

West Point News

Serving the Blue Mountain Region of Calaveras County, Calif.

August 2007 Vol. 15, No. 8

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Moke Hill resident joins Calaveras Community Foundation.

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Rail Road Flat will host fundraiser.

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Getting a jump on emergencies

The Blue Mountain Emergency Preparedness Committee, encompassing Glencoe, Rail Road Flat, West Point and Wilseyville, will hold an Emergency Preparedness Fair on Saturday, Aug. 4, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 195 Spink Road, West Point, next to the West Point Fire Department.

The fair will provide information that will save lives during extraordinary emergency events and help speed the return to normal community operations during the recovery process.

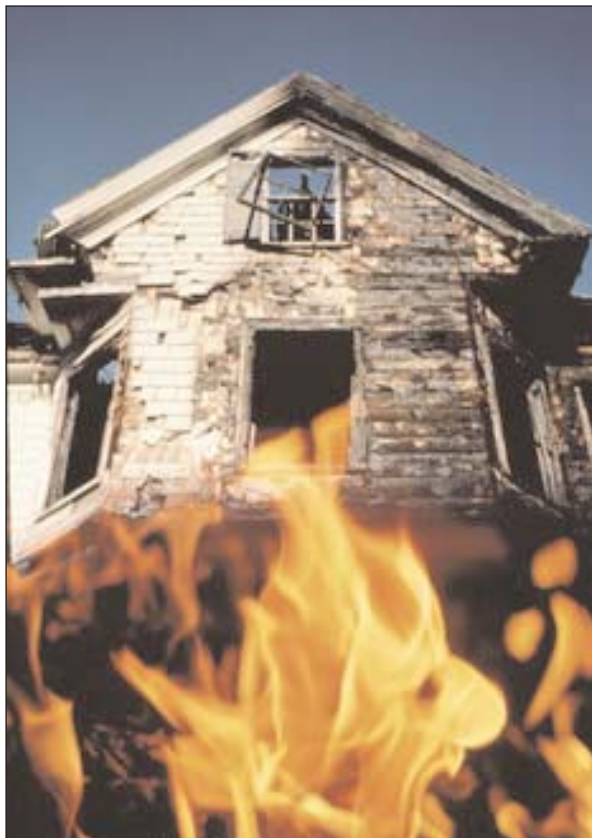
Effective, organized community emergency response relies on citizens familiar with a prepared community emergency plan and education on how to protect families and personal property.

Fair participants include:

Angora Fire's lesson

The June 24 to July 3 Angora Fire that burned 3,100 acres in the Lake Tahoe basin and destroyed 242 homes and 67 commercial buildings and damaged an additional 35 homes offered a lesson to residents of the Upcountry and Blue Mountain regions.

Neither the Amador nor Calaveras side of the north fork Mokelumne river canyon has experienced a



The goal is to save lives and property during an extraordinary emergency such as wildfire.

South County Large Animal Rescue, Area 12 Commission on Aging, American Red Cross, California Fire Safe Council, Calaveras County Library-West Point with Macro-Reader, Sierra Foothill Fire Extinguishers, American

major fire in decades. As a result, fuel loads are very high, and the possibility of a major wildfire is likely. Hot weather, low humidity and low seasonal rainfall have left the region particularly dry during the 2007 fire season.

In January, 2005, a new state law became effective that extended the defensible

Turn to BLAZE, page 2.

Legion Ambulance, West Point VFW Post 3322, West Point American Legion Post 787, Calaveras County Sheriff's Department including Special Operations, Search & Rescue, Animal Control, Sheriff's Volunteers, West Point Lyon's Club, Bikers Against Child Abuse, American Association of Retired Persons, Ice Cream Social, Calaveras County Water District, Volcano Communications, Vial of Life, Allstate Insurance, Calaveras Public Television.

Other participants may include: Noah's Wish (animal protection during disasters), Citizen's Corps, Cal Fire (CDF), Amador Fire Safe Council, CHIPS, Blue Mountain Community Services and PG&E.

The West Point VFW Ladies Auxiliary will provide food and beverages at a nominal cost throughout the day.

Call 293-7100.

CHIPS wins hefty grant

Calaveras Healthy Impacts Products Solutions (CHIPS) has won a \$96,500 USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant

Ben Higgins, USDA Rural Development State Director, made the presentation July 2 at a special West Point Community Hall ceremony attended by CHIPS staffers, community members, Congressman Dan Lungren, State Senator Dave Cox representative Dana Jorgensen and Department of Agriculture Rural Development regional representative Hector Bautista.

The grant will pay for chippers, trucks and training for 24 people. The goal is to create economic development opportunities while clearing local forests of dangerous combustible vegetation.

Turn to GRANT, page 15.

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It takes a partner to make a mask

Sharon Armstrong, psychologist and co-owner of The Art Gallery in Murphys, held mask-making classes during a four-part session for adults and youth at the Blue Mountain Coalition for Youth and Families in June and July.

The classes were funded by a donation from Beth Childs of West Point.

"The process of making a mask is an art form that goes very deep," said Armstrong. "It starts with a plaster gauze life mask of one's own face. A creative art mask of clay is then made over the life mask."

"In creating a life mask, we partner," said Armstrong.

"One person smooths gauze over their partner's face. It is a very tender and respectful process, part of the formation of community, where people work, create and play together. It creates



Mask-maker Sharon Armstrong shares her skills, philosophy.

a very deep network," she said.

Mask-making is as old as human history, said Armstrong. "When we come together in a community of mask-making, we're

part of a very ancient tradition," she said.

The masks are on display at the center, where another mask-making series will be offered soon. Program dates to be announced. Call the

center at 293-4500 for more information.

Center co-director Catherine Lambie said this art class was the first in a series to be offered free to community members.

Blaze a warning for local residents

Continued from page 1.

clearance requirement around homes and structures from 30 feet to 100 feet to increase the chance for firefighters to save a home from wildfire, according to the California Department of Forestry.

According to CalFire, every year damaging wildfires are started by misuse of outdoor equipment, like lawn mowers, weed cutters, chain saws and mufflers.

