

The

Loop

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Vol. 26 #2

Main Street
Valentine Wine
Walk Map
pg. 18-19

Your Hometown Community News & Local Happenings

February 1 ~ 15, 2014



Tehachapi Valley Recreation and Park District Manager Matt Young, right, and Recreation Supervisor LeAnn Williams, left, gave an orientation session Jan. 28 for the lifeguards who will be working at Dye Natatorium when it opens for Tehachapi High School swim team on Feb. 3 and for public programs Feb. 10. From left, front row, Taylor Carpenter and Shawn Carpenter. Second row from left, Chloe Williams, Morgan Stewart, Alan Ayers, Shawnee Villarreal. Third row, from left, Andrew Bartels, Cody Brown, Travis Peterson. Photo by Tina Fisher Forde

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THE LOOP

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Happy Valentine's From the Loop

Choosing Wines For Main Street Tehachapi's Valentine Wine & Chocolate Event by Charles White



While selecting wines for the Valentine Wine and Chocolate Walk, Mary Cunningham and Judy Mitchell sample a white and a red wine. Please see Wine & Chocolate map and information on page 18.

The wines chosen for the Main Street Feb. 15 Valentine's Wine and Chocolate tasting may be familiar to many of those attending but there are some lesser known vineyards represented, along with local wine makers. The familiar taste of cabs, chardonnays, sparkling wines, and other varietals come from domestic as well as foreign wine producers and have been chosen with an eye to affordable selections.

The selection of wines also includes some you may not have tasted, but whose names you may recognize and will want to try. There is a range of whites, reds, dessert, and sparkling wines that will paired with chocolates, made by Linda Pettitt and Margaret Veszpeller at the newest downtown business, Mill Street Kitchen at 208 S. Mill St.

Chocolates will range from sweet and semisweet to dark and will be flavored with fruit, nut and other flavorings. Pettitt's chocolate truffles have been featured in the past at the Valentine's event and are always a big hit, perfectly paired to compliment the wines.

The Seventh Annual Valentine's Wine Walk and Chocolate Tasting, sponsored by Main Street Tehachapi is scheduled for Feb. 15. It's the perfect time to join friends and sweethearts for the most romantic time of the year for a fun evening and a stroll

around downtown. The 21 host businesses in downtown will all provide appetizers so that you can make an evening of it.

Local winery, Triassic Legacy, will be the start of the lovely evening, pouring their "Sparkling Legacy" Champagne at the glass pickup point, accompanied by appetizers from Highway 58 Restaurant. Your wine glasses and ten tasting tickets will be picked up at The Tehachapi Depot at Tehachapi Boulevard and Green Street. Glass pickup begins at 6 p.m. and the event goes on until 9 p.m.

The event was made possible by donations from major sponsors, Lehigh Southwest Cement, Bank of The Sierra, Terra Gen, Postal ASAP, and the City of Tehachapi. Other sponsors include Triassic Legacy Vineyards, Mill Street Kitchen, Highway 58 Restaurant, Mercury Graphics, Get Dressed Boutique, The Loop and Tehachapi Lifestyle Magazine.

Tickets are \$25 dollars each in advance and \$30 on the day of the event. Advance tickets may be purchased at Tehachapi Flower Shop, Kohnen's Bakery, Mercury Graphics, Get Dressed Boutique, and the Chamber of Commerce. Cash or checks at all locations, credit cards at the Chamber. Cash or check only, on day of event. For phone orders, call the Main Street office at 661-822-6519.

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The Loop's Real Estate Spotlight

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When is it Wise to Pay Off the House?

Living mortgage-free seems to be part of the American Dream. What homeowner hasn't envisioned owning their home outright?

Paying off your house is attainable over time, by taking a shorter term on your loan, or even by making extra principal payments monthly. What we're talking about here is what to do if extra money becomes available as a windfall – an unexpected raise, a bonus, a tax refund, an inheritance. Should you extinguish the mortgage? Tread with caution... there are drawbacks you may not have considered.

Before you pay off that tax-friendly loan, first determine what you would be losing. With interest rates on 30-year loans below 5 percent, home loans are the cheapest leverage you will ever have. They may also offer significant benefits in the form of tax deductions, since any interest you pay becomes a write off, helping to lower the cost of the loan further still.

Have you reached all your other financial goals? Your top priority should be putting away enough money for retirement. If your employer offers a 401(k) plan, make sure you are contributing the maximum amount allowed. Use any unexpected money to cover your usual expenses so you can stash as many pre-tax dollars as possible in that 401(k). If your 401(k) contributions are already maximized, think about a traditional or Roth IRA.

If you are on track with your financial planning, congratulations! It may still be wise to explore other investment opportunities

Tammy Engel is your local Mortgage Advisor, working for your best interest since 1990. Contact her at 661-822-REAL with for help with purchase, refinance, and reverse mortgage.

Mortgage Matters

by Tammy Engel, Mortgage Advisor



before you use a lump sum to pay off your home loan. If you have time on your side, you will likely do better in stocks or mutual funds. Over time, the market has historically done better than the 4 percent or so you can save by eradicating your mortgage.

What if you don't want to or need to invest for the future? This point is nearest and dearest to my heart: Consider that once you pay off your house, that equity will be tied up and you've lost your liquidity. If an emergency arises, you may need to address borrowing against your house again. What if your financial picture changed and you couldn't qualify for a loan?

When would it make sense to pay off your home loan in full? If having a mortgage over your head keeps you awake at night or you're about to retire, it may benefit you. After retirement, the tax perks may cease to be a factor. But beware of tapping your 401(k) to pay off the mortgage. Cash out early and you'll owe federal and possible state income taxes on those earnings – in addition to a 10 percent withdrawal penalty if you are younger than 59 ½.

Everyone's financial situation is unique. Consult your financial planner or tax consultant if you're thinking about taking this critical step.

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Meet Your New Neighbors

by Pat Doody

Laura Burdick moved to Stallion Springs in August with her two children **Luc**, 14, and **Corinne**, 12. She is very specific when she says she moved from East Lancaster. She said she wanted a safer environment for herself and her children, so she put her house on the market and began searching for a new home. She considered the western areas of Lancaster since the children's paternal grandparents lived there but the rural setting and seasonal changes of the mountains called to her. When she found a brand new house that was in her budget, she knew that would become their home. When I asked Corinne what she liked best about her new home, she said "not hearing gunfire and low flying helicopters at night".

Laura was born in Glendale and has lived in Southern California most of her life. Both of her children were born in the Antelope Valley. She has a degree in social work and had been working as a school aid in Lancaster. She said she may consider doing that again here once they are all settled. She has also been a distributor for Young Living essential oils and natural supplements. Luc and Corinne are kept very busy at Jacobsen Middle School where they are studying hard and making new friends.

It didn't take long for all three of the Burdick family to find new interests. Both Luc and Corinne have taken classes at Woodward West. Luc took skateboarding while Corinne took T&T (trampoline and tumbling). Laura is a true crafter and has been taking classes at the Treasure Trove – so far she has tried watercolor, jewelry and soy wax candles. As if they were not busy enough, they felt something was still missing in their lives so they each adopted a cat from Books and Crannies. Cali is the only male and he appears to have taken a back seat to Crystal and Angel, the two females.

According to Laura, they are "nesting" in their new home. A big "welcome to Tehachapi" to Laura, Luc and Corinne.

Larry and Yelonda Benson first moved to Tehachapi in 2006. They were here for three months when the sale of their Bakersfield house fell through so they had to move back to Bakersfield. They have been trying to move

back ever since. It finally happened in November 2013.

When Larry retired from his job with Kern County Roads, his parting gift was a glider ride from Mountain Valley Airport. While soaring over Tehachapi he was very taken with the area around the airport so that is where they decided to buy a home. Yelonda is still commuting to Ridgeview High School in Bakersfield where she is the dean's secretary. She has one more year until retirement. In the meantime, Larry has plenty to do. They own seven horses. Five of them, including a Thoroughbred stallion and assorted Paints and Appaloosa, are still in Bakersfield where Yelonda gets to feed them daily until Larry finishes the horse facilities at home.

Until this year, they rode with the Old West Today equestrian group and had appeared in Tehachapi often particularly at the Mountain Festival. Yelonda says she has not had the heart to ride much since 2010 when she lost her favorite horse but she loves to read and play games, "Candy Crush" among them. A true outdoorsman, Larry likes to hunt and fish when time allows.

Their very busy household includes daughter Shawna, granddaughters Victoria and Makayla, grandson Isaiah and great grandson Andrew. Victoria still rides and has appeared with the Kern County Cowgirls. Twenty two month old Andrew already likes to ride. The Benson's son Jeffrey lives in Vacaville with his wife and two children. He is career Air Force and also going to college.

Topping off the household are three dogs (a Chihuahua named Taco and "mutts" NuNu and Roxy) and three cats (Sylvester, Ersky and Wanda). There is never a dull moment in this household. To the entire Benson family: Welcome to Tehachapi – finally.

Happy Valentine's Day everyone!



Looking At Familiar Things

by Mark 'Doc' Fisher

Recently there was a change in the Galaxy with the designation M82. The designation means it was one of the galaxies that Messier cataloged. Which means that it is a kind of blurry thing that can be seen in the constellation Ursa Major (which has the Big Dipper in it), so this is an area of the sky that people look at a lot. The galaxy is a bright one.

Well this year (2014) some amateur astronomers in Russia saw something different. It had a bright spot. It was a supernova. A group of students in Britain looked back at some pictures they had made of the same galaxy and they discovered that they had pictures of the supernova even earlier than the Russians had.

This just shows how important it can be to keep looking at things we think we know. As a bird watcher I've experienced this first hand. Even when you think that you know a species, you should go ahead and observe the bird anyway. I was in a forest in Oklahoma (which is kind of rare) and saw a hummingbird. Watching it for a moment with a friend its behavior seemed odd. Watching for a bit longer we saw that it was actually darting in to a bee hive and scoring a bit of honey.

Looking at things you think you know is hard, but it can really pay off. One of the skills that artists have is to look at things that we all think we know; and, rather than just accept what it is we believe to be true about the things we look at, they

Lost in the Stars

see what's actually there and recreate it in whatever medium they use.

Like Sherlock Holmes said, "You see, but you do not observe. The distinction is clear."

Most of the time our brains make assumptions, shortcuts, so we can spend time thinking about the things that we think are important. Sometimes we have to take time and actually see what's going on around us. Sometimes it's not what we think is going on and we get to experience something wonderful and new.

Take some time this week and look around, and try not to make assumptions. See what's really out there. Are the mountains actually the color you thought they were? What color are the clouds really? Do you know the number of wind turbines that can be seen from your house (don't forget the little ones)? How many steps are here between your car and the door to your house? Take the time and see the world.

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



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Left to right: Lisa and Cliff Meredith, Keith Nash, Al Duncan, Kim Nash, Bob and Patty Souza, Chuck McCullough, Sandy and Gary Adams, Trace and Bob Young, Sally and Jim Arnold, Michele, Mike and Adam Dorner. Photo provided.

First Grape Growers Get Together

by Michele Dorner of Dorner Family Vineyard

Local wine grape growers and vintners from around Tehachapi gathered together on January 8, 2014 to share a meal, a few laughs, exchange ideas, and most importantly imbibe in a bit of the fruits of their labors...literally. The First Annual Grape Growers Get Together was underway. Yes...First Annual! The festivities took place at Mike and Michele Dorner’s home: the newest to jump into the wine tasting room pool. In addition to Triassic Legacy’s new owners Jim and Sally Arnold, vineyard and tasting room trailblazers Bob and Patty Souza, as well as outgoing Triassic Legacy Vineyard owner Chuck McCullough were present. Home vintners, Kim and Keith Nash, Gary and Sandy Adams and Cliff and Lisa Meredith rounded out the growers. Souza family vineyard employee Al Duncan and long-time friends Bob and Trace Young, as well as Mike and Michele’s son, Adam filled in the seats around the table. Unable to attend this year’s event were Mary Sigler and Ilda Vaja of Rancho de las Viajeros.

As the exchange of laughter and stories filled the dining room, I glanced around the table and smiled to myself. I was very thankful for this group of extraordinary people we have crossed paths with, and became friends with over these past few years. This little community of wine growers, as we have learned, is a very kind and generous group of people. Early in the season, when the call goes out for help with pruning the vines, everyone gathers, pruning shears in hand ready to work. What’s the saying, “Many hands make light work,” so very true. When late fall approaches, this tight knit group again makes the rounds to help harvest the grapes. Throughout the year phone calls go back and forth between the families on a regular basis checking in on such things as bud break, pruning techniques, sugar levels and a lot of other technical talk that sounds much like some sort of secret language between the growers. When we showed interest in making our own wine, Kim and Keith generously offered their time and equipment to us along with some invaluable advice. We have been able to practice the art of wine making so

successfully because of their generosity.

Back at our celebration I listened to Jim and Sally share their plans with Bob and Chuck, while Mike, Keith and Cliff exchanged ideas on brix and residual sugar levels. Pretty exciting stuff right? Kim and Patty shared some invaluable advice with me regarding our new wedding venue, while everyone gave input on the various wines making their way around the table. Admission to the event after all was a bottle or two, or four of your most recent crush. If only the knowledge filling this room could be bottled and sold.

I recalled a story that summed up this evening perfectly: Last summer Mike and I were at Souza Family Vineyard, enjoying a visit with Bob and Patty. Standing at the bar with us, with a glass of wine in hand was a customer that was visiting Tehachapi from out of town. As Bob introduced us to the customer, he mentioned that we were in the process of gaining county approval to build our own tasting room just across the valley, and that we should be breaking ground in the next few months. The man looked stunned. He looked at Bob and then back at me. He looked confused. “And you are all friends?” he stammered, incredulous to the fact that we were even in the same room together, much less friends. “Of course we are”, I responded. He just shook his head. He looked again at Bob and then me. He was unconvinced that the four of us were all friends: that Bob and Patty were sharing the ‘secrets’ of their successful winemaking business with us. He couldn’t comprehend why they were openly sharing their novice mistakes with us, in the hopes that we could avoid making them ourselves. Didn’t the Souzas think of us as the competition, he queried. I steadied myself against the bar as I laughed at that question. “Why would they be so willing to help you?” he questioned again. “Didn’t they think we could eventually take business away from them?” He really didn’t get it. “Of course not”, Bob and I declared before the man could finish his thought. Bob and Patty want us to succeed. They want us to be as successful as they are. As Bob and Patty have told us: “Nothing would make them happier.” They really mean it.

In Bob’s words, “What is good for one tasting room is good for all the tasting rooms”. He is right. When one prospers, we all prosper. When one is successful, we are all successful. No wiser words have ever been spoken. I swear...that Bob, I mean ‘The Bob’ is one smart guy. He laughs at me, but I really do keep a small notepad with me whenever I stop by their tasting room. I tell

Salt of the Earth

by Victoria Alwin, MSRD

Salt has been around literally for ages. One source stated that salt was being used as far back as 6,000 B.C. In ancient Rome it was used to pay the soldiers or pay for many other things. It is still around today. Salt can be very useful. In the right amounts, it can add flavor to an otherwise tasteless dish. Brine, made with a greater concentration of salt, is still part of the process to make pickles and sauerkraut. In jerky or salt pork, salt keeps the meat from spoiling. Teriyaki and soy sauces give flavor, make meats more tender **and** have a high salt content.

What’s the problem with salt? Well, there are some differences between ancient times and now, more than just television and the iPad. For one thing, we are living longer and wish to live longer in better health than our ancestors. Too much of anything can be bad for us. For many people, too much salt (also known as sodium chloride) can raise blood pressure leading to strokes or can lead the body into holding on to more fluid than it needs. This last effect can make the heart work much harder, contribute to what is known as “Congestive Heart Failure” or CHF, and make breathing almost impossible. So much for living longer and better. When my patients ask me why they have to cut down on this nifty white stuff, I remind them that when salt was

Nutrition Corner

used with food, it was to either preserve meat or to kill the taste of it, if the meat wasn’t preserved in time. Nowadays, we have refrigerators and freezers to keep our food from rotting. “But,” my patients told me “it makes the food taste better.” “Tasting better” is what manufacturers will tell you is the reason they put so much salt in their foods. Think about the last time you opened a can of chicken noodle soup. What was the first thing you tasted? Chicken? Broth? Or was it salt? For many of us, the answer is salt. In many cases the amount of salt that is being used actually kills the taste of the food, masking the taste so that good food and bad food taste the same. Your response is that while this might be true, foods without salt taste flat. You’re right...to an extent. If you cut back on your salt intake, it will take about six months to a year to figure out that your taste buds haven’t died. Once you do get used to this new way of eating, if you try something salty, it will taste like you’ve taken a bite out of a salt lick, unbelievably bad. The good part is that you will find more pleasure from the natural flavors in foods you are eating and it is better for your body. Wouldn’t you like to be healthier this new year? We will discuss ways to lower sodium intake painlessly next time.

