

# Eye Street

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**Herb Benham**  
CALIFORNIAN COLUMNIST

## In our house, right movie for the right night

For those who don't have Netflix, this is the mail-to-your-house movie service that has more than 25 million American subscribers. For \$9 to \$30 a month, you can have movies or past TV shows sent to your house or streamed into your TV and computer.

Subscribers create a list of movies online they want to watch — a queue — and one after another, movies arrive at your front door. Handy. It's like getting a present in the mail once a week wrapped in bright red paper.

We were the ideal Netflix customers: We subscribe but don't watch the movies. It was like belonging to a gym and never showing up. Movies stacked up and one day we discontinued the service.

When my wife had control over the queue — and I don't mean to criticize her in a public forum, but sometimes a man doesn't have a choice — Friday would arrive and we would have our pick between two relationship movies. First of all, no household should have more than one relationship movie in inventory at a time, and if you have to have one, it shouldn't be on Friday night.

Friday night is dumb movie night. Relationship movies often end poorly and since the week may not have finished well to begin with, no man needs another reason to kill himself; he has plenty already.

Relationships movies are for Saturday: English accents, Victorian costumes and pianos waiting down to the bottom of the ocean. Bring it on. On Saturday, we can handle a double dose of serious, meaningful and ponderous.

That's not to say that a dark film cannot be useful on Friday, because it can. Once the viewer hits overload, and this can happen during the opening credits, it might be enough to send him gently off to sleep.

We're back on Netflix and I'm in charge. It's like driving. She can drive, but isn't everybody happier when I am behind the wheel? Pretend you are substantial enough to have employed a chauffeur.

We've never seen an episode of "Friday Night Lights" and I added it to the queue.

"Bev and I watched "Casablanca," the other night," said John, my father-in-law, by way of a suggestion.

"Casablanca." Can you see that too many times? The answer is no.

A friend recommended "Five Minutes of Heaven," and since five minutes may be all I get before I am tossed back over the gates, it's in the No. 4 slot. "The Shipping News," was another recommendation because it's hard to beat Kevin Spacey. Nobody does deadpan better.

First on the list, however, is "Father of the Bride." I have been told this movie watches differently when you have a horse in the race.

It's time to get in wedding shape because we're coming around the first turn and we have more than a furlong to go.

Movie night is back. Better yet, I'm in control. Suggestions are welcome and will be taken under advisement.

These are Herb Benham's opinions, and not necessarily The Californian's. His column appears Tuesday, Friday and Sunday. Call him at 395-7279 or write **hbenham@bakersfield.com**.

### BEST SERVER IN TOWN

Eating out remains one of our favorite pastimes, even in this challenging economy. But the food is only part of the reason we make tracks to our favorite local restaurants. It's the waiters and waitresses who have the ability to turn a meal into a memorable experience. Who are the most charming/capable/friendly/caring/funny servers in town?

Send us your nominee and include your name and phone number, the server's name, the restaurant's name and why this server is so great (250 words, max).

The top server has the chance to win a \$50 gift card to Goose Loonies and a four-pack of tickets to the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Email Lifestyles Editor Jennifer Self at jself@bakersfield.com.

## Dining Out

**"I rationalize eating this by pointing to all the studies saying that walnuts are a nearly perfect food, and skip dessert to make the caramel sauce acceptable. I also add no maple syrup. This is practically health food."**



HENRY A. BARRIOS / THE CALIFORNIAN

Waitress Sarah McMillan gets an order out for patrons of Pappy's Coffee Shop.

# Get happy at Pappy's

Good food, and lots of it, keeps them coming back

BY PETE TITTL  
Contributing columnist  
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If you need further political reassurance, look to the wall, where you can find pictures of John Wayne side-by-side with former President George W. Bush, with a prominent place in the center for former President Ronald Reagan. It's an eccentric collection of decorations, including a stuffed jackalope, which thankfully does not have the name of any prominent Democrats draped around him.

