

The Loop

FREE Take one!

Vol. 26 #4

First Friday
in Tehachapi
on March 8
pg. 14-15

Your Hometown Community News & Local Happenings

March 1 ~ 15, 2014



Look
In this Issue

Spring in February

Spring has come early in Tehachapi. Pictured are trees in bloom in Brite Valley, along Highway 202. photo by Nick Smirnoff (NPPA)

Meet Your New
Neighbors pg. 5

Forde Files
pg. 18-19

Stallion Springs
Happenings pg. 24

The Local Scene
pg. 30-31

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page 4	Real Estate Spotlight • Mortgage Matters
Page 5	Meet Your New Neighbors • From the Pastor's Desk
Page 6	Have a Heart Goes to School
Page 7-8	Pet Pages: Adoptable Pets – Cats and Dogs!
Page 9	Artist Nadiya Little Warrior • Out 'n' About
Page 10	Tehachapi Symphony • Artist Spotlight: Duvekot and Gorka
Page 11	Sky Watch • Financial Focus • Brite Lake Fishing News
Page 12	A Dog's Life • Palmdale Regional Medical Center
Page 14-15	First Friday Events
Page 16	Jennifer's Thoughts...
Page 17	Moessner Farm Sandwiches • TCC Church Pastoral Changes
Page 18-19	The Forde Files
Page 20	Coupons! • Healthcare Reform Answers
Page 21	Your Tax Preparer • Taste of Italian
Page 22	Fun Page
Page 23	Spirit of Tehachapi • Lost in the Stars
Page 24	What's Up in Stallion Springs
Page 25	Train of Thought • A Page of History
Page 26-27	Community Happenings • Classifieds
Page 28-29	Bump, Birth, and Beyond • Business Directory
Page 30-31	Local Scene • BVS Artist Spotlight
Page 32	The Pet Nanny

THE LOOP

Our next issue will be on stands: Saturday, Mar. 15, 2014

DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, MARCH 6

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THE LOOP has been East Kern's guide to entertainment and local news since 2001. It is picked up and read by over 10,000 readers (20,000 monthly) and delivered to over 250 locations, two times a month. Subscriptions are available for price of mailing.

EDITORIAL POLICY:

Opinions of *Loop* contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of *Loop* staff or management. All humor is strictly meant for fun and not intended to offend. All contents of *Loop* are the property of Hilltop Publishers.

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Shown above are Michelle Taylor and Ricky Perigrina rehearsing a scene in one of the 8 ten minute plays to be performed in this years up coming Playwright's Festival at the Beekay Theater. The Festival will run for two week ends. Show dates are March 7, 8, 14, 15 and a matinee on March 16. An annual Beekay favorite you don't want to miss! For more information, call Karl at 661-221-8864. Photo by Leslie Reynolds-Nuckolls.

Fifth Annual Playwright's Festival

Tehachapi Community Theatre presents its fifth Playwright's Festival, featuring eight world premiere plays competing for the coveted "Audience Favorite" award, voted on by audiences during the festival run, which begins March 7 at the BeeKay Theatre.

Forty-five plays were submitted this year from Los Angeles and Kern Counties. Although only nine originated in Kern, four of them made the finals. Plays are read "blind" by eight judges, four local and four out of town. None have access to the writer's name or locale.

Executive Producer Karl Schuck was well pleased. "This is one of the strongest groups of plays we've ever had. Lots of [plays not only had] fun stuff (many 10-minute plays had excellent jokes or tall tales) but also some good mature writing on engaging topics. Very hard to do in 10 minutes."

Schuck originated the idea for the festival and has served as Executive Producer for the past four. "Our original goal was to encourage local playwrighting, to entice new actors to appear in a safe environment and to develop new directors for TCT. It's been an astounding success in all three categories, and our biggest surprise is how popular it is with audiences. Folks seem to love seeing so many intense stories in short order, and then getting to vote for their favorites."

— **Five Miles That Way** by local writer Mark A Fisher, directed by Annette Kirby. The story of a youngster with fantasies of having a superpower. During an accidental meeting she learns that having such a power might not be all that good. Featuring Ali Whitlock and Phylis Belcher.

— **Homecoming** by southlander Nick Mata, directed by Michael Gruett. Two long estranged lovers meet up after several decades at their university Homecoming celebration. Lanie Ringle plays the student host, with Janet Lund and Brecca Loh as the alumni.

— Local Norm Haughness who competed in the very first Festival, is

represented this year by **Persuasion**, directed by Bert Roper. Persuasion presents an unusual take on a near-future dystopia, featuring Rick Gould, Lanie Ringle, Randy Kitt, Elmer Acevedo, Stephen Ringle and Michelle Taylor.

— Another local writer who has been represented in several festival programs is Dave Shacklock, this year presenting **The Drop Off** directed by Nick Altieri. This gem has a little mystery of its own, which shall not be revealed here. Players are Randy Kitt and Daniella Hernandez as parents to Mia Bonham and Liberty Shaub.

— Peggy Dougherty makes her first festival appearance as the author of **The Bus Stops Here**, with Valerie Provines taking her third directing assignment with players Rick Gould and Heather Simmons as a couple on the verge.

— Two couples are turned in unexpected directions during pre-dinner cocktails in Tanis Galik's **Surprise**, directed by Jonathan Hall. Bert Roper, Sue First, Tina Fisher Cunningham, Michael Gruett are the players.

— Leslie Reynolds directs a play by her childhood pal Brandi Centeno of Los Angeles, wherein we get a glimpse of what high school counselors must go thru to reach their students. Michelle Taylor, Mia Bonham, Ricky Peregrina and Sue First fill out the cast.

— Finally Michael Halperin's **Chestnut Trees** is directed by Alex Zonn. A one-hundred year old Russian emigree reminisces about life in the old country, performed by Festival Executive Producer Karl Schuck.

Performances are Fridays and Saturdays – March 7, 8, 14 and 15 – at 7:30 p.m, with a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday March 16, followed by the awards ceremony and an open reception at the Tehachapi Train Depot.

All seats are \$10, tickets available online at <http://www.tctonstage.com/> or Tehachapi Furniture or Johnny's Take 'n' Bake Pizza.

Festival staff includes producer Kenny Chugg, Lighting Designer Jonathan Hall, Sound Designer Mark A. Fisher.

Advice from Tehachapi Lawn & Garden

by Jack Potter, owner

Hopefully by press time we will have had some rain. That means the weeds and grass will grow this Spring. Around the end of March or early April we start getting busy with equipment repairs and service. If you have any equipment that needs service please bring it in before the end of March and take advantage of the winter rates. You will also get your equipment back faster.

Remember not to keep fuel in your equipment for more than 30 days if you have not used an ethanol additive. Water in the fuel and clogged fuel systems are the most frequent cause of engine problems. This is due to the 10% ethanol in the fuel we buy. Using a good ethanol

additive will keep your fuel useable for 4 to 6 months. Remember that the fuel in cans in the storage shed goes bad also.

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by Herb Kelley, owner

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The Loop's Real Estate Spotlight

See what's hot in Tehachapi's housing market

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Office: 661-822-8989 EXT 221 • BRE Lic#1280554

ACCESS REAL ESTATE

The Buck Starts Here

by Tammy Engel, Mortgage Advisor

It struck me as funny when a caller asked me, "So just who is this 'underwriter' person, anyway?!" He and his family are in the process of buying their first home and have run into delays in closing, due to the "underwriter."

Your loan officer is probably the person you have initial contact with when asking about a home loan. Their job is to screen you for what you want to accomplish and to suggest loan programs that might work.

The loan processor comes next and works with you to gather all the needed documentation for your loan application.

After that, your file is submitted to the underwriter. This is the most critical stage of your loan application, because the underwriter is the one who approves or denies your loan request. They are reviewing everything submitted to be sure lending guidelines are met. If they don't like what they see, get ready to provide more documentation to convince them to approve your loan.

In many cases, the loan officer does not have the experience or the skill to know what causes problems later, or maybe you've chosen to work with someone who will just "throw it all at the wall and see what sticks."

That's when you run into repeated requests for more paperwork, or repeat paperwork, and explanation letters, and copies of deposited checks, and a blood test, and your first born.

Tammy Engel has been working for your best interest since 1990. Contact her at 661/822-7325 for purchase, refinance, and reverse mortgage.

Mortgage Matters



Maybe you get your loan, and maybe you don't.

It doesn't have to be that way. The family we're talking about is just now finishing a five month escrow. Had the loan officer been more discerning, problems could have been discovered before the loan application was taken. A different kind of loan could have been used, and closing could have happened within a short time.

How can a consumer know what they're getting into? Of course recommendations from local friends and family are a good way to know what really happens with any given loan officer.

But there's also a national database managed by the Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System that will tell you how long a loan officer has been practicing. Google the term "NMLS Consumer" to access the site. For example, my NMLS number is 235051, and there you'll see my last ten years of work history, and the office I am licensed to represent.

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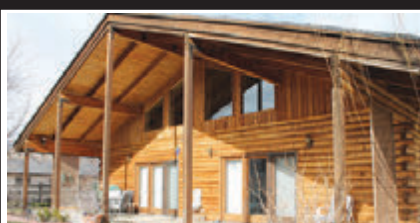


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Meet Your New Neighbors

by Pat Doody

Fran Riggs had many reasons to move to Tehachapi when she retired. Although she had been born in Kern County, she has not lived here for many years. She did, however, still have family in the area and she had always loved the mountain setting and the change of seasons so Tehachapi seemed a natural choice when it came time to retire and move from the crowded city environment of Fullerton.

Last fall Fran finally retired from 13 years as a buyer for the City of Fullerton. I was not sure what a buyer did but I found out. Over the years, she worked with the police department, the fire department and the Department of Homeland Security and had purchased much of their equipment including numerous vehicles, aircraft and even a helicopter. Prior to working for the city, she spent 30 years in banking. As a busy executive, she was responsible for Consumer Compliance which means that she was responsible for making sure that bank was in compliance with current laws. She has also done consulting and education in banking. Fran has always had a real interest in community-theater and is now looking forward to becoming involved with our local theater group.

Born in Bakersfield, she is one of eight children who were raised with horses in the central valley. Her father, who passed away two years ago, was the designer of the X15 fighter jet and an engineer on the B1 bomber. Her 86 year old mother still lives in Carson City, Nevada, where the couple had retired. Fran's siblings are mostly in California with the exception of a sister who lives in Washington. Her brother, Gordon, and his wife live in Bear Valley Springs so she sees them often along with their daughter who recently won an award at the Oral Language Festival.

She shares her cozy home with two very active characters, a Chihuahua-Schipperke named Li'l Guy Noir and a very vocal Amazon Orange-wing Parrot named Kermit. Welcome to Tehachapi, Fran! Your life here will not be dull.

Last November **Caitlin Roberts** returned

to Tehachapi from Arvada, Colorado with her husband , lan, and their four month old son, Liam. She had been home schooled here and had graduated from Monroe High School before moving out in the world. In Colorado she trained to be a dog groomer at Petsmart and this is the skill she has brought back to Tehachapi. She is currently working at the Grooming Spot and quickly building her clientele.

However, Caitlin is really a horsewoman. Her father was Air Force so she moved around a lot. Her mother trained horses and at one time trained race horses in Louisiana. It is not surprising that Caitlin took after her mom. She had her first ranch job at the age of 9. She said she was basically a "slave", taking care of whatever a horse needs. While still young, she exercised horses for trainer Dave Ferry in Tehachapi riding bareback. According to Caitlin, they called her a "sack of potatoes" because she just wouldn't fall off - "sort of like Velcro." At that time she had mustang named Shelby - Shelby Mustang. She loved the work and the riding. When she graduated from high school, she moved to a ranch in Texas and broke 2 year old colts for nine months. There she learned that working for a large ranch was not for her. That's when she moved on to Colorado.

Caitlin is now glad to be home. She currently rides a 14 year old Missouri Foxtrotter named Joey who is actually from Missouri. She has become a specialist in gaited horses and plans to get back to horse training in the not-too-distant future. Her mother is also in Tehachapi and still trains and teaches English style riding. Caitlin, just let me know when you're ready. I have a Rocky Mountain horse that could use your help. We're glad your back in Tehachapi.



Lent

by Pastor Nancy Bacon

- Each spring, the season of Lent encourages people to grow closer to God. Some people choose to fast, or give something up. It is also appropriate to increase some practice, like meditation or time in prayer.
- This year, our church will offer a program to increase kindness in our community: a kindness challenge.
- Will acts of kindness make any difference?
- Will we feel anything from it?
- Sadly, we see the devastating impact of

From the Pastor's Desk

random acts of violence, but random acts of kindness can easily go unnoticed. Yet, we do not know how one simple act of kindness may have prevented great violence or pain.



Take the challenge. Draw closer to the divine source of love, by practicing unearned kindnesses, and sharing your experiences with others at our weekly 5:30 Friday Soup Supper gatherings.

Lent and the challenge begins on March 5, with our Ash Wednesday Taize Service at 12:10 p.m.

Each Friday until April 18 we will gather in the evenings. On first Fridays, our program will be festive with bread and butter making in March, and native plant and worm adoption in April. The remaining Fridays we will gather to eat and check-in about our kindness practice, as well as hear from community leaders about community needs, and engage with music and activities for all ages.

May you feel the Creator close at hand, ceaselessly providing kindnesses to you.

Blessings,
Pastor Nancy

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Community Welcome Hostess

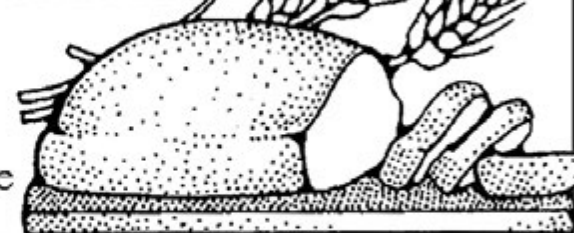
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"Jack taking a break with his ultra durable squeaking Kong Wubba while Simon stands guard with his trusty Chewber, always ready for action! These and many great dog toys are available at Canine Creek in Tehachapi." Photo provided by Canine Creek.



Heather Gibson and Rosemary Evans (right) answering questions the first graders have for Pharaoh and Rosemary Evans.

Have a Heart Goes to School

by Chelley Kitzmiller

On Thursday Feb. 20, Have a Heart Humane Society's Rosemary Evans (Thunder Paws Dog Training) went to Golden Hills Elementary School and talked to 125 First Graders about how to care for their dogs. Rosemary asked the children questions about what dogs need to live and nearly every hand rose to answer.

Pharaoh, a one year old Lab, who is being fostered by Fiona Nelson, for Guide Dogs of America, was also on hand. Under Fiona's skilled hand, Pharaoh helped the kids understand a guide dog's job. Pharaoh also provided instruction on how kids should approach a dog so they don't get bit. In seven months, Pharaoh, will be put into Guide Dog school, after which, if he passes his tests, he will be given of a blind person to help them live a more full life.

The children went home with goodie bags provided by Have a Heart Humane Society,

which included a video on pet training and tricks, a sticker on kitchen toxins that can harm pets, a coloring book provided by the ASPCA that teaches animal kindness and a guide on what to do if you find or lose a pet.

Have a Heart would like to thank first grade teacher Heather Gibson for putting the assembly together.

