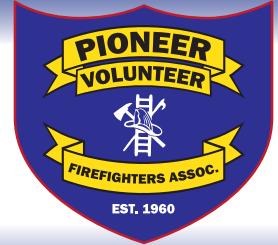


# PVFA Turnout



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE PIONEER VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

## Preparing for Fire Season 2015

By Jack Daniels, Fire Chief,  
Pioneer Fire Protection District

As I am sure most of you are aware, we have not had a very wet winter. Normal significant wild land fire potential is expected for the extended outlook in Northern California.

For Northern California, February was another drier-than-normal month in most areas. After a wet November through December, the region is drying out rapidly and snowpack is near record low levels for the end of February.

Near normal precipitation is expected for March through June. However, current snowpack is less than 20 percent of normal and seasonal snowpack totals by the end of winter will likely remain significantly below normal.

With that being said, the drought continues. The State of California has already seen larger than normal fires in the forest for February. Our goal in this article is not to scare anyone, but to educate on how to make your home safer during a fire. This may seem like a reoccurring article, because it is. One of the



Photo by Lynette Dwyer

See PREPARING, page 3

Hopefully they are not going to your house.

## Introducing our New Representative on the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors: Shiva Frentzen

By Mary Tran

In September of 2014 we had a special election to fill the position of Supervisor for District II, El Dorado County. The position had been vacated by Mr. Ray Nutting with about two years remaining in the term. The winner of the election was Shiva Frentzen.

Supervisor Frentzen brings to the position experience in both business and public service. In 1998 she started her partnership at CAL Internet Services, Inc. and in 2000 took over the day-to-day



Shiva Frentzen, El Dorado County Supervisor, District II

operations as the company's president and chief financial officer. Her online business directory, [eldoradobusiness.com](http://eldoradobusiness.com), was created in 2004 to support the growth of our local business community.

Mrs. Frentzen served four years as a director on the Cameron Park Community Services District Board and six years on the Snowline Hospice Board. She currently serves on the El Dorado Local Agency

received the Community Service Award from the El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce and in 2012, she received the Reader's Choice Award from El Dorado County Style Magazine for Civic Leader of the year.

Her educational background includes a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting and Computer Science, plus a Masters in Computer Science from California State University, Sacramento. Shiva has lived in Cameron Park for over two decades. She is married and has two grown children.

Of particular interest to us at PVFA Turnout, she has a track record of support for and from our fire departments. During

Formation Commission (LAFCO) and Cameron Park Rotary Club. In 2007, she

See FRENTZEN, page 8

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The PVFA Turnout is published four times a year by the Pioneer Volunteer Firefighters Association on a non-profit basis. The PVFA Turnout welcomes articles from writers in the area that would be of interest to a wide range of readers.

The PVFA Turnout also welcomes contributions, suggestions, and story ideas from the community. Space is available for community groups and non-profit service organizations. Articles/ads containing political or religious endorsements are not accepted.

Articles and photos may be sent as an email attachment to [turnoutedit@pioneerfire.org](mailto:turnoutedit@pioneerfire.org) with PVFA Turnout in the subject line. All submissions must include your name, telephone number, and email address. Brief material in handwritten or typed form will be considered as well and should be submitted at Fire Station 38, on Mt. Aukum Road.

Calendar items should be emailed to [nikkiohaco@hotmail.com](mailto:nikkiohaco@hotmail.com) with PVFA Turnout Calendar in the subject line.

Deadline for materials is the first Friday in March, May, August and November. The PVFA Turnout is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts and artwork and cannot return material to you.

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For general information or submission queries, write to either: PVFA Turnout Newsletter PO Box 403 Mt. Aukum, CA 95656, or email: [turnoutedit@pioneerfire.org](mailto:turnoutedit@pioneerfire.org) with PVFA Turnout in the subject line.

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*... the region is drying out rapidly and snowpack is near record low levels for the end of February.*

greatest dangers we face in El Dorado County is wildfire. We urge our citizens to be diligent and create a 100 foot defensible space around their homes. Below are some tips from Cal Fire on defensible space. You can see the full flyer at readyforwildfire.org. I encourage you to read it and, as always, we are happy to assist you with any questions you might have. You can visit us at Pioneerfire.org.

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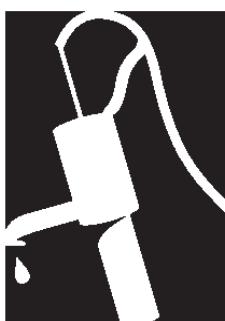
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# Meet Jesse and Josh

By Lynette Dwyer

Jesse Montenegro Gracia and Josh Branshaw are two of the Pioneer Fire Protection District (PFPD) Reserve Firefighters/ Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) who work at Fire Station 31 (Willow), on Grizzly Flat Road in Somerset. Jesse started in July 2014 and Josh in September 2014. They are on the C Shift and report to Captain George Selig.

They said that their shift is a little different from the other two shifts. They generally start their mornings at Station 31, get briefed by the previous crew as to what went on over the last few days, do some household chores, and then go down the hill to the main PFPD Station 38 on E16. I'm sure most of you know where that is. They spend the day at Station 38 doing chores, fire training, physical training and learning from the crew there. They are there until around 5 p.m., when they return to Station 31. They usually go in tandem on calls with the crew from Station 38, but if the incident is small, they will stay at Station 38 in case other emergency calls come in. (For those of you who don't know, the term "a call" is when the crew is dispatched to an incident.)

When they return to Station 31, they do more chores and then one fixes dinner and the other does the dishes. They trade-off fixing dinner and doing the dishes each night. Josh said that when they started working together, Jesse didn't have a lot of experience cooking. However, things have changed and Jesse is turning into a great cook.



Photo by Lynette Dwyer.

**Firefighters Josh Branshaw and Jesse Montenegro Gracia at Station 31, Willow Station.**

I asked them if they had always wanted to be firefighters and they both said "No." They both said that they always knew that they wanted to be in a career where they were helping people, but didn't know what. Jesse shared that he made his decision back when he was 17. His grandfather had an incident and 911 was called. He watched the paramedics bring his grandfather back to life and that made up his mind for him. Josh's story was a little different. He had always thought that he wanted to be a doctor, but realized that he was more of an outdoor person and that the fire business could serve him in both interests. Jesse went to Mission College in Santa Clara and received an Associate of Science degree in Fire Science in December 2013, while Josh went to Butte College Fire Academy in Oroville and graduated in May 2014.

Their job searches were a little different. Jesse said he went to Wikipedia and downloaded all cities in Northern California that had fire departments. He would then visit different departments, fill out an application or interest card, and hope. Then he found a website called 911hotjobs.com and discovered that PFPD was looking for reserves. He came up here, interviewed, and was hired. Josh, on the other hand, had a much easier time. He had a friend from the Academy who worked for PFPD, who told him that they were hiring. So he came up here, interviewed, and was hired.

They both said that they love our area, but have not moved up here yet. Another similarity between the two of them is that they still both live in their home towns. Jesse is from San Jose and Josh is from Pleasant Hill. Jesse's parents and two older brothers live in San Jose. Josh's parents are still in Pleasant Hill. During this part of the interview, they found out that they each had an older sister who lives in Fresno. Small world!

Being a reserve firefighter doesn't pay well, so they both have jobs on their days off. Jesse works at Lowe's and Josh is a teacher's assistant at the Butte Fire Academy. They both want to become full-time, paid firefighters and paramedics. Jesse said he had not



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See **FIREFIGHTERS**, page 6

# Say a Little Prayer

By Yvonne Dwyer Fought

More often than not I can hear my own parents' voices as I toss little gems of "wisdom" to my kids. Some advice just never gets old. "Treat others how you want to be treated." "What goes around comes around." "Be home in time for dinner." My favorite, though, I learned when I was about five years old on an outing with my parents and older brother, Dan. We had been walking the trail around Lake Temescal in Oakland, looking for a spot where my dad and brother could fish. We found a place right next to an overhanging tree that seemed perfect, until the line got caught in the branches. Even that was no big deal at first, but while my dad was reaching out over the water to untangle the line, he looked down and his glasses slipped off his face; they slipped off and disappeared somewhere past skeeter bugs and tangles of roots in the dark water. I stood rock still, staring into the water past those skeeter bugs and roots,

trying to "stay put" and be as quiet as my five year old self could manage. I knew it was one of those times when you don't bug the grownups, but I wanted to help! Sensing my angst and knowing I needed help with "staying put", my mom looks over and tells me, "Say a little prayer; ask your angel to help find your dad's glasses." Well, if Mom believed that would help, then so did I. So I started repeating the angel prayer that she and Dad had taught me. Within minutes, the glasses were found; a little slimy, but otherwise just fine. This was amazing! Mom had given me a "superpower"--Faith. Belief in something I couldn't see, touch, taste or smell.

Even when I grew older, if I was hoping really hard for something, I'd hear

Mom suggest, "Say a little prayer; talk to your angel." It worked, sometimes. When it didn't, my parents reminded me that my angel probably knew best--to be grateful and keep the faith anyway. I did, because if anyone knew about the superpower of prayer, it was my mom. In

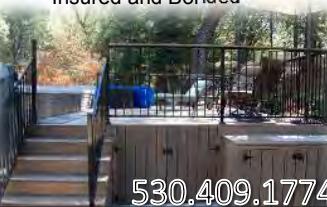
*This was amazing!  
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"superpower"--Faith.  
Belief in something I  
couldn't see, touch,  
taste or smell.*

1945, six years before meeting and marrying my dad, my mom was a young widow raising my two older siblings. "Mom went through a lot that year;" recalls my brother Gerry. "I was about ten years old at the time. Dad had died, Grandpa had died, and then Barbara got spinal meningitis. Mom really had a year-full of horrible things happen to her." Mom had lost her hus-

See PRAYER, page 7

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really thought about promoting, but if the opportunity came up and he was qualified, well then.... Josh said that he definitely wants to be an engineer (he likes the technical parts) and then maybe promote to captain. They both said that the future depends a lot on whom you work with – for example, working with a good team—and factors like that weigh heavily on movement.

Getting back to their current jobs here in PFPD, I asked them what their most exciting incidents had been in the short time they have worked here. They both agreed that the two structure fires they went to were the most exciting, hands down. One was in Grizzly Flat and the other one was in Happy Valley. Neither one of them was able to work the Sand Fire, but Jesse spent a couple days with the water tender at the King Fire. He said that he was very impressed by the organization that Cal Fire and the Forest Service had in providing food, lodging, and bathroom and shower facilities. He said it was like being in a mini city.

We ended the interview with me asking how they would describe their job as firefighters to outsiders. Jesse said that you have to have a lot of heart and courage and that you have to love fighting fires and helping people. Josh said with a grin, “I get to drive a big red truck and start a chain saw!” They both said they love the job and don’t ever want to stop learning more and how to be better. They said that the crews at the department are great mentors and teachers.

I think we are pretty lucky to have two such great men working for our district! ♦



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# Showcase Roundup

By Jeff Ziegler

I wanted this report to be short, so here goes. At our January meeting, I was nominated and became chair of the CSD (Community Service District). Roger Klemm is now Vice-Chair/Roads Liaison, Karen Kleppe will remain on the board as Policies/Grants/Volunteer Liaison and Lee Hodge will continue as the Financial Director/Dam Liaison. Finally, a huge thank you to Steve Vudragovich for joining the CSD Board at the last meeting and agreeing to serve as Weed/Brush/Rodent Control Liaison. He is a welcome addition to the team, and brings us to a full five member Board for the first time in years! It is our hope that the continued commitment and involvement of this group will spur other neighbors to join in and get more involved in truly making ours a “community” rather than a bunch of people living near each other.

In the weeks since the last CSD Board Meeting, there have been several ideas presented by other residents that we as a CSD will hope to explore. However, for the most part, as a small all-volunteer team, we don’t have the manpower or time to commit to making all of them successful. This is where you can help. Because our goal is to make Showcase Ranches a great place to live, we need more residents to help make that happen. Ideas presented were:

The possibility of raising the speed limit along Dorado Canyon to 25 MPH. So many people already exceed this number routinely, but perhaps with a higher limit, people will be less inclined to exceed it excessively (or maybe this is wishful thinking).

Also, one of our residents raised the idea of creating a “purchasing group” to seek out lower prices from suppliers for things that we all need (like supplies for home repairs, etc.). Many of us think this is a great idea, so if anyone has any experience doing that sort of thing – helping residents joining together to save money – then please get in touch!

After receiving overwhelming support at the last two meetings in favor of the idea of raising the District Levy Tax from the current (1984) level of \$125 per year, the Board now is seeking a volunteer to help spearhead a campaign to help us explore this possibility. We do not have a figure yet, but the CSD is gathering figures to explore costs more in-depth to determine the future levy. We recognize that we have significant work that will need to be completed over the next few years, not only on Dorado Canyon but also on the spur roads. If you are interested in helping with the campaign, then please connect with any member of the Board via <https://showcaseranches.nextdoor.com>. Please register for free if you have not already joined.

We welcome you to the next Board Meeting, to be held on Thursday July 9th at 7 p.m. at Pioneer Fire Station 38. ♦

band in April 1945 to a sudden, unexpected heart attack, leaving her to raise their two young kids alone. Within three months of his death, she faced another crisis. My older sister, Barbara, couldn't shake an ear infection. Family physician, Dr. Maloney, was serving in the Navy during WW II, so Mom called on several other doctors to put her trust in. More than once, they stopped by the house and assured her it was nothing serious, but when Barbara became more lethargic, Mom turned to Dr. McGyver, her sister's family physician. "Dr. McGyver stood in the doorway and didn't even step into my room", Barbara recalls. "He took one look and said, 'Get her to Highland Hospital now!' I couldn't feel my legs and I was so tired." As sick as she was, it still took four or five nurses to hold Barbara down for a shot. She had always been a strong kid, but the meningitis was stronger and she fell into a coma. Feeling a little like her world was falling apart, Mom spent the next several days going back and forth between the hospital and home.

Secluded in an isolation ward, Barbara turned six under the watchful eyes of doctors, nurses and the storybook dolls Mom left for her to see when she woke up. Around the fifth day, after a morning of pacing outside of Barbara's hospital room, Mom headed home to see Gerry and her own mom, who had moved in to help. Just as she walked in the door, the hospital called. They implored her to "come quick", because Barbara had taken a turn for the worse. She should waste no time, because they believed the end was near. Grabbing her car keys, Mom immediately retraced her well-worn path to be at Barbara's side. Except, this time, the path took a side trip into St. Leos Catholic Church. Slipping in the side door near the statue of St. Theresa, Mom kneeled there and prayed. She called on her incredible "superpower" of faith and asked St. Theresa to save her little girl. Then she resumed her heartbreaking path back to the hospital. When she was barely through the door, Mom was met by one of the isolation ward nurses. Barbara had taken another

turn, this time for the better. She had rallied and her fever had broken. The nurse was stymied about how it was possible. It could only be a miracle. She had no other explanation. Hurrying to see for herself, Mom found Barbara awake and sitting up in bed. St. Theresa had come through. Barbara grew up to raise six children of her own, naming her first born daughter, Theresa.

Mom's faith never wavered, always believing in the "superpower" of prayer until she died at the age of 96. She was sincere, compassionate and hopeful and she gave that gift of faith to all of us. I've kept up the tradition with my own kids, reminding them to not ask for selfish things and to always be grateful. She told us to be grateful even if it doesn't turn out exactly as you want, because your angel probably knows best. I often catch them exchanging a smirk when I toss out my go-to advice of "Talk to your angel; say a little prayer." In spite of the smirk, I suspect that they do actually practice this more than they want to let on. Who wouldn't? It's a "superpower"! ♦



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the election campaign, Mrs. Frentzen was endorsed by the Pioneer Professional Firefighters Local 4586 and by the Cal Fire Firefighters Local 2881.

I met with Supervisor Frentzen in the morning of January 16 at her offices on Fair Lane, Placerville. Here are the questions I asked and her answers:

**Question: How would you describe your district?**

"District II is very diverse. South County is rural with the suburbs of El Dorado Hills/Cameron Park and Shingle Springs/El Dorado in the middle. The main issues facing residents of South County are wild fires—preventing them and putting them out—plus roads and infrastructure for telephone and internet service. The wine industry and agriculture are important elements of the economic vitality of the South County



Photo by Dan Dwyer

**Opening day at Station 31. Left to Right: Craig Cooper-Wyble, Chief Jack Daniels, Shiva Frentzen, Ripley Howe, Andrew Lemos, Jason Fletcher.**

and those businesses have unique concerns. Water availability and affordability is key for survival of agriculture in South County. In the Cameron Park/El

resources to work in the County.

**See FRENTZEN, page 10**

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# History Mystery: What Put Diamond Springs on the Map?

**Answer: Excellent grass and water, before gold was discovered.**

By Paolo Sili

Diamond Springs Took its name from a group of springs with beautiful clear water, which were located on that now mined out ground on the north side of Main street, in the center of town, opposite the livery stable, or Mr. Carpenter's residence. The old emigrant road, coming down across the summit, passing Silver Lake, Sly Park and Pleasant valley, went through here to Sacramento and the plains; or joining off to the north towards Coloma, Placerville, Georgetown and all the mining camps in the northern part of El Dorado county, as well as across the American river in Placer county; and the emigrants passing over this (Carson) road from the earliest times made this a

favorite stopping or camping place, to take a short rest after the hardship and trial of the mountain passage.