Around the rest of the room, the walls are decorated with old oil field signs and other memorabilia celebrating our past as the oil capital of California. There is no TV in Pappy's, but if there was, you can be sure it'd be tuned to FOX News.

I was visiting with three former students, Liberty High graduates, two of them Republicans and one an independent. At least one of the Republicans has been a Pappy's fan since it opened, proclaiming that he never had a bad meal there, ever. The other Republican took exception to that, citing a meal many years ago that fell short of the mark, but he admitted it had been a rare event.

Please see **PAPPY'S / D7**

## Loud and proud: Patriarch spoke mind, lived his faith

BY JENNIFER SELF  
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Evidence of Pete "Pappy" Cisneros' beliefs, passions and sense of humor are inescapable at the popular Rosedale restaurant he founded: Pictures of Sarah Palin and Ronald Reagan attest to his conservative politics; American flags demonstrate his deep patriotism; oil-related odds and ends recall the many back-breaking years he spent in the oil fields.

Oh, and menu items like "Freedom toast" and "Freedom fries" indicate he wasn't especially wild about the French.

But the most personal reminder of Cisneros, who died unexpectedly in February, hangs from an elk's antler, one of several game trophies that line the walls of the cafe: the hat he always wore.

"There's a couple of pictures of him working in the oilfields, his John Wayne rifle and that hat. It still gets to me," said Peter Anthony Cisneros Jr., who runs the family business with his brother, sister and her husband.

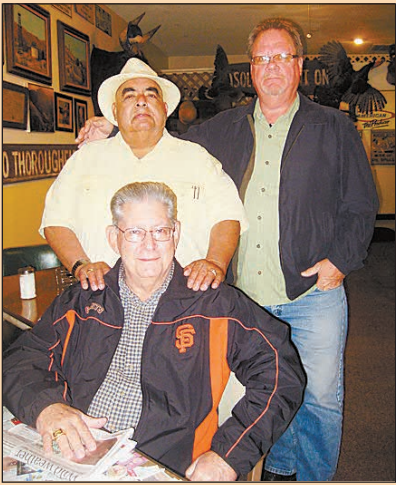


PHOTO COURTESY OF THOMAS CISNEROS

**Pete "Pappy" Cisneros (in hat) poses with friends Bob Hylton (seated) and Bob Carlson. The photo was taken earlier this year, just before Cisneros' death.**

"We know he's around. We just can't see him."

In the months since the senior Cisneros' death, not a thing has changed

Please see **CISNEROS / D7**

# Forgotten day for the Golden State

Admission into Union honored by group

BY CAMILLE GAVIN  
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Readers of a certain age who grew up in Kern County and other parts of California may remember when Sept. 9, Admission Day, was a school holiday. It often occurred during the first week of school, and, as a student at William Penn Elementary in the 1940s, I remember thinking it was odd to get a day off when classes had hardly begun.

While it has ceased being a get-out-of-school-day in Kern County, California still recognizes the ninth day of September as a legal holiday in observance of our state's entry into the Union in 1850.

**Native Daughters of the Golden West, El Tejon Parlor No. 239**

**What:** California Admission Day luncheon  
**When:** 11:30 a.m. Friday  
**Where:** Hungry Hunter Restaurant, 3580 Rosedale Highway  
**Cost:** \$17  
**Information:** 588-0036

One organization that's well-aware of Admission Day is the 125-year-old Native Daughters of the Golden West, or NDGW. And the local chapter, El Tejon Parlor No. 239, is marking the occasion with a luncheon on Friday.


Darleen Carpenter, a past president of the parlor and an officer at the state

Please see **ADMISSION / D2**




PHOTO COURTESY OF DARLEEN CARPENTER

**Dressed in period costumes for a Native Daughters of the Golden West state banquet in 2009 are Dorothy Basher, front; back from left, Gary Wilcox, Jenelle Wilcox and Darleen Carpenter.**



**GARY ALLAN**  
**September 8 • 8pm**  
**Tickets start at \$35**



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