

## Rodeo

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go on our rodeo grounds lease with the ROCC, we did not wish to be liable for paying rent on seats that couldn't be certified safe. We exercised an option in the lease that allowed us to terminate it without cause.

The Chamber board feels that ARODEO will do a good job with the rodeo. We will be loaning the new organization \$12,000, interest-free, to help it cover up-front costs for this year's event.

Many of the members of our team that produced the event in recent years have joined ARODEO. And, the Chamber will be putting on this year's Ramona Rodeo Parade, freeing the ARODEO team to concentrate on its event.

Most importantly, the proceeds of this very successful community event will now go to a well-defined and important cause, the promotion of amateur and junior rodeo.

## Exec. Director

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It is so very exciting to have members call and tell us they used to be involved in Chamber events and happenings, but for one reason or another, had backed off. They are telling us that they would again like to be an active part of the Chamber. One such business is Jewelry World, which will once again be donating a gift certificate at each month's mixer.

Our mixers will have taken on a slightly different flavor than in the past. Our directors have pledged to be more visible. Our opening and closing moments at the mixers will have a more formal setting. For one thing, we will be starting with the Pledge of Allegiance to our great flag and nation. New members will be introduced at the beginning of our mixers, rather than in the middle.

The Ambassador program, now chaired by Jennifer Anderson, will have a mentoring system where new members will be mentored by an Ambassador during their first few months of membership and until they feel comfortable within the Chamber setting. We challenge you, as members, to make these new folks feel as comfortable as possible.

We have an open-door policy at the Chamber office and invite you to visit or drop in at your convenience. Dolores and I are most happy to chat with you and listen to any suggestions you may have for making our Chamber run more efficiently. Call us at 789-1311 or stop by.

## CHAMBER NOTES

### Members Thanked

A giant thank you to two of our finest. First, to Stan Fidelke, who called the Chamber office a few weeks ago, offering us an aerial photograph of Ramona that was taken in the 70s. This historic photo was on the wall in his McDonald's store for many, many years. Of course we said yes! Second, thank you to Andrew Smith of Art About Africa, who will be doing a professional job of hanging the picture in the very near future in our Chamber lobby. Please take the time and treat yourselves to a view of Ramona history by stopping by and taking a look.

### Have Storage, Need Shed

The property at the corner of 10th and D streets, where our storage shed has been located, has been sold. We are now looking for a new location. Anyone willing to donate free space to the Chamber can call our office. Thank you to Dan Vengler for providing our site for many, many years.

### Advertising for Pennies

Advertise for only pennies by putting an insert into our monthly newsletter. All you have to do is provide the Chamber with

400 copies of what you want to advertise. The Chamber and Manzanita Press do the rest. For only \$55, your pre-printed flyers you will reach our members and citizens of Ramona. Call the Chamber for information, at 789-1311.

### Ambassadors Meeting

The next meeting will be at noon, March 8, in the Chamber office. Lunch will be provided, so an RSVP is needed. Call Teresa Hobbs (Century 21 San Vicente), Ambassadors secretary, at 788-4795 or email hobbstown@cox.net. All ambassadors are urged to attend.

### Business Expo

The Chamber-hosted Business Expo will be held Saturday, June 26, in conjunction with the Ramona Air Fair. The Chamber's Ambassadors are coordinating this event, with Jennifer Anderson as the chair. For both information, call the Chamber office at 789-1311.

### Fair Volunteers

Anyone interested in helping to plan the Ramona Country Fair, planned for July 29 to Aug. 1, is asked to call chair Randy Waitman (RAE), at 788-4912.

## Community News Corner

### Coupons honored

MJ, owner of the Cotton Candy Diner, has taken over the Pizza Guy's restaurant, located in the Kmart shopping center. MJ said he will honor the unused sports coupons and soccer fundraiser cards given out by the former owner. Both the Cotton Candy Diner and Pizza Guy's will honor these coupons.

### Air fair volunteers needed

The Ramona Air Fair, to be held June 26-27, needs volunteers. Contact Joe Corrigan at 788-5993.

### St. Pat's dinner

The Ramona Senior Center is planning its annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner fundraiser, on March 13 from 4 to 7 p.m. Tickets are \$6 per person and are available

in the lobby at the senior center, in the community center, 434 Aqua Lane, and at the Chamber office.

### Disaster Outreach meetings

Ramona Disaster Outreach meetings are held Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. at the Century 21 San Vicente offices. Volunteers are needed in leadership and support positions. For information, call (760) 599-7930 or (800) 559-5771.

### Cancer benefit run

The third annual Moose Loop 10k walk/run will take place Saturday, March 27, beginning at 7 a.m. at 20997 Black Canyon Road. This six-mile event is a benefit for the Ramona Cancer Resource Center. The \$15 entry fee includes a t-shirt. For information, call 788-8973 or 789-0602.

