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Native Plants and
Native Culture**

Jon Hammond weaving
a tule mat from reeds that
grow in the Tehachapi area.
Read more on Page 12

Look
In this Issue

Meet Your New
Neighbors pg. 5

Non-profit Highlight
pg. 14-15

Forde Files
pg. 18-19

The Local Scene
pg. 30-31

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THE LOOP

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Taco Samich Celebrates 17 Years

by Claudia White

Taco Samich is celebrating 17 years in business after having become a Tehachapi staple. Owners Irma Sanchez and Alfonso Gracian have contributed to Tehachapi's Downtown beautification by renovating their building inside and out in recent years, and what a difference those renovations have made.

If you haven't tried Taco Samich you are missing out. They serve authentic Mexican food with excellent and quick service for dine-in or take-out.

They offer breakfast, lunch and dinner and a large menu, which includes tacos, tortas, taco salad, taquitos and large burritos (big enough for two meals).

All of these come with your choice of asada, adobada, carnitas, buche, langue, pollo, chile verde, chile colorado or fish.

Breakfast burritos are available daily from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. with your choice of chorizo, sausage or bacon.

There is even a salsa bar which includes radish slices, fresh salsas, lemon slices and pickled jalapenos.

Daily dinner specials are available, most

are served with rice and beans:

Monday - Chicken Mole

Tuesday - Chile Relleno

Wednesday - Chicken Wings a la Mexicana

Thursday - Baby Back Ribs

in Salsa Verde or BBQ

Friday - Tilapia

Saturday - Menudo

There is plenty of seating if you want to eat in. Taco Samich also serves beer.

Taco Samich is located at 211 E. Tehachapi Blvd. in Downtown Tehachapi.

If you're in a rush, be sure to call in your order ahead at 661-823-8947, so your food is ready when you come in.



Taco Samich has been in business for serving authentic Mexican food for 17 years. A few years ago the building was completely remodeled, contributing to the charm of Downtown Tehachapi.

Taco Samich is open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and is closed Sundays.

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Antelope Valley Fair Home Show

Homeowners looking for new ways to bring efficiency and style to their properties are encouraged to attend the 26th Annual Antelope Valley Fair Home Show presented by Rally Cadillac, Buick, GMC, Kia, Hyundai and co-sponsored by Lowes Home Improvement and California Dairy Distributors. The three-day event begins on Friday, March 21: Noon to 5 p.m. then Saturday and Sunday, March 22 and 23: 9 a.m. to 5p.m. Admission is **free** and parking is \$5.

This year's show features over 120 diverse vendors, and AquapHina Pools and Spas is giving away a \$25,000 in-ground Kona swimming pool!

Participants in the Pool Giveaway are encouraged to enter online at www.avfair.com until noon on Friday, March 21. As of noon Friday, March 21, entries for the Pool Giveaway will **only** be accepted at the Aquaphina Pools & Spa booth in the Van Dam Pavilion at the Home Show at the A.V. Fairgrounds (2551 W. Ave. H., Lancaster, CA) until 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 23. The winner will be announced at 3 p.m. on March 23 in the Aquaphina Pools booth. Winner must be present to win at the Aquaphina Pools Booth to win.

The Ultimate Garden Giveaway is back! Free products and services will be offered by Home Show vendors/sponsors. Ultimate Garden Giveaway entries will be taken at the Home Show for March 21 through 23.

Participants in this giveaway fill out entry forms at the participating vendor booths to be entered into the drawing to win prizes/services. Prizes/services

include: outdoor furniture, grills, patio heaters, and more!

Kid's activities include: **Free**, "make and take" crafts projects, sponsored by Lowes Home Improvement on Saturday and Sunday only, (10 a.m. through 4 p.m.), and free ice cream for kids 12 years old and younger will be provided by California Dairy Distributors at the A.V. Fairgrounds' booth (while supplies last).

Drawings for Fair 2014 Palmdale Auto Mall Concerts, Rally Auto Group Arena events tickets and the form for the A.V. Fair's "Read and Ride Program" entries will be available at the A.V. Fair booth. The Read and Ride program is offered to students 5-14 years old. Students read 3 books, fill out the Report Form/ Application, bring it to the Fair in August, and get 1 coupon valid for three free carnival rides at the Fair. The annual, free "Tomato plant Giveaway" (one per person, while supplies last) will also be part of the show. Professional exhibitors will showcase and demonstrate their products and offer time and money-saving advice in "How To" seminars. Seminar subjects ranging from decorative desert landscaping, water efficient irrigation systems, to growing vegetables or Irises will also be featured and led by experts including Neal Weisenberger. With prize and service giveaways in the Ultimate Garden Giveaway, to free fair tickets, activities for the kids, and informational seminars, it's no wonder that this year's Show will be bigger than ever! For a list of Home Show vendors and all Home Show information go to www.avfair.com.



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Got Transcripts?

by Tammy Engel, Mortgage Advisor

When something happens repeatedly at my desk, you get to hear about it. Twice in the past few weeks we're running into problems about federal tax returns and being able to independently verify their validity.

In applying for a home loan, your lender is tasked with finding an outside source to verify everything you tell us. With regard to income, that means we want the IRS to confirm that the numbers you're showing us on copies of your federal tax returns match what is in their system. This is accomplished by our submitting your signed IRS form 4506-T. You're signing one as part of your loan application packet.

Usually it's no big deal, and we get a read out of the IRS record that matches your paper copies. Great - done. Sometimes the figures are close but don't exactly match. That's when your tax professional needs to get involved and write a letter of explanation about the differences. Maybe you have a draft copy of the return, and figures were tweaked before your final IRS submission. Okay, no problem.

The surprise comes when we get a response saying "no transcript found." It's a problem because we're basing your qualifying income on your last two federal tax returns. If you haven't filed the last two tax returns, we have not met loan guidelines.

Even if you rush your tax prep and walk the missing tax return to a local IRS office, it can take them eight to 10 weeks to formally

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

Mortgage Matters

process your return, so we can get a transcript. Even if you file the current year right now, we're still looking at weeks for IRS processing and having a transcript. Either way, your escrow closing date will be delayed until we get what is required.

Could a prudent consumer check on their own records before pre-qualifying for a home loan? You bet. The IRS website at IRS.gov has a place to create an account, so you can electronically order your transcripts to be mailed to you. You could also phone 800-829-1040 and walk through the IRS phone service to have transcripts mailed. Know that we are verifying "return" transcripts and not "account" transcripts - they are two different things.

One last thing while I'm thinking about it. If you are writing off expenses on Form 2106 as "unreimbursed employee expenses", or if you are filing Schedule C as "self-employed": Know that those figures will be reviewed and could end up being deducted from your qualifying income. You might want to chat with your mortgage advisor before you file your taxes to be sure the numbers you submit will qualify for your loan approval.



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Meet Your New Neighbors

by Pat Doody

Rick and Cindy Remillard had been trying to move to Tehachapi for five years. Last November they were finally able to realize their dream. They both still commute to Bakersfield for work, but Cindy says it is very much worth the trouble. Rick has been an engineer at San Joaquin Community Hospital for twenty-six years and, while he doesn't really mind the commute, would like to explore the possibility of working closer to home. Cindy is a recruiter for Western Truck School, a job she has held for the last ten years. For now they are able to drive together, which makes life so much easier.

They are both pastoring a new church in Stallion Springs, which currently meets at the Stallion Springs Library. It is called the Community Bible Fellowship, and I'm sure we will hear more from them as the church grows.

Rick was born in Pontiac, Mich. – just north of Detroit. He grew up and was educated there before he moved to California in the 1980s. Rick, on the other hand, was born and raised in Bakersfield and is a country girl at heart. It was in Kern County that they raised their three children, Cala, Richard and Carly. For eight years the family lived on a small ranch, raised horses and rode daily. They have now been out of ranching for four years.

Cala, who now lives in Florida, has a boy (four-years-old) and a girl (15-years-old). They are very much missed by their grandparents. Richard has a girl (two-years-old) and a boy (four-years-old) and is near enough for "grandma and grandpa time", as is Carly and her five-year-old son. Cindy claims her main hobby is spending time with her grandchildren. She says their time together is very much music oriented.

If they want to get away the Remillards take to the coast. They love walking the beach at Morro Bay. However, according to Cindy, living in Tehachapi is like being on vacation. They are very excited about their new home. "Welcome to Tehachapi, Rick and Cindy!"

It was three years ago that **Rick Bogner and Lauren James** bought their ranch property in Tehachapi. It has taken Rick that long to completely remodel their lovely house himself with the help of family and friends and no contractor. He had been working on the house whenever he could come up from their

home in Pasadena. It also helped that Lauren's mother has lived in Tehachapi for ten years. They were finally able to make the move in October.

Rick is a CT Technologist and had been working at Huntington Hospital in Pasadena for many years but he has now transferred his skills to San Joaquin Community Hospital in Bakersfield. Lauren is a RN but is now using her creative skills as a doll artist, designing collectible dolls for Ashton Drake.

Lauren was born near Dodge City, Kans., where her grandfather was a cattle rancher. She has one brother and three sisters and grew up in La Crescenta, Calif., attending private schools and graduating from Glendale City College. However, she still loved the country. Rick was born in Indiana, the fifth of seven children. He has a brother who is ten years older and a sister who is eight years younger than he is. Five of his siblings are teachers. At one time his family lived in Mammoth and he even worked for a pack station there. Eventually they moved to Altadena where he attended John Muir High School and Pasadena City College. They have five children between them ranging in ages from 18 to 26. The oldest, Brandon, is a comedian in Burbank. The rest – Sophia, Austin, Jesse and Emily – are still in college.

Lauren and Rick spent most of their free time in Pasadena riding their horses that were boarded near their home. They had ridden almost all of the mountain trails in the Pasadena area and are now looking for trails to ride here, among them the Pacific Crest Trail. They have three horses at home, Rick's Appaloosa, Lauren's Rocky Mountain and a beautiful little Rocky Mountain yearling.

I don't want to leave out the James-Bogner "welcoming committee". Paloma, Ruby and Noah are their three dogs, and they are always there to greet anyone who comes to visit. We are delighted to welcome the entire James-Bogner household to Tehachapi.



Aging Gracefully

by Terence G. Brady, DC

Some people don't mind getting old, but few want to look the part these days. It's all about aging gracefully. Know the keys to feeling and looking young and, most importantly, staying healthy as you age. Every day in this country, over 300 baby boomers turn 60 and all of them want to live a long and fulfilling life. Many people are becoming interested in anti-aging medicine. Simply put, anti-aging medicine is preventative health care based on the early detection, prevention and treatment of age related diseases, dysfunctions and disorders. The goal is not only to prolong the years in your life, but to add life and enjoyment to those years. Some of the "secrets" of anti-aging are not really secrets at all, and you don't require drugs or surgery. There is abundant research that shows that consistent physical activity plays a key role in maintaining health and vitality as we age. Exercise is one of the most valuable forms of anti-aging medicine. Even small amounts of physical activity are healthier than a sedentary lifestyle. In fact, the lack of physical activity accelerates the ageing process.

Researchers in London have been studying these minute little things on our chromosomes called "Telomeres". They shorten as we age, but if we exercise they stay longer for longer. Up to 10 years longer between people doing 200 minutes of exercise per week compared to those doing 16 minutes of exercise per week. In general they suggest that we do 30 minutes of moderate exercise at least five days per week.

Fitness level, not body fat, predicts longevity in older adults. Men and women aged over 60 with higher levels of cardio-respiratory fitness live longer than unfit adults, and this correlation is independent

of levels of body fat. Researchers at the University of South Carolina studied 2,600 adults for 12 years, during which time there were 450 deaths. They found that those who died were older, had lower fitness levels and had more cardiovascular risk factors than survivors. However, there were no significant differences in body fat levels.

We can live longer and live healthier according to Dr. Shripad Tuljapurkar of Stanford University. He states that "We are on the brink of being able to extend human life span significantly". He estimates that between now and 2030 the average age of death will increase up to 20 years if we take advantage of the technology available in most industrialized countries.

Remember to check with your medical doctor or chiropractor before you begin any exercise program.

It is interesting to note that over the last few centuries about 30 to 50 percent of people have lived to about double the average life expectancy at the time of their birth. For example, the life expectancy at the beginning of the twentieth century was about 50. There are people still alive today that were born in the early part of the twentieth century. In the United States alone there are about 30,000 people alive today that are 100 or older.

Today the average life expectancy is over 70. Does that mean that babies born today can expect to live as old as 140? Food for thought, don't you think. If kids born today are going to live that long they had better learn how to take care of themselves. I for one would not like to live to be 140 and go into a nursing home at 80.

Make an appointment. At least make sure your spine and nervous system is working at its highest potential. Chiropractic care can help ensure that.

Dr. Brady -
the 'Spine Guy'

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If you have moved to the Greater Tehachapi Area within the last six months and would like to know more about your new community, call 661-822-8188. We will be happy to make an appointment for a hostess to come by and give you lots of helpful information, some valuable coupons, gifts and much more. Many families and individuals who come to the area are pleasantly surprised with the amount of knowledge they gather about their new home. Publishing your welcome article is completely voluntary and is not a requirement of being welcomed.

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Loving Fred: Reflections of a Service Dog Trainer

It's A Dog's Life

by Liz R. Kover

My job over the last year has been to train a Labrador puppy as a service dog for a child with autism. Having graduated with an A.S. in Assistance Dog Education from Bergin University of Canine Studies last spring, I was thrilled to be hired as a trainer right out of the gate by a wonderful organization called Good Dog Autism Companions. GDAC, a small non-profit based in San Diego, is run by a couple whose thirteen year old son has autism, and whose lives were transformed by a service dog named Orbit. Different in many ways than the larger assistance dog organizations – like Guide Dogs for the Blind or Canine Companions for Independence –, GDAC doesn't utilize puppy raisers that are different than the dogs' trainers. Instead, the trainers raise and train the pups from ten weeks old to approximately one year old. This means that Fred – the little guy I named after Mr. Rogers, on whose birthday Fred's litter was born – has been with me every single day since he was a tiny, chubby little butterball. He may as well be my first born for the love he evoked the moment I laid eyes on his pink, heart-shaped nose and soulful green-gray eyes.

Anyone who handles dogs that aren't their own – such as pet sitters or boarders, rescue dog foster families and service dog puppy raisers – knows that there is a delicate dance involved in giving a dog 100% of your love while also maintaining a necessary amount of "emotional distance". I believe that loving Fred truly, deeply and madly until the last minute I have with him is perfectly acceptable, because I have confidence in my ability to let him go when the time comes. In fact, I think that if I felt differently, I wouldn't be the person that I am, which means I wouldn't be the trainer that I am. If I weren't the trainer that I am, Fred may not be the service dog he was born to be! It is as it should be. That being said, I can give this precious dog all my love for the time he and I have left together, and undoubtedly I will love him until the end of time and carry him with me in spirit always. When the actual moment comes to hand him over to his future, I will have to suspend my feelings... and wait until I drive away to let the tears flow.

In order to facilitate the connection between Fred and his boy, an act of absolute detachment on my part will be key. It will have to happen literally the instant I hand over the leash. To even emote in Fred's general direction during that beginning stage of their partnership will interfere with Fred and Ben's crucial bonding process. Even though I will undoubtedly feel like crumbling into a thousand pieces at that fated moment, I will simply have no other option but to keep it together.

Make no mistake, pain is not the only emotion I will feel during this time. In fact, even the pain is part of a much bigger and fuller picture; a direct reflection of the joy Fred has brought to my life; a measure of the bond that exists and will always exist between

us. Furthermore, the beauty I will inevitably see – and, in fact, have already witnessed – in the relationship between Fred and Ben will transcend the pain, no matter how great.

Only after I've completed my job and hit the road will I allow my emotions to surface. I have no doubt this will hurt so much as to take my breath away in moments, but knowing what magic awaits in Fred and Ben's now conjoined life will carry me through.

Though it is a somewhat taboo thing to share, I would be lying if I said that Fred hasn't acted as an emotional support dog for me during the year we've spent together. He has given me purpose and faith, when those things could have otherwise vanished without a trace. He has reminded me to **live** when depression threatened to keep me under the covers forever. Fred has been a vehicle through which to share with people the important work I am doing – whether it be one-on-one, in a classroom full of kids, via a huge social media network of adoring Fred fans or on stage holding a microphone!

Fred has been my teacher and my mirror. He has shown me what I am capable of and also the places in me that still need work. He has forgiven my trespasses and stayed close to me when I could barely keep from pushing the whole world away. Fred is, simply put, a gift.

