

The Mountain Chronicle

Ebbetts Pass Community News

Volume 2, Number 7

July 24, 2007

Published In Arnold



Giving A New Meaning To The Term "Fuzz"

Photo By Kelly Wright

Is CHP officer Sgt. Lori Harmon arresting another ass?
Find out who captured whom on page 13 "Small Town News."

Peering In To The Calaveras Judicial System: Part 1

By Jim Stearns

SAN ANDREAS— If you've ever watched any cop shows on television or had the misfortune of being arrested, it's an unforgettable mantra. "You have the right to remain silent. Anything that you say can be used against you. If you cannot afford an attorney, one will be appointed for you." Though the Miranda ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court, which established the reading of rights to a suspect was established in 1966, it was a unanimous Supreme Court ruling in 1963 that established the right of every individual to have an attorney.

From that day forward states and counties have used a wide variety of means to adhere to the ruling that supposedly offers each person facing trial a competent defense. Like all public assistance agencies there is little doubt that the Public Defender's office is overwhelmed with demand. Add that to the fact that people arrested for crimes aren't usually at the top of the socio-economic curve and you've got a log jam in virtually every county in California; Calaveras County is no exception.

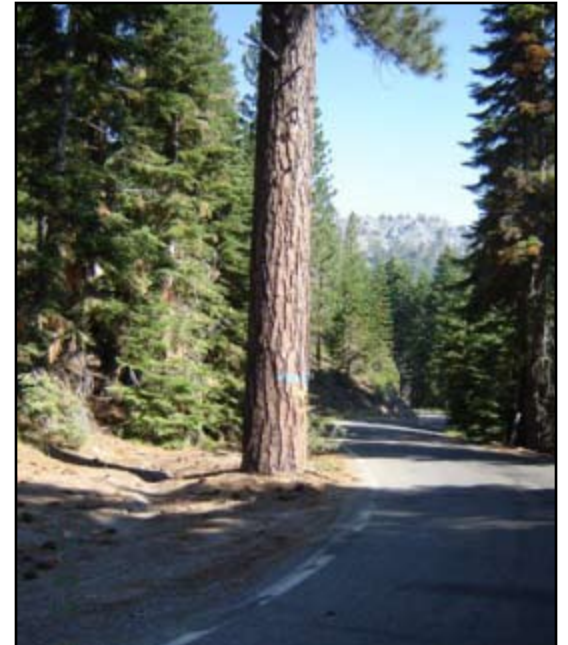
Calaveras County, like many counties in California, has chosen to put the public defender's contract out to bid, and for the last several years that contract has been held by Richard Ciummo and Associates. Ciummo has been in the business for over twenty years and also has full service contracts with Modoc, Madera, Placer and Amador counties. In Calaveras the office is staffed by the lead attorney Allison Kaylor along with two other attorneys and an office manager.

The numbers are high . . .

See "The People's Defense" Page 14

Trees Get Stay of Execution

Forest Service declares case "stale"



By Ross Alford

EBBETTS PASS— It remains unclear as to the fate of the 115 trees that were determined hazardous and scheduled to be logged along Highway-4, just over the pass summit, by the Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest Service in 2003; but for now, the trees will remain, as the project has become "stale."

It has been hard to get at the truth. In the last issue of the Mountain Chronicle we reported that the Forest Service said that the project rests in the hands of CalTrans. Subsequently, we talked to CalTrans spokesperson Lisa Balcom, and she said that CalTrans has nothing to do with the project, and that the project is purely a Forest Service project.

I called the Humboldt Toiyabe Forest Service again. Their spokesperson Tom Wayne said a number of things. First he said "the project was not going through at this time." I asked him if that meant that the project was closed. He paused and said, "no it means that at this time the Forest Service is waiting on CalTrans." When I related what CalTrans had told me, he said "well, we're waiting on them," and added "as I understand it unless CalTrans moves forward "its not going to go through." In all fairness Wayne was having to answer questions for decisions made by someone who came before him or for someone who is ranked above him. But either way . . .

See "Stay Of Execution" Page 14

2007 BEAR VALLEY MUSIC FESTIVAL

39TH ANNUAL • JULY 28 - AUGUST 12, 2007

 <p>Rosanne Cash Saturday, July 28th</p>	 <p>Joyce Yang Thursday, August 2 Saturday, August 4 Sunday, August 5</p>	<p>SYMPHONIES AT 7000 FEET? ABSOLUTELY! <i>As well as rock, opera, show tunes, jazz, pop and country music.</i></p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; font-size: small;"> <tr> <td>7/28 Rosanne Cash</td> <td>8/4 BV Festival Orchestra / Joyce Yang & LIVE AUCTION</td> <td>8/10 BV Festival Orchestra / Sandy Cameron</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8/1 BROADWAY POPS</td> <td>8/5 BV Festival Orchestra / Joyce Yang</td> <td>8/11 OPERA: Merry Wives of Windsor</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8/2 Joyce Yang in Recital</td> <td>8/7 Evening of Chamber Music</td> <td>8/12 BV Orchestra / Sandy Cameron</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8/3 Super Diamond (Neil Diamond Tribute Band)</td> <td>8/8 Shelly Streeter</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>8/4 Free Children's Concert & Teddy Bear Picnic</td> <td>8/9 Hot Club of San Francisco</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-size: small;"> <p>Sonora Opera Hall 8/2 Brandon Yip, classical guitarist 8/9 Opera Preview: Merry Wives of Windsor</p> </div>	7/28 Rosanne Cash	8/4 BV Festival Orchestra / Joyce Yang & LIVE AUCTION	8/10 BV Festival Orchestra / Sandy Cameron	8/1 BROADWAY POPS	8/5 BV Festival Orchestra / Joyce Yang	8/11 OPERA: Merry Wives of Windsor	8/2 Joyce Yang in Recital	8/7 Evening of Chamber Music	8/12 BV Orchestra / Sandy Cameron	8/3 Super Diamond (Neil Diamond Tribute Band)	8/8 Shelly Streeter		8/4 Free Children's Concert & Teddy Bear Picnic	8/9 Hot Club of San Francisco	
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To Contribute:

We will consider publishing Letters to the Editor of fewer than 300 words, which include a name, phone number and area of residence. Submissions: MTChron@comcast.net (subject line: "Letter"). If we don't run your letter you can consider buying an ad!

The Mission:

The Mountain Chronicle intends to let the facts tell the story in the news section of the paper and raise hell on the OP/ED page. If you exploit, degrade or injure the community, you're fair game!

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Breaking News:

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From The Editor

Keep Democracy Alive

The 39th anniversary of RFK's assassination went relatively unnoticed again this year. Robert F. Kennedy would have been 82 years old if he wasn't assassinated on June 5th 1968 moments after having won the California presidential primary. Appropriately RFK was the only person ever buried in Arlington National Cemetery at night with only the "bare minimum military escort and ceremony," it's appropriate because subsequently, the country was left with a nightmare and left in the dark as to who killed the Kennedy brothers. The best investigator in the county was RFK – and he was killed. The assassination of RFK's brother, president John F. Kennedy, is essentially the culmination of the derailment of American Democracy following WWII. And the assassination of RFK was equally significant, as RFK may have had more promise than his brother in growing to understand the need's of the nation. As an example, where JFK was conflicted as to what to do in Vietnam, RFK was not. RFK wanted to get America out of Vietnam as evidenced in his book "To Seek a Newer World."

"I was involved in many of the early decisions on Vietnam, decision which helped set us on our present path... I am willing to bear my share of the responsibility, before history and before my fellow-citizens. But past error is no excuse for its own perpetuation."