CalFire reminds residents to limit weed and grass cutting to the morning before 10 a.m., remove rocks before operating equipment and make sure gas-powered equipment has spark arrestors.

When a wildfire strikes, evacuation in the Upcountry and Blue Mountain areas is inevitable.

Residents who are away from home when evacuation begins will not have a chance to return until fire danger has passed. Residents who are at home when evacuation begins will have limited time to collect valuables and pets and limited evacuation routes. Evacuees or those who remain in their homes should be prepared to be isolated from services for 72 hours or more and plan accordingly.

Amador Fire Safe Council and the Blue Mountain Emergency Preparedness Committee provide useful information and assistance on emergency planning and evacuation. For more information, visit www.amadorfiresafe.org and www.mycalaveras.com/bmepc.

Sizzling Plymouth Nights



Street Dance
Friday, August 17,
from 5:00 p.m.

Music by 'Little Willie & The Shifters'
Fine Wine Raffle

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Sssssssssssssssssssssss

Summer weather brings Mother Lode residents outdoors for hiking and recreational activities and, as part of the outdoor experience, exposure to hazards like poison oak, mosquitoes and rattlesnakes.

The Mother Lode is habitat to the Northern Pacific Rattlesnake

While many rattlesnake bites are "dry" (no venom), any rattlesnake bite needs medical attention.

If threatened, a rattlesnake may coil, rattle, and raise its upper body, appearing ready to strike while actually backing slowly away. However, if surprised, it can lunge up to several feet,



This large Northern Pacific rattlesnake was found on a driveway in West Point on July 17.

striking without any warning behavior whatsoever.

Many bites result from surprise encounters and can be prevented by using a few common sense rules, courtesy of the California Poison Control System: Identify rattlesnake areas before visiting,

Rattlesnakes have been found near urban areas, in river or lakeside parks and golf courses. Never go barefoot or wear sandals when walking in the rough; wear hiking boots. Stay on paths and trails and avoid tall grass, weeds, and heavy underbrush where snakes hide. Use a walking stick when hiking; let it strike the stick instead of you.

Look for concealed snakes before picking up rocks, sticks, or firewood. If you or a member of your family are bitten, calm the victim and transport to the nearest emergency facility for treatment.

News notes

Worldly dining

An Around the World Dinner will be held Sept. 6, beginning with cocktails at 5 p.m., at the Rail Road Flat Community Club.

The fund-raising event will be a first-come, first-served choice of two entrees of Chinese, Italian, British, Philippine, American, German, Portugese and Mexican cuisine, plus salad, drink and dessert, for \$10. There will also be a prize giveaway. For more information call Linda Burns at 754-3922.

Jackson. The speaker will be Frank Axe, professor of chemistry at university of the Pacific in Stockton, and Jerry Scott, a marketing and communications expert.

The discussion will present the latest scientific data on changing weather patterns and their effects on humans and other species.

The free event is sponsored by a private citizens' group and is not affiliated with any political organization.

For more information, call 296-7421

Charity golf

The Ebbetts Pass Moose Lodge hosted its annual golf tournament at Forest Meadows recently. Over the past four years the Moose *Turn to NEWS, page 12.*

Heating up

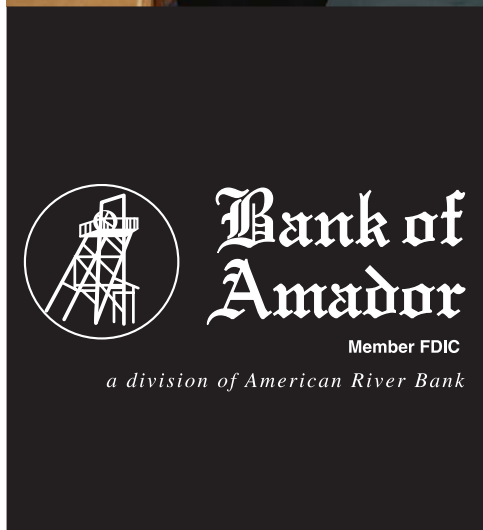
An informal presentation on global warming will take place Friday, Aug. 3, at 6:30 p.m. at the Senior Center, 229 New York Ranch Road,



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Hometown Forum

Fire district wins online training grant

Editor:

Central Calaveras Fire & Rescue Protection District has been selected as a recipient of the Target Safety-VCOS IAFC Online Training Grant. The award will pay \$75 per participating firefighter.

With this award, the fire district will receive one year of online training from Target Safety at no cost. With this online system the district will be able to track all training records online and utilize 24 of Target Safety's 180 online courses which range from terrorism, EMS Continuing education, Driving Safety, Human Resource topics, Safety and health, Homeland Security, Fire, HazMat, and company officer training.

"We are thankful to firefighters, training officers, and fire chiefs across the United States who have made Target Safety the leader in online firefighter and EMS training", said Bruce Kaechele, President & CEO of Target Safety, Inc.

"This grant initiative is just a small way of thanking the entire fire-EMS family for all that they have done for us. Target Safety has a long-term commitment to the fire-EMS industry and we hope to give back even more to them in the future."

Central Calaveras Fire & Rescue is a combination (paid and paid-call) fire protection district that provides fire suppression, EMS/Basic Life Support

& rescue services to the Calaveras County communities of Glencoe, Rail Road Flat, Eagle Ridge Ranch/Airport, Mountain Ranch and Sheep Ranch California. Currently Central Calaveras Fire & Rescue has twenty-two responders within the agency. This grant shall be a used wisely by the district to enhance our training and firefighter safety programs.

*Robert L. Gill
Fire Chief*

*Since receiving the grant, Chief Gill has taken another position with the Pioneer Fire Department. See story on page 13.
- Editor*

Thanks for help to Angora fire victims

Editor:

I would like to extend a heartfelt Thank You to everyone who made an idea come to fruition – the Angora Fire donation drive.

Once the idea was circulated, many wonderful people came forward to help with finding staging areas, manning staging areas, obtaining equipment such as boxes and signs, and so on.

