

## Highlights

**Lifeline CPR**, 8:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., Beale Library, 701 Truxtun Ave. \$35, includes two-year certification. Details, 331-3868.

**Richard Barre** will autograph his book "Blackheart Highway," 1 p.m., Russo's Marketplace. Details, 665-4686.

**Annual barbecue and potluck**, 6 to 8 p.m., Kern City Social Club, 1003 Pebble Beach. \$3 donation. Details, 589-3299.

**Beanie Babies & Collectibles Show**, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sheraton Four-Points Hotel, 5101 California Ave. Adults \$3, ages 6 to 12 \$1. Details, 588-3322.

**Standing Bear Pow Wow**, Native American dancing, arts, crafts, food, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Bakersfield College, 1801 Panorama Drive. \$3; children free. Details, 589-3181.

**"Westbrook '99,"** summer outdoor music festival, 6:30 to 11 p.m., Solomon's Porch, 6501 Schirra Ct. Details, 664-9206.

**Ain't No Thang Resurrection** and Mother Funk Conspiracy, 7:30 p.m., CSUB Jazz Coffeehouse, CSUB Student Union. \$6; \$4 students. Details, 834-0115.

**Fun Run**, Bakersfield Track Club, 7 a.m., Hart Park. No fees, no prizes. All families are encouraged to participate. Details, 827-0272.

**Children's Fishing Derby**, Lake Isabella. Details, 760-376-2629.

**Dinner and silent auction** followed by concert performed by Bakersfield Masterworks Chorale, 7 p.m., Kern Agricultural Foundation Pavilion, 3300 E. Belle Terrace Ave. \$25. Details, 588-0910.

### We need your help

As we enter graduation week for most local high schools, the safety of our graduates as they celebrate becomes a primary concern. Many schools, parent groups and organizations sponsor parties in an effort to provide a safe, alcohol- and drug-free party environment. The Californian would like to make both parents and graduating students aware of such celebrations. Please contact reporter Christine Peterson at 395-7350 if your organization is sponsoring such a party. You may also e-mail the details to cpeterson@bakersfield.com, or fax them to her attention at 395-7519.

### Opinion

► **SATURDAY FORUM:** Charles Carlson offers tips on caring for children. B7

### Cal Line 864-1234

To hear the Accu-Weather forecast select category:

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2970	Lottery results
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2909	Pete Tittl's reviews
4450	Horoscope directory
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2735	Music line
3500	Californian job line



LEXEY SWALL/THE CALIFORNIAN

Anne Lester, 84, gives Elvira the horse a hug after having taken her for a ride.

# Back in the saddle — at last

*Terminally ill woman gets her wish granted: to experience joy of riding a horse one final time*

By **JULIA KENNEDY**

Californian staff writer  
e-mail: jkennedy@bakersfield.com

Standing for a moment on legs as frail as a child's, dressed in a pair of borrowed blue jeans and tennis shoes, 84-year-old Anne Lester got out of her wheelchair and onto the back of a retired racehorse Friday at MARE Therapeutic Riding Center.

As the horse started walking, a smile spread across Lester's face. It was her first time horseback riding in at least 40 years.

Lester, a terminally ill cancer patient, recently uttered aloud her wish to ride a horse before she dies. A staff member at Hallmark at Bakersfield, the assisted living facility where Lester lives, was listening.

Friday, a small group of onlookers, including

Lester's son Donnel and his wife, Rose Mary, watched as the elderly woman rode around the ring, three MARE volunteers alongside her, slowly working up to fitting both feet in the stirrups of the Western-style saddle. Someone asked her how she felt.

"I can't describe it," she said in her low, slightly muffled voice.

"Is it a good feeling?"

"Yes."

After she dismounted, Lester stayed close to Elvira, her steed, and was even wheeled into the horse's pasture to turn her loose. She stretched her arms out and patted Elvira's mane and the creature returned the favor by nuzzling Lester's forehead. Her son watched, grinning after wiping a few tears away with a handkerchief.

Afterward, the elder Lester shed a few tears of

Please turn to **WISH / B2**

## New police chief sworn in, keeps comments brief

By **VICKI ADAME**

Californian staff writer  
e-mail: vadame@bakersfield.com

Eric Matlock, Bakersfield's new police chief, showed he is a man of few words.