Helping bring Fred's potential as a service dog to fruition has brought my own potential as a trainer to fruition. Not to mention, Fred has acted as a therapeutic force for rescue dogs with severe fear and anxiety owed to the darkness of their pasts. Fred can get any dog to play with him. In fact he won't let up play-bowing until he has brought out the inner-puppy in every dog he meets. In fact, Fred brings out the best in everyone, human and canine alike.

While it has never been Fred's job to enhance my life, be of service to me or assist me with the particular issues that can render me helpless some days... he has done all of these things.

He has done them every single day, without question and without fail. Obviously Fred is destined to enhance not only Ben's life, but the whole world of which he is such a magical part, and it has been my honor to play the role I have in his life.



Liz and Fred sharing a loving moment. Photo provided.



Tulie takes a rest after a hard day's play with her Kong toys from Canine Creek.
Photo provided by Canine Creek



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The Loop's 'Adopt A Pet'

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Max is a 1 yr. 11 lb. young male Spaniel Max who is perfect in all ways: children, playmates, cuddling, snuggling, lap laying, playful, quiet, happy and so cute & handsome! Retired couples, families, you have found the most perfect little spirit in all ways sharing his warm, loving heart that you cannot help to never let him leave you!



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.



Charlie

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



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



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

Shylan

We think **Shylan** might be an Italian Greyhound or Whippet mix. She is approximately 2 years old and was terrified when we got her. This little trooper came out of her shell lickity split when she realized her foster mom was her friend not her enemy. Shylan is ready to venture out into the world and find people who will adore her as she deserves.



Allie



Allie is 7-8 years old and possibly a MinPin mix. She's on the chubby side but with her new diet she is shedding the ounces. This dog is all about love - getting and giving. She was Shylan's bed buddy in her previous home and would love to be adopted with Shylan, but we know it's very hard to find a family interested in taking two dogs at one time. Because of Allie's age, we are offering her on our Seniors 4 Seniors adoption program at a greatly reduced adoption fee. Allie had a teeth cleaning on the Feb. 13, so she has a sparkling smile.



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

Koda

This girl's insides are as beautiful as her outside. **Koda** is a 1 to 1.5 year old German Shepherd mix found wandering stray in Bakersfield. In spite of a little initial shyness, she is settling in well to her foster home. She has warmed up to her canine foster siblings, and acts as a gentle shadow to her foster mom. Koda is very intelligent and has a lot of energy, as any healthy one or two year old dog should. She will do well in a home with an active family, and people who will engage her mind as much as her body. If Koda sounds like your kind of pal, you can fill out her adoption application at www.marleysmutts.com.



Denny

Denny, we imagine, is some sort of lab/hound mix. He is approximately five years old, and is a very loving, playful boy. He is sweet and gentle and affectionate. My feeling though is that Denny's life hasn't been what it should be - fun, active, and full of affection. Denny gets along great with adults, kids and other dogs. Might you be the one or the family to provide Denny the awesome life he deserves?

If so, please fill out his adoption application at www.marleysmutts.com.



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dobiesos@earthlink.net

Ariel



Ariel is a four year old red Doberman with natural ears and a natural tail. Ariel is medium-sized for a Doberman and very outgoing and athletic. She craves company and likes people and attention. She is a happy, social girl that is good with other dogs though she does like to be the boss. Ariel was a favorite during her stay at the Tehachapi Veterinary Hospital where she was spayed. She is easy to handle, but has plenty of energy for an active family or person. We think Ariel would fit into a variety of homes as she has a sound temperament and does not seem to have any issues. She is not a barker, digger or chewer. Ariel came from a shelter where she had been picked up as a stray.



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Rebel



Rebel is a 7 month, 9 pound male Terrier mix puppy with a terrific tan coat, likes kids, plays well w/others, and will soon graduate from Housetraining 101. To adopt clever Rebel, by all means, call Aleshia, 661-750-1409, or Save Tehachapi's Orphaned Pets, 661-823-4100, menu #2.

Onyx

My name is **Onyx** because I have a pretty black wavy coat; I'm a 5 month, 7 pound Cocker Spaniel mix, already housetrained, know basic commands, good with other dogs, kids, and cats. Wait no further to adopt me: Please call Janis at 661-599-6400 or Save Tehachapi's Orphaned Pets at 661-823-4100, menu #2.



Sprinkles

My name is **Sprinkles** because I have so many tan spots scattered throughout my white fur coat. I'm also a very sweet 3 year young female Dachshund/Jack Russell Terrier mix w/very short fur. Please call Save Tehachapi's Orphaned Pets at 661-823-4100, menu #2 to adopt me in to your heart and forever home ~ How about it?



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 really a great cat. Very beautiful. This animal was placed as a public service. Contact us for more information.

Coquette

Coquette is a 2 year old black and white Chihuahua mix. She is spayed and current on her shots. She is micro-chipped. She is house trained, crate trained and good on a leash. She likes car rides. She gets along with older children. She gets along with other small dogs. Not sure about cats. Won't you consider giving her a forever home.



Hershey

Hershey is a one year old neutered male. He is chocolate brown with a white chest. He is current on his shots and is micro-chipped, house trained, crate trained and is good on a leash. He likes car rides. He is good with children. He likes other dogs but we don't know about cats. Hershey is a very loving and playful boy.



Cancellation of Debt Income

provided by D.R. Moats & Company

With the tough economic times we are currently enduring, many people unfortunately find themselves unable to meet their financial obligations. In preparing our clients' tax returns we are seeing an increasingly larger number of 1099-C (Cancellation of Debt) and 1099-A (Acquisition or Abandonment of Secured Property) forms. What are these forms, why are you receiving them, and what should you do if you receive one? When property is security for a loan and the lender forecloses on the loan, or property is abandoned (the owner walks away from it) the lender prepares a form 1099-A to provide the information needed to calculate the amount of gain or loss from the cancellation of debt that is not related to a personal residence. If a debt of \$600 or more is cancelled by the lender, you may receive a form 1099-C. If the foreclosure or abandonment and cancellation of debt occur in the same year, the lender may file only a form 1099-C. **Do not ignore these forms** if you receive them!

The lenders are required to mail copies of these forms to the Internal Revenue Service as well as to you. If you receive one of these forms you must either :

- (1) report the amount of the cancelled debt as income on your tax return; or
- (2) tell the IRS on Form 982 that the amount is not taxable because you fall under one of the three common exceptions:

a.) The debt was discharged in bankruptcy before it was written off by the creditor (lender)

b.) You were insolvent – i.e. Your liabilities (the total debts or amount you owed on loans and credit cards) are/were more than the value of your assets (all the property you owned including retirement accounts).

c.) If you had \$5,000 in debt forgiven, and your liabilities exceeded your assets by \$2,000, you would have to pay cancellation of debt income on only \$3,000. The \$2,000 of insolvency would be exempt from taxation.

Exclusion from income for "acquisition debt" on a personal residence (discussed later in this article).


How, you may ask, can the forgiveness of debt be income? The IRS in their great wisdom looks at it this way. Instead of getting paid money that would be income to you, and using it to buy something, you could just "borrow" the money (buy something on credit, take equity out of your house, or get a loan) and then have the lender just write off the loan (result you got the money or what you bought and never had to pay tax on the "income", the amount of the loan or credit extended to you). To avoid this situation the IRS requires a lender to report the cancellation of debt to you as income. It is up to you to report the income or explain why you meet an exception that makes the amount of debt cancelled not income to you. Let me give you an example. A person with \$10,000 in credit card debt gets behind on their payments and negotiates with the credit card company to settle their account as paid in full with a \$6,000 payment. The credit card company writes off the remaining \$4,000 owed to them and then generates a form 1099-C to report the transaction. Part of the problem occurs when the debt is written off in one year, and the 1099-C form isn't generated until the next year. The borrower thinks their money woes are over when they

Your Tax Preparer

settled the credit card debt for 60 percent of what was owed, only to find out they owe tax on the forgiven debt. Too often people don't understand the 1099-C forms and throw them away, only to get a notice from the IRS for tax, penalties (can be up to 25 percent of the tax) and interest on the unreported income. Another problem occurs when a person receives a 1099-C form, but doesn't recognize the name of the creditor that appears on the 1099-C form, so they think "this can't be mine, I never had a loan with them". The debt may be owned by a parent corporation, or the debt may have been sold or assigned to a third party collection agency, who then generates the 1099-C form. An example is that a debt for a Discover card will list "Greenwood Trust" on the 1099-C form.

What about debt forgiveness on a house? For calendar years 2007-2013, cancellation of debt income on a personal residence is not taxable if the mortgage debt forgiven was on loans used to buy the house (hence the term "acquisition debt") or from refinanced debt which was used to make improvements to the home. If you use the proceeds of a home equity loans or refinanced mortgages to pay off credit cards, or for something other than making improvements to the house, that portion will not qualify for exclusion from debt forgiveness income. Taxes filed by the April 2014 deadline will be the last opportunity to claim the mortgage debt forgiveness exemption – unless Congress passes an extension.

Financial institutions frequently do not actually relieve debt in the year of foreclosure, you have the additional problem of explaining to the IRS why cancellation of debt income is reported in a year when no 1099-C was issued or why the cancellation of debt income is not included in a year the 1099-C is issued (so the taxpayer is given the responsibility of explaining why the financial institution didn't do their job properly). If you meet one of the exclusions listed above and do not have to report some (or all) of the cancellation of debt income, you are not done yet. If you escape reporting of cancellation of debt income, you are then required to reduce the tax basis of property you may own, which may result in a gain when that property is later sold, or reduce the benefit of tax credits, net operating losses or tax carryovers/ carrybacks. Suffice it to say if you receive a 1099-A or 1099-C form, do not ignore the form and seek assistance from someone who is knowledgeable in these matters.



Thank you Henry's for being a major distribution location for The Loop Newspaper.

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Kindness in Our Community

by Rev Nancy Bacon

There are times that move swiftly.... This is one of those seasons for me. I have letters I haven't answered and my filing is piled up. It's an enjoyable fullness: our church's Lenten kindness challenge; my upcoming installation as the settled pastor; an upcoming "Kirkin' 'O the Tartans" service on Tartan Day, April 6, to honor family heritage and peaceful unions; Holy Week; then three weeks working in Uganda, which I look forward to writing and blogging about later. Shew....

This morning the sun lit up my daughter's face as she lay sleeping. Amidst hustle and bustle, I pray God will cause me to pause frequently to see what matters most. I want to treasure the kindnesses bestowed on me

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in Mojave

From the Pastor's Desk

and there have been great ones touching my soul this past week. A young woman hung out with me, helping me, and sharing not only her time, but letting me get to know her; an older couple told me an amazing story of how they met on the dance floor 52 years ago doing a raucous jitterbug, with the lady doing the splits across the floor. Priceless. She's 92 years old, but I can see her youthfulness and sparkle in her husband's eye. I am so grateful for new friends I am meeting. I am so grateful to become part of the Tehachapi community.

I don't have much to say this time.

Gratitude is the word pushing away all others.

Dr. Chuck Wall, from the Kindness Institute spoke at our church about our hunger for positive caring acts in our world. He is totally blind and his hobby is to make ceramic bowls. Some of his bowls don't turn out perfect when they are fired, but he asked if our church would care to use them for our Friday soup suppers during our kindness challenge. As I hold the bowl he gave me, I think of his spirit strengthening me and my kindness journey. If you'd like to come and be fed, literally and figuratively, from the bowls and words of a great kindness mentor, we will eat at 5:30 p.m. of Fridays during Lent, while practicing "Kindness in Our Community." Blessings to you!




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Singer Ernest Troost Brings ‘Cinematic Folk’ on March 21

Artist Spotlight

by Deborah Hand-Cutler

The “big dream” for many singer-songwriters is to have their music used in film or TV scores. For Ernest Troost, it was the other way around. Troost became an Emmy Award-winning composer of movie and TV scores first, and only recently became an award-winning folk-blues songwriter, as well. “Songwriting was something I had put in the trunk and sat on for 20 years because it was an impractical thing to do,” he said. “I hadn’t done it since high school.”

Ernest Troost will perform at Fiddlers Crossing Friday, March 21 at 7 p.m. This show was re-scheduled from Feb. 22 due to illness.

It’s not surprising that, for a cinematic composer, Troost would write story songs. He has a lyrical taste for earthy ramblers, gamblers and small-town dreamers, as well as murder tales and other dark stories.

When he was a boy, his father would read aloud tales such as Coldridge’s “Rime of the Ancient Mariner,” and Poe’s “Raven.”

“I think their musicality and dark romantic nature had a powerful effect on me,” he said. “It’s storytelling that really excites me. I call my songwriting style

cinematic-folk. I try to create a vivid world of images and music that envelops the listener.” Along with the dark side, the “vivid” world of Ernest Troost songs is also a world of hope and love.

Fiddlers Crossing is at 206 E. F St. at Robinson Street, in Downtown Tehachapi. Tickets may be purchased next door at Mountain Music; Tehachapi Treasure Trove in Downtown; Tehachapi Furniture in Old Town; or with a credit card by calling 661-823-9994. Tickets to the concert are \$20, and as always, coffee and goodies are included.

Ernest Troost will perform at Fiddlers Crossing Friday, March 21. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Concert begins at 7 p.m. This show was re-scheduled from Feb. 22 due to illness.



‘Steel Magnolias’

BCT Presents

Bakersfield Community Theatre is proud to announce our next production, and the cap to our 87th Season: Robert Harling’s “Steel Magnolias,” directed by Pat Kerley.

The play is set in Truvy’s beauty salon in Chinquapin, Louisiana, where all the ladies who are “anybody” come to have their hair done.

Helped by her eager new assistant, Annelle (Jessica Jans), the outspoken, wise-cracking Truvy (Tami Brunsell) dispenses shampoos and free advice to the town’s rich curmudgeon, Ouiser (Laura Ho); an eccentric millionaire, Miss Clairee (Laurie Howlett), who has a raging sweet tooth; and the local social leader, M’Lynn (DeAnn Surratt), whose daughter, Shelby (Spencer Surratt), is about to marry a “good ole boy.”

Filled with wit, insight, love, and later, tragedy, you will be captivated and moved.

The underlying strength of the play - and its characters - make them truly touching, funny and marvelously amiable company in good times and bad.

This production will run March 21, 22, 28, 29 and April 4, 5, 11, 12 at 8 p.m. (doors open at 7:30 p.m.), and March 23 and April 6 at 2 p.m. (doors open at 1:30 p.m.). Tickets are \$15 general admission, \$12 for children ages 6-12 and seniors. (Children under five are free, however the themes within the show may be difficult

for younger patrons.)

This is a show you will not want to miss!

Note: An Opening Night Gala will take place on March 21 beginning at 7:30 p.m. There will be wine and cheese served.

Bakersfield Community Theatre is located at 2400 South Chester Avenue, Bakersfield, 93304, between Wilson Road and Ming Avenue. Parking and entrance are behind the theatre, off of South O Street. Reservations may be made at 661-831-8114.

If you want to drink, That’s your business!

If you want to stop, That’s our business! We have a solution! We can help!

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Here is a picture of last year's winner, Gacalyn Grant, "Best of Show" with Marge Colby of TVAA.

TVAA Youth Art Entry Now Available

All Tehachapi Youth Art Contest Entry Forms are available now.

Young artist don’t miss this exciting event. 2014 will be the eighteenth year for the very successful All Tehachapi Youth Art Contest (ATYAC), sponsored by the Tehachapi Valley Art Association. This contest is a means to spotlight the creative efforts of the talented youth found within the greater Tehachapi area communities. Entry forms are now available at Gallery N’ Gifts in downtown Tehachapi.

The ATYAC is staffed and funded by volunteers willing to give of their time and money to make this contest a success. Qualified Judges are brought in to examine each piece submitted and determine those works of art worthy of special recognition. First, second, and third place ribbons are given for outstanding works as well as honorable mention awards. In addition, two “Best of Show” awards are given, to honor the best work by a High School student and the other for the best work by an Elementary

level student. These two recipients will each be honored by a ribbon, and a monetary award.

Art works that will be accepted are: flat works of all media, sculpture, photography, (High School only), wheel thrown pottery or works of baked or fired clay. Please see the application for additional requirements. Entries will be accepted at the Gallery from March 22 to 31, 2014. Only one entry will be allowed for each child. All entries will be on display throughout the month of April.