Businesses such as Volcano Telephone, Merzlak Signs, Meneely Tools, Wal-Mart, City of Jackson and Calvary Chapel all stepped forward to help.

It wasn't just Amadorians, but also people from West Point, such as Susan McMorris, who drove a trailer full of donations to South Lake Tahoe.

The list is just too long to be printed but can be

found at www.amadorcommunitynews.com.

And to all those who donated goods, the Angora Fire victims and their pets were very grateful for your assistance.

Once again our communities have shown that great spirit of giving to those in time of need.

The Angora Fire victims still need assistance.

A non-profit organization called Locals for Locals has set up the Lake Tahoe Angora Fire Fund of which 100 percent of the proceeds will go directly to fire victims.

If you wish to donate, you can send your check to, Lake Tahoe Angora Fire Fund, Attention: Rex, P.O. Box 17640, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96151.

Again, thank you.

*Jackie Vaughn
Volcano*

Defensible space touted

Editor:

My concern is FIRE in general. I wish every person in the county would keep a cleared fire defense around the houses. Also, if possible around their property.

As you know, I've been

preaching fire safety from day one. I will always think it is our number-one issue.

Thank you.

*Ted Novelli, Supervisor
Amador County
District 3*

Looking for the reel thing

Editor:

The Amador County Archives has a large number of reels of radio shows done by the famous Amador historian, Cedric Clute.

Unfortunately the archives has no reel to reel player to start organizing this material. Surely someone out there has a workable machine that I can buy to work with these priceless tapes. Please contact me at 223-0867 or fblauvelt@gol-drush.com.

*Frank Blauvelt
Jackson*

Letters welcomed

West Point News and Upcountry News welcome letters on any subject as long as they are tasteful and responsible and are signed with the full name of the writer (who should include a phone number and address for verification).

Letters should not exceed 275 words. Please no business endorsements, commercials or poetry.

Send letters to P.O. Box 447 West Point, CA 95255 or email to: westpointnews@volcano.net.

West Point News Upcountry News

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Late-night blaze sparks love of service

By Savannah Mulderrig

Luke Joraanstad, 19, works as a firefighter 32 hours a week for minimum wage at the Central Calaveras Fire and Rescue Protection District.

Joraanstad became involved with the station as a cadet at age 17. His brother, Noah, was a part of the district and sparked his interest in the work.

Joraanstad, known around the station as Shadowbox, is always helpful at a scene, but can be harmful to himself while off duty. He earned his nickname one night while he and another firefighter were sleeping atop their International rig.

He started swinging at the shadows in his dream and fell 13 feet, breaking his foot. He spent 12 hours in the hospital.

Joraanstad recalled the moment he knew he wanted firefighting in his life. "It was my first structure fire, a trailer fire. It was midnight during a thunderstorm with 40 mph winds. I was first on scene with one other, although I was a cadet at the time and not allowed near the action, it was really cool and I've loved it ever since."

For the past four years, Joraanstad has helped in the Fill the Boot fundraiser, a fundraiser developed by the Muscular Dystrophy



Firefighter Luke Joraanstad

Association.

Firefighters stand on the side of the road for four hours holding their structure boots.

Last year they made over \$1,000 to help kids with neuromuscular diseases. "We have such a generous community, it's inspiring."

Joraanstad hails from Cheese, North Dakota.

West Point lists calls

West Point Fire Protection District has reported the following call statistics for June: Wildland fires, 2; miscellaneous fires, 2; medical aids, 19; vehicle crashes, 1; public assists, 1,

for a total of 25 calls, or 189 for the year.

An average of three personnel responded per incident, and firefighters trained a total of 136 man hours.

Central Fire reports stats

Central Calaveras Fire and Rescue reported the following statistics for May:

Medical aids, 19; vehicle crashes, 5; smoke checks, 6; vegetation fires, 5; vehicle fires, 1; structure fires, 1; public assists, 2; hazardous materials incidents, 1; emergency standbys, 1, for a total of 40 calls.

In June, firefighters responded to the following: Medical aids, 20; vehicle crashes, 7; smoke checks, 3; vegetation fires, 2; public assists, 1; and emergency

standbys, 2.

There were two training sessions held in May 2007, both wildland fire evolutions, with an average attendance of 13.

Two trainings in June were EMS issues including SIDS, elder abuse, pediatrics and firefighter safety, and "Fireground Operations in the Wildland Urban Interface, with an average attendance of 12.

Additionally nine per-
Turn to FIRE, page 13.

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The Health Information Library, available through the Nurse Call Center, has over 1,000 topics, ranging from cardiovascular health, diet, and exercise to mental and emotional health in adults and children.

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www.marktwainhospital.com

FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

Happy birthday

Best wishes to all those in our community celebrating an August birthday:

Aug. 1 – Eldie Bartlett, Courtney givens and Frank Matz. Aug. 2 – Rick Bertram, Fred Downs, Donna Jean Hall, Cameron Maynard and bobby Neal. Aug. 3 – Jack Cummiskey, Laurie Jurs, Debbie McAuley, George Shipp, Disiree Wanona Wiley and

Casey Wright. Aug. 4 – Jason Stein. On Aug. 5 – Jeff Ballard, Cason Bridges, M a r r i a Dickerson, Kodie Haag and Tim King. Aug. 6 – Karan Bowsher, Hannah Cummiskey, Piero Martinucci and Moraiya Wiley. Aug. 7 – Elizabeth Brant and Heather Snead. Aug. 8 –

Joe Gordon. Aug. 9 – Miller, Janelle Ponte and John Rush IV. Aug. 10 – Brad Garner Day. Aug. 10 – Brad Maynard, Dorothy Noble, Staci Oshell and Carter Williams. Aug. 11 – Ruth Gottstein, Glenda Miner, Charles Vasquez, Anthony Wilson and Lauren Wilson. Aug. 12 – Fred Downs Jr., Seth Maines and Gus Weissinger. Aug. 14 – Hazel Goode. Aug. 16, Ellen Bertram, Larelle