Many of Heather's students have written stories about adopted pets for Have a Heart's anthology, Touched By A Furry Angel, which will be published this year in trade paperback and ebook format and sold on Amazon.com to raise money for the rescue.

To learn more about becoming a puppy raiser for Guide Dogs of America visit www.guidedogsofamerica.org. To learn more about Have a Heart's mission here in Tehachapi, visit www.haveahearthumanesociety.org or <https://www.facebook.com/Haveahearthumanesociety>

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The Loop's 'Adopt A Pet'

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Mister

Mister is a 4-5 mos. Mixed Italian Greyhound Pup that is full of playful energy, smartness, happy heart and full loving spirit! Mister can be a glowing ball of happy puppy energy then be the perfect, loving and devoted snuggle bug! Mister needs an active, outdoor family with children and playmates who is puppy smart & loves to share happy love!



Charlie

Charlie is a 1 yr, Boston Terrier/Chi Mix male who is a true special little guy who is devoted to sharing his bonded, playful, happy heart with you and your playmates. There is something magical about Charlie how he looks at you sharing something magical wagging his tail so happily as if to say "you



know we're special together"! Charlie is great with other dogs, children, all families and all ages and is your best friend & devoted companion in all ways possible!



Rainbow Rescue is a no-kill 501(c)3 dog rescue located in California City specializing in puppy rescue. Your donation toward our high puppy vet bills will make their life rescue through our Paypal account to make their true life differences possible. Our available adoptable pets can be seen at rainbowrescuepets.com adoption page or private appointment by calling (760) 373-2907. So many sweet puppy kisses waiting to share with you!

Misu

Misu is a 5-7 yr. old Poodle X that we rescued from another rescue. We didn't think he'd make it; he was in such bad shape, but with a little care and love he's made a complete about turn. Misu is 80% blind because of an eye injury. He nips right after giving kisses, but we think this too will pass in time and discipline. He can't go to a home with children. Misu needs owners who will be patient and understanding with a dog who has been badly abused and neglected.



Allie



Allie is a 5-7 yr. old possible MinPin X. This sweet girl loves to play with her friend Shylan, and is a true cuddler. Allie was abandoned by her owner. She needs to lose a couple of pounds but who

doesn't? Allie would be a great dog for a senior home.

Gemini

Gemini is a young male Tuxedo who has fabulous markings. He is a confident, playful and very



affectionate kitty who will delight his owner. Gemi is also a special needs kitty, he is missing most of his hind foot, probably due to birth defect. He cannot go outside as he would not be fast enough to escape predators.



We're the proud sponsors of Tehachapi's Low Cost Spay, Neuter and Vaccination Clinics. Clinics are funded by donations and grants. Our goal is to make Tehachapi the first No-Kill community in Kern County. Spaying & neutering pets helps stop them from getting out and running the streets and it's the **only** way to stop the mass killing of pets in Kern County. 20,100 dogs and cats died needlessly in 2012! The clinics can only continue as long as there are funds to support them. If you're interested in donating toward a clinic, want to help our foster pets, would like to receive our fabulous newsletter, email haveaheart@bak.rr.com. We also invite you to visit our webpage at "<http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/CA1573.html>" or join us on Facebook.

Mona



Mona is a three month-old pit bull who was brought to the attention of Marley's Mutts by our friends at Panda Paws Rescue. Mona's front paws are "knuckled over", hence the thought that this is potentially the condition from which she suffers. We've been researching Mona's condition and sharing videos and pictures with doctors and specialists to see if they concur. And from what we've learned so far, we believe that Mona's condition is likely the result of poor diet and vitamin deficiencies. We are continuing to work with specialists

to determine a course of action for her treatment. She is set to see an orthopedist this week, and in the meantime, her x-rays are being studied by other specialists to be double- and triple-checked for anything we may have missed. Either way, Mona will soon be available for adoption! So keep your eye on our FB page for updates. And check out her bio on our website to fill out an adoption application: www.marleymutts.com.

Pink



Pink is a poodle mix, approximately one to two years old. This little rocker girl's personality is as colorful and dazzling as her fashionable sleeveless vest! When we saw Pink in her kennel at the shelter, she was literally dancing on her hind legs. Not crazily or desperately, but with bonafide rhythm! Once out from behind bars, she became incredibly cool, calm and cuddly. She immediately cozied up to her new foster family, and not two hours later, she/they were with us at Beale Library participating in Barks & Books! If you're interested in adopting Pink, please fill out an adoption application at www.marleymutts.com.



Marley's Mutts Dog Rescue

(a 501(c)3 Non Profit Org)

was created to find homes for dogs in high risk shelters that may not otherwise get a second chance at life.

Visit us online
www.marleymutts.com

The Loop's 'Adopt A Pet'



All Dobie SOS dogs are neutered/spayed, vaccinated, micro-chipped, and have received a veterinary exam. All adopted dogs come with one free bath at Canine Creek and one free grooming at Tehachapi Pet Lodge. You can see all of the Dobie SOS dogs waiting for homes at www.dobiesos.org. 661-886-1721 dobiesos@earthlink.net

Strider



Strider is a nice, medium-sized male with natural ears and a docked tail.

Strider was found running down a busy street in large city. He may have been running for awhile as his feet had sores, and he was sunburned.

He is a dominant male, likes people, and he can live with a large female dog as long as she is submissive.

He is athletic and has a medium-high energy level.

Exercise and consistent, fair, training will make a big difference to this boy as he seems to have been overly or unfairly corrected, which happens sometimes to dominant dogs.

Strider is crate-trained, and he was probably born in 2008.



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(Menu 2 Dogs / Menu 3 Cats); E-mail: contact@thestoppers.org
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(for monetary donations)

Splunky

Splunky is an adorable 6 month male Terrier mix playful puppy with a beautiful black silky coat (his brother, Rebel, is tan colored and also available for adoption). To adopt special Splunky in to your heart and forever home, wait no further: Call Aleshia, 661-750-1409, or Save Tehachapi's Orphaned Pets (STOP) at 661-823-4100, menu #2,



Petunia

My name is **Petunia**, I am an adorable, tiny 2 year young, 4 pound female Terrier mix with a fluffy white coat, good with kids, playful, and quite friendly. To meet and adopt perky Petunia and give her a well-deserved 2nd chance at life, please call Aleshia, 661-750-1409, or Save Tehachapi's Orphaned Pets (STOP) at 661-823-4100, menu #2,



P.K.

Porch Kitty (aka as "P.K.") is a playful 5 year young, 9 pound female tabby cat with a beautiful coat, who gets along w/the other 2 cats and dogs at her foster home. It is best if P.K. is in a quiet household and definitely be a house cat. If you are the special one to adopt this pretty kitty in to your heart and forever home, by all means, call Peggy or Michael at 661-823-4222.



Tehachapi Humane Society
661-823-0699
(select menu #5 for dogs & #6 for cats)
All animals are living with foster families and are only available for visits by appointment. Please leave a message and we will return your call as soon as we can.

Savannah

Savannah is a large, very dark chocolate point Siamese s/f 6 years. She was abandoned in the local high school and was scared at first and hid under the dresser. She was probably a senior's pet and something happened to them. She is very low energy and should probably be the only pet. She loves to be brushed and has beautiful blue eyes that are crossed sometimes. She is living in a spare bedroom right now because one of the other cats tried to start a fight and Savannah jumped on her and that was the end of the altercation. She is really a great cat. Very beautiful. This animal was placed as a public service. Contact us for more information.



Kandy

Kandy is a 2-3 year old white and tan Terrier mix. She is spayed, micro-chipped and current on all of her shots. She is house trained and crate trained. She walks on a lash and likes to go in the car. She gets along with her foster



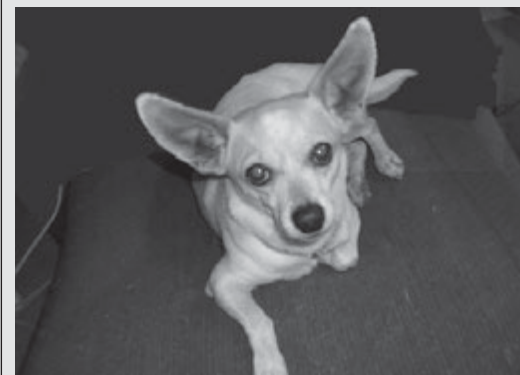
sisters, but we do not know about cats. Kandy is a very loving little girl but has to go to a single person home since she bonds to her person and is very protective.

Skittles

Skittles is a white and tan terrier mix, maybe with some Chi, who is spayed, micro-chipped and current on all her shots.

She is house trained, crate trained, good on a leash, and loves to ride in the car. She gets along with her foster brother and sisters and is good with children. She met a cat and was okay with it.

She is a very loving little lap dog looking for a great home.



Artist Nadiya Littlewarrior to Visit Antelope Valley Indian Museum SHP

Article provided by Antelope Valley Indian Museum. Photographs courtesy of Nadiya Littlewarrior.

Antelope Valley Indian Museum is honored to feature internationally recognized gourd artist Nadiya Littlewarrior (Potawatoami/Cherokee) on Sat., March 8, from 11 until 4 p.m. Visitors will have an opportunity to see the artist at work and ask her questions. Nadiya, who lives in Santa Clarita, founded Spirit Vessels Studio in 1993. Regarding her gourds, Nadiya says, "They are Spirit Vessels to me because The Creator makes the Gourd People and puts their spirit in them and I get to dress them with regalia."

Growing up in the South West Texas Panhandle, Nadiya's interest in art was nurtured by her mother, Lucille Ellis, who was herself an award-winning artist. It was here that she began listening and talking to Creator and Mother Earth for her inspiration. Nadiya studied art academically in Texas, Oklahoma, and California and pursued private studies with various artists. She has

been honored four times by the Citizen Potawatomi Nation for her work.

The museum is open from 11 until 4 p.m. Museum admission is \$3 for adults (cash only). Kids age 12 and under are free. The museum exhibits over 4,000 objects created by the American Indian peoples of southern California, Arizona, and New Mexico. Visitors also enjoy the nature trail, gift shop, and picnic area.

The museum is located at 15701 East Avenue M, in Lake Los Angeles, east of Lancaster, California. From the 14 Freeway in Lancaster, go east on Avenue K to 150th Street East. Turn right and go south for two miles to Avenue M. Turn left and go east on Avenue M for 1 mile to the museum. Please, no pets. For more information, phone the museum at (661) 946-3055 (711 TTY relay service), or visit our website at www.avim.parks.ca.gov. Join us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/AVIndianMuseum.



Camp Kiya Registration Now Open

by Deborah Hand

Registration is now open for Camp Kiya, the traditional family music camp that will take place from July 27-31 in Tehachapi Mountain Park. This will be the sixth year for the popular camp, which includes instructors and students from the local area as well as from other parts of California and the rest of the country.

Camp Kiya offers instruction in numerous instruments, as well as several dance forms and singing, from beginning to advanced levels. Children ages 5 through 12 will have their own program to explore different instruments, along with arts and crafts and the natural world of the mountains. Jon Hammond will be on hand to teach Kawaiisu crafts and history.

Instrumental instruction includes classical, folk and Celtic guitar; harmonica; Celtic, old-time and gypsy fiddle; cello; folk harp; mountain dulcimer; banjo; mandolin; bass; ukulele and penny whistle. Hula, Cape Breton Step-dancing, Belly dancing

and contra dancing will also be offered, as will vocal technique and harmony singing. A special focus for the camp is improvisation, learning by ear and jamming.

Campers stay in cabins, their own RVs and tents, or if local and they prefer, go home each night. Meals are catered from our local restaurants or cooked on-site. Evening activities include contra dancing, campfires and concerts.

The full fee is \$435 for adults, and \$385 for students 12 and over. Children ages six to 11 are \$285, and five and under are free. Discounts are available for paying with cash or check, for groups or families of four or more, and for getting the application in before April 15. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian to stay overnight.

Please check the website, www.campkiya.com, or call Mountain Music at 661-823-9994 for more information. Registration forms may be downloaded from the website or obtained by emailing campkiya@gmail.com.

Pizza Parlor and a Wurlitzer Organ?

by Shirley Given

What, you say? That has an incongruous tone, pun intended, to it. Well, Out 'n' About really went out and about in January. A train trip took me to Mesa, AZ, where there is a pizza parlor one would not want to miss. Known as the Organ Stop Pizza Parlor with great pizza, including gluten-free pizza which was quite good, also houses an enormous pipe organ.

The organ, touted to be the largest Wurlitzer in the world, was built for the Denver Theater in 1927, for the silent film industry. As talking pictures came about and the depression of the 1930s, it was rarely heard. Later, silenced completely by a fire in the Denver Theater, it appeared to have come to the end of its beautiful life. The Organ Stop Pizza Parlor purchased the instrument in the early 1970s. The rebuilding of Mighty Wurlitzer was a gigantic task and took close to five years to complete and eventually install in the dining room pizza parlor.

Over the years improvement and additions continued. In 1975 a building was erected to accommodate the Mighty Wurlitzer and designed for the enjoyment of the parlors patrons. Forty-three foot ceilings provide unequaled acoustics, with the Mighty Wurlitzer being "presented" on an 8,000 lb. rotating hydraulic elevator, in the dining room.

The console is an exact replica of a Fox Special French case, ornamented to match the famous Brooklyn Paramount Wurlitzer, the largest console designed by Wurlitzer. There are close to 6,000 pipes and the massive amount of wind required to operate the organ is provided by four huge turbine blowers.

Out 'n' About

There are 32 foot, wood diaphones (similar to reeds in wind instruments), 78 ranks and 17 tuned percussion's, including innumerable traps. Glockenspiels, drums, xylophones and various instruments are installed in the dining room for audience appeal.

Now the task at hand was to find accomplished organists to play the Mighty Wurlitzer. Charlie Balogh of New Jersey, Lew Williams of Louisiana and Donna Parker of Oregon are all professional organists and are amazing to hear and watch.

The patrons of the Organ Stop are encouraged to fill out request forms and everything from "Happy Birthday" to "Phantom of the Opera" were played by Lew Williams, the evening I was there. Watching and listening to him play, with no music, mind you, was a wonderful experience. He left you spellbound as you watched him work the numerous pedals, 276 keys and 798 stops and controls with ease.

The stop for a quick bite turned into a two-hour concert that ended with "The National Anthem" and patrons immediately coming to their feet, many with their hand over their heart and some singing. Inspiring, to say the least.

A road-trip to the southwest could take one to Mesa, AZ. If this should happen, look for the Organ Stop Pizza Parlor at 1149 E. Southern Ave. You will experience an evening, not soon to be forgotten.



Charlie Balogh playing the Mighty Wurlitzer at the Organ Stop Pizza Parlor in Mesa, AZ. Photo by Chris Odell.

Cal City Lions News

California City, CA - The Cal City Lions are happy to announce that there are now four locations for the Eye Glass Donation Boxes in California City. Boxes are now located at RPU School, the Mabel Davis Senior Center, American Legion Post 476 and City Hall.

We Serve! Cal City Lions are performing another community clean-up on Saturday, March 8, 2014. They will be continuing their efforts along Yerba Blvd. Anyone interested in joining them are asked to meet at the vacant lot next to the Cactus Market, at Victor Plaza at 8 a.m.