"No attempt, however, had been made towards permanent settlement on this point, though it is said that one log cabin had been built up here in 1849, near some of the many springs; but the owner of it did not succeed in drawing followers to the place; they were all bound for Coloma, and none took time enough to test the ground.

"This went on till the latter part of the summer of 1850, when a party of emigrants from the State of Missouri, numbering about two hundred, under the leadership of one McPike, now of Santa Clara county, came down this way and took a fancy to stop here for a

few days; but being satisfied with the location, as they found beautiful and plenty of water and pasture, and after they had learned to mine, discovered

See HISTORY MYSTERY, page 12



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"Fourth, I seek to keep our rural quality of life in balance with the available resources such as water and roads and with economic development and growth."

**Question: What was the first project you started working on after your election?**

"Immediately after taking office, I was asked to work on balancing the budget. Initially, it looked as if the budget was balanced, but when I took a closer look I found that the expenditures in the budget were greater than the actual revenues. That was because unpredictable sources of money—such as contingency funds and the 'fund balance'—were being included as sources of revenue.

"The 'fund balance' refers to funds that are not spent and are carried over from one fiscal year to the next. In any given year there may or may not be money left over.

"My observation about the budget was that over the past three years the County had hired additional employees amounting to a 10.4 percent increase in staff, without providing any increase in services to residents. In addition, the \$5M savings expected from converting

the County financial system to a new software system—FENIX—in October 2015 is not feasible. Also, the economic development funds, called TOT money, hadn't been allocated in a way that really made the best use of them.

"On the other hand, we have some serious 'unfunded liabilities' for retirees. Also, we do not have adequate reserves to pay for important capital improvement projects such as the construction of the

***"My observation about the budget was that over the past three years the County had hired additional employees amounting to a 10.4 percent increase in staff, without providing any increase in services to residents."***

new building for the Sheriff's Department and maintenance of the administrative buildings along Fair Lane in Placerville."

**Question: What are you planning to work on with respect to the local fire districts?**

"Very recently the El Dorado Hills and Latrobe Fire Districts were integrated. There are still small fire districts in El Dorado County that continue to have money problems. The County has committed to \$800,000 patch money to support the rural fire districts in the 2014-

2015 fiscal cycle.

"The fire districts are working on strategies, for example consolidations, that are sustainable and still provide efficient fire services. The question is: 'How can we all come together to make that happen? The goal is to find a good solution to maintain self-sufficiency and provide good readiness and good services.'

"The Fire Safe Councils are being very pro-active and seeking grants for their

work. I have provided letters of support for their grant applications, to strengthen their chances of getting funded. I am attending Council meetings to support their work and to be

connected to the local communities."

**Question: Is there anything else you would like to say to our readers?**

"I have an open door policy. If there is something you need—something I can help with—please let me know. You need to communicate with me. My office is located at 330 Fair Lane in Placerville. The phone number there is 530.621.5651. My assistant and I are also working on ideas to make communication easier for the residents in District II. ♦

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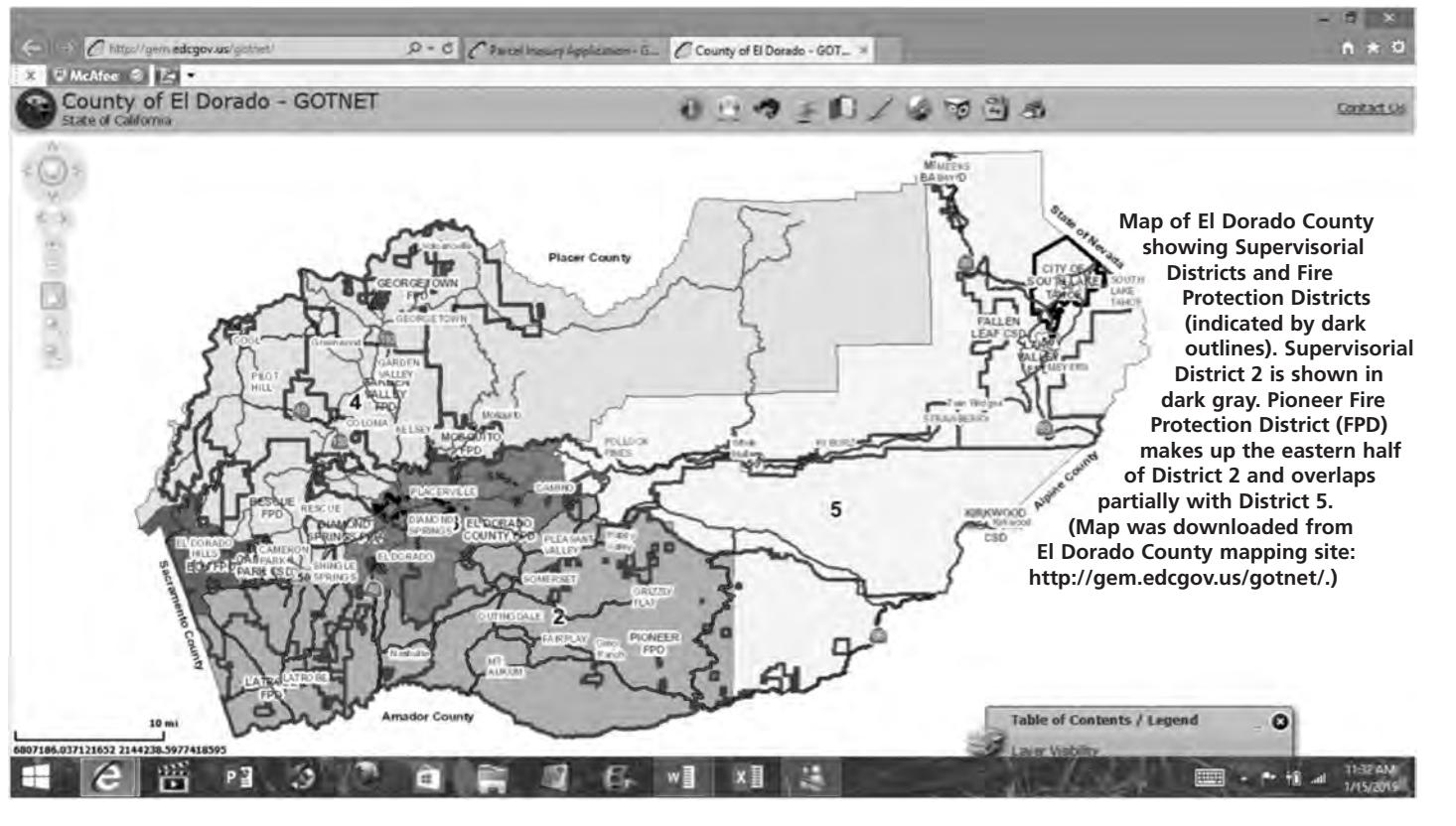
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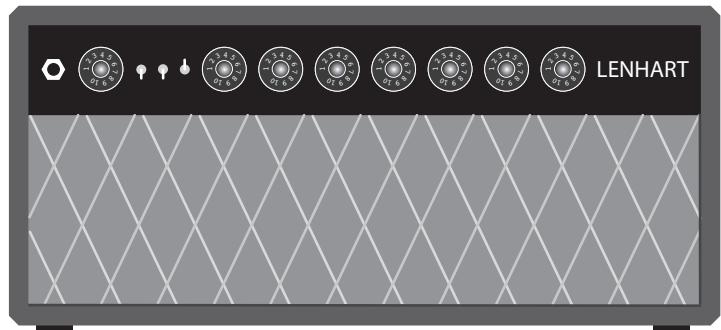
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# Why Do We Love to Garden?

By Trish Naylor and Brenda Garcia

"Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle ... a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to the light, a bud straining to unfurl." ~Barbara Winkler

Why do we love to garden? We've given this some thought and we agree: We love to grow stuff! Yes, the pure childish joy of that seed peeping its little head through the soil does it. It just gets better as we nurture those little babies and they grow and feed us deliciously. Whether it be vegetable or flower, we are fed in our bodies and our hearts and WE grow. We like the idea of knowing where our food comes from and that it is grown in a wise and sustainable manner.

I'm Trish and I have been dabbling in the dirt for many years, starting out in 4-H with my own little 20-foot square plot. I think of my garden as a continually evolving project that spans the seasons. It delivers unexpected surprises and is always a work in progress to anticipate and enjoy. I like the idea that gardening encourages diversity in my diet and nudges me to explore new varieties just steps away from my door.

After doing the necessary soil preparation, March is a good time to decide what you'd like to plant as the parade of spring and summer vegetable seedlings appear. Planting seedlings is a convenient way to get your garden growing now, especially for those heat-loving tomatoes, peppers and eggplant. Local garden centers will have varieties that are suited to our region. Another great source for vegetable seedlings is the Master Gardener Mid-spring plant sale. A very good selection of seedlings can also be found through our Farmer's Markets throughout the spring and summer months. These very local resources will get you on your way with plants that are well suited to our area and won't disappoint.

Not to be overlooked is the wide variety of vegetable crops

See LOVE OF GARDENING, page 14

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## HISTORY MYSTERY

Continued from page 9

that the mining here was paying well, they concluded to make this a permanent camp and went on to build clap board houses. Thus becoming the founders of Diamond Springs. The springs, however, belong to those things that only can be talked about.

Diamond Springs is situated about forty-seven miles east of Sacramento, three miles from Placerville, on the junction of the roads to the latter city and to Pleasant valley. A place so much favored by location and other conditions could not help to accumulate fast after the first start was made; particularly after the discovery of the richest placer mines all around town, it commenced growing as a worthy rival of the neighboring 'Hangtown,' concerning numerical strength, business and society life. In 1854, when the star of Coloma began to go downward, Diamond Springs was the rising star, that promised to take the place of the former as the county center. The proprietor of the Miner's Advocate sold out at Coloma only to publish his paper at Diamond Springs; and of the size of the trade the town commanded, the many stores and other business places, that all were doing a flush business, gave sufficient proof. "

As reported in 1883 by Paolo Sioli in his history of early California and El Dorado County. This history was reprinted by Cedar Ridge Publishing, Gerogetown, CA, in 1998 as, "Sesquicentennial Reprint of Paolo Sioli's Historical Souvenir of El Dorado County California". The above story plus more about Diamond Springs can be found on pages 205-207. ♦

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# Nick and AJ's Adventures in Eating – Part 1

By Nick Nickerson and AJ Scontrino

Nick and AJ, both local retirees, decided that because we both love good food we would have to go out looking for it in the surrounding area. We have concentrated on hamburgers and have come across other food delights that we enjoy. We will try to give you some highlights from our many trips/adventures. We were even brave enough to take our wives (Pamela and Eve) to some of these places.

Rating is on a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the best

Cost: \$ is low and \$\$\$\$\$ is high

Name	Cost	Service	Food	Address
<b>The Burger Saloon</b>	\$\$\$	4	4	601 Main St, Woodland 530.668.2747

Nick: A little bit out of the way, but it is a pub style restaurant serving Angus beef burgers and a fairly large menu. The Burger Saloon is located in downtown Woodland.

AJ: I found this to be just around the corner, a stone's throw away. The selection of burgers was amazing; they were cooked to order (even very rare) and yummy!! The sweet potato fries were great, crispy on the outside and soft on the inside. The old town of Woodland was pleasant to walk through.

<b>T J's Roadhouse</b>	\$\$\$	4	5	520 So. Auburn St, Colfax 530.346.1040
------------------------	--------	---	---	---

Nick & Pamela: A traditional road house just off Hwy 80 with delicious, juicy hamburgers cooked to order and served on a bakery bun. Love the fries as well. We have been there many times. On one trip AJ had a burger with chilies, bacon, onions and a chicken breast! Yes, a chicken breast! Worth the trip.

AJ & Eve: I personally enjoy The Brakemen Burger. This burger is not on the menu but just ask, they will know how to make it. The Brakemen Burger is made on a freshly baked onion roll and you get your choice of grilled or raw onions, avocado, cheese and/or hickory smoked bacon, with all the condiments. The sweet potato fries are cooked to perfection, crispy on the outside and soft on the inside. Eve prefers the regular burgers. If this isn't enough food, their deserts are to die for.

<b>Broderick's Roadhouse</b>	\$\$\$\$	4	4 319 6th St, W. Sacramento 916.372.2436
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Nick & Pamela: The fries ROCK! They are prepared over a two day period with options such as banh mi (their signature fry), chili, gorgonzola and mushroom, etc. Their large selection of burgers are cooked to order and served on homemade buns. They even do their own pickling. Broderick's has an old English pub feeling and is nestled in the heart of the neighborhood. They do get crowded so plan accordingly. In 2013 they won the People's Choice Award in the Sacramento Burger Battle. See Lee Hodge's in depth article on Broderick's Roadhouse.

AJ: Broderick's burgers were a bit too "loud" for my taste, but I was outnumbered three to one. Their chilli fries had a taste of cloves in the mix which I didn't like. The other forty patrons agreed with my three friends that the meal was great.

<b>Flaming Grill Café</b>	\$\$\$	3.5	4.5	2319 El Camino Ave., Sac.
---------------------------	--------	-----	-----	---------------------------

Nick: Like an old car shop – Ambiance? What ambiance? Seating is on concrete benches. The burgers were great. They have a large menu. They were, at one time, rated the best burgers in Sacramento. If you are feeling brave, you may want to try the Buffalo Burger or the Peanut Butter and Jelly Burger. They also have ground sirloin and Angus beef burgers.

AJ: What a hoot. Let's walk thru the kitchen to get to the restrooms. The burgers were great and so were the fries. You can have a burger made from almost any animal you desire. I had beef - yummy! - cooked any way you want.

<b>Whitey's Jolly Cone</b>	\$	3	3.5	1300 Jefferson Blvd, W. Sac. 916.371.3605
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Nick: A very small old fashioned drive-in with no inside seats or bathroom. The burgers were good, but small. We suggest you order two! The pricing is unbelievable. I had a chili burger, onion rings and a milk shake for just over \$8.00. They are noted for thick, tasty milk shakes. They are very busy during the lunch hour.

AJ: The prices were great, but the burgers were small. I like a rare burger and there was no way you could cook a burger that small and make it rare. The curly fries were tasty and plentiful. I ordered a large milk shake (chocolate mocha) from more than twenty choices and sipped on it for the rest of the day.

Look for Part 2 of Nick and AJ's "Adventures in Eating" in the next PVFA Turnout. ♦

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that you can seed directly. Early spring crops such as peas, fava beans, lettuce, carrots, arugula, and kale, to name a few, should do well in a spring/summer garden. Mid-April to May is a good window for direct seeding of other summer vegetables, such as beans, squash, corn, and cucumber. I rely on the wealth of information that the Master Gardeners provide through Continuing Education Classes and their Foothill Vegetable Planting Guide (2001). Peaceful Valley Gardening in Grass Valley has created a wide variety of YouTube videos that I rely upon.

My garden plot has a split personality. It has a sunny disposition and cold shoul-

der! Haven't you heard that before? Because of the diverse terrain in these foothills, it's important to get to know the character of our garden plot (sun versus shade) before starting to plant. If you are lucky enough to have a full eight hours of sun across your garden plot, your heat loving vegetables will thrive. If your garden is like mine, you will have a mix of conditions. Our summer heat hogging tomatoes get the sunny side of the garden and the chill-out lettuce and peas get the cooler side. Knowing the sun/shade cycle in your garden will help you determine the optimal placement of your garden plants.

Fickle spring weather can be a real

challenge for those tender seedlings that are trying to establish themselves. Judicious use of mid-weight floating row cover on my just-planted tomato seedlings when the temperature suddenly drops 30 degrees will keep them warm and growing. They may need that warm blanket for a while as their root systems develop. On the flip side, shade cloth is really handy to cool those tiny lettuce plants when the weather warms up. Finding out what works for your garden is always part of the fun. So dig in!

*"Leave room in your garden for the angels to dance."* —Mother Earth's Angels

My name is Brenda. I became a Master Gardener in Contra Costa County in 2004. This means that I took a really good class and learned how to find the answers to the never ending questions that arise in a gardener's world. The question for now: What is Companion Planting? Wikipedia defines companion planting as "...the planting of different crops in proximity for pest control, pollination, providing habitat for beneficial creatures, maximizing use of space, and to otherwise increase crop productivity."

It takes some planning and soil preparation, so start that compost pile yesterday! Decide what goes where based upon what grew there previously and what plant(s) are helpful to each other.

How does companion planting work?

- Companions help each other grow—

See LOVE OF GARDENING, page 15



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Tall plants, for example, provide shade for sun-sensitive shorter plants.

- Companions use garden space efficiently—vining plants cover the ground while upright plants grow upward. Two plants in one patch.

- Companions prevent pest problems—plants like onions repel some pests. Other plants can lure pests away from more desirable plants.

- Companions attract beneficial insects—every successful garden needs plants that attract the predators of pests.

