



Chuckwalla Valley

Voice

MARCH 2012



Local boy falls and gets a Helicopter ride

On Sunday Feb. 19th little Justin Ottinger was doing what kids do....NOT minding his parents and riding his bike without his helmet. Not only that, he had what would seem to any kid, the bright idea of tying the dog to the bike and taking him for a "walk". (Turns out the leash got wrapped in the rear wheel and locked up the bike, slamming Justin into the concrete) Not long after taking off on his excursion, which of course did not

come with permission from his parents, he comes running into the house crying. Mom did the usual scan for blood and sees he has scraped his elbow, and no sooner do the words,

"See what would have happened if you hadn't been wearing your helmet?", come out of her mouth when she noticed a very large knot protruding from his head. Scared to death, she takes him to the fire station where they conduct some manipulations and tests and tell her to go ahead and take him home, but keep an eye on him. After taking him home all Justin wanted to was lay down and sleep.



Cont. on pg. 2

Chamber Sponsors Community Appreciation Dinner

On Wed. Feb. 22nd the DCACOC held its first annual Community Appreciation Dinner to pay tribute to all community volunteers and offer special recognition to a few organizations and individuals who have stood out over the years. The Chamber and its

dedicated group of volunteers, served a free Pasta Dinner with Salad, Bread and Dessert to half packed house of community members and volunteers.

Carolyn McChesney, the Lake Tamarisk Desert Resort and the Community of Lake Tam-

arisk were all honored for their participation with helping to raise money for the gifts that are given out each year during the Christmas Program. Through the combined efforts, over \$1200.00 was raised and the lives of 50 children were perhaps a little

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April and Scott would like to thank the community for their concerns, prayers, phone calls and generous donations.

Between the Fire Depts. Sparks of Love Program and the money raised by the Resort and Community members, over \$4700.00 was donated for the Children and Families at Christmas.



Justin Ottinger Cont.

April knew enough to know this was a bad thing, so they make the decision to take him to the emergency room. After a 3 hour wait, they finally get the little guy in for a CAT scan where it is determined he has a 15mm hematoma on his right temporal lobe. In essence he had a concus-

sion. Eisenhower Medical Center didn't have a pediatric neurosurgeon, so they decided to air lift him to Loma Linda. Anyone who knows Justin knows how he loves to ride his bike up and down the street making the most authentic sounding siren sounds you have ever heard. I

can't tell you how many times I have run to the window hearing sirens, only to see little Justin flying by on his bike. Any other time a ride in the air ambulance would have been a dream come true.

Cont. on pg. 5



Community Appreciation Dinner cont.

brighter by the end of the program thanks to the hard work, dedication and generosity of our community members. The employees of the Desert Sunlight Project banded together and rose over \$2500.00 for the Sparks of Love Program hosted by the Fire Department. This program raises money for presents and food baskets for community members. This year they gathered 250 presents which were distributed to 60

kids and they gave out 40 food baskets.

Each year the Lions Club hosts numerous free events and many fundraisers for the community. They sponsor the

Pancake Breakfast and Book Sale, proceeds going to the Friends of the Library, they hosted a fund raiser all proceeds going to



help Richard DeLashmit whose trailer burned down, they raise money for scholarships, provide movies and ice cream socials, and bring in speakers to help keep the community informed. They will help obtain eye exams and glasses for anyone who is in need

and unable to afford those services, and.....they host, free to the community, the annual 4th of July and Easter celebrations!! Bruce McAllister, the current President accepted the certificate of appreciation on behalf of the Lions Club.

Honorable mentions were Charlene Carney for her devotion to seeing that every child in the community be able to attend church camp, the Fire Department for their efforts above and beyond the call of duty and the volleyball and BBQ'S for the kids.

Dawn Rettagliata was mentioned for her constant hard work and compassion. Mathew Green was commended for his efforts in keeping the food pantry open for anyone wanting to sign up. And of course, last but not least, Renee Castor was recognized for her vision and actions in bringing the community together and planting the seed of what would become the Chamber of Commerce.

Annual Book Sale and Pancake Breakfast

On February 4th the Lions sponsored the Annual Library Book Sale and Pancake Breakfast, and once again the good folks in the Lions' Club worked hard and put out a good and efficient meal. The book sale did better this year than last and better last year than the year before, so I guess you would have to call the event an on going success.

Each year the Friends of the Library work hard to collect, organize, haul, and set up book to be sold to the public. Actually the books aren't sold, a "donation" box is placed on the table and people contribute as they see fit. Each year the Library tries to make room for new authors and new books, so old and discarded

books and books with multiple copies are pulled from the shelves and added to books donated by members of the community. Then the Librarian and Friends of the Library work hard to collect, organize, haul, and set up the



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March 3rd Lions Annual BBQ/Talent Show

Each year the Lions sponsor the BBQ and Talent show with the proceeds going toward two \$500.00 scholarships. The applicants apply to the Lions

Club and submit an essay on what they would like to pursue. To make the event a little more.....shall we say entertaining, they include a "Variety"

show. Which never disappoints.