Aug. 18 – Rodney Hurst, Paul Maynard and Shannon Pingree. Aug. 19 – Marc Schirato, Creighton Smith, Bryce Stein. Aug. 20 – Amanda Ahart and Chelsey Wiley. Aug. 21 – Ayden Garcia, Mallery Mote, Michael Schirato and Dustin Wright. Aug. 22 – Adam Good, Lora Nagle and Megan Reding. Aug. 23 – Richard Silveira. Aug. 24 – Winnie Chesshire. Aug. 25 – Jordan

Davis and Nickolas Marshall. Aug. 26 – Kathy Wilhite. Aug. 27 – Cassie Carroll, Larry Collins, Shayla Harris, Coltin, Mills, Danica Parkerson, Daniel M. Phillips, Rick Schaad, Margie Soracco, Dusty Sparvel and Marianna Wood. Aug. 28 – Midge Parsons. Aug. 29 – Andrew Garcia. Aug. 30 – Brian Meyers, Thelma Oitman, Magdaleina Schembri, Pat Szwaja and Ken Wright Jr. Aug. 31 – Mary Hertlein, Bianca Kauffman, Gerald McCullough and Isabelle Ponte.



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Happy anniversary



Congratulations to those in our community celebrating a wedding anniversary in August:

Aug. 1 – Kevin and Angel O'Meara. Aug. 3 – Jeff and Cheryl Haight, and Ralph and Joan Jepson.

Aug. 5 – Ed and Janelle Ponte, and Jeremy and Carol Wise. Aug. 8 – Robert and Elaine Stroud.

Aug. 9 – Doug and Elizabeth Bonneville. Aug. 10 – Roy and Kelli Frye. Aug. 12 – Leroy and Mary Silveira.

Aug. 15 – Jack and Millie Ruff. Aug. 16 – Russ and Helen Neal.

Aug. 19 – Stephen and Jean Turpen. Aug. 25 – Nacho and Teresa Ron. Aug. 27 – Robert and Kathy Shanks.

Aug. 29 – Kevin and Leslie Mote. Aug. 31 – Brian and Judy Smith.

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lone girl donates her locks with love

By Sandy Garcia

Helping other kids is why 9-year-old Kylie Rose of Ione decided to grow out her hair and cut off 11 inches to donate to Locks of Love in Florida.

Locks of Love provides hairpieces to children 18

years old or younger suffering from medical hair loss, helping them to achieve crucial self-esteem and confidence.

When Kylie's grandfather was diagnosed with cancer, she wanted to do something



Kylie and Esther Dittman show off Kylie's 11-inch ponytail donation.

special. "I just wanted to be able to help some other kid who doesn't have any hair," stated Kylie. "I heard about Locks of Love and decided to grow my hair long enough

Turn to LOCKS, page 12.

Amador STARS take it all off

The Amador Support Transportation and Resources Services (STARS) held its fourth annual Great Amador Head Shave on July 18 on TSPN Live and continued the event at Jose's Mexican Restaurant at Mother Lode Plaza in Jackson.

Eleven people participated, either shaving their heads to honor those battling cancer or donating hair to Locks of Love.

Two four-year veterans of the head shave, Jack Mitchell and Lawrence Wallage, and two Amador County Supervisors, Ted Novelli and Brian Oneto, were among those participating. STARS spokesperson Ginger Rolf said STARS also received \$800 in pledges if Supervisor Richard Forster would shave his head.

The Head Shave is a prelude to the annual Amador County Camp out for Cancer event coming up. The event, sponsored by STARS, will be Sept. 22 and 23 at Argonaut High School.

The Camp Out is an inspiring community event where teams build a "tent city" and take turns hiking around the high school track for 24 hours to raise funds and awareness for local cancer patients, survivors, and their families.

Funds from previous events have funded vans to transport patients to chemotherapy treatments out of the county. They also help support programs such as "Look

Good, Feel Better" for cancer victims.

STARS is looking for volunteers or donors to participate in the event. Join a team and spread a message of hope that together we can win over cancer.

Call Amador STARS at 223-1246 or visit their website at amadorstars.org for additional information.



Rose-Marie Zwiig had her head shaved and hopes to raise at least \$5,000 this year.

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296-2237

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223-2520
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352-6177

Sutter Creek
A.T.I. Parts
267-5241



For more information on recycling in your area contact Amador County Waste Management Department at (209) 223-6429 or www.co.amador.ca.us/depts/waste

Sponsored by Amador County Waste Management Department and the Rural Counties' Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority. Funded by a grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board. Zero Waste—You Make It Happen!

Farmers markets bring out cooks

By Lynda Burman

The Amador Farmers Market opened for the season on June 4 in Ione, June 9 in Sutter Creek and June 27 in Pine Grove with seasonal produce, jewelry, plants and baked goods.

The market in Pine Grove will be open Wednesdays from 3:30 to 6 p.m.; Sutter Creek, Saturdays from 8 to 11 a.m. The market features vendors from California's Central Valley as well as local vendors.

Michelle Grondin, market manager, is bringing back bakeoff events this year.

June's peach bakeoff at Sutter Creek and Pine Grove will be followed by a plum bakeoff in Pine Grove on Aug. 15 and in Sutter Creek on Aug. 18, salsa day on Sept. 5 in Pine Grove and Sept. 28 in Sutter Creek and an apple bakeoff on Sept. 19 in Pine Grove and Sept. 22 in Sutter Creek.

The final harvest festival bakeoff will pit the winners against each other in a pumpkin bakeoff on Oct. 3 in Pine Grove and Oct. 6 in Sutter Creek.

For more information about the markets



Cindy and Charles offer tomatoes from Thao Farms in Sacramento.

or bakeoffs, call Grondin at 419-5203.

John Covert and friends are back to provide entertainment for market goers in Pine Grove.

The annual market fundraiser dinner will be held on Sunday, Aug. 26 this year. This year's theme: Historic Food, Wine and Spirits Tour. Tickets are \$30 at the markets.