- Bugs really are good, ya know! And this brings me to another subject....compost. Compost is also known as Black Gold in a gardener's world. It's created by all those bugs and micro organisms recycling the old to create the new. It is rich in the nutrients needed by the soil and plants.

*"The best Fertilizer in the garden is the Gardener's Shadow"*  
— old New England proverb

Happy gardening everyone, until next time, Trish and Brenda

Here are some web links and additional resources for gardening:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Companion\\_planting](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Companion_planting)

A very comprehensive table of companion plants and their beneficial companions:

[http://www.the-gardeners-calendar.co.uk/Companion\\_Planting/companiontables.asp](http://www.the-gardeners-calendar.co.uk/Companion_Planting/companiontables.asp)

YouTube "What is Companion Planting"  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=32\\_esYxrihg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=32_esYxrihg)

PDF of El Dorado County Master Gardeners' Organic Gardening e-book  
[http://ucanr.edu/sites/EDC\\_Master\\_Gardeners/files/165024.pdf](http://ucanr.edu/sites/EDC_Master_Gardeners/files/165024.pdf)

Home Vegetable Gardening. This lecture is presented in two parts. Each part is 60-minutes in length. Totally worth the time!! Recorded in El Dorado County in the Sierra Nevada foothills. This lecture is by Robert Norris, Associate Professor and Botanist at UC Davis. [http://ucmgyvideo.ucanr.org/Robert\\_Norris/](http://ucmgyvideo.ucanr.org/Robert_Norris/) On the same page you'll find a 'Vegetable Gardening Quiz'. Have some fun. Take the quiz before you watch the videos.

Master Gardeners Plant sale is 5/2/15. Check out and sign up for their newsletter.

[http://cecentralsierra.ucanr.edu/Master\\_Gardeners/?newsitem=54547](http://cecentralsierra.ucanr.edu/Master_Gardeners/?newsitem=54547)

Foothill Vegetable Planting Guide 2001. Call the Cooperative Extension Office 530 621-5512 for availability.

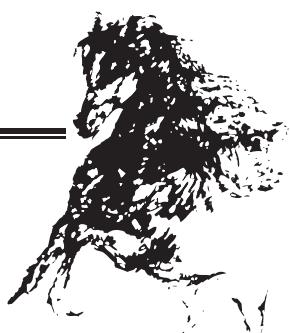
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# Making Your Backyard Inviting to Wildlife

By Nancy Powers, Sierra Wildlife Rescue

Have you ever thought of turning your yard or property into a wildlife habitat to benefit your wildlife neighbors and for your own enjoyment? It's easier than you might think. You only need four basic elements that you may already have or can easily adapt for wildlife: food, water, cover, and a place to raise the young.

**Food:** The best foods are native plants that are already present in good wildlife habitat, including native nuts, such as acorns, walnuts, and hazelnuts; toyon, manzanita, pyracantha and other berry-bearing plants; seeds, leaves and twigs; and flowering plants, all of which also harbor insects delicious to the palate of many animals. It's important not to water your plants from overhead, or you can wash away twigs, seeds, and pollen.

Although hummingbirds enjoy nectar, their primary diet is actually insects, and they feed only insects to their young. They have survived on insects and nectar from flowers for millions of years before we introduced nectar feeders. But if you want

to be sure to attract them, put up several nectar feeders, using four parts water to one part sugar; do not add red coloring, as some of it can be harmful. Wash feeders weekly, using a 1:10 mix bleach to water solution, scrub out dirt and bugs, and rinse thoroughly. Place feeders at least 50 yards apart, or the males nesting in your yard may spend their time defending feeders instead of tending to their families!

Most birds particularly like black oil sunflower seeds and suet blocks (particularly in the winter), and both birds and butterflies also like fruit slices set out on a tray or hanging from sticks. The ground under bird seed feeders can get messy from falling seeds and they can also attract rodents, so sweep under feeders once a week. Do not place any feeders where your cats have easy access to them.

**Water:** All animals need water to drink, and some also find food in it, such as insects. Some, like frogs, also use it for cover and to raise their young,

others to bathe. Human-created water features can assist wildlife that have lost access to natural water sources due to development or drought. They also add beauty and diversity to your landscape and provide endless hours of entertainment as you watch animals come and go. Wildlife has adapted to using water from many natural sources, so observe the features of natural ponds and streams and replicate them as closely as possible. If you can use water features that recycle water to reduce water use, that is an added benefit.

**Ponds, Puddles and Muddy Areas:** There are numerous ways to make ponds using a liner or a pre-made earth bottom, which is best, since animals can hibernate underneath. Be sure to include a ramp or a shallow end for exit. If you put in fish, include caves and other hiding places, such as tall water grasses. Butterflies pre-

See WILDLIFE, page 18



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# Sierra Wildlife Rescue Continues Rehabbing Classes in April

By Nancy Powers

Sierra Wildlife rehabbing and informational classes continue in April, beginning with Rehabbing Adult Songbirds from 10 a.m. to noon and Foxes, Coyotes and Bobcats from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., both on April 4.

Rehabbing Doves and Pigeons will be held April 11, from 1 to 3 p.m., Fawns on April 16 from 6 to 8 p.m., and Waterfowl and Game Birds on April 23 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Classes on volunteering for the Baby Bird Nursery will be held on April 11



Photo by Nancy Powers

**Growler, close up.**

from 10 a.m. to noon; April 14 from 7 to 8 p.m.; April 25 from 10 a.m. to noon; and April 28 from 7 to 9 p.m. You need attend only one class to volunteer for the nursery, which will be open from approximately May 1 to July 31. SWR always

needs new volunteers for the Baby Bird Nursery; come to a class to learn how enjoyable and rewarding it is to feed orphaned baby birds for a two-hour shift, on a daily, weekly, or other time schedule of your choosing.

All classes are held at SWR's Wildlife Center, 3030 Newtown Rd, Placerville and are free to SWR members; a \$5 donation is requested from the general public, or you can join SWR as a member. Parking is limited, so please make reservations well in advance by calling Barbara at 530.621.2650 or emailing her at barbaraewing@cal.net. Please cancel if you register and cannot attend, because there is always a waiting list.

SWR always needs and welcomes new rehabbers, so come join us to learn what a joyful, exciting and fulfilling experience rehabbing orphaned and injured wild animals and returning them to the wild can be! ♦

## Join Sierra Wildlife's Baby Shower

By Nancy Powers

Spring babies of all species are coming into Sierra Wildlife Rescue, and we are holding a Baby Shower to raise funds for their care. This is a non-event – no tickets to buy, no luncheon to attend, no gifts to purchase – just put your feet up and relax at home, while helping us to care for our wildlife babies!

SWR rehabilitated 1,164 orphaned and injured wild mammals and birds last year. We are committed to, and love, rehabbing and never turn an animal in need away, but it can be expensive. Among the animals rehabbed last year were 613 songbirds, at a cost of \$20 for each; 84 raptors, at \$50 each; 27 fawns, at \$225 each; 150 squirrels at \$75 each; two foxes, at \$300 each; six coyote pups, at \$600 each; and 88 rabbits, at \$40 each.

Most of the animals SWR receives are rescued by residents throughout El Dorado County; we couldn't do what we do without your kindness and concern for wildlife. Approximately 27% percent come from Placerville, with a total of 36% coming from El Dorado Hills, Cameron Park and Pollock Pines, 11% from Shingle Springs, and 6% from other areas.

It's easy to join our Baby Shower. Just get out your checkbook,

mail a check made out to Sierra Wildlife Rescue to P.O. Box 2127, Placerville, CA 95667...OR...Go online to [www.sierrawildliferescue.org](http://www.sierrawildliferescue.org); go to "Join Us" and then to "Donate Now." Fill in the form and send online. That's all there is to it!

Thanks for your concern and caring for our wild babies! ♦

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fer a moist or muddy area for water and minerals. Leave that low area in your yard that tends to collect water alone, or put some soil, sand and manure in a pie pan and add a little water to make a small muddy area for them. Take advantage of your storm run-off from gutters, creating a little spring-and-winter stream to flow into a small pond.

**Bird Baths:** Birds need and love to bathe, and a bird bath will attract birds for you to watch. Use a shallow container, no more than two inches deep. You can buy a commercial bird bath, or easily make one from a shallow plant saucer hung in a plant hanger from a tall post with a hook or off of your deck. Hang it away from trees or bushes where a predator may hide and await its chance. Keep the water clean; mosquitoes need about five days to develop into adults, so if you dump out the bath and refill every few days there is no need for chemicals. Note: If you have a water trough for your livestock, float a good-sized piece of wood in it so they can grip it to climb out; many squirrels, birds and other small animals drown in water troughs each year.

**Cover:** The major structure of any property consists of the big, older trees that won't be replaced for many lifetimes. Learn how to care for them correctly and try not to prune during nesting seasons (spring through fall) to protect birds, squirrels and other tree-dwellers. If safe to do so, leave some dead snags for birds and bees to perch on or to build hanging nests from. Also, try to leave some fallen logs and as much leaf litter as possible. Build a brush pile and plant vines growing

over it, where butterflies like to cluster. Construct a low wall of big rocks, creating niches in which lizards, insects and other animals can hide. Plants with dense growth or thorns, and evergreen plants, provide excellent cover; those bearing flowers or fruit do double duty as feeders. Place broken clay pots upside down under some plants for frogs, toads, and lizards. Hang birdhouses and roosting boxes as high in your trees as possible, toward the ends of strong limbs, and add bat houses tucked up under the eaves of your roof.

**Places to Raise Young:** Wild animals need open space beneath the tree cover for courtship and nesting, space for digging dens and building nests, nesting materials, and safe conditions for adults and youngsters. Several logs can be piled in a loose heap for foxes, skunks and other animals to dig dens under (and can keep them from tunneling beneath your house); your brush pile may house a litter of bunnies; bird nesting boxes will attract some birds, including bluebirds and small owls, or even a litter of small tree squirrels. (Some squirrel species prefer using holes in trees to building a nest.) Nesting boxes should be cleaned out every year after nesting seasons. Leave out pieces of string, bits of cloth or fleece blankets, piles of small twigs, and other nesting materials from spring through summer for nesting birds and squirrels. You'd be amazed at what they will incorporate into their nests. We once found a piece of underwear lining an old squirrel's nest, obviously stolen from the laundry line, so it's better to leave the animals

supplies you prefer they use!

Now that you have new life invigorating your property, protecting it calls for doing some things differently than in the past. Try limiting or stopping the use of chemicals on your plants and lawn, and use natural insect deterrents. Let a separate section of back lawn that has always been hard to mow go wild; the grubs, worms and insects in it will feed a host of wildlife. Lawns take an enormous amount of watering and numerous and expensive chemicals to keep them pristine. Consider letting your property abound with wild grasses, plant decorative native grasses, or create a rock garden with interesting rocks and low ground cover that will not need mowing or chemicals. Especially in our drought conditions, you can reduce water use, make it easier to maintain your property, and provide food and homes for many small animals.

If you would like your new wildlife habitat nationally acknowledged, National Wildlife Federation provides an application to register your property and, if accepted, a lovely certification sign to display in your yard. Go to [www.nwf.org\GardenforWildlife](http://www.nwf.org/GardenforWildlife) for more information and an application. All the features we have discussed are required for certification.

Good luck with planning your backyard wildlife habitat! Attracting and supporting more wild animals on your property can be a great way to enhance your enjoyment of living in the foothills, and will help to preserve and protect the animals. ♦

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# PVFA Receives Award for "Outstanding Community Organization"

By Mary Elliot

"We so much appreciate the generosity of the Pioneer Volunteer Firefighters Association," says enthused Pioneer Union School District Superintendent Lisa Fontana. "We wanted to let the organization know how much their generosity means to us."

Every year the Pioneer Volunteer Firefighters Association (PVFA) invites the school staff, students and families to volunteer as cooks, servers, hosts, dishwashers and greeters during the banquets. The school members appreciate the opportunity to annually volunteer at these wonderful events where they enjoy meeting, greeting, and serving members of the community.

The banquets serve as outreach events as well as fundraisers. Many of the staff members and families attend at least one of the banquets each year and volunteer for at least one of the other banquets.

Last year the PVFA donated over \$6000

to support our local schools! The money donated went directly to the Parent Teacher Organization and was distributed to support classroom teacher accounts, trees and shrubs for the beautification projects, sand for the kindergarten playground, and a K-1 climbing structure. This year any money donated will be directed towards projects improving technology in the District.

"The financial donation of proceeds is critical for the schools' financial health," explained Superintendent Lisa Fontana. The school district is extremely thankful to receive the much needed funds and wanted to say thank you to the PVFA in a special way. Upon learning that the El Dorado County School Boards Association gave awards recognizing achievement and leadership, the Pioneer Union School District decided to nominate the PVFA for the "Outstanding Community Organization" award.

The El Dorado County School Boards' Awards Selection Committee selected the



Photo by: Mary Elliot Klemm

From left: Dr. Lisa Fontana, Dan Dwyer, Lynette Dwyer, Nick Nickerson, Brian Bendix.

PVFA to receive the award for "Outstanding Community Organization". The Awards ceremony was held Monday, March 2, at the Cold Springs Country Club. Board Directors Dan Dwyer, Nick Nickerson, Lynette Dwyer, and Brian Bendix represented the Board at the event. Thank-you so much, PVFA, for all you do for our community and schools! ♦

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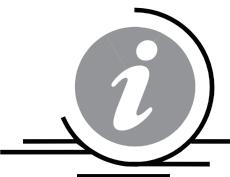
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# Community Calendar

By Nicole Ohaco

## Recurring Items

Reoccurring Items –April, May, and June

**Alcoholics Anonymous:** Meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Grizzly Flats Community Church Lodge. For more info contact Robert Wheatley at 530.642.9392 or [pastorwheatley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pastorwheatley@sbcglobal.net).

**BINGO:** Held On the third Friday of each month at 1 p.m. at the Three Forks Grange Hall on E16/Mt. Aukum Road. Grange meetings are held at 3:30 p.m. For more info call 530.620.3952.

**Emergency Response Personnel:** Training is held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at PFPD Fire Station 38 on E16/Mt. Aukum Road. For more info call Kathy Wood at 530.620.4444.

**Fire Explorer Cadet Training:** Training is held on the first and third Wednesday of each month, at 6:30 p.m. at PFPD Fire Station 38 on E16/Mt. Aukum Road. For more info call Kathy Wood at 530.620.4444.

**Food Bank Distribution:** Each Friday at noon, food bank distribution of perishable items at Pioneer Bible Church, 6851 Mt. Aukum Road in Somerset. Additional FDA commodities/brown bag distribution on the fourth Friday of the month. For more info call 530.644.8070.

**Foothill Garden Club:** Meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month. For more info call Shirley Day at 530.620.1080.

**Grizzly Flats Community Food Pantry:** On the third Saturday of each month at 11 a.m., at the Grizzly Flats Community Church Lodge. Provisions from the El Dorado County Food Bank are provided to residents who meet income guidelines. For more info call the Grizzly Flats Community Church at 530.622.4538.

**Grizzly Flats Community Services District:** Board meets on the second Friday of each month, at 9 a.m. in the GFCSD office at 4765 Sciaroni Road, Grizzly Flats. For more info call 530.622.9626.

**Grizzly Flats Fire Safe Council:** Meets on the first Saturday of the month (except for January and July, when they're held on the second Saturday) at 9:30 a.m. in the Grizzly Flats Community Church Lodge. For more info go online to [grizzlyflatsfsc@gmail.com](mailto:grizzlyflatsfsc@gmail.com).

**Hanging by a Thread Chapter of the Embroiderer's Guild of America:** Meets on the second Monday of each month in the Hearing Room at the El Dorado County Government Center, Bldg. C, 2850, Fairlane Court, Placerville. Socializing starts at 6 p.m. followed by a meeting at 6:30 p.m. For more info call Adeline Penn at 530.621.2639.

**Happy Sundowners Local 4H Group:** Meets on the first Tuesday of the month starting in September and going through May, at 7 p.m., at the Pioneer Bible Church Fellowship Room. Open to kids ages 8 through 18.

**Ladies Book Club:** Meets on the third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Pioneer Bible Church library, 6851 Mt. Aukum Road. in Somerset. Visit [www.pioneerbiblechurch.org](http://www.pioneerbiblechurch.org) for the month's current book selection.

**March of the PVFA Turnout Collators:** Everyone is invited to join us to help collate the next issue of the PVFA Turnout on the June 11, September 3, and December 3, from 8 to 11 a.m. at the PFPD Fire Station 38 on E16/Mt. Aukum Road. For more info call Loretta at 530.620.3371.

**Pioneer Park Disc Golf Club (PPDGC):** Meets every Thursday evening during Daylight Savings Time (March 8 through November 1, 2015). Come by and check out the action. Registration starts at 5 p.m. and they "Tee Off" at 5:30. There is a \$5 "Buy In" plus \$1 Club Maintenance Fee, and if you wish, you can add an extra \$1 and get in on the "Ace Pot" or for another \$1 get in the "Closest to the Pin Pot" (CTP). For more info call Josh Emigh at 530.651.4627.

