

Founded in 1955

The Riverside County Record

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Letters to The Editor

Don't Change the Way We Vote, Remove Officials

Editor, The Record:

Sir - Cook Barela is trying again to change the voting system in Jurupa Unified School District.

He says he wants to get better trustees on the school board. His target is desirable. His method is flawed.

The community just approved Measure W to apply community-wide voting to area representatives on the Jurupa Community Services District, which Mr. Barela opposed.

Less than two years ago the voters retained this same representative system for Jurupa School trustees by a large margin, nullifying Barela's attempt to force a change then.

Instead of wasting another \$42,000 in tax funds to try to resuscitate this dead horse, we need an election to replace Mike Rodriguez and John Chavez with a couple of citizens who can control their nastiness, work with others, and redirect the school board to focus back to making our schools better.

Kellee Smith, Jurupa

Put Money in Schools, Not in The Ballot Box...

Editor, The Record:

Sir-I hear there is another move to reorganize how we select our school board. We just voted down this same proposal.

First the school board assaults school employees, they waste their time in petty wrangling and insulting each other.

They don't need to change the election system, they need to change their behavior.

Get back to the job of improving schools or quit and let someone with character take the job.

Put the money in schools, not the ballot box.

Patricia Oliver, Jurupa

Should Attend Patriot High: Transfer Denied...

Editor, The Record:

Sir - My son is a freshman at Rubidoux High School. He was denied a transfer request to Patriot High School for the fall.

I am a special education teacher at Jurupa Middle School and have taught in the school district since 1983. My students live in Jurupa Unified School District, but I am employed by the Riverside County Office of Education. This technicality has caused my 14 year old son to suffer. I would like the same consideration as other teachers of JUSD students. (JUSD teachers may enroll their children at the school of their choice. -- Editor).

My husband and I are proud our son made the varsity soccer team at Rubidoux. Only three freshmen made the team, one lives within the boundaries and the other has an older sibling requesting a transfer.

This leaves only my son to attend a "new" high school where there will not be a varsity team for at least his sophomore year. My son is a dedicated student with good grades and a is a very talented soccer player who hopes to get a scholarship to play soccer in college.

We are concerned he is being put down to a junior varsity team which will hurt his chances, especially since the "new" school will have the same name as the school where he is currently playing varsity. The school board needs to reconsider the transfer requests.

Patty Trueba, Jurupa

What a Surprise, They Want to Raise Rates...

Editor, The Record:

Sir - My, my what a surprise...I read in the local newspaper, June 7, the JCSD is going to raise the water rates.

Imagine that?

It does make sense, when you hire people in at \$150,000 to \$200,000 per year plus expenses, something must give, "our wallets!"

The article says it's for buying water, but then it says they are building a new park for Eastvale.

How many parks do they need over there? Why don't they build some new parks in the old district?

Oh, that's right, more people over there means more votes for elected officials, from the County Supervisors on down.

Why don't these people get jobs in the real world? See what it's like to run a business on a budget, and not tax the heck out of the citizens.

But if you have a cash cow, ride it till something happens.

Byron Brown, Jurupa

A Few Thoughts on the School District...

Editor, The Record:

Sir - Typically, it's easy to write a letter regarding this week's latest fiasco regarding our school district. This time however, I'd like to start by pointing out something positive.

Last week my daughter came home and said Rubidoux's Baccalaureate was being canceled due to lack of speakers. Now, while this right of passage ceremony is never the most eagerly anticipated by graduates, it still is a good tradition in which many positive messages are given. Laura Roughton, another concerned parent called and asked how we could save this tradition.

To make a long story short, one single phone call to Trustee Mike Rodriguez, Principal Jay Trujillo, community member Joan Roberts and Harvest Church rep. Daniel Hooper and we were back in business.

Now don't for a minute think this was a no-brainer for each of them. We were asking them to participate in a lightly attended event held at dinner time on Father's Day and while the US Open golf was finishing.

They all gave great speeches but the best message they gave was in just showing up. You see, during grad season I heard a million times about going out and changing the world and doing this and that for your community.

Well these people, stepped up to the plate and delivered for their students/community when no one else would. As the saying goes, "your either part of the solution, or your part of the problem."

