

The **Loop**

FREE Take one!

Look Inside for
"Health, Home & Garden"
This Special includes
TVRPD's current
program

Vol. 26 #8

Your Hometown Community News & Local Happenings

April 26 ~ May 10, 2014



Jr. Rodeo Kicks Off
April 27
See Page 24 details

Pictured, three-year-old
Pee Wee Division entrant
Cole Young ropes his steer.

Picture by Nick Smirnoff (NPAA)

Look
In this Issue

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The Local Scene
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THE LOOP

Our next issue will be on stands: Saturday, May 10, 2014

DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, MAY 2

Sales Associates: **Harriet Clendenin, Pat Doody & Jean Nasser**

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Hilltop Publishers; Home of *The Loop* newspaper

206 South Green St. in Downtown Tehachapi, CA 93561

www.theLoopNewspaper.com • sales@theLoopNewspaper.com

Phone: 661-822-8188 • Fax: 661-822-5646

Classified Ads: Call or email. Deadline Wednesday at 4 p.m. a week before publication date. For rates please call our office.

Distribution to Tehachapi, Bear Valley, Stallion Springs, Keene, Mojave, Rosamond, California City, Neenach, JawBone Canyon and Edwards Airforce Base. Mailing directly to homes.

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

EDITORIAL POLICY:

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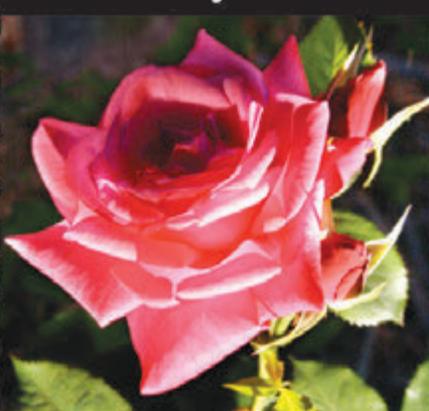
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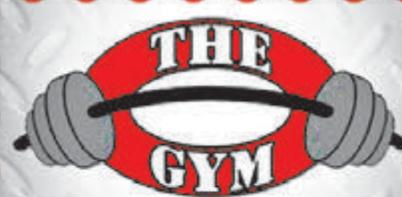
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Tehachapi Business Watch Informational Meeting

Thursday, May 8, 2014 - 6:00p.m.

Claude L. Wells Education Center
300 S. Robinson St.

- Objectives of the Business Watch Program:**
- To encourage businesses to watch out for one another
 - To educate local businesses in various crime prevention topics
 - To establish positive communications between businesses and local law enforcement

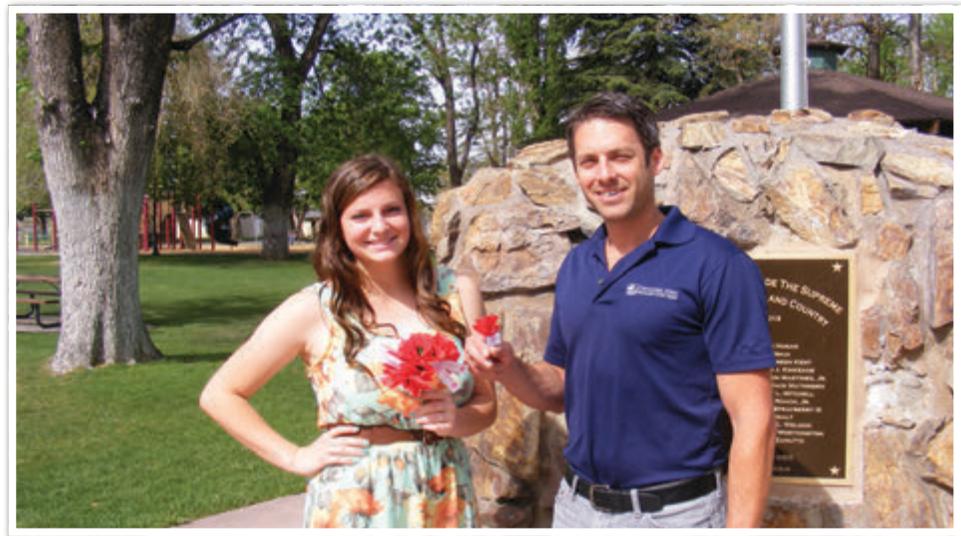
- Benefits of a Business Watch Program:**
- Crime Alerts - via email
 - Security Surveys
 - Burglary Prevention Education
 - Loss Prevention, including Shoplifting and Employee Theft Prevention
 - Personal Safety
 - Check and Credit Card Frauds
 - And more.....

For more information contact the Chamber at 661-822-4180.

Presented by

Membership in the Chamber is not required to participate in this program

ALA Unit#221 Honors TVRPD's District Manager Matt Young



Brooke Sasia, popular Tehachapi High School Junior and the 2014 Delegate to Girls State, was on hand to present the first Poppy to Matthew Young, District Manager of Tehachapi Valley Recreation and Parks District. A carefully thought out setting for the picture was in front of the Veterans Memorial Monument in Philip Marx Central Park.

themselves, was officially adopted in 1921 as the memorial flower of the American Legion and the Auxiliary. It was inspired by the red poppies which once grew on the battlefields of Flanders and is a perpetual memorial to the brave men who fought there and on all other battlefields throughout the years.

The date for presenting the poppies to the public will be May 11 through 17. For ninety three years the ALA has sponsored "Poppy Days" nationwide to remind America of the men and women in the Military, living and dead, who have served their country. The red crepe paper poppy, handmade by the veterans

It is fitting and proper that the citizenry pay tribute to our nations' honored dead as well as those who have served in the Military and who are presently on active duty in the service of our country. The American Legion and the Auxiliary are very grateful for the community support that has always been extended to them on the one week each year the poppies are offered.

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The Loop's Real Estate Spotlight

See what's hot in Tehachapi's housing market

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Mary Ann Durnell, GRI

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Linda S Clough

(661) 332-3191

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Does Having a Co-Signer Help?

by Tammy Engel, Mortgage Advisor

When you bought your first car, mom or dad was probably there to help you qualify for the car loan by being your co-signer. That made them jointly obligated for repayment of the loan, since you likely had no credit history on file at that time. Their established credit stood in to "prop up" your lack of loan experience. Does it work the same way when you are buying a home? It depends on which loan you choose, and how many of the applicants will be living in the new home after close of escrow.

If you select an FHA loan, the answer is yes.

When you apply for an FHA loan, no distinction will be made as to who will occupy the house and who will not. All parties to the loan will be evaluated with regards to credit, with the loan decision being made on the worst credit profile of the group. All income will be pooled to offset the group's monthly debts. This is one of the few loan products that allow "non-occupying co-borrowers" -- those parties to the loan who will not live in the new house -- to participate as equals in the qualifying process. Generally your co-signers must be family members.

In most other situations, the borrower needs to qualify on their own merit before any co-signers will be evaluated. Generally, you need to have good enough credit for the loan program on your own: Co-signers cannot be used to offset your poor credit report. This is why we sometimes say it's better to have no credit than bad credit. With regard to income,

Tammy Engel your local Mortgage Advisor, and is the only lender in Kern County authorized to display the Lending Integrity Seal of Approval. Contact her at 661/822-REAL for help with purchase, refinance and reverse mortgage.