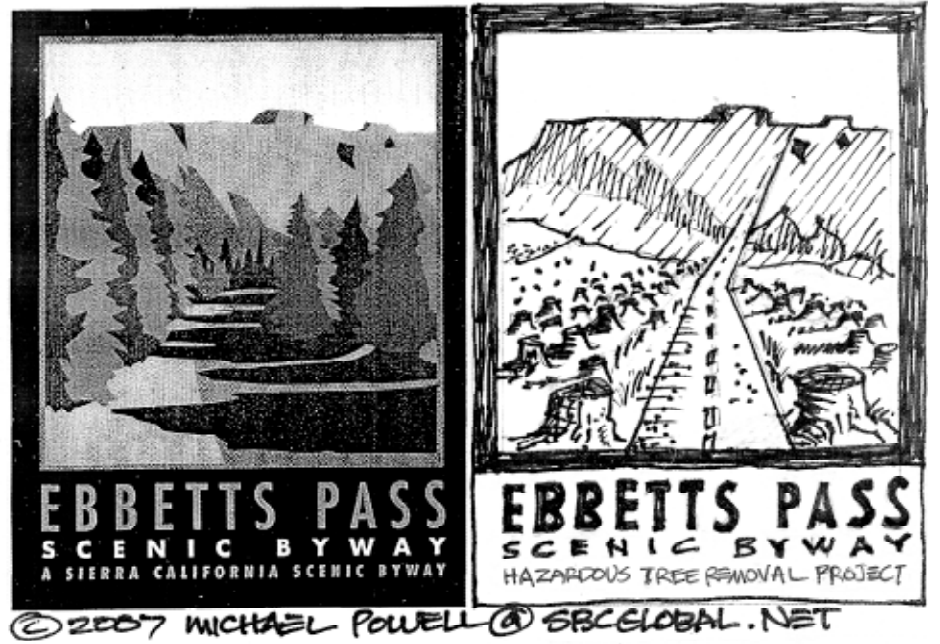
The terrible investigations and why:

The idea that JFK was killed by a lone gunman is now essentially repudiated, and the investigation of the RFK assassination was even worse than JFK's. In conducting the autopsy on RFK, respected Los Angeles coroner Dr. Thomas Noguchi found powder burns on Kennedy's ear and gunpowder residue in his hair. Noguchi said this indicated that Kennedy was shot from a distance of, at most, 1.5 inches. All eye witnesses said that Sirhan's gun, a .22 caliber Iver-Johnson Cadet revolver, never got within three feet of Kennedy. Subsequently, the coroner said "until more is known, the existence of a second gunman remains a possibility," and he would not say that Sirhan Sirhan was the killer.

RFK was probably killed by the same people who killed his brother – right wing American intelligence operatives who wanted to escalate the war in South East Asia for a variety of reasons but mostly money and paranoia. The evidence is still being accumulated, even at this late date, that there was a conspiracy to kill the Kennedy's. David Talbot in his new book "Brothers" uncovered new evidence that CIA agent, David Morales, told his lawyer shortly before he died that he'd been in on both Kennedy hits.

The list as to what could have been if RFK was elected president is enormous. When RFK was killed democracy in the United States itself was severely wounded. The control of our county was subverted into the hands of those who would not have been elected - like a cheap banana republic. We must not let this happen again.

Ross Alford
 Editor
 Mountain Chronicle



Letters

Highland Books Changes Ownership

To All My Beloved Customers and Friends: I will miss you so much. I have never had so much damned fun in all of my life! Thank you for all of your many kindnesses over the years- the conversations, the arguments, the food, the gardenias, the music and the solid advice and encouragement. Thank you for teaching me my business. I find that I know less about the book business than I did eight years ago, but you folks did your level best to educate me, whether I was willing to listen or not!

I cannot express how blessed I have felt by my customers, especially the ones who became my dear friends. We've argued about immigration, compared notes about our sex lives, cried when someone died, untangled crazy philosophical knots, pulled me kicking and screaming to an appreciation of poetry, and sighed over new babies. I wouldn't trade any hour I spent in the bookstore with any one of you for anything. I will see you all in town and remember you in my heart. I leave the bookstore in good hands as I believe you'll find.

With love, respect and sincere thanks-Jennifer Roland-former owner and founder of Highland Books, Cedar Center, Arnold, CA



The "All-American" Award!

Mistakes Were Made!



Not to be confused for Rick Keller; Chef Thomas Bradshaw prepares the manicotti at Tallahan's restaurant in Cedar Center! This guy has "chops." I needed to make this correction as Chef Thomas has threatened to start using my newspaper as a cleaning product. My sincere apology. R.

The Wilensky's Fundraiser

McCutcheon Performs



By Catherine Carnahan,

Saturday July 21st, in Mokelumne Hill, over 200 people gathered to hear John McCutcheon perform for the first time ever in Calaveras County. The folk singer, story teller and 6 time Grammy nominee just released his 30th CD This Fire: Politics, Love and Other Small Miracles . The event was a benefit for progressive candidates in Calaveras including Supervisor Steve Wilensky, who is up for re-election in District 2. McCutcheon agreed to perform to acknowledge Wilensky's good work in our county as well as his positions on smart growth and environmental conservation.

Wilensky began the evening by addressing the issues and concerns in Calaveras as we continue to face rapid growth. "We need to have politics of hope, rather than fear. By working together we can make positive changes in our community." He then referred to the recent controversy surrounding some heat the Calaveras Arts Council took for selling tickets to the event. It seems some folks felt it was not appropriate. Wilensky responded that governments should support and promote the arts, such as this concert. Wilensky said, art not only serves to enlighten but also inform. "The first thing conquerors do when they invade is to stamp out the arts. It is these arts that blend the rich fabric of a community together." He thereby dedicated the evening to the Calaveras Arts Council. "Long may they call us to be the best of ourselves, rest easy Calaveras, the arts are alive and well here." **Continued on Page 10**

New Evidence in the Anthony Mann Trial

Arnold, Anthony Mann's court appointed public defender Attorney Cyril Ash said Wednesday that blood test results taken from spots above the driver's seat were conclusively Anthony Linebaugh's. The long awaited evidence, that was not available in the first court case - that ended in a hung-jury, should go a long way towards ending the DA's prosecution of Anthony Mann. Ash said that the evidence shows conclusively that Anthony Mann was in the passenger side of the vehicle and not the driver of the car that careened off of Blagen Road May 11, 2004 killing Steven Ferrari and Mann's younger brother Ernest Mann.

In addition to the new evidence, the prosecution would have to somehow overcome the fact that two eyewitnesses helped corroborate Mann's story. The first was a woman walking along Blagen Road who said Linebaugh was driving as the car passed her prior to the wreck, and the second was the first EMT at the accident who said the passenger looked Asian and that the driver lost his shoe; it was Linebaugh that lost his shoe.

What case the prosecution does have hinges on the testimony of Nick Tuana the third surviving occupant of the car, who had been drinking, smoking pot and sustained head injuries in the accident. Ash believes that in light of Tuana's mental impairments in the next go-round Tuana's testimony will be inadmissible.

Preserving The Peace Pole



Ron Glass, giving Jaime Glass, Nicole Wood and C. Wood some instruction on refinsishing the peace pole.

Sierra Park Way- The restoration of the Arnold Rotary's peace pole is underway. The pole has found a new home and will be installed near the stage in Cedar Center later this summer, but first the Peace Pole's battle wounds must be treated and she needs a good coating of wood preservative before being placed.

The pole was originally installed in White Pines Park by the Rotary shortly after 9-11 but then in July of 2003 the pole was stolen, hacked off at the base, taken out to Big Rock and thrown off the edge into the wilderness, the manzanita and the poison oak. It lay there for years until an anonymous tip alerted the Calaveras County Sheriff's Department of its whereabouts. During its absence the Arnold Rotary and Ron Glass built and replaced a new Peace Pole at White Pines Park.

After the original Peace Pole was recovered Cedar Center merchants, during winter meetings, unanimously decided to approach the Arnold Rotary and subsequently negotiated to have the original pole installed in Cedar Center.

Bill Poulson of Poulson Glass and Wildcat Landscaping has agreed to supervise the installation of the pole which will be placed on a three foot high rock pedestal.

Peace poles originated in Hiroshima after the U.S. dropped an Atomic bomb on the city in WWII. Since then peace poles have sprung up around the globe now numbering over 200,000 in 180 countries. Peace poles traditionally are four sided, and on each side they have different languages that bear the same prayer "May peace prevail on earth." Cedar Center's peace pole is unique in that it has the languages Japanese, Spanish, Mi-wok and English printed on it sides. The Mi-Wok elders had to construct a written language of the indigenous people of the area specifically for the pole.