The entry forms for this April event may be picked up during business hours at the Gallery prior to the entry deadline on April 1. Applications are also available on the web site at www.galleryngifts.org. There is a fee of \$1 for each entry.

Gallery N’ Gifts is located at 100 West Tehachapi Blvd. (the corner of Tehachapi Blvd. and Green Street). Business hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week. For additional information call the gallery at 661-822-6062.

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California City

by Susan Wiggins

As usual I was digging through my mother Marion Deaver's files and found some notes about the early days of California City, CA. It was not enough for an entire column, so I went to the East Kern Historical Society for some more information.

I think I have mentioned this before here, but my Mother was the first person to find proof of the community of California City actually coming into existence. Everyone denied that Nat Mendelsohn and his group were buying up land from the Mendeburu Ranch in the late '50s to create a planned community.

I rode out there with my mom in the summer on a cloudy day in the '50s. I was a little girl and not too excited about the whole thing. My mom found survey stakes marking out the boundaries of the community and took a photo, it made the wire service (before Internet) and the story broke all over the state.

When we got ready to come back to Mojave, along the dirt road which is now Neuralia Road, the skies opened up and a really gully buster came down. It scared my mom, thinking about flash floods and after that she never went out on wild excursions without my dad (Paul) with her to drive.

Mendelsohn thought that Los Angeles growth would spill northward to the East Kern desert and brought the land there for the city. He learned that water wells in the area, at that time, never dropped when they were pumped for agriculture in the area, and he knew he had found the place for his "futuristic" planned community. The city included 80,000 acres, was named California City and a development company was formed.

The community was formed in 1958, when the first parcels of land were marketed.

A DC-3 plane would fly in and unload perspective buyers to look over the land in California City. The landing strip was dirt at the corner of what is now Neuralia Road and California City Blvd.

A community services district was formed and later the development company donated ten acres to the Mojave Unified School District, where Robert P. Ulrich Elementary School was built in 1966.

A recreation center was opened at the end of 1958, "complete with a pool, motel, restaurant, and test gardens to see what would grow in the area."

A Page of History

By 1959 there were 36 families living in the area. In 1959 a community club was organized; along with a volunteer fire department that was backed up by the Kern County Fire Department.



Later that year plans for a central park were outlined.

The centerpiece of the park included a 20-acre lake, 40-foot water fall, tennis courts, lots of grassy areas and a motel.

The city was formed in 1965 and Jim Riley was its first elected mayor. Borg's Market opened; Marion Lee opened the first barber shop, and had the proud title of his being the first family to live in the city.

A doctor arrived, phone service came, and the city's first nursery was built.

When the city was formed the development company which later became Great Western donated everything in the area to the city, some sold to the city for \$1.

The city was and is located "as the crow flies" behind what is now the Mojave Spaceport, and was then what was left of the Mojave Marine Base.

All of the area was once a bombing range for the Marines. East Kern residents still go out in the desert and dig up old exploded ordnances left from those days, when the Marines were active in the '30s and '40s.

The best story concerning those old ordnances happened one sunny day in the city when a city crew was outside the city digging to repair a water line, as the story goes.

They (who will remain nameless) dug up a big bomb that they thought was harmless, tied it to the back of their city truck and dragged it down California City Blvd. to the old police station, located in the middle of town.

When the policemen saw it they all dove for cover and called the Bomb Squad from Edwards AFB. The Edwards crew gingerly loaded it back up and drove it back to the desert where they detonated what turned out to be a 500 lb. "Big Bertha" bomb.

Who knew?

State Farm® Invites Community Residents to Submit Causes to Assist their Neighborhood

by Sevag A. Sarkissian, MPA and California State Farm media relations specialist

Forty causes will each receive a \$25,000 grant to help complete their project.

Do you have an idea that would make your community a better place to live, and would \$25,000 be a game-changer? State Farm is here with the assist. From March 3 through March 23, people from the United States and Canada can submit a cause for a chance to win one of 40 \$25,000 State Farm Neighborhood Assist® grants. Applying is almost as easy as updating your Facebook status.

Now in its third year, Neighborhood Assist is a youth-led philanthropic program that empowers people to identify the issues they feel are the most important in their communities. The program then connects them with a local nonprofit that can help solve the problem and provides an opportunity to receive one of 40 \$25,000 grants.

"Forget the traditional grant-writing process. What's radical about Neighborhood Assist is that causes can be submitted very quickly online, anyone on Facebook can vote for them, so projects compete openly and don't depend on someone's personal taste, and projects have a chance of pretty much 1 in 100 to be selected," said Jordi Ortega, spokesperson for State Farm®.

Here's how it works. Beginning on March 3rd, people are invited to submit causes via the free State Farm Neighborhood Assist Facebook app. When a maximum of 4,000 cause submissions are received (deadline of March 23), the State Farm Youth Advisory Board will review all submissions and identify the top 200 based on a scoring rubric. The top 200 causes will then be announced on April 28 and anyone who has the free Facebook app can vote for their favorite causes with up to 10 votes per day until May 16. The top 40 vote-receiving causes will then each receive a \$25,000 grant to help address the submitted cause. The top 40 vote-receiving causes will be announced via the Facebook app on May 27.

In 2013, over 3.4 million votes were cast as part of the grant selection process. Those winning grants reached 40 different communities in 27 different US states/ Canadian provinces. The 2013 causes were as diverse as developing workforce

Community Outreach

training and leadership opportunities for motivated, under-resourced teens to restoring a vacant theatre for use as a film and performing arts center. Past Southern California causes that received funding include a program to provide foster kids with suitcases instead of the trash bags that they are often given to keep their belongings.

For more information on State Farm Neighborhood Assist or to submit a cause, get the free Facebook app at www.statefarm.com/neighborhoodassist.

About State Farm®

State Farm and its affiliates are the largest provider of car insurance in the U.S. and is a leading insurer in Canada. In addition to providing auto insurance quotes, their 18,000 agents and more than 65,000 employees serve 81 million policies and accounts – more than 79 million auto, home, life and health policies in the United States and Canada, and nearly 2 million bank accounts. Commercial auto insurance, along with coverage for renters, business owners, boats and motorcycles, is also available. State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company is the parent of the State Farm family of companies. State Farm is ranked No. 44 on the Fortune 500 list of largest companies. For more information, please visit <http://www.statefarm.com> or in Canada <http://www.statefarm.ca>.

About the Youth Advisory Board

The Youth Advisory Board is comprised of 30 students, ages 17-20, from across the United States and Canada who serve a two-year term. Their directive is to implement a \$5 million-a-year signature service-learning initiative to address issues important to youth and communities. The Board is completely autonomous and youth-driven, and funds projects focused on issues selected by the board that impact youth. It consists of a diverse group of full-time students at high schools and universities. Each member commits about 15 hours a month to the Board and participates in three face-to-face meetings per calendar year. The Board will fund the 40 grants awarded through the State Farm Neighborhood Assist program with a portion of its \$5 million funding in 2014. For more information on the Youth Advisory Board, visit www.statefarmyab.com.

It Has Arrived

a New Website for The Loop Newspaper

www.theLoopNewspaper.com



for news, updates, and weather alerts

Tehachapi Al-Anon Local Meetings

Mondays 7 p.m. Tehachapi Meeting at Summit Christian
Tuesdays 11:30 a.m. Paths to Recovery at BVS Church
Friday 1:30 p.m. Tehachapi 20717 South St. Tehachapi
 All meeting are open meetings for those who or family members that have been affected by drinking
 For Al-Anon information please go to www.alanon.org or call answering service at 661-322-1102

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Communication is Tough

by Mark ‘Doc’ Fisher

I’m sitting here at the keyboard trying to figure out what I’m going to say, while Moonpi my dog paces around my chair attempting to communicate with me. Sometimes it can be pretty obvious what he’s trying to tell me. For example, he has a pretty specific noise he makes that says, “I’ve lost my rawhide under the sofa. Get up and help me get it.” After lunch, when he thinks it is time for a walk, there’s not much chance of misunderstanding what he’s trying to say.

For someone incapable of using words, he’s able to communicate quite a bit. I say “using” words very specifically, since he understands a fairly large number. His reaction to the phrase “check the mail” can be scary for the uninitiated, and he certainly knows what “stinky toy” means.

However he can’t use words himself. He has to show people what it is he’s wanting. Last year we were visiting my sister and Moonpi had to be left with her for a bit. Well, it was the time of the morning when he usually got his “dental bone,” so he went over to the table where his treats were being kept and looked at the dental bones. My sister gave him a cookie. Well of course he ate it, just to be polite you understand, but then he went back, rolled his eyes at her and made her understand that wasn’t the right treat.

Now you’d think that being able to use words would make communication easier, but that’s not necessarily the case. Last time when I wrote my article I had something that I wanted to communicate, but a large number of intelligent people misunderstood me.

I was explaining about how the ten minute play I wrote was not going to be how I would have done it. How I had envisioned it, and somehow some people came away from that with the impression that I was upset about that. Definitely not.

While walking their beat corrections officers must settle disputes, collect intelligence, remain highly alert and intuitive, and employ sound judgment and solid tactics. They must be finely tuned into perceived matters of disrespect, that what to an outsider would seem insignificant, but to those in the know, may lead to an all-out riot or a selective murder.

Every shift, corrections officers interact with inmates, and must consider their wide variety of religious practices, and be empathetic towards their drug dependencies, loneliness, racial tensions, and family issues. Corrections officers must protect inmates from predatory inmates, and sometimes from themselves, while providing meaningful work, training, medical care, and education.

Then, when their shift ends, they must compartmentalize everything they just experienced: the violence, the insults, the tension, and so on, and drive out the front gate, and back to their friends and families. They are expected to assimilate back into “normal” society, making that magic transition as they hit the gate. Their job is risky, dangerous, traumatic, and most of all, and perhaps worst of all, thankless.

The next time you have the opportunity to do so, thank a corrections officer for the job they do, the career they chose, the risks they take, and for walking one of the toughest beats in America.

Lost in the Stars

Why would I want to see it the way I had envisioned it. I’d already seen that version.

True, that was seen only in my head, but I knew what I thought it was like.

I was looking forward to seeing what someone else thought it should be like.

Recently I read a post on a blog I check regularly that explained how people can react rigidly or plastically (meaning flexible) to events in the world. If someone reacts rigidly to something that goes against their preconceived notions, it can generate anger and frustration.

On the other hand someone that reacts plastically to events that are outside what they expect, can actually be amused and happy when something like that happens.

When it comes to my writing, I think I’m pretty plastic in my reactions to other people’s reading of what I said. When someone reads one of my poems and sees an analogy or metaphor I hadn’t intended, I’m happy, and I look to see it there myself. The same with plays and my other writing. I’m always fascinated by what message people get out of these short articles here in *The Loop*. Sometimes it’s exactly what I meant to say. But even when there is a misunderstanding, I get a chance to learn more about my writing.

That’s awesome, but it seems I should be going. Moonpi has something he wants me to do.

Send me an email at mathnerde+loop@gmail.com. Or you can comment on my blog at <http://mathnerde.blogspot.com/>.



How the Kawaiisu Depended on Local Plants

provided by Charles White

On Saturday March 22, Jon Hammond will talk on “Native Plants in Native Culture: How the Kawaiisu Used the Flora of the Tehachapi Mountains for Food, Fiber and Medicine” at the Tehachapi Depot at 6 p.m.

The presentation will include demonstrations of some traditional uses of native plants, with plant samples and handmade items available for examination, with some traditional foods prepared for tasting.

According to Jon Hammond, “The Kawaiisu Indian people depended on the plants around them to supply most of their food, fiber and medicine. They made their homes, their baskets, and the nearly all of their possessions from the plants found growing in the Tehachapi Mountains and surrounding areas. We’ll be examining plant samples and seeing how local plants have been used for centuries in a variety of creative ways.”

“At the talk, we’re going to be providing samples of some different Kawaiisu foods, and as a bonus, we’ll also be serving traditional dandelion green salad with hard-boiled egg, bacon and hot dressing, using a heirloom German country recipe that was handed down to Del Troy’s Pennsylvania ancestors.”

Ethno botanist Dr. Maurice Zigmond studied the Nuwa or Kawaiisu people in the 1930s and again in the 1970s. He documented the traditional use of about 250 different plant species and subspecies, with 120 species furnishing food and beverage, more than 100 for medicine and 90 for miscellaneous purposes and services.

Dr. Zigmond had this to say: “The botanical traditions of the Kawaiisu permeated every facet of their culture. Plants played a role not only in diet, medicine and the manufacture of diverse items, but also in ritual, mythology and the realm of the supernatural.” Thanks to the Kawaiisu informants who supplied Dr. Zigmond with their knowledge, as well as the continued traditions of the Kawaiisu people, we know quite a lot about the plants they used and the different ways in which they have used them.

Reservations are suggested. Tickets are \$15 each and can be purchased at the Tehachapi Museum during regular hours (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from Noon to 4 p.m.) or by calling the Museum at 661-822-8152 and leaving a message.

The Museum is located at 310 S. Green St. Tehachapi, CA.



(Above): Cordage, which was used for many purposes, is made from fibers of the stinging nettle. (Below): Lucille Girado Hicks cleaning koovoos. Koovoos is a type of wild green that grows in profusion in Tehachapi in the Spring. It was cooked and used as a foodstuff by the Kawaiisu.

‘One of the Toughest Beats in America’

by Chief Michael Grant, Stallion Springs Police Department

Throughout my law enforcement career, I have had countless people from all walks of life thank my partners and I for the job we do, for being cops, and for protecting their families. I have always tried to keep things in perspective and to remember that I am a public servant and that my badge represents the public’s trust in me to do the right thing. Fire fighters are thanked on a regular basis for their heroism, and the risks they take to protect lives and property throughout their careers as well. There are many facets to public service and for the most part, public servants serve with honor and integrity.

Imagine going to work every day or night, in uniform, to a place surrounded by walls and fences, where the great majority of the people you serve and protect are hostile, violent and often deadly. Where, on the beat you walk, to keep people from killing each other and from killing your partners, you’re armed only with pepper spray, a radio, baton, handcuffs, keys, a whistle, and a vigilant eye in the tower above. This is the beat that a California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Officer walks; possibly the thinnest of blue lines anywhere. Our local Tehachapi prison (CCI), houses approximately 4,359 felonious inmates, a population more dense than some townships in the Tehachapi area.

(Schools continued from page 19)

Seventy-seven point nine percent of the district’s funding is dependent on the governor’s new Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), which requires enhanced funding for low income, English learners and foster youth.

“The governor is proposing the greatest increase in per-student average funding since 2000-01,” Heinlein reported. “Only 14 months ago we were facing deep cuts if Proposition 30 didn’t pass.”

Missing in the 2014 state budget, Heinlein said, is money for unfunded CalSTRS pensions, special education shortfalls and early childhood education.



**MAR
2014**

Talk It UP

News to Share from the City of Tehachapi.

**TEHACHAPI**
CALIFORNIA

115 South Robinson Street | Tehachapi, CA 93561 | (661) 822-2200

Talk it up is a monthly brief provided by the City of Tehachapi helping us all to keep informed and keep in touch.

In the Works

an update on what's happening in the City of Tehachapi

» The new Freedom Plaza has entered the design process and will be located at the corner of Tehachapi Blvd. and Curry Street.

- » Lots of road and sidewalk repairs happening throughout the City.
- » Tractor Supply is scheduled to open Mid-March. If you haven't seen it, stop by their new location near the Mill Street on-ramp.
- » Hall Ambulance will soon have a second location on Pinon Street, just off Curry allowing for quicker response times.

Did you know!

For as little as 50¢ to \$1.00, riders can travel within the city limits, Golden Hills or Old Towne just by placing a call.

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- 1 Plan your trips and then **call Dial-A-Ride at 1-800-323-2396.**

(For guaranteed rides, call 1 day in advance.)

- 2 Be sure to have correct change as the drivers don't carry change.

- 3 Enjoy the ride! Rides are 75¢ to \$1.00 for General Public and only 50¢ to 75¢ for Seniors, Disabled and Youth (5-15). Kids under 4 are free with paying adult.