Mortgage Matters



loans that allow for "non-occupying co-borrowers" usually allow for higher debt ratios for your part of the qualification. When you add the co-borrowers, the total debts must be in line with original loan guidelines.

Due to automated underwriting, the need for co-signers has greatly diminished. Borrowers with decent credit are sometimes approved with debt ratios of up to 45%. That can be good news for all parties concerned, since the co-signer's financial picture can be altered when they participate in your loan. Not only would they jointly hold title to your house, but your loan is on their credit report. Should you be late or miss payments, their credit will be adversely affected. Even if you do make payments on time, your loan payment will be counted with the co-signer's other debts when they apply for financing. Even if they quit claim their interest to the title of your house, the loan remains in place against them until you can qualify to refinance on your own.

In today's market, there are enough loan programs available that the inconvenience of co-signing can usually be avoided. To keep those options open to you, always be aware of keeping your own credit profile as clean as you can.

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Meet Your New Neighbors

by Pat Doody

It was while visiting her cousin in Tehachapi that **Gina Keeler** knew she wanted to live here. When the opportunity finally arose, she and **Hoss Melton** decided to make the move from Ventura with their five daughters. The beauty and affordability of the area were also contributing factors. They had not planned to move in the middle of the school year, but they found what they thought would be the perfect house for such a large family. Now they are busy settling in a little bit at a time.

Hoss is Western Regional Sales Manager for Ottobock Orthopedics, a German company and the world's number one manufacturer of orthopedics and prosthetics. He mostly works from home but travels quite a bit. He has worked in the field for nine years and really enjoys the freedom it allows. Gina is an herbalist and is planning on turning her hobby into a business that deals with natural remedies such as teas, ointments and, to a lesser extent, tinctures.

Hoss was born in western Iowa in an area called Loess Hills. Loess Hills were formed from a geologic phenomenon during Ice Age, which created the area's 200 foot rolling hills. He has three brothers and one sister. Two of his brothers are still in Iowa and the third is in Canada. His sister lives in Tennessee. Hoss loves fish and was working on his 250 gallon fresh water aquarium when I arrived. Some of his fish are as much as fifteen years old and are very large. Gina, on the other hand, is a Californian girl; born in Santa Barbara and raised in Ventura. She has two sisters in Arkansas and Ventura and three brothers in Japan, Montana and Pennsylvania. She likes to paint, bake and host parties. Hoss told me he was a friend of Gina's grandparents. In fact, her grandfather had always called him "son". It was no surprise that they got together.

Between them they have five daughters. Alexis (age 13), Blanca (age 9), Sasha (age 7), Tayona (age 7) and Kaylin (age 5) and are all settling into their new schools. All the girls love art and the outdoors, although they were busy making lemon bars during my visit. Hoss calls

all the girls "drama queens," but he told me that Alexis is a very talented singer and expects to see her name in lights someday. Her biggest disappointment was the cancellation of "X Factor" as she had planned to audition for the show.

In all the commotion, I almost missed the smallest members for the family. Dartagnon is a little white fluff of Pom/Yorkie who tries very hard to stay out of the way and then there is Zach, a hummingbird with a broken wing that the family rescued and seems to be slowly recovering.

A big Tehachapi welcome to Gina and Hoss and their big family.

Lois Bailey has lived many places. She has loved some and hated others. Last year she made the move to Tehachapi from West Covina with the help of her son who lives here. She is looking forward to loving it in Tehachapi.

She was born in the town of Bastrop in northeast Louisiana and moved to California with her family in 1941. Her parents had a moving company called Tracy's Transfer. She lived near Monrovia through high school and remembers the sweet smell of all the orange and lemon trees. Music is one of her loves. She learned to play the piano at thirteen and has continued to play ever since. Over the years she worked as a nurse's aide and sales clerk but her two sons are the pride of her life. Her son, Sean, was born in Fullerton and currently lives in Tehachapi. He was a Marine guard for President Carter and also worked for Boeing. Robby lives in Pendleton, Oregon and works as a computer technician and teaching postal employees. Lois also lived in Oregon for a while. She says she loved Eugene but didn't care for her time in Bend due to the extreme temperatures.

Lois loves poetry and has been writing almost continuously since moving to Tehachapi. She says that sometimes she has trouble sleeping and will write poetry through the night. She is hoping that, with the help of new friends here, she may be able to publish her seventy to eighty poems.

Welcome to Tehachapi Lois and we look forward to seeing you in print.

Welcome!

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.

Are you new to the Tehachapi area?
We have a **FREE** home-town Welcome & Gifts for you!



Pat Doody
Community Welcome Hostess
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welcomehostess@outlook.com

Observe Tax Freedom Day by Making Tax-smart Investments

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

You didn't see it on your calendar, but Tax Freedom Day fell on April 21 this year, so why not mark the occasion by beginning to look for ways to become a "tax-smart" investor?

Tax Freedom Day, calculated annually by the Tax Foundation, is the day on which Americans have earned enough money to pay this year's federal, state and local taxes. Of course, Tax Freedom Day is something of a fiction, because most people pay their taxes throughout the year, via their paychecks. Furthermore, as famed Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., said: "Taxes are what we pay for civilized society."

When you pay taxes, you help fund public education, the police, the fire department, food inspection, college scholarships and many other elements of society.

Nonetheless, you may want to use the concept of Tax Freedom Day to find ways to reduce the taxes associated with your investments.

Here are some suggestions

- Boost your 401(k) contributions. Your 401(k) contributions are typically made with pre-tax dollars, so the more you put in, the lower your taxable income. (Some employers allow a "Roth" option, under which you can make post-tax contributions.) In 2014, you can put in up to \$17,500 to a 401(k) or similar plan, such as a 403(b) or 457(b), and if you are 50 or older, you can contribute an additional \$5,500.

- Fully fund your IRA. No matter which type of IRA you have — traditional or Roth — you will gain some valuable tax benefits. With a Roth IRA, your contributions are not deductible, but your earnings can grow tax free, provided you don't start taking withdrawals until you are 59-1/2 and you've had your IRA for at least five years. If you own a traditional IRA, your earnings can grow tax-deferred, and your contributions may be deductible, depending on your income level. So, similar to a 401(k), the more you put in to your traditional IRA, the lower your taxable income may be. In 2014, you can contribute up to \$5,500 to an IRA, or \$6,500 if you are 50 or older.

- Contribute to a college savings plan. Many college savings plans offer some type of tax advantage. For example, if you contribute to a 529 plan, your earnings

can grow tax free, provided all withdrawals are only used to help pay qualified higher education expenses (529 plan distributions not used for qualified expenses may be subject to federal and state income tax and a 10% IRS penalty).

Furthermore, your 529 plan contributions may be deductible from your state taxes.

- Avoid excessive buying and selling. If you are constantly buying and selling investments, you may find it "taxing," because short-term gains (gains on assets owned for less than one year) will be taxed at your ordinary income tax rate, which could be as high as 39.6% (and you may also be subject to a 3.8% Medicare surtax).

However, if you hold your investments longer than a year before selling them, you'll pay the more favorable long-term capital gains rate, which will likely be 15% or 20%, depending on your income, though you might still be assessed the Medicare surtax.

Tax Freedom Day is here, and then it's gone. By taking the steps described above, you may be able to brighten your tax picture for years to come.