Fun Fest at Treasure Trove

submitted by Susanna Monette

First
Friday



Jim Dinsmore setting up his display at the Treasure Trove, while his wife Jolene supervises. Photo by Mel White

Feb. 6, 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 new look with displays full of art, crafts, collectables and art supplies.

The featured artist for February will be Jim Dinsmore who creates a wonderful variety of objects out of wood ("Wood N Stuff"). In addition to his finished pieces, Jim will be armed with pieces in various stages of completion and ready to answer questions and explain his process. Jim is especially known for his work turning a variety of segmented woods, using between two and ten or twelve different types, to create colorful natural wood pieces.

Jim was born into wood working: his father was a carpenter and together they used to build houses and work on other projects. Jim has worked with wood all of his life sometimes a business and sometimes as a hobby.

Jim has spent most of his life in the Midwest in Iowa and Minnesota. He took a break from wood working to attend

seminary, and spent 32 years as a preacher. Jim and his wife Jolene first arrived in Tehachapi in their Pace Arrow motor home, and then moved to Tehachapi in 2002 from Mankato, Minnesota, for a change of climate and to be closer to his daughter, who at that time lived in Bakersfield.

With February's First Friday we are also celebrating some major changes at TTT. We've done a lot of rearranging to make room for more things and more vendors – including more antiques and collectibles, more ceramics, the addition of organic essential oils and soaps and new artists and vendors.

Just in time for Valentine's Day, we have added much more jewelry by our very own local artists.

Tehachapi Treasure Trove is located at 116 E. Tehachapi Blvd., right across the street from the water tower in Railroad Park. TTT winter hours are daily 10 a.m. to 4 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.

Focus on Japan at Community Church

submitted by Phyllis Belcher

First
Friday



Jeffrey Mensendiek will present "The Church in Japan – Witnessing to God's Saving Love in post-Fukushima Japan"

Jeffrey Mensendiek will present "The Church in Japan – Witnessing to God's Saving Love in post-Fukushima Japan" on Friday, Feb. 7, from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. at

Tehachapi Community Congregational Church, 100 E. E St.

Rev. Mensendiek is a missionary for the United Church of Christ and has served there for 22 years. He is now working as a chaplain at Kwansei Gakuin University and is speaking out about peace and justice concerns and promoting a culture of inclusion and tolerance.

The presentation will feature slides and information about relief efforts following the earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear spill that occurred in Japan

Rev. Mensendiek will also discuss ongoing issues as Japan prepares to host the 2020 Olympics.

Rev. Mensendiek will leave after his presentation, but the First Friday event will continue at the church until 8 p.m. when there will be opportunity to taste sushi and fold origami.

In recognition of Valentines Day, Fair Trade heart shaped chocolate will be available for sale as well as Fair Trade coffee. Thistle Farm products will be also be available.



TVAA Sponsors Eighth Annual Photo Contest

by Shirley Given

First
Friday

Photographers, on your mark, get set, snap! TVAA is sponsoring the eighth annual photo contest this February. Who knows, you may get that once-in-a-lifetime shot and take home the Best of Show cash award. Gallery 'n' Gifts will be accepting photo submissions from Jan. 27 to Feb. 3. Submissions are \$5 each and each entrant may submit up to seven photos.

Photos will be exhibited in the Fine Arts Room at Gallery 'n' Gifts from Feb. 7 to 25. A special First Friday Artists Reception

will be held Feb. 7 from 5 to 8 p.m., for all photo exhibitors. There will be cash awards for Best of Show and First Place in all categories, with ribbons for remaining winning photos.

Come see what fantastic talent Tehachapi has to offer, while enjoying the always wonderful hors d'oeuvres.

Official rules and entry forms are available at Gallery 'n' Gifts, at 100 W. Tehachapi Blvd. or visit www.galleryngifts.org.

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Bonds vs. Bond Funds: Which Is Better When Interest Rates Rise?

Submitted by Jennifer Williams



The Federal Reserve has said it expects to begin raising its target rate sometime in 2014.

Since bond prices fall when interest rates rise, it may be a good time to pay increased attention to any

fixed-income investments you have

Here are some factors to consider when you review your portfolio.

Maturity dates and duration

One way to address the threat of rising rates is through maturity dates.

Long-term bonds may pay a higher coupon rate than short-term bonds, but when rates rise, long-term bond values typically suffer more.

That's because investors may be reluctant to tie up their money for long periods if they expect a bond's interest payments may suffer by comparison when newer bonds that pay higher rates are issued.

The later a bond's maturity date, the greater the risk that its yield eventually will be surpassed by that of newer bonds.

A bond fund doesn't have a maturity date, and your shares may be worth more or less than you paid for them when you sell.

Jennifer's Thoughts...

However, there is another way to gauge the sensitivity of either a bond or a bond fund to interest rates: its duration, which takes into account not only maturity but also the value of future interest payments.

The longer the duration, the more sensitive a security is to interest rate changes.

To estimate the impact of a rate change, simply multiply a security's duration by the percentage change in interest rates.

For example, if interest rates rise by 1 percent, a bond or bond fund with a duration of three years could be expected to lose roughly 3 percent in value, while one with a seven-year duration might fall by 7 percent.

(Though interest rates currently have little room to fall, the same principle would apply; a 1 percent decline in rates should result in a 3 percent gain for a bond fund with a three-year duration.)

Though this hypothetical example doesn't represent the return of any specific investment, you can apply the general principle to your own holdings.

Diversification

Since rising rates affect most bonds, diversification provides only limited protection against rate increases. To balance yields with the threat of rising rates, you can diversify across various segments of the bond market (for example, investment-grade corporate, high-yield,

Treasuries, foreign, short/intermediate/long-term, and municipal debt).

Bonds don't respond uniformly to interest rate changes.

The differences, or spreads, between the yields of various types can mean that some categories are under- or over-valued compared to others.

Funds may offer greater diversification within each segment at a lower cost than individual bonds, providing greater protection against the impact of a potential default by a single issuer.

However, diversification alone doesn't ensure a profit or prevent the possibility of loss, including loss of principal.

Flexibility

Holding individual bonds allows you to sell a specific bond on your own timetable or hold it until it matures. That flexibility has two advantages.

First, if you hold to maturity, unless a bond's issuer defaults, you know how much you'll receive when the principal is repaid.

Rising interest rates may cause a bond's market value to fluctuate in the meantime, but if you hold it to maturity, that fluctuation may not be an issue for you, especially if predictable income is your highest priority.

Second, it can help you manage your tax liability; if a specific bond has lost value, you can sell it and declare the loss on your federal income tax return.

You may be able to instruct your broker to sell specific shares of a bond fund to harvest losses for tax purposes, but in

general it's more challenging to manage tax liability as precisely with bond funds.

For example, capital gains or losses generated by a fund manager's trading are passed through to Individual shareholders each year, which can affect your tax liability.

Also, a bond fund's value can be affected by your fellow investors.

Since an open-end fund must redeem investors' shares daily, strong selling can force a fund to sell holdings to meet redemption demands, which can have implications for other shareholders.

Laddering individual bonds also can help provide flexibility to adjust to rising rates.

Laddering involves buying a portfolio of bonds with varying maturities; for example, a five-bond portfolio might be structured so that one of the five matures each year for the next five years.

As interest rates rise, each bond that matures can be reinvested in a newer instrument that offers a higher yield.

Liquidity

A mutual fund will redeem your shares at the end of every business day.

An individual bond traded on the open market may not have the same liquidity, and you could have difficulty finding a buyer who's willing to pay the asking price.

However, individual bonds are priced and traded throughout the day; only closed-end funds and exchange-traded funds have that flexibility, not open-end mutual funds.

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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Biscuit, The Blind Wonder Dog

by Daphne Sherring, The Pet Nanny

Hello, As you may know by now I'm the Pet Nanny and I have the absolute pleasure of sharing some of my dear fur babies stories.

Today I want to introduce you to Biscuit. She is a gorgeous nine-year-old Labrador from champion bloodlines, she also happens to be blind, diabetic, and full of love. Along with her fur momma (AKA human), she lives with her fur siblings: Nestle, the Chocolate Wonder, of course, she's a Lab too. There's also Scout, who rules the roost; Willow, a rescued snowshoe - his last home truly was with a crazy cat hoarder; and Rusty, the mellow Manx.

It is so rare to see a glimpse of true human compassion and love these days that seeing how caring and patient Biscuit's mom is with her is an inspiration to anyone caring for a family member with a long-term illness. Biscuit, like so many today, is diabetic. Her fur mom has had some close

The Pet Nanny

calls with Biscuit and endearingly sleeps beside her on the living room floor when Biscuit is not at her best. Biscuit loves her family, and she never complains about the medications or treatments she has to have.

Biscuit traveled to Pasadena recently for an attempt to restore vision to her one eye - the other had to be removed to make her more comfortable. We are pretty confident that the surgery is allowing vision to return. Knowing how much Biscuit loves her mom, I know she will be tail wagging happy just to see a glimpse of her.

When your fur babies are ill it's not the time to abandon them; it's time to embrace them, pray for them and make every moment count.

It's an honor and labor of love to care for this sweet and very special fur friend.

Daphne is available to take care of your fur babies. You can find her information in the Business Section on page 33.

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Kristen I love you very much , we have been together for a short time now and had lots of fun times and much more fun times to come <3
Love Damian



Never has there been more happiness in my heart than from the two greatest loves of my life! Happy Valentines Day Bella and Sophie.
Love Mama.



Happy Valentine's Day to my wonderful, loving husband Anthony. I am so thankful for all your hard work and everything you do to show me how much you love me everyday.
I love you!

Your wife, Nichole



To Andy, There may not be a Rabbi Valentine, but its the thought that counts. Happy Valentine's Day, Your Better Half



Sue, It has been great being married to you for all these years and I would not want to spend Valentine's Day or any other day with anyone but you. Happy Valentines Day, Your devoted husband, Larry



To My Gopher in Training, You are my best friend and my anchor. Happy Valentine's Day, All my Love, Your Lil Devil



Roses are red;
Violets are blue;
It's been nineteen years;
Since we said I do.
You're my rock;
Strong and true.

KURT ALLEN NICHOLS,
I will FOREVER, love you!!!
Lisa



Bud, 60 days and counting to
The BIG 25, Love, Petes



Ron "AKA" My Honey Bunny for the last 45 years. Forever and Always,
Your Cutie Buns



Johnny, You are my world and always will be, Happy Valentine's Day!
I love you, Margaret



LJB, For who you are and all you do, I love you. For the past thirteen years and every day for the rest of my life,
I love you! - SCB



I love you Jim! Love Melissa Shingler



To Gina, Mika and Kiera : With you Girls, Every wish of mine came true.
DJ



Dearest Tammy,
Know I could never find a better wife! I have never come close to the man you deserve. Thank you for sticking out "these tough times"!
Love V



Your my blessing from god and my true guardian Angel. I'll love you today tomorrow and forever and always. A&F Baby Girl



DKD, You're a great lover, listener and friend. You're always there for me and I'm always here for you. You are my bff and loml. I Love You. YPB



Emma, your sweetness, goofiness and character has always made me strive to put a smile on your lips. I love to be with you min "flicka".
Carter



Rose,
A true love story never ends. In you, I've found the love of My life and my closest, Truest Friend. Ours is truly Love at first sight. - Love Tate

To My Loving Wife Patria,
Going on Seventeen years of marriage and loving every minu of it.
I will cherish you always
Happy Valentine's Day Love,Yanni



Jim, My Angel, I embrace the night when I hold you. Celestial voyage, your eyes so blue. Starlit satin infinity towers. We captured time-now its ours. Always, Silent Wolf



"Happy Valentine's Day to my wonderful, loving husband Anthony. I am so thankful for all your hard work and everything you do to show me how much you love me everyday. I love you!" Your wife, Nichole



Damian,I love you very much! You have made me happier than I've ever been. Happy Valentine's Day!
Forever Your Girl,
Kristen



Since we had no Rabbi Valentine I celebrate you being in my life everyday, not just one day a year, although I do not necessarily demonstrate it.
Love Andy C



Ulysstine, Thank you for being such a great friend for all these years. You are always in my thoughts and prayers. Have a Happy Valentine's Day. Carolyn



Paul, Thank you for a wonderful and interesting 34 years. I look forward to the next 34. Happy Valentine's Day Love, Pat



Happy Valentine's Day to my adorable, lovable, smart and always helpful G-Babies, EZ & Kooka. TuTu loves you both very much!



Love is... Aliene,Josh,Devon,Clarinda,Jessica, Jeremy, Heather, Odessa, Tommy, Heather,Jayden and Madison



Nick because of us we are we. I love you with all that I am.
We are awesome.

Hey, Babe, thank you for being the perfect valentine! I love you. xxox
Me



Rose,
A true love story never ends. In you, I've found the love of My life and my closest, Truest Friend. Ours is truly Love at first sight. - Love Tate



To My King Jason M. I want to spend the rest of my life with you...
I love you...
Love Always, Ashley



To My Dear Mary Jane: You pick me up when I am feeling down. May our love last a thousand years!
Love Always and Forever, M



Happy Valentine's Day Sue, LLOLL
Lurve, Adam



C, You bring out the sappy romantic (and pun-lover) in me. I look forward to years and years of us being so adorkably cute together that we make everyone around us sick from the sweetness of it. Yes, we are THAT couple. Luff ewe forever and a day <3 A



Happy Birthday, Robert!
I hope you have a special day.
Love, Grandma



from all
of us at



Top Five Behavioral Issues in Rescue Dogs

By Lisa Porter

A Dog's Life



I wanted to share with you all what we think are the **top** five behavioral issues you can expect within the first month of fostering or adopting a rescued dog. All dogs are different but these issues are what we deal with most. We try in our foster homes to work on these things, but sometimes just a transfer to a new home can set off triggers that may have been unseen up until the dog becomes truly comfortable.

Starting from the bottom, we'll work our way to the #1 issue.

#5 – **High excitement levels.** (over excitement to normal stimuli, i.e.: shaking, whining, barking for regular events)

#4 – **No sense of personal space** (jumping, mouthing, shadowing, etc)

#3 – **Anti-social behavior towards people or dogs** (growling, lunging, barking, biting, etc)

#2 – **Destruction of property** (marking, eating furniture, chewing carpet, breaking things, etc.)

#1 – **Running away/escape artist** (breaking out of kennels, climbing fences, digging holes out of the yard, bolting, etc.)

A few things to remember: Don't leave the dog alone in the yard or the house for the first few days as they will probably experience separation anxiety and become destructive, or try to escape. The best thing is to prepare by giving yourself a few days to work with your dog on crate training, potty training and boundaries (off limits areas, learning to stay, not bolting through open doors, etc). That way when you need to return to your normal life, your dog will be ready to be left alone for a few hours at a time. Knowing that your new dog will probably be scared and unsure of his new home, most people mistakenly give the

dog too much freedom and bend the rules in an attempt to bond with the dog. This only leads to your dog feeling even less sure of his surrounding and your ability to keep him safe. The best thing to do is to set a few rules right away (such as not on furniture, not in kitchen, etc) because this allows you to start showing your dog that you are consistent in your behavior, and also creates structure for your new dog. These rules can be eliminated or modified later on once structure has been established. In the first week it is best to provide a crate for your dog somewhere in the house so that you can give them a safe space to observe this new environment and learn to be relaxed in it. Without a crate, (or a dog bed for more confident dogs) dogs tend to hide or cling to you in the beginning and neither of those are healthy or productive.

Think about it like bringing a new roommate into your house. You probably wouldn't give them access to your entire home right away and you might also tell them the house rules...it only serves to create a more harmonious environment for all. Dogs thrive with rules and structure; it makes them more confident, less excitable and all around happier knowing they can count on their owner to take care of them in all situations.

To learn more about how to deal with each of these issues, check out the training blog on our website at www.marleysmutts.com, where we will be posting different segments regularly. You will also find information on our website about how to foster a dog and how to adopt a dog.

You can also contact Lisa Porter for private training in Kern County at hawaiidoggirl@gmail.com.

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Charlie is a 10 mos. young male Boston Terrier/Chi Mix who touches your heart with his gentle loving warmth holding his head in your hand sharing your love together. Wonderful for all types of families, we hope to find a retired couple who are hoping to find his compassionate love with everyday of your lifetimes and playmates together.



Kipper

Kipper, a 2 yr. young Aussie Shep Mix is the perfect pet to fill your heart for all types of families! Playful, cuddly, very sweet, Kipper shows us his loving devotion every day always hoping we'll love him as much as he shares his love is us and his playmates. Warm, snuggly and loving is everything Kipper has waiting to find someone who will simply share his warm love with his very special heart.