The Cal City Lions will be hosting the Zone Level Student Speaker Contest on March 15, 2014. It will be held at the American Legion Post 476 on Bay Avenue at 10 a.m.. The public is invited to attend and support these

young people as they deliver their speeches on the topic "Community Service — What Does it Mean and Why Does it Matter?". Micah Saylor, the winner of the Cal City Lions Speaker Contest will be joined by four other students hoping to advance to the Regional Contest.

In April, the Cal City Lions will be hosting the Lions Eye Mobile in California City. Look for more information to be provided soon.

The Cal City Lions meet on the third Wednesday of each month at the American Legion Post 476 at 6 p.m. Meetings last about one hour. More members are joining and we welcome anyone interested in becoming a Cal City Lion, to come to our meetings or contact Karen Nannery at 661-917-7757 for more information.



Yung Mee Rhee will perform with our Tehachapi Symphony in a free concert March 9, 2014

On Sunday, March 9, 2014, the Tehachapi Symphony Orchestra – under the baton of Dr. David Newby – will perform at Country Oaks Baptist Church beginning at 4 p.m.

The program opens with Grieg's Symphonic Dance in D Major, followed by Grieg's Piano Concerto featuring pianist Yung Mee Rhee. After the intermission, Schumann's Symphony No 1 in B-Flat (The Spring) will be performed. A reception will follow.

Yung Mee Rhee has been honored as the First Prize Recipient of the Indianapolis Symphony Young Artist Competition, Owensboro Symphony Young Artist Competition, Kingsport Young Artist Competition, the Bloomington Symphony Concerto Competition, and the Fischhoff Competition. She was a finalist in the prestigious Mozart International Competition held in Montreal, Canada. Other achievements include a Performance Certificate of Excellence in

Tehachapi Symphony

Solo Performance, awarded by Indiana University in Bloomington, and the Piano Battista Award. Yung-mee was a scholarship recipient of Indiana University's acclaimed pianist Menahem Pressler, the founder of the Beaux Arts Trio. Her teachers also include renowned pianist Michel Block and Francoise Regnat.

Yung Mee's accomplishments in the U.S. have included many esteemed recitals and concerts, both solo and with orchestra. She has performed as a soloist with the Indianapolis Symphony, the Owensboro Symphony, IU Concert Orchestra, Kingsport Symphony, the Lima Symphony, L.A. Chamber Orchestra, and the Korean-American Symphony Orchestra at Disney Hall. Yung Mee's musical career is further highlighted by the achievements of her students. She is an accomplished teacher with students winning prizes in numerous competitions every year, and guided many talented students towards a musical education and inspired them to continue their studies at outstanding conservatories and universities at Indiana University, The Eastman School of Music, San Francisco Conservatory of Music, New England Conservatory, University of Southern California, and Peabody Conservatory. She is a dedicated teacher and pianist who thrives on inspiring talented young musicians.

Don't miss the Tehachapi Symphony Orchestra and Yung Mee Rhee on March 9, 2014 at 4 p.m. at Country Oaks Baptist Church located at 20915 Schout Rd. Admission is free. For more information, call 661-821-7511 or check the website at www.tehachapiorchestra.com.

Tehachapi, Setting Records



Tehachapi donors were not satisfied with a 2013 record breaking year, so they shattered two records first thing in January 2014!

We registered 120 people and collected 98 units in just six-hours at our Jan. 7 Blood drive at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Then just days later, we registered 46 donors, and collected 37 donors in Stallion Springs on Jan. 11!

Both blood drives boasted the highest number of units collected at those locations ever! While it is great to thank

donors and celebrate these numbers that we should be proud of, the real value in this success is the increased number of patients we are able to help in our local hospitals!

Consider joining our lifesaving team of blood donors, and join us on Tuesday, March 4, for our community blood drive at The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church from Noon to 6 p.m.

For information about all of our other blood drives in and around Tehachapi, visit our website at www.hcbb.com.

Antje Duvekot and John Gorka at Fiddlers Crossing

Article by Deborah Hand-Cutler



Antje Duvekot

Mention John Gorka to anyone who has heard him and the response is immediate: "Where and when is he playing and how do I get a ticket?!"

The short answer is: Fiddlers Crossing, March 16, at 4 p.m., in concert with fellow singer-songwriter Antje Duvekot. For tickets call Mountain Music, 661-823-9994. And do it soon!

Among the acoustic singer-songwriters, Gorka is generally considered to be one of the brightest stars. His songs have been covered by Mary Chapin Carpenter, Nanci Griffith, Mary Black, Bill Morrissey and Suzanne Vega, among many others, and performed at Open Mic nights by many an aspiring musician. Whether it's a song about the "Land of the Bottom Line," "Italian Girls," or one sung from the point of view of a tree, Gorka offers wry, slice-of-life observations that put his college major in philosophy to good use.

Originally from New Jersey, Gorka attended Moravian College in eastern Pennsylvania in the 1970s, living in the basement of a small coffee house, Godfrey Daniels, and acting as resident MC and sound man. There, he was introduced to such songwriters as Stan Rogers, Eric Andersen, Tom Paxton and Claudia Schmidt, and began performing his own songs as an opening act. It wasn't long before he was traveling to play in New York City, Boston and the Texas Kerrville Folk Festival, where he won the New Folk Award in 1984. With his beautiful, soulful baritone voice and his original take on life in his songs, those top tier acoustic musicians who had inspired him soon became his peers.

Gorka now lives with his wife and children in Minnesota, and tours regularly in the US and Europe. He has just released his 11th album and has appeared on CNN, Austin City Limits, A Prairie Home Companion, Mountain Stage, FolkScene, and other TV and radio programs. www.johngorka.com

Artist Spotlight



John Gorka

On this tour, Gorka will be joined by Antje Duvekot (pronounced Aunt-ya Doo-va-cot) who will open the concert with a short set and then sing harmonies on some of his songs. Duvekot's own songs have been critically praised for their "hard-won wisdom, dark-eyed realism, and street-smart romanticism...with a mature sense of hope, growth, renewal and love." A native of Heidelberg, Germany, she moved to Delaware at age 13, where, lacking English, she struggled to assimilate.

Her songs recall her past, but also her triumphs. "The pain is built-in," she says, "but a lot of these songs are life-affirming. I have managed to save myself while staying honest about where I came from."

Duvekot now resides in Boston, and is often on the road, both in the US and Europe. She has won the John Lennon Songwriting Competition and the Kerrville Festival's Best New Folk award. www.antjeduvekot.com

Fiddlers Crossing is at 206 East F Street at Robinson Street, in Downtown Tehachapi. Tickets may be purchased next door at Mountain Music, and at Tehachapi Treasure Trove, Tehachapi Furniture in Old Town, and Lucky's Barber Shop. Tickets may be reserved and/or paid with a credit card by calling 661-823-9994. Tickets to the concert are \$20, and as always, coffee and goodies are included. The concert begins at 4 p.m. Doors open at 3:30 p.m. Check the website for updates: www.fiddlerscrossing.org, or friend Fiddlers Crossing on facebook.



**Thank you Denny's
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in Tehachapi & Mojave, CA

The God of War is on the Horizon

Article by Dale Hawkins

The old Roman god of war will be “marching” its way into our evening sky this month. (Yes, we do indeed call this month “March” because it was when the Roman Army could once again get on the move.) The planet Mars has been keeping a discreet distance from us for quite some time. It will finally start becoming prominent again in our evening sky this month. As March progresses, Mars will become an eye catcher, a dazzler in binoculars, a treat in a small telescope, and a rewarding experience in a larger one.

The earth is catching up to Mars as it does every two years and two months. Mars will reach opposition on April 8. Since the orbits of our two planets aren’t exactly circular (and because the planes of our orbits aren’t quite the same), we pass at different distances at each opposition. The distance varies from about 56 to 100 million km, about a factor of two. That means the apparent size of its disc can vary from about 13.9 to 25.1 arcseconds at opposition. Its maximum brightness also varies accordingly.

In 2003, Mars made its closest pass in 50,000 years! However, it is now nine years into a fifteen year cycle of far and close approaches. This spring Mars will pass a healthy 92 million km away and present us with a disc only 15.1” wide, but this will still be its best pass in seven years. It will become brighter than any star in the sky at magnitude -1.5 and compare most favorably to nearby Spica, a star famous for being almost exactly magnitude +1.0. It will also be quite noticeably red.

Mars begins the month of March below the evening horizon, rising in the east around 10 p.m. But it will rapidly rise earlier and grow brighter each night as the earth overtakes Mars on the inside of the track, as it were. By the end of March, it will almost become the brightest object in the sky at times. (In early April, it will be.)

Mars will certainly become the reddest object to the naked eye. Binoculars help bring out its color, but it takes a telescope to show Mars as a disc. On this pass, it will take a 150-mm/6-inch scope to see details such as the North Polar Ice Cap.

The best time for viewing will be toward



Curiosity continues to send us intriguing information from an ancient Martian lakebed. Photo courtesy NASA/JPL.

the end of March and into early April near midnight. Our weather and seeing should be improving by then also.

While you’re gazing at the Red Planet, keep in mind all of the robotic activity going on up there. NASA/JPL currently has two orbiters and two rovers examining Mars, and the European Space Agency has an orbiter working with us. The Curiosity rover continues to detect simple organic compounds in the dry lakebed of Gale Crater. While not all organics are biogenic, they are difficult to explain in the absence of life. Stay tuned! Maybe it’s time to get more excited about sending a team of humans to Mars.

Two more space probes are on the way. NASA/JPL’s MAVEN orbiter will study the Martian atmosphere to determine how Mars lost its water and atmosphere over time. MAVEN is flying in loose formation with India’s Mars Orbiter Mission. It is a very ambitious “technology demonstrator” mission designed to show (especially to their regional space revival China) that they have the technology to conduct an interplanetary mission. While scientific objectives are secondary, the probe is designed to add to humanities pool of data on the Martian surface and atmosphere. Both

probes are due to arrive in September. So far, so good. Let us look forward to welcoming India to a very exclusive club!

Dark Sky Watch

With such a mild winter, it’s hard to think in terms of spring coming so soon.

Yet, it officially arrives on Mar. 20 at 8:30 p.m.

Jupiter is still high at sundown, but Saturn is best seen in the early morning. Venus will be bright, but low in the east late in the month.

Sunrise/Sunset (Mar. 1) 6:23 a.m./5:50 p.m. PST (Spring forward Mar. 9)

Sky Watch:

Keeping an eye above the horizon



Will Your Investments Affect Your Child’s Financial Aid?

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Even though it’s only February, college financial aid officers are already gathering documents, crunching numbers and otherwise working to determine grants for the school year that starts this coming fall.

If you have children you plan on sending to college, how will your own savings and investments affect their chances of getting financial aid?

The answer depends not only on how much money you have, but also where you keep it. Most colleges base their aid calculations on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which currently counts up to 5.64 -percent of certain parent-owned assets in determining federal or state aid. By contrast, FAFSA counts up to 20-percent of a child’s assets, such as an UGMA or UTMA account.

What parent-owned assets are counted when determining a student’s need for financial aid? They include savings and checking accounts, non-retirement investment accounts and other types of assets. You do not have to report retirement accounts – such as traditional or Roth IRAs, 401(k)s and pensions – on the FAFSA.

However, if you start taking withdrawals from these accounts, the withdrawals must be reported on the FAFSA as student income for the year in which the transactions occurred – which means these withdrawals could affect your child’s financial aid package the following year.

A 529 plan, is one popular college-savings vehicle. If you own a 529plan, you will need to report it on FAFSA as a parent-owned asset. But when you take withdrawals from the 529 plan, they won’t be counted as parent or student income on FAFSA, and they won’t incur federal income taxes, provided the money is used for qualified higher education expenses. (If you don’t use the money for these expenses, you’ll be taxed and potentially penalized by 10-percent on the earnings.)

A 529 plan is counted as a parental asset on FAFSA, some people ask grandparents to own a 529 plan. But while the value of an intact grandparent-controlled 529 plan will be excluded from FAFSA, the withdrawals themselves will be counted as untaxed income to the student on the following year’s FAFSA,

and this money could certainly affect aid decisions.

At least a year before your first child heads off to college, you may want to contact the financial aid office at a local school to ask questions about FAFSA, scholarships, loans and other aspects of assistance. Since most colleges and universities follow similar rules regarding financial aid, you should be able to get some helpful answers, no matter where your child goes to school.

Of course, even with careful planning, your student may not qualify for financial aid. If this is the case, you will need to consider other strategies for paying for college.

Keep this in mind: It’s best to develop a savings strategy for both college savings and one’s own retirement goals. So, study the financial aid rules, consider investing in college-funding vehicles such as 529 plans and do whatever else you can to help get your kids through school, but don’t forget about your own needs – because they are important, too.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Financial Focus



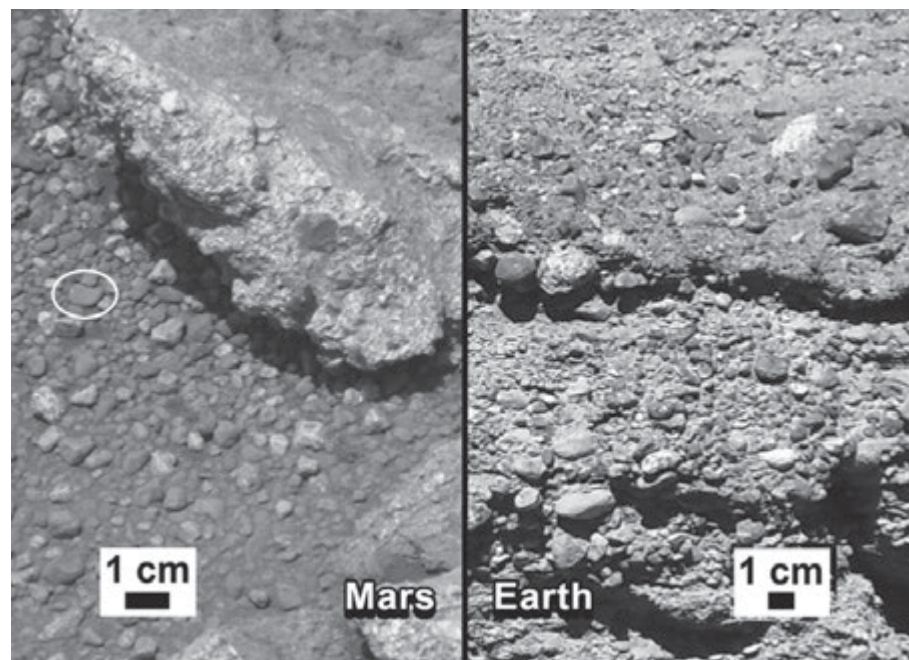
Ben Graham, Edward Jones Financial Advisor

Brite Lake Fishing News

by Dustan Hostetler

Water level at Brite Lake continues to rise, confusing fish as well as the fishing public. Morning hours remain successful for those utilizing Power Baits and worms. Fishing just off the bottom is yielding fish. Last stocking 2/4/14 and the week of 2/16. Lures have produced limited bass. Timely Tip: Use just a small split shot on 2-lbs test with #14-16 treble hooks.

Want to share your Brite Lake fish stories or photos? Email us at: britelakefishingreport@gmail.com. Also, mark your calender for the Fishing Seminar set for April 5 in the West Park Gym! Follow *The Loop* for up to date Brite Lake fishing news.



Sedimentary rock found on Mars looks a lot like rocks made in water here on the earth. Photo courtesy NASA/JPL.



