



GCCCD Grapevine

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November, 2002

Grossmont College Hosts Retirees at their All Staff Barbeque

Grossmont College President, Dr. Martinez, invited the college's retirees to attend the President's Third Annual All Staff BBQ on August 19 at the Science Patio area. Among the retiree's attending were: Don Anderson, Bill Bornhorst, Keith Bryden, Alan Campbell, Howard Donnelly, Roberta Eddins, Art Fitzner, Bill Gillespie, Dave Glismann, Wayne Harmon, Jack Holleran, Joanne Joseph, Millie McAuley, Dick Mellien, Gene Murray, Ken Nobilette, Chuck Park, Ray Resler, Lee Roper, Bob Rump, Tom Scanlan, Gordie Shields, and Bob Steinbach.

The day was sunny (what else, in August) but there was plenty of shade and a refreshing breeze, scented with the aroma of barbequed chicken. This was accompanied with all the makings of tacos, as well as beans, salad, and a variety of beverages. The dessert was especially memorable - fresh made, melt-in-your-mouth scones topped with fresh blueberries, strawberries or peaches and gobs and gobs of real whipped cream.

This informal cookout provided an ideal environment for socializing, renewing friendships, catching up on gossip and annoying our still-working colleagues with tales about the joys of retirement.

Note: Thanks to Lee Roper for most of the following pictures: All subjects are named left to right.



Chuck Park, Dave Glismann and Bill Bornhorst satiated Bob Steinbach and Alan Campbell ready for 'seconds'





Bob Steinbach, Dick Mellien & berry scones *Joanne*
Joseph enjoying *Ray Resler, back for 'seconds'*



Don Anderson and Tom Scanlan surprised in mid-bite *Bob Steinbach (again!) with Wayne*
Harmon

Grossmont College Foundation Gala a Success

The annual Grossmont College Foundation Gala "Beyond Forty Years" was held on October 19 in the Student Center 'ballroom', celebrating the college's 41st year and raising money to benefit students. Retirees had a separate reception and table at the event. Among those retirees attending were Trudy Bratten, Shirl Collamer and guest, Ann and Vic Daluiso, Shirley and George Jones, Bob Holden and his new wife Sandra (see Letters section, this issue), Eddie and Julia Parris, Joanne Prescott, Ery and Pat Metzgar, Karen Seal Stewart, and Emily and Ed Zouhar. In all, nearly three hundred patrons attended or purchased tickets.

Following a grand dinner banquet served by the newly appointed food service providers Aztec Shops and musical entertainment provided by Grossmont College students and faculty, patrons bid on more than one-hundred item at live and silent auctions.

Foundation director Howard Kummerman was pleased with the excellent turnout. He said that some \$40, 000 was raised, including funds from major sponsors such as the Barona Casino.



*Joanne Prescott, Eddie Parris, Karen Seal Stewart, Alba Orr (not retired),
Ery Metzgar, Shirl Collamer and Bob Holden*

Editor's Comments:



by Tom Scanlan

I find our President's behavior a bit disconcerting, lately, with all of his banging on the drums of war. Our Congress' behavior is equally upsetting because they seemed to vote their support for the President more with the upcoming elections in mind than on any evidence presented by the President or his advisors. The party line seems to be that 9/11 changed everything and now we have to speak with one voice (any dissent, of course, makes you unpatriotic). Sorry, 9/11 didn't change everything, nor should it--or we give the terrorists an even larger victory. We are not a nation that invades a nation because they *might* be a threat to us, at some un-named future date. And--a democracy should not speak with one voice, if that is not the will of the people, even if we're in the middle of a war, much less just trying to start one.

The President has not made a case for invading Iraq anytime soon, unilaterally or otherwise. His 30-minute speech to the nation provided little new evidence and no compelling reason to do so. If there's some evidence out there that shows an eminent threat to our nation, then it's time to show at least some of it to the citizens--secrecy be damned--because a lot more lives are at stake if we make this move than any damage that might be done to our intelligence community by revealing a few secrets. Strong evidence might also convince other members of the U.N. Security Council as well as American citizens--but none has been presented.