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!

Polar Bear & Snow Cone

Polar Bear (left) and **Snow Cone** are brothers, approximately 14 weeks old. Their mom, Daisy, also up for adoption, is a Spaniel mix (we think). She is around 25 pounds, which means we think the pups will be right around her size as well. Both pups are well socialized with other dogs and cats. They are already neutered, have shots up to date, have been dewormed and microchipped. Their adoption fee is \$175 each. Email: haveaheart@bak.rr.com or see them at Saturday adoption days at Radio Shack in Tehachapi.



Taffy

This little four pound girl is **Taffy**. She came from Kern County shelter with babies but lost them due to a severe case of kennel cough, which she passed to them. She is now a healthy, happy well-adjusted, social butterfly who is mostly housebroken and loves to play and cuddle with her person. Email: haveaheart@bak.rrr.com or see her at Saturday adoption days as Radio Shack in Tehachapi.



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.rrr.com. We also invite you to visit our webpage at "<http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/CA1573.html>" or join us on Facebook.

Carl

At first glance his size might intimidate you, but all he wants is a hug and kiss. That's our big boy, Good Dog **Carl**. According to the Shelter, he's approximately 10 years old. He is a gentle giant who loves to play and run around. Carl is very healthy and has a strong immune system. He even managed to avoid developing kennel cough during his stay at the shelter. Carl was surrendered by his owner (a 90 year old woman) who suggested euthanasia due to his age and alleged aggression. The shelter staff did not agree with her assessment. Since the day I brought him to our home for foster care, Carl has shown no signs of aggression to people, other dogs, cats, or small animals. We believe Carl is a Rottweiler/German Shepherd mix. You can fill out an application to adopt Carl at www.marleysmutts.com.



Diamond

You want know who's the sweetest, most loving, most adorable girl in the whole world? **Diamond**, that's who! I have fallen madly in love with this dog since she came to stay with me in foster care. She is absolutely precious, a total love-bug, climbs and curls up in my lap, loves belly rubs, loves to play with Fred, is sweet and gentle and submissive with everyone, including little human kiddos! Diamond has some separation anxiety, which we are working on. But it's certainly no big thing that can't be handled with the loving guidance of a solid (human) pack leader! I simply encourage and reward Diamond's independence, while dissuading her neediness. And in so doing, she is becoming a happier, more confident dog before my eyes! I love this girl so much, and I will be envious of the person who brings her home forever!



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.marleysmutts.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

Savannah



Savannah is a petite, 7 year old Doberman with natural ears and a docked tail. She was picked up as an emaciated stray in the LA area years ago and then came to live with us. She was fostered for awhile with a trainer, during which time she was housebroken and obedience-trained. Savannah was then adopted, but lost her home when her owner was evicted. Savannah is fine with people she knows, but she is wary of strangers. She has learned how to intimidate people, so she needs a savvy adult owner who can provide strong leadership and plenty of exercise. She plays non-stop with her kennel-mate, a male Doberman, but we would not trust her around cats or small dogs. Savannah has much to recommend her: beauty, intelligence, and obedience training; she's affectionate, housebroken, and a first-rate watchdog too



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

Bubbles

Tiny Bubbles is all that and more; she's a 3 pound, 4 month precious puppy and a happy little girl who loves to play with her toys and other dogs (she's also in housetraining 101). To adopt loving Tiny Bubbles, who is definitely Miss Personality (and a pure-bred Chihuahua) in to your heart & forever home, by all means, call Marsha, 661-823-7868.



Sabrina

Sabrina is a playful 5 month, 4 pound Terrier mix puppy, rescued from a high-kill shelter; she is very calm, affectionate, loyal and has a gentle personality, good with other dogs and people (and in housetraining 101). To adopt sweet Sabrina, please call Marsha, 661-823-7868.



BonBon

BonBon is an adorable, tiny 2 year young, 4 pound female Terrier mix, good with kids, playful, and friendly (and housetrained). To meet sweet BonBon and adopt her in to your heart and home, call Aleshia, 661-750-1409 or Save Tehachapi's Orphaned Pets, 661-823-4100, menu #2.



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.

Mommadog

Mommadog is a 2 year old spayed doxi-terrier mix. She is house trained, crate trained and walks on a leash. She likes to ride in the car. She is very playful and gets along with other dogs. We don't know about cats.

Won't you consider giving her a loving forever home?



Julie

Julie, a female gray tabby about 8 months old, was abandoned at a vacated home and rescued by the neighbors. She is now fostered with Tehachapi Humane Society. Julie is going to be a beautiful, big kitty when she reaches her full growth. She is very affectionate, sweet and loving with a very social outlook! She is not accustomed to dogs. Julie will be spayed on January 22, current on shots and be ready for a new home shortly thereafter. Please find a place in your heart for this lovely girl.



Who Do You Trust?

provided by D.R. Moats & Company

From 1957 to 1963 (unfortunately, I am giving away my age) there was a game show on television (originally hosted by Johnny Carson and Ed McMahon). There were three couples on the show as contestants, Johnny Carson would ask a question of each couple, and the man would then decide whether to answer the question himself or "trust" the woman to do so. Each couple was awarded money for a correct answer, and the couple with the most money at the end of the show won. If the couples were tied in winnings, they were then asked a question involving a numerical answer, and the couple closest to the correct answer was the overall winner, so why do I mention this show?

Who we trust has a great deal to do with our success, in a game show and in life. Some people can be considered very trustworthy; they have proven themselves by their prior actions, either to you, or to one of your other trusted friends.

Especially in your financial matters, you want and need to find trusted advisors to assist you - advisors with the proper education and experience, advisors who keep an office open all year so they are there when you need them, advisors with integrity. We have experienced many new tax clients coming into the office this year to have their tax returns prepared. My first question to them is generally, "Why do we have the privilege of preparing your tax returns this year?" Often the answer is, "The person who prepared my prior returns was only there during tax season, and when I had questions, I could never get hold of them", or "My friends told me to go to XYZ to get my taxes done, and they would get me a big refund. I went there and got the big refund, but when I got audited, I owed a lot of extra tax because the return was done wrong and I got stuck with the additional tax, penalties and interest".

You want a tax preparer who knows tax laws intricately, and can prepare the return correctly. Does our office ever make a mistake? According to the U.S. Government Printing Office, the Internal Revenue Code is 13,458 pages. No one can know everything, but 20-30 years experience preparing tax returns sure cuts down on the errors. Occasionally we miss something. If we do, we correct the error in the return at our expense and pay the penalties that are owed. That is what integrity and honor demands. I may be old-fashioned, but the Golden Rule that says "Do unto others as you would have others do

Your Tax Preparer

unto you" still sounds like a good way to do business.

Now regarding trusts. Many people are confused as to what a trust is. A trust is created when a document is prepared transferring property into the "corporate trust" for the benefit of one or more beneficiaries. The beneficiaries are the individual(s) or organization(s) that receive the income from, or use of, property placed into the trust. Many people create a living (inter vivos) trust to hold title to their property during their lifetime, and then transfer their property to their children, friends, or charities at their death (just like a will).

Additional benefits of a properly funded trust are:

(1) property is transferred at death without having to go through probate which is a tedious, time consuming and expensive process of getting court approval to transfer the property of the deceased person;

(2) the trust provides for management of the trust property during the period between a person's death and the distribution of the property to the individuals to receive the property (the beneficiaries) and;

(3) provides for the management of the property if a person becomes incompetent to manage their own financial affairs (through dementia, a stroke, etc) thus avoiding the cost and hassle of a court appointed conservator to manage the incapacitated individual's finances.

The individual who is appointed to manage the trust property is a "Trustee". A person setting up a trust can appoint themselves to be the trustee of the trust during their lifetime, or until they become incompetent, thus maintaining control of their own property just as they did before the trust was established. The key is finding an individual to serve as the Trustee after the person dies, or becomes incompetent, a person who has the knowledge, skill and integrity to manage the property in the trust. Duane R. Moats possesses a Masters in Business Administration, is a Certified Public Accountant, and a Certified Financial Planner, and has served as trustee for several of his client's trusts. If the concept of a trust seems to be of interest to you, please contact him so that he may more fully explain the concept to you and direct you to attorneys who can properly prepare a trust document for you.

Happy Valentine's Day

by Cathie Sibley

It was Geoffrey Chaucer, famed poet of the Middle Ages who first associated Valentine's Day with romantic love in his book *Parlement of Foules* in the year 1382 with a poem written to honor the engagement anniversary of King Richard II to Anne of Bohemia.

It's a bit ironic that Chaucer was instrumental in creating our modern Valentine's tradition by writing of a fictional tradition, and don't we all just love irony!

Charles, Duke of Orleans is responsible for the oldest surviving Valentine which he wrote to his wife in the year 1415 while he was being held in The Tower of London.

Now leap forward in time about 570 years to the 1980s, and involve the Diamond industry and you have the current spending frenzy we all know as Valentine's Day. Modern Valentine's day as an industry generates nearly twenty billion dollars in spending... yes that's billion... with a B.

About 180 million cards will be exchanged this year in celebration and 196 million roses will be given. Eighty-five percent of cards will be purchased by women while seventy-three percent of all flowers will be given by men. Fourteen percent of women over eighteen will send flowers to themselves to commemorate the occasion. Gentlemen beware; 53 percent of women say they would end their relationship if they don't receive a Valentine's gift.

The pressure is on!

Of all the statistics, the last is the

Taste of Italian

most shocking to me. The beloved marketing industry has created such a feeding frenzy over this "holiday" that over half of all women claim they would end a relationship because they didn't receive a gift for the occasion. Say it with me people...**wow**.

Now don't get me wrong, I've always been a big fan of Valentine's day. When I was in a relationship I was generally quite satisfied to receive a small token such as flowers or a card. I don't recall ever threatening to end a relationship if I didn't receive a gift. I do recall telling my ex-husband that if he did his Christmas shopping at the dirt bike shop for the fourth consecutive year there would be consequences, but that's another story. Since I've not been blissfully wallowing in couplehood, I've been deeply immersed in the restaurant business. Let's face it, since Valentine's day is our most profitable day of the year, I'm still a fan. At least that is the case at La Bella Amore...I mean come on...the name literally means The Beautiful Love. There are twinkly lights and candles on the tables and delicious Italian food, it's the perfect place to dine for any romantic occasion. Join us for Valentine's Day or any other evening you choose, we open at 4:30 p.m. every day.

Peace and blessings to all!





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Soledad, Part II

by Susan Wiggins

Last week I wrote a column about the mines of Soledad Mountain from the perspective of Viola White Jennings, who with her family lived around that area. The article was from the collection of my mother, Marion Deaver.

This week I will wrap up the remembrances of this lady. I concluded last week with Jennings and her sister avoiding snakes on that mountain. In all the years I have roamed around the deserts of East Kern, I have only happened upon a rattlesnake twice. Once however, was in January, and I concluded that it is never too cold to find a snake.

Jennings remembered that she and her siblings loved to watch the gold drop down the mercury shaking table. "Dad let us ride the hoist down too, like privileged characters," she said.

The mine milled their own gold into bricks and produced about a brick a week. "Mother baked all our bread, cinnamon rolls, and coffee cake from the bread dough that she made.

The girls played around the old cook house left from the Queen Esther Mine. The mine had shut down, but everything was still left there, she noted. There was a huge old cook stove, and all the cupboards were full of heavy dishes.

"We played outside and made mud pies out of the smooth cyanide tailings. Inside we would set the long table with the dishes and then put them back when we were done." (Imagine playing with cyanide tailings today. . .)

Burt Wegman was the caretaker of the old mines and since they never opened up again he gained possession of them.

Jennings remembered another old mine near them called the Exposed Treasure. (I thought I knew about all the mines, but never heard of this one.) It was north of Soledad and on the way to Mojave.

Jennings said it had been a bonanza mine, but at 400 or 700 feet Jennings, was not sure, they hit an underground river and had no modern machinery to pump out the water.

"Brother and I lit two candles that we found on a ledge and ventured down to the bottom to see the rushing water."

"I will never forget the sights I saw that day – rushing water and from the

A Page of History

ceiling hung beautiful long crystals."

Jennings said she wanted to bring one home but could not climb the rickety ladder with the candle and carry the crystal.

Jennings said her brother was always looking for veins of gold and once there was a vein right on the surface. Another man wanted Jennings father to work it but he was not interested. Just a few years later the big Silver Queen opened up and there were new homes built along with a café and Goldtown got its new name about 1934 or '35.

Jennings said they lived on Soledad for 18 months. They later moved to Mojave and rented a house on Main Street and started school

Her father had a job at the railroad yard. "At that time Mojave was all saloons, with a Harvey House and a large roundhouse. Mojave was a rip-roaring town in those days, with miners coming from all of the surrounding mines."

The family lived in Mojave for one year and then moved back to Burbank. Years later Jennings sister and husband leased one of Wegman's holdings, but when it didn't pay enough for them, the family moved to Grass Valley.

Jennings and her mother returned to the old mines on Soledad some years later and found the houses still standing, but very old.

Ten years later she and her mother returned and found nothing left. They assumed the houses and buildings had been torn down.

"I was really surprised when we found out that they had all been moved to Tropico Gold Mine and Camp in Rosamond so that they could be preserved," she exclaimed.

"I have lived on both the upper and lower deserts and have seen a lot of beautiful places on each, but never will forget our experiences on old Soledad Mountain – they were happy ones."

I have climbed all around Soledad since I was little, but now I know "the rest of the story."



What the Drought Means to Tehachapi

At a recent City Council meeting, I asked our Interim Public Works Director, Jon Curry, to briefly address the Council about the current drought conditions and what it may mean for the City's water supply. Jon is our former Utility Manager and is a board member of the California Rural Water Association and he was well prepared to summarize the current and future water issues facing our City. I will do my best to summarize his presentation but I also want to share some of the exciting initiatives underway at the City with respect to water conservation.

Last year, the City of Tehachapi pumped 2339 acre/feet of water out of the ground to deliver to our customers. For reference, an acre/foot can simply be described as the amount of water necessary to cover one acre of ground, one foot deep with water. One acre/foot equals 325,851 gallons of water. So, if you're still keeping up with the math, the City of Tehachapi pumped over 762 million gallons of water last year! That water went to your homes to drink, cook with, wash clothes, to water landscaping, and more. It also went to businesses, schools, the hospital and doctor's offices, and many other locations for things like preparing food, manufacturing products, and providing other services. Lastly, it watered our parks and City landscaping, it served as fire suppression, it helped construction sites control dust, and so many other things that are vital to the success and safety of our community.

In my opinion, our City water division does an outstanding job providing that water to all of us in an efficient way. For your information, the City of Tehachapi sells our water for as low as \$0.005 per gallon for residents living in established areas of town. Even in newer areas, water is only \$0.0075 per gallon. That's less than 1 penny. For comparison, in 2012 the average wholesale price of a gallon of bottled water was \$1.13, according to the Beverage Marketing Corporation. That means bottled water is approximately 225 times more expensive than the cheapest City water.

Statistics aside, water is a big deal, right? Absolutely. We have to continue to be good stewards of this valuable limited resource so that it will continue to be available for future generations. At the City, we have a number of initiatives to help us do just that.

We are currently developing ways to conserve potable water (or drinking water) by recycling our wastewater. Plans have already been completed for a wastewater treatment plant capable of producing high quality recycled water suitable for use as irrigation for parks, landscaping, and other uses not requiring potable water. While this will ultimately be a very expensive project when funding is in place (approximately \$15-20 million), it is one that our staff and Council believes is critical to the future success of Tehachapi.

Less expensive projects that will

From the City Manager



use lower quality recycled water are already underway at certain City facilities. These projects will reduce potable water usage at these facilities by roughly 51 million gallons a year.

Greg Garrett
City Manager

But large City projects to reduce potable water consumption are not the only important initiatives underway. Conserving water is a critical part of being a good steward. While we have been fortunate to not have to institute water rationing techniques like other parts of California, if our Utility employees notice that you are wasting water in your landscaping, they will leave a warning notice on your door explaining that you are in violation of the Municipal Code and directing you to our City Staff for information about how you can reduce consumption without reducing the quality of your landscape. Our planning department also offers a list of native and drought tolerant tree and plant species that require little or no irrigation once established. If you're interested in that list, drop by City Hall and we will gladly provide you a copy. Other conservation programs are being developed by City Staff to be implemented in the coming months and more information will be distributed when they are ready to kick off.

Finally, let me say that I believe Tehachapi's regional water situation is in good hands. We have dedicated partners at the Tehachapi Cummings County Water District (our local water master) and the local Community Services Districts that have been working together for decades to ensure a clean and reliable water supply for ourselves, our children and our grandchildren.