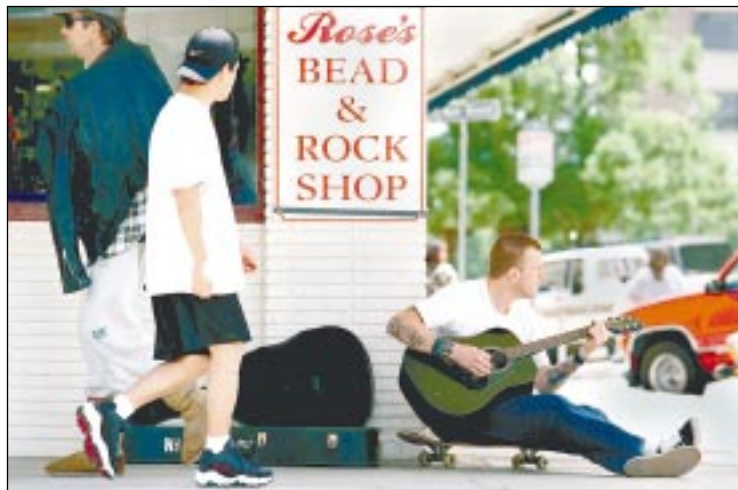
During his swearing-in ceremony Friday morning, he spoke to those gathered in the police department auditorium for only a couple of minutes.

"I'm a man of few words, but I've talked more the last couple of months..." Matlock said.

Matlock was named the city's new chief Thursday by City Manager Alan Tandy. He replaces Steve Brummer, whose retirement took effect Thursday. Matlock was one of three candidates

Please turn to **CHIEF / B3**

## Downtown sounds



CASEY CHRISTIE/THE CALIFORNIAN

Scott Harris of Redlands, in Bakersfield on vacation, plays some sounds downtown Friday while waiting for a friend to get off work.

## Businessman to head St. Francis School

► **Brent DeZember** views the post as an interim position.

The Bakersfield Californian

In a move that surprised many in the Catholic community, local businessman Brent DeZember has been named principal of St. Francis School. DeZember, 41, succeeds Robert Guyton, who has taken a job in Arizona.

In another change for the parish, Father A. Joseph Heffernan has been transferred to the church in Hilmar-Irwin in Northern California and Father Craig Harrison has been appointed the new pastor of St. Francis. Harrison is a graduate of St. Francis.

A Bakersfield native, DeZember attended West High, the University of Southern California, and received a master's degree in business administration from California State University, Long Beach. Until now, he has had no experience in school administration, having spent his time in the business world.

In January, DeZember sold Golden Empire Concrete to National Cement. He still has an active interest in Golden Empire Concrete Products and Landmark Properties. Leading a school is new territory.

"It's going to be really different for me," DeZember said. "I've spent more time outside the principal's office

Please turn to **DEZEMBER / B2**

## County roundup

### RIDGECREST: Groups split \$21,000

Twenty-four local service organizations have split \$21,000 donated by WACOM Thrift Shop.

Every six months the thrift shop, located on the Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, returns its profits to the community, according to shop supervisor Fran Fletcher. It has distributed as much as \$23,000 in six months.

Service organizations request the help and the amount they need, said Fletcher. Although they don't always get the exact amount requested, they always get help.

"We have never turned down a request from a nonprofit organization working for this community," Fletcher said.

Volunteers staff the shop; WACOM has about 150 members. Although the thrift shop is located on base, it is open to anyone in the community who needs low-cost, usable clothing and household items.

This column appears Tuesdays and Saturdays. Send comments and story ideas to Lois Henry at 395-7413.

Donations are accepted at the shop at 1809 Lauritsen Ave.

### RIDGECREST: British consul hosted

The Indian Wells Valley hosted British consul general Paul Diamond on June 1.

Diamond and members of the Kern County Board of Trade attended a Chamber of Commerce-sponsored reception at the Heritage Inn in Ridgecrest.

Diamond was in town to tour sites that have a potential for future overseas trading and investment, according to Chamber President Sharon Girod.

### FRAZIER PARK: Health Faire today

Dozens of free medical services are available today at Frazier Park's annual Health Faire on the Frazier Park Elementary School campus between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Bone density scans, EKGs, stroke ultrasounds, hearing screens, blood pressure readings and chiropractic exams are among the free services available.

Also included are mammograms, pap smears, blood panels, PSAs and bone density scans paid for by the Southwest Hospital District.

Food and beverages are available. Child care is provided by local Girl Scout troops.

The school is located at 3149 San Carlos Trail. For information call 245-3312.

### FRAZIER PARK: Hospital seat open

Applicants are being sought to fill a vacant seat on the Southwest Hospital District board of directors.

District president Kitty Jo Nelson said the board will consider at its June 14 session the appointment of a replacement for former director Sherrie Bergamo, who resigned due to professional conflicts. Although the district does not operate a hospital, it distributes property tax revenues returned to the district to provide community health care services, including funding for a school nurse and the annual Frazier Park Health Faire.

Qualified district residents who are registered voters must apply in writing by June 12 to Southwest Hospital District, P.O. Box 717, Frazier Park 93225.