Is Sadaam Hussein a potential threat and an evil man whose country would be better off without him? Yes. That, by itself, does not justify an invasion. Is he the force behind Al Qaeda? No evidence. Is he close to having nuclear weapons? No evidence. Does he have a delivery system that threatens our country? No evidence. What we *do* know is that an invasion of Iraq, with or without allied help, would be costly in terms of lives, and costly in terms of resources. If we are going to put several hundred thousand troops at risk and a goodly part of the population of Iraq, we had better be sure what we are doing.

Do you find it just a little bit too coincidental that all of this urgency suddenly emerged so close to election time--at a time when the nation's poor economic situation might pose a serious threat to the party in power? Sadaam Hussein's name was barely mentioned until the last few months (all we heard was Bin Laden). Half-truths and slim evidence might be enough to convince our President and many in our Congress that we must have a regime change in Iraq (or is it disarmament--the justification to invade seems to shift back and forth), but that's not good enough--for this country or the rest of the world's nations. We will be setting the wrong precedent if we initiate a war on Iraq without strong international support and participation. The fact that both our President and Vice-President have backgrounds in the oil industry and that Iraq has the world's second largest oil reserves might make other nations a bit skeptical about our

motives for invading Iraq. Sure, we are the only remaining super-power, but using that as a motive for invading Iraq, with or without international support, sounds a bit too much like 'might makes right'. If you believe that, you're living in the wrong nation.

I sincerely hope that cooler heads will prevail and that our President will see the wisdom in establishing a case for invading Iraq by letting some sort of U.N. inspection play itself out. If Iraq, once again, makes real inspection of evidence for weapons of mass destruction difficult or impossible, then (and not until then) a case will be made for an international coalition to disarm that country by whatever means necessary.

Note to Readers: All photos with colored frames can be enlarged by clicking.

Two More Retire



Marvin "Steve" Stephens was feted at a small retirement luncheon outside the Business Communications Office on October 3. Steve has been on the custodial crew at Grossmont College for the past 12 years. He retired September 30, 2002.



Shirlye Stewart took early retirement effective June 30, 2002. She served at both Cuyamaca and Grossmont Colleges during her eleven years with the district. She had served as Administrative Assistant to the President of Grossmont College since 1997.



George Murphy Earns Emeritus

The Governing Board conferred emeritus status on retired Cuyamaca counselor George Murphy at their July 16 meeting. He started as a counselor at Grossmont College in 1972 in the El Cajon ROP program and moved to Cuyamaca College in 1978. Cuyamaca College president, Dr. Geraldine Perri, praised him for his visionary contributions to their Counseling program and as a most popular and productive member of the founding faculty.

Ernie Neveu Completes Winery

Starting in 1995, Ernie Neveu, retired biology professor from Grossmont College, has been planting and raising wine grapes in Northern California and producing a limited amount of wine with the help of borrowed equipment and his hard-working wife, Mary Ann (see Nov., 1998 [Grapevine](#)). Each year they have expanded their vineyards and production. This year, despite some major snags encountered during construction, Ernie completed his custom designed winery just days ahead of harvest. His new winery includes an old fashioned press, a new Italian destemmer/crusher, a large refrigerated stainless steel holding tank, and lots of oak barrels.

This drought year's harvest exceeded expectations, thanks to a back-up water system he installed last year. Ernie said, "I had no idea I had this many grapes on the vine." He has already harvested, with the help of 25 volunteer friends, 2.5 tons of Pinot Noir, 6 tons of Pinot Gris and nearly a ton of Tempranillo grapes. At this writing he is completing his harvest of a small amount of Zinfandel and Nebbiolo grapes. The volunteer pickers were treated to one of Mary Ann's famous gourmet dinners following the harvest. And Ernie made the front page of the Siskiyou Daily News ([see story here](#)).