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THE CSERC REPORT

Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center

SIERRA NEVADA— New research shows that windblown agricultural pesticides pose huge risks to amphibians in the Sierra Nevada. In a recently released scientific study by the U.S. Geological Survey, new research has revealed that toxic pesticides used routinely in agricultural applications in the Central Valley produce breakdown products that are up to 100 times more toxic to amphibians than the original pesticides.

Simply put, pesticide spray treatments on orchards and other crops in the Central Valley often end up with tiny droplets of pesticides drifting skyward and eventually blowing eastward into the Sierra Nevada region. The accumulation of these pesticides often end up in lakes and streams, even in pristine wilderness areas or other remote portions of the mountains.

Many wildlife experts point to amphibians as the “canary in the coal mine” because amphibians spend much of their time exposed to water, and water often is contaminated with pesticides that could potentially cause cancer or other serious health effects for people and wildlife. When pesticides pollute water at very low levels, human uses of that water may not show any immediate effects. Amphibians, however, have persistent contact with water and the low levels of pesticides in the water, plus amphibians are also quicker to show reactions to the chemicals.

For the past decade, CSERC and other conservation groups have attempted to raise public awareness about the plight of declining amphibians in the central region of the Sierra Nevada. The Forest Service, Park Service, Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other agencies that manage wildlife have all reported major declines in amphibian species over recent years. The California Red-Legged Frog has nearly disappeared from the Sierra Nevada region. The Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog and Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog populations have shrunk to low levels, and the Yosemite Toad has also disappeared from many areas of the high mountains where it was previously found. Part of the most recent decline in amphibians has been linked to the world-wide spread of a chytrid fungus that is especially deadly to certain amphibian species. But researchers have also found that pesticides drifting on winds from the Central Valley have contaminated waters of the Sierra Nevada region with lethal doses of chemicals.

This latest research proves more than ever that the vast use of poisonous pesticides ends up contaminating the environment in ways that scientists are just beginning to understand. Frogs, toads, and salamanders are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to toxic pesticides and health. At the very least, State officials should restrict the use of the most toxic pesticides that become windblown pollutants - contaminating distant streams and lakes in our local mountains. It is unethical to pollute water that means life for so many species, including humans.

John Buckley, Executive Director
 Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center
 Box 396
 Twain Harte, CA 95383
 (209) 586-7440



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Preventing Heat Stroke When Temperatures are High

The hot days of summer are here and along with fun in the sun come heat illness prevention tips from the Calaveras County Public Health Department. High heat is normal in the Mother Lode but very high heat that lasts several days can suddenly cause heat illness and death.

Dean Kelaita, MD, County Health Officer said, “Preventing serious heat illness and death when prolonged high temperatures occur is an important safety issue.” When several days of very high heat occur or night time temperatures don’t cool off, heat exhaustion or heat stroke can occur. The body cools off by sweating. During prolonged heat sweating may not be enough to cool the body and body temperatures rise causing heat stroke. Infants, children and elderly persons are at greater risk of becoming overheated. Even young and healthy persons can be at risk if they work or exercise in high heat.

Heat stroke is a medical emergency that can result in death. The signs of heat stroke include body temperature over 103o, confusion, headache, dizziness, nausea or loss of consciousness. “If these signs occur, act immediately to cool the person off and call for emergency assistance,” Dr. Kelaita advised. A cool shower or spray, wrapping the person in cool wet towels and moving to a shady place helps bring the body temperature down.

Heat exhaustion is a milder form of heat illness. Heavy sweating, headache, muscle cramps, dizziness, weakness or fainting are signs of heat exhaustion. Persons with heat exhaustion need to cool off and rest to avoid heat stroke.

During July 2006, California experienced a two week period of extreme heat with temperatures over 100o. There were an estimated 140 excess deaths associated with the extreme heat wave, most of them in the Central Valley. Health officials advise residents to be aware of the risk of sudden heat illness when prolonged high temperatures are predicted or night time temperatures remain above 75o.

The following tips can prevent heat illness and death: Don’t leave infants or children in parked cars alone - it takes less than 5 minutes for a baby to become overheated. Offer plenty of non-alcoholic liquids and avoid high sugar drinks. Avoid being outdoors at the hottest times of day. Wear loose, light weight, light colored clothing.

Additional information on preventing heat illness is available from the Public Health Department at 754-6460 or 1-800 754-8889 and at www.co.calaveras.ca.us

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Columbia College 118 Students Make Dean's List

Columbia College named 118 students on its Dean's List for the spring 2007 semester. The Dean's List acknowledges full-time students, who have achieved a cumulative 3.5 grade point average (G.P.A.) or better with no grade lower than "C" and at least 12 completed units of work in associate degree-applicable courses.

By cities, Sonora residents ranked the highest with 49 on the Dean's List. This was followed by Murphys, 7 and Tuolumne, 6. Columbia, Groveland, Jamestown and Soulsbyville each had 5.

Listed in Alphabetical Order by Home Town in The Ebbetts Pass Community:

Altaville: Kristine F. Ferreira

Angels Camp: David P. Cline, Andrew D. Collum, Lando Stevens Greene, Marie Clarisse H. Valera

Camp Connell: Rita A. Crawford

Douglas Flat: Sandra L. Price

Murphys: William T. Barber, Nicol N. Gaffney, Kathleen M. Kelly, Kelsey R. Lundgren, Brian S. Moore, Lon Porter, Joan F. Resetar

Arts of Bear Valley & Art in the Park

The 17th Annual Bear Valley Summer Art Show will be open daily in the Perry Walther Building, July 28 - August 12 (coinciding with the Bear Valley Music Festival), with the artists reception being held 5-6:30 pm on the 28th. The Calaveras Big Trees State Park 6th Annual Art in the Park show will be open daily in the Jack Knight Memorial Hall, August 16 - September 3, with the artists reception 1-4 pm on Sunday, September 2.

As with past years, Arts of Bear Valley will have four works of art on display in the Perry Walther Building for the art raffle at Bear Valley. Although the artwork is that of Arts of Bear Valley members and raffle tickets will be sold only at the Arts of Bear Valley Show by Arts of Bear Valley artists, the raffle is under the auspices of the Bear Valley Music Festival and all proceeds will go to Bear Valley Music Festival. The donating artists this year are Margret Bowman, Gita Dedek, Sarah Evans and Sherrie Palmer. The raffle will run throughout the show, with the drawing occurring on August 28th.

LOCAL FARMER'S MARKET

Angels Camp - Fresh Fridays
Markets - Utica Park 5:00 p.m.

Murphys Farmers Market, Vina Moda Winery, Murphys
Every Thursday, beginning July 12th - 4pm to dusk.
(Intersection of French Gulch and Main St.).

Arnold Farmers Market, Cedar Center
Every Sunday, beginning July 15th, 10am to 1:30pm.

Bear Valley Farmers Market, during the BV Music Festival
Outside BV Adventure Company
Fridays 27th July, 3rd & 10th August only

Table mountain garden:
Bag deliveries will begin Thursday, July 12th to Sonora and Columbia area.
Friday, July 13th to Bear Valley.
Monday, July 16th to San Andreas and Angels Camp.

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Tess Leary handles the egg frying pan!

College Lunch Buffet Feature International Menus

Columbia College's Summer Culinary Institute students plan and prepare different menus for their popular lunch buffets, which are served on Thursdays through Aug. 9. The selection of dishes has taken on international themes with this week's being Chinese and an Irish buffet next week.

Lunches are served from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Cellar Restaurant, located on the lower level of the Manzanita Building. All meals are reasonably priced at \$8.25 per person, with tax and gratuities additional.

Through the compressed summer culinary training program, students learn the essentials for commercial food preparation. The intensive nine-week program provides instruction in estimating food costs per meal, menu planning, baking skills, customer service, and teamwork.

Buffets change weekly, so patrons should call 588-5135 for updates. Reservations are encouraged for parties of four or more.

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Left: Parade Grand Marshals Maria Allison & Bruce Tallakson with the help of Supervisor Merita Callaway give out the awards from the parade.

