

Section

B

Monday
August 15, 2005

LOCAL

Coming
Tuesday

Results from the California Standards Test and California High School Exit Exam are being released. How did your schools perform?

The Bakersfield Californian • News Editor: Christine Peterson • 395-7418 • fax: 395-7519 • e-mail: local@bakersfield.com

Ask

THE CALIFORNIAN

Q: What happens to the material collected from the green recycling cans? Are there significant benefits for the city?

— Fred Chynoweth

TBC: In metropolitan Bakersfield, your plant-based discards are picked up weekly and taken to the city's green waste recycling facility off Mount Vernon Avenue and Highway 58.

There, your former flowers, weeds, grass and small tree trimmings are composted in two ways, according to county waste managers.

Wood waste is turned to mulch and used for landscaping.

Green waste is composted in rows, where it decomposes into organic material. Then it goes back home to grow more plants.

Most of it is picked up by folks in their own pickup trucks, waste officials say. There's a small fee for the organic material, but it's cheaper than what you'd buy at a retail outlet, officials say.

Outlying county areas have similar processes, though specifics might differ.

In terms of overall benefits, recycled green waste makes up a huge portion of the city's requirement to recycle at least half its waste, officials say.

WEBLOG

To weigh in on these issues in an interactive forum, check out the Ask TBC blog at www.bakersfield.com/blogs.

Q: I recently read of the road improvements planned for the near future. It mentioned 178 and Morning Drive. However, I didn't see anything saying that Morning Drive would be cut through from 178 to Kern Canyon Road, making it accessible to Highway 58. It seems to me this would be a logical solution to cutting down the traffic through downtown. Is there any hope of this happening?

— Pat Bruni

TBC: The city of Bakersfield is way ahead of you, although they won't actually be doing that work themselves. According to Jacques LaRochelle, the city's assistant public works director, developers getting ready to build in that area will extend Morning Drive north from College Avenue to the planned new interchange at Highway 178. The interchange will likely be done in about four years, but the roadway extension should be open well before that.

"It's planned to go through, it's a good idea to go through, and it will go through," LaRochelle said.

Ask The Californian is published in this spot on Mondays. Submit questions to asktbc@bakersfield.com or to Ask TBC, c/o The Bakersfield Californian, P.O. Box 440, Bakersfield, CA 93302.

Get involved

Today

Tehachapi City Council, meeting, 6 p.m., Kern County Veterans Hall, 125 E. F St., Tehachapi.

Upcoming

Bakersfield City Council, regular meeting begins at 5:15 p.m.; continued at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, council chambers, 1501 Truxtun Ave.



SARA GETTYS / THE CALIFORNIAN

Members of the Bakersfield Municipal Band listen as Brenda Baldwin sings "For Good" during the memorial service at First United Methodist Church for John Briscoe, longtime music teacher at Bakersfield High School and member of the Bakersfield Municipal Band.

Mr. Briscoe's opus

Community gathers to celebrate music teacher's inspirational life



During the memorial service for her husband, Betty Briscoe laughs at a story about some of her husband's antics during the numerous theater productions in which he was involved. The service included singing and instrumental performances, and Mrs. Briscoe said she tried to keep it upbeat in the hopes that it could be an occasion for people to celebrate her husband's life.

By NADA BEHZIZ

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

John Briscoe wrote a symphony few conductors have matched.

It took a lifetime to complete.

He wrote it every day, through his students.

The notes he wrote were the knowledge and inspiration he gave to his students.

The kids were his opus, just like in Briscoe's favorite film, "Mr. Holland's Opus" — which his wife, Betty Briscoe, says capsules his life.

Briscoe, who died July 19, was Bakersfield's own Mr. Holland.

"Mr. Holland's Opus" epitomizes who John was," Mrs. Briscoe said. "Every one of us were the notes and the symphony of his life."

Briscoe is best known as the orchestra conductor of the Summer Music in the Park performances and as conductor for the Bakersfield Music Theater, which he helped establish in the late 1960s.

More than 200 people packed the First United Methodist Church on Stockdale Highway Sunday to say goodbye to Briscoe, who died after a battle with heart disease.

Just one year ago, the crowd cheered Briscoe as he conducted countless professional and high school orchestras in Bakersfield and around the country.