As always, if you ever have any questions or comments regarding anything happening in the City of Tehachapi, I encourage you to call me at (661) 822-2200 or contact me at ggarrett@tehachapicityhall.com.



The Loop
staff wishes
everyone
a Happy
Valentines Day!

Be sure to check out our readers' Valentine's
Day Greetings on page 11 in this issue.

Maybe there is one in there for you!

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Parkinson's Disease & Social Security Disability

by Diana Wade, Disability Advocate

In order for Social Security to determine support for Parkinson's disease, it must be severe enough to significantly limit one's ability to perform basic work activities needed to do most jobs.

- For example:
- Walking, standing, sitting, lifting, pushing, pulling, reaching, carrying or handling
 - Seeing, hearing and speaking
 - Understanding/carrying out and remembering simple instructions
 - Responding appropriately to supervision, co-workers and usual work situations
 - Dealing with changes in a routine work setting

Parkinson's is listed under the category of impairments known as neurological. If the following criteria are met, an individual is found to be disabled under the Social Security as meeting a medical listing: Significant rigidity, bradykinesia or tremor in two extremities, which – singly or in combination – result in disturbance of gross and dexterous movements or gait and station. An individual who has the preceding clinical findings and has a diagnosis of Parkinson's will be found to meet medical listing 11.06. An individual who has similar findings with a diagnosis of Parkinson's may be found to "medically equate" the aforementioned medical listing.

If the person does not meet the requirements above, you will need to

Ask the Advocate



explore the ability of an individual to perform work they have done in the past despite their Parkinson's disease. If the SSA finds that a person can do his past work, benefits are denied. If the person cannot, then the process proceeds to the fifth and final step.

The fifth step requires a review of age, education, work experience and physical/mental condition to determine what other work, if any, the person can perform.

To determine Parkinson's disease disability, the SSA enlists medical-vocational rules, which vary according to age.

For example, if a person is:

- Under age 50 and, as a result of the symptoms of Parkinson's disease, unable to perform what the SSA calls sedentary work, then the SSA will reach a determination of disabled. Sedentary work requires the ability to lift a maximum of 10 pounds at a time, sit six hours and occasionally walk and stand two hours per eight-hour day.
- Age 50 or older and, due to the disability, limited to performing sedentary work, but has no work-related skills that allow him to do so, the SSA will reach a determination of disabled.
- Age 55 or older and, due to the disability, limited to performing light work, but has no work-related skills that allow him to do so, the SSA will reach a determination of disabled.
- Over age 60 and, due to the disability, unable to perform any of the jobs he performed in the last 15 years, the SSA will likely reach a determination of disabled.
- Any age and, because of Parkinson's disease, has a psychological impairment that prevents even simple, unskilled work, the SSA will reach a determination of disabled.

An Accredited Disability Representative with more than 16 years experience, Diana Wade believes her clientele can be comfortable knowing that she is recognized by SSA and a charter member of NADR. To contact Ms. Wade call 661-821-0494, email dianapwade@att.net or visit <http://CaliforniaDisability.net>.

New Year's Resolutions: A To Do List

by Bob the Wine Guy

We need to show resolve. We need to proclaim for change, so it goes each January. Never is our determination firmer than it is today. We will change...we will exercise more, we will eat less, we will be kind to others, and solve the worlds problems. Just kidding on the last one.

In all likelihood all we can do is make a couple of lists and suffer in resoluteness for the next week or two before everything returns to normal. Here it is now, the year for us to make the modest demands of ourselves. Okay, so here's my plan..set forth a few modest proposals, nothing drastic, all attainable and see what happens. Of course this should include a visit to see Bob the wine guy and continue our adventure down the trail to the wine knowledge college..

How about we start with...

Clean up your cellar

Taking an inventory of our personal wine stock on hand. Many of our friends and customers have a substantial if not collectible stash of wine in their personal wine cellars (sometimes called closets, or pantries). What to look for, in this inventory.

1. How about checking for wine that you have had for some time, with an eye toward making sure that you don't purchase more of the same.

2. Physically handling your wine can reveal issues with them. There's nothing quite as disturbing in the cellar as that sticky little drop of wine hanging off the neck of one of your prized bottles.

3. Knowing what you have can make it much easier to plan to drink what you want instead of rummaging around in the seller. Knowing what you have and where it is makes it easier to drink your wine.

Dispose of your wine. Once you know what you have you also need to know what to do with it. Wine is generally not immortal, and bottles that are leakers need to be consumed sooner rather than later. We all have a few bottles lurking somewhere that we should drink. Either they are prized bottles that we never end up drinking or they are everyday bottles that we too easily pass over. This year make it a point to reduce the number of wines in your cellar. Drink them, share them, heck even give them away if you have to.

Take a Different Path

Most of us might find that we are right at home staying within our comfort zone, drinking the same things we like all the time. This presents a wonderful opportunity to try things we're not used to – like aq Malbec, a Shiraz or even a buttery Chardonnay. It's an easy way to take a chance, sort of a new path of discovery with many nights of pleasure...

Okay I might be pushing it a bit.

Stop being a snob

This of course does not include Bob the Wine Guy since he is incapable of snobbery. This is tricky,so let's for a moment consider what the word snob actually means. Allow me to use a definition, that I found in the dictionary online. Snob: a person who believes himself or herself to have superior taste and is condescending towards those with different values. Does that sound like anybody we know? Nowhere is it stated that one must prefer expensive over the inexpensive to be a snob. Fundamentally a snob is driven by a heightened sense of self-importance and condescension towards others. Thus we do have snobs who favor the expensive or exclusive over the ordinary but we also have

Bob - the 'Wine Guy'



snobs who favor the geeky, organic, or even inexpensive over the wines other people like and enjoy. To all those snobs out there Happy New Year..oh and by the way get over yourself if you don't like a type of wine that is fantastic. Now shut up and drink what you like and leave me and everybody else in peace to enjoy what we like.

Share more wine

Let's do this, make 2014 the year we share all of our wine, leakers or duds, mystery bottles and wines that just should be drunk.

Listen More

My personal and final New Year's resolution is to listen more. As some of you may know here at the Souza Family Winery most of our menu has been customer driven, that is to say we test wines constantly and only keep on the menu the ones you tell us you like, so we do listen. Geez. Frankly Scarlet... I'm exhausted.

Before I close, we will be having our annual Valentine's Day Sweetheart dinner Friday Night, Feb. 14.

It's sure to be a sell out. Please call 661-822-9233 for reservations.

Now what you all wait for... okay, okay... maybe not all. My Aunt Mildred, married to my Uncle Aldo, is in the hospital having surgery for what we thought was a mild heart attack, and while there she has a visit from God. While at her bedside she asks, "Will I die?" God says, "No you have 30 more good years to live." With 30 years to look forward to Aunt Millie decides to make the best of it. Since she's in the hospital she gets breast implants, liposuction, a tummy tuck, hair transplants and collagen injections in her lips. She looks great! The day she's discharged, she exits the hospital with a swagger, crosses the street and is immediately hit by an ambulance and killed. She wakes up in heaven and sees God. "You said I had 30 more years to live" she complains."That's true". says God. "So what happened?" she asks.

God shrugs, "I didn't recognize you."

Bada Bing!

– BTWG

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MAIN STREET TEHACHAPI

Seventh Annual *Valentine's*

WINE & CHOCOLATE TASTING

Two Thousand Fourteen

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

6:00 TO 9PM ♥ DOWNTOWN TEHACHAPI

\$25 per person ♥ \$30 on day of event

Ticket is good for one Custom Printed wine glass & ten 1 ½ oz. tastes of wine map and accompanying treats. Tasters must be 21 years or older.



Tickets available at the following Locations:

Tehachapi Flower Shop, 119 East "F" Street

Mercury Graphics, 120 E. Tehachapi Blvd.

**Greater Tehachapi Chamber of Commerce,
209 E. Tehachapi Blvd. (Credit Cards Accepted)**

Get Dressed Boutique, 125 W. Tehachapi Blvd.

Kohnen's Country Bakery, 125 W. Tehachapi Blvd.

Phone Orders at Main Street Tehachapi (661) 822-6519

visit us at www.MainStreetTehachapi.org

Local winery,
Triassic Legacy
will be the start of your
lovely evening, pouring
their "Sparkling Legacy"
Champagne at the
glass pickup point.

Your wine glasses and
ten tasting tickets will
be picked up at
The Tehachapi Depot at
Tehachapi Boulevard
and Green Street.
Glass pickup begins
at 6pm and the event
goes on until 9pm.

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Strawberry Truffles

Dahlia, a Boutique
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Lillies North Coast, Sauv. Blanc
Angel Fudge

Country Real Estate
107 East Tehachapi Blvd.
Gen 5, Cabernet
Raspberry Chocolates

Greater Tehachapi Chamber of Commerce/ National Chavez Center
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Urnuly, Cabernet
Black Walnut Chocolates

DoTerra Essential Oils
122 East Tehachapi Blvd.
Columbia Winery, Getirzitrminer
Praline Chocolates

Mercury Graphics
120 East Tehachapi Blvd.
Castle Rock, Red Blend
Chocolate Truffles

Fancy Tips & Toes
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Tehachapi Treasure Trove
116 East Tehachapi Blvd.
Post Code, Shiraz (Australia)
Strawberry Chocolates

Picture Perfect
112 East Tehachapi Blvd.
Dry Creek Fume Blanc (CA)
Mango Chocolates

Tehachapi Flower Shop
117 East "F" Street
Canal & Nubola Cava (Spain)
Chocolate Pecan Pralines

Enter to Win one of 2 Gift Baskets at Tehachapi Flower Shop
10 Auntie Em's

H & R Block
126 East "F" Street
Arrogant Frog Rose (France)
Cointreau Truffles

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125 West Tehachapi Blvd.
Il. Lambrusco (Italy)
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On the Blvd Bistro
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Mountain Antiques
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Lemon Truffles

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15
6:00 TO 9PM ♡ DOWNTOWN TEHACHAPI
\$25 per person ♡ \$30 on day of event

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Some wine's & chocolate's are subject to change.

What's up in Stallion Springs?

by Ed Gordon

Neighborhood Watch held its regular meeting on Monday, Jan. 20 in the Emergency Operations Center at the Stallion Administration Building with over 40 residents in attendance. Police Chief Mike Grant said, "The police department has had some challenges with staffing and it's groups like this that help us in a serious manor to patrol the area and to be the eyes and ears in the community."

Grant reported, "Last month we had a significant number of people complaining about scams that are going on. Most of the scams are phishing scams that are going on by email, calls or texting trying to phish information from you. One of the things to watch for is that the wording and the grammar are off. These are major things that should be your first clue. If you get these emails just delete them. If you have sent some information even inadvertently please let us know so we can follow up."

Grant continued, "I'm completing the details of my plan for the next two years. Our plan for the police department is three major things. First, establishing a citizens Volunteer Corps for Stallion similar to what the Sheriff's Department has. Volunteers would go through a Citizens academy and from there you would help us out with Administrative duties as well as doing some patrol, house checks, etc. There is some training involved but it would supplement us quite a bit. Second, we're going to build an unpaid reserve force of people that are retired mostly from the Kern County Sheriff's Department to help us out to supplement our patrols and third, continue reciprocating relationships with Bear Valley and the Sheriff's Department."

An election was held and Joan Clark was elected to be the new Captain of the Neighborhood Watch group. Heather Tinley was elected as Co-Captain.

Sandy Young noted that a new CERT Class will begin on March 12 from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Stallion Springs Administration Building. Additional classes will follow on Saturday, March 15 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., March 29 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and a final class Wednesday April 2, from 5 to 9 p.m.

Grant reminded the group the best way to contact the Police Department is to Dial 911 in an emergency or to contact the Sheriff's Dispatch 861-3110 as they act as dispatch for the Stallion Police department.

Neighborhood watch meetings are held the second Monday of the month at the Police Department. Everybody is invited to attend.

The Stallion Springs CSD held its annual Board of Directors meeting on Tuesday, Jan.

20 at the CSD Administrative Building. Vice President, Clydell Lamkin, presided over the meeting filling in for Board President Dave Burt who was involved in an auto accident and is currently undergoing extensive physical therapy at a rehabilitation facility in Bakersfield for his injuries.

CPA Paul Kaymark of Charles Z. Fedak and Company presented the independent auditors report noting: "It is in our opinion that the statements present fairly in all material aspects the financial position of the district. Financials look good."

The Police report for the month showed five arrests, 40 reports, 88 calls for service and 61 Officer initiated investigations.

General Manager, Mary Beth Garrison reported, The January 11 blood drive broke all previous records. Thirty-seven people donated. The next blood drive is scheduled for March 15 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

In the roads department, this summer parts of Stallion Springs Drive and several other areas will receive overlays and curbing and a dozen street signs and several stop signs are being replaced with in the district.

Garrison noted that she has been meeting with General Manager John Martin of Tehachapi Cummings Water District. They are the water master. They are facing a five percent allocation of project water. If that holds he will not be able to supply water to the jurisdiction at the same level as 2013. Garrison indicated that Martin wants to supply the farmers with all the water they need. I am working with Golden Hills and we don't believe that's fair. If the cutback is 20 percent then we all need to cut back 20 percent.

Upcoming Parks and Recreation events **Tuesday Teen Night** will be continuing from 3 to 6 p.m. in the Gym.

Family Movie night will present, Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2 on Feb. 21 at 7 p.m. and Frozen on March 21 No cost for the movies.

Insanity Fitness classes are being added to the agenda. Classes will be held on Tuesday evenings. Check with the CSD for further details.

The Fourth annual **Chilly Dip** is coming up on March 8 at 11:30 a.m. at the pool. Check with the CSD for requirements and fees. Get ready to take the plunge. The event is a fund raiser for the Parks and Recreation.

Events For Kids at the Community Center

Valentines Faux Gumball Machine, Saturday Feb. 1 at 10 a.m.

St. Patricks' day Melting Crayon Rainbow, March 1 at 10 a.m.

Stallion Springs



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!



Tehachapi Valley Healthcare District

Quality healthcare. Right here. Right now.

Coming Soon! Emergency Medicine Stroke Services

The Tehachapi Valley Healthcare District will bring Emergency Medicine Stroke Services to the Tehachapi community in the near future. **You are invited to attend three presentations given by provider candidates. Below are the dates:**

BAKERSFIELD HEART HOSPITAL
Presenter: Ryan Allen, Stroke Program Coordinator
Feb 4, 2014
6:30pm
Location: Tehachapi Area Association of Realtors
803 Tucker Road
Tehachapi, CA 93561

SAN JOAQUIN COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
Presenters: Doug Duffield, CEO; Don Cornforth, MD/CMO; Margaret White, CNO; Kurt Hoekendorf, Sr VP; Michelle Hartshorn, Director
February 6, 2014
6:30pm
Location: Tehachapi Area Association of Realtors
803 Tucker Road
Tehachapi, CA 93561

DIGNITY HEALTH/BAKERSFIELD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
Presenters: Gary Frazier, VP Business Development; Michele Shain; Kiron Thomas, MD
February 20, 2014
6:30pm
Location: Tehachapi Area Association of Realtors
803 Tucker Road
Tehachapi, CA 93561

Contact Peggy Mendiburu at (661) 823-3006 or pmendiburu@tvhd.org if you have any questions

Light refreshments served

Send Us Your Community Events!

Submit them to:
**articles@
theloopnewspaper.com**

by Friday, Feb 7 to be in
the Feb 15 issue!



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Great Bank Robbery

Intro by Pat Gracey, article by CWO-4 Doyle D. Gracey, Jr. USMC

Some years ago, my longtime friend, Dick Johnson, when he was Editor of The Tehachapi News, called me and asked me to tell "Gracey," my husband, to write up some of his Marine Corps experiences to print in the paper. My husband, Doyle, didn't need a second invitation and for several years he would write something up every few weeks. I would edit them for spelling and punctuation flaws; something he didn't like to bother with, and my old school friend, Dick, would print them. People seemed to enjoy reading the stories.

My husband refused to write about the "blood and guts" end of the war time years, which for him included World War II, Korea and Vietnam. He simply wanted to tell the tales that military men experience during a good portion of a life devoted to serving in "Uncle Sam's" United States Marine Corps. Finally, upon the encouragement of friends, I copied the stories on my trusty copy machine, put a cover on it, and called it a book. We gave a few hundred of them to friends and apparently one of them ended up in the hands of a Marine Corps Archive employee who asked if we would mind if they placed the book in the Archives. I was honored. I wish my husband had lived to know about that.

The following tells of an incident that happened during the Battle of Okinawa (April 1 through June 22, 1945). No "blood and guts," just a story about a group of Marine combat troops who were momentarily distracted during the largest amphibious invasion of the Pacific Campaign and the last major campaign of the Pacific during World War II.