Baccalaureate has been beaten down by the politically correct crowd for years now. With the help of these four people, Senior Advisor Mr. Chard and some of his great senior kids, let's hope that we can restart this right of passage.

On another matter, Trustee Brewer was quoted in the paper as proposing single gender classes for the middle schools in the district.

She continues to show her supporters why we put her in office -- to bring fresh new insight and ideas to a board long since out of them. If we could get Mr. Harris and Mr. Rodriguez, our other two forward thinkers on the board, to just get along, we might get some things done here.

Ms. Brewer's reasoning for her idea is very solid. The only concern is that liberal movements in this country have done significant damage to how we educate our boys today.

We're taught boys are mean, aggressive, suppressive of girls etc. Title IX eliminated many sports programs for boys simply to benefit girls. Heck they don't play dodge ball at school because boys will hurt girls. Boys are encouraged to find their "feminine side" and girls vice versa.

In the meantime, girls now out-number boys in college enrollment. My only point here is that we need to make sure that we are not going to short change our young men in their education so that girls feel more comfortable. In the article last week a UCR professor talked about how girls are intimidated by boys in the classroom and thus will learn better on their own.

That leads me to question the intent. However, I'll give Ms. Brewer the benefit of doubt and we'll watch how this idea pans out.

Frank Morales, Indian Hills

Calvert Supports Veterans Appropriations

WASHINGTON, DC. -- Rep. Ken Calvert announced support for the 2008 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill, H.R. 2642, which passed the House today.

"One of the most important duties of Congress is to provide for the men and women who have fought for our country," said Calvert. "Our military men and women are doing an excellent job in Iraq and Afghanistan and more lives are being saved in the field than in previous conflicts. However, more service members come home with extreme

bodily injury as well as psychological conditions then from previous conflicts. This bill provides the funding to help our wounded and ensure they receive the best care possible."

The bill provides more than \$37 billion for veterans programs, a \$4.4 billion increase over last year.

- \$600 million for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) care, traumatic brain injury research and care;
- \$4.1 billion to improve VA facilities, hospitals and clinics;
- \$2.9 billion for mental health care and

substance abuse treatment for veterans; and

- \$480 million for prosthetic research to help wounded veterans retain a positive quality of life.
- Strongly supports active-duty members: The bill provides \$21.4 billion for facilities needed to house and train military personnel abroad and at home.

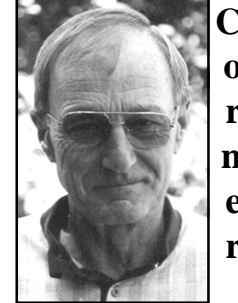
After holding up floor action on appropriations bills, Republicans were able to force Democrats to disclose earmarks in appropriation bills prior to a House vote on the bill.

"After hearing non-stop criticism about earmark transparency, the Democrats went back on their promise to the American people and actually created a process that prevented any discourse on taxpayer funded earmarks which had been previously allowed under Republican rules," said Calvert. "Fortunately Republicans were able to secure a commitment from the Majority Party that all earmarks will be included in future appropriation bills."

Bob Steinbrinck

Too Many Bells Are Ringing

Steinbrinck's



She Who Must Be Obeyed has a cellular telephone. That is a good thing, in my opinion because she can call for help if she has a problem. I do not have a cellular phone. I did, briefly, but gave it back to whichever of the high tech heavyweights she acquired it from. If I have a problem, I'm on my own, I guess. I could always ask the bartender to make the call for me.

The telephone is on my mind because on Sunday the "New AT&T" took control of our local telephone service. This is the result of a merger between AT&T and SBC Communications Inc., whoever they are. I had an option. AT&T informed me by mail about five weeks ago that I could "select another carrier to provide (our) local telephone service." The letter (no surprise here) didn't mention any competitors by name.

AT&T said there would be no cost involved if I stay put but ominously added that we "may incur additional charges" if we jump ship.

The merger resulted in, among other

things, shifting us from the old AT&T corporation to the new and (maybe) improved AT&T California. They say our "monthly recurring charges will be equal to or less than what you pay now" in most cases. What are the cases that don't fit? They don't say.