On Sunday, the crowd saluted and cried for a man whose work clearly resonated in Bakersfield's music scene.

"Every one of us can thank God that John touched our lives," said friend Dan Schaffer.

The church pews were full at 2 p.m. for a memorial service orchestrated like one of Briscoe's well-crafted musicals.

Schaffer led the audience through an hour of celebrations, as snippets of Briscoe's life were told by longtime friends in scenes dispersed by musical acts from Symphony Strings, the Southside Chicago Seven and Clarinet Choir.

But it was the "Auld Lang Syne" performed by Briscoe's own Bakersfield Municipal Band that brought tears to the audience's eyes.

Before that, the room was filled with laughter as longtime friends Jim Fillbrandt and Ron Steinman recounted years of musical triumphs and mishaps.

Fillbrandt addressed John personally

Please turn to BRISCOE / B2

“Every one of us were the notes and the symphony of his life.”

— Betty Briscoe, speaking of her husband, John Briscoe, at his memorial service

Coach's days full of just about everything but sleep

By CHRISTINA VANCE

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

Brian Mendiburu, like the rubber band around his wrist, can stretch far without breaking.

The 28-year-old Bakersfield man teaches high school, coaches, spends time with his wife, works part time for the Boys & Girls Clubs and runs a nonprofit foundation to benefit families hurt by illness.

Sleeping in — that's something he doesn't do so much.

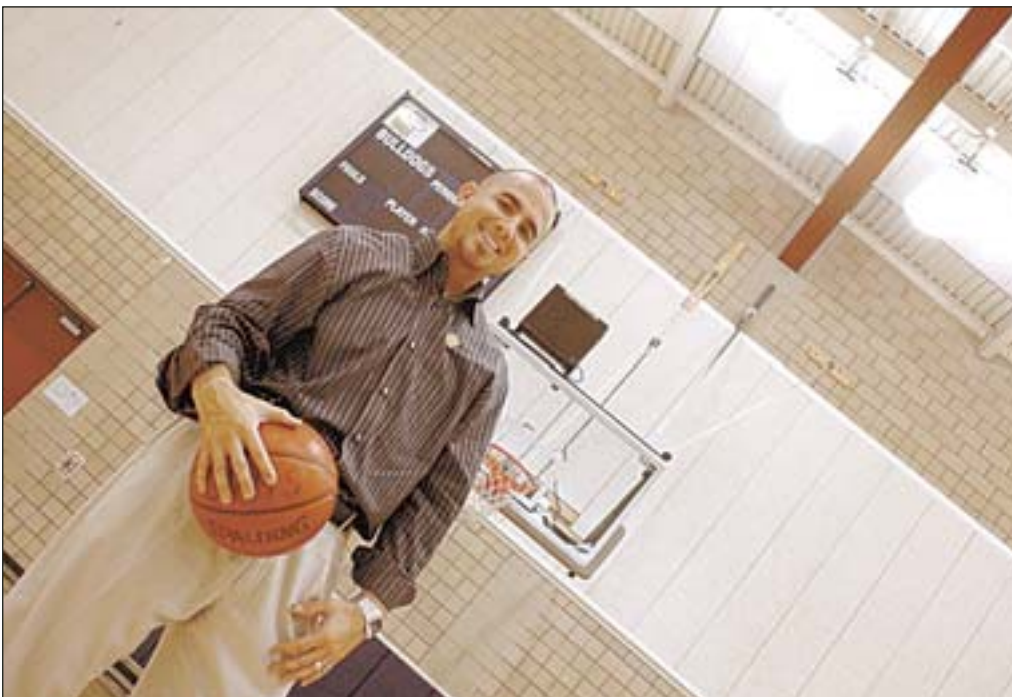
Mendiburu snoozes about four or five hours each night, but he said long work weeks aren't so bad if they shame someone else into giving back to their community.

"I hope that it will kind of kick some other people in the tail," he said.

Mendiburu is passionate about a lot of things, but his interests intersect in one place.

"Kids are where it's at for me," he said.

Mendiburu said it may sound corny,



Brian Mendiburu is the basketball coach and a government teacher at Golden Valley High School. He says he wants to change Bakersfield for the better through his work with kids.

JOHN HARTE / THE CALIFORNIAN

but he wants to change Bakersfield for the better, and working with youngsters seems to be one of the best methods.

