

# Southwest Voice

## Pyrenees Fiesta promises to be night of fun and charity

By Chrissy Pate  
Community Contributor

Imagining a night full of wine, salsa, music, laughter and good friends?

Then dream no further.

You can dance, eat and drink the night away at Mendiburu Magic Foundation's Pyrenees Fiesta at the Kern County Basque Club on Saturday, Oct. 21.

Pyrenees Fiesta is the combination of both Mexican and Basque cultures under one roof. Experience the best of both cultures through their culinary flares and rich traditions.

All proceeds from the event will benefit Mendiburu Magic Foundation (MMF).

MMF was founded in loving memory of Nancy Ann Mendiburu. The organization has a simple purpose and steadfast goal: We will help children and families affected by any catastrophic or life-threatening illness and directly contribute to worthy community need, with an emphasis on positive youth development and ongoing medical research for cancer.

MMF will strive to accomplish these worthy tasks while appreciating the purpose of human life as being to serve and show compassion and the will to help others.

During times of catastrophic or life-threatening illness for children ages birth to 17, MMF provides those families assistance in creating everlasting memories and improving quality of life.

As most of you know, the beautiful Pyrenees Mountain range in Europe separates both France and Spain (Basque Country), and the word 'fiesta' means 'party' in Spanish!

Our founders and hosts, Brian and Valerie Mendiburu, have invited friends and family to celebrate the foundation while advocating and investing in critical and essential community projects.

During the program, the foundation will recognize and pay tribute to outstanding community members in youth development, social work, public education and health services.

This kind of event has never been put on before in Bakersfield, and is going to be a top-notch party to see and be seen.

You will enjoy Basque wine, French bread and cheese like in the ole' Basque country, mixed with tequila, dancing and Mariachi. You'll want to be on the guest list for sure!

Contact Brian Mendiburu at 319-3081 or Adoree Roberson via e-mail at: [adoree@roberstonhomes.com](mailto:adoree@roberstonhomes.com) to purchase advance tickets for \$30.

## Weight Re-Gain After Weight Loss Surgery — or maybe not enough weight loss?

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# Best of the Best

## Southwest Voice salutes its top 2006 high school grads

By Lauren Ward  
Southwest Voice Editor

*"Whatever women do, they must do it twice as well as men to be thought half as good. Luckily, this is not difficult."*

That's what former Ottawa mayor Charlotte Whitton was quoted as saying in *Canada Month* in 1963.

She would certainly be happy to know that our 2006 outstanding Southwest high school graduates — selected by their counselors for their all-around excellence — just happen to be three young women.

One — Cori Tucker — seems destined for the Oval Office. Another, Kacie Flynn, plans to make a mark with her art, both on can-

vas and in the classroom. The third, Shelley Patel, plans to work to protect the environment in honor of another woman — her mother, Aban.

The Southwest Voice congratulates them on their achievements and shares their stories below:

### Cori Tucker, 18, Ridgeview High School

When Ridgeview High School counselor Kathy Neufeld was asked to name an outstanding student to profile in this edition, she didn't hesitate with her nomination: Cori Tucker.

"What I admire about Cori is her fearlessness," said Neufeld. "She is willing to take risks and stretch beyond her limits to ever higher levels. She brings an amazing amount of energy and enthusiasm to every endeavor."

The 17-year-old, whose activities include Mock Trial, Forensics, Ford Dimensions, the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council and Girls State, already has her classmates' vote

## China Chronicles Part 2



Shopping at a Chinese market is a true culinary adventure, filled with unusual sights, sounds and smells.

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## Let's celebrate

Engagements, weddings, birthdays — all reasons to check out our Celebrations page. Share these happy memories with your Southwest neighbors.

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