Keep this date, March 3rd, 5:30 at the CSA Hall. Get tickets from any Lions member.

Money raised at the BBQ and Talent show will go toward two \$500.00 scholarships for the children.

Fire Dept. offers CERT Training

On March 9-10-11th the Lake Tamarisk County Fire Department will be offering a program called CERT to the community. CERT stands for Community Emergency Response Team and the purpose is...and I quote:

"CERT is about readiness, people helping people, rescuer

safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. CERT is a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens will be initially on their own and their actions can make a difference. Through training, citizens can manage utilities

and put out small fires, treat the three killers by opening airways, controlling bleeding, and treating for shock; provide basic medical aid; search for and rescue victims safely; and organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers to be effective."

Being isolated from larger communities in the event of a disas-

ter we may find ourselves on our own for quite some time. The training offered through this program is invaluable and could very well save the lives of many. It isn't too late to sign up call 951/955-4700 to register.

Annual Book Sale and Pancake Breakfast Cont.

books and they are sold to the public. Actually the books aren't sold, a box is placed on the table and people make "donations".

The Friends of the Library would like to extend a big thanks to all who came out to support the event. The library benefits tremendously from these fund raisers and the good folks at the library are working hard to keep the doors open, books, DVD's, and periodicals on the shelves, and programs available for the kids. Come by and see what we have to offer, I think you will be amazed.



Book club meets on March 1st

The Lake Tamarisk Library is sponsoring a reading group that meets monthly or bi monthly depending on the book. We will be having our March Meeting on the 1st. We just finished "Cutting for Stone" and will be looking for something a bit lighter next month. Come on by and join the fun, stimulation and camaraderie!!
March 1st 1:30pm. Lake Tamarisk Library

Nazareen Church Schedule

Sunday School 10am

Worship Service 11am

Bible Study Friday at 7pm

Eagle Mountain Baptist News

Free 8x10 Portraits by Renee Vargas

March 9th and 10th and again on March 16th and 17th.

10am-8pm

Meet your new pastor

Renee Vargas

760/333-2798

Sunday Services

10am and again at 6:30pm

Bible Study

Wed. Bible Study 3:30 at the Carney Ranch
5-1/4 miles North on Rice Road

Food Pantry

3rd Sat. from 9am -12 at the Baptist
Church

Justin Ottinger's Ordeal cont.

Julie's Bed and Breakfast or Room for Rent



***Come for a weekend
and let me serve you
breakfast in bed, or if
you need a place long
term, call Julie Smiley
760/399-6213***



By the time April and Scott got to Loma Linda, Justin was in a room playing a wii game, and seemed fine. They were hopeful it wasn't going to be too bad. By the end of the day, after playing musical Dr.'s and getting a different tune from each one, they weren't sure what to think! But the piece of news they clung to was that in time the bleed would clot and the body would eventually absorb it. He might be in a bit of pain and dizzy but eventually he would be fine. On Monday and Tues. there was no improvement and by Wed. he was nauseous, sleeping more and requiring morphine to control the pain. By that evening, after another CAT scan they determined the hematoma was growing and they would need to do surgery right away. He was in surgery for about 45 min. and they were able to repair the bleed and clean up the clot, leaving Justin with a pretty impres-

sive horseshoe shaped wound. Mom and Dad had a pretty tough time the first time they saw him, his wound was uncovered and his face was pretty swollen.

I had the honor of giving Justin a haircut yesterday, the Doctors shaved only half his head, so I finished it off, leaving him with a Mohawk. Justin didn't really feel much like smiling for the camera, but we were able to coax at least a partial smile when Dad promised a package of skittles!

Mom and Dad say he is the same old Justin today. He has always been an "on the go" kind of kid and keeping him from bumping his head, wrestling, running etc. for 3 months will be a full time job, but after about a year he should be able to get on with being a kid and enjoying all the freedoms living here comes with... hopefully a little wiser to the wisdom of his parents.

News from the Lion's Club



On March 13th Rob Hartly will share his story about his illness what he has done to improve the quality of life for many deaf and blind people and how the Lion's has helped him reach that goal. He will share the story of his "Dolls for the Deaf" program and his Blind Bowling League .