Right: The parade, a "wild" Jan Hovey, Julie Lauren Caitlin and Megan Haniger & a crazed bugle player.

The Dorrington Report

By Teri Slankard (The Cabin Realtor)



CDF helicopter taking off from the meadow behind the Lube Room Saloon.

DORRINGTON – 8:24pm July 10th, the day the weather set in & the fires broke out. The Big Trees Village Recreation Center closed their pool at 3pm due to lightning strikes & thunder in the area. I smelled smoke at 6:30pm & went outside to sit on the roof for a bird's eye view of the helicopter flying over my house between the fire & Snow Shoe Springs Lake where they dipped in not less than 6 times. The property where the helicopter landed is owned by Arden & Bonnie Saville. They are the previous owners of the Dorrington Hotel & Lube Room. Fortunately, the steady rain we had over night & the next morning helped to put out the fires. We did have 3 smoldering situations, but none amounted to a threat what-so-ever. If you want live 911 Dispatch information in this area you can visit <http://mymotherlode.com> and look for the "scanner 911" button in the upper tan colored tool bar of the web page.

OTHER FIRE RELATED INFO: When the helicopter landed in the meadow to pull in the water bucket - it almost landed on the Saville's horse "Dealer." I had gone out to take a photo and saw Dealer running at top speed, ears back and tail high towards the fence. I knew Dealer had broken out of his fenced area earlier in the week - running from a bear. I realized that he might be upset enough to do it again, so I halted him at the gate and did some horse whispering to help calm him down. He stayed inside his fenced area snorting his nose until the helicopter left. Dealer watched it fly completely away, glancing back to me as if to say, "wow, what kind of bird was that?"

THE GUARD RAIL INCIDENT: The Lube Room at the Dorrington Hotel was rockin' and there were a lot of cars and people in the parking lot when, a Forest Meadows resident catapulted her truck from the Dorrington Realty parking lot across the highway into the fence railing of the hotel. The collision was so fierce, large pieces of the fence railing were thrown up against what is the front porch of my office, and a hotel guest narrowly escaped being hit by the flying debris. Owner Marc Lanthier was on scene and was able to assist the driver. According to Lanthier, the driver said she was told she could use the Dorrington Realty parking lot as a pass through to enter the highway. After some investigation, it was found that the driver was driving on a suspended license. No one was injured.

WILD LIFE REPORT: I have baby bunnies in my yard. The buck has returned to my neck of the woods. He can be seen most evenings rubbing noses with my cat "kitty boo." They hang out together in the grassy area above my cabin. The coyotes finally had their first party in the meadow - or at least what sounded like a party. Lots of bear action in the Navajo/Apache area and Kenshaw Court near the South end.

REAL ESTATE: Big Fat Inventory. Sales are so slow up here this Summer that even some 30 year veteran realtors are saying this is the worst they've ever seen!

And that's the news from Dorrington.








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Bottom
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The Rhetorical Man

By Tim Mehren

Where's George M. Cohan when we really need him?

I ask that question every July, spurred by the fact that Turner Classic Movies always airs Cohan's biography, "Yankee Doodle Dandy" at least three times on the anniversary of his birth, July 4th.

The movie brought an Oscar to James Cagney, who starred as Cohan. It was made in the early 1940s, with Cagney singing and dancing through such Cohan-penned classics as "Over There," "It's A Grand Old Flag" and, of course, "Yankee Doodle Dandy."

I've seen the film so many times I can quote almost every line. I get a little teary each time I see Walter Huston (who played Cagney's father) on his deathbed. I sing along, to my wife's consternation, with every song and marvel at Cagney's unique dancing. And I always wish we lived in a time when it was okay to be proud to be an American and our flag didn't belong to any particular political faction – right, left or center.

That doesn't seem to be the case today, although there isn't a politician who'd be caught dead without displaying the flag on his lapel or her blouse. Liberals, meanwhile, scoff at conservatives who literally or figuratively wave the flag whenever it suits their purpose. Those of us who are politically moderate seem left out of the equation, although I suspect there are more of us than those on either side of the spectrum think.

What I'd like to see is someone without a special or political interest pick up where Cohan/Cagney left off. Sure, we've had a raft of "patriotic" songs since September 11th, but to me they smack of commercialism more than patriotism. A lot of singers have made a lot of money in the soon to be six years since the World Trade Center towers fell, but where were they before?

The problem is that none of our political aspirants has the tools for this important job, to say nothing about their credibility. And don't even suggest that one of our "spiritual" spokesmen could fill the role – I'm patriotic enough to still believe in the separation of church and state.

So who's left? Who can carry the message that being an American patriot is not only okay, but good?

I, for one, am hoping there's someone out there and that he or she will step forward soon, while I'm still around to watch them pick up the flag, and then join the parade, like Cagney did at the end of the movie. His or her only agenda will be to display pride in being an American, and be thankful for it.

He or she would love our forests, our mountains, our coasts, and the mixture of races, colors and creed that populate our country. He or she would let us know it's okay to not only wave our flag, but to take pride in what it stood for when our country was founded.

Because that's the way it should be: America – we're not perfect, but we try.

RANTS FROM THE "RIGHT"

By Michael Purcell

It's not Global Warming that's going to kill us!

While sitting on my deck in Murphys this July fourth as temperatures climbed toward triple digits, I thought there might be something to this "Global Warming" frenzy after all. A quick check showed that the high in Las Vegas was expected to reach 110, and in Needles, for God's sake, it would climb to 120! That thought had me scurrying to the fridge for another cold one.

This got me wondering, so I got out the lap top, did a little research and uncovered the truth. It turns out that the hottest date in California was not as recently as Al Gore would have you believe, it was actually on July 10th in 1913 when it topped out at 134 degrees. In a lot of places like Alaska on June 27th in 1915 where it reached 100 degrees, Colorado in July of 1888, and Alabama on September 5th in 1925 where it reached 112, the high temperatures all took place at the turn of the last century.

If I'm not mistaken, there were not a lot of cars tossing out greenhouse gasses back then. There were however almost as many politicians as there are today. So maybe this is the common denominator.

When I was going to grammar school in San Francisco, on a regular basis we would hear a siren which was the signal for us to climb under our desks and put our arms over our heads. It was explained that this was to save us in the event of a nuclear bomb attack. They showed us movies of atomic bomb explosions and the effects of same, which caused me to ponder (I pondered a lot in those days) what could my skinny little arms and school desk do to protect me from a force that levels all matter, man made and natural, for 50 miles and kills all life forms for an even greater distance.

We were a lesser advanced society in those days so we didn't have "Experts" expounding on the trauma being introduced to our young minds, the forming of support groups to deal with the psychological impact on children. We just did as we were told and enjoyed the break from the rigors of mathematics.

Along came the 60s and bomb shelters were no longer in style and we had Viet Nam to be upset about. But that was pretty far away, so we were introduced to the horrors of "Acid Rain." Here was the first indication that internal combustion engines (Found mostly in the dreaded automobile) were destroying our environment with their emissions.

Then after almost as much caterwauling from politicians as we currently see about Global Warming, it was determined that almost all of the emissions that caused acid rain came from Volcanoes, and since no one in Sacramento or Washington knew how to pass legislation to require Volcanoes to stop their emissions, every one stopped talking about it.

So that brings us back to today. It is an absolute truth that automobiles release a lot of disgusting stuff into our air, and it would be much appreciated if we could do something about it, but I don't believe that pricing corn out of the reach of tortilla makers by making fuel out of it is the answer. Come on, it's food!

Hybrids are nice, but oil is not going to go away in our life time. And if you think that using less gasoline will bring the price down you have not been paying attention, or you were not here in the 70s driving under 55 and waiting in line to buy gas. Face it, the folks that own all those oil fields have a life style to support.

I do have one suggestion however. It may not be the answer, but it could make a small difference and a few days of less stress.

If all the politicians, legislators, and government officials would SHUT UP! If they did that for at least one week all the hot air and gas emissions in our environment would be dramatically reduced. It's worth a try!