**Pioneer Fire Protection District:** Meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. at PFPD Fire Station 38 on E16/Mt. Aukum Road. For more info go online to [www.pioneerfire.org](http://www.pioneerfire.org).

**Pioneer Volunteer Firefighters Association:** Board meets every other month on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at PFPD Fire Station 38 on E16/Mt. Aukum Road. For more info go online to [www.pioneerfire.org](http://www.pioneerfire.org).

**Senior Lunch:** Available every Monday to Friday from 12 to 12:30 p.m. at the Pioneer Park Community Center on Fairplay Road in Mt. Aukum. Suggested donation is \$3. Menus are available online at [www.edegov.us/humanservices](http://www.edegov.us/humanservices) or by stopping at the Community Center. For more info call 530.621.6160.

**Showcase Ranches CSD:** Board meets on the second Thursday of January, April, July, and October at 7 p.m. at PFPD Fire Station 38 on E16/Mt. Aukum Rd. All residents of Showcase Ranches are encouraged to attend.

**Somerset Pioneer LIONS Club:** Meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Pioneer Park Community Center on Fairplay Road in Mt. Aukum. For more info contact Ray Nutting at 530.644.1728 or [raynutting@hughes.net](mailto:raynutting@hughes.net).

See EVENTS, page 21

**Short Run or One-Time Events**

**April 11 - Sierra Wildlife Rehabilitation Classes:** Doves and Pigeons 1 to 3 p.m. at SWR's Wildlife Center, 3030 Newtown Road, Placerville. Classes are free to SWR members. A \$5 donation is requested from the general public. For more info contact Barbara at 530.621.2650 or barbaraewing@cal.net.

**April 11, 14, 25, and 28 – Sierra Wildlife (SWR) Baby Bird Nursery Volunteer Class:** Times vary by date. Held at SWR's Wildlife Center, 3030 Newtown Road, Placerville. Classes are free to SWR members. A \$5 donation is requested from the general public. Attend only one class in order to be able to volunteer in the nursery where you will learn how enjoyable and

rewarding it is to feed orphaned baby birds. For more info contact Barbara at 530.621.2650 or barbaraewing@cal.net.

**April 15 – Tax Day**

**April 16 - Sierra Wildlife Rehabilitation (SWR) Classes:** Fawns 6 to 8 p.m. at SWR's Wildlife Center, 3030 Newtown Road, Placerville. Classes are free to SWR members. A \$5 donation is requested from the general public. For more info contact Barbara at 530.621.2650 or barbaraewing@cal.net.

**April 22 – Earth Day**

**April 23 - Sierra Wildlife Rehabilitation Classes:** Waterfowl and Gamebirds 7 to 9 p.m. at SWR's Wildlife Center,

3030 Newtown Road, Placerville. Classes are free to SWR members. A \$5 donation is requested from the general public. For more info contact Barbara at 530.621.2650 or barbaraewing@cal.net.

**May 10 – Mothers' Day**

**May 14 – Town Hall Meeting with new County Supervisor, Shiva Frentzen:** At Station 38 of the Pioneer Fire Prevention District, 5:30 to 7:00. The office is located at 7061 Mt. Aukum Rd., Somerset, CA.

**May 25 – Memorial Day**

Please send items for the June/July/August/September Calendar to: nikkiohaco@hotmail.com by Friday, May 1. ♦

## Memorial Day Ceremony 2015

Monday, May 25th 11 a.m.

360 Fair Lane at Ray Lawyer Dr., Placerville, California

By Richard Buchanan

What started as a promise made by a former Placerville United States Marine in 1968 to build a monument in tribute to those who have served the cause of freedom, has turned into the inspiration for a wide array of programs that help our community, honor our heroes, educate our young people and help our fellow man through hardships of every type.

In 2006, the Friends of the El Dorado County Veterans Monument, Placerville (Friends), with the support of the El Dorado Community Foundation, and the people of El Dorado County realized their goal of building the El Dorado County Veterans Monument. The monument has become the front door to the El Dorado County Government Center, the Gateway to the Sierra Nevada Mountains and an admired addition to our national monuments honoring the

service of our Veterans.

Highlights of the 2015 Memorial Day Celebration will include:

- The first-time presentation of the SSGT (Staff Sargent) Sky Mote Navy Cross Memorial Scholar-Athlete Scholarship
- A tribute to former WW II Dauntless Dive Bomber gunner Gerald Holderman
- At 11:04 a.m., a formation of the renowned vintage T-6 Texan aircraft lead by flight leader, Chuck Wahl, who will execute the Missing-man Formation over the Veterans Monument in honor of those who have served the cause of freedom.
- The Ponderosa High School Chamber Choir singing our National Anthem.

Sponsored by: Friends of the El Dorado County Veterans Monument ♦



## El Dorado Winery Association to Present 24th Annual Passport Event

By The El Dorado Winery Association

Held over two weekends in April, the 2015 event expects to have a sellout year!

El Dorado's collection of award-winning wineries will be on display during the El Dorado Winery Association's 24th Annual Passport Event, held during the weekends of April 11-12 and April 18-19, 2015.

Each spring the Greater El Dorado Region comes alive when many of the county's wineries unite to offer wine

enthusiasts and visitors a foray into exceptional wine and food pairings, barrel tastings, art, music, and other activities. This year's theme is "Taste at a Higher Level"; this is a play on both the region's idyllic location up in the Sierra Nevada foothills and the high quality of the wines.

With the help of our sponsor, Wells Fargo, this year's affair promises to live up to its reputation as the "Best Wine Tasting Event of the Year." There are

nearly 30 participating wineries and more than 50 varietals. The event offers an inside look at the quality and diversity that makes El Dorado a world-class wine region. And because it spans two days each weekend, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., on both Saturday and Sunday, attendees can visit as many wineries as they want.

"The Passport Event is not only fun, it's

See **PASSPORT WEEKEND**, page 38

# Crab Banquets - Season 17

By Lynette Dwyer

Tents blowing down and in a vineyard, a Porta-Potty flying across a parking lot (it was empty, thank goodness), no hot water, frozen crab, several plates being dropped and broken (some with food and some without), and the collapse of a table beautifully set with dishes, wine glasses and good food. What do all these things have in common, you ask? Well, they all occurred at this year's Crab Banquets. Fortunately, most were seamless to our guests, but the table collapsing and the frozen crab - yes, they noticed that. The Facilities Team and others rushed in and set up a new table, reset the plates and glassware and the wait staff brought new food. It was also a very good thing that everyone at the table was up and dancing and no one got hurt. As to the frozen crab, our food service group (special thanks to Mr. Bill Buxton) brought it back from tables, miraculously got it thawed, cleaned again, and served. Disaster averted!

All in all, Season 17 was another huge success!!!!!!

All of the guests had smiles on their faces and thanked everyone for a wonder-



ful time as they were leaving. Many were really exhausted—after dancing to the great bands of Jackson Steele and Back Street Boulevard—but happy. We had many local returnees, many returnees from out of the area, a busload of "Wild Women" from the Sacramento area, and a lot of new guests who promised to return. Everyone said that our Crab Banquets are the best of any "Crab" events that they have attended and that there is no comparison between our Crab Banquets and the other crab feeds.

For those of you who have never attended, let me try to describe the night(s) to you. First of all, we have four Crab Banquets—four weeks in a row. We have the first two at Perry Creek Winery, with about 150 guests attending each week. The final two take place at Skinner Winery, with a little over 200 guests each.

The guests are greeted at the front door by some pretty distinguished people in the area (winery owners and even Sheriff John D'Agostini) and then escorted to their beautiful tables by firefighters or our volunteers. A wine steward then



Photo by Lynette Dwyer  
PFPD Presentation to Nick Nickerson.

## Crab Banquets Thank You Dinner

By Lynette Dwyer

Saturday night, March 7, was the Thank You Dinner for all of the volunteers who worked and made the 17th Annual Crab Banquets so successful.

The dinner was held at Station 38 of the Pioneer Fire Protection District (PFPD). The apparatus floor was filled with tables and chairs. The conference room was full of lots of good food. There were over 200 attendees and I think a good time was had by all.

Tamara Richards and Karen Wilhoite were the lucky key holders and each went home with a case of wine. There were many other raffle winners.

See THANK YOU, page 24

See CRAB BANQUET, page 23

## PIONEER VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION 17th ANNUAL CRAB BANQUET SPONSORS

Alpacas of El Dorado  
Backstreet Boulevard Band  
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Debbie Claussen Art

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Perry Creek Winery  
Perry Creek Walnuts (Betty Allen)  
Peter's Gate Winery

Pioneer Fire Fighters  
Saluti Cellars  
Sentivo Vineyards  
Shadow Ranch Vineyard & Winery  
Skinner Vineyards & Winery  
Tardiff Bird Houses

### SILVER LEVEL

Cold Springs Golf & Country Club  
Lucinda's Country Inn  
Mike's Landscape Services  
Miraflores Winery  
Van der Vijver Estate

Mount Aukum Winery  
Patti Miles Art  
Poozles Fiber Art  
Sierra Vista Vineyards & Winery  
Single Leaf Vineyards & Winery

### BRONZE LEVEL

Latcham Vineyards & Granite Springs Winery  
Pleasant Valley Pet Clinic  
Precision Tool Repair & Sharpening  
Scofield's Cowboy Campfire & Red Mule Ranch

Toogood Estate Winery  
True Vine Estate  
Stoney Creek Inn & Vineyard  
The Rockin V  
Thomas Kinkade Gallery

greets them and provides two bottles of complimentary wine of their choosing. Of course, they can order more wine over the evening. Then the food comes on. It is a fabulous seven course event with appetizers, clam chowder, Caesar salad, pasta, sorbet with champagne, crab and then cheese cake.

We couldn't put this event on without our fabulous volunteers, many of whom are students, teachers, parents and grandparents. There are over 200 of them; most are local, but some are friends and relatives of locals. If you had

a chance to go back stage, you would be surprised to see how many people are working. Then there are many many volunteers who work down at Pioneer Park; they are preparing the food, washing dishes and inventorying utensils, glass ware, dishes, etc.

While all the eating and drinking are going on, there are silent raffles, auctions, t-shirt/sweat shirt sales, cases of wine that are opened with that one special key and lots of other things are going on. Mike Lawless has been our Master of Ceremonies for many years and our two auctioneers

this year were Rusty Vardy and Dave Boucke. They did an excellent job with raising money, which then goes to support the Pioneer Fire Protection District (PFPD) and the Pioneer Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). Most of the auction and raffle items are donated by local businesses in the area, such as wineries, bed and breakfasts, local artists, etc. Thank you to all our sponsors! This year we were able to provide \$33,000 to the PFPD and \$5,000 to the PTO. Not too shabby, and on par with the last several years!

It is a big event, but very rewarding for those who participate. If you would be interested in helping out next year, please keep an eye on the PVFA Turnout to find out whom to contact about volunteering. For now, feel free to contact me at [lynanddan@gmail.com](mailto:lynanddan@gmail.com).

I want to give you a short update on the Crab Banquet Committee. Our Chairman, Nick Nickerson, is retiring as chair after nine years (although he will still be helping in future years). We think we have someone to step up and assume his position; watch for this to be announced in an upcoming issue.

The following dedicated volunteers headed up our various volunteer segments this year: Brian Bendix was in charge of Facilities, Pamela Day was our Administrative Manager, Eve Scontrino was in charge of all the work at Pioneer Park, with Jane Taylor heading up the dish washing crew. Sandi Bush was in charge of the appetizer crew, Dixie Buxton ran the kitchen at the winery, plus all the wait staff and the serving kitchen, Marie Evers ran the serving kitchen, AJ Scontrino led the crew that scrapes dishes and got them ready to be transported back to Pioneer Park for final wash, Susie McSorley was in charge of table setting, Aimee Vukovich served as the coordinator of the team who collected all our great donations, Brenda Garcia took care of the advertising, Loretta and Cook Hudelson handled the reservations, and I recruited all the volunteers. And then there is my husband, Dan; he is my utility player and wore multiple hats, doing whatever I needed him to do. ♦

*See related articles for lists of our other wonderful volunteers and sponsors.*

## 2015 Crab Banquet Volunteers

By Lynette Dwyer

Following is a list of all people who volunteered and made our Crab Banquets so successful. I apologize if I inadvertently left out anyone.

AnnaBelle and Steve Almay, Paul Atkins, Cindy Anderson, Chuck and Laura Andrews, Lee and Sue Andry, John Avila, RJ and Kristin Barney, Keith Becky, Amy and Lori Bendix, Shari and Cameron Bland, Camille and Olga Boor, Pam Borman, Dave and Sue Boucke, Lydia Buchanan, Sandy and Terry Bush, Tammi Buxton, Dennis and Mary Callahan, Jessie Camara, Peg and Bob Campbell, Christopher and Janet Carr, Ron and Carol Catania, Peggie Cathie, Hayley Clark, Craig Cooper-Wyble, Jim Cordellos, Nicole Coyle, Ed and Linda Crumet, Philip and Dylan Cunnius, Janine and John D'Agostini, Norma Dawdy, Esther, John, Jada and Maddy Dawson, Phil Dayton and Tyler Dayton, Sharon Durst, Pat Farrell, Deena Fawcett, Alta Fetterman, Camille, Sarah and Lillie Fike, Loretta Fine, Susan Fleming, Sara Flowers, Patti Forester, Gretchen Fretter, Sabrina Fritz, Brenda Garcia, Jane and Jim Gardner, Debbie Godek, Jana Gordon, Mary Graham, Jan Hansen, Kevin Hansen, Jake Harmon, Kim Havercroft, Bob and Penny Hines, Cindy and Lee Hodge, Mary Holbert, Chris Hopkinson, Barbara Horsfall, Ripley Howe, Bill Hubartt, Cook Hudelson, Laura and Philip Hudelson, Keith Hunderford, Skylar Jester, Kelly Kahling, Mary Elliott Klemm, John and Ann Klingberg, Bob Knight, Jill Kunder, Jonathan and Susan Lachs, Mike and Liz Lawless, Paula LeGrande, Frankie, Adam, and Sam Lehner, Charlotte Lindborg, Annalisa Lopez, Ken McCoy, James McNair, Susie, Macklin and Meredith McSorley, Cheryl Manning, Manny and Erin Masters, Renee Mathis, Jackie Mehus, Phil Menacho, Colton and Kylie Merrill, Patti Miles, Cindy Miller, Lucy Miller, Dan and Debbie Montelongo, Jodie Moran, Casey Moreno, Liam Muirhead, Linda Neal, Jim Neis-Cortez, Will Neisius, Sandi North, Dan, Susan and Maddie Norton, Michael Padgett, Colleen Pede, Jackie and Ken Pence, Bonnie Porter, Tamara Richards, Terrey Robison, Bill and Margriet Roloson, Dar and Chrissy Rotermund, Keith Saia, Sue Savino, Lee Schlepp, Laurie Schuette, Marcia Scott, Mary and Neal Simpson, Philip Southern, Marilyn Stevens, Andrea, Gabbie, Michael and Spencer Stevenson, Colleen Sunderman, Janet Telfer, Barbara Thall, Mary Tran, Kathy VanderVeen, Rusty and Sheri Vardy, Judy Vasser, Aimee Vukovich, Greg and Sharon Wade, Bob and Kimberly Webb, Bill and Jody Westfall, Joyce and Steven White, Eric and Tracy Wickstrom, Karin Wilhoite, David Wood, Kathy and Allen Wood, Jaya and Michael Wright, and Suzanne, Rachael, Laura, Emily, and Jeff Ziegler. ♦



## 2015 Crab Banquet



### THANK YOU

Nick Nickerson was presented a certificate of appreciation from the PVFA and a plaque from the PFPD for all that he has done during his tenure as Crab Banquet Chairman. Checks were given to Jack Daniels, Battalion Chief PFPD and to Esther

Dawson, Pioneer Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). The PVFA was presented an award from the El Dorado County School Board Association for being the Outstanding Community Organization for 2014. ◆

Continued from page 22



# Homeowner's Insurance Inspections – Why, you ask?

## By Local Contract Insurance Inspector

More than likely, all the homeowners in the sphere of PVFA Turnout readership have a property and liability insurance policy protecting their homes. Most homeowners are required to purchase it by the mortgage institution financing the home loan. The remainder have it to protect their investment and assets. A major percentage of those who have homeowner's insurance coverage have a love/hate relationship with their overcharging and corporate insurers. First, for many, it is hard to find, mostly due to our fire hazards. Second, it is costly. Third, if there is reason to file a claim, many don't file for fear of losing their policy. This is another story.

Many insurance companies underwriting Homeowner's Insurance perform home inspections. They want to ensure there is adequate coverage for the represented property. They also want to periodically "see" the condition of the residence after a few years of coverage to make certain it is in reasonable condition and being properly maintained. Some companies rely on their own team of brokers and/or in-house inspectors, while others utilize third party inspection companies. Most of these inspections are exterior only.

