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INSTITUTE**

Humanitarian

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A Common Mission to Perpetuate the Memory of Will Rogers

Will Rogers Motion Picture Pioneers Foundation has contributed \$50,000 to the Will Rogers Museum in Claremore, Oklahoma, toward the “Will Rogers in Schools” program and to continue online accessibility to Will Rogers’ writings. “These projects will help both organizations get one step closer to that goal,” said Todd Vradenburg, WRMPPF executive director. “Gifts like this are in keeping with our common objective of educating, preserving and sharing the life of Will Rogers for all generations,” said Steve Gragert, Will Rogers Museum’s director.

“Since its opening in 1938, 70 years ago this November, the Will Rogers Museum has been recognized as the world’s largest repository of the archives and artifacts of the remarkable Will Rogers,” said Gragert. “Chief among them is the personal and public writings of Will Rogers. It is this vast trove of material that researchers, students, scholars, writers — people from all walks of life — seek access in order to understand, appreciate and apply the wit and wisdom of Rogers.”

Gragert said the gift will be earmarked for continuing the project to digitize Rogers’



published writings, including five books, six volumes of syndicated newspaper columns known as “Weekly Articles,” a volume of syndicated columns from national political conventions of 1924-1932, three volumes of magazine writings and a volume of his radio broadcasts. The project also includes equipment for producing images from the writings and other documents in the museum collection.

Jacob Krumwiede, who has a degree in American history and came to Will Rogers Memorial Museum through a Rogers State

University internship program, will be working on the project. He is completing an Oklahoma Centennial project of the “Daily Telegrams” for the museum. They are expected to be online in the summer or early fall.

A portion of the gift will be used to help support the “Will Rogers in Schools” program to present information about Will Rogers to primary, middle and secondary schools in Oklahoma. The program provides not only an entertaining “visit” with Will, but also an invitation to the Claremore Museum and birthplace ranch near Oologah.

Dr. Doug Watson, a widely recognized portrayer of Will Rogers, leads this outreach and education initiative. During a typical year, he presents his program in 85 schools, reaching about 5,000 students through the state.

“There are all kinds of ways to support and enhance the memory of Will Rogers. We are fortunate in having the WRMPPF as a partner in giving numerous documents, archival items, photos and letters relating to Will Rogers,” said Gragert.

— Adapted from Pat Reeder, Will Rogers Museum

The Inside Story:

- SAVING WILL ROGERS STATE PARK ■ KEEPING KIDS ACTIVE
- PLANNED GIVING: TIPS ON CHARITABLE GIVING ■ HEALTHY NEWS
- FLAVORS OF SUMMER RECIPE ■ AND MORE...





Volunteers Rally to Save Will Rogers State Park

When sisters Nancy Proano and Martha Willis heard that state legislators might close Will Rogers State Historic Park because of financial woes, they wanted to help keep the park open.

The sisters were among approximately 300 volunteers who spruced up the park on April 5–6, 2008, as part of the “Will Rogers Never Met a State Park He Didn’t Like” event hosted by the newly formed Will Rogers Ranch Foundation. The foundation organized the event to give citizens a chance to show their love of state parks, said Will Rogers’ great-grand-

daughter, Jennifer Rogers Etcheverry. California State Parks. This means the department could reduce its general fund budget by \$13.3 million. However, State Parks would have lost \$3.7 million in revenue generated by day-use fees at the 48 parks.

Governor Schwarzenegger took closing the state parks off the table as a budget fix. Had they decided to close Will Rogers, the property would have reverted to the Rogers family. Betty Rogers, Will’s wife, deeded the 186-acre property to the state in 1944 with that stipulation. “The family doesn’t want it given back,” Etcheverry said. “The family wants to keep it open as a memorial to my great-grandfather.”



daughter, Jennifer Rogers Etcheverry. “We want to make people feel like this is their park,” Etcheverry said. “Next time they come to Will Rogers, they can point out what they did.”

Proano and Willis slathered their paint rollers with primer and brushed the interior walls of the park’s main barn. “I love this park,” said Proano, whose hair was flecked with white paint. “It reminds me of my dad who has since passed away. We used to hike, have picnics and watch polo. It would be a shame if they closed it.”