His other two passions meet there as well.

"My wife will be the first to tell you, if it's not ESPN, it's CNN," he said.

Mendiburu loves basketball and politics, so it's only natural he teaches both.

He's a social science teacher at

Golden Valley High School and coaches the varsity boys basketball team.

"We joke that he's kind of that A-type personality," Golden Valley High Assistant Principal Otis Jennings said. "He's

Please turn to TEACHER / B2

County waits for word on flu shots

Access to vaccine will depend on whether company can deliver

By NADA BEHZIZ

Californian staff writer
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Will flu shot season be a repeat of last year, when a national vaccine shortage led to rationing?

Kern County health officials say they've been promised 13,450 doses from the state and are crossing their fingers. Flu shot season begins in October, for those most at risk.

Half of Kern County's expected doses are scheduled to come from California-based Chiron Corporation. Last year the vaccine company lost its license and could not deliver 48 million doses — half the anticipated supply — triggering a flu shot shortage.

Supplies didn't meet demand until January.

How easily patients will be able to get a flu shot from the county this year depends on whether Chiron receives federal approval to ship vaccine.

If any other problems crop up with Chiron, it might mean another year of rationing.

"The state is expecting to receive the vaccine but it is obviously dependent upon getting the shipment from Chiron," said county epidemiologist

Please turn to FLU / B2

Sometimes, air spared for other counties

By VANESSA GREGORY

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

Spare the air, for Tulare County's sake.

On five days in July, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District asked Kern County residents to cut back on polluting activities in the hopes of lowering ozone levels in neighboring counties.

The air district declares Spare the Air days for a county whenever ozone levels are expected to rise above 150, the point at which air is considered unhealthy for anyone to breathe.

But lower levels can also result in a Spare the Air declaration if adjoining regions have high ozone levels.

"If another county is in the unhealthy range — 150 or higher — and the county you're in is 101 or higher, that's how it rolls," said Brenda Turner, spokeswoman for the air district.

Most of the time, Kern causes Spare the Air days for other counties.

"Kern County usually sees the highest (ozone) readings," Turner said. "The Arvin area tends to have the highest."

The concept makes sense, based on the air patterns and shape of the San Joaquin Valley, said National Weather Service meteorologist Mark Burger.

"The normal pattern, particularly in the warmer months of the year, is that winds go from the Sacramento Delta all the way down to Bakersfield," Burger said. "Winds blow out of the northwest, especially during afternoons and evenings."

"That pollution will all drift down southward," he said.

A regional approach to fighting pollution might help a county like Kern, which gets the worst of the drift, he said.

"Unfortunately, with the shape of the valley being almost like a bathtub, pollution tends to collect down there in the south of the valley," Burger said.

Museum to become kids' watery playground

The Bakersfield Californian

Slide through water, make some bubbles, paint with water colors and throw some water balloons.

GO&DO

It's time to get soaked and get a cool education for kids at Water Fun Day at the Kern

County Museum.

After playing, go say "hi" to the firefighters and listen to what the Red Cross has to say about water safety.

Then top it off with a hot dog, some chips and a drink.

Where: Kern County Museum, 3801 Chester Ave.

When: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday. Reserva-

tions requested, especially for large groups.

What's it cost: \$3, includes a hot dog lunch.

What to know: Wear something that you won't mind getting wet and/or dirty. Activities are perfect for toddlers to 8- to 10-year-olds. Kids need an adult with them.

For more information: Go to www.kcmuseum.org or call 852-5050.



SARA GETTYS / THE CALIFORNIAN

Members of the Clarinet Choir watch a slide show of John Briscoe, longtime Bakersfield High School music teacher and member of the Bakersfield Municipal Band. Briscoe's love of woodwinds was just one element of his life represented in the memorial service, which included performances of pieces of music he enjoyed, a slide show of photos and memories shared by friends.

BRISCOE: Longtime teacher's sons followed his footsteps into music

Continued from B1

through his entire speech.

"You spend a lifetime with somebody and you don't realize the impact they will have," Fillbrandt said. "The hundreds of relationships you had with musicians is because at heart you were one, John."

The auditorium was bright, festooned with yellows, oranges and reds — not the usual black garb of a funeral.

