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Good Fortune Smiles on 87-Year-Old When She Finally Meets Her TV Idols

By Cynthia Brian



From Left: Joan Rankin, Heather Brittany Rankin, Brian Rankin, Vanna White, Alice Abruzzini, Pat Sajak and Cynthia

Cince the "Wheel of Fortune" TV show debuted in 1983, Alice Abruzzini has invited Pat Sajak and Vanna White into her family room for a half hour of fun and games every Monday through Friday between 7:30 and 8 p.m. Friends and family know not to call the octogenarian weekdays during that half hour or they'll get this curt answer: "Sorry I can't talk right now because I'm watching 'Wheel of Fortune.' Please call back later!"

The top item on her bucket list for three decades has been to visit the set as part of the audience. Since she is 87, living in 11, great grandmother to 10, and Northern California without any ties to the show, she was certain that was one bucket list item that would never be crossed out.

graduate Brian Rankin spent a day Fortune adventure in Los Angeles. auditioning to be a contestant on "Wheel of Fortune." At the end sen as a contestant for that speof the day, the casting director informed him that if he was chosen it would probably take two years ing and cheering from the audibefore a shoot date was selected.

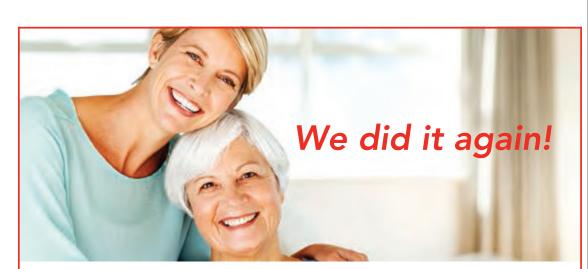
Brian's phone rang and he was photograph taken with them. informed that not only had he lowing week. There were two ca- the rest of the story... veats: One, he could only bring

Photo Carol Kaelson, with permission four people as his audience cheerleaders; two, they had cast four people for three spots on the show. There was a 25 percent chance that he would not be this shoot date.

Besides his wife, Heather, and his mother, Joan (who is also a great fan), he knew that one of his choices had to be his grandmotherin-law, Nonie: Alice Abruzzini. Nonie was ecstatic with the invitation until she looked at her calendar and realized that she had already R.S.V.P'd "yes" to another important family event. When you are the mother of five, grandmother of Nonie to everyone, juggling celebrations is cause for anxiety. With the rest of the family's blessing and enthusiastic encouragement, But in November, Campolindo Nonie set off for her Wheel of

Fortunately Brian was chocific date and Nonie was able to live her dream, clapping, yellence bleachers. She waved to Exactly two weeks later, Pat and Vanna and even had her

How did our local Morabeen chosen to compete, but they ga contestant do? Tune in at needed him in the studio the fol- 7:30 on Monday, April 11 for





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Town Hall Music Festival Hits the Right Notes

Submitted by Tom Stack



From left, Ron Bruder and Pat Nevins perform at the 2015 Lafayette Community Music Festival. Photo provided

afayette's Town Hall Theatre mat. ✓ will present the sixth annual Lafayette Community Music Festival, to be held on Saturday April Town Hall. "The musicians believe

Featured this year are Dream Posse, Stevie Coyle of Lafayette's Rodeo, Reminisce, Hard Rain and cause." the Town Hall Kids.

performing 25-30 minute acoustic www.townhalltheatre.com. sets in a Bridge School-style for-

"This event is a labor of love," says Tom Stack, vice-president of that live music and the arts need to be supported at all costs, and are willing to donate their time and Mighty Fine Guitars, Garageland considerable talents to that very

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the The musicians donate their music starts at 7:30 p.m. For more time and talents to the event, while information on the festival, visit

