

# SLO CITY NEWS

YOUR COMMUNITY IN YOUR HANDS

Bridget and Paul Ready host Jack's Helping Hand annual barbecue fundraiser at the Santa Margarita Ranch on Saturday, July 9. The sold out event raised a record amount for the organization to help fund their programs and services. More on page 26. Photo by Christopher Gardner.





# slocity community

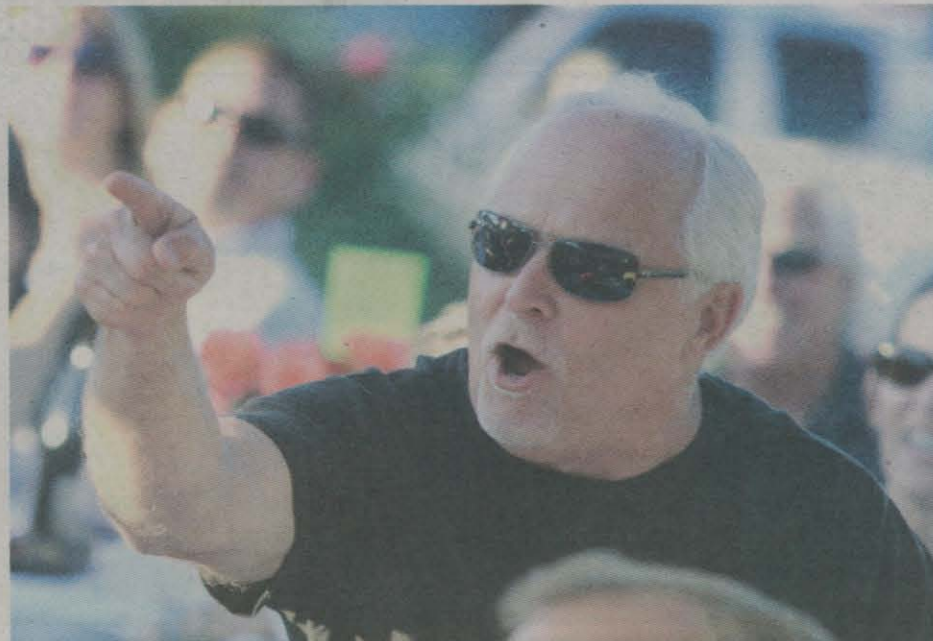
## Jack's Helping Hand

Photos by Christopher Gardner

There are times when life comes into crystal clear perspective. There are times when you are simply humbled by the company you find yourself in. Saturday, July 9 at the Santa Margarita ranch was one of those times. Beautiful afternoon, wonderful music and hundreds of individuals gathered for the best of reasons. Sure, it is nice to see friends. Absolutely, it is wonderful to drink good wine and break bread with family and community. Yet, all in attendance knew the genesis for this gathering was based in pain, loss and grief. Jack Ready was the son of Bridget and Paul; two finer people you could

never meet. A prominent family who is known for their commitment and generosity, they suffered the unspeakable loss of their son, Jack, to a rare form of brain cancer. Not quick. Not painless. Not easily forgotten. Yet, out of their grief, the organization Jack's Helping Hand has risen. Not only has it grown but it has shined more than they could have imagined. On Saturday, July 9, they raised more than \$180,000 to continue the work that was spawned out of grief. Bridget was glowing with pride and purpose when speaking about her organization's present accomplishments and its future goals. Owen

Beck, an early beneficiary of JHH who has a high tech artificial leg, introduced newer members of the JHH club. The scene stealer of the evening was Oliver Baker-Ballantyne. He has a rare form of cancer and needed specialized brain surgeries and skull grafts. With scars still present on his shorn head he was alive with all the spirit one would associate with a 5 year old. Confiscating the microphone at the last second he wanted to make sure those in attendance knew that, "I love you." Hardly a dry eye in the meadow was left. ♣



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