Financial Focus



Ben Graham,
Edward Jones
Financial Advisor

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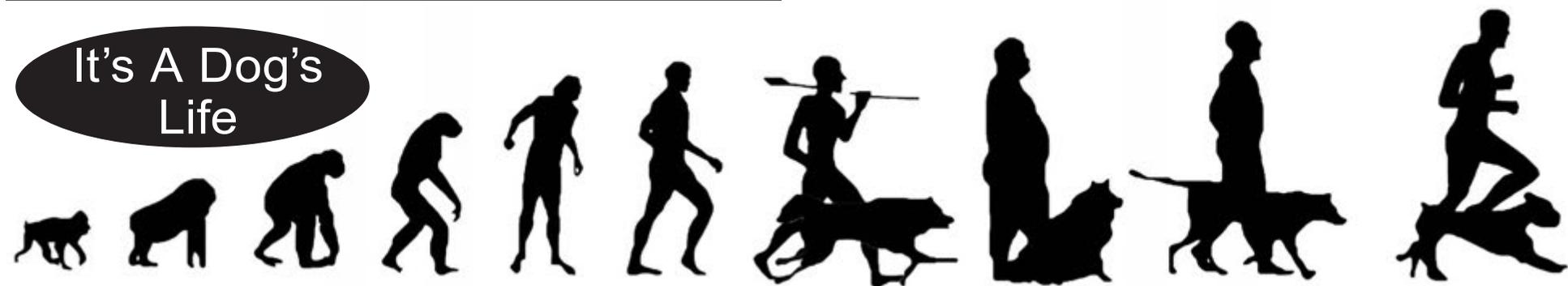
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It's A Dog's Life



The New F.A.D. in Service Dog Training

by Liz R. Kover, Marley's Mutts Dog Rescue

Envision this.

Bill, an American male in his early 40s, has struggled with weight issues all his life. Bill is depressed and uses junk food as an emotional anesthetic. He gets up in the morning feeling dread, and comes home from work each night with fast food to the empty calories of Reality TV. Bill is crippled by a lack of motivation to do better for himself. His negative, sedentary lifestyle has become a disability with which he needs serious help.

Now, imagine this.

Bill has decided to stop the downward spiral; he has qualified for a Fitness Assistance Dog (F.A.D.) through Frisky Fitness Assistance Dogs, Inc.

Today is his first day of a two-week long Frisky Fitness Boot Camp. Here, he will be paired with a specially trained, athletically inclined service dog, whose job it is to help Bill get active, move forward, become balanced and learn a healthier way of being.

The Fitness Assistance Dog's training takes advantage of her boundless energy, her primal need to migrate, and her evolved instinct to connect with a human partner. Bill's dog is trained to heel at varying speeds from walking to sprinting (without planting or pulling). She is trained to hike, climb, and run alongside rollerblades, a bike and a skateboard. To help with motivation, she is trained to fetch her leash, bring it to Bill and nudge him until he gets up and takes her for a walk. She behaves as a perfect unobtrusive helpmate around all manner of gym equipment. Not only is Bill's dog trained to perform physical actions that motivate him and enable his physical activity. In keeping with the curriculum from FF Boot Camp through a continuing online class, Bill feels a sense of community, and stays motivated as he works toward positive lifestyle and weight loss goals.

Bill is empowered by having confronted his lifelong battle with

emotional eating. With this special dog by his side, Bill processes his feelings honestly and productively during long walks and runs. Bill now wakes up to the happy nudge of his dog, prodding him with the leash in her mouth saying Let's go! There is life to be lived and we don't want to miss a minute of it! Because of his early successes with weight loss during Boot Camp, Bill is now eating better and taking pride in his appearance. He is more confident, and so takes more risks in getting out and meeting people. He ends each day feeling proud of himself, and thankful for the exercise partner who never skips a day, and always helps Bill in his resolve to keep going.

Creating this brand new type of assistance dog - with the amazing Bonnie Bergin's guidance - is going to be the opportunity of a lifetime and a dream come true. I will study part-time on the

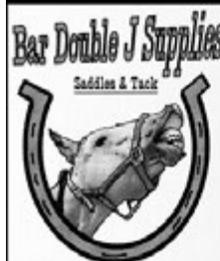
Bergin campus in Santa Rosa, while living and working on full-time experiential research in Bakersfield. My goal is to proactively address the health epidemic of obesity and all its manifestations within individuals, families, communities, and society as a whole. For these and countless other reasons, I cannot wait to begin my Master of Science program in Canine Life Sciences at Bergin University of Canine Studies. I am equally as excited to share what unfolds with **you** - Marley's Mutts' Mutt Militia!

Have a Heart News

Tehachapi - **First Saturday of the month**, Adoption Days will now be at Tractor Supply instead of Radio Shack beginning in May, 10 a.m. through 2 p.m. Stop by and pick up the Love of your Life. *(The rest of the month, Adoptions will be at Radio Shack.)*

Business Directory

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The Loop's 'Adopt A Pet'

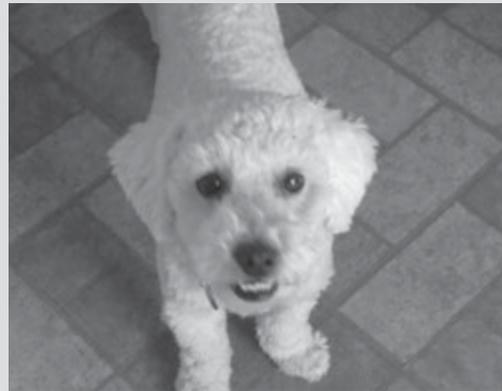
Charlie

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!



Thumper

Thumper is a very active and happy 10 mos., male, puppy Poodle. He loves to play and run, friendly to all dogs, loves to snuggle on your lap and play with you. Thumper loves people, is crate trained, potty trained, and is very smart with learning obedience training quickly! Thumper is completely perfect for all types of families but must be willing to complete his puppy training.



Romeo

Romeo, approx 2 yr. male, American Eskimo/Chihuahua Mix, is the instantly perfect pet for all types of families and playmates! Romeo loves to play, cuddle and will absolutely tickle your heart with his playful antics, warm love and magical spirit.



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!

Sparky



Wookie



Macey



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.

Puppies, puppies, puppies. **Sparky** is a 4-5 month old male Terrier blend, whose floppy ears are too cute for words. **Wookie** is a 9 week old male, whose breed is a mystery. **Macey** is a 5-6 month old female with long legs and scruffy hair; she has a lot of Terrier in her and a lot of energy. All will be at adoption day at Tractor Supply the 1st Sat of the month and at Radio Shack all the other Saturdays 11-3 pm. We have many more dogs at adoption day as well

Chance

Chance is a Min-Pin miracle. Two men deliberately set Chance on fire with rubbing alcohol which created 2nd and 3rd degree burns on most of his underside as well as inner and outer ear. Chance was rescued by authorities in Fontana and cared by a vet in San Bernardino. Nowadays, Chance is a 3-4 year-old happy, healthy boy with his past behind him and his whole life ahead of him. His wounds have healed now but he will always bear some of the scars from his terrible ordeal. To adopt Chance, please fill out his adoption application at www.marleymutts.com.