When an authorized homeowner's insurance inspector comes knocking at your door on behalf of the insurance carrier, they generally are looking at your residence, any outbuildings, fencing and the surrounding land. Inspectors are generally looking for deficiencies in the property and areas of possible liabilities. They are also instructed to look for a fire hydrant within 1000 ft. and a fire station building within 5 miles. Many of us in

Turnout-land do not have fire hydrants (except for the communities of Grizzly Flats and Outingdale); there might be a fire station, but for many there is neither.

When first driving up to a residence, generally inspectors look to see whether the residence and outbuildings are in good condition and the yard is cleanly landscaped and/or has a fire-safe brush setting. They also look for a well-kept residence. This usually shows that an owner maintains and cares for the property.

When an inspector drives up a driveway, he or she does the walk-around for the residence and its property. Inspectors are instructed to look for the following deficiencies:

- A residence without an easily identifiable address number.
- Driveway asphalt/concrete that has major cracking close to the residence.
- Trees and brush overhanging the driveway and/or the main structure and out-buildings.
- Roofs with damaged/missing shingles, vegetation debris on it or in the gutters.
- Gutters that are damaged or have missing down spouts.
- Paint that is chipping and/or missing on the siding, eaves, doors, windows or, generally, in most any area of a structure.
- Damage and/or dry rot on the siding, doors, windows, stairs, porches/decks, outside stair cases, outbuildings and fencing.
- Stairs and/or railings missing from decks or the residence.
- Fireplace/woodstove chimney pipes with visible damage and/or a missing spark arrestor.
- Damaged or missing electrical fixtures/outlets. Damaged plumbing.
- Foundation with cracks or foundation posts/piers with damage or dry rot.
- Yards that have debris (usually household and construction materials) scattered about, uncut tall grasses and/or overgrown bushes next to the structures, abandoned or non-operating household appliances and/or vehicles.
- Tree trunks that severely overhang a roof, branches touching and/or overhanging (closer than 10 ft.) the roof.
- Dogs breeds such as Pit-bulls, Rottweiler's, Chows, German Shepherds or any dogs displaying very aggressive behavior.
- Pools that are not properly fenced and/or are very murky or empty.
- Un-landscaped brush (typically native) within 100 ft. of the residence and/or other large structures.

In reading through these general deficiencies, I am sure some of you question the logic of this or that deficiency. I hope most of you understand that dry rot, broken windows or damaged deck boards are deficiencies. As for liabilities, insurance companies look at the "historical" tables. Looking at the driveway with a large crack in it, an insurer looks at it as a liability. A visitor or guest may trip and fall because of it and may come back at you for damages. Concerning breeds of dogs, the homeowner might be sure that "My dog would never bite anyone, especially my Pit". However, the truth is, one never really knows.

Here are some thoughts in keeping a policy in force. Pay your

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# Controlling Yellow Starthistle: Part II

By Ray Tygenhof

University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Master Gardeners of El Dorado County

Yellow starthistle is widely distributed in the Central Valley of California and in the foothills, spreading to the Coast Ranges and up to 7000 feet in the mountains. It is typically found in full sunlight and deep, well-drained soil where average rainfall is between ten and sixty inches. However, it competes well in unfavorable conditions, growing larger and producing more seeds than many other species do even in favorable conditions. What's more, it has a long growing season and can continue to grow longer into the dry season than most other plants.

The life cycle of yellow starthistle begins after the first rainfall in late summer or fall, when the first seeds begin to germinate. Germination (sprouting) continues throughout the rainy season and only stops when the rain does. The seedling exists as a rosette throughout the winter and early spring, appearing to grow

very little. However, during this time the plant is devoting its resources to roots and only a little into leaf production. The roots can grow down three feet or more, which makes water available to the plant throughout the dry summer months. Few other plants can out compete it.

In early spring the plant begins to bolt; it forms stems which produce flowers, usually in May. Flowering continues throughout summer and fall, until frost or freezing weather kills the plant. While the rosette stage has considerable cold tolerance, the adult plant does not.

Flower production is a critical stage in the management of yellow starthistle. This plant is rarely self-fertile; it needs pollinators to distribute the pollen and the honeybee accounts for about 50% of this work. About eight days after pollination, mature viable seeds have developed. For this reason, late season control practices such as plowing, mowing, prescribed burning, and application of post-emergent herbicides should be done before the plants flower (before a maximum of two percent of spiny

flower heads have started opening).

Average seed production ranges from 35 to 80 seeds per seed head, depending on the site. Large plants can produce over 100,000 seeds, 90 percent of which are capable of sprouting within one week. Maximum sprouting occurs when seeds are exposed to moisture, light and constant temperatures of 50 degrees to 68 degrees Fahrenheit.

It was once thought that the Starthistle seeds remained viable for up to ten years. Fortunately, recent studies have found that only 20% are still viable after a year and only 3.9 percent of seeds after three years. This means that long term management can be in place after only two to four years of control methods, so long as new seeds are not allowed into the area.

There are three ways to get control of yellow starthistle: mechanical, cultural, and chemical. The choice of method depends on costs, timing, and risks to people and the environment.

See **STARTHISTLE**, page 32

## \$ Wood Stove Replacement Incentive! \$

To help clear the air, the El Dorado County Air Quality Management District (AQMD), administers the **Chimney Smoke Reduction Incentive Program (RIP)**. If you remove or replace an old non EPA Certified (pre 1988) wood stove or eligible fireplace and meet the eligibility requirements, AQMD will pay:



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For eligibility information and details, call **(530) 621-7501** or visit the AQMD website: [www.edcgov.us/AirQualityManagement/](http://www.edcgov.us/AirQualityManagement/) and click on "Grants / Incentives" on left.

**THANK YOU FOR WORKING WITH US TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY!**

# Danny - A Great Big Goofy Dog of a Horse

By Rachel Ziegler

A wise person, I believe it was Tony Robbins, once said, "Horses change lives. They give our young people confidence and self-esteem. They provide peace and tranquility to troubled souls and they give us hope." To me, this is absolutely true; and for me, love, joy, freedom, hope and happiness are all synonymous with horses. December 2014 marked one year of having my own horse and what a wonderful "ride" it's been. Throughout the last year, Danny has taught me so much; I have learned more about what it means to love someone or something more than yourself. I've learned about true responsibility, and how to communicate without words. I have learned all of this because I finally own my own horse. Being in the horse world as a working student and taking horse-riding lessons for over 11 years could never have prepared me for the challenges I would face when I came to own my own horse. Nor could they have prepared me for the pure joy I get when I walk to the pasture each morning and have a soft, grey, (occasionally cold) nose nuzzle me in the face, desperately searching my pockets for candy canes, peppermints, carrots or pretty much any food that could be lurking there.

Multiple days a week, I head down to the barn to tack Danny up, and we ride over to the arena that I am so grateful and blessed to be able to use. A place where we've spent many hours strengthening our bond. While Danny may be a horse that's been there and done it all, we have had a lot to teach each other. Danny has taught me that just because he knows what he's doing, doesn't mean he's going to cooperate straight away, and that it's important in the way I ask him. This is something that can be applied to my (and I'm sure many others') everyday life, because of how easy it is to expect someone to do a job for you just because you know they know how to do it. We don't think about how we ask or how we interact with them, we just assume they'll do it. Many times, I am certain Danny has thought about throwing me off and across the arena, all because I get frustrated when he doesn't do what I ask. Slowly I have come to realize, it's not him that's

the issue. It's that I'm not communicating my thoughts properly.

For anyone who has never ridden nor owned a horse, or maybe even a pet, it's hard to understand the connection between horse and rider. We probably look insane, standing in an arena making kissing noises at a horse that has no bridle or halter on him. That's because you've never experienced the feeling of when your horse looks at you from across the arena and walks towards you, or the feeling you get when he follows you and when you stop with your back to him you not only hear him breathing, but feel the warmth of his breath on your neck, the tickling of his whiskers and the beating of his heart. That is what love feels like. That is understanding that all it takes is trust and love to create a bond. Horses give you unconditional love. If you put your trust in your horse and never give them a reason to be afraid of you, you have found a forever "friend." I'm certain I am not the only horse girl who has cried

tears into her horse's mane, whether they be tears of joy or sadness. The secrets shared with your horse are ones that will never be told.

I am so incredibly lucky to understand what it's like to bond with a 1,000 pound animal and to spend your days taking care of a life. This year has brought some struggles and stress as a senior in high school trying to decide what to do after graduation. It's been tough, but I always know I can go home, and there will be a huge grey (sometimes black depending on the weather and size of the mud spots in the pasture) horse waiting at the gate to give me sloppy kisses and remind me that all you need is a bit of love sometimes. To me Danny is a great big, goofy dog of a horse but we've already accomplished a lot together. While originally I had planned on taking him to shows, I am content to just ride him in the arena, and go for trail rides around the lake, because in the end, our bond is more important to me than anything else. ♦

## New Pioneer Fire Protection District (PFPD) Board Member



By Lynette Dwyer

Lori Ann Ingram was sworn in as the newest PFPD Board Member at the most recent regular board meeting. Lori replaced Russ Sime, who resigned from the board last month. Lori's term will run until November of 2016.

In a future issue, we will write a more in depth story about Lori, her background, and what she will bring to the board. ♦

# Grape to Glass

## An Interview with Donna Sauber



By Jill Kunder

What started out as a hobby for Jim and Donna Sauber, through hard work and dedication has resulted in The Sauber Vineyard and Orchard, Inc. which is one of the three largest vineyards in El Dorado County. Longtime residents of the county, Donna is a retired 8th grade school teacher who taught at Gold Oak, and Jim was a civil engineer for Cal Trans in charge of building bridges. Now they're growing grapes, and a lot of them! Nestled off Happy Valley Road and Butt Creek sits the beautiful vineyard where you can find Jim five days out of seven lovingly tending to his 37 plus acres of vines. Most of the fruit is sold commercially, but they keep some for their homemade wines. Jim's hands-on approach to every aspect of the vineyard and love of grapes goes beyond dedication, it's his passion.

JK: "So how did you and Jim start Sauber Vineyards?"

DS: "When Jim came out here in 1985, he couldn't grow wheat, so he looked around to see what he could grow and everyone said vineyards were the thing of the future. We found a piece of property that was part of this huge ranch and helped subdivide the ranch. We subdivided it into four quarters and we ended up with the top quarter, which is 76 acres."

JK: "Developing that much land must have been a big job?"

DS: "Originally the road only went part way. We had to build our own road. We had to install a huge culvert over a deep swale so we could get to our property. Then at the creek we put in a railroad flatbed car as our bridge. Before that installation, we had to drive through the creek and we never knew when it was going to wash out!"

"At first Jim wanted a vineyard as a hobby. He decided that he didn't want just grapes, so we diversified and put in an orchard of about eight acres of cherry trees. Every third row had to be a different variety because you have to have pollinators. I remember one year we had to rent bees for the cherries. We had a guy that brought up his bees and something

got into his hives and just tore all of them up. What a mess!"

"So then we had to put up deer fence around the entire property. Eventually we ended up with three varieties of peaches and three varieties nectarines. Our official name for the property is Sauber Vineyard and Orchard, Inc. The cherries were a viable cash crop, but then they got diseased. The orchards are slowly being taken out and replaced with grapes. One of the main reasons is because we had put the cherries on the best land we had!"

"We started out with the orchard and vineyard as a way for the land to pay for itself. We were still both working. We had crews that did the picking. I would sort fruit from the orchards when I wasn't teaching. I worked at farmers markets and sold fruit. That was a long time ago."

JK: "When did you start making your own wine?"

DS: "We made the transition to wine making after members of the El Dorado Home Wine Makers (EDHWM) came up and bought grapes from us. We have a son-in-law who is a physicist. He does the chemical testing of grapes. Before he got involved, we would just crush and dump. We just threw juice in the bottles. When we got a bit more technical the wine got better and we started winning awards for our wine. Each of our girls has bought a piece of equipment for wine making. We have our own cooler that we store our wine in. Originally the cooler went in for the fruit from the orchard. You can't let it go to waste just because you don't have any more fruit! There were some years that there was wine in the cooler at the same time there were peaches."

"When our kids drank our wine, they decided we needed help! Besides, we make too much wine for us to drink and we pass it along to the family. If it's going to be given away, you want it to be better, so everyone decided to get involved to make the wine. Our daughter in San Jose has taken over management of the home wine makers. She lets everyone know when the grapes will be ready to pick and

sticks to her schedule."

JK: "How many varietals do you grow?"

DS: "Our vineyard consists of eleven varietals, both Bordeaux and Rhone grapes. The biggest block is Cabernet Sauvignon. We have Chardonnay, Merlot, Syrah and smaller blocks of Malbec, Sangiovese, Viognier, Roussanne, Cabernet Franc, Mourvedre and Pinot Noir planted. Our first vines were Cabernet and Chardonnay."

"I remember working with the girls and planting the vines. It was a case of slave labor; it's okay that I tell you that because it's too late now for us to get arrested. Jim would dig the holes, and the girls and I would follow and put the vines in the ground. We planted some of that Chardonnay with snow falling down the back of our necks. Our original vineyards were on their own roots because that's back before anyone knew you shouldn't do that! We've lost productivity and are slowly replacing those vines. We've always had a market for our grapes. We have 37 acres of grapes planted. We're always trying to anticipate the market, and that's really hard. So now we just plant what we want to drink. We're a vineyard dictated by personal taste!"

JK: "What's the most fulfilling aspect of growing grapes?"

DS: "What's really fulfilling to me over the last few years is that we've been sold out of grapes from the vineyard. That's because people come back year after year because they like the quality of our grapes. We sell about 20 tons of grapes that we ship to Ohio year after year."

JK: "What's the one vintage that didn't work?"

DS: "We've had good success with our home wine making. One funny story occurred the first year we decided to make Cabernet Sauvignon. We decided to make the wine without any sulfur. Well, you really can't make wine without sulfur because you get foreign bacteria in it. We made this wine, and we waited, and we

See GRAPE TO GLASS, page 30

waited, and we tasted, and we waited some more. I think we waited for about three years and it never got any better! Jim finally poured all that wine out. We call that our "down the drain" vintage. Every year we have a little "down the drain", but it's okay because we have a lot of gopher holes to fill. What we don't drink has a secondary use....gopher drowning by wine. We have either the happiest or deadest gophers in the vineyard."

**JK:** "What has been a high point of growing grapes?"

**DS:** "One of the wine makers in Ohio came out for our 50th wedding anniversary and brought some of his wine to share. My daughter had been working with him and got a wedding picture of us and he had labels made for the wine that he brought. We thought that was pretty neat. Some of the home wine makers in Reno and Sacramento have been buying grapes from us for over fifteen years. We have so much production now it's easier to sell commercially."

**JK:** "What trellis methods do you use?"

**DS:** "We use two systems for trellising. Quadrilateral is what we use on the Cabernet, Merlot and Syrah. We use Vertical Shoot Positioning (VSP) on the Chardonnay, Viognier. VSP is where you take the wires and run them vertically up the poles. VSP is hard to pick! The quad-



Photo by Donna Sauber

**Grand baby in Box.**

rilateral is great to pick because the grapes grow out on four arms and if you're short enough, you can walk right under the vines and pick.

"On the Syrah, we got a devigorating root stock because we knew Syrah is prolific in its growth, and we didn't want that. We were trying to keep it under control. Syrah throws out a lot of greenery and that really takes away from the quality of the grapes...all the energy is going into the leaves, and you don't really want that. So

we bought a root stock that is called devigorating. The first couple of years we watched. The third year we watched and asked ourselves, what's the matter with this? Turns out that the only reason they devigorate is if you don't water them. But then if you don't water them, the grapes will shrivel up and stop growing. We found that in order for them to not stop before they were ripe we had to water them, which meant they were fighting their way out of the system and growing. I could walk down a row of vines and I could feel a cane come up after me! They would grow that fast. Those vines would grow 18 foot canes! In order to control that growth, we switched over to the quadrilateral trellis system where you can tack down the canes, then prune them back."

**JK:** "Sounds like a lot of work."

**DS:** "Jim is dedicated to the vineyard. With an hour commute each way, he gets up and is out of the house by 5:30 a.m. and home again after dark. He likes to be in the vineyard when the sun comes up. He loves it...it's keeping him young. Jim is so dedicated to his vineyard that he swears that he won't let the kids sell it after he's gone. He's determined that he's going to be buried up there and we're going to have to put up a mausoleum. That way we won't be able to sell it because Daddy's there!" ♦

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## INSURANCE INSPECTIONS

Continued from page 26

homeowner's insurance premiums on time. Homeowners should take a look at their residence and address any of the above deficiencies they find.

It can be difficult to purchase or keep an insurance policy so remember that filing a claim against a homeowner policy attracts attention. Before filing a claim, look at your policy deductible and ask yourself, "Do I really want to file a claim where the insurer pays out a small amount after factoring in the deductible? If I don't, then why have insurance"? I agree. Just remember: we live in South County and many insurers will not or do not like insuring out here, mostly due to the threat of fire. ♦

# Fascinating Lady of Grizzly Flat

By Frank Shortt

The fame of Walt Tyler is well known in the El Dorado County area. Even a school is named for him and a street is named for the Tyler family. This article will deal with a lesser known, but very important, member of the Tyler family.

