

# Ventura County Commission for Women

OCTOBER 1986

## VCCW Issues

### **Agriculturist Carolyn Leavens to preside at banquet**



**A**griculturist of the Year-1985, Carolyn Leavens of Ventura will be mistress of ceremonies for the Commission's Fifth Annual Salute to Women Awards Banquet set for Wednesday, Oct. 29 at the Westlake Plaza Hotel.



Mrs. Leavens is a nationally recognized spokesperson for agriculture and especially women in agriculture. A member of American Agri-Women since 1977, she served as president of the group from 1983-1985. She served as the group's media spokesperson from 1981-1983 and was active in a USDA Farm Womens' European Economic Community Tour for Women Agricultural Leaders in September 1984. She has been a member of California Women for Agriculture since 1976 and served as CWA president in 1981.

She and her husband, Paul Leavens Jr., have owned and operated the Leavens family ranch for 31 years. She is office manager for Leavens Ranches, which has grown from 100 acres of beans to more than 800 acres of citrus and avocado orchards. She was named Agriculturist of the year in 1985 at the California State Fair in Sacramento and last year also won the Leaven Award from California Agri-Women.

Mrs. Leavens is active as a member of the University of California, Agricultural Advisory Council; California Agricultural Foundation, trustee, 1983 to present; American Lung Association board member; Ventura County Taxpayers' Association, board member and former president,

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## Child care activities on public agenda in October

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**O**ctober has been chosen as the month to focus on child care in Ventura County.

The Child Care Implementation Task Force, under the aegis of Ventura County United Way, has planned a series of activities to inform the public what kinds of child care exist, what is needed, and what can be done to guarantee quality child care for every child in Ventura County.

The week of Oct. 14-18 has been declared Ventura County Child Care Week. "The objective of the week is to raise public consciousness about the critical need for affordable quality child care in our county," said Dr. Brook Hubbell, co-chair of the Ventura County Commission for Women.

At the request of the Ventura County Board of Supervisors, the Commission for Women tackled employer-assisted child care as a major goal when it was formed in 1981. Since then, the Commission has actively promoted child care options for employers in Ventura County and three years ago held a symposium at which time it introduced the concept in Ventura County.

As a result of the Commission's efforts, a number of companies have adopted child care and the County of Ventura initiated referral services for its employees. Also as a result of the Commission's groundwork and research into the issue, the topic is just now beginning to come to the public's attention in Ventura County.

Three commissioners -- Bonnie Warrington, Marlene Alexander and Dr. Hubbell -- have been an integral part of the United Way Implementation Task Force and its subcommittee for employer-assisted child care from its beginning. The task force is a committee of volunteers from local government, community groups, child care providers, and local business and industry.

The kickoff will be a breakfast for corporate chief executive officers for 30 of the county's largest employers on Oct. 8 at the Oxnard Hilton.

The theme, "Child Care: The Competitive Edge," will be presented by Dwane Krumme (First Interstate Bancard experience), the Chouinards (Great Pacific Iron Works) and Sandra Burud, a nationally recognized consultant. Corporate sponsors include Arco Solar, Great Pacific Iron Works, Bank of A. Levy and Brown Realty.

Options will be explored that relate to savings realized, turnover rates reduced, general employee satisfaction and many other bonuses identified in the Commission's child care research and symposium. "This corporate influence will hopefully have a positive effect on other corporations who in turn can work together for the implementation of child care centers countywide," said Commissioner Warrington.

Two weeks later, a half-day workshop for corporate representatives will explore the field of employer-assisted child care in greater depth. A highlight for this day will be Lt. Gov. Leo McCarthy discussing the role of government in child care. A myriad of additional activities have been planned including proclamations by the Board of Supervisors, city councils and school boards.

"A Day in the Park" from 10 a.m. to noon Oct. 11 at Plaza Park in Ventura will involve the participation of child-care providers. Available will be a short program, entertainment, storybook characters, a puppet show, booths and refreshments.

"The goal of this special month is to provide the impetus for a needed surge in the development of child-care services for Ventura County," said Dr. Hubbell.

Ultimately the Commission and United Way will work to establish a Ventura County Child Care Coalition. This Coalition will be composed of child care consumer groups, public and private service providers and agencies and other concerned citizens.

The Coalition's mission will be to bring the issue of child care to a forum for collaborative action. The Coalition will seek to achieve this by organizing and promoting public awareness activities; serving as a network for providers and advocates of child care; and by ongoing monitoring and evaluating of child care needs in Ventura County.

"The lack of child care continues to be a major impediment in improving the lives of women and their children in Ventura County," the Commission reported in their September 1985 needs assessment survey of Ventura County women. "The need for this service is growing, not diminishing."



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## Child Support Division hours extended

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Effective Oct. 8, the Child Support Division of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office will extend its hours on Wednesday evenings to 8 p.m. The 90-day trial program will enable clients to consult with the child support division staff without losing time from work as well as provide additional hours for absent parents to make their support payments.

The decision, made by Ventura County District Attorney Michael Bradbury, is a direct result of discussions between C. Stanley Trom, Executive Director of the Child Support Division, and Arleen A. Rosenfield, Chair of the Ventura County Commission for Women's Divorced Women's Task Force.

The Divorced Women's Task Force was formed to address the special needs of divorced women and female heads of household. Its goal is to cooperate with the DA's office to improve services offered through their child support division and develop a checklist of basic legal rights for separated women. The task force is also investigating existing legislation which enforces spousal support.

"The District Attorney and the Commission for Women are pleased to make this announcement and look forward to future cooperative efforts," said Ms. Rosenfield. For further information on the extension of hours, call the Child Support Division at (805) 654-5200.

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1982-1983; and Pesticide Information Program (PIP), director, for U.S. Agricultural Womens' organizations. She has been active with the State Board of Food and Agriculture, 1978-1982 and National Agricultural Chemical Association as media spokesperson, 1981-1983.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Ventura County Commission for Women, the Fifth Annual "Salute to Women" awards banquet brings together women and men from divergent walks of life in celebration of the similarities and unique differences of Ventura County women.

Tables for 10 can be reserved for \$600 which will include introduction at the banquet, "Gold Circle" seating and other extras. A patron reservation for \$60 will include special VIP listing in the banquet program, introduction as a patron and "Gold Circle" seating. The general ticket price is \$25 with a limited number of tickets available for students under 21 at \$21.50. To date Sunkist Growers, Cohen, Alexander and Clayton law offices of Thousand Oaks, and Jackson & Eskin law offices of Ventura are among the companies to reserve tables.

Registration and no-host cocktails, where guests will have the opportunity to meet each awardee, begins at 5:30 p.m. To make reservations or for further information, call Lee Anderson at (805) 496-8470 or Priscilla Pike at (805) 658-7770.

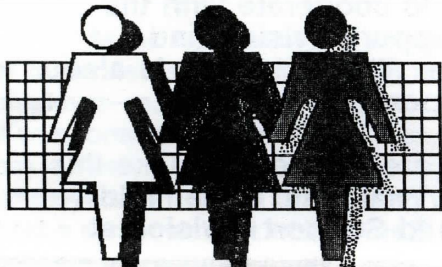
## **New officers take helm of Commission for Women for 1986-87**

New officers have taken the helm of the Ventura County Commission for Women for 1986-87. Named co-chairs in the September elections were Dr. Brook Hubbell of Simi Valley (District 4) and Arleen Rosenfield of Ventura (District 1). Executive secretary is Bonnie Warrington, also of Simi Valley (District 4). Martha White of Oxnard (District 5) serves as the Commission's finance officer.

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## **Ventura County Commission for Women**

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