Ingot

Ingot is a beautiful, one year-old female Chihuahua. She was rescued from the shelter with her one surviving puppy, Dollar, who was born there. Her coloring is very rare and eye-catching! She is a wonderful sweetheart of a dog and is anxiously awaiting her forever home. She would probably prefer a quiet home without small children. Adoption applications for Ingot can be filled out at www.marleymutts.com.



Marley's Mutts Dog Rescue

(a 501(c)3 Non Profit Org)

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

Visit us online www.marleymutts.com

The Loop's 'Adopt A Pet'



All Dobie SOS dogs are neutered/spayed, vaccinated, micro-chipped, and have received a veterinary exam. All adopted dogs come with one free bath at Canine Creek and one free grooming at Tehachapi Pet Lodge.

You can see all of the Dobie SOS dogs waiting for homes at www.dobiesos.org. 661-886-1721 dobiesos@earthlink.net



Rocket

Rocket is a big, handsome 7 year old red male with upstanding natural ears and a docked tail. He is very strong and active and energetic. He has a great temperament, so with lots of exercise and a little time and training he will be a fun companion. He lives happily with any female dobie and he loves people. The more we are around this dog the more we like him; he's got loads of potential. Rocket does have an auto-immune disease called Masticatory Muscle Myositis: a disease that targets the jaw muscles. When active, this painful disease causes the victims to lose the ability to open their mouth. The treatment is corticosteroids to inhibit the immune system. Rocket has reacted well to the treatment and he is symptom-free on a tiny dose of Prednisone given twice a week. He does need a home that is willing to deal with the disease should it reoccur although it may never flair again. Rocket is crate-trained.

Please visit www.dobiesos.org and click 'Adopting' for more adoption information.



Phone: 661-823-4100
(Menu 2 Dogs / Menu 3 Cats); E-mail: contact@thestoppers.org
Mail Address: 785 Tucker Rd, Suite G, Box 460, Tehachapi, CA 93561
(for monetary donations)

Skippy

My name is **Skippy**, I'm a 3 year young, 9 pound housetrained male Terrier mix with a peanut-butter colored coat, playful w/other dogs, kid-friendly (& housetrained). To meet sweet Skippy and adopt him in to your heart and forever home, call Marsha, 661-823-7868 or Save Tehachapi's Orphaned Pets, 661-823-4100, menu #1 ~ How about it?



STOP Fundraiser!

What: Rummage Sale/
Fundraiser For Save
Tehachapi's Orphaned Pets

When: May 3, 8 a.m.
through 2 p.m.

Where: Cub Lake, Bear
Valley Springs

Contact Information:
Call Katy at 661-821-0971
to drop off donations.

Tiny Tina

My name is **Tiny Tina** and I'm a 7 month, 4 pound Terrier mix puppy, very playful, affectionate, have a gentle personality, good with other dogs and people (and housetrained). To adopt terrific Tiny Tina in to your heart and forever home, by all means, call Save Tehachapi's Orphaned Pets (STOP), 661-823-4100, menu #2 pronto.



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.

THS Fundraiser!

When: May 10, 9 a.m. through 2 p.m.
Where: 20211 W. Valley Blvd., Tehachapi

T.H.S.'s annual fund raiser will be held Saturday, May 10 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Dr. Warsaw's parking lot, 20211 West Valley Blvd. (Hwy 202). If you have items to donate there will be a drop-off day at Super Size Storage, 20843 Santa Lucia St., Unit C Tehachapi, CA, on Saturday, April 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you are unable to make that date, you can call Debbie at 661-822-0902, or Mindi at 661-821-0055, or Bunny at 661-823-9443 and one of them will be happy to meet you at the storage unit. If you can help with taking items in on April 26, or if you can help out on the day of the sale (May 10) please let one of these ladies know. If you have large items to donate please bring them to the sale, in the morning. Please price your items if possible.

Scruffy

Scruffy is a Wirehaired Doxie/yorkie mix. He has been neutered and is micro chipped.

He is current on all of his shots, house trained and crate trained. He walks on a leash and is good in the car. He gets along with all of his foster sisters and brothers, and loves to be held and brushed.



Bailey

Bailey is a 2 year old spayed female who weighs approximately 45 pounds who was rescued from the local Kmart last year. She currently is up to date on all of her vaccines. Bailey is very friendly and sweet, don't let her look fool you. She does well with children of all ages. Bailey does great with other dogs; however, has not been exposed to cats. Her owners are moving and there is no room for her. This animal was placed as a public service and has not been evaluated by the Tehachapi Humane Society.



My Mother's Help

by Susan Wiggins

As many of you know, I suffered a great loss April 1, when my husband Ed died suddenly. I was at a loss on how to cope when I remembered that my mother Marion Deaver lived seven years after my father Paul died. She would have lived even longer but died of cancer right before her 92nd birthday.

She got "needier" as she got older, in the sense that she did not drive, and we had to take her to the doctor and buy her groceries for her.

She had a standard list of what she ate, and when she forgot to write something down we would just buy it anyway.

Since my dad did all the grocery shopping she had no idea of the price of anything. I remember she always checked the grocery bill and threw a fit when she saw how much bread cost in the '90s. She thought it was still 25 cents!

The main thing I have chosen to take from her was that she lived all those years after my daddy's death by herself. She cooked, read the newspaper every day, did her laundry and had a sense of normalcy about her life.

She always had a dog, and if one died I would go get her another one to keep her company.

She started watching football and NASCAR, and she always wanted to share it with us. I don't watch those things, but that didn't stop her from telling me all about it anyway.

I've decided that if she could do it, so can I. I am 20 years or so younger than she was when she was widowed and have a busy life with children and grandchildren, but at night - when it gets dark - I am still alone (except for the dogs!).

My mother made us tough, and our German stock keeps us going. I know I will be okay because of her.

I decided to share a happier time of when she was out doing what she liked best with my Dad - roaming around the desert on dirt roads "exploring."

One day they were coming back from such an excursion, driving home along a dirt road northwest of Mojave, when my Mom saw something sticking out of the ground. Of course she yelled "Stop Paul!" - and he did.

There was a steel wire and wood sticking out of the ground, and when they pulled on it they discovered an old wooden water pipeline. My Dad, with his trusty shovel, which he always carried in case they got stuck, dug up a piece of the line.

My Mom knew it was old and in her

newspaper reporter mind started investigating it.

According to Bert Wegman of Randsburg and Bill Shore of Rosamond, she found out that it was part of an old water line that ran from Cameron Canyon.

Some of the line was made of iron pipe.

The pipe was originally buried one to two feet deep, but wind and flash floods destroyed much of the pipe line. The old timers noted that coyotes caused problems digging it up as well.

Another section was found about nine feet long as well. The old water pipes were turned over to the Kern Antelope Historical Society and later displayed at Tropic Gold Camp Museum.

This discovery was probably made in the '60s (Again, my Mom with her not-including-the-dates-with-the-clipping). The historical society planned a field trip to visit the area. The pipeline was still under bare ground and in 60 years, from the date of the article, no vegetation had grown back.

Richard Bailey, curator of the Kern County Museum then, noted that similar pipe was used back then in the Bakersfield area.

When you are "out and about" in the desert, camping or riding a dirt bike, slow down once in a while and look around - you never know what you might find.



