

This 'Knight' never should have seen the light of day, Page A9

enterprise

Living Davis man discovers California's different customs

Reynoso suffered serious injuries in E. Coast car crash

By Lauren Keene
ENTERPRISE STAFF WRITER

Former California Supreme Court Justice and UC Davis law professor emeritus Cruz Reynoso was involved in a traffic collision Sunday near Charlottesville, Va., that also injured his wife and grandson, UCD officials announced Thursday.



REYNOSO
Former state Supreme Court justice UCD

Reynoso, 79, his wife Elaine Rowen Reynoso and 19-year-old grandson were traveling in a rental car that collided with a sport-utility vehicle.

"We don't know too much yet" about the accident, said Len Reid-Reynoso, Reynoso's son.

He said his father has been transferred out of intensive care at a Virginia hospital, but Elaine Reynoso remains in ICU in an induced coma to relieve swelling to her brain.

Elaine Reynoso is a life-long educator and serves on the board of trustees for the Sierra Joint Community College District.

"Dad has some broken bones, but we expect him to make a full recovery after a few weeks of rehabilitation," said Reid-Reynoso, who expressed appreciation to those who have offered their support and prayers.

Reynoso's grandson, who sustained minor injuries in the crash, has since returned home to California.

The Reynosos were on the East Coast for a

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Berry-licious bounty



Local farmer has passion for blackberries

By Sierra Horton
ENTERPRISE CORRESPONDENT

Richard Collins was 10 years old, living on a small farm in Sacramento, when he planted his first patch of blackberries as a gift to his parents on Christmas. He still has the card he gave to his parents, complete with a water-color blackberry painted on the front.

Collins, who graduated from UC Davis and has been farming for 28 years, is the owner of a company named California Vegetable Specialties, the only U.S. producer of endive, another of Collins' agricultural specialties. The endive is grown in Rio Vista and the blackberries in Solano County between Davis and Dixon.

"I have always loved to grow blackberries. Ever since I was a kid," Collins said. ... "They're a plant that really responds to management, in the sense that you can really influence its productivity and quality ... Plus, they are so good to eat."



SUE COCKRELL/ENTERPRISE PHOTOS

Richard Collins, at top, shows off some of the blackberries he grows on 2 acres between Davis and Dixon. His company, California Vegetable Specialties, also is the only producer of endive — grown in Rio Vista. College student Margaret Waterhouse, above, home in Davis for the summer, helps pick berries at Collins' farm.

Blackberry cultivation takes a bit more involvement on the farmers' part than do other fruits, initially taking about three years for the blackberries to grow at their full potential.

"We really manipulate the plant to respond in a way that

renders a quality food product," Collins said. "We grow the blackberries in a very unique manner. We move the plant seasonally to take advantage of its response to light."

Collins' wife, Shelly, often makes low-sugar blackberry

jams, pie and, what Collins likes to call, "Blackberry Crisps," joking that he and his wife make about a quarter-acre of Blackberry Crisps for various friends.

"Everybody loves

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Yolo County diverts 175,000 needles, syringes from landfill

By Jonathan Edwards
ENTERPRISE STAFF WRITER

Dump workers go to their jobs in fear, not knowing if a dirty needle or syringe might stick them as they paw through trash.

More than a million used sharps wind up in the Yolo County Landfill every year, estimated Marissa Juhler, waste reduction and sustainability manager at the landfill. That's even though a 2008 state law banned throwing them in the garbage.

"It's a huge risk that's out there," Juhler said.

Sharps users, however, turned in 2,200 pounds, or about 175,000 needles and syringes, over the past year. Instead of going to the county landfill, they were relayed to an outside contractor, who incinerated them.

A two-year, \$200,000 grant from CalRecycle, a state program, pays for disposal, allowing residents to get rid of their used sharps for free. Safely disposing of hazardous waste costs \$350 per 55-gallon drum, which comes out to about \$5 to \$6 per gallon. Some sharps users, like diabetics, inject insulin five times a day and can fill up a gallon milk jug quickly.

"That can get really costly" if people have to pay for it themselves, Juhler said.

The number collected was great, Juhler said, but she wants more. For one, 10 to 20 times more syringes are floating out in the landfill, she estimated.

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UCD researcher wins Guggenheim fellowship

By Jim Sweeney
SPECIAL TO THE ENTERPRISE

Zoila Mendoza, a UC Davis professor of Native American studies, has been awarded a prestigious Guggenheim fellowship to continue her research on a recurring pilgrimage that Peruvian highlanders take through the Andes.

Mendoza is one of 217 artists, scientists and scholars who received Guggenheim fellowships this year. The 2010 recipients also include Petr Janata, an associate professor at the UCD Center for the Mind and Brain and the department of psychology.

The fellowships were established in 1925 by former U.S. Sen. Simon Guggenheim and his wife, Olga, in memory of their 17-year-old son, John,

who died in 1922. Each year, the foundation receives between 3,500 and 4,000 applications, of which approximately 220 receive awards.

Mendoza, an anthropologist who has been studying the dances, music and festivals of her native Peru, said she was surprised and honored by the award from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. She had just returned from a month of research in Peru when she received the news.

"This is the perfect time for me," Mendoza said. "This is exactly what I needed right now to encourage me to finish this new, challenging project that I have been doing."

Mendoza grew up in Lima, the big-city capital of Peru. But both of her

parents were raised in small towns perched much higher in the Andes, where she was introduced to an unusual array of festivals, music and dance.

"I was always fascinated by the importance of that for Andean people and, in general, Peru," she said.