The story begins with Clell Brown, who never dreamed when he left Oklahoma that he would be residing in the community of Grizzly Flats. The Brown family used to come up to Capps Crossing for hunting and recreation. They liked the area so much they decided to move up here.

Leaving the Bay Area in 1960 with his wife, Ruby, and their children, they ended up on Logan's Grade. Having been a nurseryman in the Bay Area, Clell continued to teach the propagation of plants at their new residence. He taught many in Grizzly Flats the techniques of growing things.

Before the post office was moved to the present location, during the 1970's, Ruby was postmistress at the old Gold Rush location on Grizzly Flats Road for seven years. (See photo below.)

Out of this union came a daughter named Maxine, born in Oakland, California. Prior to the family moving, when Maxine was thirteen, we find her at the Mountain School Picnic on Grizzly Flats Road just across from the Grizzly Flats cemetery. There she met her future husband, Walter Tyler. The Tylers were pioneers of Grizzly Flats. It was love at first sight. At seventeen she became Walt's wife and helpmate. The year was 1955. At Walt's demise, they had been



Photos by Frank Shortt

**Above:** Maxine Tyler, 2015 **Above right:** Mountain School, Grizzly Flats, Founded in 1858. **Right:** Quilt by Maxine Tyler to be raffled off to provide funds for the Union Mine Music Boosters.

married for 55 years.

Later, Walter joined the Department of Corrections and was sent to several different prison locations. While stationed at Tehachapi, California, Walt and Maxine lived on the horse ranch of actor, Jack Palance, who was reputed to be somewhat of a tightwad. If he could get the young couple to pay for things that he should be paying for, he would do so. It was not uncommon in winter, when all the water around was frozen, for Maxine to have to haul water from the horse trough for daily needs. As a sideline, Maxine drove the school bus for the local school district.

The incident that broke the camel's back was when, one day, Jack had brought his children up to the ranch for a visit. A calf was lying down and one of Jack's children lay down beside it, resting its head on the calf. Jack came up suddenly, saw this, and became very angry at the animal because the child liked the animal. It might have been that he was not very close to his children and desired their attention. After that event, he would no longer allow his children to play with the animals. And Walter, Maxine and family moved from the ranch!



"Jack was very talented at his trade but sometimes did not use common sense when it came to other things. He spoke as many as five languages. He was a collector of art, to such an extent, that when he had no more wall space he would hang paintings from the ceiling, allowing the canvases to sag. He bought imported Rosewood inlaid furniture and paid extravagant prices to buy and ship it."

He also collected books, some of which have appeared on eBay as having been in the 'library of Jack Palance'. He must have been a reader of Western fiction because the books that have appeared on eBay were by the famous author, Zane Grey; they are signed by both Grey and Palance.

Maxine Brown Tyler is a very multi-talented individual. She is a very good cook, as everyone who has tasted her chili beans at Grizzly Flats Burger Night can attest. She also makes the spaghetti at least one night for this event. She has cooked for many events throughout the area: in particular, she cooked for all the Special Needs Children at the yearly Coloma Day. Maxine also used to cook at the now defunct Grizzly Flats Lodge. Her specialties were bread and pies.

Maxine was taught by her mother,

See MAXINE TYLER, page 38

**Mechanical Control.** Mechanical methods include hand-pulling or hoeing, plowing, and mowing. To be effective, these should be completed between the time of bolting and formation of the seed head. Also, if broken pieces of stem plus root are left in the soil the starthistle can regrow.

Mowing is often used along highways and in some other public use lands. It is best done just before flowers appear. This is because mowing too soon can make the problems worse; it can suppress competing weeds and increase light penetration, which in turn can cause the recovering starthistle to grow closer to the ground—and this makes future mowing harder. Also, BEWARE that the mower does not strike a rock and start a fire.

Hand-pulling and hoeing are a lot of work. They work best if there are only a few plants or if the area is too steep, uneven, or rocky for other methods to work. Be sure to not leave any of the stem. Be sure to use protection for the hands and eyes.

Plowing is mainly used in agricultural land. It requires more investment in equipment, fuel, and labor. It also can “backfire” if the plowing exposes new seeds, damages the roots of desirable plants, or buries the Starthistle deeply enough to extend their time of viability.

**Cultural Control.** This method includes grazing, prescribed burning and revegetation.

Revegetation generally is not a good choice in California because very few species can outgrow the yellow starthistle in this climate.

Grazing by sheep, goats, and cattle (never horses) can be used along with other methods, but will not, by itself, be effective in the long term.

Prescribed burning is effective. However, it is more expensive than chemical control and requires the cooperation of federal, state, and local agencies. Approval to do a prescribed burn will depend on general dampness and weather conditions and the cost to the responsible agencies is usually too high for their budgets.

**Chemical Control (herbicides).** This is generally considered the most economical and effective means of controlling yellow starthistle. They can be applied in a variety of ways, ranging from hand held sprayers to aircraft, but are generally used only in agriculture and other large scale settings. However, there are strict controls on the use of these chemicals and a lot of research and testing is required before approval can be given. Usually individual homeowners will not have access to this method. What's more, it will only suppress the Yellow starthistle, without actually getting rid of it.

There are basically two types of chemical herbicides; pre-emergents and post-emergents.

Pre-emergents are applied before the seedlings emerge. To be effective against yellow starthistle, you need to use one that remains effective beyond the end of the rainy season. For best results, they should be applied just before a rain so the chemical is carried into the soil. Otherwise, in dry conditions the wind may blow the agent away with the soil where it could injure other susceptible plants. This plant never goes dormant, so pre-emergent herbicides can be applied in late fall through to early spring. This timing should provide control through the rainy season and possibly beyond.

Post-emergent herbicides (applied after the plant emerges) work best on seedlings and must be applied directly to the plant. They are usually not effective by themselves for long-term management of starthistle. They are most useful to spot treat plants that escaped other treatments and to get rid of small outgrowths late in the season when plants are easily visible, but have not produced viable seed.

Common and effective post-emergents include 2,4-D, Dicamba, Triclopyr, and Glyphosate. Two commonly used chemicals with good pre- and post-emergent effect are Aminopyralid and Clopyralid.

Most of the information in this article came from “Yellow Starthistle Management Guide” by Joseph M. DiTomaso, Guy B. Kyser, and Michael J. Pitcairn and published by the California Invasive Plant Council in 2006. For more information consult this publication. It can be found at [http://cecentralsierra.ucanr.edu/Invasive\\_Weed\\_Management\\_Program/](http://cecentralsierra.ucanr.edu/Invasive_Weed_Management_Program/) in the Yellow starthistle Leading Edge Project section.

UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado are available to answer home gardening questions in their office at 311 Fair Lane in Placerville from Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to noon. Walk-ins are welcome, or call (530) 621-5512. For more information about public education classes and activities, go to the Master Gardener website at [http://ucanr.edu/sites/EDC\\_Master\\_Gardeners/](http://ucanr.edu/sites/EDC_Master_Gardeners/). Sign up to receive online notices and e-newsletter at <http://ucanr.edu/mgenews/>. Information is also available on Facebook. ♦

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# My Adventure with the Burger Boys

By Lee Hodge

Our area is such a wonderful place to live, with great weather, beautiful countryside, rural atmosphere, wineries and some of the nicest people I've ever met. But one of the best attributes of our community, if not the best, is its volunteer spirit. Two of my favorite people, who have demonstrated that spirit through membership in just about every volunteer organization in our area, are Nick Nickerson and A.J. Scontrino. Nick and AJ share a passion for community service, plus a love of outdoor adventure and a really great hamburger. In fact, they are in a quest together to find the best burger in Northern California. Their exploits in this regard are told in the article, "Nick and AJ's Adventures in Eating", on page 13. While I was still working in the Bay Area I listened to the stories of their epicurean adventures with envy. And to make it worse, they even took pictures of four inch thick hamburgers loaded with goodies. I began to hate the invention of the camera phone.

When I retired at the end of last year, Nick and AJ invited me to join them on one of their adventures and I jumped at the chance. As luck would have it, a "Rob on the Road" program on the best hamburger joints in the Sacramento area aired soon thereafter. The show visited four different establishments, some of which I knew, like Burgers and Brew and The Squeeze-In. But the first ten minutes of the 25 minute program was spent on a burger joint called Broderick's Roadhouse in West Sacramento and I knew right away that this was the place.

What sold me immediately was the Gold Rush Burger. Get this: they start with a mac and cheese patty with cream, butter, three different cheeses, and small pieces of fried bacon. They fry that on the grill next to a Niman Ranch beef patty. The fried mac and cheese and hamburger patty are placed on a grilled onion roll along with more bacon, French fried onion strings and garlic aioli. To die for! So Nick, AJ and I decided to make a road trip to Broderick's. On the day we picked I had to take my wife to the Sacramento

airport, so I met Nick and AJ at the restaurant. Following my Google directions I turned off I-5 in West Sacramento and got a little nervous as the neighborhood degenerated after turning onto the I Street Bridge. But I soon arrived at Broderick's Roadhouse, at 319 6th St., and found Nick and AJ waiting in the large parking lot. Turns out it looks like a roadhouse from the outside and the inside; nothing fancy, but lots of warm, dark wood, a full bar and a comfortable feel.

We beat the lunch crowd and were greeted by a delightful young waitress who had no idea that her easy day was about to change. Her first clue came when she asked what we wanted to drink. I said Diet Coke, Nick said iced tea and AJ asked for a Diet Pepsi. She said they didn't have Pepsi and AJ began a discussion or rather a monologue, on the rela-

tive merits of Pepsi vs. Coke. I was impressed with our waitress' patience and sense of humor as she and AJ then went through every possible beverage a human could consume before AJ settled on coffee. As our waitress left to get the drinks, AJ asked if the coffee was good and she returned to our table for another discussion of various coffee vendors, beans, etc.

*In fact, they are  
in a quest together to  
find the best burger in  
Northern California.*

for our lunch order. Nick had downloaded the menu so we were prepared to order, at least Nick and I were. I jumped on the Gold Rush Burger because I had been waiting for weeks to taste fried mac and cheese with bacon. Nick went for the Johnny Cash. That's a burger with cheddar cheese, smoked bacon, in-house-pickled sweet/hot peppers, onion strings and house made BBQ sauce. It's called the Johnny Cash because the peppers create a "Ring of Fire". Nick ordered the sauce on the side. Then it was AJ's turn. OK, full disclosure, I am a little uncomfortable asking for something that's not on the menu. AJ is not. Again, our waitress joined in the fun as Nick and I gave AJ a really hard time as he attempted to turn several of the standard menu burgers into what he really wanted, a very rare ham-

See ADVENTURE, page 37

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# Update From Your PFPD Board Chair

By Craig R. Cooper-Wyble, PFPD Chair

It has been a number of months since my last update; in addition, the last one I wrote never made it to print, so I will share a condensed update to cover the highlights of the past several months.

Financially, the district continues to do well. As of January 2015 our revenues are over budget by \$234,285.00. This overage is primarily from the numerous "Strike Teams" we participated in last summer. Those revenues alone counted for over \$175,000.00 of the overage we currently have, which offset the increased labor costs associated with our firefighters' higher amount of compensation for regular and overtime hours during those fires.

During December's meeting we held the annual election of board officers. A motion was made to leave current officers in place for 2015, so your officers are: Craig R. Cooper-Wyble, Chair, Russ Sime, Vice-Chair, and Ripley Howe, Secretary.

In January's meeting we had the report from our new audit firm for the fiscal year ending June 2013. It had taken a bit longer to achieve, as we had requested, a "Forensic Audit" of payroll and petty cash funds due to some issues that we dealt with during that year. A number of recommendations were made by the auditing firm, many of which had already been put in place prior to the meeting. The audit for fiscal year 2014 is being performed now. The board formed an "Audit Committee" during their January meeting; new board members Allen Wood and Michael Juliff are taking responsibility for this committee.

In February we received and accepted the resignation of Russ Sime. We thank

Russ for his service to the Pioneer Fire Protection District and wish him well in his personal endeavors. At the February meeting Allen Wood was elected as Vice-Chair to replace the officer position that was vacated by Mr. Sime's resignation.

We posted a notice of the vacated board position at all local post offices and at the District Office. We received two letters of interest and resumes for the open position. The two local candidates are Mrs. Lori Ann Ingram and Mr. Paul C. Graham. Both candidates have met with Chief Daniels and will be at the March board meeting for both their public interview and the board selection. The term of their office will expire in November 2016.

Also during February's board meeting, Board members Ripley Howe and Allen Wood assumed responsibilities for the "Fire Services" Committee. They are charged with the continuation of dealing with other fire districts, the Board of Supervisors, and others to look at what types of "consolidation" this district can do with another district. I spoke to Ripley regarding the status of this issue and here is what he shared.

When asked about the potential consolidation of the Pioneer Fire Protection District with either El Dorado County Fire or some other agency, PFPD Board Secretary Ripley Howe said that discussions are at the most preliminary level. "We have had a single meeting with a representative from County Fire's board, and that's it so far," he said. "The PFPD made a commitment to the Board of Supervisors to investigate the possibility of consolidation, and that's what we are doing." Howe added that in addition to

the meeting with a county fire board member, the chiefs from both agencies have had informal meetings.

Howe said that he has serious concerns about the ability of the district to maintain service levels under the current structure. "The more densely-populated districts that are growing like crazy - El Dorado Hills for example - are doing fine," Howe said. "But rural districts with slow growth and low property taxes are really going to be hurting in the next 10 or 20 years. We have a duty to plan for that."

"If the district does move ahead with some sort of consolidation, it must result in the improvement of fire and emergency medical services to both communities, Howe said. He went on to say "any negotiations regarding consolidation must directly address a number of thorny issues, including firefighter salaries and benefits, the allocation of property taxes, and local control of the fire district."

"Everyone will need to be together on this, including firefighters, board members, property owners and our whole community," Howe said. "We will only move ahead with consolidation if it is really the best thing to do," he said.

Finally, I just wanted everyone to know that our new County Supervisor, Shiva Frentzen, informed us that she will be holding a "Town Meeting" at Station 38 (the District Office on Mt. Aukum Rd.) from 5:30 to 7 p.m., Thursday, May 14, 2015. Hope to see you there. (If you plan to attend, please contact the District Office or check the local Post Office Bulletin Boards to confirm the date and time). ♦

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# Pioneer Fire Protection District Run Report

	Jan 2015	Feb. 2015	2015 YTD	2014	2013	2012
Vegetation Fires	0	2	2	15	15	36
Structure Fires	1	0	1	5	3	15
Other Fires	3	10	13	70	60	31
Traffic Collision and Medical	26	30	56	354	37	NA
HazMat Incidents & Fire Menace Standbys (FMS)	0	0	0	10	8	1
Public Service	44	34	78	262	378	224
<b>Total</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>716</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>307</b>

Run totals do not reflect calls that were run outside of PFPD and do not reflect the Sand Fire.

## Personnel:

There are four open vacancies for Reserve Firefighters.

## Fire Apparatus:

Utility 38 and the Chief's vehicle are being worked upon. No new (or used) vehicles will be bought at this time.

A new 1 3/4 inch hose and one Automated External Defibrillator (AED) were purchased from Crab Banquet Funds. We are planning to purchase two additional AEDs.

## Willow Station:

This station is still operational and is staffed by two firefighters. We have funds to continue at this time.

## Miscellaneous:

There will be a tabletop exercise in Grizzly Flats on April 10th. This event is organized by the Grizzly Flats Fire Safe Council. Participating agencies include, but are not limited to, PFPD, Cal Fire, CHP, PG&E, CALSTAR, El Dorado County

Sheriff's Office and others. It is a simulated emergency situation in which the agencies coordinate efforts in resolving the issue. Only a couple of people know what the drill is going to be about (for example, an earthquake or a fire).

An audit began in March, covering FY13/14 and should be completed by May. This is a routine general audit to make sure the department funds are being used properly. ♦



## PVFA Turnout

We're looking for volunteers to write articles. We want your ideas, thoughts, words. Share them with the community. Email us at [turnoutedit@pioneer.org](mailto:turnoutedit@pioneer.org) or [turnoutedit@pioneerfire.org](mailto:turnoutedit@pioneerfire.org)

## Mailbox Vandalism in Rural Cluster Mailboxes

By Cynthia Morris

There have been five separate vandalisms done to our Rural Cluster mailboxes in the vicinity of Sand Ridge Road during January and February of this year.

Here are steps you can take to help prevent this from continuing:

1. Each day you should retrieve your mail promptly, during our daylight hours.

2. Observe any person or persons loitering near your mailboxes—unless they are waiting to retrieve their own mail.

3. If there are any bushes or low hanging tree limbs that obstruct your view when approaching the mailboxes and/or retrieving your daily mail, please prune

them back. This will help prevent people from "hiding out" and it will make it easier for you to see who is around while you are retrieving your mail.