California State Parks had proposed closing 48 of the 278 state parks and reducing lifeguard staffing at 16 beaches in response to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s request that the department reduce its general fund budget by 10 percent. The state faces a \$14.5 billion budget deficit.

“Salaries are the largest part of State Parks’ budget and the closures would allow the department to eliminate 136 positions,” said Roy Stearns, communication deputy director for

To provide additional funding for the park, Etcheverry formed the Will Rogers Ranch Foundation with Trudi Sandmeier, whose grandfather was Will Rogers’ personal assistant, and Todd Vradenberg, a member of the Will Rogers Motion Picture Pioneers Foundation, which supports children and infants with pulmonary disease.

The foundation is interviewing candidates for its board and will begin organizing fundraisers soon. Residents can become members for a fee ranging from \$35 to \$1,000, which also benefits the foundation’s efforts. Etcheverry hopes to raise enough money to restore the historic barn and all the rooms of the ranch house, as well as to open a gift shop.

Youth from the park’s Westside Riding School giggled and chatted as they cleaned the horses’ stalls inside Jim’s Barn (named after Will Rogers’ son). “I ride here, and I heard they might close it down,” said Sophie Offer, a seventh-grader at Crossroads School. “I was really inspired to

actually do something rather than just ride horses here. I wanted to help and make a difference.”

Talia Lawrence, a 16-year-old at Wildwood School, also felt inspired to lend a hand. “I came here a lot as a kid for picnics and to ride horses. It’s a beautiful place with a lot of history and is one of the main reasons I decided to help preserve the parks,” she said. Lawrence started a campaign, “Students Against the Closure of California Parks” and created a Web site, www.saccap.synthasite.com, where she is selling buttons to benefit state parks. “These parks are indispensable to not only the people but also the wildlife,” Lawrence said.

Academy Award™-winner Diane Keaton helped paint Jim’s Barn to show her support.

Volunteers restored the hitching rail that Will Rogers once used to tie his horse in front of his house in the early 1930s. They celebrated the completion of that project with a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by Councilman Bill Rosendahl.

Rosendahl and Councilman Ed Reyes wrote a



resolution against closing state parks and reducing lifeguard staffing, which was approved by the Los Angeles City Council in April.

Volunteers received free lunch, T-shirts and bandanas from the Will Rogers Motion Picture Pioneers Foundation for their efforts. Future volunteer days may be added to help the park.

“I’m impressed with the number of volunteers, but I’m more impressed with what they got done,” said Randy Young, a Pacific Palisades resident and historian who helped organize the event.

— Adapted from Danielle Gillespie,

Palisadian Press

Photos top left and above right: Danny Duarte, CA Dept. of Parks and Recreation; group photo: Nancy Jackson.



Getting Kids Active, Keeping Fun!

All Jack likes to do is sit at the computer. He's only 9, but already his lifestyle is sedentary and his weight isn't what it should be. As a concerned parent, you encourage him to exercise: You tell him how important it is and that it's good for him. And if Jack's like most children, your explanation got you exactly nowhere! So what can you do? Try some of these kid-friendly tactics:

- Don't use the word *exercise*. Instead, use words such as *fun* and *play*.
- Keep items that your child can get active with, such as beanbags, jump ropes, soccer balls and hula hoops.
 - If your child loves to read, suggest riding a bike to the library to get books. If your child loves surfing the Internet, ask him or her to research a topic like gardening for example, and then plant one together. If your child's into video games, buy one that incorporates body movement, such as *Dance Dance Revolution*.
- If your child is a TV-watcher, take advantage of the commercials. Suggest doing a little cardio movement (just don't call it cardio!) before the show resumes: walking up and down some stairs, seeing who can do more toe touches, jumping jacks, or marching in place and counting the steps.
- If your child is a pet-lover, ask him or her to take the dog for a walk or race with the dog in an enclosed area.
- Ask your child to walk to the store with you and play "I Spy" or other such games along the way.

Strolling to Health

The risk factors associated with heart disease, diabetes and stroke are large waist circumference, high blood pressure, high levels of triglycerides, low amounts of HDL ("good" cholesterol) and high blood sugar. Having three out of five of these factors gives you a diagnosis of metabolic syndrome (MetS). But you can change that just by walking.