Elephants

by Rev. Nancy Bacon

First it was the elephants... I couldn't stand it when I began reading about people killing such noble animals just for their tusks. It reminded me of the horror on our American prairies when the buffalo were slaughtered for sport. Only this was worse. Elephants are so smart and very social. They can communicate with one another over long distances. They grieve when one of their own dies. Humans who weren't smart enough to know what elephants know and had no appreciation for God's great creation. Elephants dying for profits seemed prophetic to me. My connection to their plight was God nudging me to do something, so I began supporting the World Wildlife Fund and sporting my one and only bumper sticker: "Only elephants should wear ivory."

That was nearly thirty years ago. Of course, I would occasionally run across someone wearing a big ivory necklace who didn't like my bumper sticker. I didn't intend to be offensive, and I felt certain St. Francis approved.

Then, for whatever reason, I began getting interested in the rest of the ecosystem elephants were a part of, including the primates and humans.

Some peace-loving Christian teenagers I knew were greatly troubled by the brutality in Darfur, the plight of boy soldiers and the likes of Joseph Kony. These teens were appalled that Kony and other brutal leaders also claimed to be Christian. It made them question their desire to remain in a religion claimed by such thugs. They wanted to help child soldiers and refugees, so they began an awareness raising endeavor. Together we read books, had discussions and led community events.

Together our spirits boosted one another in our little campaign.

I never thought I would find myself heading to Joseph Kony's hometown, but my suitcases are loaded and by the time this goes to press, I will be in Uganda. I have lots of goodies for the orphanage we will visit. I hope the children like the cars, dolls, Disney tattoos, fairy wings, gum, and headbands. Serendipity has smiled on the timing of this trip, as another church I served in San Luis Obispo began sewing sun dresses and shorts for children in Uganda this past year, before they knew I was planning to go. I will be able to deliver them and hopefully take pictures of the exchange, so that the seamstresses will see who received their gifts.

From the Pastor's Desk

It has been a whirlwind with special services this past month and Holy Week. It's been a wonderfully rich season of ministry, but I do not have my head in the game for going to Uganda



Normally, when I travel, I purchase a guide book about where I am going, and part of the fun is reading and preparing for the trip to come. Not this time. I plan to read about Uganda on the plane. Fortunately, I will be working with AidAfrica.net, and I have seen pictures others have taken. I have some idea what to expect, yet I doubt anything can really prepare me. I can't imagine what it must have been like being terrorized out of my village and home, or what living in a refugee camp was like. I am happy to think of working alongside villagers reclaiming their homes.

I think Jesus took his final journey into Jerusalem on behalf of others who were suffering. My faith tells me that the risen Christ has been in Uganda working alongside villagers for quite some time. This risen Christ was not recognized by those who knew him well, yet the revelation of his presence turned grief into joy. I am led to believe that the villagers seek to find Jesus, and that their faith is lively and filled with celebration. I am guessing they will minister to me in unexpected ways.

I don't know why elephants and child soldiers infiltrated my soul, but I believe these were divine interventions. May you be blessed with similar encounters that you can not say no to.

God be with you, Pastor Nancy

Send Us Your Community Events!
Submit them to:

articles@theloopnewspaper.com

by Friday, May 2 to be in the May 10 issue!

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Say "I Love You!" in The LOOP

In our May 10 Mother's Day issue we will feature "words of love" from our readers. Send in a simple "I love you, Mom! ~ Adam", or a short poem. It's FREE! What you have to say is governed by your imagination, but keep submissions to 20 words or less.

We must receive submissions by May 2

Email: Sales@theloopnewspaper.com
Fax: 661-822-5646

Mail or bring to THE LOOP office
206 S. Green St., Tehachapi, CA, 93561,

The Loop reserves the right to edit and/or refuse to print submissions.




Tehachapi Community Congregational Church

United Church of Christ
A Progressive Christian Church

10:30 am Worship and Sunday School

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May Is Tehachapi Telescope Month!

Article by Dale Hawkins

After months of cloudy, turbulent skies, it's finally time to break out our telescopes. To mark this occasion, Lauren Hollen and I, by virtue of our non-existent authority as NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassadors, hereby declare May to be Telescope Month in the Greater Tehachapi Area.

To celebrate, we, in conjunction with the Greater Tehachapi Astronomers and the Tehachapi High School, will be holding a Telescope Clinic and Star Party in the Tehachapi High School courtyard on the evening of **Friday, May 23**. The event is open to the public and will start at 7:30 p.m. with demonstrations on how to use telescopes and binoculars, as well as the "Mark I Eyeball." Featured spectacles will include plenty of planets, star clusters and distant galaxies.

There are plenty of wonders that can be seen with just the naked eye – meteors, satellites, planets, giant dust clouds and several other galaxies. Even a modest telescope can enrich your view a zillion-fold.

The telescope was not invented by Galileo Galilei as is widely believed. It was invented (as best we can establish) by a Dutch optical maker named Hans Lippehey in 1608. Galileo heard about an optical device for seeing far-away objects, deduced its design, and made his own. He made a name and small fortune for himself by selling it to the Senate of Venice for spotting ships at great distances – never bothering to mention that he hadn't actually invented it.

Galileo was, however, undeniably the first scholar to turn such an instrument on the night sky. He discovered that the planets showed a disk (as opposed to the stars, which are just pinpoint in even the largest telescopes); that Venus went through phases like the moon; that Jupiter had moons of its own and saw the "magnificent desolation" of our moon for the first time. In fact, our names for the larger features of the moon were given by Galileo. Considering the relative crudeness of his instruments, Galileo certainly deserves accolades for his discoveries, which lead to the overthrow of the idea of an earth-centered universe.

By 1616, it was known that a telescope that reflected light instead of refracting it would not suffer from chromatic aberration (the bending of different colors by different amounts). In about 1670, Sir Isaac Newton constructed the first practical reflecting telescope. Were Sir Isaac to walk into my parlor today, he would instantly recognize my telescope as being of his design – and no doubt demand royalties! His design is still quite popular with amateur astronomers for its sharp views, simple construction, light weight, and low cost.

Therefore, I recommend a Newtonian reflector as a good starter telescope for the beginning amateur astronomer.

My second recommendation is not to be too cheap. Inexpensive telescopes tend to give disappointing performance and often lead the budding astronomer to frustration and disillusionment. Plan to spend a few hundred dollars. I recommend a primary mirror size of at least 4.5 inches (114 mm), though I have noted that when *Astronomy* magazine refers to a "small telescope," they're usually talking about a six-inch scope.

There are many makers of fine telescopes in all sizes and price-ranges. I recommend that you pick up the latest issue of *Astronomy* or *Sky & Telescope* magazine.

They're loaded with advertising, which to me is one of the most enjoyable parts of the magazine.

A word of caution before you enter the telescope arena: Your favorite telescope will always be your next one!

Astronomers always want to see brighter, sharper and larger images. You may never be satisfied with your present telescope. That's okay; it's part of the experience and pleasure of enriching your understanding and enjoyment of our Universe.

I look forward to seeing you at the Telescope Clinic/Star Party at Tehachapi High School on May 23!

Meteor Storm Watch

The only time I was in a meteor storm, I didn't see a damn thing. All I could do was listen to all of my California friends tell me about what I was missing on the telephone. For all of its virtues, Burlington, Vt. is no place for astronomy; it has more cloudy days than Seattle!