Every year up to now, Ernie and Mary Ann have operated in the red. Despite that, they love the vintner's life and the beautiful valley where they live. And now it looks like all of their efforts are paying off, with the prospects of commercial sales next year. He plans to bottle and sell the Pinot Gris this time next year and will bottle and sell the red wines in 2004 or 2005. If you are interested in receiving his newsletter, please contact him at pnoir@jeffnet.org.





*Ernie pumping juice from press to cooling tank
delicious drop*

*...and squeezing out the last
delicious drop*



one of the many volunteer pickers

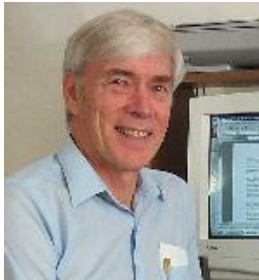
brand new winery building ready

for the harvest



the vineyards, winery and spectacular view of Mt. Shasta

Driftwood



by Bob Steinbach

Snippets of gossip that have been burnished by friends and washed up on the Grapevine desk

They shall remain nameless. She found that most folks on the cruise were couples, but zeroed in on an elegant looking, solo male. Hopes evaporated when she found that she had hit on a priest. § In addition to gall bladder and hernia surgery and colonoscopies, our retired population is large enough that even unusual diseases show up. The latest is Unilateral Gynecomastia – breast development in a male. § Some retirees have too much spare-time. After a Second-Tuesday Breakfast, four of them were seen in the parking lot wagering on whose keyless entry would open his car from the greatest distance. § After 11 days of "Achtung" and gruel in a German Hospital, he was repatriated to San Diego. His records were in German and it took another 14 days to have them officially translated. ‘Twas a shame it was serious. §



If you happen to spot this card posted in a bookstore, coffee shop, art gallery or museum, it wasn't Kilroy, but **Phebe Burnham** that preceded you.



Al Campbell and his wife, Reiko, are taking advantage of the beautiful physical fitness facilities at Cuyamaca College . He says it helps maintain his strength and flexibility for



occasional tennis games. Others using the facilities include

Bill



Bornhorst,

Harry "Early Bird" Cousineau,



Bill



Givens,

George Hernandez,



Jerry Humpert,



Dave



Lunsford and

Claudia Thompson.



Alex Contreras, former Associate Dean of Students at Grossmont and now Vice President of Student Services at Crafton Hills College writes that former Grossmont Dean **Sharon (Yaap) Caballero** became President of Eastern New Mexico Highlands University on July 1, 2002. She was President of San Bernardino Valley College for a number of



years. Also, **Jessie Gates** (former Grossmont College A & R Supervisor) is the Division Dean of Campus Gateway at San Bernardino Valley College.



Bill Gillespie has yet to let go of the joy of coaching. He gets his kicks leading the Grossmont women's intercollegiate badminton team to victory.



Joanne Joseph had a great holiday on Maui in September. She was in the company of her daughter's family including the grandchildren age 2, 4 and 6.





Neil Towne has taken up wind surfing as a recreation. With all of Clear Lake in his back yard, it's no wonder. He has mastered the intricacies to the extent that Bobbi no longer worries about him.



Van Vanderpoll had a group of retirees from the Counseling Department meet at his house for bagels, coffee and conversation on July 18, 2002. Those who attended

were  **Bill Hansen,**  **Harris Cousineau,**  **Joanne Prescott,**

 **Van,**  **Millie Berry and Larry and Mary Coons.**



Lou Hansotte announces the release of his latest book, The Medi-Cal Enigma, a current, simplified explanation of the background, development and rules for qualification for long term rest home care (LTC) through Medi-Cal, available now through Amazon.com for \$49.50, or contact Medcal@earthlink.net.