If your mailbox has been broken into, please contact both our local El Dorado County Sheriff's Office and our Placerville Post Office. Here is their contact information:

EDC Sheriff.....530.621.5655

Placerville Post Office....530.622.5174

Your help and cooperation in eliminating this type of criminal behavior will greatly improve the overall quality of life for all of us. ♦

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# Luck of the Vintage

By John L. Smith

(Number 95 and last in a series of opinionated articles about grapes and wine in our area)

This was my 26th (and last) vintage in Fair Play. On arrival in 1989, there were just four wineries, about ten vineyards, and still quite a few dirt roads, including the top of Slug Gulch. During those 25 years, there have been some near disasters, some nearly perfect, and some per-

fectly ordinary vintages.

The years 2010 and 2011 were cold and wet enough to make anyone question growing grapes and making wine here, but in the last three, 2012 through 2014, we've seen the only grape growing "three peat" in over a quarter century. The list below contains my (possibly faded) recollections of the growing season in each of those years as it affected grapes and wine.

- 1989—even though it was still the middle of a drought, four inches of rain from a tropical storm in the middle of September delayed harvesting a huge crop and made winemaking challenging. It also provided second thoughts for a new vineyard owner living in a borrowed travel trailer during a power outage.

- 1990—warm and dry, with a moderate crop of grapes in good balance.

- 1991—also warm and dry, with heat and wind in September that spiked sugar levels by as much as 4% in one week and caused panic picking in September.

- 1992—the year with no spring, it went directly from a mild winter to the warmest and earliest summer in memory,

and was the only year every grape in our vineyard was picked before September 1, yielding rich and supple wine.

- 1993—the year the drought broke with "Miracle March," causing rampant foliage and an immense crop for most varieties—not a lot of good wine made.

- 1994—nicely balanced, with enough heat and winter moisture to make very good wine.

- 1995—a cold, rainy spring, cool summer and such a cool fall that most of the grapes that survived the spring frosts failed to ripen fully.

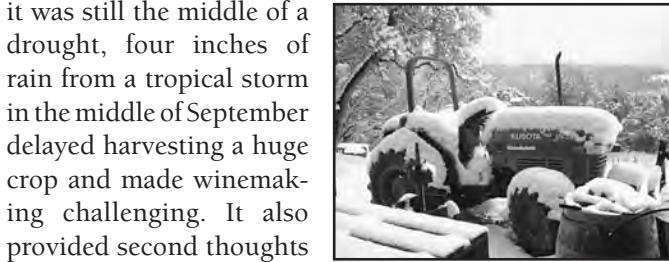
- 1996—overall, a nice year—marked by measurable rainfall in every month of the year, with a harvest of over a ton of

"second-crop" of our Cabernet.

- 1997—one of the great ones, with a combination of wonderful weather and a huge crop that produced memorable wines, some of which were still wonderful in 2014.

- 1998—the most intense El Niño of the period, with heavy rain lasting

See VINTAGE, page 39



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burger with Swiss cheese and sautéed mushrooms. Sounds simple, doesn't it. But somehow it took quite a long time and a call back for the waitress to get that ordered. I don't recall our conversation as we waited for our burgers, but I do remember a lot of laughing.

OK, time for the review. I loved my Gold Rush Burger. It was everything I dreamed of and more. Nick was satisfied with his burger, although the peppers were not as hot as he would have liked. But the heat of peppers is very subjective. It was a good thing he had ordered the BBQ sauce on the side, because he did not like it at all. I agree that it had an unusual spice of some kind, sort of Middle Eastern. AJ was disappointed in his burger. He had made a huge point of wanting a very, very rare burger, but his arrived medium rare. Nick, who had ordered medium rare, received a pretty rare burger in my opinion, so maybe the cook got confused. I think we all agreed the fries were OK, but from the "Rob on the Road" show I expected them to be spectacular. It takes three days to make them. They start with special Idaho russets cut into fries and soaked overnight in ice water. The next day they are blanched and left soaking overnight again. The next day they're drained and deep fried when ordered. Supposedly this procedure makes them crunchy on the outside and perfect on the inside. Not worth the trouble in my opinion.

I am a Broderick's Roadhouse fan. They have an amazing assortment of burgers, including lamb burgers and duck burgers. You can order arugula, heirloom tomatoes slow roasted in balsamic, local goat cheese and lots of other condiments not usually associated with burgers. The duck burger is usually served with figs and arugula. They claim that they'll put any combination of ingredients on any burger. The menu also has lots of non-burger choices. You could eat here for a month and not have the same thing twice. And the portions are large enough that one meal a day would be enough. I also like the ambiance. It has a very comfy, neighborhood type feel; a "Cheers" sort of place.

So grab some of your friends and check it out. Broderick's is a great place to have an outstanding burger while spending quality time with your favorite neighbors. ♦

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# The School At Grizzly Flats

By Frank Shortt

Walt Tyler School was instituted by  
The urgings of Chuck Pryor and others  
Petitioning the Trustee Board as one  
For our young mountain sisters and brothers.

November 13, '97 was  
The day chosen for instituting things.  
The mud, wet kids, but if not for some help,  
We would all remain waiting in the wings.

A water problem manifested soon  
A large amount of pain and lots of woe.  
The neighbor's toilets became familiar  
To students, and adults, needing to go.  
  
The school lies obscurely, not so hidden,  
That it is impossible to be found.  
  
We would be glad to make your acquaintance  
If you ever happen to be around.

Robin will always make you feel at home  
[and we're sure she can use a volunteer]  
But just be careful when you go up there,  
That you are not run over by a deer.

The School was originally "Grizzly Pines"  
But was later named for Walter Tyler.  
His wife, Maxine, should be included too,  
As the 'driving force' and silent partner. ♦

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## PASSPORT WEEKEND

Continued from page 21

educational, making it truly one-of-a-kind," said Stephanie Simunovich, Tasting Room/Wine Club Manager at Skinner Vineyards and Passport Event committee chair. "It provides attendees the opportunity to talk face-to-face with winemakers about their unique history, location, and methods, all amidst El Dorado's stunning scenery. What a way to spend a weekend!"

### Tickets and Pricing

The El Dorado Winery Association (EDWA) is offering "early bird" pricing of \$65 for a Weekend Passport and \$45 for Sunday Only. Designated Driver tickets also are available for \$25. With tickets going fast, those wanting to attend should purchase soon by visiting [www.passporteldorado.com](http://www.passporteldorado.com). A portion of the proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to the Food Bank of El Dorado County.

### Become a VIP for 2016

Special VIP passes are available, as well, for those who spend more than \$250 at a single winery or more than \$100 at three different wineries. In addition to receiving discounted event tickets, VIP guests can select the wineries they'd like to visit in advance. They also receive a recognizable VIP badge and a wine gift bag. For additional information on how to become a VIP, please contact [info@eldoradowines.org](mailto:info@eldoradowines.org).

### About the EDWA

With over 150 years of history steeped in gold and agriculture, the El Dorado region is poised for its newfound resurgence in viticulture. Unique vineyard soils and a high elevation create a superior environment for a vast array of varietals. The region is gaining recognition for its ability to grow quality grapes that exhibit a sense of place. For more information about EDWA, visit [www.eldoradowines.org](http://www.eldoradowines.org). ♦

## MAXINE TYLER

Continued from page 31

Ruby Brown, to sew at an early age. She remembers making the dress she was wearing when she met Walter. Maxine was required to make clothing for the rest of the family. This has led to her trying her hand at quilting. One of her quilts will soon be raffled off to provide funds for the Union Mine Music Boosters. It is a quilt with music as a theme, and beauti-

ful to behold.

Are there Ghosts in Grizzly Flats? As far as Ruby Brown was concerned there are. She told of seeing ghosts of children and hearing them crying at their residence on Logan's Grade. One Jolene Whitlock, waitress at the Grizzly Flats Lodge was on her way home one night on Winding Way when all of a sudden a man appeared in the headlights of her automobile. When she applied the brakes to avoid hitting him, the man disappeared. Maxine related both these stories, but assures us that she did not receive the gift of "Ghost Buster"!

Maxine's mom was a talented musician, playing piano, organ and autoharp. This talent did not rub off on Maxine, although she did sing in the choir in high school. This musical talent has rubbed off on granddaughter, Samantha, who lives with Maxine while attending Union Mine High School as a Junior. She plays guitar, saxophone, and trombone. Her goal? To be a music teacher, of course!

What will this lady of the mountains do next? Stay tuned; I'm sure she will surprise us all. Maybe, just maybe, she will begin again raising goats and sheep, if she can find room, what with all the chickens she raises! ♦

through the middle of June. Following the worst known winter storm in February, badly depressed winemakers needed to wait for some late fall heat to ripen the grapes that survived the spring frosts and rain. Many couldn't wait and picked under-ripe grapes that didn't make good wine.

- 1999—a year of warmth and balance that led us to believe La Niña was the grape grower's best friend.

- 2000—cool and rainy in both spring and harvest time, and a huge crop (sometimes up to 6 to 7 tons/acre); no one's favorite.

- 2001—the reward for surviving the year 2000, with grapes in beautiful balance—the first wines bottled with "Fair Play" as the appellation of origin listed on the label.

- 2002—the return of cool weather and uneven ripening, but most everything eventually ripened.

- 2003—another year when a large crop made ripening difficult; the harvest stretched out into November.

- 2004—near perfection; anyone who made bad wine this year needed to find another line of work.

- 2005—a pretty average year until heavy rains complicated the harvest.

- 2006—a good start, but a cool finish, leading to the later harvest of some exceptional grapes where



leaves survived the early frost.

- 2007—a repeat of 1997, with that rarest combination of a huge crop and excellent quality.

- 2008—good weather and a small crop made some great wine.

- 2009—the first ever two small crops in a row, but good heat to ripen everything, especially at the finish.

- 2010—wet winter, cool summer, huge crop with questionable ripeness—no grapes until October 5, then everything arrived in two weeks.

- 2011—an even wetter and cooler year where many grapes never reached biological ripeness, storms at harvest time put the final damper on a down year.

- 2012—a grape grower's dream, with a perfect crop yielding wonderful wine.

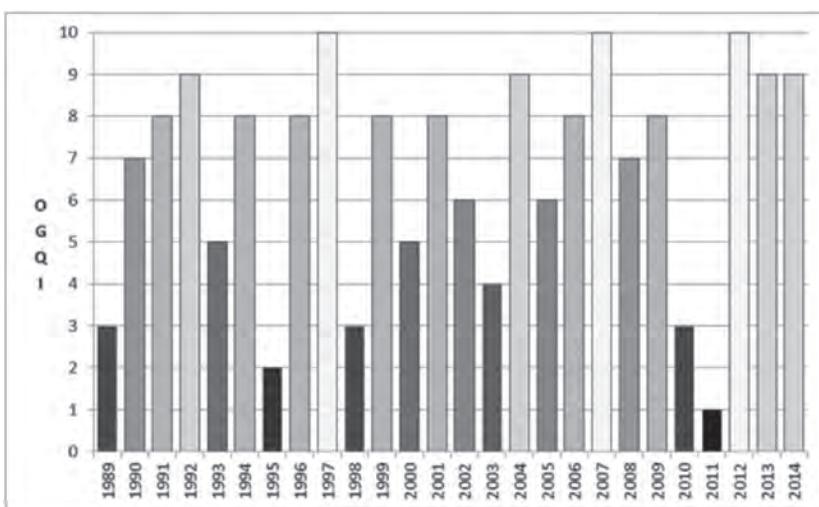
- 2013—a clone of the previous year after the second dry winter.

- 2014—the third drought year after a

very mild winter that prevented full dormancy on many vines and reduced the yield; the hot summer was followed by a hot September, bringing all the varieties in within about two weeks, many overly ripe because the picking crews couldn't be everywhere at once. First estate grapes picked on August 23, last on September 23, with record low crop yields.

A quick glance at the chart (displaying OGQI, or Opinionated Guy's Quality Index) for each year shows that most of the very good years were just "one in a row," followed by a not very good year. Mercifully though, the really bad ones were also mostly singular events. The trio of the last three years is pretty much unprecedented, even though there was one earlier stretch of three pretty good years from 1990 to 1992. Hmm—that was the last three years of the previous drought, what could that mean? ♦

*John and Susan Smith have moved to Portland, Oregon. Unfortunately, this will be his last article for the PVFA Turnout. We'd like to thank John and Susan for their community service.*



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# The Christmas That Almost Wasn't

By Dixie Buxton

It started out a normal overscheduled December, with doctor appointments, shopping, baking, decorating to do, and dinner parties to plan - that kind of December; as I said, a normal December.

I was, however, looking forward to the season and the special project the Pioneer Volunteer Firefighters Association (PVFA) allowed me to be a part of - playing Santa for a very special family in our community with the donations the PVFA had collected for this purpose. I was anxiously waiting to find out who our special family was this year. Mike and Liz Lawless, working with local churches and schools, have the honor of choosing the family, and my family has the honor of playing Santa Claus with the PVFA money. I always get excited at the prospect of surprising children with a very special Christmas, especially when they have no idea whether Santa is even listening.

By early December Mike and Liz had contacted the chosen family and told them I would be calling them regarding the all

important lists for Santa. I made the call and after speaking with the mother I found out the circumstances were a little different this year. This was not going to be the ordinary toy-shopping kind of Christmas. These children had grown up and were not really expecting Santa to surprise them on Christmas morning. However, they still needed a special Christmas and I was determined to make it happen. The mother and I planned a shopping trip to the local stores so we could get the perfect jeans, sneakers or whatever was a real need for the kids and hopefully enough money left for a few wanted items. About this time I saw a posting on Facebook that an anonymous donor had given the Pioneer Bible Church 20 Christmas trees and the church had lots of trees left after the Sunday service. I went to the church on the following Monday and picked out the perfect tree (anyway I thought it was perfect). I called our mother and she and the kids were thrilled to have the tree; it was not in the budget at all this year. This was starting to look like a very merry Christmas indeed.

Then it happened.

My mom and I were involved in an auto accident that ended up totaling my car, sending Mom to the hospital for 22 days, and left me with multiple bruises and broken ribs. (I certainly did not have this on my agenda.) Needless to say I had to start thinking about how I was going to get through the Christmas season I had planned. Parties got changed, dinners were canceled. Of course, friends and family stepped in and the party did happen, the shopping was delegated, meals were furnished by my family, and the neighbors took on the puppy chores (yes we had five 12 week old puppies in the house). I really had to prioritize; time was running out and I was running short of go power.

However it was still a priority for me to take care of our Christmas family: I left several messages with the mother hoping we could finally get together for the shopping trip. When she did call she was very sick and not able to even think of a shop-

See CHRISTMAS, page 41

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# Fire House Kitchen Table

By Dan Dwyer

Pork loin is one of my favorite cuts of meat. I usually use rosemary and a few other seasonings before putting it on the barbecue grill or I butterfly it and fill it with pesto. Both of these cooking methods have worked well for me. Then I heard about a cheese stuffed pork loin. Following is the recipe. I haven't tried it yet, but it sounds so good that I will soon.

## Cheese Stuffed Pork Loin

### Prep and Cook Time:

About 1 hour and 25 minutes

Makes: 10 - 12 servings

### Ingredients:

- 1 center cut pork loin (about 3 pounds)
- 6 mustard green leaves (about 10 inches long)
- 10 - 12 ounces herb and garlic soft cheese
- 1/2 cup parmesan cheese
- Fresh ground pepper (to taste)
- 1 cup chicken broth

### Preparation:

- Butterfly the roast
- Trim stem ends from mustard greens and dip in boiling water to wilt
- Line the meat lengthwise with the greens, extending about 4 inches longer than the meat
- Spoon the cheese into the meat down the center of the roast
- Sprinkle evenly with parmesan cheese
- Fold extended greens over cheese - flush with the ends of the meat
- Roll up the roast up lengthwise into a log and tie with cotton string at 2 inch intervals
- Set loin, cut side down, in a 10 to 15 inch pan and sprinkle generously with pepper
- Bake at 375 for 50 to 55 minutes
- Remove from oven and let sit for 20 minutes
- Transfer roast to platter and keep warm
- Skim and discard fat from pan drippings. Add broth and whisk until smooth. Boil until reduced to about 1 1/4 cups.
- Slice and serve with sauce. ◆



## CHRISTMAS

Continued from page 40

ping trip. I felt very frustrated, but I knew somehow Christmas was still going to come on December 25th - ready or not.

How could I help this family that so deserved a special Christmas and not let the PVFA down at the same time? I decided to make this Christmas not be about shopping, or even packages under the tree, but about what they really needed. Whatever that might be. The funds would help provide those things and hopefully a few things they wanted. I enlisted the ladies at the El Dorado Savings Bank to present the mother with the funds and a beautiful professional telescope that was donated by Margaret and Neil Hillier. The plan worked, and I received a call several days after Christmas from the mother. She was so very grateful to the community and the PVFA for the extra money. It really did make a difference for their Christmas. She is still recovering from a very serious illness and I pray she gets well soon. I didn't ask what the money was used for, but I know it went to a good cause.

Sometimes fate steps in and takes the reins and makes things happen for the best. I know in my heart Santa would approve of my decision to make this year a different kind of gift giving.

The PVFA can rest assured this year's Christmas family truly appreciated being chosen. They truly needed a special Christmas.