School News

Vaccinations the law for incoming students

By Joyce Peek

First 5 Calaveras

August is National Immunization Awareness Month. Many parents may still be unsure about the benefits vaccines offer their children. Here are some common myths and facts about vaccines and to help parents make the right decision for their children.

Fiction: Vaccines could hurt, not help my child.

Fact: The benefits of vaccines outnumber the slight pain some children experience.

Vaccines help fight off

diseases by building immunity to specific viruses.

Fiction: Vaccines are not necessary for my child.

Fact: By law, children need to be vaccinated to protect against disease.

The California School Immunization Law requires children to have certain vaccines by the time they enter kindergarten. Often, child care providers and preschools also require vaccinations before enrollment.

Fiction: Infants are too young to be vaccinated.

Fact: Immunization schedules are designed to protect children beginning at birth. Vaccines administered during childhood provide the highest protection possible against viruses and infections.

Fiction: A breastfed baby does not need to be vaccinated.

Fact: All babies need vaccines. While breastfeeding provides babies with a strong nutritional start, it is not a replacement for the protection provided by vaccines.

Fiction: There is nothing I can do to prepare my child for his or her vaccine.

Fact: Honesty is the best policy. If your child is more than 2 years old, you can prepare him or her by calmly explaining the need for vaccines.

Fiction: I can't comfort my child when he or she receives a vaccine.

Fact: You know your child best. A parent's soothing touch calms a child.

For more information on vaccines and local resources, please call First 5 Calaveras County at 754 -1470 or visit www.first5calaveras.org

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Gator Beat will heat up the air waves.

Hot music, spicy food mark arts fund raiser

The Calaveras County Arts Council's fourteenth annual Cajun Fête, a dinner and dance benefit, will be held Saturday, Aug. 4, from 5 to 10 p.m. at the historic Pioneer Hotel in Sheep Ranch.

Only 350 tickets will be sold, and they must be reserved in advance at \$50 per person. Proceeds benefit the Calaveras County Arts Council.

A Cajun dinner including jambalaya prawns, barrel-smoked chicken, grilled Andouille sausage, beans, rice and will be served from the historic kitchen where 49'ers once grabbed their grub. A no-host bar will serve Calaveras wines, local micro brews and "Cajun Kickers."

San Francisco Bay Area musicians, "Gator Beat," will entertain. Artists include Bruce Gordon, founder of Zydeco Flames, Luis Rodriguez on drums and washboard, Australian David Scott on saxophone, Willard Blackwell on vocals and rhythms and Randy Quan on guitar. "The Mighty Sparrow" is Linda Hutchison, one of Sonoma County's most respected bass players.

A Silent Auction Tent featuring "experience" packages and art will encourage

additional donations to the Calaveras Arts Council. Tickets are available on line: www.highsierratickets.com or by calling the Arts Council at (209)754-1774.

Mothers Club fetes members

The Mothers Club of Amador County honored some of its members in a ceremony on June 26.

Those recognized were: Helen Loffland, Most Supportive Mom; Arleen Kingston, Funniest Mom; Meredith Jorgensen, Team Player; Tracy Goss and Leslie Vasquez, a tie for Most Extraordinary Mom; Marie Carter, Stepping up to a Challenge; Kara Edwards, Sweetest Mom; and Heather Duran, Friendliest Mom.

"Sometimes it takes another mom to say, I appreciate how difficult, heartbreaking and rewarding this job of motherhood is," said Vasquez, Mothers Club director.

Vasquez started the event by awarding

Certificates of Appreciation to First 5 Amador and the Sutter Creek Women's Club thanking them for providing the grants that make the Mothers Club possible.

Winners received certificates and prizes from among donated goods.

Moms of every age and situation are welcome to join the club, including first-time pregnant women.

There are no dues, and club members provide meals to new mothers for the first month. Members participate in playdates, holiday parties, family field trips and

shows, Mom's Night Out dinners and meetings, snow-play dates, campouts and hikes.

The United Methodist Church in Sutter Creek donates space for meetings, activities and events. The Mothers Club of Amador County is funded by grants from First 5 Amador, The Sutter Creek Women's Club and other fundraising efforts.

See the website to make a donation.

For more information or to join, go to www.mothersclubofamadorcounty.com.



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Make the most of the rest of summer

They're the words every kid, teen and even adults love hearing: School's out! It's summer!

Everyone loves summer – maybe not the heat or maybe not the fact that you still might have to work – but it's just a great time of year. So enjoy it, and have some fun!

The best way to beat the heat is, of course, a day at the pool.

It's most people's choice for staying cool, having fun and getting some exercise.

My friends and I like to buy summer pool passes, which means we can go swimming whenever we want.

It's also fun to go to the beach. Santa Cruz is my family's favorite beach city, so head there or to other beach destinations, like Hawaii. Another way to beat the heat – not as popular but just as effective – is heading to the



snow for a few weeks.

What if you're stuck at home – no snow, no Hawaii – and you don't really feel like swimming? That's what the theaters are for!

Invite some friends to the theaters to see a movie you've all been wanting to see. This is a good summer for that, too. There are several blockbusters on their way! And if movies aren't your thing, hit the library or bookstore and pick out some good books.

But while you're having all this fun, it's important to remember that summer means lots of sun and lots of heat.

Sun screen is very important – it protects you from getting skin diseases and painful sunburns.

Kids, you probably hate applying sun screen just as much as I do, but the next time you're fighting your parents on it, think: do you really want to risk disease just for some extra time in the sun?

And just as important as sun screen is water! Summer's all about fun, so why waste it drinking water when you could have soda and juice, right? Well, not exactly.

It's okay to have sodas, but since the temperature is so much higher during summer, it's very easy to get dehydrated and even sick. Experts say to drink a gallon of water a day, but it's not as easy as it sounds.

So try for a bottle or two a day to keep yourself healthy. And remember – it's summer, so have some fun!

Amador High grad wins ACUG's scholarship

The Amador Computer Users Group awarded Kevlyn Walsh of Amador High School a \$500 scholarship.