**Service is available Monday - Friday, 5:30am to 7:00pm and now Saturdays 7:30-11:30am and 1:30 to 5:30pm**

From Facebook

Keep up with us online at [facebook.com/CityofTehachapi](https://www.facebook.com/CityofTehachapi)

Representing the City and GTEDC at the Antelope Valley Board of Trade Annual Business Outlook Conference



Over 100 people showed up for the fundraising premier of Survivor with cast member Kass McQuillen



Tractor Supply opening Mid March



There was a packed house for Crime Prevention Day at the movies for seniors

JOIN UP

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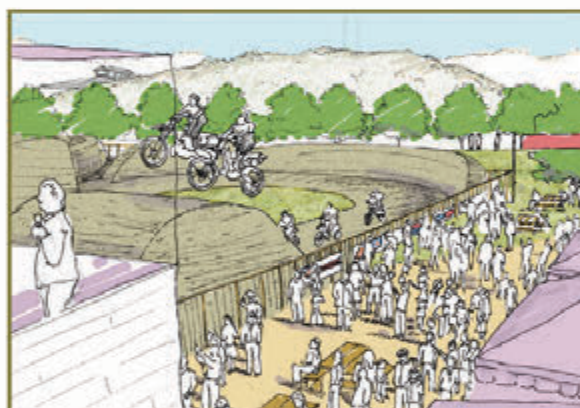
CONNECTIONS

City Applies for Off Highway Vehicle Grant

In April of 2013, the Tehachapi City Council approved a master plan to create an Event Center and Rodeo Grounds which would bring recreational opportunities to the area. One of the projects proposed was a 13 acre Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) area for motorcycles.

The mountain community of Tehachapi, with a population of over 35,000 residents, is surrounded by thousands of acres of private property. The closest legal riding area is over 35 miles away in California City.

Believing that our residents deserve the quality recreational opportunities that our neighboring communities offer, in the fall of 2013 the City of Tehachapi began to reach out to local OHV enthusiasts to understand the need for a motocross facility. The response was overwhelmingly positive.



The City applied for a development grant for funding of a 13 acre motocross park and associated infrastructure. The current grant cycle would encompass phase one of a two phase process. The phase one project estimate is \$1,610,049 of which the City of Tehachapi will match \$610,049. Amenities to support the OHV Park include, but are not limited to: restrooms, manager's office, concessions, bike wash station, picnic area, electrical, sewer, irrigation system, dust control, landscaping, fencing and parking. Phase two of the project will include bringing agricultural water to the site to reduce the use of potable water, a small bleacher area for spectators, and RV camp sites for visitors.

To review the grant and leave commentary go to www.LiveUpTehachapi.comCity Council meets at 6pm on 1st & 3rd Monday at the **Wells Education Center at 300 S. Robinson St. Next UP: Mar 17th and Apr 7th.****Join Our Team as a Sponsor of the Tehachapi GranFondo!**sponsorship information available online at www.TehachapiGranFondo.com



Meet Cherie Shoemake who has been with Optimal Hospice Foundation for five years and has been Foundation Director for 15 months. Photo provided.

Optimal Hospice: It's About Living

Non-profit Highlight

by Mary Clyde, wordsmith

In the past, when we thought about hospice care we tend to conjure up only images of death because the bottom line is that someone we love or care a great deal about is dying. And while we can't change the bottom line, we can change the way we view hospice care.

"Hospice care is about living to the highest quality possible during the time a person has left," shared Cherie Shoemake (who has been with Optimal Hospice Foundation for five years and has been Foundation Director for 15 months) and Lyda Norris, RN (who has been Case Manager for Optimal Hospice Care for 15 months). "Hospice care absolutely does not mean giving up hope. Sometimes a patient gets better and goes home for a while because of the dedicated care they received in hospice," added Lyda.

There are many myths about what hospice means.

Myth: Hospice means giving up hope.

Fact: Hospice does not mean "giving up hope," but can help people revise what they may hope for. Hospice focuses on maximizing the quality of life based on an individual's choices, so that the person may live life as fully as possible for as long as possible.

Myth: Hospice is a place.

Fact: Hospice care usually takes place in the home, but can be provided in any environment in which you live, including nursing homes, assisted living facilities and residential care facilities.

Myth: Hospice means that the patient will soon die. **Fact:** Receiving hospice care does not mean giving up hope or that death is imminent. The earlier an individual receives hospice care, the more opportunity there is to stabilize the medical condition and address other needs. Some individuals actually improve and may be discharged from hospice care. They then can be re-admitted later, when it is necessary.

Myth: Hospice is only for elderly individuals.

Fact: Hospice care is for individuals of all ages facing a life-limiting illness.

Myth: Individuals can only receive hospice care for six months; therefore enrollment should be delayed as long as possible.

Fact: Medicare, MediCal, Medicaid and most private insurance pays for hospice care as long as the individual meets the medical criteria, which may result in receiving hospice care longer than six months.

"Here in Tehachapi we have six to eight volunteers who assist with visitations, errands for the family etc," explained Cherie, "In addition, patients are visited one to three times a week by our nursing staff to check vitals and make sure prescriptions are being dispensed appropriately."

"Our professional staff and volunteers not only provide health-related care, but also offer spiritual, emotional and personal hygiene for the patient. And while we do not provide 24-7 care, per se, we are available on-call 24-7 for nursing and social services," explained Lyda. "We focus not only on the patient but their family as well. We take a well-rounded approach to patient care that adds an extra element to the quality of care patients receive in hospice."

"Community awareness and education are an essential part of what Optima Hospice offers. We often think only of quality and comfort for a patient during whatever time they have. But it goes beyond being aware that hospice is available. Knowing what hospice can and can't do is augmented by the community's understanding," Cherie said.

Optimal Hospice Care also offers grief support groups. Various groups meet throughout the week in Bakersfield, Fresno, Lake Isabella, Madera, Modesto, Porterville, Santa Clara, Stockton, Taft, Tehachapi and Visalia. The Tehachapi grief support group meets on Tuesdays from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at the Tehachapi

Senior Citizens Center at 500 E. F St. Groups in Bakersfield, Fresno, Madera, Porterville and Visalia also have counseling available "En Español."

"We also have a Kid's Grief Connection available in Bakersfield, Taft and Delano," shared Cherie, "And then there's Kid's Camp held in Fresno and Kern Counties each year. The loss of a loved one touches each member of the family, especially children,"

"Kid's camp is designed for young people ages eight to 16 who have experienced the loss of a loved one during the past year. They enjoy traditional camp activities such as swimming and hiking in an atmosphere where both staff and fellow campers understand how difficult grief can be," she explained further. "It's a two and a half day camp where kids connect to share their loss with other kids in the same space. There's one-on-one counselling available as well as camp times. It's a healing time for all who venture out. Camp participants may be referred by school counselors, hospice social workers and spiritual counselors, healthcare providers, family members or other individuals. Even grand kids visiting from out of state can participate. Kid's Camp is funded, which makes it 'affordable' for families. We rely on Memorial Camp donations from the Tehachapi Car Show Committee for some of the funds," she added.

The Foundation also has special events to bring in needed funds. This year they are having a concert on April 10 featuring Ry Bradley, a young songwriter raised on Merle Haggard and schooled by the Rolling Stones. You can check him out at www.rybradley.com. The concert is scheduled to be held at The Nile (1721 19th St., Bakersfield, Calif.) and begins at 5 p.m. You can purchase tickets online via Ry's web site or by calling 661-716-8000.

In September they have a golf tournament: "In the Sun and Under the Stars" where glow-balls were the rage. This event is held at the Stockdale Country Club in Bakersfield.

Coming up in December, they have a "Light Up A Life" event which is usually held at Kelcy's Café right here in Tehachapi.

"We are always looking for folks who would like to volunteer," said Lyda. We have opportunities in patient family support, bereavement care, 11th hour professional service (i.e., massage therapist, hair stylist, etc.), CarePals pet therapy, music therapy, community support, recruiting support, sewing support, light housekeeping and yard assistance," shared Cherie, "You can donate as much or as little time as you are able. There's a simple training program that will get you started. If you'd like more information, please call our volunteer department at 1-888-597-6115."

As a nonprofit organization, Optimal Hospice Foundation relies on tax-deductible donations, employee giving, fund-raising events and volunteers to support hospice services, Kid's Camp and community outreach programs. For more information about this aspect of Optimal Hospice Foundation you can go to their web side, www.optimalhospicefoundation.com or by calling the Foundation office at 661-716-8000.

"Knowledge is a valuable tool," said Cherie. "Knowing more about Optimal Hospice Care and Optimal Hospice Foundation empowers not only individuals but the Tehachapi Community as well."

Be informed.

Make a phone call.

Volunteer if you have time.

Please make a donation if you can.



Meet Lyda Norris, RN who has been Case Manager for Optimal Hospice Care for 15 months. Photo by Mary Clyde

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Welcome to The Loop's Nonprofit Highlight

This is the third installment and we are happy to have Ron Depew of Guild Mortgage Company as this issue's sponsor for "Optimal Hospice". Read about the myths and facts of hospice care. Thank you, Ron and Guild Mortgage Company for helping educate our readers about this great organization.

We are highlighting one nonprofit, service organization or club per issue, depending on when we are able to get a sponsor for nonprofits.

Nonprofits, service organizations and clubs are always in need of volunteers and donations. It is our hope we can help bring the exposure they need to thrive, and by being involved as a visible supporter, sponsors can show their support to the Tehachapi community.

This feature will be of mutual benefit to sponsors and nonprofits alike. We are currently seeking more sponsors to champion this page in future issues of *The Loop*.

With this unique opportunity, businesses can address both the hearts and minds of our community.

If you are interested in sponsoring or being sponsored, please call us at 661-822-8188 now to reserve your space. Our deadline is the Friday a week before publication. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

We already have had a great response to this sponsorship page, so do not wait if you have a favorite charity that needs more attention. Call the Loop office to schedule, (661) 822-8188.

We would love to hear from our readers about this new highlight.



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Preretirement

submitted by Jennifer Williams

What is it?

Preretirement is the stage of life before retirement and offers an opportunity to plan and save solely for your retirement years. Determining your retirement income needs when retirement is still in the future is not an exact science. You need to spend some time thinking about what sources of income you will have. After you've done that, you'll need to estimate your retirement income needs. The further away retirement is, the harder it will be for you to get an accurate picture. The sooner you start thinking about it, however, the greater the opportunity you have to achieve the retirement lifestyle you want.

Sources of retirement income

Generally, retirement income comes from three major areas: Social Security, employer-sponsored retirement plans, and personal savings and investments. You should plan to have all three of these sources of retirement income securely in place before you retire.

Analysis of current/projected expenses

After you determine your sources of retirement income, you should estimate your retirement income needs. The method you use can vary and depends on the time you have left before you retire. The closer you are to retirement, the easier it will be to determine what your income needs will be during retirement. If you are nearing retirement, an analysis of your current income needs is a good way to estimate your retirement income needs. However, if you are a long way from retirement, determining your retirement needs will be more difficult. If retirement is far into your future, you'll need to do an analysis of your projected income needs to estimate your retirement income needs.

The average rate of inflation is 3 to 4 percent. For certain retirement expenses (e.g., health care), however, the rate could be higher.

Replacement percentage method

The further you are from retirement, the more difficult it is to determine your retirement income needs. Many financial planners believe that the best way for younger clients to estimate retirement income needs is to use the replacement percentage method. This method determines your retirement income needs based upon a ratio of retirement income to preretirement income. Most financial planners estimate that you need approximately 70 to 80 percent of your present income to maintain your current standard of living during retirement.

Caution: Keep in mind that when you determine your retirement income needs, it is only an estimate. There is no way to determine your exact income needs due to inflation, life expectancy, and other variables.

Capital utilization versus capital preservation

— Capital utilization

After you estimate your retirement income needs, you should determine how you would like to use your sources of retirement income to fulfill those needs. Your first option, known as capital utilization,

is to consume the principal on an as-needed basis in order to fulfill your retirement income needs. Consequently, capital utilization depletes your retirement assets even as it meets your retirement income needs.

— Capital preservation

Your second option, known as capital preservation, is to live off of the income (interest and dividends) that your retirement assets generate. This may allow you to leave the remaining principal to your heirs or preserve the assets in case additional finances are needed later in retirement. The capital preservation approach does not deplete your sources of retirement income since it does not require you to live off of the principal.

Preretirement not a static time

The term "preretirement" generally refers to the working years before retirement, when you are focusing primarily on retirement and planning for it more actively than before. For most people, this period begins in their late 40s or their 50s and spans anywhere from 5 to 15 years. Even over such a relatively short time, a lot can happen in your life. While you should be constantly planning for retirement during your preretirement years, such variables as your risk tolerance, your ability to save, and the priorities you set for retirement may all change throughout your preretirement years.

Example(s): You might start giving more serious thought to retirement when you turn 50. At that point, you may still be burdened with your children's college costs and unable to save as much for retirement as you'd like. Ten years later, assuming you're still working and your children have finished college, you might be able to save considerably more. The point here is that preretirement is not a static time. As your financial and life circumstances change during preretirement, so too may your retirement goals and the strategies you use to reach them.

Tip: The conventional wisdom used to be that your approach to investing should grow increasingly more conservative as you get closer to retirement. A generation ago, a typical investor by the age of 65 would have an investment portfolio designed primarily to meet a retiree's need for current income and capital preservation. However, with today's longer life expectancies and the trend toward earlier retirements, the thinking has changed drastically in the last 20 years or so. It's not uncommon today for retirement to last 30 years or more. As a result, people are routinely advised nowadays to continue to invest aggressively for long-term growth (with perhaps slight modifications) throughout preretirement and even well into retirement.

Jennifer's Thoughts...



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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. Article is Courtesy of Forefiled, LLC Securities offered through NPB Financial Group, LLC. A Registered Investment Advisor/Broker-Dealer Member FINRA, MSRB, and SIPC.

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Surf Fishing

by Craig R. Stockton, owner of Treasures eConsignment

One of my most favorite things in fishing is to surf fish. Being on the beach, standing knee deep in the surf, and smelling the salt air just gets me going. There are fewer environments that are tougher to handle than the pounding surf, so you may ask why subject yourself to such a beating? Surf perch, croaker and halibut are but a few of the reasons. With spring and summer around the corner, the big female perch are cruising the beach ready to release their young. Surf perch on average run around five to eight inches, however the big girls can get up to three-plus pounds. On light tackle this can be great sport.

I was just up past Hearst Castle last week for some R&R and had the opportunity to fish one of Hearst's private beaches, and all I can say is **wow!**

Picture this: Miles of empty beaches with breath taking views and perch up to two-and-a-half pounds. This may not sound like much but on a 9'6" rod rated for four to eight pounds, believe me, these fish can bend a rod! If you have ever caught big bluegills on light tackle you have some idea of how hard fighting these scrappy little fish can be.

Surf perch are like bluegills on steroids and pull like crazy. They don't stop until you get them to hand.

I use specialty equipment for this type of fishing. However, if you have trout rods around six and a half to seven feet, they will do the job. This is light line fishing at its best. Years ago most people fished with big heavy rods, 20 to 30 pound test and three to four oz. sinkers. Now we use long steelhead rods rated for four to eight pound test. You can use six pound test mono or 10 pound Power Pro and 3/8-oz. weights, size six hooks and plastic grubs. For rigging instructions there are web sites that will show the basic set up. SC Surf Fishing is one I can recommend.

Now you may ask, "So all I have to do is rig up, walk into the surf and start casting?" Yes, that is it; however, there are ways to "read" water that will give clues to where the fish might be congregating. Reading water is something you learn over time. By paying attention you put pieces of the puzzle together to help eliminate unproductive water.

A few hints on what to look for are:

1) Nervous water. This is where the surface of water will reflect the bottom. Nervous water is caused by depressions in the sand, channels and holes that cause the water to swell toward the surface. What makes these great places to fish is because sand crabs will wash into these holes,

and perch know this.

2) Seams are another great feature to look for. Seams are caused by two tides coming together when retreating from the beach. The water creates a narrow seam that will push crabs and small fish out quickly to where the large fish wait for their meal to come to them.

The Pacific Ocean in spring can be very cold and uncomfortable if you wear shorts.

My preference is to wear chest waders and booties that cover the feet/soles. I also use a fly fishing jacket for extra warmth. The best way to carry your tackle is to use a fanny pack with a plastic box that has several compartments to keep your weights, hooks, baits, swivels, beads and grubs organized. I like to use 2" grubs for most of my perch fishing as they resemble small bait fish and perch will readily take them.

This is great family fun and a great way to bring kids into fishing. You can keep them in shallow water as perch will often be an easy cast right off the beach. It is not unusual to catch 10-30 fish or more in a wide open bite which will definitely keep your kids interested.

If you have any questions please feel free to call or come in to the store and I will be happy to help you get started.