Ben Graham
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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Shadow and Clancy's Struggle

by Zach M. Skow, Executive Director, Marley's Mutts Dog Rescue

It was a frigid December morning in Ridgecrest, CA, when Kern County Animal Control Officer Ashley got a call that chilled her to the bone.

A couple hiking off the beaten path in the desert had come across a wire crate with three big dogs inside. Two of them were alive, shivering from both cold and fear. The third dog lay lifeless between them. Shotgun shell casings and swerving tire tracks surrounded the abandoned cage.

Temperatures had dipped below freezing the previous night, so it wasn't clear whether the dog had died hypothermia or something else. Either way, Ashley knew she must act quickly to save the other two dogs from the same fate. She put them in front of the heating vent in her car and took them to safety.

The two dogs, whom shelter staff named Clancy and Shadow, were transferred to Lake Isabella Animal Shelter, where I picked them up the following day.

When I met Shadow and Clancy, they were more shaking, petrified souls than dogs. They knew nothing but fear. After hours of steady coercion I was able to get them out of their kennels and walking on leashes. They came to understand in that if they put their trust in me, everything would be okay.

We loaded up in the Motor City Mutt Mobile and made our way to San Joaquin Veterinary Hospital to have the dogs examined. They both had what appeared to be superficial flesh wounds, but Clancy was x-rayed to be sure there was no further damage. When his x-rays came back clean, the vet assumed that both dogs' injuries had been inflicted by other dogs, and that they would heal physically in no time.

After a week of close supervision by vet staff, both dogs were released to begin their journey of psychological and emotional healing. Clancy went to his foster home in Bear Valley; Shadow came to my place, so that we could address the anxiety she had begun to show around other dogs and people.

Both dogs' rehabilitation began. Clancy's foster family worked tirelessly to teach him that he didn't have to be afraid and hide, and could open up with them and his canine foster siblings. Meanwhile, Shadow ran with me, hiked with the pack, and learned to tolerate – even to like and play with – the other dogs.

After being my Shadow for weeks, our girl was adopted by a wonderful man named Robbie. This was an especially magical pairing because Robbie had recently been released from prison after 12 years of incarceration. A reformed and gentle soul, Robbie was looking for a friend with whom he could continue his own spiritual rehabilitation. He found his soul mate in Shadow. Undoubtedly, these two would walk a peaceful path together, back into a world that once had shown them only violence.

After a few weeks of blissful bonding

It's A Dog's Life

between Robbie and Shadow, Robbie called me, and with controlled panic in his voice said, "Bro, I don't know what to do. Shadow is coughing up blood." We immediately sent Shadow to the hospital for x-rays and blood work. The x-rays revealed what we had feared (but was overlooked) in the beginning: Shadow had been shot. And she had a bullet lodged in her chest. When the following morning came and her condition had worsened, the Mutt Militia kicked it into high gear!

Holly and Rick – a couple of our most dedicated foster parents – volunteered to fly Shadow from Lake Isabella to as near to LA as possible, while I reached far and wide over the phone. I spoke with Eldad Hagar, a friend and well-known animal rescuer from southern California, (who was in

Israel at the time), Jillian Dunn from the Cesar Millan Foundation, Dr. and Mrs. Grossman, Amanda from Panda Paws Rescue, and the list goes on.

Everyone wanted to help, and help they have!

We located a hospital that is primed to deal with the kind of emergency surgery Shadow would inevitably need, albeit incredibly expensive. We got a Fundrazr.com page up and running, plastered it all over the social-mediasphere, and generous pledges from across the globe started pouring in.

I was en route to Bakersfield from down South, and so flipped U-turn after the Grapevine and headed to Agua Dulce Airport. I met Holly, Rick and Shadow on the tarmac, swapped our burned puppy, Chance, for Shadow, and hit the road at the speed of Life! Less than 45 minutes later, we arrived at VCA All Care Animal Hospital in West Los Angeles, where our brave girl would be seen by a leading specialist who was well qualified to help save her life. And by early the next morning, she and her team had removed a .40 caliber slug from Shadow's body, along with a portion of her lung.

Against all odds, including a severe bleed

during surgery, Shadow survived. She stayed at VCA receiving round-the-clock care for three more days. Robbie arrived every day when the doors opened, and didn't leave until visiting hours forced him out.

The imaging, 24/7 care, specialist consultation, medications and surgery will cost north of \$15,000 and we are still asking for help.

Not only do we need donations, but we want to spread Shadow and Clancy's story far and wide...to raise awareness of Kern County's abandoned and abused animals. Also to inspire people and restore others' faith in humanity. As that is what these dogs – their stories, their particular challenges, and their loving souls come back to life – have done for us!

To donate to Shadow's medical bill fund, please visit <https://fundrazr.com/campaigns/chTM2>.



ABBYS PHOTOGRAPHY

Take Heart. You Can Control Some Heart Attack Risk Factors

There are major risk factors that significantly increase the risk of a heart attack, according to the American Heart Association. Some factors, including your age, sex and heredity (including race), are things over which you have no control. This makes it all the more important to manage those things that can be changed.

The major risk factors for a heart attack that you can control include: being a smoker; having high blood pressure; having high cholesterol; being overweight and/or obese; a lack of routine physical activity and having high blood sugar due to insulin resistance or diabetes.*

Once you identify your risk, your next step is to make a plan to adjust those factors that are within your control.

Signs and symptoms of a possible heart attack:

Heart attack symptoms vary from person to person and not all signs of a heart attack begin with chest pain. In one National Institutes of Health study, one-third of the patients who had heart attacks had no chest pain and were more likely to be older, female or diabetic. For both men and women*, the most common warning symptoms are: Chest pain or discomfort. Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes, or that goes away and comes back. It can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain.

Upper body discomfort. Symptoms can include pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, shoulders, neck, jaw or upper part of the stomach.

Shortness of breath. May occur with or without chest discomfort.

What to do in the event of a heart attack. Call 9-1-1! Do not drive yourself. An ambulance is the safest way to get you to the hospital and emergency medical services can begin life-saving treatment en route. They

Palmdale Regional Medical Center

also can take the patient to a STEMI-receiving center that's certified by the American Heart Association.

Palmdale Regional Medical Center (PRMC) is a certified STEMI-receiving center. STEMI stands for ST-elevation myocardial infarction, the technical term for a severe heart attack. Emergency responders know that they need to transport heart attack patients to a STEMI-certified center because they have the technology and experience to provide immediate interventional treatment within a cardiac catheterization laboratory. PRMC has two cardiac catheterization labs.

Additionally, PRMC offers a full range of services for the diagnoses and treatment of cardiovascular disease, performed by a team of highly skilled, dedicated medical and surgical professionals. PRMC's cardiologists coordinate care with other healthcare team members, including the surgery and emergency departments, and ensure that their patients receive the care that's tailored to their individual needs.

* – National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

CTA:

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- Cardiac imaging

If you or someone you are with experiences symptoms of a possible heart attack, don't wait. **Call 9-1-1 immediately** so treatment can begin on the way to the hospital and the ER can prepare for the ambulance's arrival.

For more information about our cardiac services and to download a **FREE** Heart Attack Survival Guide, **visit PalmdaleRegional.com/heart** or visit the American Heart Association's website at **www.heart.org**.

Your doctor can refer you to a cardiologist on our staff or call Direct Doctors Plus®, our free physician referral service, to schedule an appointment: **1-800-851-9780**.



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Helen McAllister at Treasure Trove

submitted by Susanna Monette

This Mar. 7, Friday evening from 5 to 8 p.m., Tehachapi Treasure Trove will again celebrate our First Friday FunFest.

You're invited to come see our ever changing displays full of art, crafts, collectables and art supplies.

Helen McAllister will be the featured artist for March. Helen is a historical painter and will display photos and paintings depicting the local gold and silver mining days.

The photo was taken at Randsburg in June of 1918. The Red Cross nurses were raising money for the war effort. The dancers were from Venice Beach. The Bakersfield paper stated that they were Taxi Dancers and the miners paid "A Dime a Dance".

The quick step was a dance where the male would "back er up" and taxi his partner

across the dance floor and back again. They would do a kick, shuffle and begin again. Oh what a kick to watch.

You're invited to The Treasure Trove on Friday, Mar. 7 from 5 to 8 p.m. for our First Friday event. There will be some lively entertainment and refreshments. The art work is currently on display. Come have a glass of champagne or wine and join the fun!

Tehachapi Treasure Trove is located at 116 E. Tehachapi Blvd. Tehachapi, CA, right across the street from the water tower in Railroad Park. TTT hours are daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Sundays 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.).

For additional information on any of our activities, classes and events, please call 661-822-6794 or visit www.facebook.com/TehachapiTreasureTrove.

First
Friday



Helen McAllister with her Taxi Dancer painting and the vintage photo that inspired the piece. Photo provided.

TVAA Marches in Local Artist Chris Paschke

by Shirley Given

Tehachapi Valley Arts Association is thrilled to feature local artist, Chris Paschke of Designs Ink Art, for the First Friday event, Mar. 7 at Gallery 'n' Gifts.

Paschke's love of calligraphy and letters began when she took her first calligraphy class as her final college elective before graduation. She stated she was then hooked for life. Interesting how decisions such as deciding on an elective in order to complete our course of study, seeming of little significance, at the time can take us down a path that has such profound influence on the rest of our lives.

Her professional affiliations are with the Sumi-e Society of America, Friends of Calligraphy of San Francisco, International En-caustic Artists, Professional Picture Framers Association and the Fine Art Trade Guild in the UK.

Her passion for letters and their emersion into her fine art was nurtured during her studies under several master calligraphers and type designers, such as Friedrich Neugebauer and Gottfried Pott. "I received structure and precision from the British teachers but surprisingly enough my freedom came from German influences.

Integrating the written word with my love of abstraction and texture is where I have ended up today," stated Pascke.

Paschke continued with "As I have learned from my Asian studies, the white blank page is already a completed piece of art, hence the minimalism that is often seen in my work. The enso, or nothingness, is always the best place for

me to begin. I may have the concept of the quotation I wish to integrate into the piece, but the work tells me what to do and where to go as it evolves."

She feels she has been greatly influenced by inspirational artists such as Kline, Pollack, Motherwell, Rothoko, Warhol and O'Keeffe.

In 1915 Georgia O'Keeffe wrote: "I began with charcoal on paper and decided not to use any color until it was impossible to do what I wanted to do in black and white. I believe it was June before I needed blue." Paschke says she still works in black and white and now brown and gold, also.

First Friday at Gallery 'n' Gifts is where it is happening.

Come chat with Chris Paschke and learn more about the process she uses in her work. Remember the hors d'oeuvres will be scrumptious, as always, and the atmosphere welcoming.

Gallery 'n' Gifts is located at 100 W. Tehachapi Blvd and is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., daily and 5 to 8 p.m on First Friday, every month.

For further information please call 661-822-6062.

First
Friday



"Blue Fate" by Chris Paschke



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New Exhibit at Tehachapi Museum

by Charles White

For March First Friday the Tehachapi Museum will open a new exhibit on the Fickert Family in its Tehachapi Families Case. Two other recent exhibits will continue. Dr. Terry Warsaw's collection of marbles, including ancient pottery, stone and minerals, early German glass, and more contemporary American glass will be on exhibit, along with information on how to play marble games. Growing up in the Los Angeles area, he loved playing marbles; as he grew a little older, he switched to collecting. His large collection includes both vintage and modern machine made marbles, and many books about marbles. His favorites are the handmade marbles.

The other recent exhibit showcases pottery made by Hazel Kanstein, wife of Lew Kanstein, a former mayor and co-owner of the BeeKay Theatre. Hazel Davis came to Tehachapi as a schoolteacher sometime in the late teens or early 1920s. She met and married Lewis Kanstein, known as Lew, who came to Tehachapi just before World War I to work for the

Tehachapi Fruit and Land Company and later worked for Kern County as the agriculture inspector for this area. At their home on Green Street, Hazel operated a nursery and sold her pottery.

The slab-constructed pottery, in muted earth tones with artistically created embellishment of naturalistic designs, has a timeless quality that spans several centuries and could easily be contemporary. It is owned by Sally Lange Liebel Errecart, a lifetime resident of Tehachapi who was born and lived next door to the Kansteins, just a block down from the Museum. Some of the pottery now belongs to her daughter Carlyn Liebel Grantham. It was brought back to Tehachapi especially for this exhibit.

Join us from 5 to 8 p.m. on the first Friday of each month for appetizers and wine at 310 S. Green St., a short walk from the many downtown galleries and shops that participate in First Friday. Regular Museum hours are Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from Noon to 4 p.m.

First
Friday



Dr Terry Warsaw describes the history of part of his marble collection as he assists in installing the exhibit.



Sally Errecart points out details on the unusual pottery made in Tehachapi by Hazel Kanstein, now exhibited at the Tehachapi Museum.



Dave's Auto Repair is Under New Ownership, and they celebrated their Grand Opening/ Ribbon Cutting on Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2014. Congratulations to Audrey Post, Lydia Chaney and Lucky the Shop Dog with Tehachapi Chamber ambassadors Tina Rubidoux Larson and Kathleen Kline; Chamber directors Claudia White, Tammy Wallace, Jim Wallace and Chamber President Ida Perkins at Dave's Auto Repair. There was a great crowd to give the new owners a tremendous welcome to Tehachapi.



Ryan Rush, Field Representative for Supervisor Zack Scrivner presented Lydia Chaney and Audrey Post new owners of Dave's Auto Repair with a Certificate of Congratulations at their Grand Opening/ Ribbon Cutting on Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2014.



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Auto Insurance and You

Is there anything I can do to lower my auto insurance bill?

Yes. Insurance companies base auto insurance rates on a variety of criteria, such as your age, driving record, residence, and even the type of car that you drive (though factors vary from state to state). If you find that you're paying more than you think you should for auto insurance, there are ways you can lower your premiums.

• **Shop around:** Auto insurance rates vary from company to company, sometimes significantly. As a result, a good way to save money is to look into whether another insurer offers the same coverage at a lower rate.

• **Consider raising your deductible:** For the most part, the higher your deductible, the lower your premiums. Before you raise your deductible, though, you'll want to be sure you can cover the out-of-pocket expense should an accident occur.

• **Eliminate unnecessary coverages:** For example, if you have an older car, it may make sense to drop your collision and comprehensive coverage since a claim paid by your insurance company may be minimal and might not exceed what you'd pay in premiums and deductibles. Or, maybe you are paying your insurer for roadside assistance coverage that you already have through a separate road and travel club membership.

• **Consider changing the type of car you drive:** The type of car that you drive directly impacts what you pay for insurance. Typically, newer, higher-priced cars and sport/high-performance vehicles cost more to insure than used/lower-end models.

• **Check for discounts with your insurer:** Depending on your circumstances, you may be eligible for one or more auto insurance discounts. For example, your insurer might provide discounts to those with a safe driving record or to those who insure more than one car with them.

One final note: Don't be tempted to save money on your auto insurance by lowering your liability coverage limits (although state minimums do apply).

Having less than adequate amounts of liability coverage can expose you personally to claims for other people's losses – which, in the case of a serious accident, can be significant.

My teenage daughter just got her driver's license. Will my auto insurance rates go up?

The short answer is: yes.