The Great Bank Robbery

Any person ever having served in the armed forces of this great country will have acquired some souvenirs that mean a great deal to them. Many items are stored away in trunks or locker boxes. Often the more elaborate ones are displayed in cases or hung on the walls of homes and offices. Most have little or no monetary value but are priceless to the owners. These personal treasures are, for the most part, small items for they must be hand carried or packed in a sea bag or locker box. Some larger items are shipped home and a delighted girlfriend or wife may find a lovely hand carved teakwood chest, or perhaps a much less desired native chieftains' headdress! Often the story surrounding the gathering of the articles, purchased in liberty ports around the world, is far more interesting than the souvenirs themselves. At the very least, upon an inquiry of such collectibles, you will learn a bit of history and gain some insight into the

teller of the tale.

In 1945 I was a young man and one of the Marines that fought in the Battle of Okinawa. One would not imagine that combat troops would get a chance to side-step the war for a few moments, but we did. After the initial landing we began to work south and moved through villages and towns. We found ourselves in a bombed out building that we assumed that had been a bank because of a large safe still within the ruins. It was a big safe some six feet square and still locked. What a situation! Who could walk away from a locked safe without making some attempt at opening it; especially when we had the means (explosives) with us?

While the war waited, some of us who carried pliable explosives, now called C-4, decided we would try our hand at safe-cracking. It didn't take long to push the C-4 into the cracks around the door. This type of explosive is as workable as silly putty so we had no trouble ringing the safe door with it. The moment for the "big bang" arrived. We amateur safe crackers had completed the job. We then stood back. I guess we may have used just a "mite" too much C-4 because we not only blew the door off the safe, we blew the whole damn door through the opposite wall!

After the smoke cleared we saw Japanese yen fluttering down like autumn leaves; we were ankle deep in the stuff. It was a great disappointment to us: no gold, no jewels, just a great amount of Japanese money, worthless to us. We each picked up a few yen notes for proof that we had had all that fun, then moved off to continue the war. We heard, some months later, that Japanese currency was redeemable in U.S. money. Guess I missed my chance for I still have the one Japanese yen note whose denomination I do not even recall, that I picked up that day so many years ago.

A few weeks after this article was printed I received a letter from a retired Army Sergeant who lived in Georgia. His son, a Tehachapi resident, had sent the story to him. I received a letter from him saying that his battalion must have followed us into the area for when passing the gutted bank building, the yen was still fluttering down. I often wonder if they picked up any yen for a souvenir.

The Spirit of Tehachapi



Saving Lives and Saving Money

by Sheila Zanghi, Pioneer True Value

This time of the year I think about when I was sixteen and was almost a victim of carbon monoxide poisoning. It was a chilly January day when everyone went to work leaving me, my younger sister, and my 18-month-old niece sound asleep.

About three hours later I awoke to my niece screaming in anger. She wanted up and as I slowly got out of bed I realized I had a terrible pounding headache and I was nauseous. I woke up my sister, telling her to take care of our niece because I was sick. She got out of bed and promptly fainted. I managed to get to the phone and call my mom who told me to open all the doors and windows and she was on her way home.

I still thank my niece for saving us. Thankfully, the bedroom she was in had a window that had been left cracked open and she hadn't been affected by the carbon monoxide. Wires in the furnace had caught fire and smoldered unchecked and had consumed most of the oxygen in the house. We were lucky. The outcome would have been much different if my niece hadn't been there to nudge us awake. This is why I believe in carbon monoxide detectors and encourage everyone who has any heater, fire place, stove, water heater, etc. that relies on combustion to have a CO detector. And make sure it is no higher than 18" off the floor. Carbon monoxide is heavier than air and fills the room from the bottom to the top.

Another thing I believe in is the compact fluorescent energy saving light bulbs. I remember twenty years ago our industry

was first introduced to a different kind of florescent light that wasn't the typical 48" tube that illuminated kitchens and garages. These CFLs were oddly shaped because they still needed a ballast to get it illuminated so they were circular in shape with the huge ballast attached at the base. Needless to say there was a lot of resistance. People didn't like the silly shapes and they didn't like the harsh light they emitted. The only thing they seemed to like was saving money on electricity. Improvements have been remarkable.

Today there is a wider selection of shapes and the type of light emitted—they come in cool white, daylight, soft white, and in bug light yellow as well as being dimmable. The normal incandescent bulb has a life span of 750 hours to 1,000 hours at most; CFLs life span is from 6,000 to 15,000 hours. CFLs are becoming more accepted. What is even more acceptable is the amount of money we can save on our electric bill. Sorry Edison, since I changed out most of my bulbs I am saving 40 percent on my electric bill.

We at Pioneer True Value invite you to come and visit us and check out our sale on CO detectors and CFLs. We are here to help you get your project done quickly and efficiently. And, for those getting anxious to start their spring garden, our seeds are here. We have a great selection of favorites as well as organic and heirloom vegetables. For all your home improvement and repair as well as garden we say, "Start right. Start here." Check out our ad on page 1.

Tehachapi Christian Arts Fellowship Update and Cast Call!

The Tehachapi Christian Arts Fellowship was put together last August to give Creative Christians a safe and encouraging place to, well, create.

Since then we've all been busy and as a result, we have a number of projects humming along, some, or perhaps all, may benefit from your involvement.

The first is a play. Two of our members, Gail Martin and Dorothy McReynolds, are in the final stages of scripting it. Valerie Provines will direct.

To assure we're on the right track, we'd like to put on a reader's theater for an audience of about 20 of all ages sometime in February.

If you're an actor or would like to be among the 20 to give us your opinion, email us at the address below.

Our second is for those who want to write a memoir; who feel that elements of your lives would be instructive and interesting to others.

On Feb. 5, at 7 p.m., at the Tehachapi Christian Store, we're going to put on a two-hour, mini-seminar on "How to Write a Memoir that Matters."

Our goal here is to help you construct a foundation upon which you can then build your memoir.

Sign up with Susan Palmer at the Tehachapi Christian Store or email us at the same address below.

Our third – we want to hear from Christians who are writers and photographers, both adults and teens. We have a project in an embryonic

stage that we'd like to get off the ground very soon that needs you. We also would like to hear from attendees at our various churches and independent ministries who would like to act as a contact.

This contact would let us know what events and ministries are planned over the coming weeks or months.

Casting Call below!

Finally (for now), TCAF is starting a Pod Cast - "Creative Christians." Among the variety of elements is a "Christian Soap Opera," or serial – an ongoing, character driven, Tehachapi based, fictional audio-play (like old time radio) that will entertainingly explore contemporary Christian issues. This is a **cast call!**

Actors of all ages, sound effects technicians, anyone with radio experience, writers and directors – but especially ACTORS, please attend the open audition 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 8, at the First Baptist Church in the back of the campus.

Remember, Pod Casts are like "radio." No memorizing lines, just acting.

We have a first episode script and will be auditioning from it.

We'd love to hear from you first at the email address below.

Interested in any of these activities either email us at Tehachapicaf@gmail.com or come to our Monday night meeting, 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church toward the back of the campus.

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Hours: 9am to 6pm Tues -Thurs

Later evening hours can be arranged.

On the Train Ride to Gettysburg

by Bruce Gripkey

Let me tell you a story about a man in the mid-nineteenth century: His wife pled with him not to go, as he prepared to leave for his trip. Their youngest son was sick, and she was recovering from an injury sustained after falling from their carriage. The family was still grieving over the loss of another son to typhoid. "Your place is at home," she argued, "We need you here." He kept packing and explained that he would not be gone for very long. He had been invited. He had to go. It was his fault.

Early, the following day, he boarded the train that would take himself and hundreds of other mourners on a daylong journey to a small town in Pennsylvania where, early in July, the armies of the North had beaten back the Rebels led by Gen. Robert E. Lee in the bloodiest and costliest battle of the American Civil War – a war to determine state rights and a war to preserve the Union. He was on the train to Gettysburg.

Train travel in the mid-nineteenth century was less than glamorous. Wood burning locomotives chugged along at a [now] mind boggling twenty-five miles an hour. There was no air conditioning, no electricity and no comfort: Air was conditioned by how many windows were down; heat supplied by wood burning stoves; and comfort limited by sparsely furnished train cards and by rails only as smooth as men working by hand could place them. It would take all day to get to Gettysburg.

He found a quiet spot on the train to collect his thoughts. Newspaper reports of the battle were graphic, and the number of casualties were mind numbing. Thousands upon thousands of fathers, husbands, sons and brothers had made the ultimate sacrifice there the first week in July of 1864.

As the train made its way across Pennsylvania, he took some papers out of his coat pocket and jotted down some notes. Responding to the tremendous outpouring of sorrow across the country, the Governor of Pennsylvania had erected a memorial and National Cemetery at the battlefield. He kept on writing. Rows and rows of coffins stacked on the platform were clearly visible in the bright moonlight when the train pulled into Gettysburg that night. He spent an

Train of Thought

uncomfortable night in cramped quarters at the home of a local resident.

At dawn, on Nov. 19, 1864, a lone bugler climbed to the top of Cemetery Hill and called the twenty or so thousand mourners to assemble.

For hours there were speakers, politicians and dignitaries, telling stories of the battle, heroics and horrible bloodshed. Then it was his turn to speak. He then approached the podium. This tall, lanky man in the long black coat, stovepipe hat, scruffy beard and sad, sunken eyes then took some crumpled papers out of his inner coat pocket and began to read.

"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in Liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

"Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this."

"But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate – we can not consecrate – we can not hallow – this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is rather for us to be dedicated to the great task remaining before us – that to honor these dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here gave the last full measure of devotion – that we, here today, highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain – that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom – and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

– Abraham Lincoln, July 1864



Financial Focus

Manage Retirement Income with 'Tax Diversification'

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

You need to save and invest as much as possible to pay for the retirement lifestyle you've envisioned, but your retirement income also depends, to a certain degree, on how your retirement funds are taxed. That's why you may be interested in tax diversification.

To understand the concept of tax diversification, you'll need to be familiar with how two of the most important retirement-savings vehicles – an IRA and a 401(k) – are taxed. Essentially, these accounts can be classified as either "traditional" or "Roth."

When you invest in a traditional IRA or 401(k), your contributions may be tax-deductible and your earnings can grow tax-deferred. With a Roth IRA or 401(k), your contributions are not deductible, but your distributions can potentially be tax-free, provided you meet certain conditions. (Keep in mind, though, that to contribute to a Roth IRA, you can't exceed designated income limits. Also, not all employers offer the Roth option for 401(k) plans.)

Of course, "tax free" sounds better than "tax deferred," so you might think that a Roth option is always going to be preferable. That's not necessarily the case. If you think your tax bracket will be lower in retirement than when you were working, a traditional IRA or 401(k) might be a better choice, due to the cumulative tax deductions you took at a higher tax rate. If your tax bracket will be the same, or higher, during retirement, then the value of tax-free distributions from a Roth IRA or 401(k) may outweigh the benefits of the tax deductions you'd get from a traditional IRA or 401(k).

Making the choice between "traditional" and "Roth" could be tricky. Here's the good news: You don't necessarily have to choose, at least not with your IRA. That's because you may be able to contribute to both a traditional IRA and a Roth IRA, assuming you meet the Roth's income guidelines. This allows you to benefit from both the tax deductions of the traditional IRA and the potential tax-free distributions of the Roth IRA.

Once you retire, this "tax diversification" can be especially valuable.

Why? Because when you have money in different types of accounts, you gain flexibility in how you structure your withdrawals – and this flexibility can help you potentially increase the amount of

your after-tax disposable income. If you have a variety of accounts, with different tax treatments, you could decide to first make your required withdrawals (from a traditional IRA and 401(k) or other employer-sponsored plan), followed, in order, by withdrawals from your taxable investment accounts, your tax-deferred accounts and, finally, your tax-free accounts. Keep in mind, though, that you may need to vary your actual sequence of withdrawals from year to year, depending on your tax situation. For example, it might make sense to change the order of withdrawals, or take withdrawals from multiple accounts, to help reduce taxes and avoid moving into a different tax bracket.

Clearly, tax diversification can be beneficial, so after consulting with your tax and financial advisors, consider ways of allocating your retirement plan contributions to provide the flexibility you need to maximize your income during your retirement years.

Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.



Ben Graham,
Edward Jones
Financial Advisor

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A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

CRYPTO FUN

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Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to arithmetic.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: **9 = i**)

A. 8 9 6 9 8 3

Clue: Separate

B. 18 16 23

Clue: Total

C. 12 20 15 26 14 9 5 22

Clue: Quantity that isn't whole

D. 22 16 23 1 3 20

Clue: Math value

Answers: A. Divide B. Sum C. Fraction D. Number

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to math.

PECTOUM

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Compute

Guess Who?

I was born on February 14, 1934 in Indiana. Although I have starred in many different projects, I will forever be known for the hit 70s TV show in which I played matriarch to a large, blended family.

Answers: Florence Henderson

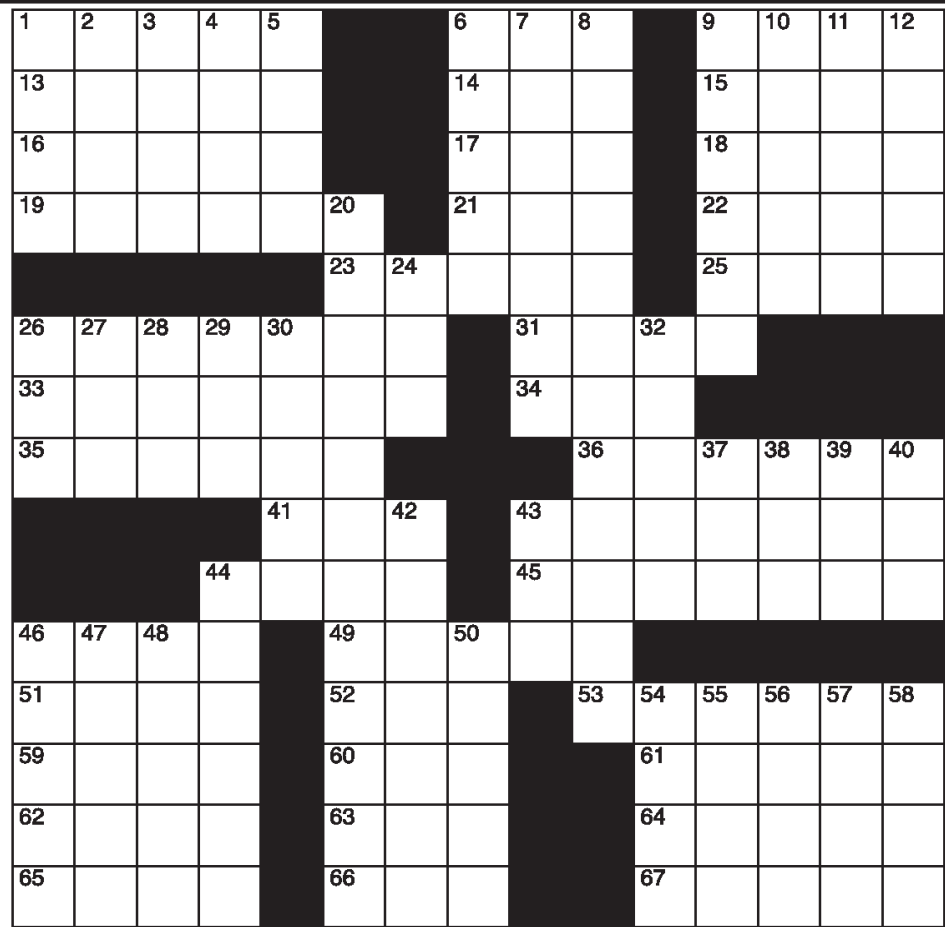
ARITHMETIC WORD SEARCH

I	M	M	A	T	R	I	X	T	A	C	A	L	C	U	L	U	S	X	R
D	A	Q	G	L	S	L	S	R	E	N	E	L	Q	N	A	I	D	E	M
R	R	N	T	A	L	L	P	R	H	C	A	L	G	N	E	C	E	X	L
E	G	A	E	M	I	R	U	E	Q	E	N	S	P	O	R	C	X	U	R
M	O	N	O	C	F	A	G	R	E	D	U	C	R	I	T	Y	F	C	L
L	L	C	C	I	E	R	B	E	C	A	M	N	E	A	O	I	X	U	R
P	E	D	N	N	Q	S	C	I	B	C	C	N	E	C	F	I	Q	F	L
R	L	R	T	X	A	U	O	N	T	C	E	U	P	F	T	L	T	B	L
A	R	A	T	G	A	Q	L	U	E	C	N	E	U	M	I	E	P	M	L
C	I	T	T	O	B	S	G	I	M	R	E	R	A	I	N	O	C	N	O
I	T	Y	A	N	E	S	E	O	Y	F	M	U	C	T	I	O	B	C	A
A	E	F	T	A	E	E	L	N	H	U	C	R	I	O	I	M	O	S	N
Q	Y	Y	R	Y	D	U	R	E	E	P	F	X	U	U	P	L	U	S	T
D	A	I	M	O	A	N	I	B	C	D	I	E	T	I	G	I	G	A	D