One Man's Passion

Brite Lake Fishing Report

by Dustan Hostetler

Shoreline fishing is at its best as Brite Lake water level is nearing capacity. Following a Feb. 21 fish stock time is of the essence, as activity is best 8 to 10 a.m. and one-hour prior to dusk.

Anglers Advice:

Power bait or live worms on short leaders, or slow reacting lures (1/8 oz lures on two to four pound test line just off the bottom a very slow retrieval.

Mark Your Calendars:

TVRPD's Free Seminar April 5 in the West Park Gym at 10 a.m. Door prizes and preregistration for the 2014 TVRPD Brite Lake Fishing Derby. Come learn successful Brite Lake fishing techniques from local experts!

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The Forde Files

No. 66

12.75 acres at the corner of Red Apple Ave. and Tucker Road 119,651 sq. ft. retail center under review

The commercial corridor of Tucker Road has come 119,651 square feet closer to build-out.

The Tehachapi City Council on Mar. 3 approved an agreement with Curtis Zacuto, principal of Westlake Village-based EcoTierra Consulting, to produce an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on a new shopping center called the Red Apple Pavilion.

Located on the west side of Tucker on Red Apple Ave. (the western extension of Tehachapi Boulevard), the near-120,000-square-foot retail center is a stone's throw from the site of the 165,000-square-foot Walmart that has been mired in environmental challenges for more than five years. Specially trained California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Judge Kenneth Twisselman has yet to stamp the final "OK" on the Walmart project.

Tehachapi Community Development Director David James told the City Council that on July 16, 2013, Encino-based Marc Carolli of the Numbers Group filed to build the Red Apple Pavilion "power center" on 12.75 acres at the Tucker/Red Apple Ave. corner.

James said that Zacuto, who has worked with the city on its General Plan

and on the Walmart EIR, will prepare a focused EIR utilizing the concept of "tiering" that allows lead agencies to utilize existing EIR studies and general plans.

James said that according to CEQA guidelines, "Agencies are encouraged to tier the environmental analyses which they prepare for separate but related projects including general plans, zoning changes and development



Rendering by McKently Malak Architects, Pasadena, Calif.

projects. This approach can eliminate repetitive discussions of the same issues and focus the later EIR or negative declaration on the actual issues ripe for discussion at each level of environmental review."

The Red Apple Pavilion environmental review, therefore, will focus "on those environmental issues that are site and project specific and were not adequately addressed in the programmatic EIR certified in conjunction with the General Plan Update

adopted on April 16, 2012."

The specific site issues Zacuto will analyze are:

- Traffic impacts
- Storm water runoff
- Archeological resources
- Biological resources
- Fiscal impact
- Noise impacts
- Mandatory and additional CEQA topics

In regard to the fiscal impact, the city staff report said, "Fiscal impacts are not a CEQA issue per se, however, the EIR should nevertheless include a fiscal impact analysis

to determine the extent to which the revenue in the form of sales tax and property tax (that) will accrue to the General Fund will outweigh the cost of the city in providing services."

In its location on the corner of the busy intersection fed by Fwy 58 off-ramp traffic on State Route 202 and Tehachapi's main street, the pavilion, shown in its architectural rendering as presenting the sign "Welcome to Tehachapi," may become the unofficial Tehachapi welcome image. Unlike the Tehachapi Junction center directly to the east, where Starbuck's is located, the Red Apple Pavilion appears to offer a friendly face outward.

Mountain Pathways: We're going to Disneyland!

Following three-and-a-half months of intensive fundraising and the support of a generous community, it's on to Disneyland for the clients of Mountain Pathways, a private, non-profit day program in Tehachapi for adults with disabilities.

Lead Staff Melissa Bell said the goal of \$6,000 has been met, and will be sufficient to treat 40 clients to the trip, scheduled

for April 29. Thirty-two adults currently are in the program; the additional funds will cover up to eight new clients. Any extra money from the fundraising will go directly to enhance the lives of the clients, whose disabilities include severe autism, Fragile X Syndrome, mental retardation, Asbergers and cerebral palsy.

"It's been my dream for years," said Bell, who has worked at Mountain

Pathways for six years.

She presented her Disneyland game plan to John Stockton, CEO of Community Support Options, which operates Mountain Pathways in Tehachapi, Bakersfield, Wasco and Ridgecrest.

"He said 'Go for it.' I jumped for joy." Bell said they have chosen to forego the Disney "flash pass," which takes disabled guests to the front of the lines, as Disneyland guests had been abusing the privilege, and now the passes take too much paperwork.

"We'll walk in the gate with tickets and go in like anybody else would," she said. "We don't mind the challenge."

The clients – some of whom are non-verbal – may have difficulties with certain rides, chaos, happy screaming that they interpret as fear or people touching them, and both staff and clients have been preparing. The group was scheduled to go to a mall in Lancaster March 14 to mix with crowds. They have practiced staying

together and what to do if lost. All will wear bright pink t-shirts and ID badges.

The t-shirts will read: "When you wish upon a star, it makes no difference who you are."

The clients participated in fundraising, which included raffles, penny jars, bake sales and a rummage sale. Bell and Program Aide Deidra Crowley

thanked the Tehachapi Gandy Dancers, Kelcy's Café, the Knights of Columbus and Mountain Pathways

neighbor on West F Street, Wood Family Funeral Service.

"It's amazing how much the community has done in such a short amount of time," Bell said.

The group will leave for Disneyland at 7 a.m. on a charter bus and return in the afternoon for dinner in Lancaster and then home.

Mountain Pathways phone number is 661-823-7302.

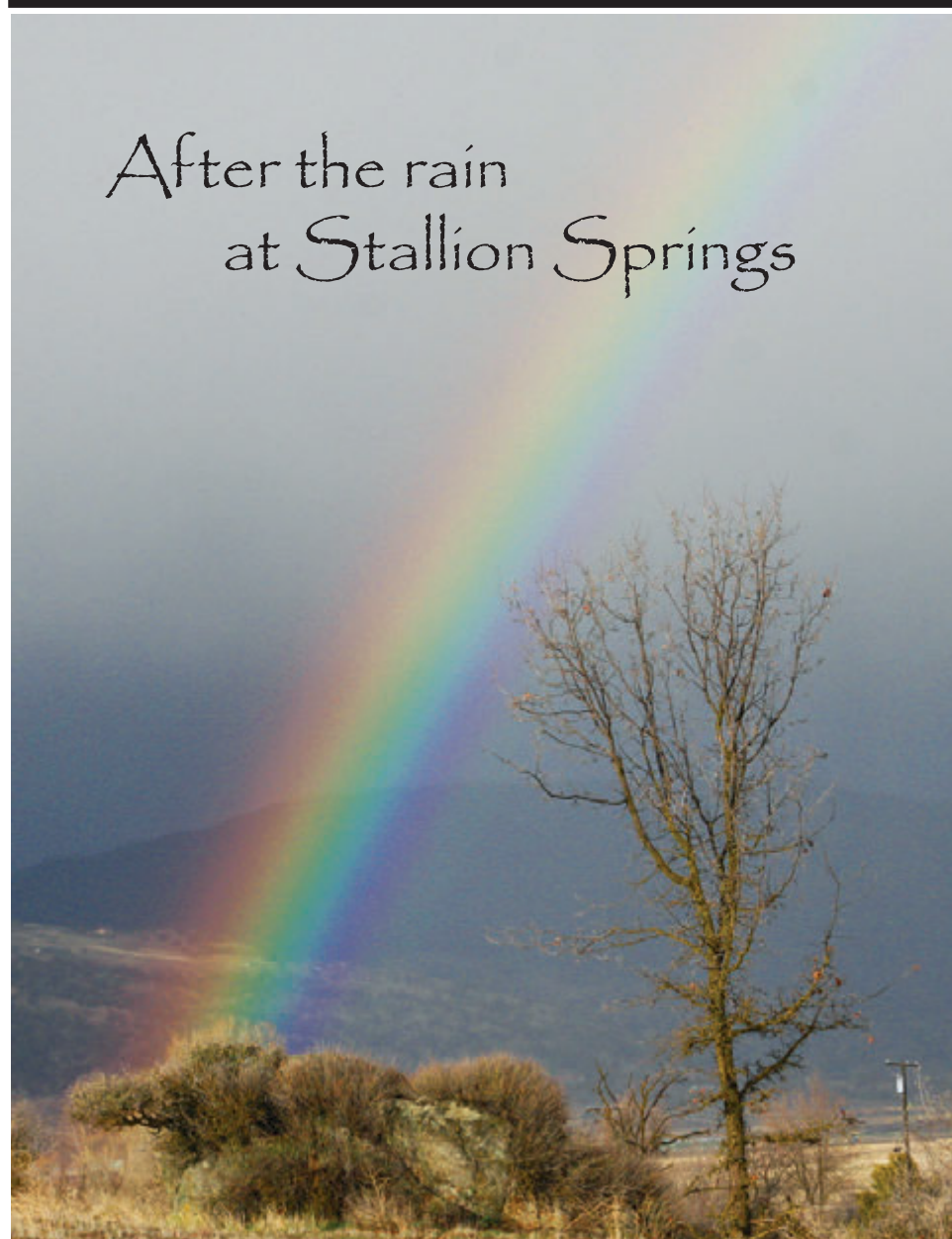


Mountain Pathways clients and staff gather around a leprechaun-catcher on March 13, from left, Lorraine P., Shannon S., Program Aide Deidra Crowley (Deidra made the Leprechaun catcher), Jeff D., Lead Staff Melissa Bell and Kacie H. Also in the group, not shown, Deanna B.

Shedding light on local issues.

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

After the rain at Stallion Springs



Wow – Forde Files had a hard time recognizing the man in black (with a cheery Irish shamrock tie) at the March 11 school board meeting. By now, Tompkins Elementary School Principal Shiriden Prince is accustomed to the quizzical looks, as he has lost 160 pounds since undergoing duodenal switch surgery less than a year ago. Prince weighed in at 367 pounds at the time of the surgery, performed June 24, 2013, by Dr. Ara Keshishian at the Delano Regional Medical Center. Prince, 43, has exceeded his target weight of 215 and now weighs 207. He lost 60 pounds in the first month – which he concedes “is a little drastic” – and subsequently has lost a steady 10 to 15 pounds a month since then. “I have lots of energy,” he said. “I have started biking and am hoping to swim.” He no longer has high blood pressure and his cholesterol is good, he said. Now lacking half his stomach and part of his intestine, his system can absorb half the calories and nutrients as before. “I will be on a steady vitamin regimen for the rest of my life,” he said. His wife Kriston had the same surgery

in November and has lost 50 pounds. “I’m glad she talked me into it,” Prince said. “We’re extremely happy.” The students at Tompkins have been supportive. “Mr. Prince, you lost a lot of pounds,” he quoted one student.

Another observed, “You look extremely healthy.”

Orphan event? – The 2014 Tehachapi Valley Recreation and Park District annual Easter Egg Hunt that attracts hundreds of children is in jeopardy. The district is prepared to provide a park and facilities but not staff, and is seeking other community organizations and churches to take over the planning, which includes organizing a crafts fair and age-group activities. District staff and resources will be deployed at its Fishing Derby on April 19, the same day the Easter Egg Hunt is on the calendar. The district was minimally involved in the 2013 Breakfast with Santa, another free event that the district traditionally has provided.



Shiriden Prince

Common Core pumps up school budget revisions



The Tehachapi Unified School District board meetings feature presentations by students from the schools in the district. On March 11, Cummings Valley Elementary Principal Julie Boesch introduced her students. Above, Gabriella Gutierrez gave a presentation on bobcats. Top center, Alaina Riggs smiles after presenting her winning Oral Language speech, “Where’s Sara?,” which took first in the regionals and third in the county in the solo serious classification. Top right, Sierra Lander, who hosted a video tour of Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa. Bottom right, Chloe Richmond (in pink) and Kara Benson, who won first in the regional duo serious classification with “Riding Freedom.” Inset, Sierra at the mission, on the board room video screen.



The 2013-2014 second interim budget for the Tehachapi Unified School District, which updates the revenues and expenses for review by the Kern County Superintendent of Schools, includes additional funding for Secondary programs and Special Education mental health services.



district has actively been preparing elementary teachers for a transition from the existing California State Standards to the Common Core State Standards for writing (with increased emphasis on informational/explanatory writing).

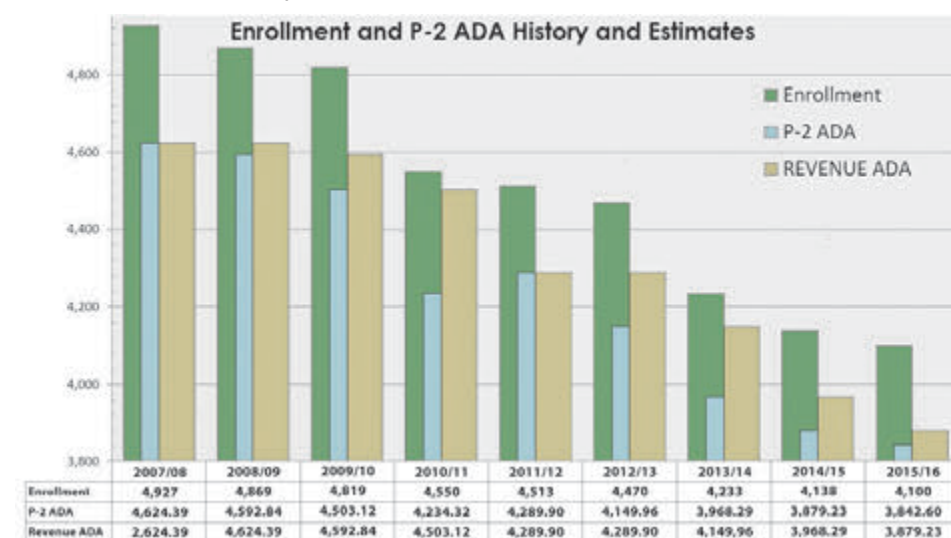
“The only real change,” Heinlein said, “is that instead of spending Common Core funding next year, we are spending it this year.”

Heinlein said the district’s student enrollment numbers, which show a steady seven-year decline with more loss projected over the next two years, “are lower than we like them to be.” (See chart below).

(Schools con’t. on page 12)

Total revenues are projected to increase from \$33,332,813 in the first interim budget report to \$33,432,401.

Reporting to the district trustees at the board meeting at the district board room on March 11, Nick Heinlein, chief administrator, business services, said that the Common Core grant plan the board approved in November of 2013 adds \$614,000 in expenses. The



The number of students in the Tehachapi Unified School District fell by almost 700 students in the seven years from 2007 to 2014. Predictions show an anticipated drop of more in the next two years, for a total loss of 827 students and the accompanying average daily attendance (ADA) revenue. Enrollment is the number of students present on census day at the beginning of the year. P-2 ADA is the average number of students at school, each day, from the first day of school through April 15. Revenue ADA is revenue funded on prior year or current year P-2 ADA. (Chart courtesy TUSD. See www.teh.k12.ca.us).

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Local Bear Valley Springs Artist Association member Leila Kleiman with a fused glass art piece as she holds it up to back light. Her work and many other local Tehachapi Artists art pieces will be shown in Bear Valley Springs at the BVSCAA annual Spring Art Show and Sale on April 12, 2014.

Negative Space Combined with Temperature Control

photo and story by Nick Smirnoff (NPPA)

A few years ago the respected art magazine South West Art chose the community of Tehachapi as the, "Most up and coming art community in the southwest". Small wonder Tehachapi received such a distinguished honor, one only has to attend our town's "First Friday Night Art Walks" to see the diversity and talent of art created by artisans in our area. What one might also find is that for every work we see by a local artist there is yet another talented artist creating and showing not in town but only on line, or at various galleries across the country.

One of these local artist who will be displaying her work at the local upcoming Bear Valley Springs Cultural Arts Association Spring Art Show and Sale is fused glass artist Leila Kleiman. Leila enjoys working in a style known as negative space, "What I leave out of my piece is just as important as is what I put in". She started out several years ago as a sculptor working under the guidance of marble sculptor Allan Hauser in Ojai, CA. It became difficult for health reasons to continue with sculpting so, "I next went over to paper collage as my medium, even winning a first prize at the Ventura County Fair". After moving to Stallion Springs she continued with paper related art including the process of making her own paper.

Gradually she moved into fused glass as her medium. "I just seem to see colors in fabrics, flowers and objects, I then enjoy putting these colors into patterns of fused glass". Starting with a special piece of clear or

BVS Artist Spotlight

colored glass she basically places other pieces of things such as smaller pieces of recycled colored glass, thin pieces of pure copper or pure silver wire, even temperature tolerant woven material on top of this first piece. After placing a second piece of glass on top she will fuse this all together in her kiln.