I may have another shot. On the Friday-Saturday night of **May 23-24** the earth will pass through the orbit of Comet 209P/LINER. The comet recently passed close to Jupiter. Astronomer believe that, at that time, the giant planet pulled tons of pebbles from its surface and strewn them out along the comet's orbit. Just how much was pulled loose we don't know. We are now approaching that orbit. As we pass through it, our atmosphere will act like a force-field-umbrella tipped into a driving rain, burning up the rocks and dust to keep us safe and dry.

The radiant (the place in the sky from where the meteors appear to be approaching) is near Polaris. Orient your lawn chair so that you're facing roughly north. The waning crescent moon won't rise until after midnight and shouldn't be a bother.

The bookmakers are betting against a "meteor storm," but I say that if you can spare the time and the weather is good, it'll be well worth wrapping up, stretching out in your lawn chair and meditating on the depths of the Universe. You'll certainly catch a fair number of meteors and may well get caught in a storm!

Sunrise/Sunset (May 1) 6:02 a.m./7:40 p.m.

Sky Watch:

Keeping an eye above the horizon



Grace and Forgiveness

by Cathie Sibley

Why is grace and forgiveness so easy to accept yet so hard to give?

Ownership is perhaps the most important step in being forgiven. I'm not just talking about being forgiven by God, if you believe in Him. I'm talking about being forgiven by anyone: be it lovers, spouses, friends, children, neighbors, co-workers, parents, and yes – even ourselves. Now I know some of you are thinking, "What is she talking about now?"

Well let me explain, I'm talking about owning your transgressions, whatever they may be. I'm talking about taking that infamous finger that we all so easily point everywhere else and turning it around till it's pointed squarely in our own faces. And yes I say us and our and we because as usual, I'm just as guilty as everyone else.

An apology without ownership holds no value. We so casually throw out those two little words: "I'm sorry," without really meaning it. I'm sorry means nothing unless it is prefaced by true repentance. Now I know you all are thinking I'm being preachy with all these bible words like forgiveness, repentance, and transgressions. However I assure you, I'm not beating anyone over the head with my bible.

The words I use are not biblical words, they are human words. These words define steps we must take if we wish to truly be forgiven for our actions. Transgressions are no more than wrong doings, offenses, or violations. To repent simply means to feel regret and remorse for your actions. Forgive,

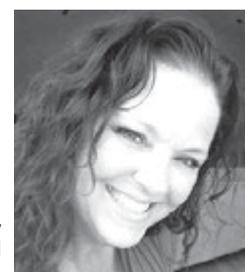
now that's the big one. That's the hard one. That's the one that shows our humanness so glaringly. Forgiveness means to absolve, to relieve, to stop blaming. And in our humanness, that is perhaps the hardest thing to do. To stop blaming, to forgive and let things go is so very difficult. We as humans want to store up the transgressions of others for future ammunition. If we truly forgive – and I mean really and truly forgive, from the heart –, we can no longer reach back into the past and whip out all the old wrongs we are holding in storage.

Forgiveness is also necessary for living in the moment as well as having a future. If we are all toting around suitcases, trunks, trainloads or cargo ships full of the transgressions of others.... Well let's just say that's a mighty heavy load to drag around. It is so very hard to let go of.

Imagine if everyone held every transgression against you for the rest of your life...it's what we do...we hold on for dear life. We use every transgression like a brick to build walls of mistrust. I do it too. I'm a master mason when it comes to walls. I'm trying harder these days to let things go, to live in the present – to forgive.

Peace and blessings to you all... and may we all learn to forgive!

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Out 'n' About

Several special events take place throughout the year. The Twilight Tour is an adults only event and \$20 per person. The next Twilight Tour is June 21, followed by an early fall Twilight Tour on Sept. 20. A barbecue, raffle and special cat enrichment demonstrations are part of the evenings entertainment. Due to legal constraints, children are not allowed during the Twilight Tours, due to entire facility being available for viewing which contains some older cages that do not have safety fencing.



Contact information will be disclosed at close of this article. Aug. 9 is The Fabulous Feline Follies, a fundraiser. A catered dinner is featured, which includes a no-host bar, raffle, silent auction and animal presentations. Fee is \$75 per person with advance reservations required.

Kids Day is coming up Oct. 18. There are activity tables, face painting, an educational animal show and more. The admission for this day only is \$10 for adults and \$7 for all children.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday through Tuesday. The compound is closed on Wednesdays, Thanksgiving day, Christmas day and Aug. 9. General admission is \$7, Seniors are \$6, children ages three to 12 are \$5, and children under three years-old are free. Parking is free. Group tours are available for schools and organizations.

To access the EFBC/FFC at 3718 60th Street West, take exit the Highway 14 Rosamond Blvd. exit. Go west 3.5 miles, turn right on Mojave-Tropico (at a stop sign) then left on Rhyolite Ave. For further information regarding tours call 661-256-3793 or visit www.wildcatzoo.org.



The staff at Postal Asap wishes you all a Happy Mother's Day. Come see us for some cheer and choose a card for that "special" someone while you're here.

The Cat House

by Shirley Given

Many Tehachapi residents have been to The Cat House or Feline Conservation Center, in Rosamond but newcomers may not have heard about it and there may be those long-time residents who have not heard about it, also. Guess the point here is it is such a wonderful place, it seemed a reminder of its proximity to Tehachapi might be timely.

The Exotic Feline Breeding Compound/ Feline Conversation Center, located on Hwy 14, will be hereon in referred to as the EFBC/FFC or compound. Acronyms can be overdone, but in this case they may save a tree given the length of the full name.

Guests travel a dusty dirt road in order to arrive at the compound and may ask themselves, "Where are we going?" Admittedly, one may think let's just turn around and forget this day trip.

Please don't. Suddenly you pull up to a large gate, surrounded by the dusty, dry desert. Upon walking through the gate you find you have entered another world. It is kin to an oasis. Lush palms, cool breezes and a quiet that makes one want to whisper. Currently the compound houses over 80 wild cats that range in size from Mar-gay to Leopards and Jaguars.

Beautiful peacocks roam the grounds as you wander down the paths, at your own pace. There are no moats and often you are as close as five feet to the cats. To be so close you can see the color of a jaguars eyes is spell-binding. It is not an overwhelming compound in size and can be enjoyed in its entirety in a single visit. There are volunteers throughout the compound, and they are always willing to answer questions and talk to visitors about the compound.

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Gallery 'N' Gifts Features Fiber Frogs for May

First Friday

by Shirley Given

Gallery 'n' Gifts will feature the Tehachapi Fiber Frogs for the month of May, with a reception in their honor being held, First Friday, May 2 from 5-8 p.m. What is a Fiber Frog, one might ask? Affectionately known as



Tehachapi's Fiber Frogs, a group formed a couple of years ago as an exploration project. Spinners, knitters and other fiber related artists came together to share ideas and information. Fiber Art consists of natural or synthetic fibers and other components. The focus is on the materials and manual labor of the artist as part of the works' significance and prioritizes aesthetic value over utility.

Alpaca rancher, Amy Stewart said "as an alpaca rancher I believe in the whole process from growing the alpaca fiber to end product, I wanted to have a place where people who are fiber enthusiasts could share their knowledge as well as gain knowledge and expand their interests in fiber arts. The artists began to explore carding, spinning and dyeing and experiencing how their projects began. Learning how the yarns, etc. make it to the market, prior to the knitting needles, crochet hooks, weavings, felting, quilting and embroidery, is a favorite among many of the members."