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

WORDS

ABSOLUTE	EQUATION
ACCURACY	FRACTION
ALGEBRA	FUNCTION
ALGORITHM	GEOMETRY
ANALYTIC	MATRIX
ANGLE	MEAN
BASE	MEDIAN
BINOMIAL	MINIMUM
CALCULUS	MULTIPLY
CIRCUMFERENCE	NUMERATOR
COEFFICIENT	PARALLEL
COMPLEMENT	PRIME
COMPOUND	RULES
CONGRUENCE	SEQUENCE
DEGREE	SINE
DENOMINATOR	SOLUTION
DIFFERENCE	SQUARE
DIGIT	TANGENT



CLUES ACROSS

1. NOHOW
6. Record (abbr.)
9. Hair detangler
13. "1836 siege" of U.S.
14. Old name for Tokyo
15. Largest continent
16. Showed old movie
17. Clatter
18. Considered one by one
19. Chinese cinnamon spice tree
21. Frequently
22. 3 person 32 card game
23. Misaddressed mail (slang)
25. Expresses pleasure
26. Samba or basket rummy
31. Military leader (abbr.)
33. A citizen of Iran
34. Environmental Protection Agency
35. Carbon, radioactive or varve

36. Loss of electricity
41. Mass. Cape
43. Mediator
44. 1/1000 of a tala
45. Players at 1st, 2nd & 3rd
46. Covered Greek portico
49. Bring upon oneself
51. Leuciscus cephalus
52. Cold War foe U____
53. Bumpkins or hayseeds
59. Fleishy seed cover
60. Golf ball prop
61. Antipathetic
62. Wait or tarry
63. Weather map line ____ bar
64. Civilian dress
65. Relaxing resorts
66. Box (abbr.)
67. Burning crime

CLUES DOWN

1. Informant (slang)
2. Olive tree genus
3. Armed conflicts
4. Am. Music Awards
5. Dance mix DJ Einhorn
6. Oxidation-reduction
7. Structure
8. Modern
9. Roman Conqueror
10. So. Honshu bay city
11. 8th C. BC minor Hebrew prophet
12. = to 100 satang
20. In active opposition
24. 007's Flemming
26. 12th century Spanish hero El ____
27. Macaw genus
28. Slave rebellion's Turner
29. Cuckoo

30. From a time
32. Applies with quick strokes
37. Fasten with string
38. Teller replacement
39. Command right
40. Sea eagle
42. Most closely set
43. __ Dhabi, Arabian capital
44. Marten furs
46. Strike workers
47. Thysanopter
48. Louise de la Ramee's pen
name
50. King of Thebes
54. __ mater, one's school
55. Time unit
56. Klutzes
57. __ Von Bismarck, Iron
Chancellor
58. Front of the leg

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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!

Level: Advanced

ANSWER:

Community Happenings



Old Town Business Association is now being formed to create a local group to help guide the county RENEWBIZ process.

RENEWBIZ is a 1.5 million dollar grant program from wind farm property taxes and will soon be available to Old Town businesses. This grant program has already been successful in Boron Rosamond and Mojave.

Please join us at an
Informational and Organizational Meeting

on Wednesday Feb. 5, 6.30 p.m.
at Cardin School
20419 Brian Way, Tehachapi, CA 93561

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.

DivorceCare

DivorceCare is held every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in Room 402 at Country Oaks Baptist Church in Tehachapi.

DivorceCare is a weekly seminar/support group that will help you heal from the hurt. The address is 20915 Schout Rd., across the street from the Methodist church. Contact us today for more information.

The phone number is 661-822-1379 or church website at www.countryoaks.org

The 51st Annual Tehachapi Mountain Festival® Theme Contest Announced

The Greater Tehachapi Chamber of Commerce and the 51st Anniversary Mountain Festival Committee are looking for a theme for the 51st Annual Tehachapi Mountain Festival®. The Festival will be on Aug. 16 and 17, 2014.

Original or unique theme ideas should be submitted to the Chamber by Friday, Feb. 28, 2013 at 4 p.m. The winner will receive a \$100 prize, along with V.I.P. treatment and an invitation to ride in the Mountain Festival Parade. Participants are allowed to submit an unlimited number of theme ideas, but only one winner will be chosen.

Themes from previous years included:

2013 "Comin' Round the Mountain 50 Years and Countin' "

2012 "Timeless Pleasures, Mountain Treasures

2011 "Rope the Wind, Ride the Mountain

2010 "Windmills, Wine & Oaks Divine"

2009 "Tehachapi 1909-2009, What a Century in Time"

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.

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.

Neuropathy Support Group

The Neuropathy Support Group meets the second Wednesday of the month, Feb 12 at 1-2 p.m. at the Senior Center 500 E. F St. If you have Neuropathy or know someone who does feel free to join us, or contact Margaret Clark 661-822-3381

Summit Singers News

by Corinne Stone

Heads up, everyone! It's almost time to start practice for the Spring concert of the Summit Singers. The first practice is on Tuesday, Feb. 4. Practice is at 6:30 p.m. at the Methodist church on the corner of Schout and Backes, and the concert is scheduled for May 17.

We welcome all past, present, and new members, and we'd love to see new faces on the Fourth. No auditions are required. If you have any questions, you may call 661-822-3836.

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661-822-8188

Events Through February for Tehachapi Library

Mondays - American Sign Language for Teens and Adults. Teens at 4:30 p.m. and Adults at 5:30 p.m.

Fridays - Preschool Story-time at 10 a.m.

Feb. 8, Feb. 22. (Second & Fourth Saturdays): LEGO Club for Kids ages 5+ through middle-school age. Come to the library to create, learn, and play! Parents must accompany children.

Feb. 8, **Genealogy Club**: Come start your family tree and learn how to research family history at 10 a.m.

eBook Help: Did you get a new smart-phone or tablet for the holidays? Would you like to download eBooks or eAudiobooks to your new device? Schedule an appointment with library staff to learn

how to download eBooks and eAudiobooks to your device using Kern County Library's Overdrive Media platform. Overdrive is free to use and there are never any late fees! You only need a library card to access.

Computer Coaching: Do you need help learning how to use a Widows computer desktop or laptop? We now have a computer coach that can help you learn computer basics. Please call the library for details and to schedule an appointment.

LEGO Donations Needed: The branch is still looking for LEGO donations to increase our selection for children attending the LEGO club. Remember the club meets every second and fourth Saturday at 2 p.m. Come build with us at the library!

Like us on Facebook: Like our branch's page and keep up on branch activities and information at www.facebook.com/tehachapilibrary

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)

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.

Send us your Community Events

Submit them to: articles@theloopnewspaper.com
by Friday, Feb. 7 to be in the FEB. 15 issue!

**It Has Arrived
A New Website for
The Loop Newspaper**

www.theLoopNewspaper.com



for news, updates, and weather alerts

In recognition of Valentines Day, Fair Trade heart shaped chocolate will be available for sale as well as Fair Trade coffee. Thistle Farm products will be also be available.

Opponents lose latest battle in Walmart war



CEQA judge will render final decision

By Tina Fisher Forde

The Tehachapi City Council unanimously approved the construction of a 165,000-square-foot Walmart Supercenter at a special meeting Jan. 27 in the Tehachapi High School cafeteria.

The matter now moves back to the courtroom of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Judge Kenneth Twisselman, who, on June 22, 2013, had ordered additional environmental studies on traffic, noise and water. He will rule on the adequacy of those Environmental Impact Report (EIR) studies in a hearing yet to be scheduled.

"We're very disappointed," said Walmart opponent Henry Schaeffer, a business owner in the city and member of the organization Tehachapi First. "We didn't think the City Council looked at the facts. We will now rely on Judge Twisselman to make the right decision. We think the traffic study is abominable."

The meeting was the last in a series of marathon meetings on the matter during the past several years, one of which drew 700 members of the public, and legal challenges based on CEQA law. It is the second time the City Council has upheld Planning Commission approval of the project.

"I am proud of the staff," Tehachapi City Manager Greg Garrett said. "They did incredible work and vetted it thoroughly. We can move forward in a positive, productive way. We need to get on Twisselman's schedule."

"I think it's good, it's moving in the right direction," said project engineer and applicant Howard Hardin of Irvine, who has been working on the Tehachapi

Walmart project for 10 years, since 2004, when Walmart bought the 25-acre property on the Tucker commercial corridor.

The City Council action consisted of three separate roll call votes. In the first vote, council members Ed Grimes, Kim Nixon, Mary Lou Zamudio, Mayor pro-tem Susan Wiggins and Mayor Phil Smith denied an appeal by Walmart opponents Tehachapi First of the Dec. 9, 2013, Planning Commission 3-2 approval of the project. The second vote approved the modified Environmental Impact Report. The final vote approved the Walmart architecture and site plan.

The votes came following 2½ hours of testimony by Tehachapi Community Development Director David James, environmental consultant Curtis Zacudo, noise consultant Michael Brown, the city's legal counsel for Walmart Patrick Carrick, applicant Hardin and 49 public speakers. Thirty-one spoke in favor of the project; 18 spoke against.

Mayor Smith did not allow speakers to stray from the three EIR issues of traffic, noise and water in their three-minute presentations.

The most contentious issue was that of traffic and its impact on intersections. The plan calls for the installation of two new traffic signals (see graphic).

A school bus driver said the additional signals will help slow down traffic.



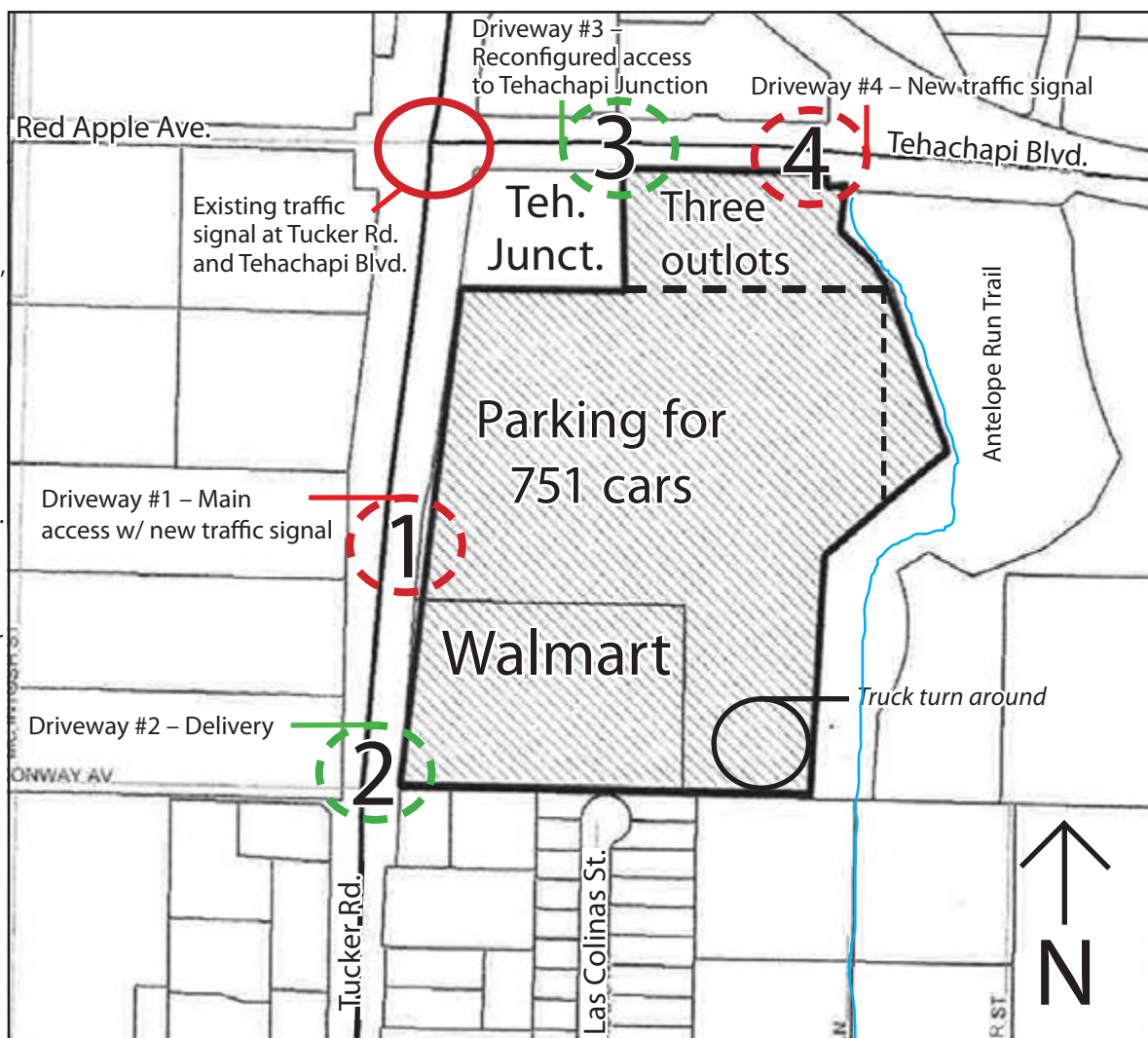
A resident of Las Colinas, the housing area adjacent to the project, made an impassioned plea on behalf of her neighborhood regarding traffic noise, among other concerns. "Nobody's considering the families that live here," she said.

A proponent said "I sympathize with the people who live beyond the parking



Top left, Walmart opponent and Tehachapi business owner Henry Schaeffer speaks to the Tehachapi City Council as other public speakers line up behind him in the Tehachapi High School cafeteria Jan. 27. Above, vision-impaired Diane Deutsch, with her guide dog Shayla, said the new traffic signals should have audible beeps so the blind can cross the streets. Left, an audience member waves her blue pro-Walmart sign following the City Council actions approving the Supercenter.

lot [Las Colinas]. All of the stores back up to residential areas. The city approved Walmart to purchase the land – now we're fussing when they want to build. It's time to honor our commitment."



Original graphic provided in Tehachapi staff report. For in-depth information on the traffic, noise and water revisions, see the city of Tehachapi staff report online at <http://www.liveuptehachapi.com/DocumentCenter/View/2494>.



Christopher Zehnder of Tehachapi First said the public has not had time to evaluate "whole reams of new information."

Shedding light on local issues.

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

Pool re-opening after major repairs

Lifeguards prepare to welcome public



At their orientation session, the group of nine young lifeguards who will be working at Dye Natatorium when it re-opens to the public Feb. 10 got a pep talk from the heart.

"Welcome to the new era of life guarding," Tehachapi Recreation and Park District Manager Matt Young told them. "No other job instills responsibility like life guarding. Your responsibility from day one is public safety.

"You're the person people come to and thank for keeping us safe."

Young was first a lifeguard at age 16. The crop of lifeguards at the natatorium

range in age from 16 to 20. Some are Tehachapi High School students and some are recent graduates. Two of them were hired just before the pool was shut down for much-needed repairs in May of 2013, and they are eager to get to work.

Young tells them to take pride in their housekeeping and to check constantly for hazards.

There's no lifeguard chair. Climbing out of it is too awkward and wastes time, Young said. Instead, roam the deck.

The lifeguards must be able to take control and close the pool in unexpected situations like a change in the opacity of the

Above left, Tehachapi Valley Recreation and Park District Groundsman David Borbon scrapes the deck Jan. 28 at Dye Natatorium, preparing it for new paint. Above right, District Manager Matt Young, speaking to the lifeguards, emphasizes safety measures and explains the emergency action plan. Right, Maintenance Foreman Mike Walsh instructs the lifeguards in the operation of the new lift for the disabled and wheelchair-bound.

water.

"If you can't see the bottom of the pool or across the pool, the pool isn't open," said Young, who acknowledged that members of the public may get angry when told what to do. "I will never compromise on public safety. I will support you 100 percent."



Healthcare board elects Nixon; Conklin's 10-year presidency ends

In its annual election of officers Jan. 29 in the crowded hospital conference room, the five-member Tehachapi Valley Healthcare District Board of Directors elected Mike Nixon, its newest member, to the position of president. The action ends the 10-year presidency of Dr. Sam Conklin, who will now serve as second vice president.

"I've had it for a long time," Conklin said in response to Director Henry Schaeffer's comment that "Dr. Conklin has done a hell of a good job."