"After it's fused together I remove it, let it cool, and build yet another layer and repeat the process. Layer upon layer. While no pieces are ever alike what is a special note of interest, is that I must find a way to display each of these odd shaped works. I have been so very fortunate in working with local retired welder Gilbert Silva who custom makes each of my individual display holders.

"This will be my forth year contributing a piece of art to auction at our BVSCAA Show, Sale and Spring Fund Raiser. I enjoy the camaraderie of my fellow artists and this spring time event which is attend by hundreds of art lovers, and so many potential buyers, make it even more worthwhile. In defining her philosophy about art she explains, "Learn and master all you can about technique. It's very important that as an artist you learn your basic details and physical skills need for your medium. Then brake away from any similarity and formality, you may have picked up. It's time now to become your own artist in that medium".

April 12th is the date for this Spring event. Please contact Tina Dille for details at 661-821-1262 for details.



The final outcome of a piece is dependent to a large degree by its eventual thickness. Too few fused layers and it will break, to heavy and thick and the piece will become just a blob. Here can be seen several layers of fused glass at a desired ¼ of an inch thickness.

The Flood of 1945

by Pat Gracey

Having just written about a flood in 1932, I recall that thirteen years later Tehachapi had another heavy rain in 1945 that started at the "top of the mount" and went down both the east and west sides. Dick Johnson, a life time Journalist and former Editor of the Tehachapi News, was a classmate of mine. We were in the Senior Class at Tehachapi High School during that year. Not long ago, he wrote an interesting story which included excerpts from the "Flood of 1945." I asked him if I could include it in my little Spirit of Tehachapi articles.

The following are Dick's words:

"The big 'Flood of '45' is still a common topic of discussion when people sit around and reminisce about the 'good old days.' It was a memorable time for six Tehachapi High School athletes who saw the raging waters closer than they wanted. On a Saturday in October it happened that Lancaster High School was playing Victorville High. It also happened that Tehachapi High was to travel to Victorville the following week for a football game with the Victorville Jackrabbits.

"My father, Walter Johnson, was very generous with the family car (a 1939 Oldsmobile sedan) and he allowed me to drive five other Tehachapi players to Lancaster so we could 'scout' our next opponent. It should be noted here that we only had 15 players on the team and we played the game with more enthusiasm than skill.

"When we left town there was a light rain falling and by the time we arrived in Lancaster it was raining pretty hard. We sat in the rain and watched Lancaster whip Victorville, much to our delight, with exclamations of, 'We can whip those guys!' On the way back to Tehachapi the heavens really opened up and by the time we reached Cache Creek the water was running swiftly across the road. You need to remember there was no bridge across the highway then and the water ran wherever it wanted. The locals called that portion of the highway, 'The Dip.'

"It was dark by then but we could see the rushing waters in the headlights. I said that it didn't look good and we'd best go back to Mojave. Alfred Damian and his brother Lewis helped make up the six in the car and Al said, 'Louie and I gotta get home or our Dad'll kill us! Just back up a ways and floorboard the car and we'll go right through the creek.' I wasn't sure but with the urging of the others I agreed and started to turn the car back in order to get

The Spirit of Tehachapi

a good running start. As I turned the Olds the lights shone down the creek and lo and behold, there was a car and small travel trailer upside down in the creek.

"The six of us, Alfred and Lewis Damian, Hugh Vasquez, Leonard Gutierrez, David Navarro and myself headed back to Mojave, but where to stay for the night? We certainly didn't have enough money for a motel (probably there was not three dollars among the six of us). Somebody hit upon the idea of going to the service station/truck stop operated in Mojave by Chauncey and Maude Davis, whose daughter, Pat Davis (later Gracey), was a classmate of ours.

"When arriving at the station, we explained our plight. After a bit of pondering Mr. Davis said, 'Well, you can camp out in the school bus parked outside.' There was no high school in Mojave at that time and Mr. Davis serviced the busses that transported the Mojave students to Lancaster for classes. That was a great relief so we climbed into the old yellow Bluebird and tried to make ourselves comfortable. We found that wasn't so easy, so we took turns going to an all-night restaurant where coffee was a nickel. Some of us would stay there until we were finally kicked out and then the next shift of freeloaders would grab a booth and drink five-cent cups of coffee.

"At daylight we piled back into the Olds and wended our way gingerly up the highway. We reached where the creek crossed the road but by this time the water had receded and was just a trickle so we crossed it. A few miles up the road we were stymied again because the soaked side of a cut through the hills had caused a landslide and blocked the highway for a number of yards. We left the car again and walked over the slide area and finally hitched a ride to Tehachapi. I don't remember how we did it but we communicated with one of our parents who in turn contacted the other parents of the sleepy six.

"When I saw my dad he said, 'Where's the car?' I told him we had to leave it on the other side of the landslide. He wasn't very understanding and said, in no uncertain terms, for me to get my rear end moving and to bring his car to him.

"That was 69 years ago and I don't

remember how I got to the car, but the bulldozers had opened the highway, and I happily drove the Olds back home.

"I wish there could have been a happy ending to this story, but the next week Victorville cleaned our football plows!"



Gluten-Free Menu

by Cathie Sibley

Lately I've received much feedback about my articles and the fact that we now have an extensive gluten-free menu available daily at La Bella Amore. People are stopping by just to ask what's on the gluten-free menu so here it is.

La Bella Amore Italian Bistro Gluten-free Menu Options

Dinner entrees include chicken marsala, chicken picatta, chicken dijon, chicken balsamico*, chicken parmesan, pasta de amore, shrimp scampi, grilled salmon, pasta primavera, baked ziti, pasta with alfredo, grilled chicken dinner, crispy chicken dinner, eggplant parmesan, shrimp napoli, pasta with marinara and sausage, pasta with olive oil and garlic, linguini al pesto**, angel hair fresco**, linguini and clams**, and veal marsala, parmesan, or balsamico.

Appetizers include shrimp cocktail, anti pasta salad, and sautéed mushrooms.

Salads include spinach salad, grilled chicken salad, crispy chicken salad, and chicken cesar salad.

There are 29 delicious like-homemade items available as gluten-free. All made fresh to order while you wait.

We are using corn pasta and at this time only have it available in short pastas that are considered to be in the macaroni family, such as Penne. We are using corn pasta, because it has the taste and consistency that is closest to semolina wheat pasta – which is what we use on our regular menu. We strive for consistency at

Taste of Italian

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We are currently featuring our newest dish – Parmesan Crusted Chicken –, which is not gluten-free but is absolutely delicious. You must stop by and give it all a try.

Peace and Blessings to you all!

* – Our Balsamic vinegar does have caramel color in it.

** – Another pasta will be substituted for any long pasta.



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Answer: *Knitting*

Guess Who?

I was born on March 14, 1879 in Germany. I was a legendary theoretical physicist and grew to become an iconic “genius” of math and science.

Answer: *Albert Einstein*

SUDOKU

Here's How It Works:

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

ANSWER:

3	2	7	1	5	9	8	4	6
5	6	9	8	4	3	2	1	7
4	1	8	2	6	7	3	9	5
1	4	6	5	3	2	7	8	9
8	7	3	4	9	1	6	5	2
9	5	2	6	7	8	4	3	1
7	9	1	3	8	6	5	2	4
2	3	5	7	1	4	9	6	8
6	8	4	9	2	5	1	7	3

Level: Advanced

CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Former ruler of Iran | 34. Expires |
| 5. Tax or levy | 35. Trapped |
| 9. St. Vitus dance | 37. Stabilizes |
| 11. A bog | 39. Plea urgently |
| 13. Mushroom rib structure | 40. Leg joint |
| 15. One-sided | 42. Nothing (Latin) |
| 16. Before | 45. Bleat |
| 17. Extemporaneously | 46. Poi plant |
| 19. About aviation | 48. Loudness unit |
| 21. Macaws | 49. Deep blue color |
| 22. Refuge room | 54. Fiddler crab |
| 23. Court case | 55. About retina |
| 25. Conical kiln | 56. Nail protein |
| 27. Media mogul Turner | 58. Replace ammo |
| 28. Cancer sign | 59. Most sensible |
| 30. Fit into | 60. Brooklyn team |
| 32. Somali supermodel | 61. Father |

CLUES DOWN

1. Someone who takes part
2. Relating to Homer
3. They —
4. Helicopter
5. Coagulated milk
6. This (Spanish)
7. Moved on a log track
8. Closed hermetically
9. Nautical rope fastener
10. — Romeo, car
11. All peoples of the Earth
12. “Three Weeks” author
Elinor
14. Hairstyle
15. Moved along
18. UCB Business School
20. Paddling
24. Tibetan Buddhist monk
26. E. Timor cloth
27. Latin for witness
29. Dog sound
31. 13-19
33. Involving the mind
35. Washington city
36. Beloved
38. One who yells
39. Whalebone
41. The Phantom of the Opera
43. Cut
44. Bent away from vertical
45. He killed A. Hamilton
47. Digits
50. Public violence
51. Freshwater duck genus
52. Angry
53. Amounts of time
57. Cuckoo



Cancer survivors wearing purple and proudly leading the parade in last year's Relay for Life.

Relay For Life has Kicked Off, Teams are Needed!

Today, two out of every three cancer patients will beat cancer; and one reason is the research conducted by groups such as the American Cancer Society. Relay For Life, an ACS event, has become the largest community event helping to raise funds for the ACS. The Tehachapi community has been Relaying for 10 years, and kicked-off their 11th year in February.

Teams are now forming for the 2014 Relay for Life, which will be held July 12-13 once again at Coy Burnett Field at Jacobsen Middle School.

“Relay is a great family event,” said Event Chair Duana Pera. “The Committee this year is once again planning a Relay filled with moments of unforgettable memories.”

In 2013 the Tehachapi Relay for Life achieved great success, and only because of the teams that signed up to **finish the fight!**

“We received the Top 20 Relay Award for all of California,” said Lynda Frerichs, Co-Event Chair. “This is such an honor, and we have to thank all the Team Captains, Participants and sponsors from 2013 that made it happen!”

Relay for Life was started by Dr. Gordy Klatt of Tacoma Washington; his whole goal was to enhance the income for his local

ACS office. So in May of 1985 Dr. Klatt spent 24-hours circling the track at Baker Stadium at the University of Puget Sound and finished 83 miles! As he walked people donated money to walk or run with him, and Relay was born. Dr. Klatt has always said every person can make a difference, and he certainly did in the fight against cancer. In 1986 it became a Team event and today there are over 5,200 Relays across America.

Today teams join together in groups to raise funds for ACS in honor or in memory of people with cancer. The teams walk the track for 24 hours because cancer never sleeps and neither will they at Relay!

If you are interested in being part of a great experience by either forming a team or joining a team, please contact our Team Development Chair Tracy Lankin at 661-805-5210. Team Captain meetings are always the second Thursday of each month through June at Carden School Auditorium starting at 5 p.m. for Social Hour, and 6 p.m. for Team Captain Meetings.

For general information about Relay and being on the committee please contact Duana Pera at 661-972-7595 or Lynda Frerichs at 661-823-7525.

Classes & Events

submitted by Susanna Monette

At Tehachapi Treasure Trove (TTT)
Come and join the fun.
No reservations necessary.

Open Studios at the Treasure Trove do not require reservations – you can come and be inspired to do your best work (or play!) in our comfortable and creative environment any time the store is open. Open studio sessions are available for \$5. Come on over and get busy being creative! Free coffee, tea and hot chocolate are available to folks participating in open studios and classes.

– **Monday evenings, 5 to 8 p.m.**
Open Studio – Watercolor.
– **Tuesday afternoons, 1 to 3 p.m.**
Open studio – Earth Clay
– **Friday mornings, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**
Open Studio – All Media.
– **PFLAG meets every Third Thursday at 7 p.m.** Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

– **First Friday Fun Fest April 4, 5 to 8 p.m.** Tehachapi Treasure Trove will celebrate our First Friday Fun Fest. The featured artist will be Juanita Niemeyer. Juanita is an experienced artist who has taught and worked in a variety of mediums to include, acrylics, oil, pastels, ceramics, glass and more. Come see her varied and beautiful work. Come join the fun!

Treasure Trove Classes
Reservations for all classes with a deposit must be made at least 48 hours before the scheduled class. Students may bring their own supplies for classes or purchase supplies at the Treasure Trove. Please call 661-822-6794 for additional information and reservations or visit our facebook page at www.facebook.com/TehachapiTreasureTrove.
– **Every Tuesday afternoon, 3 to 5 p.m.** Introduction to Earth Clay with Gloria Moore, for \$30 per class plus clay. A weekly open workshop to explore various methods of working with earth based clay. Learn about mining and processing local clay. Students may enroll one week at a time.

– **Every Wednesday Morning 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Ask Juanita. Bring whatever art project you are creating and work with other artists. This is not a class but Juanita will be available to help you with questions, advice and ideas. Juanita has taught art for many years and knows acrylics, oils, bisque painting, tole painting, pastels, drawing and more. Come any Wednesday morning. \$10 per session.

– **March 19 and 26, 1 to 4 p.m.,** *Adventures In Painting - Spring Colors with Juanita Neimeyer.* Students will create a scene of on a 16” x 20” canvas using either oil or acrylic paints. Learn techniques for painting water in motion. \$30 per session plus materials. Learn composition, how to combine oil and acrylic for special effects

– **March 11 to April 15, Tuesday evenings, 5 to 7:30 p.m.** *Watercolor Painting with Jim Walsh.* This class will cover various techniques for watercolor painting. \$180 per or \$30 per session plus materials, if paid up front, \$150 or \$25 per session. New students welcome at any session.

– **March 22, 10 a.m. to Noon** *Iris Paper Folding Card - Spring Themed* with Janet Meabon for \$20. Class price includes

Tehachapi Treasure Trove

materials to make one card. Learn to make sensational cards with folded paper. The class price includes materials to make one card. Materials for additional cards will be available for \$5.

– **March 22, 1 to 4 p.m.** *Jewelry Making* with Dawn Callahan for \$25 Plus Materials. Learn beading and jewelry making basics: Create your own necklace and earrings.

– **March 23, 1 to 4 p.m.** *Speckled Petal Polymer Clay Cane* with Cathy Clark. Create a pedal cane from polymer clay from which you will create beautifully decorative flowers that can be used to create jewelry or embellish other projects. \$35 plus materials

– **March 26, 1 to 4 p.m.** *Polymer Clay Dragon* with Christi Friesen for \$45 Plus Materials. You’ll have a fun time creating great things out of polymer clay. All skill levels welcome.

– **March 27, 1 to 4 p.m.** *Wire Crocheted Necklace* with Mike Careati. \$30 plus materials. Learn how to make a beautiful and unique necklace from crocheted wire with your choice of beads, stones and or focals. Any skill level welcome. No crochet experience required.

– **April 5, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** *Childrens Easter Canvas* with Juanita Niemeyer. Children will paint on canvas using acrylic paints. \$25 plus materials. Paint will be provided. Students will need to purchase a canvas. Open to youth 7 to 12 years old. Smock or old clothes recommended.

– **April 6 through May 11, Sunday afternoons, 2 to 4 p.m.** *Intermediate Acrylic Painting* with Susan Cunningham for \$240 Plus Materials. Six Sessions. Students will learn painting landscapes with acrylics. The class will cost \$40 per session (If paid in advance \$210 or \$35 per session). Students may come to any session.

– **April 11, 1 to 4 p.m.** *Paint an Easter Plate* with Juanita Niemeyer. Paint a plate with a bunny pattern for Easter - Create a beautiful decorative plate using acrylic paints. The plates will be sealed and can be used as hand washed serving pieces. \$25 plus materials. Maximum nine bisque bird houses available.

Save the Dates

– **April 12, 10 a.m. to Noon.** *Iris Paper Folding Card - Easter* with Janet Meabon

– **April 12 1 to 4 p.m.** *Polymer Clay Butterfly Wings Cane* with Cathy Clark.