The Fiber Frogs also enjoy sharing their knowledge and experience with school groups and visitors to the Field of Dreams, Alpaca ranch.

Fiber enthusiasts, Marge Colby shared some of her experiences over the years in her quest to learn more and enjoy the fiber art process. She began in Seventh grade, making a 12 inch square with the standard, knit one, purl one and had pot holder making down to a science. The process got put on hold for several years until...she was given a knitting machine. Once again, knitting was put on hold as she learned the machine needed servicing. On hold for several years, again, Colby then found an out of date knitting machine at a thrift store for \$25. "Seeing its state of disassembly, called "challenge" loud and clear," she said. She managed to get the machine functional and was ready to move on.

With a good deal of practice and help from a friend, Colby eventually found knitting to be fun, once again but the 12 inch knit one, purl one, square was a far cry from her new endeavors.

Fiber enthusiasts will appreciate the phrase "stash", it's what they do. Colors, blends and

textures call out to fiber artists and many could open a shop of their own, with the amount of yarns, etc. they have in their "stash". But fear not, local shops, there is no way the artists would open a shop and let go of their stash. It is theirs to enjoy and share with others, but to sell. Don't even think about it.

Colby was later given a spinning wheel. Yes, a new challenge and as always, she rose to that challenge and conquered.

Upon joining the Fiber Frogs, she learned to spin fibers from both animal and plant derivations.

Then she was given the opportunity to have on the job training at a couple of the alpaca ranches, in sorting and grading the variations in the fleece of each animal.

Colby said "No, I do not plan on owning a fiber producing animal!" Well, that's what she says today, guess we will see.

For more information regarding the Tehachapi Fiber Frogs, call Field of Dreams Alpacas at 557-5737.

Plan an evening out at Gallery 'n' Gifts, Friday, May 2 and talk with the variety of fiber artists while enjoying the always scrumptious goodies. Gallery 'n' Gifts is located at 100 W. Tehachapi Blvd. and is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

Make May Baskets on First Friday

On the First Friday in May, from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m., May baskets and flowers will be featured at Tehachapi Community Church, corner of Green and E Streets. Esther Burdine remembers the old custom of filling a basket with flowers, leaving it on someone's doorstep, ringing the bell and running away. She invites both young and old to join her in making baskets and filling them with real flowers, or making paper flowers.

Fair Trade tea, coffee, and chocolate will be available for purchase. The church promotes these products as a way to benefit small farmers.

Friday with refreshments and live music. Come see their new look. Featured artist is Sachiko Shiratsu Beaudin. (story this page). Also open is **Tehachapi Museum** at 310 S. Green St. Refreshments will be served throughout the evening. New displays each month so come by.

Tehachapi Christian Store has live music on First Friday. Refreshments will be served.

Community Congregational Church, Fellowship Hall, 100 E. E St. Tehachapi, CA, at the corner of S. Green St. Make May Baskets (see story above).

First Friday 5-8 p.m., May 2

Gallery 'N' Gifts and the TVAA will be open for First Friday. Located on the corner of Tehachapi Blvd. and Green St. come by to see what they are up to. Featured is the Fiber Frogs. See above.

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

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

Tehachapi Treasure Trove, 116 E. Tehachapi Blvd. will be open during First

Chuck Pyle 'The Zen Cowboy' Rides into Fiddlers Crossing

First Friday

by Deborah Hand-Cutler

When reviewers first dubbed Chuck Pyle the "Zen Cowboy" he decided to be true to his motto: "Always ride the horse in the direction it's going." He took the nickname to heart, shaving his head and blending his upbeat perspective with old-fashioned horse sense.

Pyle will perform at Fiddlers Crossing on First Friday, May 2, at 7 p.m. His music is an infectious blend of hummable melodies, straight-from-the-saddle poetry and quotes from bumper stickers, proverbs, world leaders and old cowboys. Critics have called his songwriting "musically sophisticated yet full of uncluttered space." His brilliant finger-style guitar playing is said to be "more like a fine classical or jazz soloist."

Also admired as a sly humorist with a Will Rogers-style wit, Pyle has performed for the Colorado legislature, on "Austin City Limits," and in the home of Bill and Melinda Gates. His songs have been recorded by John Denver, the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band and Suzy Bogguss, among others. He writes songs about love lost and found, forgetful cowboys, heroic highway patrolmen, and brain stems gone "critical". Country music lovers know him best for writing, "Cadillac Cowboy," recorded by Chris LeDoux, and "Jaded Lover," recorded by Jerry Jeff Walker.



While fans love his recordings, they adore Pyle's live performances. Juni Fisher, the "Cowgirl Balladeer" who has performed at Fiddlers Crossing several times, says of him: "Chuck Pyle paints the vistas of the West... heck the whole country...through his smart,

snappy, cool lyrics. He's been one of my heroes for a long time, and if you love (Western singer) Dave Stamey, you are also going to love Chuck Pyle. You have my word on that!"

Pyle hails originally from Iowa but has resided on the front range of Colorado since 1965. He has been sharing his gifts for over 40 years and still performs 100 dates a year all across the country, playing festivals and theaters, coffeehouses and house concerts.

Fiddlers Crossing is at 206 E. F St. at Robinson

Street, in Downtown Tehachapi. Tickets may now be purchased online through the website at fiddlerscrossing.org. They will also be available - while they last - at Mountain Music, Tehachapi Treasure Trove, Tehachapi Furniture in Old Town and Lucky's Barbershop, or by reservation by calling 661-823-9994. Tickets to the concert are \$20, and - as always - coffee and goodies are included. The concert begins at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Tehachapi Treasure Trove Featured Artist: Sachiko

First Friday

by Susanna Monette



Sachiko (middle-left) and her family.

May 2, Friday evening from 5 to 8 p.m., Tehachapi Treasure Trove will again celebrate our First Friday Fun Fest. You're invited to come see our ever changing displays full of art, crafts, collectables and art supplies. May's featured artist will be Sachiko Shiratsu Beaudin. Music will be provided by Art Larsen on clarinet. Please join us for fun, refreshment, music and art.

Sachiko has on display prints of her acrylic paintings of scenes from Obama-city in Fukui, Japan, a picturesque ocean city historically serving as the gateway between Japan's ancient capital city of Kyoto and trade with China and Korea. Sachiko wishes to share with Americans the beauty of her father's village. The original paintings are done in acrylics with intricate detail and subtle variations in color.

Sachiko also creates great earrings out of origami (paper folding) that are truly unique. Very tiny folded cranes and fans are coated with a resin finish and then incorporated into earrings. Even the boxes

are traditionally hand made.

Sachiko was born in Tokyo, Japan. She married her husband while he was in the Navy. They moved to Tehachapi in 2005, back to Okinawa in 2007 and returned to Tehachapi in 2009. They have two daughters.

Sachiko has been painting since she was a child. She has also created dried flower designs, done tole painting and jewelry making. She is a gifted artist.

You're invited to The Treasure Trove on Friday, May 2 from 5 to 8 p.m. for our First Friday event. There will be some live music and refreshments. Come have a glass of champagne or wine and join the fun!

Tehachapi Treasure Trove (TTT) is located at 116 E. Tehachapi Blvd., right across the street from the water tower in Railroad Park. TTT hours are daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.). For additional information on any of our activities, classes and events, please call 661-822-6794 or visit www.facebook.com/TehachapiTreasureTrove.