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THE LOCAL MOMENT

By Jim Stearns

I find myself struggling over some of the questions surrounding the age old dilemma of granting intrinsic freedom to individuals and reigning in reckless personal action. Where are the boundaries to individual freedom?

Can I cut down every tree on my property or plant trees that block my neighbors view? Out of such issue and disputes, government, for better or for worse, is formed. The proverbial ‘you can’t cry fire in a crowded theater’ sets the tone.

Even thornier questions arise when it comes to the greater good of the planet and the wealthy people who want to use their gains for personal pleasure. Right off the bat communism and socialism, those dirty words in the capitalist’s mind, pop up. A true believer in free enterprise and individuality wants to keep what they have earned and to hell with everyone else. Still others think the idea of the government playing the role of Robin Hood sounds good on paper but the fact is that governments are usually corrupt and/or inept. While people have little confidence in politicians, we continue to hope that some how, some way, some one might come along and change all that sordid baggage that power structures have created. Scanning the horizon for heroes, I guess, is part of being human.

As our country continues to create wealth at an almost unprecedented level, this very fundamental question of fair play becomes ever more paramount. How indeed can we justify using 75 percent of the earth’s resources with ten percent of the population? How comfortably can we sleep at night knowing that the gap even in our own country between rich and poor is widening at an alarming rate? How can we justify our insatiable urge to consume and waste when there are millions hanging on by a thread and tens of thousands starving? Can we really take the position I once heard espoused by a very successful, intelligent acquaintance: “It’s not my problem.”

If we accept the premise that we are all in this together, then there must be a way for a society, or the world at large to play Robin Hood while still maintaining an individual’s right to create a world of their own choosing. Is it irresponsible for a multi-millionaire to build a 50,000 sq. ft. mansion when there are so many without a home? Should a massive vehicle that gets 5 mpg be allowed on the highway?

At the very core of our nation’s existence is the individual’s right to go after life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Thus we let the rich person do what they will with their money but if it is spent in what society at large deems an irresponsible manner then they pay through the nose. You want a huge house? Go ahead but you’re going to pay a huge luxury tax. Want to drive a vehicle that eats up obscene amounts of fuel? Fine, pay the piper.

Let’s say that a person pays a huge fee on a massive home. For every sq. ft. over 2000 a sizable fee is added. When you get over 5000 sq. ft. then that number jumps significantly, then another jump at 10,000 and so on. Same thing with cars and other globally damaging products. So if you really want to be a self absorbed, oblivious citizen you can still do it but you are really going to get tapped.

Of course here we are moving back to the dicey aforementioned problem of government. Who wants the government to manage this likely massive luxury tax revenue? Unfortunately that usually just goes from one pocket lining to another. There is however, another solution. Non-profit organizations that meet certain qualifications, (efficiency in distribution of funds being primary) could be lined up to manage these funds. For example, money that comes from the housing tax could be given to Habitat for Humanity or other organizations that help create sustainable and affordable housing. The vehicle taxes could go to organizations that create public transportation or a preserve scenic highways or something equally appropriate.

Sure it would require a comprehensive audit system to monitor these expenditures and a lengthy legislative document to cover regulations, procurement and enforcement but certainly that is done for far less noble causes. This would help maintaining the fundamental system of individual liberty in a capitalistic society with an eye toward creating a more conscientious and collective vision of the future in a manner that might actually work.

Pesconiac’s Picks

By Joe Pesconiac

Michael Moore does it again, attacking one of the bugaboos of American life. In his latest film, “Sicko,” he takes on the American medical system, the worst in the entire industrial world. We have over 40 million people uninsured and millions of others poorly covered. Meanwhile the bloated health care companies laugh all the way to the bank.

Our medical care system is so bad it is easy to trash, so Moore can be chided for beating a dead horse of an issue. But knowing the system is askewed is not the same as knowing what to do about it. By portraying alternative systems, such as the ones in Canada, Great Britain, France, and even very poor Cuba, Moore lends the weight of his film medium to the swelling sentiment in this country in favor of universal health care coverage.

We all know the history, though. Every time a serious effort has been made to wrest health care coverage away from the private insurance companies, they mount a ferocious lobbying campaign to defeat the effort, inspiring, through propaganda, fear of loss of choice of doctors, long lines in hospitals and other myths.

Another problem is the American tendency to think that we have nothing to learn from other countries. Moore chides this attitude by pointing out our complete willingness to enjoy French wines, Japanese cars, Chinese things and so on. All it would take for the U.S. to have a working health care system would be a general willingness to adapt some version of the systems that work very well in other countries and adapt them to the U.S. conditions, such as expanding Medicare coverage more broadly and inclusively.

Moore takes some flack from critics for the section on Cuba toward the end of the film. In a mock-heroic gesture, he takes a few sick 9/11 rescue workers to Cuba, where they receive better treatment that they received in the U.S. Moore is criticized for seemingly linking national health care with socialism, a la Cuba. But he is only showing that even a poor country like Cuba can provide decent health care for all of its citizens.

As Moore dramatically points out, Americans are very supportive of our existing public services, such as fire and police protection, public schools, social security, Medicare and so on. There is no reason for us not to extend such services to include health care. When we call the local fire department to report a fire, we don’t have to provide documentation that we are entitled to coverage! The same thing should happen when we get sick.

But our citizens must want change badly enough to buck the power of the insurance companies. Moore’s quite funny and oddly moving film could help.

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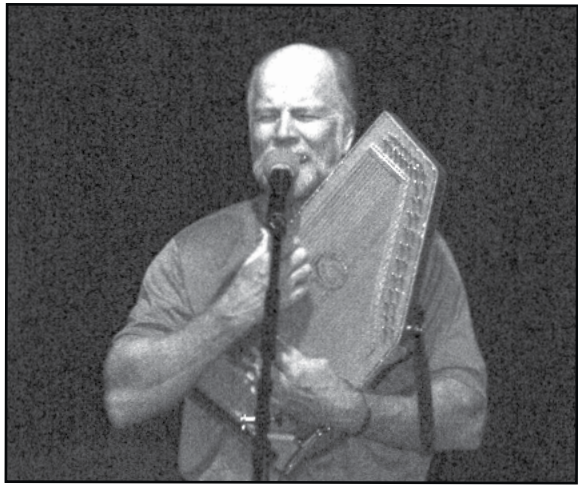
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Wilensky

Continued from page 3



McCutcheon concurred stating, “I am here tonight because I support strong local government and democratic participation. Local government is the foundation of our nation, without it nothing can be accomplished. Cynicism is the biggest obstacle against democracy right now and the polarization going on in the country is killing us. McCutcheon concluded, “The reason I agreed to be here is my belief that people working together can make a difference.”

The evening was inspiring as McCutcheon performed many old favorites and audience requests. Woven between songs was his wonderful storytelling. One such tale was about Woody Guthrie, whose family invited McCutchen to posthumously complete some of his unpublished works, regarded his classic This Land is Your Land. McCutchen discussed how he, like many, have heard over the years many urban legends and lore surrounding the song. “While visiting the archives I asked “You must have a copy of the first draft notes.” “Would you like to see it?” they responded. “Well...Yeah!” I answered. The first proof had the original title of God Bless America For You and Me crossed out at the top and several verses that never made it into the final version. “I’d like to perform them for you now.”

The following rendition with added verses was the highlight of the evening. While singing the chorus he encouraged the audience to join in, “Come on Calaveras, you know the words.” The voices grew loud and as the end neared he set down the mic, faced it toward the audience and said “You guys finish it” and with that he exited stage right - the people continued to sing. It was a dramatic powerful ending to an amazing evening.

One of the reasons John McCutcheon stated for admiring Guthrie was that he was a man who “dared to ask questions.” We at the Mountain Chronicle dare you all to start asking questions as we head into this election year. Questions about how you want your community to evolve. The next board of Supervisors will be drawing up the general plan for the coming decade. We ask you to see the big picture while considering the issues and to support smart growth and the environment in Calaveras. This paper will endeavor to keep you informed on the issues, especially in our District 4 supervisor race where Tom Tryon is up for reelection.

