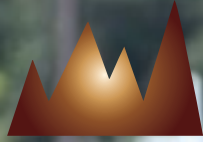


SUMMIT LIFE

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Stoney Point riding student Sophia Shearman, 12, is shown on "Blue," a registered thoroughbred.

Larry LaCom/Summit Life photo



WHAT'S A EUPHEMISM FOR GUTS? WHETHER IT'S COURAGE OR RESISTANCE AGAINST GREAT ODDS, THE FOUR LOCAL BUSINESS WOMEN FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE HAVE IT IN ABUNDANCE

Born To Ride: JODY SAILOR TOOK HER HORSE TO COLLEGE WITH HER

By Marci Wormser,
Staff Correspondent

Jody Buciak Sailor, 20-year owner of Stoney Point Ranch in Chatsworth, doesn't believe in advertising. She rarely, if ever, goes on-line, and is oblivious to the high score her customers have given her on Yelp.

"I'm old school," Jody says simply.

Jody's aversion to any kind of advertising even extends to a lack of signage in front of her five-acre property. But despite her low profile, the equestrienne has successfully built up her horse riding school solely through word-of-mouth.

"My calendar is pretty full," she says. "I don't have to advertise."

The secret to her success, she confides, is keeping overhead costs down, which transfers to lower costs for her customers.

Her boarding rates, she says, are some of the least expensive in the local market.

Low overhead, the business owner explains, translates to being as hands-on as possible. In what is a 24-hour job, she gives most of the riding lessons and feeds all the horses herself. Her "right-hand man," Angel Rodriguez, who has been her assistant "since day one," cleans the stalls, and some of his family members help out when they can.

Jody is also able to keep her payroll down to only one other person by having her boarders groom and saddle their own horses.

Her horse boarding customers clearly don't mind, as most of them have been boarding their horses at her ranch since she opened her business.

Despite her current success, "the first couple of years were tough," she relates.

"You have to love what you do. You have to multi-task. But it can get overwhelming," she admits.

Jody initially started the business with her then-husband. When the couple divorced, she refused to part with the ranch.

"I told him he could start his own ranch," she says. "But he said it was too much work."

Prior to running the ranch, Jody worked in the Department of Medicine at UCLA for 20 years. But horses were always her passion.

"I've had horses forever," she says. "I even took my horse to college with me."

"I decided it was time for a change, and the property became available," she says.

The property, which is part of Stoney Point Park, is owned by the Los Angeles City Department of Parks and Recreation. Although she rents the land from the city, she owns the business, which includes stables and about 20 riding, jumping and miniature horses of all riding levels.

Jody's riding customers hail from all backgrounds, expertise levels and ages. Her riding students over the years, she says, have included some residents from the Summit and Chatsworth Lake Manor area.

She frequently trains youth equestrians to compete in horse shows, and many of those competitors have gone on to win championships. She also trains high school students to compete in league competitions. Jody



Jody Sailor gives a young student a riding lesson. Jody is a hands-on ranch owner, giving most of the horseback riding lessons herself. Larry LaCom/Summit Life photo.



Angel Rodriguez (left) has been Jody's right-hand man at the ranch "since day one." His son Kevin sits on off-road vehicle in front of the tack house. Angel sometimes enlists family members to help run the large spread. Larry LaCom/Summit Life photo.

also runs a horse riding summer camp for children ages 7-18.

Although she won't teach students younger than 6 or 7 - citing shorter attention spans, which can lead to injuries - she has no such cut off age for people on the opposite side of the age spectrum.

According to the equestrienne, you're never too old to learn how to trot, jump or gallop.

Her oldest students include a 75-year-old grandmother, who used to be afraid to even get near a horse. The grandmother first went to the ranch so her granddaughter could learn to ride. She eventually decided to challenge her fear.

"She was scared to death at first," Jody relates.

Today, the septuagenarian has been faithfully taking lessons for two years.

"Anybody can learn," Jody says.

Indeed, one of Jody's oldest students has also been one of her most committed. The rider, an 84-year-old woman, began taking lessons at the equestrian center 20

years ago.

"A lot of people find it relaxing," the business owner says of horseback riding. "And it's good physical exercise."

One of Jody's prospective horse boarders, Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputy Marcus Chatman, found Jody's ranch by accident.

Marcus, who lives in Santa Monica, was recently visiting a friend nearby when he happened to see the boarding stables. The sheriff's deputy says he has been looking for a stable to board his horse, which he's required to purchase and board as part of his job on the Sheriff's Mounted Enforcement Detail.

After touring the property and getting glowing recommendations from other boarders, he said he would likely rent a stable there.

"Somebody who was just walking by told me it was a good place," Marcus related. "I'm impressed."