And a couple of comments from our Grapevine Guest Book on the web:

"This is great. I have enjoyed the Grapevine over the years and hearing what everyone is doing with their lives. I began working at Grossmont College in 1975, in 1985 I went over to Cuyamaca and retired from Cuyamaca in 1997. I consider my years with the colleges one of the best things that happened to me. So many wonderful people and memories. Please send me the



Grapevine via e-mail. **Brenda Elliott** bmelliot@cts.com"

"Good show! I'm a former student paying a visit and while I'm here want to thank some very influential professors--



Lantz (Biology),



McCune (Philosophy),



and **Neveu** (Science)

--you guys made a big difference! ...Brad Bahr ('96)"

Retirees Write:



Bob Holden writes:

Dear fellow retirees:

As I announced in the last retiree newsletter, I entered a state of wedded bliss (for the third time!) on August 24th. Sandra Venzon and I were married under the Wedding Tree in Red Rock State Park, Sedona, Arizona. Fifty five people attended, including my staunchly Republican brothers from the east coast, and a large contingent of Sandra's Italian relatives from the midwest. The outdoor ceremony had American Indian elements, and the lady who married us is the great grand daughter of Frank Baum, author of the Wizard of Oz. Sandra is the CEO of a physical therapy clinic (I married well!), and I have become her faithful and devoted house husband. Sandra is a card carrying member of the Libertarian Party; I became a Communist in November 1999 after being accused of being a party member for 35 years. I have finally fulfilled my long-held wish of becoming an Italian; my married name is Holdenvenzon

We are living in my house at the foot of Mewall Drive (our back yard is just behind Ralph's market on Lake Murray Drive). We will be having a reception at our home in November or December, and will be inviting San Diego friends who did not make the wedding. Those of you who are wondering who on earth would marry Bob Holden, and would like to meet Sandra, are welcome to attend.



Mary Mitchell writes:

The Grapevine:

Bob, read your article about wills and trusts in the latest Grapevine. I am sure there are many who read the Grapevine who are living far from San Diego who would find an article, or series of articles about wills and trusts of interest and benefit!

I have had an attorney draw up a Revocable Trust, but there is still much more to do than that.

Even from this short article you have reminded me of a very important thing to do (which I had done years ago, but never up-dated – don't even know where that little record book is now) and that is to list active accounts!! Thanks!

Mary Mitchell, Milwaukie, OR 97267

An Interview with Tony Hillerman

by Tom Scanlan

It was my pleasure to be able to interview one of America's most popular mystery writers this October. My wife Rosemarie and I met with Tony Hillerman and his wife Marie at their lovely home in northwest Albuquerque, just east of the Rio Grande River. He came outside to greet us in his drive, making us feel relaxed and welcome, following a long drive from Zuni. Then he sat and chatted with us for two full hours, in spite of the fact that he had just flown in from Washington state the day before, had been up late that same night working on a new novel, and had a meeting later this evening to prepare for.

I had interviewed him by telephone back in 1995 (see Biblio-files in the [November, 1995 Grapevine](#)) so we were not total strangers. For this in-person interview, I had a series of questions prepared--which of his own novels did he like best, who were his favorite authors, what is his favorite music—but the formality of this approach soon gave way to free flowing conversation on a variety of topics, many unrelated to writing, but all providing insight into the admirable character of this popular writer.

Early on he admitted that his favorite among his own works, Finding Moon, was not a favorite of his readers, nor of his editor. However, it was a novel that he had always wanted to write, long before his Jim Chee and Joe Leaphorn novels. So finally he broke from his mystery series and wrote the novel that had been in the back of his head all these years—to take a "totally ordinary, un-heroic man and send him into a situation where he develops character" (see review in [Nov., 1995 Grapevine](#)). He'd taken the name Moon from a fellow infantryman in his rifle company whose courage and character he had admired.