Some questions to ask yourself: the general plan has been out of compliance for almost 10 years. Are you all paying attention to how decisions by our supervisors will have great impact on the quality of life in Calaveras over the next decade?

Three out of the 5 supervisor seats are up for re-election. The balance of power in our community is on the line. From all signs this is going to be a heated election. Please inform yourselves and get involved.

The Astro-Logger

“We do our logging in the stars . . . “

By AEons Astrology (Ted Denmark)
contact: aeons@mindspring.com

Douds’ Hill - We are now nearly two-thirds of the way through the first summer sign Cancer, and the remainder shows a smaller than average number of major aspects that anchor “predictive” ideas, until the Full Moon on July 29 which will have carried us well into Leo. Cancer centers around the home base and gives us a chance to particularly appreciate this place now, the restful interlude between all the busy running around of Gemini and the major vacation travel time of Leo. Of course the Leo period easily stretches out in to more at-home vacation time if that is our desire.

Cancer natives (apologies to those who feel the medical connotations in the name), including those with significant placements of Sun, Moon, cardinal points or planets, are often noted by others as “home bodies” since they are usually quite involved with their domestic lifestyle as parents, often with extended family, or in their business activities often as restaurateurs, real estate agents, and many other kinds of home-based businesses. Arnold and environs would appear to be a largely Cancerian environment, because it is a concentration of second or summer homes whose denizens use it as a as a more relaxing recreational destination away from their primary business responsibilities, particularly in June and July while the Sun is in Cancer and doubles as a reliable real estate investment.

All the vicissitudes of early parenting come under this homely heading, and Cancer people are often inclined to take a sympathetic, nurturing attitude both towards their own children and those of others as well as friends and business associates. Of course, it doesn’t always work out so easily, and Cancerians are often burdened by requests and requirements for self sacrifice, which often comes down to that of the house Mom since this sign is ruled by the Moon, which in the metaphor of “reflected light” naturally defers to others more in need of care. Consequently there is often a lifelong imprint, a feeling of strong sentimental attachment, as in the “Mom and apple pie” bond between parent and child. In the multiple lifetime perspective of the esoteric world view, current family relationships are sometimes seen as a need for healing with loving understanding, resulting from circumstances in previous lives, often of a difficult nature such as in time of war, famine, etc.

Here we see the position of the archetypal mother, and in next sign Leo, we will find the mated archetypal father. The Cancer native in being protective of others is often conscious of feelings of vulnerability and often looks to protection from the archetypal father or social and governmental institutions that have taken over or supplemented parental roles in modern societies. As security conscious people, Cancers are often conservative by nature, and in a country like the USA with a Cancer birthday (the 4th of July), the current Bush-Cheney government has heavily and successfully leveraged its position based on this feeling of vulnerability and an offered rhetoric of security and protection.

The Moon, having the shortest period of all the heavenly bodies, is related to fleeting feelings and moods of all kinds, and to female fertility in the kingdoms of nature, including the human, somewhat enigmatically, as many ideas have come and gone to try to make the nature of this obvious relationship clearer. Cancer, as a water sign like Scorpio and Pisces, depends more on the nuance of feeling rather than verbal cues and signals, making connection with these other water signs more natural in social and interpersonal relations; however, “creative” writers have also been associated with the Moon, showing the importance of feeling captured symbolically for this vocation (the related verbal skills are usually shown astrologically as deriving from Mercury).

Cancer began in complexity this year with Mercury retrograde, and Prometheus turning retro on the 23 of June just before the last exact opposition of Saturn and Neptune on the 25th, and with a Mars trine Pluto on the 21st thrown in for an extra energetic thrashing. It felt more difficult than average for sure, even if the exact meditative moment of the Solstice on June 21 at 11:07 a.m. seemed powerful and true. The connection of the Saturn-Neptune opposition to difficult weather appeared again on cue with a vengeance this week with record floods in South Central (Kansas to Texas), severe drought in the Southeast, and extremely hot weather with attendant fires in the West. Massive floods with high death rates accompanied the Pakistani monsoon with increasingly troubled awareness of Iraq and the Middle east in national politics leading up to the Full Moon in Capricorn on June 30. The Venus opposition to Neptune the same day with its conjunction with Saturn on July 1st underlined the lack of easy comfort to be found.

But then things finally lightened up a bit as we began to feel how to cut the losses and appreciate our political heritage in difficult times by celebrating a patriotic birthday with what else? a parade. We can be grateful the Mercury retrograde ended July 9th aided by a Sun-Prometheus trine the next day and recall what peculiar things might have happened (I was tricked by a mouse that had built a fiberglass insulation nest in my truck’s air intake scoop). Subsequently things have settled down into a more ordinary Summer roar with Venus moving into Virgo (July 14), allowing us to finally begin to organize whatever books, jewelry, kitchen utensils or other likeable things were left over from spring cleaning that did not find a proper home.

There are powerful political undercurrents at present, and a lot is happening behind the scenes with early electioneering anticipating the political demise of the most unpopular presidency since Nixon and Agnew. The citizenry has been disappointed and angered sufficiently that, according to trusted current polls, a razor thin majority now favors impeachment of the monarchic Bush-Cheney duopoly, and congress is finally showing signs of realizing these serious problems will be facing them. Hold on to your seats in the digital data stream, there’s more to come in our current stay-at-home sign of Cancer.

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Sarafina’s



By Ross Alford

ARNOLD – I snuck up on Sarah Beaudreau in her new restaurant in Arnold “Sarafina’s” Thursday night. I went in initially around dinner time thinking “it’s Thursday night in Arnold she should be able to handle the pressure of a dinner rush and still conduct an interview,” but forget that, the place was packed – she MANAGED to look at a few of the photos (to the left) that I’d shot over the weekend of her cooking to a jammed mad house Saturday night, but Thursday only looked a little bit less crazy – although the kitchen never had a hint of “out of control,” I thought it better to retreat. So I waited for the rush to subside by swinging by the Blue Frog where I found Dem Smith and his lovely partner, (but that is a story for another time).

Finally I returned to the famous Sarafina’s just as the dinner rush was culminating, I passed unaccommodated by the front desk, with only questioning glances from the staff - I could have grabbed a frying pan and slapped olive oil and garlic and cayenne and fresh basil into a pan myself and gone to work - it feels so much like home in Sarah’s kitchen - but the magic belongs in her hands, and it looks like she’s got some chops!

My first thoughts meeting Sarah, a slight woman who wears her hair pulled-back, I bet even when she’s not cooking - she’s kind of shy but over compensates for this with a professional detachment. When I talked to her on the phone earlier she wasn’t really all that interested in publicity. It

didn’t seem like she cared if the press was going to come by to interview her - as opposed to most chefs who hover in the Anthony Bordeain realm of reality. “Who’s taught you the most in the kitchen?” I asked her, “Where did you learn some of your best tricks?” Hesitant at first – I think because I looked like a guy standing in a soup line, trying to steal a glass of wine. Finally she said “I learned a lot from my Naoni – she used to make homemade pasta and ravioli.” Her grandmother was a first generation Italian from the Naples area and her grandfather from Pescada. Sarah thinks they came over from Italy around 1909.

Her sauces do have an old world look to them, nothing too fancy, but seriously old-school Italian. In her teens, Sarah traveled to Italy and lived in the country for three and half years learning the language and obviously something of the food.

Somewhere in the middle of the conversation I asked her about the importance of presentation; she said, “food should be prepared to look good, but this is a country Italian restaurant. We serve simple Italian food.” But I know something about Italian and her food is not that simple! I saw some California Cuisine lurking around.

What’s really cool though is that this is a local girl; Sarah grew up in Arnold, went to Hazel Fischer and graduated from Bret Harte. In fact her first job when she was 14 was working at The Weather Station.

Good Luck Sarah!

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BEAR VALLEY SKI CLUB



The Bear Valley Ski Club meeting held at White Pines Lake.