The board appointed Nixon on Nov. 20, 2013 to fill the seat of Dr. Gary Olsen, who retired to Utah. Nixon, who owns Vintage V-12s – a company that rebuilds military aircraft engines – served previously as a member of the board.

The board elected Schaeffer to be first vice president, Dr. Kim Horowitz to be secretary and Duane Moats to be treasurer.

Nixon's election came after the board declined to vote on a slate nominated by Horowitz with Conklin as president, after which Schaeffer nominated Nixon,



Mike Nixon



Dr. Sam Conklin

with Moats offering the second. Horowitz subsequently nominated Conklin as president. On a roll call vote on Nixon, all were ayes but for Horowitz, who voted no "because I had nominated Sam."

Nixon thanked Conklin – who has been at the helm through tumultuous times and the complicated replacement hospital construction project – for providing the district with "an incredible vision for the future."

In other business, the board declined to approve an agreement with Healthland

(electronic medical records company) that would have triggered the timeline for Phase Two federal requirements. The directors expressed misgivings about the current performance of Healthland and the abruptness of their contract request, which carried a Jan. 31 deadline. The board voted 5-0 on a motion by Horowitz that instructed legal counsel and the CEO to enter negotiations with Healthland "to indicate our concern and displeasure, that we need time to consider the contract and (that they) come back with a higher level of confidence."

The board approved a change in the monthly board meeting date to the last Wednesday (not fourth) of the month instead of the third, to enable the financial reports to be more complete.

Schaeffer said he would like to see changes in the by-laws. He said it takes two directors to add an item to the agenda and that he has not been told of certain committee meetings. "I have learned what it means to be a minority and be discriminated against," he said, adding "I think the president has too much power."

Forde Shorts

Money – The Tehachapi Valley Healthcare District cash on hand has gone up for the last two months, with \$1,340,000 in the bank as of Jan. 29.

Outreach – Formerly a volunteer, Teri Cryer is now a certified crime prevention specialist with the Tehachapi Police Department following training in San Diego.

Cryer works with everyone from children to seniors and presents crime prevention programs for businesses. She organizes Senior Day at the movies and put together the "Shop with a Cop" event before Christmas.

Golden Guild – At the healthcare district board meeting Jan. 29, Marge Wyatt introduced the new Tehachapi Hospital Guild officers, saying, "It's the first time in 12 years I don't hold an office." Wyatt said it's time to turn the reins over to younger volunteers. The new president is Kandi Smith. Cathy Moats is the new vice president.



Teri Cryer



Kandi Smith, Marge Wyatt, Cathy Moats

Bob Hoover – A Pilot's Pilot

by Cathy Hansen

I have met so many people through the years who talk about the history of Mojave – the L.A. Aqueduct, Southern Pacific Railroad, the gold and silver mines and of course, Mojave Airport. It is always fun to share the rich history of Mojave!

I have heard comments and questions like: "I didn't know that Mojave Airport had been a Marine Corps Air Station" or "Why don't we hold the air races at Mojave Airport anymore?"

Mojave Airport was constructed by Kern County in 1935 and the dirt strip was used by aircraft that hauled the gold and silver from local mines in Mojave. In 1942, Gen. William J. Fox chose Mojave Airport to be an auxiliary flight training base for the U.S. Marines. MCAS Mojave (Marine Corps Air Station) was one of five bases for the Marines. Santa Barbara was another.

The Mojave Air Races were really fun and exciting. Dan Sabovich, visionary founder of Mojave Civilian Flight Test Center first brought air racing to the airport in 1969; the last races were flown in 1978. The flight test programs conducted at Mojave Air and Spaceport today are so complex, exclusive and proprietary that holding air races wouldn't be feasible.

While perusing some of our old Air Race programs I came across an article about a good friend to Mojave Airport and one of my favorite pilots, R.A. Bob Hoover. Described by all who love flying as a "pilot's pilot," Hoover served his country in war and peace as a fighter pilot, test pilot and master of aerobatics.

In 1937, Hoover taught himself basic aerobatic maneuvers at Berry Field in Nashville, Tennessee. He joined the Tennessee Air National Guard, which became part of the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1940. After the start of World War II, he wanted to fly in combat and was sent to Europe, flying 58 missions before being shot down. He was flying a Spitfire Mk V and was shot down by a FW-190.

When you think of the exciting things movies are made of, Hoover's WWII

experiences come to mind. He spent nearly sixteen months in the Stalag Luft 1 prison in Barth Germany before escaping. He then commandeered a Focke-Wulf FW-190, one of the same aircraft that shot him down, and flew it to Holland and freedom!

I can see all of his daring escapades on the big silver screen in my mind – hope my dream comes true!

After the war, Bob continued to serve in the U.S. Air Force and was stationed at Edwards Air Force Base. In 1947, he was a chase pilot for Chuck Yeager in the Bell X-1,

Short Flights



Bob Hoover and his famous Aero Commander Shrike Photo provided.

and was flying a P-80 when Yeager broke the sound barrier.

Hoover became a test pilot for General Motors and North American Aviation, demonstrating flight characteristics in the P-51 Mustang, F-86 Sabrejet and the T-39 Sabreliner. Jimmy Doolittle called Hoover "the greatest stick-and-rudder man who ever lived."

Hoover is remembered by millions of people as the premier air show performer in the world. He is renowned for the Energy Management Maneuver, where he shuts down both engines of his Rockwell Shrike Commander and performs a loop, eight-point roll, a 180-degree turn to a landing, then

taxis in before the crowd without ever restarting the engines! Hoover has flown before more people, in more countries, in more aircraft than any other pilot in history.

Another maneuver, captured on film, demonstrated his superb pilot skills in both the Commander and the Sabreliner. At altitude, he set a glass on top of the instrument panel and poured iced tea into the glass from a pitcher in his right hand, using his left hand to completely roll the aircraft. He combined centrifugal force with smooth handling of the controls and never spilled a drop of tea!

See you on our next flight!



Bob Hoover's Aero Commander at Udvar Hazy Aerospace Museum in Washington D.C.

Playwright's Festival

by Karl Schuck

Playwright's Festival open auditions are Feb 1 and 2, 2014. There are eight ten-minute plays in competition, which makes a perfect opportunity for beginning actors of all ages to "give it a try" in a very safe environment.

"Tehachapi Community Theatre has presented the fesival for several years to growing popularity. Of the playwrights selected, half are local and half are from Los Angeles County, although locals penned only one fifth of the 45 entries as observed by Executive Director Karl Schuck.

"Judges read the plays 'blind'," meaning they don't know the names of

TCT Auditions

locales of the writers, so this is truely a tribute to the growing strength of Tehachapi playwrights," noted Schuck, "We developed the festival as a way to encourage local writers, and as a way for beginning actors to join up with more experienced players. The experiment has been a great success."

Needed this year are up to 14 men, ten women, two teen girls and one boy. Auditions are at 431 W. J St., near Spirited Bead, Saturday and Sunday at 3 to 5 p.m. No special preparations are required to read for a part.

Auditions are Feb 1 and 2. Details at <http://www.tctonstage.com/>



(left to right) Mark Shipman, Terry Case, Dick Best and Pat Gracey appear in the 2010 Playwright's Festival Audience favorite. Photo provided.



(left to right): Bob Hoover (center) with Astronaut Neil Armstrong, Bob Hoover and good friend Gen. Chuck Yeager. Photo Provided

The **LOOP** online

www.TheLoopNewspaper.com

NASA/JPL Appoints Tehachapi Solar System Ambassadors

by Dale Hawkins

Lauren Hollen, retired Tehachapi High School Science Teacher, and I have been selected by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena to represent it and the rest of NASA as Solar System Ambassadors. The program is part of NASA's public education and outreach efforts. It taps the energy and talents of motivated and qualified volunteers from across the nation to bring space exploration to local communities and encourage Americans to pursue education in science, technology, engineering, and math. Perhaps most important, we wish to ensure that everyone knows that we are all in this exciting journey to the stars together! Lauren and I plan to work closely with our local schools, youth groups, astronomy clubs, aviation groups, civic leaders, and anyone else who is interested in ensuring that we all have access and input into America's space programs.

While Lauren and I will work closely together, we will develop distinct areas of interest. Lauren will keep us engaged in the slow, but steadily progressing march toward the planet Mars; while I will continue to pursue a long-standing concern regarding planetary defense from 'near earth objects' (like the rather large rock that just missed Chelyabinsk, Russia, last year). This includes NASA's plans to capture a small asteroid and send a manned expedition to explore it.

Candidates from around the country are appointed as ambassadors each year based on their interest, professional qualifications, and community involvement. Lauren Hollen is known personally to most of you as one of the best science teachers Tehachapi High School has ever had. What you may not know is that she was a CalTech neurobiology research technician before moving to Tehachapi, and holds a Master of Science Degree in Biological Science from CalPoly. She was a shoe-in. I have an aviation and engineering background, including a design currently flying aboard the International Space Station, but I'm sure I was accepted because of Lauren's pull.

Information about the NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassador Program can be found at <http://www2.jpl.nasa.gov/ambassador/>. Lauren can be contacted at lhollen@hotmail.com or 661-822-4079. I can be contacted at hawk@ieee.org or 661-809-7207, or through The Loop.

Disclaimer: It is important (I am told)



"NASA/JPL's New Solar System Ambassadors" – Dale Hawkins and Lauren Hollen.
Photo provided by Lauren Hollen.

Tehachapi Sky Watch

that I state for the record that any opinions I may express in my column from time to time do not necessarily reflect the official position of NASA or JPL – or the publishers of The Loop, for that matter.



Almanac

Winter often brings weather that makes for poor sky watching (especially for those of us who like it a little warmer). However, when it's clear and still, the views are superb, especially in our darker alpine skies. February will again be a fine month for planetary viewing. All of the naked-eye planets are on the same side of the sun and will make an appearance this month. Jupiter will be bright in the east at dusk with Mars rising around bedtime, followed by Saturn a bit after midnight.

Few astronomers brave the cold just to look at planets! The Milky Way – the name of our home galaxy – arches high above us, gracefully pirouetting around the sky as Orion (with his iconic three-starred belt) drifts from east to south and then to west as the night progresses. The sword hanging from Orion's belt contains the northern sky's most dazzling nebula (Greek for 'cloud'). The Great Orion Nebula, most commonly known as M42, is a maelstrom of gas and dust where stars and planets are being born. It can easily be seen with binoculars (and even by those with keen naked eyes). A telescope can really peer into its heart.

That is just the beginning of the wonders to be found along the disk of our galaxy. Get out the lawn chairs, fire up the hot chocolate (or toddies), put on plenty of layers, lay back with your binoculars, and ponder the depths of the cosmos. Few people in the world have a sky this good to work with (especially if you live outside of town!)

The moon will be an increasing evening problem as February progresses. However, star-struck lovers will be treated to a full moon rising on the evening of Valentine's Day, the 14. The moon will be less of an evening problem as the month progresses.

Keeping an eye above the horizon...
Sunrise/Sunset (Feb. 1) 6:53 a.m./5:22 p.m.

A Trip to McIver's Cabin

by Shirley Given

Looking for a day trip of exploration, adventure and fresh air? McIver's Cabin may be just the place to visit.

It is a popular off-road destination and shelters hikers of the Pacific Crest Trail and hunters.

The cabin is located in the Kiavah Wilderness area of the Sequoia National Forest, near the PCT, at the end of the McIver 4x4 road.

A OHMVR or Off Highway Motor Vehicle Registration, is required for all off-road vehicles. The McIver 4x4 Road is 4-½ miles long and takes awhile to traverse.

For the detail minded person it is Latitude 35.6219° and 118.0733° at an elevation of 6719 above sea level.

The cabin was purchased in 1938 by Murdo George McIver and moved from the Sand Canyon Base Camp for the Los Angeles Aqueduct.

Before the move from Sand Canyon, the cabin was a water line shack for the aqueduct.

McIver chose to have the cabin located near his mining claim and a source of natural spring water. The spring was later named McIver's Spring.

McIver was born Jan. 5, 1893 in Hoople, ND and died May 11, 1981 in Bakersfield.

The trail is not for the faint-of-heart. There are rocks, tree limbs and roots, numerous twists and turns, over hill and dale and can be touch-and-go in spots. Thankfully most of the more precarious portions are in thick brush rather than cliff side.

McIver's Spring feeds a meadow just past the cabin. Large outcroppings of rock and shade trees, near the Springs create a beautiful backdrop to the cabin.

Continuing a hike toward roads end, about a half mile, you will enjoy a 360° spectacular view of Indian Wells Valley, Boulder Canyon and the Scodie Mountains.

In the book "Exploring the Southern Sierra: East Side" by J.C. Jenkins and Ruby

Out 'n' About

Johnson Jenkins, the forest is described as the "Ichabod Crane Forest".

From Hwy 14, turn right on BLM SC65 to access the McIver 4x4 Road.

To establish a landmark look for Call box 14-493 on Hwy 14. Follow SC65 westward into Horse Canyon. To the left, look for a stone reservoir and cattle trough. Stay on SC65 and you will enter Sequoia National Forest.

Note sections of asphalt, as the road was paved at one time. A shelf road climbs up Horse Canyon toward the crest. Just before the summit is the beginning of the Scodie Hiking Trail (F536E04).

The Scodie Mountains were named in honor of William Scodie, the proprietor of the first store in Onyx. The trail leads to Yellow Jacket Springs, through Cholla Canyon and ending at Kelso Valley Road.

As you continue towards the summit, you will notice a microwave tower and a sign marking the McIver 4x4 Road.

Spring and Fall are the best times for this adventure. Winter snow and summer heat can create health and safety issues.

Be prepared with plenty of water, snacks, appropriate footwear and warm clothing.

OHV registration requirements, safety and route information can be found at the Sequoia National Forest website. Err on the side of caution and check www.nps.gov/seki, before embarking on this adventurous journey.

The Ridgecrest Gear Grinders 4WD Club assist in maintaining the road for others to enjoy and provided the routing information, given.

USGS 7.5' map: "Horse Canyon" covers the McIver 4x4 Road area.



(Above): A close up of McIver's Cabin.

(Left): The cabin as seen from the road that leads toward it.

Photos provided by Gear Grinders of Ridgecrest.



Tehachapi Crime Watch

Join neighbors, law enforcement, and Crime Watch board members for your monthly workshop on crime prevention and public safety.

Members from all local communities from Sand Canyon to the City to Bear Valley are encouraged to come and participate.

The purpose of our organization is to reduce crime and increase the quality of life in the city and surrounding areas of Tehachapi, Calif.


Do you have questions you would like answered or topics you would like to discuss?

Please send your suggestions to TehachapiCrimeWatch@gmail.com or leave a phone message at 661-412-2190.



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Tehachapi Valley
Recreation & Park District

Personal Defense Readiness and Teen Bully Defense Courses Now Offered at TVPRD

The Tehachapi Valley Recreation & Park District is now offering the Blauer Tactical Systems Personal Defense Readiness (PDR) self-defense course and Teen Bully Defense course.

What makes these courses different than any other self-defense course on the market?

The answer is simple: It is based on the human body's natural defense system. The training is scientific, yet taught in a way that everyone can easily understand and walk away prepared to defend themselves. Coach Tony Blauer, Founder and President of Blauer Tactical Systems, and one of the most renowned and sought after Self Defense and Combative professionals, has spent 30 years researching and developing the S.P.E.A.R. system, a system which has been reviewed and endorsed by Doctors in three different countries.

The PDR half day training focuses on empowering attendees by helping them to understand their natural behavioral reactions to an attack, embracing them, and learning to effectively defend themselves during a violent encounter.

This is accomplished through fear management training and specific drills that focus on the three seconds before the fight happen; ultimately resulting in a quicker response time.

The S.P.E.A.R. system has been taught around the world to include many U.S. Special Operations Units, police SWAT teams, and private citizens and now you have this at your fingertips.

This class is designed for all teens, not just the ones who have been, or are actively, being bullied.

Bullying can happen anywhere at any time. Give your teen the confidence to effectively not only the physical aspect, but the emotional and psychological aspect of an event.

The teens will learn the same scientific research, yet presented in a method that is easy to grasp and retain.

There is nothing complex that will take months and years of practice to

master. The intent of the training is to empower your teen to live with self-confidence, not only in a bully situation, but in life.

Some of the things you will take away from the training is how to detect, defuse and defend against violent aggressors, identify pre-contact cues that signal an oncoming attack, legal pre-emptive strikes, use your body in the most efficient way possible, effectively use close quarter weapons and control and overcome the numbing, freezing feeling of fear; ultimately resulting in how to Be Your Own Bodyguard™.