They do say we'll get a "final bill" from the old AT&T which (it warns) will haul us to a collection agency if we don't pay it. So much for friendly service. We've been customers for more than 40 years and this is the thanks we get?

We are warned we'll have to "reprogram any calling features" we have on our old account. The only feature I'd like to have doesn't exist...would eliminate the boiler room bullies trying to sell siding for the house or to refinance our mortgage. The only pleasure I get is telling the bums we no longer have a mortgage.

We'll get a new AT&T account number which consists of the area code, the phone number PLUS a three digit customer code. That's a total of 13 digits...four more

than my Social Security number which seemed to be sufficient for Uncle Sam to keep track of me all these years.

There's a tinge of irony in all of this, I think. It wasn't that many years ago the Government busted up AT&T because it was a monopoly of sorts...only they played with real money. The object was to bring more competition into the industry and bring down prices.

Now, we're told this splicing is (quoting from AT&T's letter) "an effort to integrate the services of the merged companies and pass the full benefits of this union on to our customers..."

AT&T's stockholders will probably see more of those "benefits" than those of us sitting by the phone hoping for some good news instead of a bad sales pitch.

I go back a long way with the phone company. When I was a little kid, my mother kept us in milk and corn flakes working as an operator in Madison, Wisconsin, during the depression. I remember picking up the phone and hearing a pleasant woman's voice saying,

"Number please." I even spent a brief time on an Illinois farm which had one of those phones you cranked to get the operator...and there were several families on the same line.

I recall a wonderful semi-classical music show on the radio called, "The Telephone Hour." In the early days of my radio career the phone company was a vital part of the community, its executives very prominent in charities and service groups and always responsive when we needed information for a news story. It isn't like that any more and that's too bad.

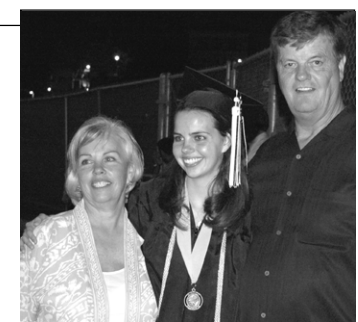
The phone today is a societal phenomenon extending beyond the point of intrusion. It's more of an invasion...of privacy, of peace and quiet, of safety on streets and highways, and simple good manners. The companies profiting from this noisy business were once referred to generically (and somewhat affectionately) as "Ma Bell."

Ma Bell doesn't live here any more.

Barnes' Stormin'

Rubidoux-Patriot, Part II

By David H. Barnes



For the only time in 47 years, Rubidoux High School's commencement exercise was held at Wheelock Stadium at Riverside Community College in Riverside City. It is possible it will never be held there again because a new stadium is now under construction at the "new" Rubidoux High opening this fall.

I thought Monday's 47th Annual graduation was a success. It was a beautiful evening, rather warm initially but comfortable and breezy as the evening wore on.

The organizers got 5,000 students, school staff, parents, relatives, guests and friends out of the stadium quickly and without a problem.

Well done. I'm told the sound system was crystal clear for audience members on the home side of the field, and practically unintelligible on the visitor's side.

Parents and guests on both sides spoke of a handful of rude people, those loudly chatting on cell phones, blasting obnoxious horns and screaming a student's name endlessly, something tirelessly expected.

It's over, rest in peace now. But the future looms...and here's why.

Rubidoux High's 48th Annual Commencement, for the Class of 2008, will be held at a new \$7 million state-of-the-art Edward E. Hawkins Stadium at Rubidoux High School, on Pacific Avenue in Rubidoux.

At Monday's 47th Annual event at Wheelock Field, 500 Falcon seniors got diplomas.

The question now is how many students will get Rubidoux High diplomas next year? Will there be enough seniors graduating from Rubidoux High to warrant a 48th Commencement at a \$7 million stadium, or will it be moved indoors to the theater? A classroom?

As you know, Jurupa Unified School District opens a third high school this fall, Patriot High on Camino Real in Glen Avon.

As you are also probably aware, most of the student population east of Van Buren Boulevard is opting to attend Patriot High, leaving Rubidoux with a student population of who knows how many.