Resumes should include name, address, job experience and a statement explaining the reasons

the applicant seeks the appointment.

### ARVIN: New traffic signal coming

A new traffic signal will be erected in Arvin at the intersection of Bear Mountain Boulevard and Campus Drive, Mayor Jess Ortiz announced at Tuesday's City Council meeting.

The signal should be in place and operational within the next two months, Ortiz said.

Investigations of two locales took place: Bear Mountain Boulevard and Campus Drive, and Bear Mountain Boulevard and Comanche Drive.

Ortiz stated that as traffic continues to increase in Arvin, he will continue to fight for the second signal, which he feels is much needed.

### EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE: Marines due

Marine Aircraft Group 46, Detachment B will hold a reporting ceremony at the Air Force base today.

The ceremony will begin at 9 a.m., and includes speeches and the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twenty-nine Palms marching band.

"What's unique about this event is that it's a Marine ceremony taking place on an Air Force base. Their haven't been any Marines in Kern County since World War II, when Mojave Airport was a Marine facility," said

base spokeswoman Carol Ann Keck.

The aircraft group is made up of Marine Reserve units Heavy Helicopter Squadron 769 and Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 764, which relocated to Edwards AFB because El Toro Marine Corps Air Station is closed.

### CALIFORNIA CITY: Money properly spent

A three-part report prepared by the Citizens Advisory Committee concludes that money collected from the special parcel tax has been spent according to plan.

Committee president Vance Mingus presented the report Tuesday to the City Council. "The money has been spent properly," Mingus said.

The city collected \$300,000 more than first projected because more people than expected paid the \$75 annual tax. The city collected \$3.3 million in the first full year of the tax.

The committee recommended that the \$300,000 windfall be split between the parks and recreation department and street maintenance.

The committee also recommended that the bulk of street repair money be spent fixing residential streets, with 20 percent set aside for maintenance. Details of this plan haven't been finalized.

## Roll call

### Basic Air Force training

The following have graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas: Air Force Airman Edward E. Vasquez, son of Anna M. and Lucas Vasquez of Wasco; Air Force Airman 1st Class Joshua A. Worthen, son of Alfred W. and Judith A. Worthen of Bakersfield; Air Force Airman Ross A. Schenk, son of Meshia C. Baskerville and stepson of William Phillips of Bakersfield; Air Force Airman Matthew G. Holland, son of David L. and Tracie J. Holland of Bakersfield; and Air Force Airman Wesley R. Bonin, son of Priscilla P. and Kenneth R. Bonin of Ridgecrest.

### USS Carl Vincent deployment

The following have recently completed a six-month deployment to the Western Pacific and Indian oceans, and Arabian Gulf while assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson, home ported in Bremerton, Wash. USS Carl Vinson is the lead ship for the USS Carl Vinson Battle Group: Navy Seaman Curtis J. Ellison, son of Janet Massengale of Tehachapi; Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Chris Beare, son of Bruce and Patty Beare of Taft; Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class James W. Johnston, son of Joyce L. and James W. Johnston Jr. of Wasco; and Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Michele V. Raz, daughter of Lynn Evans of Shafter and Michael G. Montecino of Wasco.

### Hector D. Lucio

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Hector D. Lucio, son of Ray and Virginia Gipson of Bakersfield, recently completed a six-month deployment to the western Pacific and Indian oceans, and Arabian Gulf while assigned to the guided missile destroyer USS Fitzgerald, home ported in San Diego. USS Fitzgerald departed as part of the USS Carl Vinson Battle Group.

### Charles Ian B. Bucton

Navy Seaman Recruit Charles Ian B. Bucton, son of Ilif B. and Sylvia B. Bucton of Bakersfield, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training

Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

### Stacey D. Routh

Army Pvt. Stacey D. Routh, daughter of Cathy L. and Don D. Routh of Bakersfield, has graduated from basic military training at Fort Leonard Wood, Waynesville, Mo.

### David M. Holliday

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class David M. Holliday, whose wife, Tricia, is the daughter of Laura Olsen of Rosamond, is currently participating in the NATO military offensive against Yugoslavia while assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron 87 embarked aboard the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt.

### Charles A. Wilcox

Marine Master Sgt. Charles A. Wilcox, son of Eny E. and Bobbie C. Wilcox of Bakersfield, recently was deployed to a combined arms exercise at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms.

### Juan A. Nocelo

Juan A. Nocelo, son of Francisca and stepson of Guillermo Cuevas of Tehachapi, has been promoted in the U.S. Army to the rank of sergeant.