Stoney Point Ranch is located at 10861 Andora Avenue in Chatsworth. Jody can be reached at (818) 426-1930. ❖



An articulated metal gunfighter greets visitors at Chatsworth's Stoney Point Ranch. A large customer base at the five-acre ranch was built by word of mouth over 20 years. "I don't need to advertise," says owner Jody Sailor. Larry LaCom/Summit Life photo.

The Mermaid Salon: PROFESSIONAL THERAPIST CHANTAL VINCENT OFFERS A WIDE RANGE OF LOW COST MASSAGE MODALITIES FROM HER SUMMIT HOME

Ashley Clark is a bright, active 32-year-old woman who works in an insurance office by day and coach's women's high school and college basketball at night. The act of being sedentary during the day and hyper-active when most people are getting ready for bed is hard on the body. So much so, that the young woman from Georgia depends on professional therapist Chantal Vincent to keep her going.

"I love helping people like Ashley," says Chantal. "Massage therapy is what I was born to do. In Johannesburg, South Africa, where I grew up, I used to massage my mother's neck when she'd drive me and my brother's and sister's home from school. I'd work on my dad's feet almost every night. Whenever anyone in our large family needed a massage, I was there for them. My granny was a midwife, and that's why my mom believes I was predestined in life to help people."

Chantal had her first professional massage at 30-years-of-age. "As soon as I got off the table, I knew I wanted to be a therapist and enrolled the next day at the Advanced School of Massage in Thousand Oaks", she said. Over the past ten years, Chantal has



Ashley Clark receives deep tissue massage from professional therapist Chantal Vincent who works from her home at the Summit. Named "the Mermaid Salon," Ms. Vincent's practice offers a dozen therapeutic healing modalities. Larry LaCom/Summit Life photo.

worked in chiropractic offices and spa salons serving a diverse clientele from the elderly with chronic back problems to those who have suffered strokes, cerebral palsy and multiple sclerosis. She became a Summit resident about two months ago, and has established a therapeutic practice called "The Mermaid Salon" at her new Summit home. According to the therapist, it's a perfect fit...a peaceful and serene natural setting for a peaceful and serene massage experience.

"I'm not a conveyor belt therapist," Chantal explains. "I charge less than my competition and I usually extend treatment beyond the allotted time. I also offer a ten-dollar massage discount with every referral. As an introductory special, the

therapist is offering a \$40 hour-long massage along with a paraffin wax treatment for the hands or the feet. For a directory of complete services, you can contact Chantal by phone at 818-264-5087 or by email at Chantalvincent44@gmail.com.

"It's often difficult over the phone to track down the source of physical pain in a first time client," Chantal explained. "The client may request an arm or hand massage, for example, when their pain actually radiates from the brachial nerve in their neck. That's why it's fair to say that I'm a not only a therapist but a detective trained to track down and relieve sources of benign physical pain without the costly services of a physician." ❖



DROUGHT CONDITIONS AND SANTA ANA WINDS COULD CREATE FIRE STORMS THIS FALL



Drought conditions and climate change have converged to increase the potential of early fall brush fires driven by Santa Ana winds, according to the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

While no one can predict whether a wind-driven blaze will ignite along the Santa Susana foothills as it has in years past, it's time to plan now for an orderly exodus from the park, especially for new residents who haven't been through the drill before, according to fire department officials. Here's a checklist of items you should review with your family in the event of an evacuation:

1) Are the windows and entrance doors closed and locked? 2) Are the interior doors shut and the air conditioning turned off? 3) Are the family valuables - photos, paintings, silverware - ready to go into the car along with the pets? 4) Is the car itself gassed, facing out of the carport and ready to roll? 5) Is there a three-day supply of prescription drugs, toiletries and clothing packed away, along with cell phones, credit cards, and insurance papers?

Lastly, it is important to have a contact list containing the cell phone numbers of friends and neighbors in the park. Keeping in touch is one of

the best ways to get up to date information about the fire and about when you can return home. News reports tend to lag behind what is actually happening in a fire, and telephone lines to first responders can be busy. Nevertheless, you should try the Lost Hills Sheriff's Station for situation updates. That number is 818-878-1808. ❖

“WITH A LITTLE BIT OF LUCK” IS CATHY CHANG’S THEME SONG



Cathy Chang, owner of “I Touch” dog grooming salon, wears headband to hide balding effect of chemotherapy. She was diagnosed with breast cancer shortly after opening the grooming shop last May. Larry LaCom/Summit Life photo.

Cathy Chang is hopeful that her new dog-grooming salon named “I Touch” in a nearby Topanga Canyon mini-mall will take off and soon be in the black. But she tires easily and pays more than \$1,000 monthly to keep her two kids in private school. Both of her breasts were surgically removed last May, shortly after she started her dog grooming business. Then her doctors discovered cancer in her lymph nodes and put her on chemotherapy until December.

“I’m lucky,” says Cathy. “I eat good and have parents and friends more than willing to help me out at the shop while I go for my weekly chemo treatments at the Olive View medical Center in Sylmar. I’m also lucky to be insured by L.A. Care,” she

explains.