John Briscoe did not want a funeral.

"This was a celebration, not a mourning," said Mrs. Briscoe, who had asked the attendees not to wear black.

Briscoe's love of antique cars led him to the love of his life, Mrs. Briscoe, 11 years ago. The two met through a Thunderbird enthusiast club.

Briscoe's two sons were a major theme of the celebration. Photographs of the trio's last fishing trip showed the close bond they had.

Both Brad and David Briscoe followed in their father's footsteps, Brad as a professional drummer living in New York and David, a guitarist and professional artist.

"He started me," said Brad Briscoe, whose first professional gig was with his father. Now Brad plays in orchestras across the world. "My dad gave me a head start. There was always music in the house."

Born on Halloween in 1934 in Montana, John Briscoe later moved to Chicago, where he earned his bachelor's degree and post-graduate degrees in music education and engineering from Northwestern University.

In his earlier years, Briscoe kept active by spreading his method of composing, arranging and orchestration, which he began teaching decades ago.

His first teaching job was at South High School in 1962.

The effect he had on his many students can be seen in the community today: Many of Bakersfield's current band directors found their passion through Briscoe.

Centennial High director of bands Doug Kelley knew he wanted to become a band director at age 15.

Briscoe gave him the opportunity to cultivate his passion as drum major at Bakers-

field High School.

"I didn't know how to achieve my goal, he gave me direction," Kelley said. "I'm grateful he gave me the opportunity."

Kelley has been band director at Centennial for 13 years.

"As far as musical icons in Kern County, he's up there," Kelley said. "John Briscoe was an incredible musician."

Just like Mr. Holland, Briscoe was working on a symphony of his own. One that he hoped was going to make him rich and famous.

"But Mr. Holland isn't rich and he isn't famous, at least not outside of our little town," Holland's former student Gertrude Lang said in the movie.

Similarly, the town of Bakersfield and the hundreds of people who loved and admired him are what made John Briscoe's life a success.

"People will remember the gift of music he gave the community," Mrs. Briscoe said. "That's the biggest legacy he left, was the music that he loved to play and to teach."

TEACHER: Man doesn't want to be regarded as 'some dumb jock guy'

Continued from B1

into everything."

Jennings said Mendiburu came to Golden Valley when the school opened, beginning as a special education resource teacher.

This year, Mendiburu will be teaching government and history, and he's already deep into planning his government classes, sporting a guest list that includes state and local politicians.

Mendiburu said he didn't just want to be known as a coach.

"I don't want any of my co-workers to think I'm some dumb jock guy," he said.

Mendiburu relates to both players and students well because he's "still a kid at heart," Jennings said.

"He can be tough on them, but he gives second chances, third chances," he said.

Mendiburu works with children outside

the schools as one of the directors for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Kern County, putting in about 20 hours per week there.

Besides that, he created a nonprofit foundation after his mother, Nancy Mendiburu, died of cancer at age 53.

The Mendiburu Magic Foundation these days tries to help families and children struck by sudden illness with things such as gas money and power bills.

"The foundation tries to step up and see if we can't plug some of those holes," Mendibu-

ru said.

The rubber band Mendiburu wears was actually inspired by his mother.

They both put one on when she was in the hospital to symbolize endurance — that human beings can take a lot.

Mendiburu said he hasn't let go of that idea, and that's one reason he works 80 hours per week.

"I guess my goal is to retire at 45 (hours)," he said. "Life is serious."

There are lots of regular "Joes" and "Janes" out there doing perfectly extraordinary things with their lives but never make the headlines. Know of anyone like that? Think they'd make a great story? Call us at 395-7384 or e-mail us at local@bakersfield.com and say you have a submission for a Real People story.

HOW TO HELP

For more information on the Mendiburu Magic Foundation, visit www.mendiburumagic.org.

FLU: Vaccines recommended for older people, those in poor health

Continued from B1

Kurt Emery. "More to come on the Chiron side."

U.S. health officials have said Chiron is making progress in fixing its problems, but it is not clear if the firm will be able to rejoin vaccine company sanofi pasteur on the U.S. market.

The second half of Kern County's influenza vaccine supply will come from sanofi pasteur, which said it will produce 50 million to 60 million for the United States.