Her latest research focuses on a pilgrimage in which Quechua-speaking peasants and herders walk for three days and two nights up and down mountain paths, amid almost constant music and dance, to reach a sanctuary for worship. The 85-mile journey starts at an elevation of nearly 12,000 feet and climbs to 16,000 feet. Mendoza has

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COURTESY PHOTO

UC Davis professor Zoila Mendoza, who's researching a pilgrimage in Peru, is one of 217 artists, scientists and scholars to be awarded a Guggenheim fellowship.

NEEDLES: Many sharps users didn't know they were breaking the law

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The 2008 law, originally called Senate Bill 1305, didn't pay to educate people, Juhler said. So even frequent sharps users, like diabetics, drug addicts and multiple sclerosis patients, have no idea that putting them in a coffee can and sealing it off with duct tape is now illegal.

"They call it ban without a plan," she said. Nine out of 10 sharps users she's talked to "had no idea" they couldn't toss their used syringes in the trash.

"It's not because residents are trying to do the wrong thing. They just don't know."

But who's going to stop them? "There are no recycling police that come around and check these things," she added. "They are in violation of the law. There just wasn't anyone enforcing it."

Yolo County's grant funding runs out at the end of this year, but Juhler wants to see the burden taken off of government and the taxpayer. She wants to see manufacturers, and ultimately consumers, pick up the slack for what they make and use.

The idea's called "product stewardship," and it's bigger than just needles and syringes. It also extends to other ware with significant clean-up costs, like batteries, fluorescent light bulbs and mercury thermostats.

Manufacturers' responsibility wouldn't stop when a consumer bought a battery or a light bulb. Instead, makers would have to see products through their lifecycle. They would build clean-up costs into the price of their products. Thus, only people who buy and use a product would pay for its disposal, like motorists crossing a bridge who pay to

maintain it through a toll.

The practice has evolved in Europe, Canada, Japan and Taiwan, said Heidi Sanborn, executive director of the California Product Stewardship Council, but it's been "slow to catch on here."

The United State needs to, Sanborn said. When public waste management started 100 years ago, the garbage itself was very different — organic matter, bones, rags, paper, glass. "Very simple stuff," Sanborn said.

Now, she added, 70 percent of waste is "very toxic."

"We've got these chemicals and pesticides, propane tanks that explode, sharps — there's so much stuff coming at (the system). We really don't have the resources to manage it."

Part of that is money — taxpayers aren't willing to pay the fees necessary to cover the costs. About 180,000 tons of trash find its way to the county landfill each year, and it costs \$36 a ton to handle it, according to a resolution supporting product stewardship, which the Board of Supervisors passed in 2008.

"Local governments have no input into the design of the products, make no profit from (them), and do not have the resources to adequately address the rising volume of discarded products," according to the resolution.

"We're really stuck," Sanborn said. "We're really in a no-win situation."

For information about participating in the free sharps disposal program, contact Juhler at (530) 666-8813 or mjuher@yolocounty.org.

— Reach Jonathan Edwards at jedwards@davisenterprise.net or (530) 747-8052. Comment on this article at www.davisenterprise.com

GUGGENHEIM: Mendoza studies dance, music and pilgrimage in Peru

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made the grueling trek three times.

"It's been the most challenging part of my research, the physical aspect of it," she said. But the experience persuaded her to refocus her project.

"I've been studying dance from the anthropological perspective, but I've moved to a field that is truly interdisciplinary with the sciences — looking at actual senses, the sensorial and physical experience and how that intersects with culture."

Mendoza joined the UCD faculty in 1994 as an assistant professor in the

department of music. As a Native American studies professor, she has initiated classes in the Quechua language and culture. Quechua is the indigenous language of the Andes and the most widely spoken indigenous language of the Americas, she said.

In addition to the Guggenheim fellowship, Mendoza also received a grant from the American Philosophical Society to fund her research this summer.

"I am happy to share this honor with my department because this department has made my work possible," she said. "I do things because I care about our culture and I care about our

language and they have allowed me to do that and that has allowed me to flourish professionally."

Jessie Ann Owens, dean of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies, said she was thrilled by the news of the prestigious award.

"Zoila Mendoza typifies the excellent faculty in the division, especially in the breadth of her approach to the study of culture," Owens said. "This award is also a tribute to our Native American studies department, with its distinctive hemispheric approach to the study of indigenous people."

— UC Davis News Service



Emily Peri of Davis and Mary Collins, daughter of blackberry grower Richard Collins, sell the fruit at the Davis Farmers' Market. Collins' son, Aaron, not pictured, also sells the family's berries. Collins' wife, Shelly, uses some to make Blackberry Crisps, below.

SUE COCKRELL/ENTERPRISE PHOTOS



BERRY: Collins sells at fruit stands and the Davis Farmers' Market

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Blackberry Crisps with vanilla ice cream, or blackberry jam on toast. It's great."

By next winter, Collins and his wife hope to build an on-site processing kitchen, where Shelly will be able to make jam within the vicinities of their farm.

Collins' blackberry cultivation has undoubtedly reaped what he has sown. He grows about 2 acres of assorted blackberries, from Chesters to Obsidians to Navajos, and hopes to expand with an eventual 6 acres of land.

Collins sells his blackberry products, and other produce (including peaches, apricots, figs and more), in various locales near Davis. His Bridgeway Farms Fruit stand, near the Kidwell Road I-80 exit in Dixon, is open Thursday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Collins' blackberries also are sold at the R&R fruit stand in Winters, on the east side of Interstate 505 at the Putah Creek Road exit, open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Regarding blackberry



SUE COCKRELL/ENTERPRISE PHOTOS

A visitor peruses Richard Collins' blackberries at a fruit stand.

cultivation, Collins stated, "There's a lot of ups and downs. A lot of work, a fair amount of stress — some of it induced by mother nature,

some of it self-induced. But, there are also a lot of rewards. It's very, very gratifying to grow good food, and that's the reward."

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