It’s clear that the concept of good luck and bad luck plays an important role in Cathy’s life. She was lucky enough to be born in South Korea instead of North Korea, and lucky enough to become operations vice president of the Korean Community bank in L.A.’s bustling Korea Town. Then she became the victim of bad luck, having been laid off after ten years of dedicated bank service.

Cathy keeps careful tabs on a hand written list of about 125 customers who’ve used her dog grooming services since opening day. That’s about five new customers per week, neither good nor lucky even by Cathy’s optimistic standards. “We need to do better,” she says. “During hard times, people sometimes skimp

on paying for dog grooming, and they wash their dogs themselves. But it’s important to get your dog groomed professionally. People often don’t know how to groom their dogs correctly, leaving them vulnerable to ear and skin infections.”

“I love dogs, and I love my work, having finished near the top of my class at the Dog Lovers Career School in East L.A.,” said Cathy. “I’m a pro who offers highly competitive grooming rates with specials to Summit residents.”

So if you love dogs or simply admire Cathy’s courage, you can call her at 818-349-1450 and wish her well. That’s any day but Thursday when she goes to chemo. Her email address is miso.catherine@gmail.com.



CHEROKEE INDIAN FORCES DWP TO CIRCLE THE WAGONS

Cherokee O'Dea's name alone strikes fear into those who have gone against her and her family on environmental issues. Since summer began, the pure bred Cherokee Indian and the Chatsworth Lake Manor Citizen's Committee CLMCC) have been on the warpath against drought related efforts by the L.A. Department of Water & Power (DWP) to close L.A.'s single remaining ecology pond on Chatsworth's north East border.

As fierce protectors of the pond's delicate environment, Cherokee and the CLMCC succeeded in bringing stakeholders, foundations, wildlife organizations and the press to the table in favor of the pond's continued operation. They also lobbied the States political movers and shapers, convincing them to move in the right direction.

"We thank all of these individuals and organizations for making it clear to the DWP that the pond's closure was not in the best interests of the animals, fish and amphibians that live there," Cherokee said. "By mid-September it became evident that none of the powers that be at the DWP wanted to wear arrow shirts," she explained whimsically.

The three-acre ecology pond lies within L.A.'s only remaining nature reserve at the north East edge of Chatsworth. Had the DWP been successful in letting the pond run dry through benign neglect, the ecosystem in the Santa Susana foothills would have suffered all the way up to the Summit mobile park, causing the death and possible extinction of many forms of wildlife.

In backing down to the demands of stakeholder, politicians and the CLMCC, the DWP will again begin to immediately supply water to the ecopond on a weekly basis. The DWP will also remove silt from the pond, consider the installation of a pond liner for increased water retention,



Cherokee O'Dea helps run Chatsworth's Log Cabin Mercantile Company along with mother Susan Foreman when she isn't battling like her grandfather to keep the Chatsworth Lake Manor area clean and pristine.

investigate the best method to redirect storm runoff to the pond and remove fencing along the bottom of the reserve fence surrounding the pond so that digging animals can again resume patterns of natural ingress and egress.

"I guess going against those who would endanger the area's natural beauty is in my blood," she said. She is the granddaughter of Joe Foreman and his wife Margaret. Both were area pioneers and founders of the Chatsworth Lake Manor Citizen's Committee. The committee, in

one reconstituted form or another, has battled to keep the area pristine for almost seventy years. In the early 1950's, Joe raised \$100,000 in pennies to help buy off an over-enthusiastic land speculator and became famously known as "Penny Joe." Cherokee and her mother, Susan Foreman, continue that fight, making new friends and enemies in the process. ❖

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coupon when
ordering. One per
customer. Exp. 10/20/15

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

SUMMIT LIFE OFFERS NO-COST BUSINESS ADVERTISING

If you think it's unusual for a mobile home community to offer a full-color eight page monthly magazine, how about this: Free monthly business advertising in our Summit Life magazine for every park resident. (See Mermaid Salon Ad and Story)

The logic is simple. A going business will make a good tenant a happy tenant. And happy tenants make for a happy park.

Start by letting us know by email if you'd like a business ad. Our email address is garrywormser@gmail.com. Please include a phone number where we can easily contact you to set up your quarter page ad along with a story about your business.

THE MERMAID SALON

Therapeutic Healing & Spa Services

TO MY SUMMIT NEIGHBORS



The Summit is a peaceful and serene enclave far above the Valley floor. Now you can enhance the Summit living experience with healing, deep body massages right here in the park.

To welcome you to my new home/business that I call the Mermaid Salon, I'm offering an hour-long massage that includes a paraffin wax treatment for either the hands or the feet for just \$40.

My name is Chantal and you can reserve a treatment today by calling me at 818-264-5087 or Chantalvincent44@gmail.com.

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Please visit us at

www.summitmobilecommunity.com.