ARNOLD- The annual Bear Valley Ski Club golf tournament will be Saturday, Aug. 25 at 1:00 p.m. (check in at 12:30) at Sequoia Woods Country Club, Arnold. Any Sequoia Woods or Ski Club member is invited to play and to bring guests. Dinner is at the Club at 6:00 p.m. No host cocktails at 5:00. Tri-tip and fancy chicken breast buffet with wine on the table. The format for the tournament is 18-hole Texas Best Ball Scramble.

The cost to Sequoia Woods members is \$40.00 each (\$12.00 required cart, \$5.00 sweeps, \$23.00 dinner - deduct \$12.00 for your own cart). There is a special \$70.00 price for non-SWCC members who are Ski Club members. Guests who are not a member of either club will pay \$20 extra or they can join BVSC for just \$15.00.

See the club website at bearvalleyskiclub.com for the tournament entry and membership application forms.

Sir Charles



Photo By Marcia Thompson

By Rick Darby

American Century Golf Tournament Lake Tahoe – Many of the celebrities who have participated in the American century golf championship, at Edgewood County club in South Lake Tahoe, over the past 18 years have developed more than a passing bond with the Tahoe community. This year's devastating fire brought out the human qualities of many of the participants; especially Sir Charles Barkley. Barkley vilified by many Californians for his tongue - in - cheek assessment of the Golden state Warrior playoff run and the Bay Area in general, donated \$25,000 towards a fire relief fund. He also hosted a dinner for hundreds of firefighters Saturday night.

In the tournament: Chris Chandler former NFL Quarterback and son-in-law of former 49er John Brodie, won the tournament with record point total of 78. Sir Charles finished dead last.



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Murphys Dolphins

Athletes Tyler LeCours and Nathan Steele from the Murphys Dolphins swim team diving into the competition during a recent meet against the vaunted Valley Springs Stingrays. The Murphys Dolphins swim club is a recreational swim club comprised of nearly 70 kids from Copperopolis to Bear Valley. The season finale is a tri-team meet in Ione on Saturday, July 28th @ 9 a.m



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The Small Town News “Off To The Races”

By Kelly Wright

And They're Off:

Does this make horse sense? If you think it's expensive to drink in this county, at bars or lounges, maybe here's the reason. Lou Papais, (proprietor) Forest Meadows Golf Course, offered to sell the liquor license that he owns, to Jimmy D. (Forest Meadows Golf Club Professional.) for a song. Jimmy, who leases not only Forest Meadows Golf Course, but also Meadowmont Golf Course, declined the offer. So Lou found a buyer for \$60,000. That buyer turned around and sold it to Castle and Cook, who are affiliated with Saddle Creek golf course for a \$100,000. WOW! This effectively changed the drinking experience at Woody's Bar which serves the golfers of Forest Meadows, although you can still drink beer and wine; I'm wondering if the golf scores are getting better.

Approaching the First Turn:

Since we are on the topic of bars, here's a good one. Rod Sanders revived an old tradition at the Historic Murphys Hotel three weeks ago. In the old days, cowboys would ride their horse through the front doors of the bar; paraded up and down past the customers, before leaving the premises to great applause. Rod's horse left a big tip on a tourist on the way out.

And Down the Stretch:

Not to be out done, I just happened by when Ryan Van Cleave, on his horse named "Dumper" did like-wise at the base of the steps leading into Grounds Restaurant in Murphys 2 weeks later. In conjunction with Buggy Bill's horse and carriage which was parked across the street, a swarm of flies joined the mix. A quick thinking Grounds employee, who wishes to remain anonymous, scooped up the problem and delivered it to the nearest sidewalk depository. Wheeephh!

A Photo Finish:

While we're on the subject of Murphys and the equine, remember the day when the temperature hit 108 degrees on the clock / thermometer above El Dorado Savings Bank in front of The Diggins? (See photo) Well, I got a great photo of the "Murphys Donkey" with his head through the driver's window and over the lap of CHP officer Sgt. Laurie Harmon enjoying love, pats, and snacks. (See Photo) Sgt. Harmon said, "I'll occasionally spend my lunch breaks with 'Murphys Donkey' and we 'mule' over our mutual concerns."

“The Shareef He Don't Like It” Rockin' the Casbah - Rockin' the Casbah



Alan Vega 'rockin' the Lube Room Saloon



Donna and Tom Manning 'rockin' to The Esquires at Camp Connell

Sequoia Woods Family Day & Callaway Demo-Day



Larry Babica officiates a water balloon tossing contest.



The Lost in the Shuffle boys 'rockin' The Main Stage – Cedar Center

Rick Darby
Reporter at Large



Photo Caption Contest: What's this man saying?



Ron Schaner, Erin Ross, and Johnathan Alford 'rockin'
The Wild Grape in Murphys

The Bypass Is Coming



ANGELS CAMP – The excavator took out the old photo shop making way for the Highway 4 bypass of Angels Camp. Tyler Summersett of the Council of Governments (COG) said that the bypass should be underway by September. Bids for the various aspects of the construction project are going out this week and are supposed to be awarded before the end of August. The entire project is expected to be completed by 2010 as the crews will work an 8 month year taking time off during the winter.

The Bear Valley Village Development

BEAR VALLEY– The developers of the new Bear Valley Village have scheduled a series of public meeting to help keep the public informed on the progress throughout the course of the project. The meetings are as follows:

Sat. July 28th, 10am at the Bear Valley Lodge
Chuck Toeniskoetter presenting.

Wednesday August 1st , 7pm, at the Avery Hotel. This meeting is hosted by the Arnold Rotary club. For more information 209-795-0111
Leah Toensikoetter presenting.

Thursday August 2nd , 12:00 Noon at Ironstone Vineyards. This meeting is hosted by the Angels-Murphys Rotary Club.
For more information visit www.a-mrotary.org
Leah Toensikoetter presenting.

Project spokesperson, Rosie Sundell said, “the goal of the meetings is to provide information on the current status, projected timeline, an update on the ski area improvements and information on how to stay involved in the process.”

“Stay of Execution”

Continued From The Front Page

his answers became increasingly vague or ambiguous. I asked him what are you waiting for CalTrans to do? And, he was unable to answer the question. A Forest Service representative had told me that in cases similar to these, a “stale” project is usually “re-scoped” before it becomes active again; that is, any new information relative to the case is reviewed. Some cases live on the books for more than 15 years.

So I asked Wayne if the project was going to be re-scoped in light of the new scenic byway status. He was unable to answer the question. Out of curiosity and having become a little bit perplexed I asked Wayne, “are these trees hazardous or were they ever hazardous?”

“I mean they’ve already been declared hazardous, as I understand it they’re supposed to, under Forest Service guide lines, be considered hazardous if they pose an eminent danger that is if they are dead, leaning dangerously, have root or trunk damage, insects or in some way pose a threat. Yet none of the trees that I looked at seem to be suffering, and since 2003 when the trees were declared hazardous, none of the trees have fallen - so the eminent danger factor seems obviously erroneous?” Wayne was able to answer “the trees seem to be in good enough shape to survive for another few years.

So I asked him, “well, who was it that wanted to take down the trees, the Forest Service or CalTrans?” Wayne said he didn’t know, but then he seemed to read to me a quote from some document that implied that the Forest Service was concerned that the trees posed a danger to drivers because of where the trees were standing. I was unable to figure out what he was reading from, but I began to speculate that the only plausible answer, one that remains unconfirmed by either CalTrans or the Forest Service, is that someone in one of those agencies wanted to widen the road, and had had the trees declared hazardous for that purpose, but they won’t admit it. However, it appears that CalTrans no longer likes the idea and the Forest Service has no way of removing the plan from their books or they still want to move the project forward, but need CalTrans to do it. In any event, at least for the time being the trees with the blue stripes have received a bureaucratic stay of execution, and the Scenic Byway Committee has been notified. I’ve got a call into the Humboldt Toiyabe District Ranger Gary Schiff to clarify these questions, but we had to go to press before he returned my call.