The state expects to get its share of influenza vaccine in September and begin allocating it to county health departments soon after.

Kern County does not know when it will receive this season's doses, Emery said.

Immunization clinics will be set up once the county gets word from the state that the flu vaccine has arrived.

Flu shots at the clinics will cost \$2.

Local hospitals are beginning to prepare for this fall's flu season.

Kaiser Permanente officials said they haven't ordered any doses yet but most likely will make a purchase through GlaxoSmithK-

lein Vaccines in Britain.

The vaccine company is pending federal approval and could provide another 15 million doses to the United States.

"So far we're not concerned," said Kaiser's immunization coordinator Renee Herman-Hooper. "We are being told that they are not anticipating any shortage."

Still, Kaiser will most likely sign on with two vaccine manufacturers in case one drops out or doesn't have sufficient supplies, Herman-Hooper said.

Kaiser expects to finalize its immunization clinic schedule for patients in September. The clinic will most likely start up in October at the hospital's Stockdale Highway facility.

Flu shots at the clinic are free of charge for members.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has also approved MedImmune and about 3 million doses of its nasal-spray flu vaccine will be available. The nasal spray can only be used by healthy, nonpregnant individuals ages 5 to 49.

If both vaccine companies pending federal approval get the OK, there will be about 80 million doses nationally — as many as in past

seasons, said U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention spokesman Von Roebuck.

Despite immunization efforts, influenza and its complications kill about 36,000 people a year in the United States.

Each year, about 10 percent to 20 percent of the nation's population comes down with flu's sudden headaches, dry cough, chills, fever and malaise.

Since it takes about two weeks after vaccination to develop antibodies to provide protection against influenza, health officials say that individuals 65 or older, nursing home residents, those suffering from chronic ailments and people whose immune systems are suppressed should get vaccinated in October.

Also recommended for early vaccination are health care workers and pregnant women who will be in their second and third trimester during the flu season.

"The last thing you want (at-risk groups) to do is to contract the flu and get even more ill," Herman-Hooper said. "If they already have something going on and then combine the flu to it, it could be fatal."

FUNERALS

Call Classified Advertising for rates or information 395-7302

To our readers

The Californian provides a free death listing (no services, services pending or services scheduled) using information supplied by mortuaries. The in-depth notices that follow are paid obituaries and remembrances, available to families and the public; these listings must be purchased by 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, and faxed to 395-7540 by 11 a.m. Saturday to be published in the next day's paper. Contact the Classified Advertising department at 395-7302. Full obituaries with photos are available on the Internet at bakersfield.com at 9 p.m. on the day before publication.

No services

Henry New, 83, Bakersfield, Aug. 11. Centurian Memorial Society.

Robert A. Soden, 86, Bakersfield, Aug. 14. Greenlawn Southwest Mortuary.

Services pending

Stephen Roger Barrett, 47, Bakersfield, Aug. 13. A Davis Rose Funeral Home & Crematorium.

Frank David Blessing, 53, Bakersfield, Aug. 12 in Tulare. A Davis Rose Funeral Home & Crematorium.

Julius Cameron Lowe, 77, Bakersfield, Aug. 12. A Davis Rose Funeral Home & Crematorium.

Joan Marie MacDonald, 75, Bakersfield, Aug. 12. A Davis Rose Funeral Home & Crematorium.

Mary Fay McMillan, 88, Bakersfield, Aug. 13. Hillcrest Memorial Park & Mortuary.

Georgia M. Riggi, 81, Sylmar, Aug. 14 in Panorama City. Basham Funeral Care.

Bernice Christina Rodriguez, infant, Delano, Aug. 11 in Los Angeles. Lane Family Funeral Home, Delano.

Services scheduled

Billy Joe Jones, 64, Bakersfield, Aug. 11. Visitation 4 to 8 p.m. Aug. 16 at Mish Funeral Home, Oildale. Funeral service 10 a.m. Aug. 17 at Mish Funeral Home, Oildale. Mish Funeral Home, Oildale.

Hown Sun Lay, 51, McFarland. Aug. 5 in Bakersfield. Visitation 6 to 8 p.m. Monday at Davis Funeral Home Chapel, Bakersfield. Burial 11 a.m. Aug. 16 at Visalia Cemetery. A Davis Rose Funeral Home & Crematorium.

