



insider

Staff News for Santa Rosa Junior College, December 12, 2003

Sonoma Wine Foundation Presents Gift to Ag Facility



At the December Board of Trustees meeting, Julie St. John, representing Sonoma County Wineries Foundation, presented a check for \$50,000 to the SRJC Foundation Ag Trust. The gift, the first of four installments totaling \$200,000, will fund equipment for the Warren G. Dutton Agricultural Pavilion at SRJC's Shone Farm. Pictured left to right: Board of Trustees President Don Zumwalt, Board trustee Terry Lindley, SRJC Foundation Chair Carole Libarle, Julie St. John of J. Pedroncelli Winery, and John Balleto, Chair of the SRJC Foundation Ag Trust.

Homeless Shelter Now Open for Winter

The National Guard Armory is now open to provide shelter to homeless citizens during the winter months. The majority of the homeless people are good neighbors during the duration of their stay at the Armory and deserve our compassion. However, in past years when the Armory has been open, crime on and around the SRJC campus increased significantly. But only a small number of the nearly 200 people that come to the area because of the shelter are responsible for these occurrences. Those who cause problems are usually individuals who are turned away from the Armory because they are under the influence of drugs and alcohol or are disruptive and violent toward others using the shelter. Unfortunately, instead of leaving the area when turned away from the shelter, these individuals often come to SRJC and the surrounding neighborhood and cause difficulty.

We want to remind the campus community to use the following common sense crime prevention tips to ensure that students, staff, and campus are as safe as possible.

- Lock cars and keep valuables at home or lock them out of sight in the trunk.
- Lock office doors when you leave your office and keep items such as purses, wallets, and briefcases with you or locked in a secure cabinet or drawer.
- Never leave personal property unattended, even for a couple of minutes.
- Have a current department safety plan and discuss safety with students and staff at unit meetings and events.
- Immediately report all suspicious people loitering without apparent business and report any criminal activity to District Police at 527-1000.

SRJC is a beautiful place to work and learn, and it takes all of us together to make it a safe community. Call Detective Sally Miller on ext. 1000 with any questions or if you would like to schedule a crime prevention presentation in your department.

Visiting Swedish Students Need Host Families

Most of you are concentrating on finishing up the semester and getting ready for the holidays. However, would you take just a moment out of your busy day to think about hosting a Swedish student the month of March or asking your family and friends if they would be interested? We would like to get all of the Swedish students assigned to host families before we leave on winter break, and we still need a few more homes. Please contact us for an application and/or further information.

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A picture of the visiting students is on-line at <http://online.santarosa.edu/presentation/page/?13874>



Tech Academy Director Returns from Iraq

Scott Ahrens, Tech Academy Director, describes his experience in Iraq in the following message to the college community:

I am a Chief Warrant Officer in the U.S. Army National Guard, and I have been flying for the military on active duty or for the National Guard for 28 years. The aircraft I fly is a CH-47 Chinook helicopter, which is designed for cargo and troop transport. It has a cargo capacity of 10 tons, 33 soldiers, or some combination of soldiers and cargo, and is the primary workhorse of the U.S. Army because of its cargo capacity and ability to maneuver in desert environments and mountainous terrain.

Our unit was activated on December 23, 2002, and we reported on December 24. After extensive packing, waiting, and saying goodbye to our families, we left for the Middle East on March 7, 2003. Following an extended trip, we flew our aircraft into northern Iraq in mid April, where we were based until the first week of June. The photograph is

one of the aircraft I flew near our northern Iraq location. The background shows foothills that run northwest to southeast that define the beginning of one of the largest oil rich valleys in the world. On the other side (from the photographer's position) is the beginning of the mountains that divide Iraq, Turkey, and Iran. Some peaks climb to 12,000 feet and are only 60 miles from where we camped. The valley floor reminds me of California's Central Valley' - hot, somewhat flat, and filled with oil fields and wheat.



Sometimes it seemed as if we were flying near Stockton, Modesto, or in the Sierra foothills.

On June 8—we moved to an airfield a few miles north of Baghdad in the Sunni Triangle. We operated out of this base until leaving the country in early October. This area of Iraq is mostly desert that reaches summer temperatures of 130 degrees. Areas to the west are truly desert environments, and green vegetation is only found near the Tigris and Euphrates rivers or where there's constant irrigation.

The questions I am most often asked since returning to the U.S. are what are the people of Iraq like and did they welcome you. The population of Iraq is very diverse. In the north the Kurds were incredibly pleased to see us. As we moved south there were mixed reactions from the

population, however, the most people were genuinely pleased and thankful we had come. There is still a segment of the population that does not want to give up control and is not pleased with our presence. While they represent a minority, it is a group that had absolute power.

It is very good to be home with my family and to return to work at SRJC. Everyone I have spoken to has been incredibly supportive. I have received wonderful e-mail from many at the JC who I haven't met, but who knew I was away.

Safety Tip - Keeping Food Safe to Eat

When food is improperly prepared, cooked or stored, bacteria can multiply and cause illness. To avoid food poisoning over the holidays, follow several simple steps:

Preparing

- Wash your hands thoroughly in warm, soapy water before and after handling food (especially meat, eggs or seafood), after using the bathroom, changing a diaper or handling a pet.
- Keep raw meat, eggs and seafood away from ready-to-eat foods.
- Thaw or marinate meat in the refrigerator, not on the countertop.
- If you defrost meat in the microwave, cook it immediately afterward.

Cooking

- Cook red meat to 160 F and poultry pieces to 170 F (whole birds to 180 F). Cook fish until it flakes easily, and eggs until the yolks aren't runny.
- When serving cooked food, never use plates or utensils that came in contact with raw meat, raw eggs or raw seafood.

Storing

- Keep your refrigerator at or below 40 F and your freezer at or below 0 F.
- Enclose meat packages in plastic bags to keep their juices from contaminating other foods.
- Refrigerate or freeze leftovers in small, shallow containers within two hours of serving.

For additional information, access SRJC's Environmental Health and Safety Website at www.santarosa.edu/ehs or call 527-4803.

Hours Donations Requested

Two SRJC staff members are in need of sick leave donations. Robert Schmidt, a classified employee who works in our Bookstore, has a disabling illness and will be out until some time after the first of the year. The other staff person, a faculty member, has requested to remain anonymous. Please contact either Danielle Donica ext. 4785 or Susan Muskar ext. 1624 for donation forms.



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