Kevlyn plans to attend the University of California, Los Angeles, or California Polytechnic Institute at San Luis Obispo to study art and graphic design. She received California Scholarship Federation and honor roll recognition all four years of high school and was active in sports and student government. She was also involved in student leadership classes and the Interact Club.

Kim Still, scholarship chairperson, said "Kevlyn is a very self assured young lady who knows where she wants to go and has charted a course for getting there."

Rand Huggett, the Art Department Chairman at Amador High School, and

Kevlyn's art teacher, said Kevlyn has been an "outstanding student in both attitude and accomplishment."

"She displays strong creativity and expressiveness in all of her efforts. She has an excellent understanding of the elements of design and composition in both fine and graphic art and is also extremely competent in computer skills."

The scholarship fund was founded in early 1999 after the club received a cash award for community service from the Association of PC User Groups.

"The ACUG Board decided that students in our mostly rural community did not have the educational opportunities and exposure to computer technology that larger metropolitan area schools offered, and the board felt the prize money should go toward improving this situation.


"So the prize money was set aside and awarded to a deserving student, and has been awarded nearly every year since," said ACUG president Barbara Kreiss.

"The ACUG Scholarship fund is important in that it encourages students to attend college or technical school to study in the computer related fields," Kreiss said.

ACUG meetings are open to the public. For more information visit www.acug.net, or contact us at info@acug.net, or call 296-2390.



Kevlyn Walsh

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Foundation taps Lema for board

Sandie Lema of Mokelumne Hill has been named to the Board of Directors of the Calaveras Community Foundation.

Lema was extensively involved in Calaveras County activities until she began commuting to Sacramento 10 years ago to become an executive with the American Heart Association (AHA). She is senior director of publications and communications for the for the heart association's Western States Affiliate, encompassing California, Nevada and Utah. Previously, she was director of marketing and communications for the Sacramento and Northern Nevada Region.

She has been a Calaveras County resident since 1977 and served many years as Calaveras County Board of Education trustee and on the board of directors of the Calaveras County Economic Development Company.

In 1992, Gov. Pete Wilson appointed her to the Calaveras County Fair Board, where she served 12 years, including a term as board president.

Lema is a native of San Diego and has a journalism degree from San Diego State University.

She was the editor of the Calaveras Enterprise from 1980 until 1997.

"An organization like the CCF can have a huge impact on this county," said Lema. "Here you can actually see first-hand the results of your efforts and know that you are truly helping people. Joining the CCF gives me an opportunity to serve the community I love."



Artists sprout in gardens

Art in the Gardens, held June 23 in West Point and Wilseyville, featured five gardens decked with art works and musicians. Visitors came from surrounding counties near and far. This was the first of a biennial event to be held again in 2009.

Old oaks are full of life

By Ken Churches
Calaveras County
Farm Advisor

It is so very important to protect that majestic old oak on your foothill property. It is home to an entire ecosystem of life in its limbs. First, consider how long the tree has stood. A white oak in the foothills that is two feet in diameter may be 200 years old. In that time, a complex community has developed amid the heavy spreading limbs.

It is important to remember that much of that natural community, including the galls and lichens that decorate old oaks, are not life-threatening to the tree. Many kinds of lichens occur on foothill white oaks. Some of those lichens capture nitrogen from the air and enrich the soil when they fall. The moss that grows on your tree is important, too.

Many mosses grow nowhere else but on old isolated oaks and contain their

own specialized community of invertebrates. Mosses and lichens have the ability to dry up in the summer, then quickly rehydrate with the first flush of rain.

Foothill white oaks are host to a dozen different kinds of galls, some are tiny and others are the size of baseballs.

Acorn production is highly variable year to year. Older, open-crowned trees generally produce more acorns than smaller trees grown in dense stands.

Oaks tend to be alternate bearing which means that a heavy acorn crop one year may result in smaller crops for the next year or two.

Acorns are an important food for western gray squirrels, quail, turkeys, deer and bears.

These majestic old trees are slow to be replaced. Homeowners are urged to protect the remaining centuries-old oaks, and consider the important life within their limbs.

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Locks help other kids

Continued from page 7.

to be able to donate it.”
Kylie went to Bev Ann’s in Jackson and had hair stylist Esther Dittman perform the magic. Kylie

was nervous about cutting her hair off, but says she really likes her “new do.” Locks of Love can be reached at 888-896-1588, or on the website: www.locksoflove.org.

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News notes

Continued from page 3.

Lodge has donated more than \$25,000 to various charities through out the county. This year's recipient was Human Resource Council's Child Abuse Prevention Program, which received some \$5,000.

This year's tournament was dedicated to the memory of Dick Heisinger, who put the tournament together over the past four years.

Mr. Heisinger died shortly before this year's event, but his family is committed to continuing the tradition of this in his memory along with the help of the Ebbetts Pass Moose Lodge.

Next year's tournament will be at Forest Meadows on June 21, 2008

Filter trade

A free filter exchange will be held Saturday, Aug. 25, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at ATI Parts, Highway 49 at Ridge Road, Sutter Creek.

Used auto oil filters can be exchanged for an oil and filter recycling container and \$6 off purchase of a new oil filter. Recyclers will also receive a free shop rag, oil funnel, pen and information on how to properly recycle used oil and filters.

The offer is good only for the date and time of the event and is limited to the first 50 persons to arrive.

Oil filters should never be thrown in the trash because they can contain one pint to one quart of used oil. Even

if properly drained, a filter can still contain two to eight ounces of used oil.

The steel in used oil filters can be recycled to make new steel products, such as cans, cars, appliances, and construction rebar. Recycling all the filters sold annually in the United States would result in the recovery of about 160,000 tons of steel, or enough steel to make 16 new stadiums the size of Atlanta's Olympic Stadium.

Used oil and oil filters may be dropped off at ATI Parts free any day. Call 267-5241.

For more information about oil and filter recycling, residents can call Amador County Waste Management Department at 223-6429 or 1-800-CLEANUP, or visit www.co.amador.ca.us/depts/waste.

The program is sponsored by Amador County Waste Management Department and the Rural Counties' Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority.