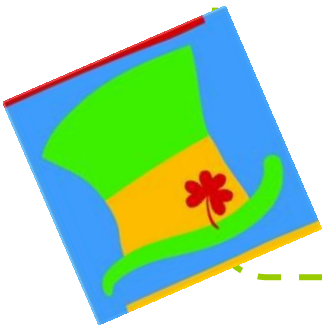
Lion's Club meets the Second and Fourth Tues. of every month at 7PM CSA Hall



Solar Issues: Things to Consider

A woman who grew up and graduated from Eagle Mountain and went on to earn her doctorate in Botany, sent me this link and said it contains some valid points and the science is good. If you are interested in learning more about ***the economics of solar, endangered species, greenhouse gases, industrial solar, public lands issues, rooftop solar, subsidies, transmission, water use and wildlife*** I urge you to take a look at this site.

<http://solardoneright.org>





Connie Lemon Is Air Lifted

Mr. and Mrs. Doyle were on their way to the Pancake Breakfast when they noticed Connie in her cart, sitting up talking on the phone. When they returned and she was still there they went over to check on her and found her unresponsive. They called 911. The paramedics arrived within 3 min. and made the decision to air lift her to Eisenhower Medical Center.

It was determined that she had an intracranial bleed. Currently she is resting comfortably in the Odyssey House which is a hospice facility where she is receiving excellent care. She is in room 501 if you would like to visit.

Connie is and has been a constant in our community. A friend and companion to so many of us. I know our hearts go out to her in this leg of her journey.



Coming soon

1st Annual Eagle Mountain

Reunion and Harvest Festival!!!!

Coming Oct. 27th-28th 2012.

Reserve your room now at Royal Plaza Inn 760/347-0911 use the promo code "DC2012". Dry camping will be available as well.

Parade, Harvest Festival, Local Vendors, Tours, Dinner and Dance.

Look for the event page on Facebook, Eagle Mountain Refugee Site or the Chamber of Commerce site.

More details in the coming months.

For more information contact Julie Smiley at 760/399-6213

Or Renee Castor at 760/485-8060



Support your local library or risk losing it.

If you haven't already, I would encourage you to join The Friends of the Library today!! Membership is very affordable.

Students and Seniors: \$3.00 Organization/Business: \$25.00

Sustaining: \$20.00 Patron: \$50.00

Life: \$100.00 Individuals: \$4.00

The funds go to the Friends of the Library who use the money to buy books, offer programs, speakers, buy DVD's and help to fund other small improvements to the library. If you haven't been to our local library in a while, I suggest you stop by and check out a book. Our library stays in business as long as we can prove it is being used. The way we do that is through the number of books, DVD's etc. being checked out, and programs being offered. It is literally one of those "use it or lose it" things. I don't know if you know this, but we have a rather large selection of DVD's, and since the nearest "Red Box" or Blockbuster is a rather long drive, this is a valuable and appreciated service. Thanks in part to the Friends of the Library andthey're FREE!!!

Chuckwalla Valley Voice, How it got it's start

My name is Julie Smiley, and this is my newsletter. I grew up, graduated, married and started my family in this valley. I recently returned after a 12 year leave of absence. After my husband passed away one of the jobs I took was working for the Lake Tamarisk Desert Resort. One of my projects was to help get their newsletter out each month. About the same time I was elected Public Relations Officer for the Chamber of Commerce and started working on the Chamber website, with one of the

additions being a newsletter. The scope and mission of the Chamber didn't always allow for some of the stories I thought it would be interesting to cover, so I decided to strike out on my own.



And so the idea for the Chuckwalla Valley Voice was born. The intent is to create a local newsletter. It isn't a new or novel idea, we have had several news-letters in the past . My hope is to keep the community linked together through shared experiences, history, storytelling and information. If you have a story to share or a piece of news you want to get out, please use the information below to contact me.

Juliesmile_80@hotmail.com

P.O. Box 473

Desert Center, CA 92239



March 2012



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1 <i>Reading Group 1:30</i>	2 <i>AA 7pm</i>	3 <i>Lions BBQ & Variety Show 5:30</i>
4	5 <i>Line Dancing 3pm Bingo 7pm</i>	6 <i>After School Program 1:30-3</i>	7 <i>Ladies of the Lake Spring Fling Luncheon CSA Hall 11:30</i>	8	9 <i>CERT Training 5:30 pm AA 7pm</i>	10 <i>CERT Training 8:00 am</i>
11 <i>CERT Training 8:00 am</i>	12 <i>Line Dancing 3pm Bingo 7pm</i>	13 <i>Lions Club Speaker Bob Hartly 7pm</i>	14	15 <i>CSA Advisory Board 7pm</i>	16 <i>AA 7pm</i>	17
18	19 <i>Line Dancing 3pm Bingo 7pm</i>	20 <i>After School Program 1:30-</i>	21	22	23 <i>AA 7pm</i>	24
25	26 <i>Line Dancing 3pm Bingo 7pm</i>	27 <i>Lions Club 7pm</i>	28	29 <i>Reading Group 1:30</i>	30 <i>AA 7pm</i>	31