There will be some seniors and juniors at Rubidoux High, primarily kids who can't get a ride to the new high school and who live within walking distance of the 47 year old Opal Street campus.

I wonder whether the students at the new Patriot High campus will opt to use the new stadium at Rubidoux High

School for its first commencement.

Rubidoux's Class of 2007 opted to use Wheelock Field in Riverside City instead of Jaguar Stadium at Jurupa Valley High School in Mira Loma.

When Jurupa Valley opened in 1991, the football team played its home games at Hawkins Stadium.

The former Rubidoux High "Falcon Field" was referred to as the "district" stadium and was painted Navajo White and did not reflect the 40+ years of Rubidoux or Falcon history.

Then, five years ago, Jurupa Valley High was awarded a \$3.5 million stadium christened "Jaguar Stadium."

By the way, Hawkins Stadium at Rubidoux High on Pacific Avenue is gone, and is now a dirt field. It will soon be a \$7 million stadium.

That explained, Rubidoux's Class of 2007 opted to hold its commencement at Riverside Community College, as opposed to, gulp, "Jaguar Stadium" in Mira Loma.

It seems to me the new Patriot High students have numerous options in 2008. They, the students, can pick from the field:

- Hawkins Stadium.
- Jaguar Stadium.
- Wheelock Field.
- Patriot High.

In order for the 1st graduating class to actually be graduated in ceremonies on its own land, chairs will have to be acquired -- primarily for 5,000 family members and guests.

Jurupa Valley rented chairs, and asked parents to bring chairs when it began holding its commencement exercises. Jurupa Valley seniors have chosen to hold ceremonies at their school every year -- without fail, stadium or no stadium.

The questions are these:
 • Will the new \$7 million Hawkins Stadium at Rubidoux High School be home to the Patriot Warriors -- for football?

• Will Hawkins Stadium be the "district stadium?"

• How many months will pass before Patriot High School parents demand the school district build a state-of-the-art stadium at "their" campus?

• Will Patriot High's first graduating class hold ceremonies at Hawkins

Stadium at Rubidoux High, or was Monday's commencement a sign of things to come?

• Who has the final say in regards to the 2008 commencement: the students or the school district?

Historically, the students have made the decision where commencement will be held. The truth of the matter is commencement was held at Falcon Field and Hawkins Stadium for more than 30 years without question. It was obvious because Rubidoux was the only high school. There were no surveys. No polls. No questionnaires.

That was then, this is now.

The decision where the 1st Patriot High School Commencement will be held should be made *yesterday*. Jurupa Unified School District has already written the book on how *NOT* to open a new high school.

We don't need a second printing, enough is enough.

Speaking of Rubidoux High School, Bobby Hernandez, a former student, graduate and local businessman, has started a Rubidoux High Booster Club.

The 47 year old school is without a principal, staff and coaches...and without a booster club. Hernandez is seeking to change what he can and announced formation of a booster club.

Hernandez and fellow graduate Mike Evans are setting up a meeting with Rubidoux graduate Ron Robinson to put together a golf tournament fund raiser.

Rubidoux High has been removed from the Sunkist league, replaced by Patriot High School on a vote of the Sunkist Athletic Directors.

The vote, school officials said, was based on a survey of Rubidoux High student-athletes who said they would remain at Patriot High School in 2008. This fact prompted athletic directors to conclude Patriot would be the 'stronger' program and therefore assume the Rubidoux position in the league.

Rubidoux becomes a free lance school competing "at large."

Rubidoux's departure from the Sunkist League is good news for all of the others: Jurupa Valley, Bloomington, Kaiser, Norte Vista and Summit.

Good news because Rubidoux has won most of the Sunkist League Championships available: baseball, golf, boys and girls cross country, swimming, boys and girls and boys tennis, girls volleyball, girls soccer and boys and girls track and field.

Rubidoux has also fielded competitive girls and boys basketball teams, and softball teams.

The Sunkist League and newcomer Patriot have a chance to share all of those titles with the possible exception of distance running: this community's only state title in sports...cross country running.

Also, Rubidoux in 2008 will compete in the Mountain Pass League. This means a Rubidoux versus Patriot football game is not going to happen until a future relegating forces it.