He also especially enjoyed writing Hillerman Country, a photographic journey through the country which is the setting for most of his novels. It gave him his only opportunity to work with his brother, Barney (who took the splendid photographs in this oversize book) since they were teen-agers. It was fortunate timing because his brother died shortly after the work was finished.

Hillerman prefers non-fiction to fiction, naming such writers as Joan Didion (before she began writing novels) and H. L. Mencken. He sometimes puts himself to sleep reading Bartlett's Quotations. He especially enjoys the non-fiction writing in The New Yorker, though he can no longer stand the fiction in that magazine. He refrains from reading any fiction while he's working on a novel, which is most of the time, but did mention an affinity for Raymond

Chandler's novels. His wife, Marie, on the other hand, reads a great deal of fiction as well as non-fiction and we were delighted to hear that one of her favorite novels, Stegner's Crossing to Safety, was also one of our favorites.

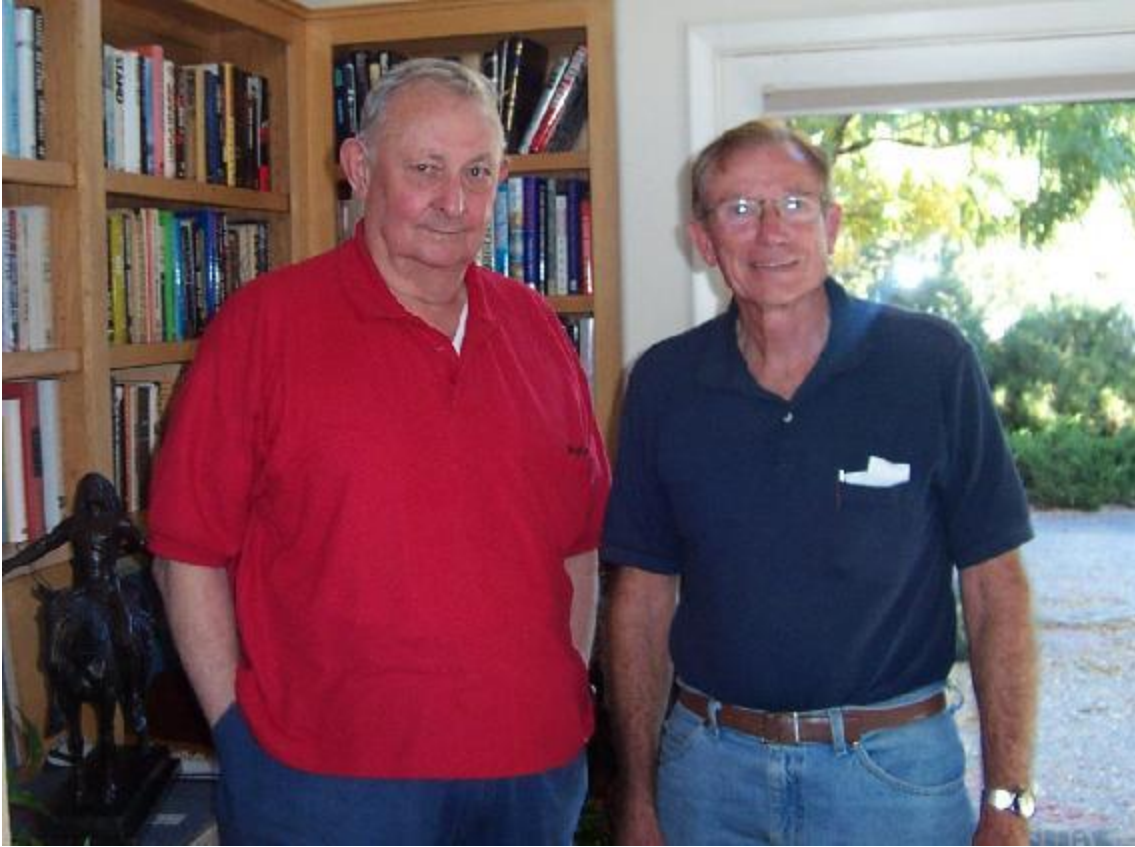
When I asked what memoirs or biographies he had read which might have inspired him to write his own memoirs, Seldom Disappointed, last year, he said his real incentive came from the wishes of his children, his wife and his editor. Most of the biographies he looked at were of celebrities and were ghostwritten so they weren't much help as a guide, although he did enjoy Truman, by McCullough. He finally decided just to go ahead and write his memoirs 'his own way', and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