What you will not learn are ineffective or difficult to learn techniques, scenarios that are not realistic and anything that is not moral, legal and ethical.

The PDR course is taught by Ryan Finnegan. Ryan spent over seven years on Active Duty in the United States Marine Corps where he was certified as a Close Combat Instructor and Marine Corps Marital Arts Instructor training hundreds of Marines in close quarters hand-to-hand combat and unarmed self-defense.

Upon his end of active duty service in 2002, he served as a contract instructor to the United States Navy Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection program in which he taught a variety of courses to include the Training Supervisors Unarmed self-defense course and close quarters battle.

Ryan is certified as a PDR Coach and has also attended the BTS Tactical Ground Combative Course along with numerous other weapons and tactics courses.

Ryan also teaches the PDR and Teen Bully courses at CrossFit Tehachapi.

To learn more about the training you are encouraged to visit www.crossfitehachapi.com (self defense tab), follow CFT Self Defense on Facebook or email Ryan at cftselfdefense@yahoo.com or visit Blauer Tactical Systems website www.tonyblauer.com.

To sign up for a course at TVPRD you can register online at www.tvprd.org or in person at the district office.



Tehachapi Valley
Recreation & Park District

Register online



www.TVPRD.com

Guy Davis 'In Bed with the Blues' Feb. 9

Artist Spotlight



Article and photo provided by Deborah Hand-Cutler

Like many of our Americana "roots" music genres, the blues has morphed many times and in many ways from its acoustic origins in the deltas and cotton fields of the steamy south to the electric rock and roll dance halls, clubs and bars in the rest of the country. It has spawned jazz, soul, R&B, rock and country music. Blues itself has become standardized, fitting nicely into eight bars or 12 bars in minor keys with a set pattern to the lyrics and chord structure, and most always a sense of melancholy to the message.

Guy Davis is a renowned musician/composer/writer/actor who brings the blues back home again. In his hands, the blues is a joyful, free-wheeling expression of a people's triumph over sorrow and oppression. This is blues with its acoustic roots showing, and Davis will share it with Tehachapi in a matinee performance Sunday, Feb. 9, at 3 p.m. in the BeeKay Theatre. The concert is part of the regular acoustic music series sponsored by Fiddlers Crossing.

Davis is also a storyteller. Although raised in a middle-class suburb of New York City, he grew up listening to his parents tell tales about the lives of his grandparents and great-grandparents in the rural south. Davis taught himself how to play the guitar by listening to and watching other musicians, and he often weaves his music around his stories.

As an actor as well as musician and composer, Davis has appeared on Broadway, in film and on TV, and won acclaim for his many CDs. Among his numerous credits, he has been a guest on Late Night with Conan

O'Brien, A Prairie Home Companion, and Whoopi Goldberg's series on Nickelodeon, and opened for Ian Anderson of Jethro Tull. He was Dr. Josh Hall on TV's "One Life to Live," and his music was featured in the 1995 PBS series, "The American Promise." Davis has also joined his parents, actors/writers Ossie Davis (now deceased) and Ruby Dee, in a theater piece the three wrote called, "Two Hahs Hahs and a Homeboy." The show combined their own compositions with African American Folklore and history.

In 1994 Davis performed a one-man show off-Broadway called "In Bed with the Blues: The Adventures of Fishy Waters." A few years ago, a CD version of the show was produced and recorded by Peter Cutler, co-owner of Fiddlers Crossing and engineer for the FolkScene radio program.

With all his talents and experience, Guy Davis is still, at heart, a bluesman, with influences ranging from Mississippi John Hurt and Elizabeth Cotton to Taj Mahal, Fats Waller and even Harry Belafonte.

Among his many honors, he has won the Blues Foundation's "Keeping the Blues Alive Award." A critic for the San Francisco Chronicle has said of him: "Davis' tough, timeless vocals blow through your brain like a Mississippi dust devil." This is the blues as "goodtime music", originally made for dancing, and Davis holds true to its roots.

The BeeKay Theatre is located at 110 South Green Street in Downtown Tehachapi. Tickets are \$20, available at Mountain Music, 206 East F Street, Tehachapi Treasure Trove, and Tehachapi Furniture in Old Town. Tickets may be reserved ahead by calling 661-823-9994.

A Company of Wayward Saints

by Shanan Harrell

BeeKay Theater



The current poster display outside the BeeKay Theatre teases you with its circus theme and wacky character lineup and the tag line..."and now for something completely different!" Next up on TCT's lineup of great performances this season is George Herman's award-winning play A Company of Wayward Saints.

A Company of Wayward Saints' tells the story of a travelling troupe of actors/comedians who specialize in performing improvisational scenes – a human circus of comedy – to the delight of their audiences. However, we soon find that this particular cast of characters has been on the road together for waaaaay too long. Despite some very funny antics, there are problems in the troupe. Personal differences have arisen, and there is talk of breaking up. The central question becomes whether they can overcome their individual egos and function as a single unit to achieve the common goal of reaching home.

Wayward Saints' roots lie in the tradition of Commedia dell'Arte (also known as Italian comedy). Performed by professional travelling troupes throughout Italy in the 16th century, the unique talent of commedia players was to improvise comedy around a pre-established scenario, while portraying the same characters for each scenario.

Music, dance, witty dialogue, and all kinds of chicanery contributed to the comic effects.

Director Shanan Harrell (Tenants, Red Velvet Cake War) exudes: "I fell in love with this play years ago. I felt it was a good fit for TCT, so I pitched it and am now beyond excited to see it come to life with this energetic and fearless cast: Jonathan Hall, Thae Irvin, Spencer James, Doug Jockinsen, Garret Lawrence, Gary Mazzola, Monica Nadon, Ashley Rasmussen and Rebecca Wilson. With this all-star ensemble of TCT, I guarantee you will be relentlessly entertained – and with all due respect and reverence for the historical value of Commedia, I chose to update and customize the play for a broader appeal and to fit Tehachapi in particular. We've also added sprinklings of audience interaction with these nine kooky characters to mix it up a bit. We are blending the old and the new – after all, isn't comedy timeless?"

A big turnout is expected, so get your tickets early! A splendid time is guaranteed for all! This Wayward Company infiltrates the BeeKay Theatre on Feb. 7 and continues through Feb. 23. Tickets are available online at www.tctonstage.com as well as Tehachapi Furniture, Picture Perfect and Johnny's Take n' Bake.

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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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The Local Scene

Tehachapi's Kassandra McQuillen on Survivor TV-Series

Tehachapi local Kassandra McQuillen is among 18 "castaways," who will compete against each other on *Survivor*, the Emmy award-winning CBS series when it returns for its 28th series on Wednesday, Feb. 26 at 8 p.m.

A local fundraiser is being planned for the two-hour premiere on Wednesday, Feb. 26 at 8 p.m.

Stay tuned to *The Loop* for more information in our Feb. 15 issue.

You can follow her on her Facebook – Kass McQuillen.

Good luck to Kassandra!

The caption with her picture online: "Rabble-rousing, annoying older woman on the Brains tribe in Survivor Cagayan."



Photo provided.

Chamber Installation 2014



Photo by Sam White

Board of Directors for 2014: Chairperson of the Board Tammy Wallace, Chairperson Elect Marty Pay, Treasurer Kathy Carey, Past Chairperson Claudia White, Directors Carl Gehricke, James Wallace and Carolyn Wiles. Not present Lorraine Berry and Phillip Darling. Senator Jean Fuller administered the oath of office. (Tammy Wallace was outfitted at Dalahia Botique and Claudia White purchased her outfit at The Dressing Room in Tehachapi.

State of the County Address and Dinner



Photo provided by City of Tehachapi

Representing Tehachapi at the State of the County Address & Dinner Wednesday Jan. 29! City council along with representatives from the city were in attendance.

Tehachapi High School Class of 2018



Jan. 29, 2014 - A day filled with excitement and some apprehension awaited nearly 350 8th grade students as they attend an orientation assembly/rally as the future graduating class of 2018. On hand was school administrators and local student officials to explain the many wonderful opportunities awaiting each student during their upcoming high school years.

MOAH Holds 29th Annual Innovations

Lancaster Museum of Art and History (MOAH) accepted art pieces from Tehachapi artists shown here are Sparks (a.k.a. "Grunge Hobbit") and Tina Dille. Not pictured is artist/sculptor Leon Leigh. The opening of the juried art exhibition and sculpture show was Jan. 23, inviting the public to engage in a vibrant evening of art and conversation. Tina Dille won a prestigious designation as she was presented with the Mayor's Award. MOAH is located at 665 W. Lancaster Blvd. Regular museum hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday, with extended hours until 8 on Thursday. The museum is closed on Monday and holidays. For more information call 661-723-6250.



Above: Tina Dille with her winning art piece and Mayor's Award.

Right: Local artist Sparks and her painting "Nude" in Lancaster MOAH.

Photos by Mike Magie



Hurray, Highway 58 Sand Canyon Exit #156 is Open!



Photos submitted by Nick Smirnoff, (NPPA)

Sand Canyon residents are grateful for the Exit #156 is now open, which had a big longterm impact on commuters.

On Jan 7 a Sand Canyon resident who commutes to Edwards AFB posted to Facebook:

"So far the detour has added about 3500 miles to my commute which has cost me about 160 gallons of gas and about 55 hours."



Cub Scouts help feed students



Every six weeks, Cub Scout Pack 3 goes to the Tehachapi Veterans Memorial Building, when the food bank is open to Airstream Students.

Scouts serve the students food, play games and do skits to entertain them. The students, mostly Veterans, are also saluted by the Cub Scouts. The students enjoyed the entertainment as many have children at home the same ages.

The students from all over the United States are here for a six-week Wind Turbine Training program. The American Legion Auxiliary Feed the Veterans program happens every Tuesday at the Veterans Memorial Building Hall on F Street.



Senior Day at the Movies....

Senior Day at the Movies sponsored by the Tehachapi Police Department Crime Prevention awareness Program results in a sellout crowd. This month's film Jack Ryan, Shadow Recruit filled all 140 seats of the Hitching Post's Theatre #2.

Nearly 30 additional guests had to be turned away. Event coordinator Community Service Officer Teri Cryer stated that next month's showing will hopefully take place "In one of the larger theatres." A short Crime prevention program was present by Officer Cryer and Tehachapi Police Officer Matt Goe and a short pitch by Leslie Rich as to services provided by the Kern County for area seniors preceded the screening.



submitted by Nick Smirnoff, (NPPA)

Tehachapi Community Service Officer Teri Cryer welcomes the Senior movie fans and speaks of safety issues for Tehachapi seniors. With Officer Cryer is Leslie Rich who informs seniors of Kern County Senior opportunities.

Rotary Wine Pairing Dinner

This picture was taken at The Rotary Wine Pairing Dinner on Jan. 18 at Don Juan's Latin Grill. Below is a photo of Melissa and Beverly Billingsley with Beverly's mom. In the background you can see Phil Richmond and Quint Stewart.



Photo provided by Tehachapi Rotary Club

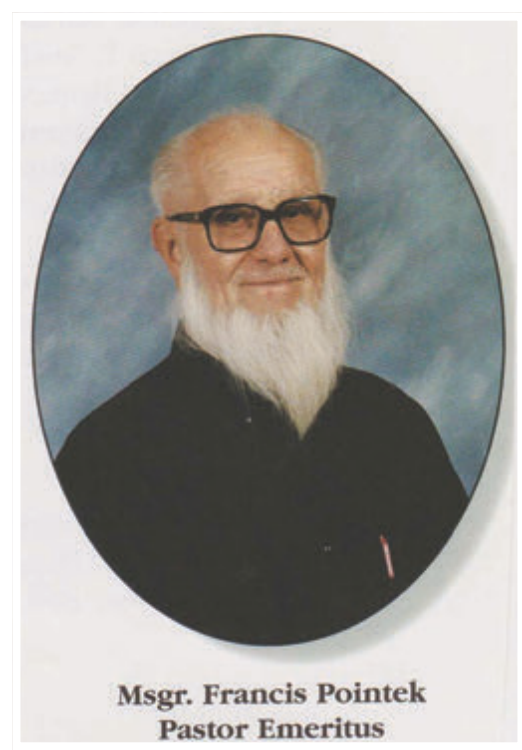
A Tehachapi January Sunrise



by Julia Brown Orrantia

A Dedicated Life

by Janet Roper and Pat Gracey



Msgr. Francis Pointek
Pastor Emeritus

Celebration of Life



Msgr. Pointek at the time of his ordination.

Monsignor Francis Pointek Pastor Emeritus

An era elapsed with the peaceful passing of Reverend Monsignor Francis Joseph Pointek on Jan. 15, 2014 at the age of one hundred years, three months and 22 days. The Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated on Jan. 20 by twenty priests of the Diocese of Fresno with the Most Reverend Armando X Ochoa, Bishop of the Diocese of Fresno, as main celebrant. Some 350 parishioners and friends were in attendance.

Reverend John Allen, flew to California to represent the Pontifical College Josephinum in Worthington, Ohio, where Monsignor Pointek, in 1928, began his twelve years of studies for the Priesthood culminating in his ordination on May 26, 1940.

A eulogy was delivered by Monsignor James Peterson, who years ago was a youthful acolyte serving Mass for a very young Father Pointek in Randsburg, California. Monsignor Peterson's message was delivered with pathos, humor and great pride in his friend and former Pastor's accomplishments.

He was the fifth of eight children: John, Joseph, Mary, Anne, FRANCIS, Elizabeth, Kathryn, and Anthony. His only surviving sibling is Kathryn Chwaz, age 96, of Boron, Calif. He is also survived by a multitude of nieces and nephews into the fourth generation.

His Ordination brought him to Fresno, California which then, was a part of the very large Monterey-Fresno Diocese. This Priest, soon to have marked 74 years of service, ministered to many parishes throughout the Diocese (now, the Fresno Diocese) officiating at births, marriages, deaths as well as administering to the sick and dying , counseling and listening plus teaching both young and old. All this: being routine in the life of a priest. His last parish was St. Malachy Church in Tehachapi from which he retired in 1981. Of course, his work did not end with retirement and what made him

special was the simplicity with which he carried out his priestly duties . He traveled the Diocese subbing in other parishes, celebrating daily Mass and being a willing ear to anyone who needed help. Father Michael Cox, Pastor of St. Malachy Church, always extended a welcome invitation and a thank you for his assistance.

His appearance was that of an ordinary humble working man. His pickup was full of spiritual literature and useful supplies for the less fortunate. His home was simply furnished, material things never being important. He never met a stranger and was known to "literally" give the shirt off his back as well as his coat and shoes, to the needy. Monetary aid was frequently provided.

He was a learned man with an impeccable memory for the most minute details. He spoke several languages, played the trumpet and keyboard, loved opera had piloted a small aircraft and was a one round-trip world traveler on a miniscule budget. On a lighter note, another talent that would get one's attention immediately was his ear-splitting, finger whistle!

An Immense void exists with the passing of this humble, holy, one hundred year old man. He is at peace and asked that you continue to pray for him knowing that his prayers are with you, always.

- A Vigil Rosary was recited at St. Malachy's on the evening of Jan. 19, led by Deacon Richard Lambert. Father Michael Cox spoke and outlined an interesting personal history of Monsignor Pointek's life.

- A graveside service was held on Tuesday, Jan. 21, with Deacon Lambert officiating.

- Lane Family Funeral Home in Delano handled the arrangements.

- Donations in his memory may be directed to St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Malachy Church, Hoffman Hospice or your favorite charity.

Family Life Pregnancy Center Launches Mobile Unit

by Kele Main



Family Life Pregnancy Center in Tehachapi is excited to announce the long awaited launch of its "Mobile Unit Center".

The Mobile Unit was donated to the center in 2011 by a local resident named Francis Carter. The interior of the unit was then refurbished to mimic a "rolling" Pregnancy Center. The Unit is equipped with a waiting area, bathroom for testing, and a counseling room. The exterior has been adorned with a wrap that says "Help is in the Neighborhood".

Family Life Pregnancy Center's goal for the Mobile Unit is to reach out to other East Kern County Communities that do not have a local Pregnancy Center, and its services.

The Mobile Unit launched its first services in Cal City on Jan. 28. The Unit is

scheduled to be in Cal City the second and fourth Tuesday of every month from 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. The Centers goal is to have the Mobile Unit in Cal City every Tuesday.

The long term goal is to have enough volunteers to have a "Mobile Unit Team" that can travel to Cal City and Mojave once a week.

Please pray for the center as we reach out to the Cal City community. There has been wonderful support from Cal City and its City Officials. They are eager to have the Mobile Unit in their city. If you should have any questions regarding the Mobile Unit or just need more information about Family Life Pregnancy Center please give us a call 661-823-8255.

Please give us a honk and a wave if you see us on the road!

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Facebook

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