### Eli J. Sevilla

Navy Hospitalman Eli J. Sevilla, whose wife, Elisa, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carmen Ruiz of Rosamond, recently graduated from the Basic Hospital Corps School at Naval Hospital Corps School, Great Lakes, Ill.

### Jerry W. Nicholson

Marine Cpl. Jerry W. Nicholson, son of Carolyn S. Nicholson of Porterville, recently was promoted to his current rank and received a Letter of Appreciation.

### Shannon A. Lawson

Coast Guard Seaman Apprentice Shannon A. Lawson, son of Joy Ricketts of Bakersfield, recently graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Recruit Training Center in Cape May, N.J.

### Elayne B. Mayte

Navy Seaman Recruit Elayne B. Mayte, daughter of Lauretta P. Hanshaw of Bakersfield, recently reported for duty with Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (Light) 43, San Diego.

# City tests electric-powered pickup

► California City staff are trying out a truck loaned by Ford Motor Corp.

By DEBBY BADILLO

Californian correspondent

CALIFORNIA CITY — It looks just like your neighbor's pickup, but when you turn the key the only sound you hear is a soft, gentle hum and not the mighty roar of a gasoline-powered engine.

This buzzing under the hood is the sound of the 1999 electric Ford Ranger, and for economic development corporation member Alan Heaberlin, it's the sound of California City's future.

"It's a natural connection to have electric vehicles in a place where we have renewable sources of electric power," said Heaberlin, who created the post of EDC director of research and technology for himself.

Wind turbines in Tehachapi and solar plants at Kramer Junction generate enough electricity to power all the electric vehicles California City residents can plug in. "I want to explore all the technologies and see what works best for California City," Heaberlin said.

With a range of 50 to 75 miles, an electric vehi-

cle could get most residents through a full day's business in town, and even make a trip to Mojave, 15 miles away.

Ford Motor Corp. is loaning the truck to Heaberlin as part of its outreach program. Heaberlin will offer free rides and demonstrations for the next couple of weeks, not only showcasing the vehicle's capabilities, but testing them as possible business opportunities.

"If it turns out they work well in the city, I'm going to try to bring an electric vehicle manufacturer to the industrial park. That would be a real boost to the city," said Heaberlin.

So far he's given test rides to the owners of a pizza restaurant and an auto parts store, and a couple ranchers to demonstrate how an electric vehicle could be used for deliveries, and could save a rancher the hassle of driving into town for a tank of gas.

Although city officials haven't taken their rides yet, Heaberlin said electric vehicles are ideal for use by building and fire code inspectors, the airport manager, and city crews. The city would save money because there's no real maintenance, except tire replacement.

Electric vehicles can only be leased because

they are still in the testing stage, but they compare favorably with gas-powered vehicles. Heaberlin said the Ford pickup leases for \$450 a month for three years.

The vehicle can regenerate power when the wind is at its back, or when going downhill. Of course, heading the other way will take a little more energy from the battery pack.

Next in line for the city is an electric Chevrolet S10 pickup, and a two-seater coupe that looks like an oversized child's toy.

Heaberlin, who is the EDC grant writer, said the California Energy Commission[cq] has money available to help communities use alternative fuel vehicles, and he plans to bring some of that money here.

Heaberlin is also working on a deal with Honda to use its compressed natural gas charger, located at the city airport. The charger could be used to run natural gas-powered Dial-A-Ride vans, which the city is considering buying.

"This isn't a tree-hugging kind of project. This is a way to save the city and residents money, maybe bring in a new business, and keep the environment clean," Heaberlin said.

## WISH: 'I never expected to be able to do something like this again'

Continued from B1

gratitude herself, thankful she had been able to ride.

"It's been a good experience," she said. "I'd never expected to be able to do something like this again." About a year ago, Lester qualified as a hospice patient — expected to live for six months or less — and is still in hospice care.

The request for Lester to ride, made by Hallmark Executive Director Donna Jean Merchant, was unusual for MARE (Mastering Abilities Riding Equines), which offers riding lessons to people with physical and mental disabilities. However, the request was welcome, said Deborah French, program director and head riding instructor.

"I think it is quite an honor to be part of someone's life-worth-living wish," French said. "Because my passion is horses, I can relate." French, who owns Elvira, prepared a selection of Glenn Miller tunes, which she played during Lester's ride. She also didn't hesitate to quickly fill the elder woman in on riding technique that had gotten rusty after several decades.

As Lester rode around the ring, she was told to look straight ahead, sit up in the saddle and relax her shoulders to get her right leg down. After the ride, when she wanted to pat Elvira and said she couldn't stand, French's reply was swift.

"I'll help you stand. You can stand. I'll help you stand if you want to."

Lester, born in 1915, grew up on a grain farm in the Canadian province of Manitoba, near the small town of Daughin. As a child, she cared for the family's draft and transportation horses that were used for wagon transport.