Anytime you add an extra driver to your

policy, your rates will increase. However, you may end up paying even more when you add your daughter to your policy, since teenage drivers are some of the highest-risk drivers on road.

According to the most recent statistics from the National Transportation Safety Board, teen drivers have represented less than 7-percent of the driving population but have accounted for more than 13-percent of drivers involved in all deadly crashes. (Source: National Transportation Safety Board, October 2013)

Fortunately, there are some steps you can take to help make insuring your teen a bit more affordable.

• **Take advantage of policy discounts:** Your first step should be to ask your insurer if your teen qualifies for any policy discounts that are specifically designed for teens. For example, many insurance companies offer discounts (usually around 10- to 15-percent off of premiums) for teens who complete a driver's education course, obtain a certain grade point average, or participate in a safe driver program.

• **Consider the type of car your teen will be driving:** Typically, new cars are more expensive to insure than older ones. As a will increase. However, you result, you may want to consider purchasing an older, less expensive car for your daughter to drive. You may even be able to save more money by forgoing collision coverage on an older vehicle.

• **Consider whether an individual policy makes sense:** In the future, circumstances may arise where it may be more affordable to insure a teen under his or her own individual policy as opposed to listing him or her as an insured on your policy (e.g., he or she gets into an accident or has numerous motor vehicle infractions). When the time comes, ask your insurance agent to help you run the numbers to see which option is more affordable.

• **Be sure to shop around:** You'll want to take the time to compare the rates offered by different insurers. Insurance company rates vary widely, so it often pays off in the end to do your homework.

Please call me to find out more information, Jennifer Williams, President J. Williams Personal Financial Planning: 413 S. Curry St, Tehachapi, California Office Phone 661-822-7517 Office Email: jennifer.williams@npbfg.com Jennifer is a Registered Financial Consultant. She has over 20 years of experience in the industry.

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Jennifer's Thoughts...



Jennifer Williams

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Rev. Gatlin receives gift of appreciation as husband, John Gatlin, looks on. Picture by Nick Smirnoff.

Pastoral Changes at TCC Church

Rev. Karen Gatlin gave a farewell sermon to the congregation of Tehachapi Community Congregational Church recently. She has been serving as transitional pastor for almost two years and is now moving on to other pursuits. She leaves the church in good hands because Rev. Nancy Bacon has accepted the position of permanent pastor. The two pastors have been working together for many months so it is an easy transition for the church.

Rev. Karen brought new ideas and renewed enthusiasm to the church. She helped the congregation rethink its goals and organization. The church has found new ways to help those in need and to contribute to the community. Under her leadership, worship has become more meaningful; the buildings and grounds

have been improved; fellowship has been strengthened. The results of her efforts have brought a deeper spiritual awareness and increased attendance.

On her last Sunday at church, Rev. Karen was compared to Mary Poppins who just popped in and made everything better. In fact, Rev. Karen was given an umbrella when she exited down the aisle as the congregation sang, "Let's Go Fly a Kite."

Following the worship service, a lunch was served in Friendship Hall followed by musical entertainment. Many people expressed their appreciation for Rev. Karen and her husband, John Gatlin. Both have done so much for the church, and endeared themselves to the congregation. They will be sorely missed.

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The Forde Files

Business conference at Mojave space port soars

No. 65



An XCOR Aerospace kiosk stands on the stage at the end of the massive new Stuart O. Witt Event Center at the Mojave Air and Space Port as 1,000 attendees at the Antelope Valley Board of Trade 42nd Annual Business Outlook Conference fill the floor. Two giant video screens flank the speaker (center left).

By Tina Fisher Forde

The Antelope Valley Board of Trade Annual Business Outlook Conference ventured for the first in 42 years into Kern County, and the county emerged as a star.

"The most rapidly growing economy is Kern County," economist Christopher Thornberg told the 1,000 attendees. "Folks, you live in a boom town. This is great!"

Kern County, he said, has construction, retail, good local government and abundant energy resources. In Los Angeles County, he said, "The hotels are on fire."

Kern County 2nd District Supervisor Zack Scrivner served up the good news about Kern County:

No. 5 Metro in the U.S. for upward mobility (National Bureau of Economic Research, Jan. 2014).

Top 20 Best performing U.S. metro (Milliken Institute, Dec. 2013)

No. 3 Strongest-recovering areas in the U.S. (Brookings Institution, Sept. 2013)

No. 9 Engineering jobs per capita (Forbes, July 2013)

No. 4 Region for STEM jobs (science, technology, engineering and math), (Brookings Institution, June 2013)

Scrivner spoke of Kern County's \$1.3 billion tourism and film revenue, Tehachapi's wine industry, the visioning projects of unincorporated Boron, Rosamond and Mojave and the \$40 million

annual wind energy property taxes.

The Mojave Air and Space Port itself took center stage, as CEO and General Manager Stuart Witt led off the array of speakers with a story about the new event center in which the conference was held. The building, constructed with soaring beams, had been a gigantic pool for training Marine aviators during World War II, Witt said. During refurbishment of the old building, he said, workers found that pilots had written their names on supports and walls. One of the messages



Tehachapi attendees at the Antelope Valley Board of Trade Business Outlook Conference Feb. 21 at the Stuart O. Witt Event Center at the Mojave Air and Space Port, (l-r) Greater Tehachapi Economic Development Council President Nikki Cummings, City of Tehachapi Outreach Coordinator Michelle Vance, Hilltop Publishing owner and immediate past chair of the Greater Tehachapi Chamber of Commerce board of directors Claudia White, Tehachapi City Council member Mary Lou Zamudio. Others in attendance from Tehachapi were Community Development Director David James and Tehachapi Valley Recreation and Park District Manager Matt Young. The building, in the 1940s, was a huge pool where Marine pilots trained. The conference was the first event in the building since it was refurbished and named in honor of Witt.



Left, featured speaker Mark Kelly signs his book. Right, Paul Allen's 385-ft. wing span Stratolaunch Systems, being built in Mojave by Scaled Composites.

Right, Zack and Christina Scrivner stop at the Mojave Chamber of Commerce booth.



Kern/Tehachapi area elected officials speaking at the Antelope Valley Board of Trade. (left to right), California 23rd Congressional District Representative Kevin McCarthy, who is the House of Representatives Majority Whip; Kern County Supervisor 2nd District Zack Scrivner; and California 18th District Senator Jean Fuller (Image of Sen. Jean Fuller from Fuller's website).

from the past was dated 1944. Witt sought to track down the pilot who had trained there so long ago, discovering that he had been killed in action in 1945.

Keynote speaker astronaut Capt. Mark Kelly, USN, Ret., skillfully wove his – often funny -- flying experiences into personal revelations about the shooting that almost took the life of his wife, U.S. Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords.

Kelly described the sensation of being sent into space inside a Space Shuttle orbiter, sitting atop millions of pounds of rocket fuel on the launch pad. Six seconds before liftoff, he said, the huge bolts in the launch pad explode.

"It's like the hand of God coming down and yanking you off the planet."

Kelly, who ventured on four space walks, said the shuttle, which would glide from the middle of the Indian Ocean to a landing in Florida, made a good rocket ship "but it's a lousy airplane...the Space Shuttle glides about

as well as this podium."

His wife's advice, he said, is, "Be bold, be courageous, be strong and be your best."

Scaled Composites Kevin Mickey that he is proud to be part of the explosive growth of the aerospace industry in Mojave, where 160 companies and 3,000 jobs are creating and innovating.

"I'm watching the world change before our eyes. In the next hundred years, they'll write about what's happening here.," Mickey said.

Other speakers included Denny's Corporation President and CEO John Miller, Lancaster and Palmdale mayors, California 21st District Sen. Steve Knight, KB Home Executive VP Tom DiPrima, sSolar CEO John Van Scoter and Virgin Galactic CEO George Whitesides.

In the Antelope Valley?

The Greater Antelope Valley Economic Alliance (GAVEA), for purposes of commerce and more or less geography, defines the Antelope Valley as a triangle that extends from Lancaster and Palmdale north to Ridgecrest, then southwest across the I-5 to a point south of Bakersfield and southeast back to Palmdale. The triangle embraces all of east Kern County, including Tehachapi, California City, Mojave, Rosamond, Boron and Edwards Air Force Base.

Shedding light on local issues.

Articles and photos by Tina Fisher Forde
FisherFordeMedia.com
fordefiles@aol.com © Tina Fisher Forde 2014



HOSPITAL: PREPARING FOR THE BIG QUAKE

Construction of the Tehachapi Replacement Critical Access Hospital is "slightly behind" schedule after issues with a slab-on-grade concrete pour in one section of the medical-surgical wing stopped the project for two weeks. Project Manager Stacey Pray told the Tehachapi Valley Healthcare District board of directors Feb. 26 that the contractor removed what she said was a "poor quality pour" and poured new concrete. "It was a concern but we put their feet to the fire," Pray said. "Everybody else is doing an excellent job." Pray said construction is costing \$1 to 2 million a month.

Budget reconciliation

2004 bond measure, approved budget Jan. 2013, \$15 million; proposed budget \$16,762,976; actuals through Jan. 14, 2014, \$16,122,496; anticipated remaining, \$640,480.

2009 bond measure, approved budget Jan. 2013, \$50 million; proposed budget, \$50 million; actuals through Jan. 14, 2014, \$5,117,868; anticipated remaining, \$44,884,132.



These photos of the Tehachapi Replacement Critical Access Hospital, taken Feb. 27, reveal the massive amount of structural steel in the building. Each connection is welded by hand and inspected immediately by an on-site inspector. Under strict California building codes, the structure must be able to withstand an earthquake of 8.5 magnitude. Top right, admissions, entry wing. Center, the heart of the building. Top right, cement is covered for 10 days and kept wet so it can cure properly. Large photo, the view southeast from the hill above the site.

Photos by Tina Fisher Forde

Bond totals

approved budget, \$65 million; proposed budget, \$66,762,976; actuals through 2014, \$21,240,363; anticipated remaining, \$45,522,613. Funding, other sources, \$631,215.

Forde Shorts



A family at Lake Ming, Bakersfield



Ski chalet or police station?

Tehachapi's new police headquarters at 220 W. C St. is emerging from the shell of an old garment factory like a graceful butterfly. The wood-beam entry is designed to carry the city's mountain theme. The large expanses of bullet-proof, tinted glass and metal ridged roof give the building a light, contemporary air. Security fences have been installed around the parking lot. The city is completing the process of running communication wires underground from City Hall (and the existing police station) five blocks away. The top photo shows neighbor Don Field, who walks by to check out the construction every day. The state-of-the-art law enforcement building will feature a community room and interview rooms.

Ag rates up

The Tehachapi-Cummings County Water District board of directors proposed a hike in agriculture water rates to match M&I rates for the irrigation season, perhaps longer.



City removes dangerous old elms

By Charles White
President, Tehachapi Heritage League

said that the average life span of

such trees is 65 years; these had survived

for more than 80 years. During the past six years, several large limbs have fallen, knocking out power to nearby homes. Other large limbs have fallen into the street and would have caused great damage to autos or pedestrians, had they been in the area at the time. When they were cut, the many hollow limbs showed evidence of extensive rot and deterioration.

The city of Tehachapi and the museum board of directors made the decision to remove the trees, which will be replaced with red maples. In a few years, the street and museum again will have a leafy canopy in spring, summer and fall.



A part of Tehachapi's past disappeared last week with the removal of three large elm trees in front of the Tehachapi Museum. The trees were planted around 1932, shortly after the Tehachapi Branch of the Kern County Library was built at 310 South Green Street.

An arborist who examined the trees

Above, Chris Tree Trimming employee cuts an aged elm tree in front of the Tehachapi Museum, Feb. 26, 2014. Top right, same day, all gone. Right, the red maples planted at the Errea House across the street two years ago, the same type that will be planted in front of the museum. Above and right photos courtesy of Charles White.



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The Greater Tehachapi Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with Coggno.com, is happy to announce a new service. We are now offering a selection of online training courses for purchase directly from the Chamber website. We've hand-picked courses that we feel are relevant to our businesses and their employees, covering topics in Human Resources, Compliance, Business Management and much more.

All courses will be available on-demand, 24/7, and administered through an employee's workstation. When purchasing the courses through our site, you will also receive a free Learning Management System, or LMS. This tool makes it simple to distribute, monitor, and report on all your employees' training. The training courses are specifically designed to address many of the issues around risk and liability faced by businesses today, as well as develop the skills of your employees.

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Looking for a specific course not listed, give us a call as courses can be added to fit your needs.

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Deadline Looms,
Positively**

I don't know anyone who likes a deadline, yet like it or not, one looms just a month away – March 31 is the last day of the Affordability Care Act (ObamaCare) open enrollment.

It's also the last day for those of you who aren't currently covered by health insurance to avoid an IRS penalty, but those facts are negative

Let's take a look at the positive.

If you currently have no health insurance, for the next month you'll be able to get health insurance without concern for pre-existing conditions – and there's a good chance you'll be assisted with your premium.

For instance, if you're a single parent of 30 with two children below 18, and an annual income of \$30,000 a year, you'll get a PPO plan that pays 87% of all your family's medical bills for only \$101 per month. Your doctor visits would be only \$15, and the same for lab tests while your children would qualify for free medical care.

Let's take a look at a family of four, a husband and wife in their late twenties with two little ones. Their family income is about \$35,000. They can insure their entire family with a PPO plan that would only cost them \$107 per month and would cover 94% of their medical bills. There would be no deductible, doctor visits and lab work would be \$3.

There is another deadline looming

**Healthcare
Reform Answers**

by William Kritlow

as well. If you get your application in by March 15, you will be covered by April 1, those waiting until after the 15th will be covered May 1. In any case, it's best to act earlier rather than later. The closer to the deadline you come, because of system overload, the more difficult the entry process.

Speaking of that process, here's how to make things happen.

Step 1: Email billkritlow@gmail.com with the ages of everyone in your household, your estimated adjusted gross income for 2014, and your zip code if not in Tehachapi.**Step 2:** You'll get the available plans and numbers as quickly as they can be generated.**Step 3:** Fill out the application that's sent you.**Step 4:** Return the application as soon as you can by FAX, email, mail, or, if in Tehachapi, I'll pick it up.**Step 5:** I fight the system and get the application into the system for you and return to you all necessary information for you to pay your first month's premium and get things going for you and your family.

Don't wait. Act now.

*William Kritlow is a licensed life, health, and P&C insurance agent
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and health condition-related restrictions
may apply. See pharmacy for details.

Dealing with the IRS: Innocent Until Proven Guilty

In our capacity as Certified Public Accountants and Enrolled Agents, our office has had the delightful opportunity to deal with the Internal Revenue Service and the California Franchise Tax Board regarding client notices from taxing authorities.

When a taxpayer receives a letter that states something like, "We have determined that you owe us a bunch of money", their tendency is to just get out the checkbook and pay the amount the taxing authorities say is due. After all, they are the government, they must be right, and we don't want to mess with them because they can hurt us with penalties, interest, intimidation, etc.

The interesting thing we notice when our clients bring us such letters, is that quite often the government is wrong. That being said, unless you have good records to show the taxing authority they are wrong, you do owe the tax they assert you owe them.

The taxing authorities' philosophy is, in essence, you are guilty until you can prove they are wrong, which runs contrary to the basic premise in our court systems that we are innocent until proven guilty. So how do you protect yourself from the often incorrect assertions of the taxing authorities? The best way is to keep good records of your financial transactions.

