their opinion and all agreed that crawfish were quite easy and tasty to consume. I just worried about how effective their digestive system were.

Cajun and Creole music, as well as a slice of that culture is coming to San Valley on May 26 and 27, 2007. Sponsored by the San Valley Saurin Rotary, the Cajun Creole Festival has been a significant fundraiser for local charities and has developed into a premiere cultural event. (www.sanvalley.org)



Sponsors



BAYOU OR BUST AT CAJUN FESTIVAL

Jessica Rodriguez of the Bayou Brothers lays down the beat during the Cajun Creole Music Festival held at Rancho Santa Susana Park in Simi Valley on Saturday. The festival continues today at the Park, 5005 Los Angeles Ave. Hours are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15, with children 12 and younger admitted free. More information about the festival is available at www.simicajun.org.



Cajun and Creole music fest spices up
Simi Valley





GARY'S
DEMONSTRATION



DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S SUPER CLUB 2006-2007 AWARD



PRESENTED TO THE

ROTARY CLUB OF
Simi Sunrise

Gary Stewart, President

This Club has met or exceeded the requirements of a Super Club. It is with deep appreciation to recognize their dedication and accomplishments. This Super Club has made a significant difference in our District and in our World.

Rich Abbott
Rich Abbott, District Governor 2006-2007

6/24/07
Date



Andrew Garcia, a graduate of Apollo Continuation High School, receives a \$3,000 scholarship from District Governor Rich Abbott and Gary Stewart, right, of the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise during Thursday's ceremony.



DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S CITATION

2006-2007 AWARD

PRESENTED TO THE
ROTARY CLUB OF
Simi Sunrise

Gary Stewart, President

*This Citation is awarded with deep appreciation in honor
and in recognition of a Club whose dedication and accomplishments
have made a difference in our District and in our World.*

Rich Abbott
Rich Abbott, District Governor



LEAD THE WAY

2006-07 PRESIDENTIAL CITATION

Awarded to the Rotary Club of

SIMI SUNRISE

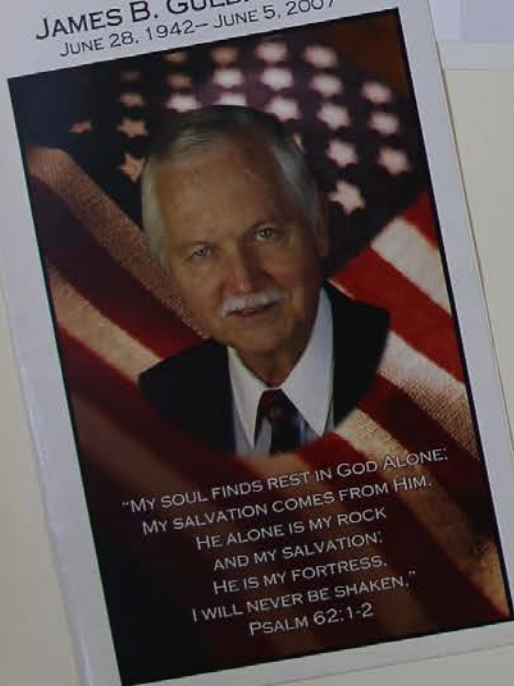
For its efforts to *Lead the Way* to a better future by demonstrating
that fellowship and service truly can change the world.

Rich Abbott
Rich Abbott, District Governor

WB (Bill) Boyd
WB (Bill) Boyd
President, Rotary International



JAMES B. GULBRANSON
JUNE 28, 1942 - JUNE 5, 2007



"MY SOUL FINDS REST IN GOD ALONE;
MY SALVATION COMES FROM HIM.
HE ALONE IS MY ROCK
AND MY SALVATION;
HE IS MY FORTRESS.
I WILL NEVER BE SHAKEN."
PSALM 62:1-2



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 5240 2006-2007 AWARD



DISTRICT LITERACY AWARD

PRESENTED TO THE
ROTARY CLUB OF
Simi Sunrise

*In recognition of meeting or exceeding the goals of
the Literacy Awards Program to your Community.*

Rich Abbott
Rich Abbott, District Governor 2006-2007

6/24/07
Date

Like a phoenix from the ashes, welcome sign is reborn on Rocky Peak



"Welcome to Simi Valley"
Sign Dedication Ceremony
July 11, 2007



2007

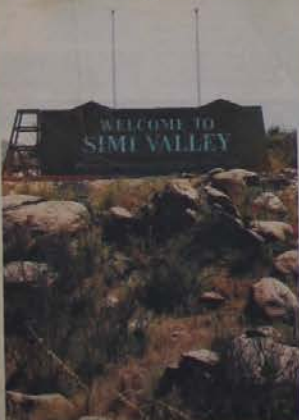


1996

"Celebrating Community Cooperation"

CITY OF SIMI VALLEY

Not long now...