Open house

The Human Resource Council Child Care Resources has moved to 501F Goldstrike Road in San Andreas. To celebrate the move, the community is invited to an open house on Wednesday, Aug. 1, from 5-7 p.m.

Visitors can learn more about child care resources and services including child care subsidy programs, referrals to licensed family child care homes, preschools and child care centers.

The center has a new lending library featuring where books tapes, toys, games and educational equipment.

For directions or more information call HRC Child Care Resources at 754-1075.

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Central Fire chief moves on, leaves legacy

Robert L. Gill, Fire Chief, Central Calaveras Fire & Rescue has accepted the position of Fire Chief with Pioneer Fire Protection District in El Dorado County. Chief Gill assumed his new duties on Monday, July 16. Pioneer Fire provides service for the communities of Somerset, Fairplay, Omo Ranch, Mt.

Aukum, Grizzly Flat and Outingdale regions in El Dorado County.

Chief Gill was appointed chief of Central Calaveras Fire and Rescue on Nov. 16, 2001, and has made numerous upgrades within the organization during his tenure.

Among his accomplishments: 24-hour firefight-

Chief increased coverage, upgraded fleet, skills and training.

er/EMT coverage at district headquarters; upgraded the district's fire apparatus fleet; upgraded firefighter skills and safety training; and cre-

ated a local "Baby Safe Surrender Site."

The chief wrote the district's standard operating guidelines for response and operations, created fire plans, and co-wrote and put into place district's fireworks ordinance.

He helped secure grants for firefighter person protective equipment, training

equipment and aids, communications and fire equipment.

He implemented the district's DMV employee testing program. He is a past Calaveras County Fire Chief's Association president and was instrumental in forming the county's local government Fire Investigations Unit.

West Point crews busy

West Point Fire Protection District has reported the following call statistics for June: Wildland fires, 2; miscellaneous fires, 2; medical aids, 19; vehicle crashes, 1; public assists, 1, for a total of 25 calls, or 189 for the year.

An average of three personnel responded per incident, and firefighters trained a total of 136 hours.

Fire calls keep coming

Continued from page 5.

sonnel attended Clements Regional Wildfire and Live-Fire Training Academy.

Through July 12, Central Fire had responded to 238 calls for service.

Fire district seeking help

The Lockwood Fire Protection District is looking for someone to fill the volunteer position of secretary, to record the minutes at their monthly meeting and develop and post the agenda.

The volunteer should be computer literate and willing to support the volunteer fire department's needs. This position may also include

mail pickup at the post office box and delivery to the boxes at Station No. 1 on Shake Ridge Road. Any qualified, self-motivated resident of Amador County willing to volunteer a few hours each month is eligible.

To apply, contact John Asmus, district president, at 296-5681 or Jackie Vaughn at 296-6868.

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Five years later, grandma's still wearing a toe ring

Five years ago, I wrote the following:

As I walked into a print shop recently, I encountered a smiling, bright-eyed little boy about four years old, who was sitting on a bench, waiting for his mother to finish her business at the nearby counter.

"Hi," he said, "My name is Jason. What's yours?" "My name is Ruth," I answered.

Jason glanced down at my feet. "My grandma wears shoes like yours," he said. "Yes," I replied, "Lots of grandmas wear Birkenstocks.



One Senior's Views

By RUTH GOTTSTEIN

BUT – does your grandma have a toe ring?"

Jason looked startled. "No," he whispered. "Well," I said, "tell your grandma that you met one who has a toe ring – and that you think she should wear one, too."

"Oh," replied Jason gravely, "I will, I will." So I

owe an apology to an unknown grandma out there, whose grandson undoubtedly is insisting that she wear a toe ring.

And after all, shouldn't all us grandmas have toe rings? Maybe we could start a Grandmas With Toe Rings club. Anyone want to join?

(And this is where this column originally ended. "Not so fast!" commanded my editor. "It's too short. I need another 200 words from you.")

Now I had to think about why I wrote the column in the first place. And back to

mind came an earlier conversation with my two granddaughters, who were shocked when I first sported my new jewelry.

"Grandma," they shrieked. "A TOE RING! REALLY!" In some subtle, ill-defined way, I had crossed over the familiar generational expectations.

Why DID I do that? For one reason – vanity. I am typically old and white-haired and sagging, but my feet still look about the same as they did when I was a teen-ager.

Another reason is that I get these fantastic pedicures

in a local beauty shop where toe rings are artistically displayed.

But the bottom line is, "Hey, I feel young, too."

Ruth Gottstein,
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With the readers' indulgence, we have revived one of our favorites of Ruth Gottstein's former columns.

– Editor

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Grant will cover training and equipment

Continued from page 1.

“This grant is a chance for us to get hold of our own future and get our people back to work while sustaining our local forests and economy,” said Calaveras County District 2 Supervisor Steve Wilensky, originator of the CHIPS program.

“I think we’re on the verge of something special here,” said

Wilensky.

“The heavy lifting has been done by all of you,” said Higgins. “Everything we do depends on strong partners, local government, people and families.

“Lungren brought this project to my office. Thank you for doing the heavy lifting. You’re making this county a better place to live.”

“West Point and communities like

this are largely not thought of that much in Washington, D.C.,” said Lungren.

“Perhaps because of few people, perhaps because people in Washington, D.C. think they know what’s better. The grant request from this community was to enhance something you are already doing,” he said.

“I know people who grew up in

the timber industry,” said Lungren.

“I’ve seen the devastation when folks who want to work can’t find jobs. Anything we can do to address this is worth our time.

“This is one small contribution. It is my hope there will be more in the future. I congratulate you for your enthusiasm and ingenuity.”

CONTINUING CALENDAR

Mondays

Oaks Resource and Family Center at Rail Road Flat School, open 8 a.m. to noon, information and resources for families. 293-1211.
TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), basement of the Baptist Church, 300 Cemetery Lane, West Point. Weigh-in, 5 to 5:45 p.m., meeting, 6 to 7 p.m.
Hamburger dinner, 5-7 p.m., VFW Post, West Point, hamburgers. 293-3322.