Volunteers Lori Gifford and Mary Bristol along with MARE Barn Supervisor Bob Sughrue, guide Anne Lester on a horseride around the MARE ranch.

According to her son, she loved spending time with the horses, even if it was just chores like cleaning out stalls.

"All horses are my favorite, and this one here, she's a doll," Lester said of Elvira.

Her son and daughter-in-law said Lester is not used to being fussed over. However, she jokingly succumbed to the event when getting ready for it, referring to herself as "queen for a day," Rose Mary Lester said.

Donnel Lester said he is glad his mother was sincere enough to share her wish with another person — and inspired enough to have it.

"If she had kept this to herself or no one had ever asked her, maybe it would never have happened," he said.



LEXEY SWALL/THE CALIFORNIAN

Al Bell, left, and barn supervisor Bob Sughrue help Hoffman Hospice patient Anne Lester down from her horse.

## Temperatures to stay cool during next several days

By AMY WHITE

Californian staff writer

e-mail: awhite@bakersfield.com

Cool weather is expected to continue in Bakersfield at least through the middle of next week.

A high of 78 degrees is forecast for today, about 12 degrees cooler than normal for this time of year. Sunday is supposed to be warmer but still below normal at 82 degrees, meteorologists said.

Lows are expected to be in the 50s over the weekend.

Troy Linquist, a National Weather Service meteorologist, said cooler-than-normal temperatures aren't going away any time soon.

"The storm system that brought in these clouds and cool weather is moving to the east and another is forecast to come over the area in the

first part of next week," Lindquist said.

Lower-than-average temperatures have been recorded throughout the state during the past week.

On Friday, the low in Bakersfield dropped to 45 degrees, a new record, beating the 51 degrees set in 1943.

Meteorologists said this year's spring has been kept cool by a series of low-pressure systems dropping down from the Gulf of Alaska and resting along the West Coast.

More than two-thirds of the days in March, April and May had lower-than-average temperatures, and the first four days of June have also been colder than normal.

Although trace amounts of rain fell in Kern County during the past week, no rain is forecast in Bakersfield for the next several days.

## Graduation ceremonies

### HIGH SCHOOLS

June 6:

**Bakersfield Adventist Academy**  
10 a.m., Hillcrest Seventh-day Adventist Church  
**Vianney Academy**  
6 p.m., McMullan Hall at St. Malachy Church

June 8:

**Bakersfield Apostolic Faith Academy**  
7 p.m. on campus  
**Kern High School District ROC**  
6:30 p.m., Agriculture Pavilion Center  
**San Joaquin High School**  
7 p.m., McFarland High School football field

June 9:

**East Bakersfield High School**  
7 p.m., Permenter Field  
**Foothill High School**  
7 p.m., Foothill High School stadium  
**Kern High School District continuation schools**  
3 p.m., Harvey Auditorium  
**Ridgeview High School**  
7:30 p.m., Ridgeview High School stadium  
**South High School**  
8 p.m., South High School stadium

### Graduation 1999

June 10:

**Bakersfield Christian High School**  
7 p.m., Bakersfield Christian Life Center  
**Bakersfield High School**  
7:30 p.m., Griffith Field  
**Boron Junior/Senior High School**  
Senior High 6:30 p.m.  
**Boron Junior/Senior High School Gymnasium**  
**Centennial High School**  
7:30 p.m., Golden Hawk Stadium  
**Desert Junior/Senior High School**  
Senior High 4:30, Edwards Air Force Base Theater

June 11:

**Frazier Mountain High School**  
6:30 p.m., high school gymnasium  
**Highland High School**  
7:30 p.m., Bakersfield Convention Center  
**Kern Valley High School**  
5 p.m., KVHS football field  
**Maricopa High School**  
7 p.m., Maricopa High School Auditorium  
**McFarland High School**  
6 p.m., football bowl  
**Mojave High School**  
6 p.m., Mustang Gymnasium  
**North High School**

**Stockdale High School**  
8 p.m., Bakersfield College  
**Taft Union High School**  
**Vista High School**  
8 p.m., Martin

8 p.m., Bakersfield College Memorial Stadium  
**North Edwards High School**  
10:30 a.m., Richard B. Lynch Education Center, multi-purpose room  
**Rosamond High School**  
7 p.m., Graves Field  
**Shafter High School**  
7:30 p.m., Shafter High School stadium  
**Valley High School**  
7 p.m. on campus  
**Wasco Union High School**  
6 p.m., football field

June 12:

**Arvin High School**  
7:30 p.m., Barle Stadium  
**Bakersfield Adult School**  
7:30 p.m., Harvey Auditorium  
**Delano High School**  
5:30 p.m., football stadium  
**Valley High School and Ygnacio Valencia High School**  
1 p.m., Delano High School Auditorium  
**West High School**  
7 p.m., Bakersfield Convention Center

June 13:

**Mountain View/Douglas High School & Mountain View/Douglas Adult High School**  
6 p.m., Mustang Gymnasium

June 17:

**Independence High School**  
6:30 p.m., high school auditorium

### To our readers

During the '99 graduation season, The Californian will spotlight a sampling of local high schools and colleges with stories and photos. A complete schedule of other schools' ceremonies will accompany those stories. Also, beginning Wednesday, June 9, a list of Kern County's graduating high school seniors will be published on Bakersfield's community website, www.bakersfield.com

## COLLEGES:

June 11

**California State University, Bakersfield School of Education**  
6 p.m. reception, 7:30 p.m. commencement  
Reception in Icardo Room, commencement in Icardo Center

June 12

**CSUB School of Arts and Sciences**  
7:45 a.m., amphitheatre  
**CSUB School of Business and Public Administration**  
6 p.m., Icardo Center

## SCHOOL STARS

School Stars is a weekly feature saluting Kern County's academic achievers in grades K-12. Submissions come directly from school personnel. E-mail questions or comments to local@bakersfield.com or call 395-7520.

Zane Adamo, Ambar Ayala, Emily Beauchamp, Michael Cera, Madian DeLaHuerta, Judd Fassbender, Alex Flores, Alexis Gonzalez, James Hannah, Garrett Harris, Sean Hendrix, Matthew Hengst, Shaun Koerner, Meghan Legat, Danielle Madrid, Alyssa McQueen, Shaley Mendrin,

Garrett Overcash, Chris Rodriguez and Dustin Wilder, kindergarten students from **Downtown Elementary School**, had art work selected to be on display at the Kern County Superior Court for the summer.

Danielle Madrid and Judd Fassbender, students from **Downtown Elementary School**, had art work selected to be on display at the Summer Art Gallery.

**Ashlee Goad**, a student at Curran Middle School, has been named a United States National Award Winner in English. The criteria for selection are a student's academic performance, interest and aptitude, leadership qualities, responsibility, enthusiasm, motivation to learn and improve, citizenship, attitude and cooperative spirit, dependability and recommendation from a teacher or director.

## BOARD: Mortuary appeal on tap

Continued from B1

In other action Tuesday, the supervisors will:

- Hear an appeal of a Planning Commission decision denying a conditional use permit for a mortuary on Sterling Road in east Bakersfield.
- Consider deleting, through an

early retirement, a position in the Technology Services Division.

It will help the division deal with budget cuts anticipated in the upcoming fiscal year.

• Weigh minor ordinance revisions dealing with the Kern County Children and Families First Commission.

## DEZEMBER: Goals include improving staff morale, stability

Continued from B1

than in. The reason I'm here is that St. Francis has had some turnover in administration over the last several years. Although success in the classroom has not been affected — kids are still coming out prepared for high school — morale has suffered among the teachers and parents because of a lack of continuity."

Dezember and his wife, Anna, have had two of their girls go through St. Francis and

two more are presently in the school. It was Dezember's interest as a parent in the 89-year-old school, he said, that contributed to him accepting the job. Unless something changes, Dezember does not plan on taking a salary.

"I wasn't looking for a job. This is not a career change, it's more of a project that might last two years," Dezember said. "This is a great school, with terrific teachers and parents. I just want to get it on a more optimistic

bent. We'd like to institute a team approach in regards to fund raising and focus on the mission of the school. After we get things in place, we plan to hire a principal."

Dezember, who's been at the school for the past two weeks meeting parents and staff, is excited about the challenge.

"I haven't worked for anybody else since high school when I was running around in the cotton fields," he said. "I think this is going to be fun."

## Deaths

**Margarita Bernal**, 62, Bakersfield, June 3 in Fresno. Arvin Funeral Home.  
**Gary Lee Cerklowski**, 29, Delano, June 1 in Bakersfield. Neptune Society.  
**Alexandra Hanna**, infant, Bakersfield, May 27 in Fresno. Bakersfield Family Funeral Directors.  
**Jeanne Be-Ane**, 78, Bakersfield, June 1. Bakersfield Family Funeral Directors.  
**Joe Duran Jr.**, 50, Bakersfield, June 3.

Rucker's Mortuary, Bakersfield.  
**Willadene Holmes**, 73, Bakersfield, June 1. Bakersfield Family Funeral Directors.  
**Robert Morris**, 66, Taft, June 2 in Bakersfield. Bakersfield Family Funeral Directors.  
**C.E. Nutter**, 75, Bakersfield, June 4. Greenlawn Mortuary.  
**Gene Ockerman**, 72, Bakersfield, June 4. Mish Funeral Home, Oildale.