In an audit, or tax inquiry, if you cannot demonstrate you are right, you are presumed wrong.

It matters not that it is unfair, it only matters that unless you can prove they are wrong, you lose.

What is worse, if they can prove your negligence or disregard for governmental rules and regulations, or if you have substantially understated your income, they have the ability to tack on a penalty equal to 20-percent of the tax you underpaid, so they can charge more interest on the higher balance you owe them. Not very nice is it?

One of the best and easiest ways to shift the burden of proof in income tax matters is to keep good records of the sources of your income and tax deductions. In an audit or examination, the IRS assumes all money passing through your banks or investment accounts is income. So if rich Aunt Martha left you \$20,000 when she died

Your Tax Preparer

provided by D.R. Moats & Company

or you transferred \$5,000 from savings to checking, it would behoove you to document that, otherwise it becomes "income" they will desire to tax. It is not their responsibility to prove the money going through your accounts is not income; that responsibility is yours. If you are prepared, ye shall not fear.

Similarly, keep track of your tax deductible expenses, such as medical expenses, property taxes paid, the deductible portion of car license renewal fees, charitable contributions, union dues, and unreimbursed employee expenses. Keep records for the cost of investments purchased, and anything that may be taxable if you sold it.

For those of you who have businesses, keep your business income and expenses separate from your personal income and expenses. The best way to do this is to keep a separate checking account for your business, and keep a record of transfers between the business and personal accounts. The presumption is that items in the business account are business related, and those in the personal account are personal. If you are audited and you have business and personal items mixed together in one account, the auditor is not going to want to sort them out, and will most likely deny your assertion that the expenses you claim are deductible are legitimate. If you want to be treated as a legitimate business, act like one.

Keep your personal and business expenses separate. An easy way to further substantiate the difference between personal and business expenses is to have separate charge cards for personal and business (if you purchase things on credit), then pay the credit cards out of the appropriate business or personal checking accounts.

If you have personal and business expenses combined on one credit card, or paid out of one combined checking account, you are placing the burden of proof on yourself to prove the legitimacy of the business expense. If you consistently keep the business and personal separated and can show it, you have demonstrated intent to comply and it is much more likely an auditor will focus on the business account and not worry about going through your personal items.

The Big Five-0

by Cathie Sibley

Well it's happened; I've made it to the middle, the top of the hill, the big five-o.

Today is my fiftieth birthday. It seems strange to say it out loud...or in my head for that matter.

I was thinking yesterday, my last day of being forty-nine about the things I've learned in the last fifty years. Here are a few of them.

Sometimes being friends is more important than being right.

Possession really is 99% of the law. Life is better with a best friend.

Money won't make you happy and the overwhelming desire for it can make you very unhappy.

Don't take more than you need because someone else may need some too. If you must continually apologize for your behavior, you should probably change it.

People never change for someone else, they only change for themselves.

There are far more kind people in the world than there are mean ones.

Being generous is far more rewarding than being selfish.

Coloring with Crayons is fun no matter how old you are.

There is beauty and goodness in everyone, sometimes you have to try a little harder to find it.

Being inpatient doesn't speed anything up... ever.

Sometimes you just gotta go

Taste of Italian

with the flow cause paddling upstream is exhausting.

The serenity prayer really works.

You never learn from someone else's mistakes, you only learn from your own.

Just because a love doesn't last forever doesn't mean it wasn't real.

There really is a fine line between love and hate.

Sometimes ya just gotta let go. Sometimes we treat the ones we love the worst.

A hug always makes you feel better. Forgiving is easier than you think.

Sometimes you injure yourself doing nothing at all.

Life doesn't get easier as you get older; it always has it's ups and downs.

You never have all the answers.

You don't need to know the reason for everything.

Gravity wins.

I hope I learn as much in the next fifty years as I did in the first fifty, but I hope some of the lessons are a little easier. Unfortunately, from my experience, easy lesson is an oxymoron.

Peace and blessings to all and may your life lessons be easy to learn.





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WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to credit cards.

STREA

Answer: Rates

Guess Who?

I am a singer and actor born on March 2, 1962 in New Jersey. My band peaked in the 1980s, but has been "Living on a Prayer" for more than 20 years. I am married to my high school sweetheart and have 4 kids.

Answer: Jon Bon Jovi

SUDOKU

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

1	2	3	4			5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13		14				15			
16					17	18				19			
20						21				22			
				23		24				25			
26	27	28	29				30						
31							32						
33									34	35	36	37	38
				39	40	41		42	43				
		44	45					46					
	47						48						
49					50			51		52	53	54	55
56					57			58					
59					60				61				
62					63					64			

1. Plant anchor
5. 13th Hebrew letter
8. Microelectromechanical systems
12. Number system base 8
14. Doctors' group
15. Greenish blue
16. Sent by USPS
18. A Communist
19. Southern swearword
20. Get free
21. North northeast
22. Uncommon
23. Commit anew
26. Lion, goat & serpent
30. Irregularly notched
31. Lessened
32. Constitution Hall ladies
33. Fidelity
34. Mother of pearl
39. Help
42. Arouse passion
44. Avoid
46. About roof of the mouth
47. In a very soft tone
49. Periodic publications (slang)
50. __kosh b'gosh
51. Rouse from sleep
56. El Dorado High School
57. Golf ball stand
58. Tranquil
59. Pear shaped instrument
60. Anger
61. Raja wives
62. Dashes
63. Cardboard box (abbr.)
64. Human frame (slang)

1. Italian capital
2. Organization of C.
American States (abbr.)
3. About organ of hearing
4. = to 100 sene
5. Champagne river
6. Improved by critical editing
7. Amber dessert wine
8. Indian plaid cloth
9. Equalize
10. Guillemot
11. Of sound mind
13. Irish elf
17. Makes tractors
24. Father
25. Bachelor's button
26. Vacuum tube
27. Of she
28. Wedding words
29. Em
35. Pie _ _ mode
36. Feline
37. Sandhurst
38. Snakelike fish
40. Crackbrained
41. Last course
42. Indicates near
43. Indian given name
44. Ordinal after 7th
45. Young women (Scot.)
47. "Taming of the Shrew" city
48. Luster
49. Conflate
52. Person of Arabia
53. Lotto
54. Children's author Blyton
55. "Untouchables" Elliot

Elvira

by Pat Gracey

We all, on occasion, make a visit to a cemetery and in this time period we find most of them well maintained and lovely. In years past Tehachapi had no perpetual care and both the eastside and westside cemetery locations were in a sad state with weeds overgrown and a real danger of snakes, because of this situation many of the older Tehachapi pioneers are buried in Bakersfield; the families having been unwilling to place their loved ones in such a state of disrepair. There are several small graveyards in the surrounding valleys but through the years two most prominent burial places for Tehachapi were the "Catholic Cemetery," on the west end of town and the "Protestant Cemetery" to the east. They were both "religiously" segregated (pun intended) and the denominations strictly observed. This tradition was common in small town America well up into the first part of the Twentieth Century. In 1949 the Tehachapi Public Cemetery District was formed with both areas being renamed Eastside and Westside Cemeteries with religious barriers eliminated. Today I visited the Westside and of course made my usual visits but picked up the dates I needed for this article.

It's been a few years, perhaps ten that I got a call from the secretary at St. Malachy Church. They wanted me to talk to a man who was searching for a baptismal record or death notice of his baby sister, Niña Elvira Felix, who died as an infant in Tehachapi during the approximate years 1929 to perhaps 1933. The church baptismal and death records showed nothing. Our local cemetery had no burial records for that time period due to a fire in a home where the information had been kept and no gravestone had been put on the baby's grave to help identify her, because of the fire there were some 200 graves not accounted for; just little markers saying "unknown" if there was no tombstone to identify who lay beneath. Relying on people's memories, some graves were identified but not many. I checked the old Tehachapi News at Beale Library; nothing about a baby dying. The Bakersfield Hall of Records did record the baby's birthdate as 1933 but I found no death record at all. I guess as a detective I would definitely not make the grade for Elvira's brother, later did find a death record; also, 1933. Still, the problem of the location of the grave was to

The Spirit of Tehachapi

be solved.

Mr. Felix, the infant's brother, was a high school teacher in Delano. He told me on the phone that his baby sister had died in her first year and the family, living in Tehachapi, had been too poor to provide a gravestone. The little girl, he said, had starved, not from neglect but from what is now known as lactose intolerance; something that can be handled today but not so much in 1933. Years later, when the aged mother died at age 82, her last wish was for her son to place a stone on the baby's grave in the Tehachapi cemetery.

He was at a loss as how to fulfil her last wish not knowing the location of the grave. I told him I would call around to the vintage citizens of the community to see if anyone remembered anything about the baby dying and where the grave might be located. No luck. Finally, a friend suggested I call Margie Owens (of Kelcy's Restaurant fame) with whom I had gone to school and who had been raised by her grandmother, Ernestina Leiva Yorba. Margie said, "Oh yes, I know where that baby's grave is. My grandmother used to tell me about a little baby who was buried there."

The elated brother made arrangements to meet Margie and I in the Westside Cemetery. We three arrived just minutes apart and chatted briefly then walked to an area where the older graves are located. Alas! Margie had the correct spot, over by the north fence, but there were two little unknown grave markers side by side. Margie said, "Well, this is definitely the spot but I cannot say which grave is your baby sister's."

Mr. Felix, in a moment of decision, said that not knowing which of the two was the correct grave, he would have a stone bench erected on that spot by the two graves with Elvira's name engraved on it. I visited the bench today to get the birth and death dates: May 18 - Oct. 19, 1933. She lived only five months. His mother's last wish had been granted thanks to Margie Owen's recollection and to the actions of a loving son who kept his promise.

Rest in peace, little Elvira!



Letting Go

by Mark 'Doc' Fisher

As you're reading this some of your fellow Tehachapi area residents are getting ready to put on a show. Actually eight shows. That's right, it's time once again for Tehachapi Community Theatre's Playwrights Festival. Starting March 7 and going through March 16 at the BeeKay Theatre TCT will be doing world premieres of eight 10-minute plays.

These plays were selected from 45 that were submitted at the end of last year. Four of the plays selected were written by Tehachapi Playwrights (Yes, one of them was mine.).

The directors were selected from a pool of volunteers and auditions were held. As always with the festival there are both regulars and newcomers to be seen.

The particular play I wrote this year, well, it was actually originally written to be submitted to another festival, but when it was done I was too proud of it and didn't want to send it across the country where I would never have a chance to see it, so instead I kept it here.

The judges picked it out from the rest. (Names aren't on the plays as the judges read them, so they don't know who wrote which one.)

The last few weeks have been tough on me. Through rumor on the street and a few posts on Facebook I've gotten hints as to how the play I wrote is being done.

It's not the way I would have done it, but you see, that's the thing about writing plays.

A novel, poem, or story and such are individual acts of creation (Okay you could collaborate, but still it's at most a few people involved), but a play well that's different.

There is not only the overlay of a director's vision, but also the interpretations by the actors. If the play was performed again in a year, there would be a different director, different actors and a different result.

A playwright has to learn to let go. I've stayed out of the production of my play. I think that it's the right thing to do.

The play has to move on and be nurtured by new people and given its chance to shine without me hanging over it.

I have confidence that it's going to

Lost in the Stars

turn out well. Even if it isn't quite the story I thought I wrote. I have had people that have read my poems tell me what they thought I was writing about, and I've been surprised at some of the things they've said. I never even thought about it that way.

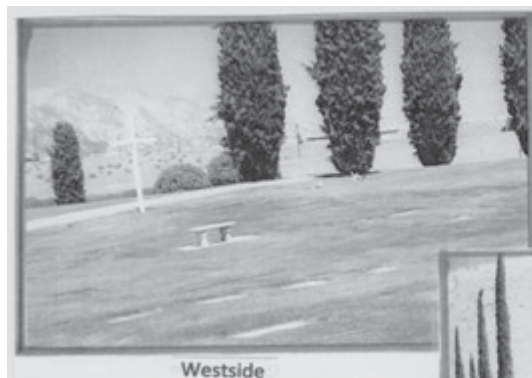
That's the thing with getting a chance to see my play from another person's point of view.

I'm likely to come out and see the play and find that the director has found things already in the play that I didn't even realize that I put in, and I love when that happens.

Come out in March and go see the plays that were selected this year; and like every year at the festival, you'll have your chance to say which ones you liked.

The top three in audience votes get extra prizes (extra since being selected is a prize already). Come out and see the plays and encourage these playwrights that it's okay to let go and watch their plays grow.

If you would like to let me know what you think, send me an email at mathnerde+loop@gmail.com or you can comment on my blog at <http://mathnerde.blogspot.com/>. If you would like links to additional information, please visit my blog.



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Police Chief Mike Grant (far right) details his Strategic Plan to the Stallion Springs Board of Directors and a full house of residents. Photo provided.

What’s Up in Stallion Springs?

Police Chief Mike Grant presented his 2013 Year in Review report and Strategic Plan for 2014/2015 to support and sustain the department to the Stallion Springs CSD Board of Directors at its Feb. 18 meeting with over 60 residents in attendance.

Grant also responded to a number of questions raised by residents concerning the police leaving the jurisdiction to assist other police departments and how they reciprocate by covering for, and assisting our department. He also reviewed the extensive work and on call hours put in by the officers and reciprocal agreements with other local departments.

The Strategic plan goals include:

- To reduce the amount of on-call hours by hiring a part time police officer.
- To reduce time being used for administrative duties by starting a Citizens Service Unit/ VIP program.
- To increase coverage by continuing our reciprocal agreement with Bear Valley and the Kern County Sheriff’s Department.

• To reduce crime opportunities and maintain the quality of life for residents by the apprehension of criminals and fighting eyesores in the community.

Grant said, “I’m really going to be challenging every one here, everyone in the community to help us fight crime and eyesores in the community.”

John Martin discussed the current drought conditions in California and how it would impact the greater Tehachapi area. Martin said, “This is the worst statewide drought in California history.

“The state water project allocation is zero percent, and it will not change unless the state gets considerable rain and especially snow fall.

“Be mindful of how you use water this year.

“Try to conserve where you can. There a major water conversation program will get started this year which will include rebates for toilet replacements to more efficient ones.”

Garrison suggested everyone look at their past use and shoot for a 20% reduction, “Right now, the board is not making anything mandatory, but please try to cut back. We’re not in a crisis here but we still need to do our part.”

In other action the board approved the annual weed abatement plan and approved the establishment of a pilot

program of a Community Garden by the 4H on CSD land immediately behind the pool. Further information on the garden will be made available in coming weeks.

The next board meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. March 18 at the CSD Administration building. General Manager Mary Beth Garrison reported the installation of additional reflector posts on corners plagued by fog and the CERT team will be assisting in freshening up the paint on faded street lines throughout the District. Faded STOP signs and about a dozen missing or faded or missing street signs will be replaced.

Garrison also reported that Director Dave Burt, who was in an automobile accident on Jan. 5 breaking his leg and his back, is doing remarkably well. He is walking with a walker and it is anticipated he will be back at the board meeting in March.

Plans are in the works for a spring Earth Day clean up event on April 26. Bulky household items, e-waste, and metal will be accepted. A shredder will also be available for document shredding.