Tuesdays

Calaveras Works and Human Services, outreach office hours for MediCal, food stamps and cash aid 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., 291-A Main St., West Point. 754-6433 or 768-7523.
West Point Friends of the Library, 9:30 a.m., first Tuesday of each month, library, Main Street. Call 293-4072 for location.
Domestic Violence Support Group, 2 to 4 p.m., social room, Church of the Living Word, 23717 Highway 26, West Point. 754-1300.
West Point Fire District Auxiliary, first Tuesdays, 7 p.m. in the fire station on Spink Road. West Point Ridge Riders Trail Club, second Tuesdays. Call 293-4747 for location.
Sons in Retirement, second Tuesdays, 11 a.m., Senior Center, San Andreas. Call 754-5635, 754-3978 or 754-3771.
Alcoholics Anonymous, 7 p.m., Community Hall, Rail Road Flat. Call (800) 851-1304.
West Point Lions Club, first and third Tuesdays, 7 p.m., West Point Community Hall, Highway 26. First Tuesday, potluck dinner, third Tuesday, business meeting.
Community Revive and Re-Leaf, third Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m., 174 Spink Road, West Point. Call 293-4465.
Calaveras Genealogy Society, second Tuesdays, Calaveras County Library, San Andreas, except the social meetings in July and December.
Children’s Story Hour, 10 a.m., Mokolumne Hill Branch Library. Call 286-1783.
Free dinner, 6 p.m., Blue Mountain Youth and Family Center, Main Street, West Point. 293-4500.
Upper Mokolumne River Watershed Council, fourth Tuesdays, Central Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Agency, 235 New York Ranch Road, Suite C, Jackson. Call 257-1543 for information.

Wednesdays

AARP, third Wednesdays, West Point Community Hall. Call Jose del Castillo 293-3135.
West Point School Parent-Teacher Group, first Wednesdays, West Point School, alternating afternoons and evenings. Call 293-4255.
AARP Blue Mountain Chapter 732, third Wednesdays, West Point Community Hall. Call 293-7506.
West Point Business Council, second Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m., West Point Community Hall, Highway 26. Call 209-293-7482.
White Bison Women’s Talking Circle, 2:30 p.m., sponsored by M.A.C.T. Behavioral Health, 311 Main Street, West Point. Call Terry Garcia at 533-4385.
Calaveras County Fish and Game Commission, fourth Wednesday, January through October, 6:30 p.m., Board of Supervisors Chambers, Government Center, San Andreas. 754-6370.

Thursdays

Calaveras Works and Human Services, office hours for MediCal, food stamps and cash aid 9 a.m. to noon, 1-6 p.m., 291-A Main St., West

Point. 754-6433 or 768-7523.
Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon, 7:30 p.m., West Point Community Covenant Church, Highway 26.
Blue Mountain Rebekah Lodge, first and third Thursdays, 2 p.m., IOOF Building, West Point. 293-4805.
Central Calaveras Fire and Rescue Protection District Board, second Thursdays, 6:30 p.m., fire station, Jesus Maria Road off Rail Road Flat Road.
Mother Lode Newcomers Club for women, first Thursday. For location: 419-0755 or e-mail newcomers@volcano.net.
West Point Fire District Board, second Thursdays, 7 p.m., West Point Firehouse, Spink Road.
West Point Rod and Gun Club, third Thursdays, 6:30 p.m., West Point Community Hall, Highway 26. Call 754-5490.
Blue Mountain Community Renewal Council, fourth Thursdays, 6:30 p.m., downstairs in the back, American Legion Hall, Highway 26. Call 293-4166 or 293-7160.
Free dinner, 6 p.m., Blue Mountain Youth and Family Center, Main Street, West Point. 293-4500.
Blue Mountain Community

Renewal Council Board of Directors, fourth Thursdays, 6:30 p.m., downstairs conference room, West Point Veterans Memorial Hall.
Alcoholics Anonymous, 7:30 p.m., Community Covenant Church, Highway 26, West Point. Call (800) 851-1304.

Fridays

Pedro Card Game, fourth Fridays 7 p.m., West Point Community Hall, Highway 26. Call 293-4259.
Pedro Card Game, second Fridays, 7 p.m., Rail Road Flat Community Hall.
Mountain Ranch Community Club potluck dinner and meeting, first Fridays, 6:30 p.m., Mountain Ranch Town Hall.
Spaghetti Night, second Fridays, 5-7 p.m., VFW Post, West Point. Call 293-3322.

Saturdays

West Point Lions Bingo, second Saturdays, doors open at 5 p.m., West Point Community Hall.
West Point Lions Bingo, second Saturdays, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., at the Mountain Ranch Fire Station.
West Point AARP Bingo, third

Saturdays, doors open 5 p.m., West Point Community Hall.
Women’s Relief Corps Bingo, fourth Saturdays, 6 p.m., Veterans Memorial Hall.

Sundays

Blue Mountain Rebekah Lodge Bingo, first Sundays, 1 p.m., IOOF Hall, Main Street, West Point.
West Point Boy Scout Troop, first and third Sundays, Scout Hut, Winton Road. Call 293-7613.
Breakfast Buffet, first Sundays, 8 to 11 a.m., Glencoe American Legion Hall.
American Legion breakfast, third Sundays, 8 to 10 a.m., Veterans’ Memorial Hall, Highway 26, West Point.
Overcomers Outreach, 9:30 a.m., First Baptist Church, West Point. Call Pastor Ken Terry at 754-1423.

Send additions or corrections to the Continuing Calendar to: westpointnews@volcano.net.

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Advance Sale Chip Load Tickets are Available at the Following Locations:

Blue Mountain Community Service Center
291 Main Street, West Point 293-2333
Mon., Wed., Fri., 9am – Noon
Tues. & Thurs., 10am – 3pm

Mother Lode Job Connection
700 Mountain Ranch Road, Suite A, San Andreas
209-498-3003
Mon. – Fri. 9am – 4pm



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