**Laverne Perry**, 87, Caliente, May 31. Peters Funeral Home, Shafter.  
**Barbara Jean Sheppard**, 66, Bakersfield, June 3. Centurian Memorial Society.  
**James E. Tilley**, 69, Bakersfield, June 3. Hillcrest Memorial Park and Mortuary.  
**Mia Echo Young**, infant, Ridgecrest, June 3. Holland & Lyons, Ridgecrest.  
**Zann Zook**, 48, Bakersfield, June 4. Bakersfield Family Funeral Directors.

## FUNERALS

Call Classified Advertising for rates or information 395-7287

### Willadene Marie Holmes

Apr. 5, 1926-June 1, 1999

Memorial services will be held Saturday, June 5, 1999 at 11:00 a.m. at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 601 Deseret, Bakersfield, CA. for Willadene Marie Holmes who passed away June 1, 1999.

Mrs. Holmes was born April 5, 1926 in Wichita, Kansas. She was a member of I.B.E.W., loved to golf and go deep sea fishing. She attended Bakersfield High School. She married Ralph J. Holmes on December 17, 1941. She will be missed by family and friends.

Survivors include three daughters, Sandra Palla of Walnut Creek, CA., Pamela Ovesson and Roxann Monsibais both of Bakersfield, CA.; eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren who called her "Grandma Willie" and "Gigi"; and one brother, William R. Andersen, Jr. of Bakersfield, CA.

We love you Mommy and we will see you again.

Bakersfield Family Funeral Directors

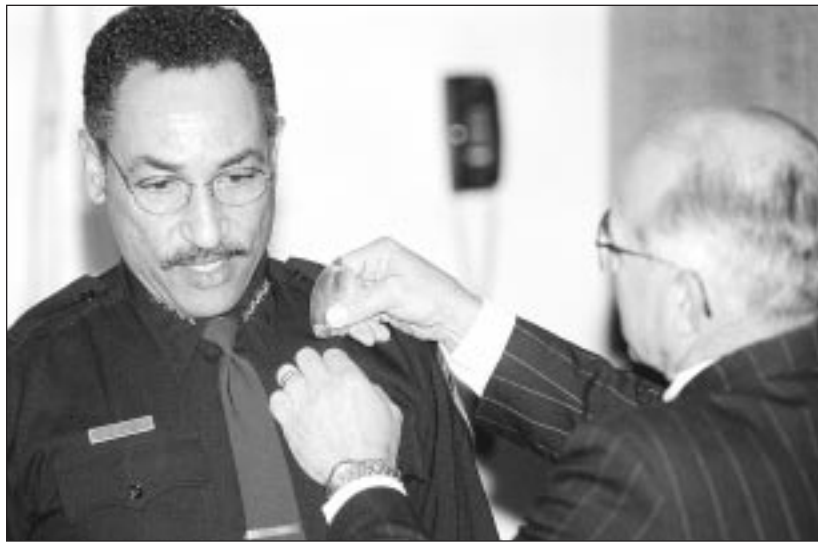
1620 Burial Needs

PLOTS (2), Hillcrest, Lakeview Lawn, lot 1720, spaces 2 & 3, appraised at \$3K each, \$2,600/both. 871-5004.

PLOT, UNION Cemetery, last supper, \$450 661-834-2522



If you have questions about placing a Funeral Notice please call Elaine at 395-7243 Notices must be placed by 4 p.m. to be published on the following day.



LEXEY SWALL/THE CALIFORNIAN

**New Bakersfield Police Chief Eric Matlock receives his badge from former chief Steve Brummer at Matlock's swearing-in ceremony.**

## CHIEF: Joined department in 1970

Continued from B1

Before he pinned the badge on Matlock, Brummer gave the new chief a framed copy of the police chief code of ethics.

Friday morning, Tandy said, "The field of candidates was outstanding — that bodes well for the future of the police department."

Before being named chief, Matlock, 50, had been assistant chief of police since 1996.

His history with the department goes back to 1970 when he was hired as a foot patrol officer. In 1978 he was promoted to sergeant. That promotion was followed by two more — in 1985 to lieutenant and 1991 to captain.

Brummer pinned the chief's badge on Matlock's blue uniform.

"If I stick you, remember it's not personal," Brummer jokingly told Matlock.

Turning serious, the outgoing chief added: "I appreciate his ethic and leadership and his respect of the people in the organization."

After receiving his badge, Matlock said, "I'm sad to see him go, this is a bittersweet moment for me."

