

# Three Rivers Roping rides into town this weekend!

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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THREE RIVERS AND SEQUOIA~KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

## Horses, of course

### TELLING IT LIKE IT IS

by Sarah Elliott

The Lions Team Roping means spring to me like Three Rivers School's Halloween Carnival signifies autumn. Growing up in Three Rivers, the Roping was always enjoyed with friends.

It is a fantastic event at which young people can gather because there's no admission charge. Well, okay, it's a dollar per car, but my friends and I would either walk, ride bikes, or one year, I even had my own horse to ride.

It was usually the first time in the year that we would wear shorts and tank tops with, the standard uniform for any Three Rivers kid, our swimsuits underneath. We would sit in the stands, but I honestly don't remember ever watching the competition.

We would talk, eat, and laugh at drunk cowboys. We would walk amongst the trailers and ask people if we could pet and groom their horses. Every now and then, someone would offer rides. When we got hot, we would head to the river to cool off.

During our seventh-grade year it was time for, you guessed it, fundraising for our upcoming eighth-grade San Francisco trip. During those years, we sold snow cones and popcorn. Yum!

The difference between fundraising then and now is that we didn't have any parents in the booth with us. We served the food and took the cash on our own.

Before the event, I can remember being taught by somebody's mom how to take the dollar bill, lay it on top of the drawer, and count back the change. I don't remember hearing that any money was ever missing; the worst thing we did was give our friends extra syrup on their snow cones.

Enjoy the weekend!



—ANNETTE ROSE PHOTO

## Spring events focus on kids

### Woodlake Western Week features free flights for youth

By BRIAN ROTHAMMER

Forget virtual reality. This is the real deal.

Young Eagles is a program of the Experimental Aircraft Association that provides free rides to anyone between the ages of eight and 17 years old. The Woodlake Flying Tigers chapter of EAA will offer 15-minute flights Saturday, May 2, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Woodlake Airport. There is no catch; just bring a parent or guardian to sign a permission slip and your desire to experience a whole new world.

These aren't carnival rides, pony rides, or rides in your uncle's hooty. Imagine the best roller coaster ever, then imagine no tracks and the sky as your limit. Imagine flight.

In the spirit of aviation, pilots will be on hand to walk each wannabe-flyer through all aspects of the aircraft and the skills needed to fly one. Participants



THE SKY'S THE LIMIT: Chris Crumly of the Woodlake Flying Tigers and his Beechcraft Debonair. —BRIAN ROTHAMMER PHOTO

can learn what its like to soar into the wild blue yonder.

Afterward, each novice flyer will be presented with a book called *Learn to Fly* and a certificate as a Young Eagle.

Pilots like Byron Taylor and Chris Crumly, both of whom live near Woodlake and have over 20 years of flying experience each,

—see FLIGHT, page 11

## Sunday is Family Day at Three Rivers Roping

Every day at the Roping has thrills for all, but the local Lions Club will really focus on the kids on Sunday, April 26. There is the traditional Pig Scramble (above), in which several different age groups of children are let loose in the arena for the chance to catch one of the little squealers. There is also the Pee Wee Roping and Barrel Race, as well as a bounce house and other activities for children. Admission to the Roping is just \$1 per car.

## River View burglarized

During a busy weekend like Jazz-fair there's lots of cash changing hands at local businesses. Apparently, the prospect of stealing the weekend's receipts from the River View Restaurant and Lounge was just too tempting for one burglar to resist.

When Rex Hildebrand, who

—see CRIME, page 11

### • KAWEAH COUNTRY OUTLOOK: three rivers • lemon cove • woodlake •

Saturday, April 25	Sunday, April 26	Monday, April 27	Tuesday, April 28	Wednesday, April 29	Thursday, April 30	Friday, May 1
Sunny Hi 72 • Lo 46	Mostly sunny Hi 79 • Lo 49	Partly cloudy Hi 80 • Lo 49	Partly cloudy Hi 75 • Lo 48	Partly cloudy Hi 78 • Lo 49	Sunny Hi 79 • Lo 51	Partly cloudy Hi 80 • Lo 53

**LAKE KAWEAH**  
as of April 23, 2009

668.08 feet pool elevation  
97,236 acre feet  
1,582 cfs inflow  
79 cfs outflow

Lake Kaweah rose 1.77 feet in elevation in the past 24 hours.