Parks and Recreation

The Annual Chilly Dip takes place at 11:30 a.m. on March 8. Come out and jump in the pool or just have a bowl of chili. The event is a fund raiser for the Parks and Recreation department.

The next Houchin Blood Drive will be on Saturday, March 15 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Stallion Springs Community Center.

The next movie night in the Corral room is scheduled for March 21. The movie will be Frozen, there is no cost for the movie.

The CSD also offers open Volleyball, fitness classes, Open Gym, Men’s Basketball, Kids Crafts, Family Skate Nights, and scrapbooking classes. Contact the CSD for further information.

The Police Activities League (PAL) will have its first Open House on March 22. New to the area or ever just wondered what Stallion Springs PAL has to offer? What other Community Services groups there are in the area? There will be booths for robotics, Judo, CPR class sign-ups, Apple Box Derby, co-ed basketball and more! We will be inviting the other Stallion Springs Community Services groups to participate in our Open House; POA, Parks & Recreation, 4H, and other local organizations.

Daily Comics

by **JOHNNY HAWKINS**

“Don’t worry, it’s a controlled burn.”

Get more daily comics, look under “Fun n Games” tab at www.TheLoopNewspaper.com

Powered by **TinBu**

Stallion Springs

Chilly Dip

4th Annual

Saturday, March 8th

@ 11:30 AM

Make a splash this March at the **4th Annual Chilly Dip!**
That’s right, we’re taking a plunge in the pool to raise funds for recreational activities!

Who:

You, your kids, your friends, your family - it’s loads of fun for a good cause!

What:

A quick dip in the Stallion Springs swimming pool!

When:

Saturday, March 8th @ 11:30 AM.

Where:

At the Stallion Springs Community Swimming Pool - “The Pond”.

Why:

To combat winter blues, raise funds for the Parks & Rec Department and have some fun!

Cost:

Register, in advance and the price is ten bucks (\$10) for a dip in the pool, a T-shirt and a warming Chili Boat. It’s \$15 at the door. (Non-jumpers can buy a tee shirt and/or chili boat the day of the event!)

PRIZES for the BEST COSTUMES and PRIZES for WINNERS of the GAMES at the pool!

You need to know how to swim. Lifeguards will be on duty.

Register in advance at the Stallions Springs Community Center or at the CSD office.

Kids, under age 14, must be accompanied by an adult.

Take the plunge for fun - it’s a great way to support parks and recreation in Stallion!

The Potato Shed?

by Bruce Gripkey

Earlier this week my son, Chris, called and invited me to have lunch with him.

Seems that these days, or Tuesdays to be precise, lunch at the Apple Shed involves all you can consume BBQ and Buffalo wings along with their soup and salad bar.

This did not take much persuasion on his part.

Plus, I am finally old enough to get senior discounts. (I will never forget the utter feeling of despair when I received that first fateful piece of mail from AARP many years ago.)

While sitting at the table downing wings and salad, my mind began to wander and before you know it, I was transported back in time, trying my best to imagine this place as something other than what we have come to know and enjoy as a quaint place to install a meal.

Sitting there next to the railroad tracks for the last seventy years or so, our shed has seen quite a lot of history.

In the late thirties, the United States as well as many other countries adversely affected by the great depression, began to see signs of relief.

In the Tehachapi Valley, agriculture was booming, markets across the country needed what we grew and farmers needed seed to grow their own crops.

Having access to two major railroads that could move products in every direction on the compass put Tehachapi in the agricultural catbird seat. Jake Jacobsen and his brother Rolf needed to get not only their own crops to these markets, they also answered the needs of many other ranchers in the valley when they constructed what is now the Apple Shed in the latter part of the depression.

As I sat there looking around at this aging building, I could imagine trucks loaded with bushels and bushels of various produce pulling up to the front loading dock doors to unload.

You could almost feel the myriad of ancient wheels of heavy handcarts digging into the wooden floors as they scurried about.

Looking up I saw the specially designed roof joists that allowed for a large, open working space without the need of extra support columns, strong enough to hold back the snows of the worst winters. There is a model train running around in those joists now, a

testament to our town's railroad heritage

This was a packing shed and if you look over the entry door you will see one of the original Jacobsen Produce burlap bags.

Imagine how many of thousands of these bags were loaded by hand, one after the other, into railroad cars.

At dawn, as the sun climbs into the sky over Sand Canyon, the great wooden doors would roll open to signal the start of another day.

A string of boxcars, reefers or hoppers, depending on the day's schedule, were standing ready to be loaded.

As the doors opened, a rush of crisp, cool mountain air filled the packing crew's nostrils as they began to load the cars, one hand truck load at a time. Refrigerated cars for anything perishable, hoppers were loaded with seed and grain and non-perishable produce was loaded into boxcars.

Once upon a time, fueled by a contract with the government, this shed and the hard working crew would load out 50 carloads of potatoes a day. That's a lot a French fries.

Over the span of the following half century, the packing shed would twice burn down and be rebuilt, survive the flood of 1945 and the earthquake of '52. Jake Jacobsen would become the Mayor of Tehachapi and be involved in city government.

Our junior high school bears his name. John Nunes of Nunes Ranch sold the shed in 1994, and it began its current duties as a restaurant, bakery and museum of sorts a year later.

The next time you find yourself in the Apple Shed, look around at the worn wood floors, the roof joists and the old wooden doors. Imagine the thousands of railroad cars that left here loaded with goods from our valley that found their way to markets to the east, west, north and south.

Go on a Tuesday, the wings were delightful.

Train of Thought



New Wave of Gold Mining

by Susan Wiggins

I found an article that my mother Marion Deaver wrote in August of 1974 about the price of gold going up and regulations relaxing, and I thought about the Golden Queen Mine, just south of Mojave.

In the article my mother interviewed Glenn Settle, owner of Tropic Gold Mine, west of Rosamond. President Gerald Ford had just approved legislation that would allow U.S. citizens to buy and sell gold.

In 1974 the hills that rise above the valley in East Kern were mostly quiet, but some like Settle, hoped that those hills would bustle with activity, as they did in the 1800s as miners worked hard to find their fortune in "them thar hills."

Settle and others at that time were taking a "wait and see" approach to see if the then new legislation had any impact on the price of gold.

Settle said that the price of gold would have to rise to "at least \$200 an ounce" to pay him to begin mining operations again at Tropic. (Today, as I write this, the price of gold is listed at \$1,319 per ounce, and it is down from earlier markets. It is a far cry from Settle's hope of \$200 per ounce.)

Tropic Gold Mine had not been in operation since 1956, and more than \$8 million in gold had been taken out of the mine prior to its closure. Settle noted that there was very little gold left in the main tunnel.

Settle and his wife Doreen found another "gold mine" at Tropic when they turned the site into a gold camp and museum, with other old buildings moved there for others to visit. Thousands of visitors from around the world visited the gold camp and took tours to the mine tunnel and "glory hole" at the top of Tropic Hill.

Most of the other mines in the area between Mojave and Rosamond, including the Golden Queen, Cactus Queen, and Silver Queen had water in their shafts and it would cost too much to pump them out and make them operational again, Settle said in 1974.

Another mine owner, Al Pauley owned the Whitmore Mine, located three miles south of Mojave, and was skeptical of the new law helping mining in East Kern.

He said that there was only one mill

left and it was at Tropic, so most would have to ship their ore elsewhere to separate the gold from the slag.

"It can take up to a ton of ore to produce one ounce of gold," he explained.

There is a new wave of gold mining getting ready to become operational just south of Mojave, however. The Golden Queen Mining Company, Ltd. It is in the midst of construction on Soledad Mountain.

Work began in July of 2013 and is expected to be finished this month, according to a December, 2013 press release issued by Golden Queen Mining.

Some of the construction included access roads, and site preparation for a workshop and warehouse. The company is working on finding the best dust suppressant for the area once production starts.

The company is not looking at deep mining in the mountain, but a gold-silver, open pit, heap leach operation that is fully permitted, according to owner Lutz Klingman, president of the operation.

The Soledad Mountain Project will use conventional open pit mining methods and the cyanide heap leach and Merrill-Crowe processes to recover gold and silver from the crushed agglomerated ore.

Over 8,300 tons of ore was mined by others there in the late 1950s. Those of you who have read my column recently remember the stories of two women who lived on Soledad as part of their childhood. At that time there was no mining to speak of taking place on the mountain.

At one time in the late '70s to early '80s the Cactus Queen, south of the Gold Queen, had a mining operation going for gold and silver.

I am sure that if Settle and some of his other old mining friends were still alive they would be amazed at the price of gold and the modern mining techniques which make the type of mining at Soledad possible.



A Page of History

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Community Happenings

Free Tax Return Preparation Offered by AARP

AARP offering free tax return preparation. Tax preparation that's free, individualized and no strings attached. AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteers are trained and IRS certified each year to ensure their knowledge of revisions to the U.S tax code.

Taxpayers received \$1.3 billion in refunds last year. By using AARP Foundation Tax-Aide, these low to moderate income taxpayers also avoid preparation fees and pitches for high-interest tax credit or refund loans. AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is offered in conjunction with the IRS. Appointments are required.

Please call 661-823-0825 to make an appointment.

New Members for the Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Tehachapi Library is looking for more members for this support group for the Tehachapi Branch of the Kern County Library. This group runs the On-Going Book Sale and the periodic Big Book Sales. Funds raised by these sales pay for quality programming throughout the year especially the summer reading program. The Friends pay for the rental books, supplies and refreshments, 65 magazine subscriptions. The Friends group members are available to assist the library staff in other activities they may need.

Our group is currently small and we need additional people to support our activities. The group meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the library at 3 p.m. Contact the Tehachapi Branch Library (661-822-4938) for more information about this group and how you can get involved.

Tehachapi Mountain Quilt Guild Meets Mar. 3

The Tehachapi Mountain Quilt Guild's next meeting is March 3, at the Bear Valley Church hall, 26180 Plateau Way, at 9:30 a.m.

Any and all quilters and those interested in quilting are invited to attend.

The cost for guests is \$5.

We are pleased to announce that one of our members, Claudia Blodgett, will be our speaker for this meeting.

Claudia is the owner of one of our

Free Computer Class for Adults, in Mojave

submitted by Rick Gillenwater, Principal

The Kern County Regional Occupational Program (KCROP) will offer a free three month Beginner to Intermediate Computer Course in Mojave starting Tuesday, April 8, 2014. Students will be ushered into an introduction of the Microsoft Office software programs, including Word, Excel and PowerPoint and will be shown fundamental and intermediate computer techniques. Also, Internet basics, photo downloading, important programs to utilize and emailing techniques will be taught. Students that pass the course will receive

March Events at Tehachapi Library

- Preschool Story-time: Fridays at 10 a.m.
- American Sign Language: Mondays. Teens/Kids at 4:30 p.m., Adults at 5:30 p.m.
- Adult Creative Writing: Saturday 3/1 and 3/15, at 10:30 a.m.
- LEGO Club (Ages 4+): Saturday 3/8, 3/22, at 2 p.m.
- Adult Genealogy Workshop: Saturday, 3/8 at 10 a.m.
- St. Patrick's Day Music Show (All ages): Saturday, 3/15 at 1 p.m.
- Ebook/EAudiobook help is available on Saturday by appointment only. Call 661-822-4938 to schedule.
- Computer Coaching is available on Wednesday by appointment only. Call 661-822-4938 to schedule.

Bear Valley Springs Soccer Register Now

Bear Valley Springs soccer has begun registering players ages 4-16. Cost is \$60 per player. An early-bird discount of \$10 per player will be given for all who register before Feb. 18. Non-BVS players will pay an additional \$20 and must be sponsored by a BVS resident.

Mandatory player evaluations will be held on March 22, with opening day on April 12.

Season ends on June 28. For more information contact BVS Sports Director Matt Martz at 661-821-6641 or mattm@bvsa.org.

Weekly Storytime

Enjoy Storytime every Thursday afternoon from 3:10 to 4 p.m. at Darlene's Real Swell Toys.

Children of all ages are welcome. Darlene's is located at 103 W. H St. in Downtown Tehachapi.

Tehachapi Senior Center Weekly Activities

Lunch is at Noon on Weekdays
Bingo Closed Until April 1

Monday

- 10:30 a.m. – Tai Chi
- 12:30 p.m. – Mexican Train (Dominoes)
- 1 p.m. – Line Dancing

Tuesday

- 10:00 a.m. – Pinochle/Cards
- 10 a.m. – Club Strength & Wood Carving
- 1:30 p.m. – Grief Support
- 4 p.m. – Bingo! Bingo! Closed UFN

Wednesday

- 10 a.m. – Zumba Gold
- 11 a.m. – Tai Chi
- 1:30 p.m. – Caregivers Education (1st Wed.)
- 1 p.m. – Early Stage Dementia/ Recipients (Second Wed.)
- 1 p.m. – Neuropathy Group (3rd Wed.)

Thursday

- 10 a.m. – Club Stretch & Bridge/Cards
- 12:30 p.m. – Game Day (3rd Thurs.)
- 1 p.m. – Knitting and Crocheting
- 1 p.m. – Caregivers Support (4th Wed.)

Self-Management Seminar Starts Mar. 14

Tehachapi's Seventh Day Adventist Church is proud to host prestigious Dr. Reuben A. Hubbard and his seminar series "Strategies for Self-Improvement" free every Friday at 7-8:30 p.m starting on Mar. 14., and ending May 16, at 20335 Woodford-Tehachapi Rd. Tehachapi, CA. This series is based on the cognitive-behavioral approach to self-improvement and is open to anyone who wishes to register and attend. To register please call 661-822-1174.

GriefShare Meetings

Sessions of GriefShare meet every Tuesday through April 8, 2014, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. This confidential, non-denominational, Christian-based series is to aid community members in processing grief associated with various losses. The group meets at Country Oak Baptist Church, 20915 Schout Road. Call 822-1379 for more information.

Jazzercise Classes at E.M.B Martial Arts Studio

151 N. Mill St. Ste.#F
First class is free!

Jazzercise, one-hour classes

M-F 8:30 a.m. (every weekday)

MWF 7:15 a.m. (three days a week)

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day

The community is invited to join a St. Patrick's Day celebration at noon on March 16 at Tehachapi Community Church at 100 E. E St.

There will be a traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner served for a donation of \$6 for adults, \$3 for children.

There will be bagpipes playing and other entertainment with an Irish theme.

Those who dance, sing or perform skits are encouraged to demonstrate their talent.

For reservations or to volunteer to perform, call Jim or Linda at 661-821-0493

Together Plus: Men's Bible Study

Men from churches all over Tehachapi have come together to meet every Tuesday night for Together Plus men's bible study.

This study is geared to build Christ centered men in the community.

The non-denominational event meets at 6.30 p.m. Christian Life Assembly has provided a meeting place at 920 W. Valley Blvd.

There is a time of worship, a message is presented by various area pastors, highlighted by a time in small groups that provides opportunity for sharing together and a great learning opportunity.

A catered dinner (\$5 donation) is served at 6 p.m. for the many men coming straight from work.

For more information Visit; www.togetherbiblestudy.org/ or call 858-472-3883.

Drought-Tolerant & Firewise Native Plant Sale

The Fourth Annual Native Plant sale by Tehachapi Resource Conservation District, in cooperation with Desert-Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council (<http://tehachapircd.org/annual-native-plant-sale-for-tehachapi>), is a non-profit annual event to encourage residents of the Tehachapi area to plant natives known to be fire resistant and/or drought tolerant.