– **April 26 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** *Mine and Process Local Clay* with Gloria Moore

– **May 3, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.** *Fused Glass Mask Workshop* with Leila Kleiman

– **June 18, 1 to 4 p.m.** *Polymer Clay* with Christi Friesen

Tehachapi Treasure Trove

Hours: Monday - Saturday 10 - 5 p.m.
Sunday 11 - 4 p.m.

www.facebook.com/TehachapiTreasureTrove
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PCT Section E: Part 1, Desert

story and photos by Sam White

Adventure On The Trail

“The Trail” is the Pacific Crest Scenic Trail (PCT). It begins at the Mexican border, travels north through some of the most beautiful, at times the most dreadful, most picturesque and sometimes untidy scenes of the western edge of North America. Mountains, lakes, rivers, streams, wildlife, deserts and too many small things to mention are along the trail that wanders up-and-down and left-and-right, then ends up some 2,650 miles later.

I chose to be a “section hiker.” Little bites here and there of the trail. There are five things necessary to have in place before venturing out on sections or doing all the miles in a calendar year. **One:** Support. **Two:** Capabilities, mental and physical. **Three:** Monetary. **Four:** Equipment. **Five** (and perhaps this should be first): The Trail.

I have all five. To take the first step on the adventure, I did a 16 mile portion of Section E last week. Section E of Pacific Crest

Trail is about 110 miles in distance on the trail from Agua Dulce, CA to Highway 58 at Cameron Road in California. The chunk I chose was the trail from Hiker Town, trail mile 518, where the PCT crosses Highway 138. Hiker Town is not a “town” but a private residence that contains some wonderful Trail Angels. It is a place where hikers can stop, converse with the hosts, other travelers and to rest a bit.

From here the PCT heads north. At the trailhead my support Claudia whispered me well on my journey. A soft breeze blew with the temperature in the mid 50s, my 20 pound pack felt heavy. I could see the valley floor stretching north toward the Tehachapi Mountains; looked like a long walk.

Along the trail I check in with Claudia frequently to let her know my progress and that I am still alive. I have my cell phone, used in prearranged times or emergencies,

which I think will not occur, but who knows? Currently I’m at a little dip in the trail. The trail to this point, mile 522, gives a view of what is beyond. It appeared in view and on map very flat, and follows the aqueduct for miles. The black-tarred, eight-foot-



Bunker - Imagine, 100 degrees F, no water, and you can hear the inaccessible water flowing below.

diameter pipe is mostly buried, but at this lowest point in the Antelope Valley, 2865-feet, it crosses the sandy wash of a seasonal stream.

This was a nice resting spot, as there is shade and even struggling Cottonwood trees. An overused couch is there in the sun. If one desires a couch, an old broken fridge or something similar, it might be here. The visual is not nice, mostly an ad-hoc garbage dump, with the collection of all things not needed. The wash has steep banks, so Bubba said, “Dump it over and it’ll be outta sight, outta mind”.

There is also the beauty of Mother Earth along this trail. I had just passed through a delightful huge grove of Joshua Trees. It is a virtual forest, the trees mostly ten foot high and smaller, with a few here and there some 15 to 20 feet. They are packed, the long sword-like leaves brushing the tips of their neighbors, reminding me what a can of sardines



Dump: Not a pretty sight for a ‘Scenic Trail’, but hey, there is water. I would suggest filtering and treatment before consumption.

would look like with the little fish standing instead of laying, tight together.

I continue along the trail/road alongside the aqueduct. About every half mile there is a block of concrete. It has a lid, 3” thick, impossible to lift without heavy equipment. I can hear the water flow and wonder what would it be like if I was here out of water, it was 100 degrees and I could hear the water, but the water was untouchable. I shake the thought off and take a seat.

The blocks are 30’ long, 12’ wide and 3’ high, which make a perfect bench to sit have a snack and gaze at the creosote, Joshua Trees, rabbitbrush, buckwheat, and so much more. I watch the black ravens drift, sweeping through the blue sky, little sparrow-like birds pecking at the sand nearby. Amazing these birds and plants survive and even prosper in this arid climate.

I follow my progress on my maps. Flat, straight along the aqueduct. A hard left north and the trail left the pipeline. I was 16 miles into it then. At the time, it was dark, I was beat, so here I camped. Headlamp worked well, my tent unprofessionally set up, but it blocked much of the wind. There is a water drop box close by. Along the PCT Trail, Angels assist travelers, including supplying water drops. This one was dry, too early in the season I guess. I had a full 12-oz. water bottle that I gladly consumed. “Next trip,” I shouted loudly, “More Water!” I had less than 1/4 liter left by then.

It was a long night, my sleeping pad had leaks, winds creep around (and into) my tent, but I survived.

Finally I was stirred out of the tent, so I loaded up and headed along the trail. About a mile later, I realized I was in pain. This was when the cellphone comes in handy. I called Claudia, my personal Angel and we arranged for her pick me up on 170th Street, about two miles through the desert I needed to traverse; thankfully it was mostly downhill.

As I sat at the paved road awaiting Claudia a sign dominated. It was a standard, red “Stop” sign, and it stood out against the desert background. I looked up at the sign and think “no way”. I still had another 24-miles



Camp - Not a real scenic place, but soft sand for sleep, in spite of my deflated sleeping pad.

of this part of Section E that needed to be hiked.

The sign should have read: “Pause.” Another PCT Adventure on the Trail will come soon, read about it here in *The Loop* and find this article online at www.theloopnewspaper.com for color photos.



PCT Water: This oasis is a welcome sight along the trail. Trail Angels, during the hiking season, keep this well supplied with water. Unfortunately, I’m traveling off season, and there is no water.



Stop Sign: This is where my personal “Trail Angel” Claudia, picked me up. She is definitely an “Angel”.



Long Trail: Along this desert section of the PCT there are many views like this of the trail ahead.



Faithful Companions

by Daphne Sherring, The Pet Nanny

Greetings, fellow pet lovers. I am the Pet Nanny and I am so honored to bring you another heart warming story about the pets I care for and how they enhance our lives. I met Jack – a Golden Retriever Lab mix –, Simon – a very rambunctious Labrador – and Winston – a bold black Labrador – one sunny afternoon along a fence line. They greeted me with robust barking and a frenzy of wagging tails.

Their owner explained they love to play fetch, and – after I greeted them – I began throwing their toy. Jack was usually the retriever of toys – while Simon crouched like a cat in anticipation of Jack bringing the toy back to me. Winston was the referee. If Simon wouldn't allow Jack to bring me the toy- Winston stepped in, and he redirected Simon.

These dogs are to be commended for their obedience training. Each dog has an area of the kitchen they eat in and when you give the command- Go to your room; they go to their respective places and sit while I prepare their food. I put their bowls down in front of each dog and give the command – okay to eat. Like a fine tuned symphony they start munching.

Their owner had some extremely difficult surgeries this year and these guys stayed dutifully by her bedside for days on end. Like faithful guardians they accompanied her every time she needed to leave her bedside. Jack was especially

The Pet Nanny

keen on sensing when her balance was off and amazingly acted as her guide even though he has never had guide dog training.

I never cease to wonder at the love and devotion our dear pets lavish on us without expecting anything in return. Praise your pets today for loving you.

Blessings,
The Pet nanny

Daphne's contact information can be found in the pet section on page 6.

Send Us Your Community Events!

Submit them to:
**articles@
theloopnewspaper.com**
by Friday, March 21 to be in
the March 29 issue!

Detecting Counterfeit Money

Provided by Tehachapi Police Department

With some the recent appearances of counterfeit money in our community, education on how to detect a counterfeit bill is unfortunately necessary. It's not only important for businesses and cash handlers to know how to detect a bad bill, but for individuals as well, as counterfeit money is not reimbursable if you accept it.

With current technology, creating counterfeit money is easier than ever. The most common denomination counterfeited is a \$20 and \$100. Other denominations are counterfeited, but not as often.

The use of counterfeit detection pens has become an outdated source of detection, due to the numerous ways enterprising counterfeiters have found to get around the problem.

A few of the simplest ways to detect a counterfeit bill are:

1. Every bill denomination greater than \$2 has color-shifting ink on the lower right corner on the front side- tilt the bill back and forth and it will turn copper to green, or black to green.
2. Serial numbers on fake bills tend to be noticeably brighter or darker than the rest of the bill, as well as misaligned.
3. The portraits on the front (and on some

older bills on the area around them) have very fine curved lines running along them.

4. Every modern U.S. currency contains a water mark security feature. By holding the bill up to the light you should be able to see a water mark next to the portrait of the president on the bill. The portrait of the president and the watermark portrait need to match.

The U.S. Secret Service advise several things if you find yourself in receipt of counterfeit money: Do not give the counterfeit money back to the person who gave it to you. If you can safely do so, try and keep the individual with you while someone else calls the local police. If the individual leaves, contact the local authorities as soon as possible with as much detail as possible regarding the person and their vehicle. In the outer edge of the bill write your initials and the date received. Lastly, handle it as little as possible and place in a protective envelope or plastic bag to protect potential evidence.

Identifying counterfeit currency is not a terribly difficult task. When a person knows what to look for, identifying genuine from fraudulent can be done with great accuracy. Awareness and education is always the best way to protect ourselves from crime, be it scams, burglaries or counterfeit money.

Do You Want to be a Published Writer and Help Pet Rescue Efforts?

With the help of New York Times Bestselling author, Deborah Smith (www.deborah-smith.com) who is a partner in BelleBooks, a small press known for southern fiction (www.bellebooks.com), Have a Heart Humane Society will publish a book titled: Touched By A Furry Angel, True Stories Of Rescued Pets Who Touched Our Hearts. The book will be a collection of true stories, poetry, photos, illustrations, children's drawings and letters. All Tehachapi residents, young and old, published or unpublished, are invited to participate.

Touched by a Furry Angel will be published by Have a Heart Humane Society and will be for sale late spring in a trade paperback, e-book, and audible format on Amazon.com and other online outlets. All proceeds will go to Have a Heart Humane Society to benefit homeless pets.

Submissions should be about one or more rescued dogs, or cats, yours or someone else's. Every submission will be considered, but not all can be accepted due to space limitations. Submissions become the property of Have a Heart Humane Society and no submission will

be returned. Have A Heart reserves the right to correct and edit the submission to fit our theme and format.

We are looking for true stories up to 3,000 words. Submissions must be typed, double spaced, 12pt Courier Font, 1" to 1.5" margins, page number top right corner, author's name, email address, phone number and mailing address in top left corner. All stories and poetry must be sent in Word doc files, photos and illustrations in jpg files and emailed to: haveaheart@bak.rr.com, Furry Angels in subject line. Children's letters and drawings may be mailed to Have A Heart /Radio Shack, 1121 W. Valley Blvd. Ste# A, Tehachapi, CA 93561. Deadline for submissions is March 31, 2014.

After you send us a submission, you will be requested to sign a one-paragraph form/ contract saying that you give up all rights to this work for Have a Heart Humane Society to use for non-profit moneymaking purposes, and confirm that you are the author of the work submitted and have full authority to grant Have a Heart Humane Society all rights to use this work in the collection. Parents must sign for contributors under 18 years of age.

Randall B Kam, D.D.S.

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Later evening hours can be arranged.



Community Happenings

Free Tax Return Preparation Offered by AARP

AARP offering free tax return 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.

Vocational Training Program Sponsored by Rotary Club

The Rotary Club of Tehachapi has announced a new and exciting project that they are working on in partnership with the Career Center at Tehachapi High School. On Wednesday, April 30th Rotary will sponsor a Vocational Training Program for graduating seniors, although not limited to seniors. It will include a COPS (Career Occupation Preference Test) review, resume development and interview practice with constructive critique.

The Vocational Training Program is limited to 100 high school seniors who, prior to the sessions, will have completed the COPS Testing (paid and provided to the High School by Rotary) so that it is ready to be reviewed. There will be three sessions with a 30 minute COPS review, a 30 minute resume development session and an hour of mock interviews conducted by six different Rotary business professionals (one at each table).

The April 30th date is during STAR Testing which allows seniors free time. Two 2-hour meetings will take place in the High School Cafeteria where tables will be spread out so that COPS Review and Resume Development will have approx 25 students each at four tables and Interviewing will have 50 students at six tables.

Promote Your Business!

Call the Loop newspaper
661-822-8188

Free Computer Class for Adults, in Mojave

submitted by Rick Gillenwater, Principal

The Kern County Regional Occupational Program (KCROP) will offer a free three month Beginner to Intermediate Computer Course in Mojave starting Tuesday, April 8, 2014. Students will be ushered into an introduction of the Microsoft Office software programs, including Word, Excel and PowerPoint and will be shown fundamental and intermediate computer techniques.

Also, Internet basics, photo downloading, important programs to utilize and emailing techniques will be taught. Students that pass the course will

March Events at Tehachapi Library

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

Customer Appreciation Festival - Mar. 29

The **Tehachapi Home Depot** will be hosting a Customer Appreciation Festival on March 29, 2014 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in our parking lot.

We will be having fun activities including a bounce house, carnival games, 30-minute raffles, pet adoptions, kids clinic, and free food.

We hope to see you there!

Poker joins Card Games Offered at Senior Center

Dominos on Mondays, Pinochle on Tuesdays and Bridge on Thursdays. Now, your Senior Center is pleased to announce Poker card players will have their chance on the green felt playing field on Wednesdays at 1 p.m.

Led by board member Peter Goetz, an official six-player table complete with colorful chips will be set up for some good fun poker playing, "Dealer's Choice" style. Responding to requests, the Center has also seen players in the back room playing Cribbage, Hearts and other card games. "There's no set venue to Cribbage and the other games - it depends on the number of players that show up," adds Goetz.

There is no age limit for joining in, however, membership is encouraged as dues and fundraisers, along with donations, is what keep the Senior Center's doors open. Our other activities include Tai Chi, Zumba, line dancing, wood carving, an exercise class (aka "Club Strength" and "Club Stretch") and more.

receive a Certificate of Completion. This course is designed for adults aged 18 and over.

Basic knowledge of the computer keyboard and access to a computer outside the classroom for practice is strongly recommended but not required. Classes will be held every Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for approximately 12-weeks.

Those adults interested can call the KCROP Office for more information and to get on the list to enroll in the class at 661-824-9313.

Tehachapi Senior Center Weekly Activities

Lunch 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.)
- 1 p.m.** – Poker on the Green Felt

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.)

Bear Valley Springs Soccer, Register Now

Bear Valley Springs soccer has begun registering players ages 4-16. Cost is \$60 per player. Non-BVS players will pay an additional \$20 and must be sponsored by a BVS resident.

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

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

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.

Drought-Tolerant & Firewise Native Plant Sale, Prepay by Mar. 31

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

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

Jazzercise Classes at E.M.B Martial Arts Studio

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

Jazzercise, one-hour classes

M-F 8:30 a.m. (every weekday)
MWF 7:15 a.m. (three days a week)

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day

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

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

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

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

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

Senior Center Spaghetti Feed Mar. 21

March 21 is the Tehachapi Senior Center's (TSC) monthly dinner, and everyone is excited about the return of Spaghetti and Meatballs on the menu.

Music will be provided by the popular group "Denim" and dancing will commence after dinner with a 10-cent "Dime-a-Dance".

Doors open at 4:30 p.m., and dinner is served at 5 p.m. complete with garlic bread, garden salad, dessert, coffee and punch.

"We want to stress that all ages are invited," added Center President Lori Powell. "It's your center and coming to our monthly dinners helps support this vital part of our community."

Reservations can be made at the center on a signup sheet is in the lobby – or call 661-822-5412 to reserve your seat.

TSC is located one block off Tehachapi Blvd. at the corner of S. Hayes and E. F streets in Tehachapi.

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

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

THS Drama Presents: A Midsummer’s Night’s Dream

Hear ye, hear ye; Tehachapi Advanced Drama class is delighted to performed *A Midsummer’s Night’s Dream*; *A Child’s Version*, originally written by William Shakespeare and adapted by Doctor Adrienne Harrop (a professor of Theater Arts at Santa Monica College). This whimsical version introduces young children to Shakespeare while entertaining older audiences. The play is being performed at the Tehachapi High School Performing Arts Room behind the cafeteria. The price is \$6 for general admission and \$4 for students with A.S.B. cards.

Play Dates Are:
Thursday, March 27 at 7 p.m.
Friday, March 28 at 7 p.m.
Saturday, March 29 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Sunday, March 30 at 2 p.m.

Children are encouraged to come in fairy costumes or in Renaissance attire. Come and see our *Midsummer’s Night’s Dream*.

