

# Basque celebration plus Mexican culture adds up to Pyrenees Fiesta & fundraiser for good cause

By Lisa Wuertz

MÁS staff

If a combination of French bread, cheese and wine of the Basque country mixed with tequila, dancing and music of Mexican culture sounds like a party, then you'll want to be on the guest list for the 2006 Pyrenees Fiesta.

The event will be 6 p.m. to 1 a.m., Oct. 21. Tickets are \$30 per person and are available at the Kern County Basque Club.

Guests will be able to experience the best of both cultures through their culinary flairs and rich tradition all under one roof.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Mendiburu Magic Foundation.

"The president, Brian, is Basque and his wife, Valerie is Hispanic, so they decided to combine the two traditions of the Mendiburu and the Lopez families," said Chrissy Pate also with the foundation.

The Mendiburu Magic Foundation helps families dealing with terminal illnesses such as cancer through financial and emotional support.

It was founded in memory of Nancy Ann Mendiburu, who at the age of 54, lost her six-year battle with ovarian cancer.

"The loss of my mom has caused the most severe pain that I have ever felt per-



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE KERN COUNTY BASQUE CLUB  
**Dantzari Gazteak, the Kern County Basque Club Dance Group, will be performing traditional Basque Dances at the Pyrenees Fiesta Oct. 21.**

sonally. Her passing has inspired this family to persevere and help others in her name," said Brian Mendiburu, president of the Mendiburu foundation.

Keeping the legacy of Nancy Mendibu-

ru alive is what the foundation is all about.

"Her endless compassion and empathy for other people always amazed me. I can only aspire to be half the person my mom is," Brian Mendiburu said.

## Pyrenees Fiesta

- 6 p.m. to 1 a.m.
- Oct. 21
- Contact: Brian Mendiburu at 319-3081 or Adoree Roberson, via e-mail: adoree@robersonhomes.com to purchase advance tickets for \$30.

The foundation has established monetary assistance funds at area hospitals and provides families assistance in creating "Everlasting Memories" for children facing terminal illnesses.

"I can either cry each passing day or use my energy to fight this disease and help people in her community," Mendiburu said.

Mendiburu and other family members have active roles in the daily operations of the foundation.

An awards ceremony will also take place that night. The foundation will recognize community members in the areas of youth development, social work, public education and health services.

After the awards ceremony and dinner, there will be dancing and a raffle.

Thee Majestics will be playing at the event, along with a DJ from S&S Mobile sound.