In a recent Duke University Medical Center study, 41 percent of participants were diagnosed with MetS. After eight months of walking for 30 minutes six days a week, without making dietary changes, only 27 percent still met the criteria for MetS.

Planned Giving: Tips on Charitable Giving and Taxes



Deciding what organization you want to make a charitable contribution to should be a very personal process — if you want your donation to be as meaningful as possible. And while altruism should be your main motivation to give, you should be aware that there are tax benefits for giving as well, according to Charity Navigator, a multiple award-winning Web site (www.charitynavigator.org).

Here are some of the benefits of making charitable donations. (Note: you should consult your tax adviser for the complete tax consequences of making contributions.)

- If you itemize deductions, a gift to a qualified charitable organization may entitle you to a charitable contribution deduction.
- A contribution is deductible only in the year in which it is paid.
- Most, but not all, charitable organizations qualify for contribution deductions.
- There are limits to how much you can deduct for charitable giving, but they're very high.
- Specific rules exist for non-cash donations.
- Remember to document your contributions.

Here is a list of the types of organizations you can give to and deduct your donation: churches and other religious organizations; tax-exempt educational organizations; tax-exempt hospitals and certain medical research organizations; a government unit, such as a state or political subdivision of a state; publicly supported organizations such as a community chest; certain private foundations that distribute all contributions they receive to public charities within two and a half months after the end of the foundation's fiscal year; a private operating foundation that pools all of its donations in a common fund; and certain membership organizations that rely on the general public for more than a third of their contributions.

For more information, check out the Charity Navigator Web site, e-mail info@charitynavigator.org or call (210) 818-1288.

Will Said: Pick the Quote Made Famous by Will Rogers



- A) "Patience is never more important than when you are at the edge of losing it."
- B) "Never let yesterday use up too much of today."
- C) "If your ship doesn't come in, swim out to it."

Answers: A) O.A. Batista B) Will Rogers C) Jonathan Winters

Healthy News



The Real Buzz About Honey

—Next time you make a cup of tea and drizzle a little honey in it, take a moment to consider some miraculous facts about that “yellow gold,” provided by the National Honey Board:

- Honeybees must tap 2 million flowers to make one pound of honey.
- A bee will visit an average of 50 to 100 flowers during one collection trip.
- A hive of bees flies more than 55,000 miles to produce one pound of honey.
- An average worker bee produces one-twelfth of a teaspoon of honey in its lifetime.
- Bees have been producing honey for 10 million to 20 million years.
- Finally (though you may not care to know this), honey is the alchemical result of flower nectar mixed with bee spit.

More for Less!

The USDA's Low-Cost Food Plan estimates that the cost for an American family of four to eat a nutritious diet is \$167.70 per week, though four-person American households spent an average \$189 per week on food in 2007. The bottom line: Families can spend less and eat more nutritiously. Americans spend about 13 percent of their disposable income on food. For recipes and cost-per-serving breakdowns on healthy dishes, go to <http://recipefinder.nal.usda.gov>.



Thousands of Reasons to Buckle Up

15,383: the estimated number of lives saved in the U.S. by the use of seat belts in 2006.

—From the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Flavors of Summer: Dessert Nachos

Canola oil spray

1/3 cup sugar

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

8 fat-free flour tortillas

1 cup orange segments, diced

2 cups strawberries, diced

2 large kiwi fruits, peeled and diced

1 pkg. (8 oz.) Neufchatel (reduced fat cream cheese)