Matlock also made history Friday — he became the city's first black police chief.

Friday afternoon, Matlock met with his top command staff to discuss changes in the department.

"The meeting is to set some immediate, short-term goals, talk about the structure of the department and how I plan to structure the senior command staff," Matlock said. "I want to take care of that to relieve them of that anxiety."

# City of Arvin may loan money to raze theater

► The money would help pay to demolish the movie house and secure nearby buildings.

By KEVIN EUBANKS  
Californian Correspondent

The city of Arvin is considering a loan of \$150,000 to Ken and Debra Martin, owners of the much maligned Rancho Theatre in Arvin, to assist in the demolition process of the building.

On May 20, the Arvin City Council declared the building to be a public nuisance and gave the Martins 60 days to either bring the semi-collapsed building up to code or demolish it altogether.

The money would be loaned by the Arvin Redevelopment Agency after the City Council decided that it would not loan money to the Martins in a meeting last Tuesday.

"We just want the building down," Arvin City Manager Tom Payne said. "It would be much less expensive for them to do it than if we did."

The loan would be used to clear all existing liens including the current outstanding loan that the Martins have on the building, Payne said. In addition, the loan would be used to clean up asbestos, demolish the building, restore and landscape the land.

Money from the loan will also be used to bring the stores at the front of Rancho Theater that are not in the

same danger as the theater up to code.

Arvin's Redevelopment Agency will meet again to determine whether all criteria for the loan has been met by the Martins, something that has not yet been accomplished.

"Several of our conditions have not yet been met," Payne said. "We want this over with. We want that hazard and the health department to go away and we aren't going to wait much longer."

Debra Martin referred a reporter to her lawyer, William Slocumb. He was not available for comment.

The conditions to the loan include assigning the rents of the front building to Arvin to assure payment, and the loan must be payable in 10 years.

The loan will go into default if the Martins have any more liens against the building, if they attempt to refinance the building, if they miss a payment or if the building changes ownership.

If the loan is not approved by the redevelopment agency, things will change in a hurry.

"At the end of the 60 days, we go in and tear it down," Payne said. "(Martin) would need a court order to stop us and we would fight it. If she wins, we will sue."

"We just want to make this a win-win situation for both of us instead of a lose-lose situation."

## Digest

**Kern Farmers Market will be conducted at regular site today**

The Kern Farmers Market Association will hold its usual farmers market in the parking lot near Montgomery Ward today.

Though the organization was asked to leave its site of 10 years, it will continue operating at 30th and F streets until at least June 12.

Hours will remain 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

**Sheriff's deputies hunt suspect in Rosamond bank robbery**

ROSAMOND — Sheriff's deputies are looking for a suspect in a bank robbery who made off with an undisclosed amount of cash Friday.

According to the sheriff's office, a single suspect entered the Antelope Valley Bank at 2535 Rosamond Blvd. at 3:10 p.m. He handed a note to the teller, took the money from her, and ran out of the bank.

No one saw a weapon, and no one was hurt.

Officers are looking for a white male, approximately 40 years old, with a muscular build, sandy hair and dark mustache. He was wearing a dark baseball cap, plaid shirt and sunglasses at the time of the robbery.

He was not seen entering a vehicle after he left the bank, and the sheriff's office doesn't know whether he drove away or ran from the bank.

**Many Bakersfield College jobs to shift to 4-day work week**

Bakersfield College will operate on a modified four-day work week for the summer beginning Monday.

Most college offices will operate 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and close on Fridays through Aug. 6. However, the admissions and records office in the administration building will be open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays. An educational adviser will be available in the admissions office on Fridays, and a cashier will be available to accept payments from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Grace Van Dyke Bird Library, including the computer commons, will be open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 8 a.m. to noon Friday until the end of summer classes July 23. The library will be closed July 24 until the beginning of fall semester on Aug. 16.

**Juneteenth celebration will focus on freedom from disease**

A Juneteenth celebration of freedom from chronic disease will be held June 19. The free event will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the East Bakersfield Community Health Center, 815 Lakeview Ave. Activities include free entertainment, children's activities, prostate screenings, breast exams and blood pressure testing. Screening appointments are required and may be made by calling 325-2995.

## Tehachapi Rite Aid robbed at gunpoint

The Bakersfield Californian

A man brandishing a gun stole an undisclosed amount of cash from a Tehachapi Rite Aid store Friday.

The robber asked a cashier for change before showing a silver-colored semiautomatic pistol and demanding money from the register, sheriff's officials said.

The suspect — described as a heavy-set clean-shaven man, 25 to 30 years old, wearing a gray beanie cap — took the money and fled in an unknown direction from the 811 Tucker Road store. No further information was available.