As for his favorite music, he likes ballads. CD's he's currently listening to include James Taylor, Youngblood, Paul Simon and Judy Collins. He also likes Joan Baez and much of Willy Nelson. He and his wife, Marie, share similar tastes in art and music but he's such a workaholic that she often has to remind him to 'stop and smell the roses' (or more likely, 'come and see this sunset'-- because they are both cloud lovers).

We also talked some about his days in the Army, and in spite of his battle wounds, like most veterans he considers his hitch in the Army to be one of the highlights of his life. He was unhappy with the inertia of the top brass and the fact that many of the weapons the Army used were a bit behind the times and inferior to what the Germans were using. G.I.'s were constantly grumbling about canvas machine gun ammo belts that froze up in wet weather, and tracer ammunition that, unlike the delayed tracer of German machine gunners, gave away the American gunner's position.

The conversation got around to the terrorist attacks of September 11 and on that topic he had some thought-provoking but positive ideas. He hoped that once Americans got past the horror of that tragic event, they might begin to wonder seriously why some people hate them so much. He also felt that this event was a wake-up call to our Pentagon, reminding them that we are in a different world now, no longer fighting the Cold War.

In spite of the fact that he uses a computer to finalize his novels (his experience with computers goes all the way back to the "trash-80"), he is still intimidated somewhat by technology. He had lost the chapter he'd been working on the night before by not saving it properly. In true Hillerman fashion, he made the best of that common and frustrating situation by deciding that it needed rewriting, anyway. Tony Hillerman is a very down-to-earth guy and I left his house that afternoon with the feeling that I could go back anytime and pick up the conversation where we'd left off. The two hours flew by and Rosemarie and I both felt that we were leaving close friends behind when we walked out the door, still talking books with his wife, Marie.



Author Tony Hillerman in his Albuquerque home with Tom Scanlan

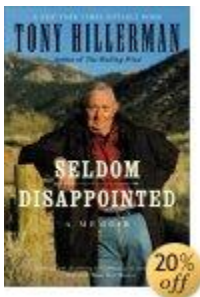




Tony Hillerman and his wife, Marie Rosemarie Scanlan

Tony Hillerman relaxes with

Biblio-files:



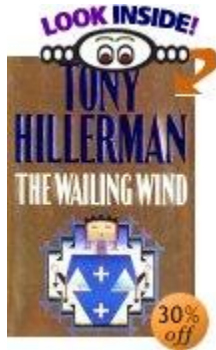
Seldom Disappointed; A Memoir, Tony Hillerman (Harper Collins, 2001)****

This absorbing recollection of a fascinating life is must reading for any fan of Tony Hillerman. It reads like a novel. He reminisces about his early years as a country boy in Oklahoma at a time when there was little money to be had. He grew up there through the depression years with an older brother and sister and attended a small church school that primarily taught Indian girls but accepted local boys and girls because it was the nearest school. Following Pearl Harbor, he served in the Army as an enlisted man in the European campaign (a very interesting part of his memoirs), and was seriously wounded near the close of the war, earning a Silver and Bronze Star in addition to the Purple Heart.