Helen Lemucchi Mee, 85, Bakersfield, Aug. 10. Memorial service 7 p.m. Aug. 16 at Luigi's Restaurant in Bakersfield, 725 E. 19th St. A Davis Rose Funeral Home & Crematorium.

Otilia Mendoza, 95, Bakersfield, Aug. 13. Visitation 3 to 9 p.m. today at Greenlawn Southwest Mortuary. Rosary 6 p.m. today at Greenlawn Southwest chapel. Funeral service 1:30 p.m. Aug. 16 at Greenlawn Southwest chapel. Greenlawn Southwest Mortuary.

Kenneth Alonzo Jones

Services: Tues., Aug. 16, 10:00 a.m.

Visitation for Kenneth Alonzo Jones will be held at Greenlawn Southwest Memorial Chapel, 2739 Panama Ln., Monday, August 15, 2005 from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Funeral Services will be held at 10:00 a.m. August 16, 2005 at Greenlawn Southwest Memorial Chapel.

Kenneth was born in Knoxville, Arkansas on May 21, 1919. On August 12, 2005 surrounded by his loving family, he lost his three year battle with cancer. In the late 40's Kenneth and his wife Carrie "Mae" moved to California and settled in the Arvin area. Kenneth worked in farming until his retirement in 1984. After retiring Kenneth spent afternoons at the Senior Center where he enjoyed his friends, music and dancing.

Preceded in death by his wife of 56 years Carrie "Mae", parents Argus and Lula Jones and brother, Homer Jones. He is survived by his daughter, Kathy Barraza and her husband, Jim; his son, Rick and wife, Debbie; grandchildren, Tammy, Michelle, Carrie, Brandon, Tracy, Lynsey, Sarah, and Amanda; nine great-grandchildren and numerous family members and friends.

Honorary Pallbearers will be Bill Peebles and Jess Peebles. Pallbearers will be Jack Peebles, John Peebles, Jim Barraza, Destin Cunningham, Darren Gutierrez and Brandon Barraza.

Dad was a wonderful, strong, gentle and loving man. His honesty, wisdom and wit will be greatly missed. He always said, "A man is only as good as his word," and always lived by that.

Dad you are truly our hero. We love you and you will remain in our hearts forever.

Our family wishes to extend our thanks to Hoffman Hospice, with a special thank you to Sheila, Janie, Jim and Liz. We would also like to thank Dr. Ahmed, Dr. Byfield and their staffs. Donations can be made in Kenneth's name to Hoffman Hospice.

Greenlawn Southwest Mortuary
Funeral Directors

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Camilia C. Feghali

June 22, 1921 - August 5, 2005

Recitation of the Rosary will be held at Greenlawn Southwest Memorial Chapel, 2739 Panama Ln., at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 17th. Funeral Services will be at St. Philip the Apostle Church, 7100 Stockdale Hwy. at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, August 18th with graveside service to follow at Greenlawn Southwest Memorial Park.

Camilia C. Feghali was born on June 22, 1921 in Beirut, Lebanon to Chalhouh and Marie Feghali and went to be with our Lord on August 5, 2005 in Bakersfield, CA.

Camilia was a wonderful and loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She dedicated her life to her family and to the Church. Camilia and her late husband, Nayef, came to the United States in 1973 in order to provide a better life for their family. When she came to this country she did not know any English. Her first words were the "Our Father". She learned the mass in English before she could speak the language. She loved going to mass daily. She enjoyed praying the Rosary and loved taking care of her family.

Camilia is preceded in death by her husband, Nayef; her son, Maksoud; and her son-in-law, Bechara Feghali. She is survived by her sons and their wives, Mahboub and Betty of Switzerland, Joseph and Krystyna, Maroun and Cynthia, and Elie and Lori of Bakersfield; her daughters and their husbands, Mona and Sleiman Khalil of Del Mar, California, Samia Feghali of Columbia, South Carolina, and Marie and Jean Shedi of Lebanon; her daughter-in-law Maguy Feghali of Bakersfield; 24 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews that she loved like her own.

"Love one another as I loved you"
Camilia's favorite saying to her family

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If you have questions about placing a Funeral Notice, please call Terri at 395-7302. Notices must be placed by 4 p.m. to be published on the following day.