BILL SPARKES/ACORN THEATREPICTURES

THERE SHE IS—A view of Simi's long-awaited "welcome" sign as it nears completion near the gateway to the city. Though plans for an unveiling party have yet to be confirmed, many residents have already begun to enjoy the new monument sign, which is three times the size of its predecessor. The original sign was destroyed in the 2005 Topanga Fire.

Conference links global poverty to the environment

By Charles Levin
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VenturaCountyStar.com
Third-World poverty often exists at arm's length in the minds of American citizens. They live far from the squalor of these countries and, more important, the impact it has on the environment.

"But there is a connection," said Santa Paula resident Jan Corwin Lindsay, a past president of Ventura East Rotary Club.

For instance, when companies clear-cut forests in the Amazon, it exacerbates global warming, Lindsay said Saturday after the Rotary International's Sixth Annual Poverty Conference.

Lindsay left the two-day conference with a raised awareness of the connection between these two issues and sees it as a potential call to action.

"Sometimes we have a real attitude," he said of the United States, "and we can't do that anymore."

The conference at CSU Channel Islands focused on linking poverty and the environment, and it drew a host of speakers and Rotary members from around the globe.

In many countries environmental problems beget poverty and vice versa, said William Ascher, a professor of government and economics from Claremont McKenna College.

In some cases, government decisions are the culprits, Ascher said. For example, the Indonesian government once relocated an agricultural community from Java to a heavily forested outer island where farming was impossible. The community didn't thrive, Ascher said.

Some governments mismanage natural resources.

In Honduras, the government handed out illegal logging contracts in poor, rural communities, said Elsa Chang, director of Central American programs for the Center for International Policy in Washington, D.C.

Locals were excluded from decisions and left unemployed. Widespread deforestation led to erosion of water resources and drought conditions, Chang said.

"The burden of environmental rights should be shared," Ascher said. "It should not come out of the hides of the local people, who are often poor."

Despite the horror stories, some countries and groups are making progress. Center for International Policy established a group called Democracy Without Borders in Honduras. The group helped locals win new legislation to provide more government transparency — "to empower citizens so they can exercise their right to know and hold the government accountable," Chang said.

In Nagaland, India, one of the country's poorest regions, the government created a "green village," offering residents improved access to firewood and clean water, said Steve Wallace, a retired businessman from Lake Elsinore.

The Indian government established the village as a potential tourist destination. Wallace has traveled the globe for the past two years, witnessing crushing poverty in many Third-World communities.

Such a village is a rarity, Wallace said, "but it's made such a difference in the villagers' lives."

Rotary offers international scholarship program

From staff reports

The Rotary Foundation is offering Ambassadorial Scholarships — its oldest and best known program.

Since 1917, nearly 37,000 men and women from 100 nations have studied abroad under the program's auspices. Today it is the world's largest privately funded international scholarship program.

Ambassadorial Scholarships provide a flat grant of \$23,000 for one academic year of study in another country.

The purpose of the Ambassadorial

Scholarships program is to further international understanding and friendly relations among people of different countries.

While abroad, scholars serve as ambassadors of good will to the people of the host country and give presentations about their homelands to Rotary clubs and other groups. Upon returning home, scholars share with Rotarians and others the experiences that led to greater understanding of their host countries.

The deadline to apply for Ambassadorial Scholarships has been extended to Aug. 17.

Applicants must have completed at least two years of college-level coursework before commencing their scholarship studies. Initial application must be made through a Rotary club in the applicant's legal or permanent residence or place of full-time study or employment. Applicants cannot be members or employees of Rotary and cannot be directly related to Rotarians.

Scholars are encouraged to support program objectives by choosing a study field that will address the

humanitarian needs of the world community, including but not limited to healthcare, children at risk, concern for the aging, literacy, population issues, urban concerns, disabled persons, international understanding and good will, poverty and hunger, elimination of pests, and environmental awareness and protection.

Additional information can be found at http://www.rotary.org/foundation/educational/amb_scholarship/index.html, or contact Heather Frankle from Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise at hfrankle@earthlink.net.