“The People’s Defense”

Continued From The Front Page

both in terms of the amount of cases the office handles and in relation to the overall prosecuted crimes in Calaveras County. According to the county clerk Mary Beth Todd, the county prosecuted 265 felonies and 1496 misdemeanors. According to a report issued by the public defenders office they were assigned 295 felony cases, 711 misdemeanors and over 130 other miscellaneous cases such as conservatorship and child custody. When asked how the Public Defender’s office could actually defend more felony cases than those prosecuted, Jeff Tuttle, Calaveras District Attorney said that it could be that each office calculates numbers differently. “Their office might count total felonies charged. For example, if one individual is charged with three felonies that might be three for their count and one for our office.” Under any counting system it appears that the Public Defender’s office does indeed handle a very high percentage of the counties’ felony prosecutions.

A very small percentage of these cases ever get to trial, by our estimate less than 1%, and at first glance it might appear that going the public defender route might be like getting “sold down the river,” that all they’re going to do is some quick horse trading and the person on trial becomes a pawn in the back room judicial chess game. That’s the case so to speak in most every court in the nation, much more the rule than the exception. The public’s perception might be the legal system of Perry Mason, Jack McCoy of Law and Order or even the more local and lengthy public trials of Patricia Ordway or Anthony Mann, but the truth is that almost all cases are settled prior to trial.

According to Donny Maxwell, manager for Ciummo, who oversees the operations of their offices, the results of going the Public Defender route are not much different than those who pay for a private attorney. “Almost all cases get settled before trial. That is part of the give and take process with the District Attorney’s office.” When asked why Calaveras County’s Public Defender’s office seems to statistically take far fewer cases to trial than neighboring counties Maxwell contended it was simply a result of a good working relationship with the Calaveras District Attorney’s office. “We have a great relationship with the Calaveras Prosecutor Jeff Tuttle and his staff and that just makes it work better for everyone. Make no mistake about it when we are in court we are going to battle for our client as aggressively as we can but when we sit down with the prosecutors it is important to have a good relationship. We are like cordial adversaries and that works in everyone’s best interest.”

Jeff Tuttle, Calaveras District Attorney, was a Calaveras Public Defender prior to being appointed by the Supervisors to fill a vacancy and subsequently was elected to the position. Was that perhaps a factor in the relationship with the present Public Defenders office? Maxwell said that though that certainly helped he didn’t think it was the primary factor. “There are a lot of District Attorneys with that background and it doesn’t seem to always matter. In fact the D.A. in Amador used to be one of our attorneys and while we respect his integrity our relationship with his office is often strained.”

Tuttle concurred with Maxwell’s assessment. “We do have good communication with the Public Defender and that certainly helps expedite the cases. Sometimes things can get tense in the heat of the battle but it’s important that it not become personal.”

Maxwell added that the suspect is the ultimate beneficiary. “It works in the best interest of the client when we have a good relationship with the prosecutor and in Calaveras it’s as good as any we’ve ever had. It gives us the ability to sit down and discuss things in a civil manner before the battle moves to the courtroom.” The inordinately high level of cases settled with the D.A. he attributes to this relationship and emphasized one of the most important points. “The decision to go to trial is never up to the attorney. The client always makes the final decision.”

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The Mountain Chronicle

Ebbetts Pass Community News

Public Meetings

School Board Meetings

Calaveras County Board of Education
Meetings: Last Monday, 4:30pm
Call for Location: 736-4662

Bret Harte Union High School District
Meeting: First Monday, 7pm
Call for Location: 736-8340

Vallecito Union School District
Meeting: Third Wednesday, 5:30pm
Call for Location: 795-8000

Government Meetings

Calaveras County Board of Supervisors
Meeting: Every Tuesday, 9am
Government Center

Calaveras County Planning Commission
Meetings: 1st and 3rd Thursday 9am
Government Center

CCWD

Meetings: 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 9am
District Office - San Andreas

Ebbetts Pass Fire District

Meetings: 3rd Monday, 9am
Arnold Fire Station

Community Meetings

EPOC

1st Wed.
9:30am - Snow Flake Lodge

White Pines Park Committee

3rd Monday
7 p.m. - Arnold Library

Arnold AARP

3rd Thursday of Every month - 1 p.m.

Angels Murphys Rotary

Thursdays at noon - Ironstone Vineyards

Calaveras Community Band Rehearsals

Mondays - 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Open to Anyone who can play an instrument!

Calaveras Needle Arts Guild

Every Thursday - 5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Ewe-Phoric Yarns - Arnold

Friends of the Logging Museum
4th Tuesday of the month - 7 p.m.

Moose Lodge

1st & 3rd Tuesday - 7:30 p.m.

Independence Hall Quilters

Mondays - 9 a.m. 728-8647

Arnold Lions

1st & 3rd Wednesday
Snow Flake Lodge

CARS

1st Saturday
8:30am - Perko's Restaurant
Angels Camp

Theater

Black Bart Playhouse

"Stop the Presses! Or... She's Not My Type!"
August 10 - Through September 1

Fallon House

"Paint Your Wagon"
Through September 12

SRT

"Midlife Crisis Musical"
Through August 6

Murphys Creek Theatre

"Voice of The Prairie"
Through August 11

"Humble Boy"

August 23 Through September 15

The Mountain Chronicle

Ebbetts Pass Community News

Calendar Of Events

July

Wednesday

25 Music in the Park
Columbia College Big Band - Utica Park
Angels Camp - 754-1774

25 Bingo - Moose Lodge

White Pines - 7:00 p.m.

25 Mt. Yoga - 5 p.m. - Bear Valley Lodge

Friday

27 Vineyard Tour & BBQ
866-806-WIne

July 28 Through August 12

Bear Valley Music Festival

Saturday

Free - Cedar Center Music

Kim Manuel & Friends

Tuesday

31 "Story Time" - Murphys Library
1130 a.m. - noon - 728-3036

31 Auditions - "Idiot's Delight"

Sierra Repertory Theatre

532-0502, ext. 104

August

Wednesday

1 Bingo - Moose Lodge - White Pines: 7:00 p.m.

1 Mt. Yoga: 5pm - Bear Valley Lodge

Friday

3 "First Fridays in the Park - Murphys Park

Saturday & Sunday

4-5 28th Annual Independence Hall Flea Market

8 - 6 Sat.; 8 - 5:00 Sun. White Pines

Saturday

Free - Cedar Center Music

"The Delta News"

4 Cajun Fest & Dinner - 754-1774

4 2nd - Calaveras Wine Poker Run 736-12994 4

4 Bear Valley Music Festival

Free Children's Concert &

Teddy Bear Picnic - 753-2574

4 Bear Valley Music Festival

Joyce Yang in Recital & Live

Auction - 753-25745

5 Bear Valley Music Festival

Joyce Yang in Recital

Tuesday

7 Bear Valley Music Festival

Evening of Chamber Music

753-2574

Wednesday

8 Bear Valley Music Festival

Shelly Streeter - 753-2574

8 Bingo - Moose Lodge - White Pines: 7:00 p.m.

8 Mt. Yoga: 5pm - Bear Valley Lodge

8 Belly Dance - 795-2503

9 Bear Valley Music Festival

Hot Club of San Francisco

753-2574

10 Bear Valley Music Festival

Sandy Cameron

11 Bear Valley Music Festival

Opera - "Merry Wives of

Saturday 8-11-07

Free - Cedar Center Music

"Blue Shoes"

11 Bear Valley Home Tour - 753-2574

Wednesday

15 Mt. Yoga: 5pm - Bear Valley Lodge

15 Music in the Park

Men of Worth - Murphys

Friday

17 Wine Tasting to Benefit

Sonora Repertory Theatre

Columbia Nursery - 6 - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday 8-18-07

Free - Cedar Center Music

"Mattly Trent Band"

18 Cedar Center Art & Wine Festival

18 Family Day: Calaveras Big Trees State Park.

Neil Diamond Tribute Band



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Saturday, August 18th, Cedar Center Park in Downtown Arnold

The Mother Lode Wine and Art Festival

****Saturday, August 18th, 11 - 8 PM****

Join us for a day of fantastic local wine tasting,
live music, and talented local artists.

**Proceeds will benefit the
Calaveras Humane Society**

Wine Tasting From 1-6 PM Featuring These Local Wineries

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Hatcher Winery
Indian Rock Vineyards
Irish Vineyards
Kautz Ironstone Vineyards
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