Tehachapi Rotary Club News

- Local Rotarians will visit the Ninos de la Promesa facility in Tijuana on April 5. We’ll deliver donated goods and buy needed food supplies for the kids while we’re there. If you have any goods or money that you would like to donate, contact Tim Trujillo at 661-821-0086.
- Mark your calendars now for Rotary’s Cowboy Saturday Night scheduled for May 3, 2014.
- Tickets are now printed and available. You can call 818-519-7144 Linda Carhart for tickets or find them at Bar Double J Supplies on S. Mill St., Stallion Springs General Store or Hemme Feed on South St. Tickets are \$55 each or two for \$100.
- Scooter Raffle Tickets are once again being offered by Rotary Club of Tehachapi. They will be sold at Tehachapi events, at Alta One, Brady Chiropractic and Sail Thru Car Wash as well as in front of various stores over the course of the next few months. For a \$5 donation for the raffle ticket, you are entered to win an incredible scooter which has more power than last year’s model.
- Rotary meets every Thursday at Noon in Don Juan’s Latin Grill on South Street. For more information about Rotary you can contact Club President, Judy Trujillo at 661-821-0086.

A THS Night in the Limelight Mar. 20

Every year, the Visual and Performing Arts department showcase the abundant and diverse creative talents of Tehachapi High School art, drama, and music students in a lively program, Evening of the Arts. This year’s program, “A Night in the Limelight,” will at 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, March 20, in the Tehachapi High School gymnasium. The public is welcome to this fundraiser for \$8 at the door and children under five are free. Please join us for a delightful evening of jazz, choir, drama, band and visual arts. Students have invested many hours of hard work in projects and practice and they are ready to inspire you once again.

Eggstravaganza: Call for Entries

submitted by Peggy Cowden

The Tehachapi Valley Arts Association is sponsoring its Fourth Annual Eggstravaganza – an egg decorating contest for the most creative egg in Tehachapi.

Hand decorated, non-perishable eggs of all types may be entered.

Eggs can be a dimensional or a flat presentation and real eggs must be blown out. Maximum dimension is 8” x 10”.

Any medium is accepted – wood, paper mache, Styrofoam, etc. can be used and eggs can be presented in an “egg scene”.

The entry fee is \$1 per egg and is open to all age levels.

Eggs will be judged in two categories: Adult over 16 years, and Youth. Judging will be by ballot by the general public and everyone is invited to by Gallery ‘n’ Gifts to cast their vote (one vote per day).

Entries are due between March 31 to April 7, with voting taking place from April 8 to 19.

Entry forms are available on-line at www.galleryngifts.org, or can be picked up at Gallery ‘n’ Gifts, 100 W. Tehachapi Blvd.

Please call Chairman Peggy Cowden at 661-822-6062 with any questions.



Tehachapi PD Crime Prevention Awareness Senior Day at the Movies

March 19, 2014 (Wednesday) the 12:30 p.m. showing at the Hitching Post Theatre. The doors will open up at 11:30 a.m. and presented in their largest theatre. There is a reduced senior admission (60 and older) only \$2.50.

Philomena is a PG-13 1 hour and 38 minutes. Seating is limited, please arrive early for best seating.

For more information contact: Teri Cryer, Crime Prevention Officer Tehachapi Police Department via email at TCryer@Tehachapipd.com, or at his desk at (661)822-2222 ext 117.

Weekly Storytime

Enjoy Storytime every Thursday afternoon from 3:10 to 4 p.m. at Darlene’s Real Swell Toys. Children of all ages are welcome.

Darlene’s is located at 103 W. H St. in Downtown Tehachapi.

Tehachapi Church of the Nazarene’s New Direction Ministry

New Direction is a ministry of the Tehachapi Church of the Nazarene that centers upon the reconciliation, restoration, and renewal of people’s relationship with God. The Tehachapi Church of the Nazarene does this by intentionally ministering to the whole person; meeting both the spiritual and physical needs, while demonstrating Jesus’ love in word and deed. The Tehachapi Church of the Nazarene is continuing its partnership with the community of Tehachapi, by developing a ministry of life focused compassion to assist those in our community when a hand up or life skill is needed, while earning the privilege to minister to people’s spiritual needs.

On Saturday, March 29, Tehachapi Church of the Nazarene is kicking off its grand opening of the New Direction Ministry with their Saturday Fellowship Night, beginning at 6 p.m. Every Saturday starting at 6 p.m., the doors of the Tehachapi Church of the Nazarene will be open to the community, to offer a safe place to grow together in Jesus.

Bringing inspiring music, relevant teaching, genuine relationships, good food, and a family atmosphere (child care is provided).

Saturday Fellowship Night is for the individual and the whole family. It is where people come together having a relaxed and fun time, ending isolation, while seeking a real and tangible relationship with God and other people. You are invited to join the Tehachapi Church of the Nazarene as they seek God, cultivating healthy friendships, and enjoy life.

The Tehachapi Church of the Nazarene has learned that walking with and meeting others, is an important part of healthy relationship with Jesus. The Tehachapi Church of the Nazarene is located on the corner of Tucker and Highline roads, at 19016 Highline Rd.

For more information contact the Tehachapi Church of the Nazarene office at 661-822-4426 or visit them on the web at www.tnaz.org.

What’s Up in Stallion Springs?

by Ed Gordon

- The Stallion Springs Police Department is seeking qualified men and women to join the new citizen volunteer program. Becoming part of this unit will allow local residents to give back to the community and assist our police department in the performance of their duties. Successful applicants will attend a four-day training course and then begin performing a variety of duties. Some of these duties will be administrative in nature, such as data entry and filling out reports. Other duties will be more physical in nature, such as assisting with traffic control, searching for evidence and transporting equipment or persons as needed by the department.
- Applicants must pass a background investigation before being selected for this position. Applications are available at the CSD.
- The Police Activities League (PAL) first Open House will be on March 22. New to the area or ever just wondered what Stallion Springs PAL has to offer? Community Organizations participating are the CERT Team, Neighborhood Watch, Property Owners Association, Parks and Recreation, 4H, the Library and PAL. These organizations will have displays and information for you including booths for robotics, Judo, CPR class sign-ups, Apple Box Derby, co-ed basketball and more. Judo classes will have a demonstration, and PAL’s snack bar will be open for refreshments. There will be booths for robotics, Judo, CPR class sign-ups, Apple Box Derby, co-ed basketball and more.
- Tehachapi Hospital Interim CEO Evan

Rayner was the guest speaker at the February’s POA meeting. At the meeting Rayner detailed the status of the new hospital and plans for the old one. He discussed Tele-medicine and what parts it will play in the new location.

Larry Barrett, a real estate broker with Coldwell Banker and board member (and former-president) of the Greater Tehachapi Economic Development Commission, will be the speaker at the meeting at 7 p.m., March 25 in the Corral room at the community center. Barrett will update the group on the current status of real estate in the community and the surrounding areas and new business coming in the Tehachapi area.

Upcoming Events

- The next movie night in the Corral room is scheduled for March 21. The movie will be Frozen, there is no cost for the movie.
- The annual Roundup and Flea Market will be held the second Saturday in May, at the Stallion Springs Community Center and in the gym.
- Neighborhood Watch will hold its next meeting on April 14 at the CSD. Everyone is invited to attend, and you do not have to reside in Stallion Springs to do so.
- The CSD also offers open volleyball, fitness classes, open gym, men’s basketball, kid’s crafts, family skate nights and scrapbooking classes.

*Contact the CSD at 661-822-3268
for further information.*

The Loop Newspaper

www.theLoopNewspaper.com

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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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For more details contact Gayle Kuhar, RN, BSN, at (661) 823-3009



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RESUMES SHOULD BE EMAILED TO sjones@tvhd.org

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To our contributors: Thank you for joining us. We’re about community journalism; and – without you – we wouldn’t have such unique content.

To our advertisers: We know you have many choices of where to put your advertising dollars. Thanks to everyone’s support we are able to be free!

We are free to put in what we value as community news. We are free to focus on local good news and free to let you know about events before they happen

Thank you from all of us at *The Loop*.

•••••

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The Local Scene



Tehachapi Martial Arts Center Students

Students from Tehachapi Martial Arts Center proudly display their certificates from a recent tournament. On Feb. 22, TMAC held their first ever intra-school tournament. The students put their hard work to the test and it was apparent as everyone went home with a certificate in either first, second or third place. The students competed in hyungs, sparring and board breaking using ground and jump kicks.

Tehachapi Martial Arts Center has been part of the Tehachapi community for 23 years and is located in Old Towne at 20418 Brian Way. For more information please call 661-823-0621.

Students pictured: (L-R) Back row: Anthony S., Elijah B., Tyler G., Joe H., Connor G., Matthew C. and Ajay T. Middle row: Patrick S., Nolan C., James A., Liam S. and Nicholas K. Front row: Hayden M., Theodore S., Jerry C. and Sofia S.

Tehachapi Lions Club Speaker Contest Winner

Addressing the club on the value of community service, Grace Liestman scored with guest judges earning the top honors and was given the cash prize and the chance to compete in the regional competition for area Lions Clubs.

Amelia Harrison, Nick Roberts and Andrea Florse – all from Tehachapi High – were the finalists and runners-up in the contest held this past month.



Grace Liestman is congratulated by Lions program chairman Walt Satalino.

Rest Stop

Cyclists in training take a much needed break. Many miles behind them, many miles yet ahead.

A good place to rest is Tehachapi's Railroad Park.



Photo by- Nick Smirnoff (NPPA)

Chamber Mixer at Expert Estate Sales - March 12, 2014

Nikki Kasch, Owner Lisa Kroese, Elizabeth Henderson, and Baby Vivian Kroese welcome the community and Chamber members to their business.



Photo by- Nick Smirnoff (NPPA)

TMRA Junior Rodeo Committee Meeting



Photo by- Nick Smirnoff (NPPA)

Working towards a fast approaching rodeo season members of the TMRA Junior Rodeo Rules Committee met recently at the Hwy. 58 Restaurant to update and clarify their official Junior Rodeo Rule Book. Copies will soon be available online for participants review. The committee has asked that all participants look over the new rules and to read their entry forms carefully. As a whole, the committee has tried hard to follow a guideline of, "Not finding ways to penalize our young contestants but to teach, encourage and reward their continued participation."

First scheduled Junior Rodeo event is scheduled for April 27 and all are invited to the April 5 rodeo grounds "Clean Up Day" starting at 8:30 am. Bring light hand tools and gloves on clean up day.

In further TMRA news the main rodeo members met to prepare for this year's Tehachapi Rodeos Season. With over \$37,000 in ticket sales last season this year is shaping up to be even bigger and better. Donations are coming in and the TMRA latest donation from Alta-One will go far toward putting on Tehachapi's noted western style entertainment.

Rodeo Dates for 2014

April 27 Jr. Rodeo

June 1 Jr. Rodeo

July 4 Bad Bull Rodeo

July 19 & 20 Jr. Rodeo

August 15 & 16 PRCA Rodeo

Sept. 6 Jr. Rodeo

Sept. 7 Jr. Rodeo Finals.

Follow Tehachapi Rodeo news at www.tehachapirodeo.com

Parent and Me Made Their Own Train!



Eighteen-month to three-year olds making their own box cars for the train! Fun at the Parent and Me Class for TVRPD. It was taken at Scout Hall on Friday, March 7. It was the conclusion of our trains, planes and automobile month. Submitted by Megan Turk.

Cool Time at the Stallion Springs Chilly Dip

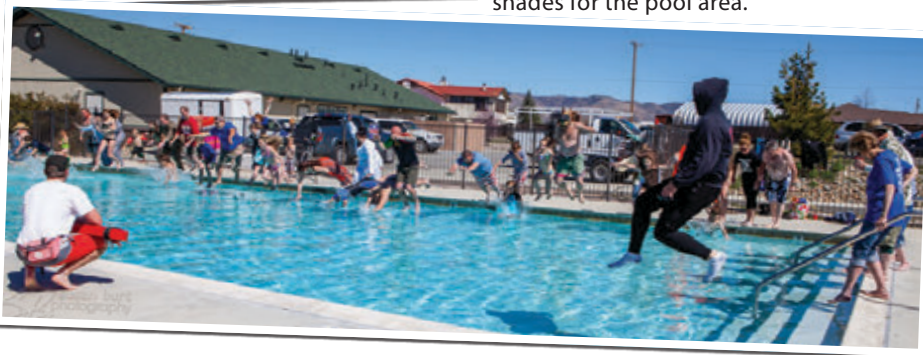


Forty three brave souls took the jump into the cold water at the Annual Stallion Springs Chilly Dip On Saturday March 8. The water was chilly, some said colder than last year which may have been due to ice being dumped into the pool at the last minute.

Prizes for the best costumes went to a young Lion followed closely by the Tehachapi Hillbilly (Donna Fischman, left) and an escapee from CCI (Linda Carhart).

The jump into the pool was at 11:30 a.m. but people hung around till after 2 p.m., chatting, laughing and teasing.

The event raised close to \$1,000 which will be used to purchase solar sail shades for the pool area.



Coffee with BVS Police Chief Walters



Bear Valley Springs Police Chief Rod Walthers and Officer Brad Richie as they meet with Jim Panek, Karen Rathbun, and Bill Marquardt while having an informal "Coffee With The Chief" get together.

Bear Valley Police Department held its first "Coffee With The Chief" get together at the Mulligan Room in Bear Valley Springs. With the Chief buying the coffee he described this event as an informal opportunity for his department and the citizens to discuss law enforcement issues concerning Bear Valley. To be held every other month, Chief Rod Walthers emphasized how important "community policing" is to he and his department. "One of our best deterrents is you, the eyes of our community," stated the Chief.

Think up your questions for the next "Coffee With The Chief" and remember Chief Walters is buying!

Snake Avoidance Training May Keep You and Your Dog Safe

The High Desert Obedience Club will offer professional snake avoidance training for dogs and their owners on Saturday and Sunday, March 29 and 30, 2014, in an indoor facility in Rosamond, CA. This is the first time the training will be offered in an indoor venue. The training will be conducted by Singleton's Rattlesnake Avoidance Training. Private sessions will be available from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. The cost is \$95 per pre-registered dog and \$99 without pre-registration, on a space available basis.

To register, call 661-305-8474. The training is available to dogs older than four months and is co-sponsored by the High Desert Obedience Club and the Lancaster Bark at the Park Committee with part of the proceeds benefitting the Bark at the Park in October.

For questions, contact hidoc@hotmail.com or call 661-266-7097.



A baby Rattlesnake was spotted on March 12, 2014 in Stallion Springs. Photo by Cathie Sibley

Friends of the Tehachapi Depot General Meeting Night

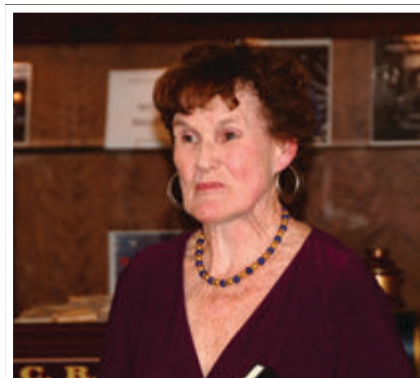


Incoming Board President Don Stephens welcomes the membership.

At this week's Friends Of The Tehachapi Depot general membership meeting incoming President Don Stephens, welcomes new members and guests. Outgoing President Tim Trujillo thanked the membership for their support during his term and said it was they, "The Docents and Membership that make our organization work so well".

In recognition of this month being National Women In History month the Depot did a display featuring, "The

History of Women In Railroadng". As a bonus the Story Telling Committee of the American Association Of University Woman put on a performance featuring Women of History. In period costumes and in short stories they assume the identity of their real life character and tell of their struggles and achievements as women in history.



AAUW Story Teller Carol Coleman, told of Maya Angelou civil rights leader, teacher, lecturer, actress and former American Poet Laurite, when President Clinton was in office. Ms. Angelou to this day, now in her mid eights, still teaches and lectures at the University of North Carolina. The metaphor she wrote as an impoverished young girl entitled, "I Know why the caged bird sings" is still well read and respected today.



AAUW Story Teller Helen McAlastar as she relates the story of Doctor Rose Burchman. Receiving her license to practice medicine in 1884 she eventually ended up out West in the town of Calico. Being a Mormon run mine, "I had lots of babies to deliver," and when it was slow she would also practice in San Bernardino. Later in life she was credited with running a large mining corporation in the Mojave desert. She died in 1944.

Taking Care of Downtown



Ever vigilant, city workers replace burned out light bulbs on the water tank.

Have a picture you want to submit to the Local Scene? Send it to: articles@theloopnewspaper.com

Photo by- Nick Smirnoff (NPPA)

Photos By- Nick Smirnoff (NPPA)

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