Never more important than this year of critical drought and extreme fire risk, our plant selections have been revised to maximize their benefit for conservation and safety minded local gardeners. In addition, we've added more detailed information regarding the soil and water requirements, resistance to nibbling wildlife, and fire resistance characteristics of our selected species.

Order forms and descriptive photos with plant information are available at both the TRCD website (tehachapircd.org) and the Desert-Mountain website (desertmountainrcandd.org). Orders must be prepaid and received at the Ridgecrest office of DMRC&D by March 31. Plants will be available for pickup on Saturday, April 12, between 9am and 1:30 pm at the TRCD Office, 321 West "C" Street, corner of Mill and "C", Tehachapi.

Tehachapi Resource Conservation District is a volunteer based Special District, welcoming community interest and participation. Please contact edith.frick@gmail.com for additional information about TRCD or call the DMRC&D office at 760-446-1974 for more information about the native plant sale.

First Friday 5-8 p.m., this March 7

Gallery ‘N’ Gifts and the TVAA will be open for First Friday. Located on the corner of Tehachapi Blvd. and Green St. come by to see what they are up to. Featured artist is Chris Paskee.

Sheridan’s Boutique Home Consignment are featuring fine furniture and home deco. They are located at 108 W. Tehachapi Blvd. next to Kelcy’s Restaurant.

Oak Tree Art, Antiques, Etc. is right next door to Gallery ‘N’ Gifts.

Tehachapi Treasure Trove, 116 E. Tehachapi Blvd. will be open during First Friday with refreshments and live music. Come see their new look. Featured artist is Helen McAllister.

Also open is **Tehachapi Museum** at 310 S. Green St. Refreshments will be served throughout the evening. story on page 15.

Tehachapi Christian Store has live music on First Friday. The Code Blue Band will be playing at the store located at 108 E. Tehachapi Blvd. from 6 to 8 p.m.

The concert is free and refreshments will be served during intermission.

A local band will be playing inspirational Christian music in an easy listening rock, blues, and contemporary style. Hope to see you there!

Community Congregational Church, Fellowship Hall, 100 E. E St. Tehachapi, CA, at the corner of S. Green St.

Historic Women in Town, Mar. 12

March is Women's History Month, and American Association of University Women will have several important women at their meeting on Wednesday, March 12, 4 p.m. at Tehachapi Community Church, 100 E. E St. AAUW members have researched the lives of historic women, written scripts and will portray these women. They will tell about their lives and the contributions they have made to society. Some are well known; others may be unfamiliar names, but all have made a difference in people's lives. You will meet Agatha Christy, Nellie Bly, Rose Burcham, Jessie Benton Fremont, Lillian Gilbreath, and Maya Angelou. Come to learn what these women have done. You will be amazed and inspired.

For 17 years AAUW, Tehachapi Mountain Branch, members have been making presentations to the schools and to service groups in the community to bring attention to the lives of important women.

AAUW promotes equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

Membership is open to anyone with a two-year degree or higher. For further information, call Susan at 661-821-6008.

Actors Audition!

For “One Song”, an original play about life in a small town community church. We still have several male adult male roles for ages 30s through 50s and female roles for ages 20s through 30s. Musical ability a plus. Audition times are Saturday, March 8, 1:30-3:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 9, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 1049 S. Curry, Tehachapi, Ca. Any questions? Please email Dorothy at dot1dot@hotmail.com or call 661-808-1615.



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MARCH 9

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YOU ARE NOT ALONE!
– You can visit www.TehachapiLGBT.com. This website promotes the health and well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, and their friends and families in Tehachapi. Help Hotlines are available! Go online for information.

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in Tehachapi

Terra-Gen Operating Company is an independent power producer operating clean and reliable energy projects located in several western states. Current renewable projects include wind, geothermal and solar. We are presently experiencing exciting new growth at our Tehachapi Wind Project. We are currently seeking individuals for the following positions:

Performance Engineer: Provides facility performance analysis, modeling, and engineering support to assist in the optimization of operations. Maximizes revenue through power generation in a safe and efficient manner. Accountable for documentation of departmental activities including, but not limited to summary activity reports (weekly, monthly, quarterly), system and equipment performance reports, equipment inspection reports (periodically scheduled, preventative, and predictive types), and engineering design review reports. Coordinates with other departments to address project needs and issues.

Admin Assistant: Requires intermediate working knowledge of Office Software including word processing, spreadsheets and database and aptitude for learning specialized programs. Provide administrative support. Detail oriented with strong verbal & written communication, organization and problem solving skills. Accounts Payable experience a plus. Requires an energetic team player that can also work alone in a fast paced environment. 3+ yrs related exp. EOE

Operator: This position monitors the wind turbines’ performance from the control room and makes adjustments in the field as needed to maximize efficiency of turbine operations. Requires strong verbal, written, computer and mechanical skills. Must be able to work independently without supervision. Willing to work weekends and night shift.

Terra-Gen offers competitive salary and benefits. To apply for any of these positions please send your resume to Terra-Gen Operating Company, Attn: Human Resources, PO Box 1690, Inyokern, CA 93527; or fax to 760-764-1318 or email to djackson@terra-genpower.com. EOE





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by Friday, Mar. 7
to be in the
MAR. 15 issue!



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The Local Scene

Such a Fun Day with Tehachapi Tots!



by Cathy Hansen

We, Al and Cathy Hansen, loved all of the little ones and Mom's and Dad's too! They brought packed lunches and we supplied cookies and cupcakes for dessert with lemonade, bottled water and coffee. Yum! All of the kids wanted dessert first!

Thank you Mike Massee for stopping by and taking photos!

We constructed balsa wood gliders. When they were broken, we used the pieces to design our own, just like Burt Rutan!

Tehachapi Tots is an enrichment, preschool program operated by the Tehachapi Valley Recreation and Park District. The Program serves children 18 months through 5 years of age. Enrollment is open to the public, and children are admitted to the program without regard to race, color, creed, or sex.

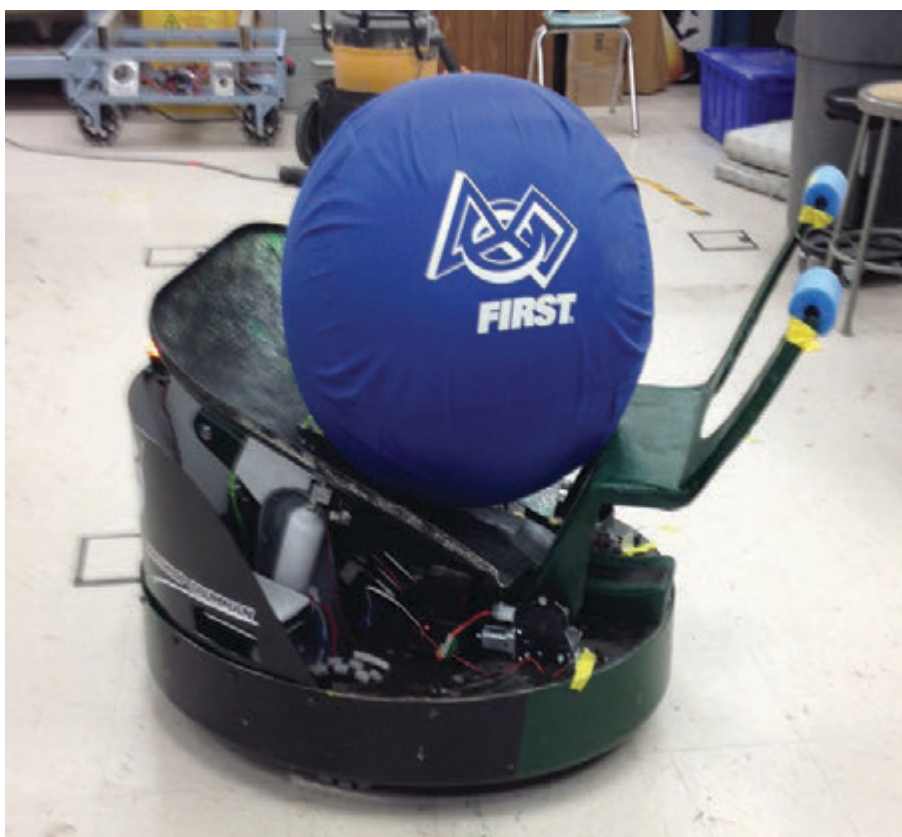
The enrichment program, through fun filled activities, seeks to enhance you child's social, physical, emotional, and intellectual development. Activities include supervised play, signing, games, story-time, discussion of themes, special events, motor movement, field trips, and much more!

Home Helpers of AV



While attending the Antelope Valley Board of Trade 42nd Annual Business Outlook Conference Feb. 21, 2014 held at the Mojave Air & Space Port Claudia White owner of The Loop Newspaper won a gift basket from Jessica De Mumbrum owner of Home Helpers in Antelope Valley.

You can find out more about them at homehelpers.cc. Thanks for picking my name for the wonderful selection of coffee and chocolate. Photo by FordeMedia.



Tehachapi Robotic Club

The Loop,

Thank you so much for posting the Tehachapi Robotic Club Chili Cook Off in the local activities section of your paper. The Cook-Off was a huge success and we couldn't have done it without your help. Attached is a photo of the robot nicknamed the "Fearsome Snail"! The students will be giving a presentation to the school board on Tuesday February 25 at 6:00. The students are really excited and proud of their achievements. Thank you again for your help.

— Jeanette Pauer

Grand Opening of The Garage



Chamber Director Carl Gehricke, Jim Wallace, Tammy Wallace and Claudia White; Chamber President Ida Perkins and Chamber Ambassadors Kathleen Kline and Tina Larson joined Jori Hauberge and Erin Sanchez for the Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting of The Garage on Wednesday, February 19, 2014. Congratulations!!!!

The Garage is located at 431 N. Green St., Tehachapi, CA. For more information call 661-823-1833.

Have a picture you want to submit to *The Loop* send it to: articles@theloopnewspaper.com

Community Helps Protect Its Seniors

by Nick Smirnoff (NPPA)

Tehachapi's City Manager Greg Garrett, stopped in on the Seniors Day at the movies and helped elaborate on Senior Safety issues along side Community Safety Officer Teri Cryer. A safety alert brochure featuring "Scams and Cons" targeted toward seniors was handed out to each of the nearly 175 guests attending this month's theatre presentation of the movie, Monuments Men. Every month with the assistance of the Hitching Post Theatre the Tehachapi City Police Department features a senior safety awareness screening followed by a



showing of a current popular movie.

This month's show was held in a larger theatre to avoid last month's turning away of attendees. Watch the Loop Newspaper for next month's date and time of this increasingly popular event.

Dye Natatorium Pool Sparkles Inside and is Open for Swimmers....



Jr. Varsity Swim Coach Heather Ringle working with members of her team explaining rules and protocol for the upcoming innovational swim team meet at Garces High School. The pool building still has minor follow up repairs but is now open to everyone for use. For hours of operation please contact the Tehachapi Valley Recreation and Park District office at (661) 822-3228. by Nick Smirnoff (NPPA)

Pruning Time at Souza



It was pruning time at the Souza Family vineyard on Wednesday Feb 26. Even in the rain Patty Souza and Laurie Rude-Betts are taking care of business. We at The Loop really appreciate what Souza Family Vineyard brings to our town. photo by Sam White

Art, 'A Beautiful Way to Express Yourself'

by Nick Smirnoff (NPPA)

In the spirit of artistic camaraderie and fellowship, long time Bear Valley Cultural Arts Association member Lynne Freeman opens her home studio to host various "open" painting days. Not a teaching endeavor nor a workshop, these get togethers consist of fellow artists bringing their current canvases over to paint for a while in the company of fellow artists. Lynne enjoys sharing her working studio to the scent of freshly brewed coffee and oil paints, and with the sound of gentle western retro rock-and-roll music, the creative vibes become intense.

The 2014 show will take place at the Bear Valley Springs Country Club beginning with a reception on April 12 at 4 p.m.

Though busy herself finishing paintings for the upcoming show, Lynne took time to meet with The Loop Newspaper to share her passion, "I truly enjoy donating each year as I believe it's a small price to pay back to an organization which supports my art and the art community as a whole."

Surprisingly, Lynne is mostly self taught. She regularly takes workshops and has become an art teacher as well. Her mother was an artist and after Lynne's retirement she took up the brush with renewed seriousness. Asked why she enjoys oil painting she responded, "I like the juiciness of oil paint but I have on occasion worked with pastels. What seems to catch my attention the most is the difference between warm colors and cold colors and how they might work together in a painting."

Preferring to stay away from commission assignments Lynne wants to "Do my own interpretations and not be bound or influenced by another's vision or ideas."

Although she enjoys her weekly "open studio" sessions with her fellow artists; she does most of her serious work listening to western music during the late afternoons and evening hours. Her studio is a lovely 400-square-foot double car garage converted by her husband. He also built several professional painting easels for everyone to use while in her studio. This will be her eighth time displaying her work at the spring BVSCA Art Show. She has been successful at selling during this event and looks forward to the show. To get additional information about the show, contact Tina Dille 661-821-1262.

BVS Artist Spotlight



Oil paint artist Lynne Freeman at work in her Oak Knolls home studio. Lynne's husband converted the family double car garage and also built several professional wooden painting easels.



Oil Painter Lynne Freeman, enjoys the camaraderie and "energy" that her twice weekly "open studio" painting sessions produce when fellow artists work together.



Lynne likes to share "tips" with her fellow artists. "I like to use these large size pill containers to put in the colors of the paints I am currently using. I use them much as a palette. At the end of my current painting session I place them in my freezer. They do not freeze hard and are ready to go when I start painting again. I tend to work by color opposites so I place bright colors all in one and darker colors in the other. I buy this at dollar stores.



Basket Full of Love

by Daphne Sherring, The Pet Nanny

Greetings my fellow pet loving friends. It gives me great pleasure to share the story of Tia and Sia - two Egyptian Mau's sisters. I met Tia and Sia three years ago and our relationship has grown in leaps and bounds over catnip, lasers, feather wands, and lots of play time. The first time I walked into their home to care for them the girls curiously looked at me with those black eyeliner shrouded eyes as if to say: "Well hello." I picked up a laser and the games and fun began.

Sia climbed the anchored steps her owners had built up to the cat shelf above the front window. Back and forth she ran as Tia looked inquisitively on. Tia is slightly shy and took just a bit longer to warm up to me. Once she did; she joined in the fun and is what I consider an Olympic high jumper.

Sia cracks me up when she plays tug of war with her feather wand she holds it in her mouth and growls ferociously. These girls are very intelligent kitties. They have

The Pet Nanny

a puzzle you can put treats inside and this is something they look forward to. As soon as I open the child proof, ahem, I mean cat proof treat door they are ready for you to fill the puzzle and believe me they will solve it quickly.

The game they adore is getting in the box and have me pull them around the living room. Zoom! Swish! I can almost hear them say; Wee! They will ride in the box as long as I'm willing to oblige them.

When our time together comes to an end I lovingly tell them when I shall return for our next adventure and gently close the front door.

A great number of people are realizing that although cats are independent they truly need daily interaction, fresh water, and to be truly loved when their owners are away.

Blessings

Daphne is available to take care of your fur babies. You can find her information in the Pet section on page 6.

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