Following the war, he attended Oklahoma University, during which time he met his wife-to-be, Marie, while he was earning a degree in Journalism. He goes on to describe his various adventures as a journalist and newlywed, which eventually took him to Santa Fe. From there he went on to the University of New Mexico, where he worked for the university president and taught classes in writing and journalism while raising a family of six children, most of whom were adopted. While at the university he began writing the first of a series of mystery novels involving two Navajo tribal policemen for which he is now famous. He went on to become the

president of the Mystery Writers of America and won numerous other prestigious literary awards. He continues to write new novels in this series and will be among the first American writers to have their work dramatized on the PBS Mystery Series (November 24, 2002).

He details how and why he chose to write about such unusual characters and discusses each of his books at the end of his memoirs. I cannot do justice to the man or his work in this brief review but regardless of whether or not you are a Hillerman fan, you will find his memoirs fascinating, moving and – seldom disappointing.



The Wailing Wind, Tony Hillerman (Harper Collins, 2002)*****

Here's the latest Hillerman novel, one of his best, in the opinion of many reviewers, including myself, bringing the reader once again both of their favorite characters, Navajo tribal policeman Jim Chee and retired Lieutenant Joe Leaphorn. An old case, considered closed, involving a gold mine swindle and the consequent slaying of the swindler by the swindled, re-emerges when a man is found murdered in an abandoned pickup.

An unanswered mystery from the original case, the disappearance of the bride of the swindling victim is something that had always bothered Leaphorn. Another unsolved mystery on the same day of that homicide--some children had reported that they heard music and wailing in the vicinity of an abandoned ordnance depot nearby. Leaphorn comes out of retirement to take a closer look at this case. A third officer and romantic interest of Jim Chee also becomes involved in solving the mystery and uses an elder Navajo medicine man to help unravel part of it. As with most of Hillerman's books, readers are treated to insights into Navajo culture along with enchanting vistas of this part of the Southwest.

Hillerman's mysteries are an easy read because his narration is straightforward, descriptive and always entertaining. If you love the southwest, Indian lore, mysteries, or just a good escape from the here-and-now, you'll enjoy this book. Beware, though, if it's your first Hillerman novel. You'll want to read the other fourteen he's written which also involve the same tribal policemen.

Important Reminder: The Grapevine strongly encourages book reviews from its readers. If you've read a book you'd like others to read, send your review to The Grapevine, Grossmont College, 8800 Grossmont College Drive, El Cajon, CA 92020 or e-mail it to tom.scanlan@gccd.net Also, if you've written a book you'd like to have reviewed, please let us know. I do not give star (*) ratings to books by our retirees but would be happy to include

the review in the Grapevine.

Health Benefit Notices:

Note: This information is for those who are still under 65 or for those retirees over 65 who have opted to pay to stay enrolled in the district's group coverage. Those with full Medicare coverage may not have the co-pays listed.

November is open enrollment month! Time to make benefit changes for the New Year. Now is the time to add/change benefit plans, add dependents and learn more about the benefit packages.

Benefit Fairs:

November 6, 2002 – Cuyamaca Campus Rm. 103-E 2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

November 14, 2002 – Grossmont Campus, Griffin Gate 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Please save these dates and plan to attend one of the fairs to learn more about the benefits offered to you.

Co-Pays to Increase in January:

Kaiser Permanente: Effective January 1, 2003, co-payments for office visits will increase to \$10. per visit, and pharmacy co-payments will increase to \$10. per generic prescription, \$20. per brand-name prescription.

Direct Health: Effective January 1, 2003, co-payments for office visits will increase to \$10. per visit for generalist (primary physician) and \$20. for specialist, and pharmacy co-payments will increase to \$10. per generic prescription, \$25. per brand-name prescription.

Tax Savings for California Caregivers

California caregivers can receive a \$500 tax credit to help offset expenses involved in care giving. Ask for California Tax Form 3504 (also available on internet) from your tax advisor. You'll need evidence from a doctor that the person receiving the care requires home care from you. You can also file amended tax returns for previous years if you were eligible and didn't apply at that time.

Contact us or find out more about the GCCCD Grapevine at [Grapevine home](#)