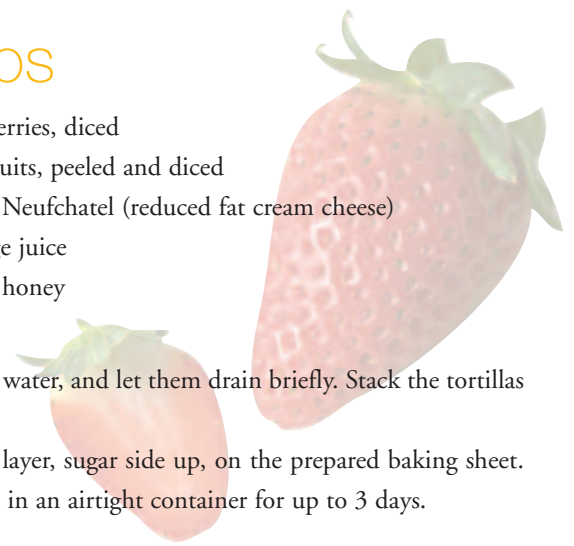
1/2 cup orange juice

3 tablespoons honey

- 1) Preheat oven to 500° F. Lightly coat a baking sheet with oil spray.
- 2) In a shallow bowl, mix the sugar and cinnamon. Dip the tortillas, one at a time, in water, and let them drain briefly. Stack the tortillas and cut them into 6 or 8 wedges.
- 3) Dip one side of each wedge in the sugar mixture. Arrange the wedges in a single layer, sugar side up, on the prepared baking sheet. Bake until crisp and golden, about 4 to 5 minutes. Let chips cool, and store them in an airtight container for up to 3 days.
- 4) Combine the fruit to make a salsa. You may vary the fruit as desired.
- 5) In a small pan, combine the Neufchatel cheese, orange juice and honey. Whisk over low heat until the sauce is smooth (about 3 minutes). Mound the chips on a platter. Offer the sauce and salsa to spoon over the chips.

Yield: 8 servings. Serving Size: 6 wedges. Prep. Time: 15 min. Total Time: 20 min.

Nutritional Information: Calories 233; Protein 5.8g; Carbohydrates 39.3g; Cholesterol 20mg; Sodium 300mg; % Calories from Fat 24; Dietary Fiber 7.9g.



Will Rogers Kicks Off Summer Campaign



Jeremy Piven

JEREMY PIVEN IS 2008 SUMMER CAMPAIGN SPOKESPERSON FOR ANNUAL FUND-RAISER – COMING SOON TO A THEATER NEAR YOU!

Jeremy Piven was born on July 26, 1965, in Manhattan, New York, and raised in Evanston, Illinois. He is an alumnus of the Piven Theatre Workshop founded by his parents Byrne Piven and Joyce Hiller Piven.

After attending the prestigious Evanston Township High School, Jeremy began studying theater at Drake University in Iowa and eventually went on to earn his theater degree at New York University.

Jeremy made his cinematic debut with a small role opposite Charlie Sheen and Winona Ryder in *Lucas* (1986), followed a few months later by a cameo appearance in *One Crazy Summer* (1986), starring his old friend John Cusack. In 1988, Jeremy and John teamed up to establish New Crime Productions, which would eventually go on to produce *Grosse Pointe Blank* (1997) and *High Fidelity* (2000). Jeremy also starred in films such as *White Palace* (1990), *The Player* (1992) and *Judgment Night* (1993).

In 1994, Jeremy tackled a leading role for the first time in the cult classic *PCU*. Although it was a critical and financial failure, the movie led to a recurring role for Jeremy on the popular sitcom *Ellen* (1995 to 1998). When *Ellen* wrapped up in 1998, Jeremy devoted himself to his film career

and took roles in high-profile movies like *Very Bad Things* (1998), *Black Hawk Down* (2001) and *Old School* (2003).

But it is Jeremy's role as smug, smarmy Hollywood agent Ari Gold on the smash HBO series *Entourage* that has finally bumped the actor up to the A-list. In 2005 and 2006, he was nominated for an Emmy Award and two Golden Globe Awards.

You Can Help — Be Part of the Tradition

Please donate at the concession stand or by making a special purchase at participating movie theaters during our summer fund-raising campaign. The summer campaign runs from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day (time varies by theater). Thank you!

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For 70 years, WRI has been a national leader in providing medical school fellowships, neonatal ventilators and educational materials.

Correction: In the 2008 Winter *Humanitarian* article, "Will Power," the site of Will Rogers' airplane accident was Point Barrow, Alaska.

Our Mission

TO PERPETUATE THE MEMORY OF WILL ROGERS BY PROMOTING AND ENGAGING IN MEDICAL RESEARCH PERTAINING TO CARDIOPULMONARY DISEASES AND BY EDUCATING THE GENERAL PUBLIC ON TOPICS OF HEALTH AND FITNESS.

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There is a 25-booklet maximum per order.

Visit www.wrInstitute.org or call (877) 957-7575 to order today.



This summer, you can be part of a tradition. Help support the Will Rogers Summer Fund-raising Campaign when you get out of the heat and go into a movie theater! More info inside. (Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day)

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Summer 2008

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