## Rodeo Parade has sponsorship and volunteer opportunities

The Ramona Chamber, no longer the sponsor of the Ramona Roundup Rodeo (see story, page one), will sponsor the Ramona Rodeo Parade, to be held beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 15.

A committee headed by Bill Jenkin (Farmers Insurance and Ramona Vintners Cellars) is already working on this event. Other committee members are Jennifer Anderson, co-chair; Ellie Whitcomb, announcers and judges; Jeranne Pyeatt, youth and royalty; Sharon and Jeff Uran, permits and barricades.

Anyone interested in volunteering for the day of the event is asked to call Bill at 788-1181 or the Chamber office at 789-1311. Help is needed in the staging area and wherever barricades are put up.

There will be a number of opportunities for sponsorships, and those businesses that sponsor a parade division will be invited to walk ahead of that division with a banner identifying the business. Some of the divisions in the parade will be equestrian, floats and antique cars. For sponsorship information, call Bill or the Chamber.

## Jennifer Anderson takes the reins for Chamber's Ambassadors team

Jennifer Anderson is the new chair for the Ramona Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors, the public relations arm of the Chamber. Other Ambassadors leaders are Ellie Whitcomb, vice-chair; Theresa Hobbs, secretary; Joy Childers, treasurer; and Charlotte Jensen, new-member coordinator. Chamber Ambassadors serve as official hosts and hostesses for the Chamber, and coordinate the monthly mixers, new-member receptions and ribbon-cutting ceremonies for new members.

"It really says something about someone who donates their personal time from their own everyday busy lives to volunteer for the community, and that's what the Ambassadors are all about," Jennifer said. "We have a lot of really neat people in this group."

This year's emphasis is on getting more people actively involved and have fun doing so, she said. She expects to achieve this by developing personal relationships with all stakeholders involved. This includes Ambassadors, directors, Chamber staff and new members. "People like good communication and organization," she said. "They like being a part of something and knowing that they are appreciated."

Jennifer chaired her first meeting on Feb. 9, with 13 people in attendance. "We had a great lunch, socialized, watched a presentation of previous events and discussed business. It was good to see people relaxed and enjoying themselves, and at the same time, getting matters accomplished," she said.

The Ambassadors soon will have a spot on the Chamber website letting everyone know what they are doing. For more information on joining the Ambassadors, or the Ramona Chamber of Commerce, call 789-1311, or Jennifer at (760) 271-3090.



JENNIFER ANDERSON

### Member testimonial

This morning, I locked my keys in my car. I immediately called The Lock Castle. Lyle was there in 15 minutes and had me on my way.

He was very friendly and efficient, and I wanted to thank him through you! I would recommend him to anyone!

Tracy Turner  
The Coffee Tree

## Who, What & When

### CHAMBER EVENTS

Ramona Artists Open Studio Tour ..... April 17 & 18  
Chairs: Josephina Hegan (Visual Communication Design) and Judy Nachazel (San Vicente Valley News)  
Info: 789-9030

Ramona Rodeo Parade ..... May 15  
Chair: Bill Jenkin (Farmers Insurance, Ramona Vintners Cellars)  
Info: 788-1181

Business Expo ..... June 26  
In conjunction with Ramona Air Fair  
Chair: Jennifer Anderson  
Info: 789-1311 or (760) 271-3090

Ramona Country Fair ..... July 29-Aug. 1  
Chair: Randy Waitman (RAE Automotive)  
Info: 788-4912

Merchants Trick-or-Treat on Main Street ..... Oct. 29  
Chair: Dolores Garcia (Ramona Chamber of Commerce)  
Info: 789-1311

### DATES TO BE DETERMINED:

Ed Bolen Memorial Golf Tournament/  
ROCC Tournament  
Chair: George Romero (Landmark National Bank)  
Info: (858) 947-2318

Antique & Wine Festival  
Chair: Bill Jenkin (Farmers Insurance and Ramona Vintners Cellars)  
Info: 788-1181

Ramona Country Christmas  
Chair: Jeff Rutland (Sears)  
Info: 788-8080

Installation Dinner  
Chair: Sharon Davis (Silk Decor Interiors)  
Info: 788-2509

### GENERAL COMMITTEES

Scholarships  
Chair: Josephina Hegan (Visual Communication Design)  
Info: 789-9030

Citizen of the Year  
Chair: Dan Vengler (Daniel's Liquor)  
Info: 789-1155

Monthly Mixers  
Chair: Dave Smithley (Albertsons)  
Info: 789-0023

Ambassadors  
Chair: Jennifer Anderson  
Info: (760) 271-3090