Special Thanks to Margaret and Neil Hillier for the beautiful telescope, the anonymous Christmas tree donor from the Pioneer Bible Church, the ladies at El Dorado Savings Bank in Diamond Springs for helping facilitate the gift giving, the community we live in for their generous donations and, most of all, the PVFA for giving me the opportunity to play Santa Claus once again. ◆

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# Decisions, Changes & Pleas

By Loretta Hudelson

The last few months have really been tough on your local newsletters – the PVFA Turnout and the *Three Forks Times*. The management team for the PVFA Turnout decided that we just couldn't do six publications a year; it was too much with the limited number of volunteers we had on our management team and their involvement in other volunteer projects. Consequently, we decided three issues a year was all we could do. And with that decision it was our hope that the *Three Forks Times* (TFT) would take over the other three publication times so that there were still six publications a year going out to residents in the Pioneer Fire Protection District. Unfortunately, the TFT decided to discontinue publication.

There went our Plan A and it was back to the drawing board. OK, so how about Plan B--we do four issues a year so there is one for each season of the year. We could do that and be hopeful that some/all of the writers and volunteers who previ-

ously worked on the TFT would join forces with the PVFA Turnout and lighten the work load for everyone!

Here is the bottom line! The PVFA Turnout will be distributed in April, June, September and December. However, we still need/want/hope for more people to step up and offer to serve or help on the management team. This includes editing, advertising, collating and taking the newsletter to the post office for distribution. For all of these positions we have people doing the jobs now, but it would be wonderful to be able to split the jobs into smaller assignments by having more people helping!

- Having two to three more people who could edit articles would be fantastic...and can be done from your home computer.

- One or two people to help obtain/renew ads would be a tremendous help.

- Two people to either take over the whole collating job including the collating process itself or to handle the work done in between collating days of sending

out reminder emails, etc.

- Having one or two people to serve as backup for the job of getting the newsletter to the post office after collation would mean that the other members of the management team would not have to serve as backup for this also!

These are not huge jobs, especially if they are shared. It is just that right now there is just too few people doing too much! Please consider helping out. If you want more information as to what exactly would be involved, give me a call at 530.620.3371. We even have written procedures and all the help you would need to learn any of these jobs! ♦

## A Highway's Lonely Cross

By Leonard L. Morris

*Down a highway he took a ride,  
There was a cross standing on the side.*

*This story as I heard it I will tell,  
The accident happened as heavy rain fell.*

*Someone was impatient to pass,  
There were sounds of crushing metal and glass.*

*Someone called 911,  
For the emergency vehicle it was a long run.*

*A man with an extinguisher put out a fire,  
In the engine on the second smashedup car.*

*Two people were trapped in a car on its side,  
One of them lived, one of them died.*

*Every time I drive by that lonely cross,  
I think about the tragedy of one family's loss.*

*At the accident I was told what some had to say,  
But they didn't hear nobody pray.*

*The Lord knows of those that grieve,  
When from this earth loved ones leave.*

*Tragedies we could more easily bear,  
If we would take them to the Lord in prayer.*

*May the Lord grant peace of mind,  
To the bereaved ones left behind ♦*

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# Automotive Ministry

By Randy Kelley

Automotive Ministry  
Adoptions for cars.  
A new home  
For an old friend.  
Sometimes they ask...  
What's an automotive ministry?  
Do you pray for cars?  
Yes, all the time.  
Sometimes it works.  
Sadly....Not for all,  
Some are called Home.  
Waiting patiently,  
Assembled together.  
Before they leave,  
Some donate their insides  
For a brother down the road.  
Happily...some are rescued  
Just like us.  
A new friend  
Movin' on the purpose,  
A new life  
Down the road. ♦

# It's Been a While

By Loretta Hudelson

If it seems like it's been a while since you got your last copy of the PVFA Turnout, that's because it has been! Our last issue came out in December 2014, and because of many "extenuating circumstances" our schedule for 2015 has gone through several revisions. The reasons for these are mentioned in other articles in this issue, so I won't go over them again, but just didn't want our wonderful volunteers who showed up for the March of the Collators way back last December to think that we had forgotten them! No way! In fact they get a double kudos for finding time for us in the month of December and in the middle of a rain storm!

Our sincere thanks and appreciation go to Anna Belle Almy, Dave and Sue Boucke, Peg Campbell, Craig and Larry Cooper-Wyble, Sharon Durst, Brenda Garcia, Cook Hudelson, Mary & Roger Klemm, Ann and John Klingberg, Trish Naylor, Will Neisius, Nick Nickerson, AJ Scontrino, Cindy Svedberg, Mary Tran plus Sharon and Greg Wade.

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN THE COLLATION START TIME! We will begin collating at 8 a.m. AND as you read elsewhere in this issue, we will now be publishing the PVFA Turnout FOUR times a year. Sorry for the switches in days, but this is just how it has to be this year. For the June issue, we will collate on June 11, which is the SECOND Thursday of the month. Then for the September and December issues, we will switch to the FIRST Thursday of the month. So be sure to mark your 2015 calendars now for the June 11, September 3 and December 3.

Hope to see you at our next March of the Collators Thursday, June 11 at Fire Station 38 at 8 a.m. ♦

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# Lük Remembers

By Lük and Myrna Glick

Lük was rescued by Border Collie Rescue of Northern California (BCRNC) in June of 2013. At the end of that month he found his forever home, which to our fortune, was with my husband and me in Showcase Ranches. All we know about Lük is that at the time of his rescue he was estimated to be between one and three years of age. He reportedly spent the first part of his life on a ranch in Ukiah, CA, and then found himself at the Ukiah Animal Shelter, where BCRNC came into his life. This is more of his story:

"Hi! It's me Lük. I've got a thought that has been gnawing at me and I'd like to share it with you. For quite a while now I have not been feeling real well, kind of like my stomach is turned upside down or inside out. Any kin of mine knows what I'm talking about. It's like you have this uncontrollable urge to go find some green grass to eat to get rid of the feeling. It seems to get to me the most when it's evening. Kit, my adopted sister, and I have been fed, and we've been invited up on the couch to snuggle next to Mom in front of the wood stove and the TV. I feel so warm and comfy with Mom stroking my head. Why is it that my stomach feels so funny? It has been only the last couple of days that maybe I am beginning to realize why I am feeling so bad. I remember, but not all that well, the ranch where I spent the first part of my life. For some reason there are a lot of blank spots in my memory. What I do remember is the cage I ended up in after I left the ranch. There were a lot of other dogs there and they were all in cages like me. We all barked a lot. None of us slept much. We got fed but it was cold there, especially the floor after they sprayed water on it. Every once in a while a person or maybe two would come walking through and pass by our cages. Often they would stick their hands through the wire and call to us. I didn't want to go to them to be petted like some of the other dogs

did. Who were they? What did they want? I remember Molly. She was in the cage next to mine. She was smaller than me and quite a bit older. I remember she moved real slow and I could tell sometimes she was in a lot of pain. She would shiver at night. During the day she would go and greet everyone who came by and put their hands through the wire of her cage. She would lick their fingers and wag her tail.

"There was another dog next to Molly.

His name was Zeus. He was very big and always seemed angry. He barked a lot and did not like it when people would walk by his cage or stick their hands in through the wire. The feeders in

the scary clothes would all yell at him when he barked too much, but it would just make him more angry. When they would all go away and turn out the lights at night he would curl up in the corner of his cage and be real quiet. One day two of the feeders came and put something around his nose and then they led him out of his cage. After that I never saw him again.

"Some of the other dogs got taken out of their cages when people came by. Some of them came back. Some of them didn't. Molly never got taken out of her cage. I didn't either, but then I didn't lick their fingers or wag my tail like Molly did. One day one of the feeders in those scary clothes came and took Molly away. I never saw her again. It made me sad. I think now that has something to do with my stomach feeling bad.

"One day a person came to my cage with one of the feeders. I wondered what was going to happen. I pulled away when the person tried to touch me. I did not wag my tail, but they took me out of the cage anyway. The only words I remember that seemed at all

familiar, now that I look back on it, were lucky dog. Right then I wasn't feeling too lucky. I was put in a car and I remember riding for a long time. When the car finally stopped and the person took me out, we went into a house. I had never been in a house before. I remember on the ranch the other dogs and I were not even allowed on the porch. We slept in the barn or under one of the trucks. Well, here I was inside a house for the first time. There were other dogs there. They all looked a lot alike. In the cages where I was before, the dogs were all different. There was a man and a woman and all the dogs seemed to like them. They gave me my dinner soon after that, but I was too nervous to eat much. I didn't know what was going on. The other dogs all seemed to be happy enough, but I didn't know what was going to happen next. Over the next few days, I spent a lot of time with these dogs, running and playing in a big yard. When we weren't in the yard we were in our crates. This was new to me. A crate is a very small cage. Only one dog can fit in it. You feel safe there because only you can fit inside. I learned real quick when one of the persons would say, "Crate!" we were all supposed to run and get in our own crate. We would usually get a treat then and if it was nighttime the door to our crate would get closed. This routine went on for several days and it seemed OK. I got enough to eat and a warm safe place to

*"Some of the other dogs got taken out of their cages when people came by. Some of them came back. Some of them didn't."*

sleep. I had some new friends to play with in the yard.

"Then one rainy day we were all inside in our crates, probably because it was raining when a man and a woman drove up in a strange car. They had a dog with them who looked like all my new friends. I later found out that this was Kit, my adopted sister to be. They

See LÜK REMEMBERS, page 45

# What Happened in 1997?

This is a reprint of an article that was in the Dec/Jan '97/98 Turnout and was written by the PFPD Board of Directors at that time.

As the 1997 year reaches its end the Board of Directors of the Pioneer Fire Protection District reflected with satisfaction on their efforts to improve services during the last 12 months.

The "TurnOut", a community oriented newsletter, has been an unqualified success. It's written and assembled by a group of hard working volunteers and Board Members and is full of local events as well as information about the activities of the Fire Department. Best of all it is financed entirely from advertisements without a dime of tax dollars. The Board wishes to thank the local advertisers and the volunteer for their outstanding contributions.

The "TurnOut" was not the only effort of the Board to reach the community. For the first time the Board held meetings in the Grizzly Flats community with unbelievable attendance by the residents. In fact it was so successful that the Board adopted a policy to meet in July and September in that area every year. In addition, the Board is considering Omo Ranch as a potential meeting site if there is sufficient community interest.

Sure we live in a rural fire district but

does that mean we have to tolerate poor service for the taxes we pay? The Board of Directors does not think so and took this message to the Ambulance Authority of El Dorado County. As a result, funding has been set aside to help pay for medical supplies to districts like ours. The Authority also agreed to develop a plan to help establish a first responder medical aid program. This is particularly good news because the concept of the first responder program is to get a qualified medical technician to the victim as soon as possible. In our area this means on a fire truck instead of waiting for an ambulance.

Other improvements included an agreement with El Dorado County Fire to assist in medical training of the

Pioneer fire personnel and inspection of our equipment to ensure adequate medical supplies are on board each of our apparatus.

The Board also approved a resident program allowing fire personnel to reside at Station 38. This means there will now be someone at the fire house during the night. Further the Board approved hiring full time, and with the help of the Association, part time personnel who supplement the volunteers in responding to emergencies. This program provides greater certainty that the district

can always respond to emergencies quickly day or night. The Fire Chief is also preparing a plan, utilizing current personnel, to provide 24hr coverage, 7 days per week.

Capital improvements include the purchase of a new fire truck and preliminary steps to purchase property in the Grizzly Flats community for a new fire house. However, the new fire house will require significant fund raising in the community if it is to be fully realized.

Unfortunately, our efforts to get the Board of Supervisors to give the Pioneer tax payers the same share of property taxes for fire protection as they give other districts has not been successful. Ray Nutting, who says he supports the District's position, needs to work with his colleagues on the Board of Supervisors to make tax fairness happen. Public protection, including fire and police protection is the public's highest priorities, and it ought to be the highest of our local elected County representative. Only Ray can work with the other Board members to make this happen.

That aside, 1997 has been a busy and successful year for the Pioneer Fire Protection District. Service to the community is indeed better thanks to the many volunteers, contributors, and staff of the District. However, much still needs to be done. Rest assured that the Board of Directors will continue this strong effort in the coming year.

By The PFPD Board of Directors ◆

## LÜK REMEMBERS

came inside and I was taken out of my crate and the woman tried to stroke my head, but I did not let her pet me too much. Was she here to take me away? I was just getting used to this place. I didn't want to go back to the place with the big cages and all the dogs the place where Molly and Zeus had been. I didn't want to go back to the ranch. I did not know exactly why, but I knew I just didn't! The visitors talked with the man and woman in the house for a long time, and then the visiting female brought out a leash. She hooked it onto my collar. Things got real scary. She and the visiting man started leading me toward their car with the visiting dog they had brought with them. What was hap-

pening? My new friends were all in their crates. They could not help me. Worst of all, none of them seemed real concerned. I tried not to get in the car. I pulled back, but the man lifted me into the car and pretty soon I was watching the best home I had ever had and all my new friends disappear from sight as I looked out the back window.

"I did not know it then, but I had just met my new mom and dad and they were taking me to my "forever" home. It took me a while to understand the full mean-

ing of the words "lucky dog" and I am still realizing it more and more each day. I still think about Molly and Zeus and I know now that is what's bothering my insides." ◆



# Editor's Corner

First, we are going to be publishing the *Turnout* four times a year, starting with this issue. The article by Loretta Hudelson ("Decisions, Changes, and Pleas") explains the reasons. This means that if you want to send in articles, your due dates for the rest of 2015 are: May 1, August 7, and November 6. If you would like to help with collating (The

March of the Collators), please come to Pioneer Volunteer Fire Station 38 at 8 a.m. on Thursday: June 11, September 3, December 3.

Second, with this issue we are introducing a NEW and THRILLING contest: The Pioneer Pome Contest. The winner for 2015 gets a free box of golden El Dorado pomes. ♦

By Mary Tran

This April edition of the PVFA *Turnout* brings some new beginnings, just in time for spring.

## Introducing the Pioneer Pome Contest

Pome: a fruit with a central core containing five seeds. Example: an apple or pear.

Pioneer Pome: a foothills poem containing five lines. Example: a limerick.

To enter the contest and be published in the PVFA *Turnout*, send your Pioneer Pomes to [turnoutedit@pioneer volunteer-fire.org](mailto:turnoutedit@pioneer volunteer-fire.org). Due dates for 2015 are: May 1, August 7, and November 6.

You can send in entries for any or all of these dates. Please include your name and the name of your school or the town where you live. The winner for 2015 will be announced in the December issue and will receive a box of golden El Dorado pomes.

Here are a few sample Pioneer Pomes for starters:

### Standing There

By Mattie Robinette, Diamond Springs

"I think the trees expected me to come  
(It might have been a mystery to some)  
"To just stand there,  
In the forest air,  
And listen to the grey pines hum."

### To the Oak by the Back Deck

By Mary Tran, Somerset

"I blow out my C O 2  
And oxygen comes back from you.  
"I blow, leaves grow;  
Leaves grow, I blow;  
And so it goes from old to new."

### This Cat is No Outdoorsman

By Ragnar Falk, Grizzly Flat

"Old Buddy hates the springtime grass,  
It makes his belly wet, alas!  
"He'd rather nap  
On a warm, dry lap  
And give the grass a pass."

### This Space

Reserved for YOU  
Send in your  
Pioneer Pome  
TODAY!!



## From the PVFA Chair

By Dan Dwyer

The PVFA's annual Crab Banquet season was, as always, a success. That's not to say we didn't have the inevitable mishaps along the way, but I am leaving the 2015 Crab Banquet story (along with a few pictures) to Lynette and others to tell. I need to write about the last nine years of our 17 years of Crab Banquets. During these last nine years, we have had the good fortune to have Nick Nickerson as our Crab Banquet Committee Chairman.

At our February 2 meeting, Nick informed those in attendance that he would be stepping down from his chairman's job. In his words, he still wants to help - he just doesn't want to be the one making decisions.

This leaves big shoes to fill, but I think we have someone foolish enough to try. One of Nick's final responsibilities was to attend an El Dorado County School Board Association dinner - along with Brian Bendix, Lynette and myself. We were invited to this dinner by Dr. Lisa Fontana who is the superintendent/principal of the Pioneer Union School District. Dr. Fontana had nominated the PVFA as the Outstanding Community

Organization for 2014. The rest of the members of the El Dorado County school boards agreed. State Assemblyman Frank Bigelow was also present and he awarded the PVFA a Certificate of Recognition from the California State Assembly. We all felt quite honored!

These awards are a result of the hard work and dedication of our Crab Banquet Committee and the over 200 volunteers who make our banquets a success, which then provides for the funding to our fire district and the Pioneer Parent Teacher Organization. Thank you to all of you who make our community a better place to live.

There is one final Crab Banquet item. I want to recognize and thank John and Susan Smith, founders and previous owners of Oakstone Winery. John and Susan were instrumental in starting and contributing to the Crab Banquets. I understand that they are moving to Portland, Oregon for the next life adventure. I wish them good luck and thank them for all their past support.

I shouldn't need to say this, but I can't help it. It appears that we will have an early start to a long fire season. Be smart and be fire safe. If you don't know what that means see the article by Chief Jack Daniels on the front page. ♦



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