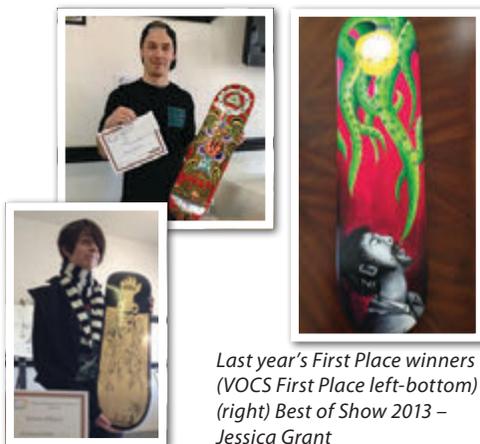
2014 Skateboard Design Contest

The Art Studio in Tehachapi California is totally stoked to announce the 2014 Skateboard Design Contest! Last year, we had many skateboard design entries and the winner received a week's free visit to Camp Woodward West in Stallion Springs and \$100 bucks! Camp Woodward West proudly displayed all of their favorite skateboards at the Woodward West Camp throughout summer, 2013!

We hope that this year's Skateboard Design Contest will bring out the artist in you, especially your bizarre and alternative cutting edge artwork! Don't be shy; let your freak flag fly! Once again, we are fortunate to have the skateboard professionals from Camp Woodward West judge the Skateboard Design Contest.

Contestants can pick up blank skateboards from The Art Studio starting April 22, 2014. The cost to enter is \$25 which includes a blank skateboard. This contest is open to all artist in the following four categories: Kindergarden through

Artist Spotlight



Last year's First Place winners (VOCS First Place left-bottom) (right) Best of Show 2013 - Jessica Grant

Second Grade, Third through Fifth Grade, Sixth through Eighth Grade and High school through adult.

Winners will be announced on Saturday, June 14, 2014!

The deadline for turning in your skateboards is Friday May 30, 2014

Don't delay, get your board today!

Stallion Springs Library

by Irene Gunshinan

Did you know that the best kept secret in town is the Stallion Springs Library. It was created over 20 years ago, by a very enterprising women and consisted of an alcove in the general meeting room of then exiting offices the Stallion Springs Community Services District. The building is over 100 years, and was the ranch house of the Hill family who owned the area for raising cattle. The library is on the Stallion Springs Drive just before the covered bridge and there is a large sign visible as you drive by.

Over the years this resident and a very talented and creative carpenter and his wife finished the book shelves to cover the walls of the meeting room and beyond. The library now houses thousands of first rate novels, classics, biographies, self-help books, histories, crafts, teacher's manuals, and children's books. It is open to the public on Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Saturday's 10 a.m. to noon. Books are available on an honor system. The Library is staffed with volunteers, should anyone want to volunteer please call Sara at 661-822-8859. Welcome and Enjoy!!

May at the Tehachapi Museum

First Friday

On First Friday in May, the Tehachapi Museum will feature several special exhibits that opened in the last several months and will continue through May. In the Tehachapi Families Case, the Fickert family of Bear Valley is featured.

Two other recent exhibits will continue. Dr Terry Warsaw's collection of marbles, including ancient pottery, stone and minerals, early German glass, and more recent American glass are on exhibit, along with information on how to play marble games. The other recent exhibit showcases pottery made by Hazel Kanstein, wife of Lew Kanstein, a former mayor and co-owner of the BeeKay Theatre. Hazel Davis came to Tehachapi as a schoolteacher sometime in the late 1910s or early 1920s later marrying Lewis Kanstein. At their home on Green Street, Hazel operated a plant nursery and sold her pottery.

A new exhibit of Williams family baskets in the Milano Gallery features four baskets, made by Refugia Williams, of Kawaiisu coiled construction, with coils formed of deer grass, wrapped with split willow. The woven designs on the individual baskets were created by wrapping coils with Joshua tree root, bracken fern root and yucca root. A small oval basket, prior to 1930, is possibly the

last basket made by Refugia before her death in 1932.

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

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Mother's Day

by Victoria Alwin, MSRD and Dietitian for TVHD

Soon it will be that time of year to show the lady you consider as "Mom" how special she is to you. Many people do this by giving her flowers, gifts or taking her out for a meal.

No matter what Mom gets, eventually food gets involved. My mother used to tell us that the best meals for her were those that she didn't have to cook. I doubt that has changed in this millennium.

Food is a sign of love the world over.

With heart disease and the rise of diabetes, as well as people living longer, more mothers need to follow special diets or are living in facilities, which can make the Mother's Day special meal selection more of a challenge. If Mom needs to follow a special diet, ask **her** where she wants to go.

Getting Mom what **we** want stopped working in grade school or should have. If she wants ideas, then think about what she needs to avoid and go somewhere else.

Diabetics do not need to stop at a Baskin-Robbins for a double scoop in a waffle cone. Those with heart, kidney or liver issues should stay away from any place that can't limit the salt they put on the food, such as pizza parlors, barbeque specialists (ask about the grilled meats, anything with sauce will be high sodium) or that place that has the largest hot dogs in the area.

What if Mom is on a special diet, but wants something common sense says isn't good for her?

Nutrition Corner

An example might be that piece of cake at a restaurant for the diabetic Mom.

First, let her bring it up. If she doesn't remember that she wants it, you're off the hook. She might have made allowances in her diet to allow for something special, such as cut down on other salt uses to get that annual piece of pizza.

Again, let her choose. Sometimes the diabetic Mom might still want that piece of twelve layer chocolate cake.

If she can still make good decisions in other ways, let her have it. It is **her** special day and there are ways to silently convey to the wait staff that you want a small piece. Regardless, you have a whole year to nudge her into compliance.

What if Mom lives in a skilled nursing facility?

We want our residents to be happy and to enjoy a special meal with loved ones. As in previous examples, if she doesn't bring it up, think of what is best for her.

Many "residential" Moms eat best away from the facility, which is great. If you bring in food for Mom, whether nursing asks you or not, please tell them what you are bringing in.

This is for her safety, not just being nosy. No facility can match the secret ingredient that comes from lovingly prepared home cooked dishes.

Above all, remember that while food shows love, it is **your** presence on that day which is the real gift.



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The Forde Files

No. 69

Southern Pacific conquered Tehachapi Pass in 1876; can Hi-Speed Rail do it?

Engineers designing the California High-Speed Rail (HSR) must move mountains – and people, houses, roads, orchards and maybe a corral or two.

Farmers and residents at ground zero in the first segment of the first HSR track to be under construction – a 29-mile stretch from Madera to Fresno – are faced with the reality that they are expected to get out of the way. In spite of funding difficulties and vociferous opposition to the project, it appears the train has left the depot.

The next construction package to be awarded will be for the Fresno to Bakersfield segment.

With its mountains and steep grades, the Tehachapi Pass section of the Bakersfield-Palmdale segment is the most challenging of the entire California High-Speed Rail line. In the original California High-Speed Rail Authority budget, the Bakersfield-Palmdale segment seems an afterthought, with state and federal sources allotting zero funds for design and property acquisition – the only part of the route to be so bereft. After making preliminary studies and proposals for routes, the Authority has had minimal recent contact with the three main local entities through whose property the HSR likely will run.

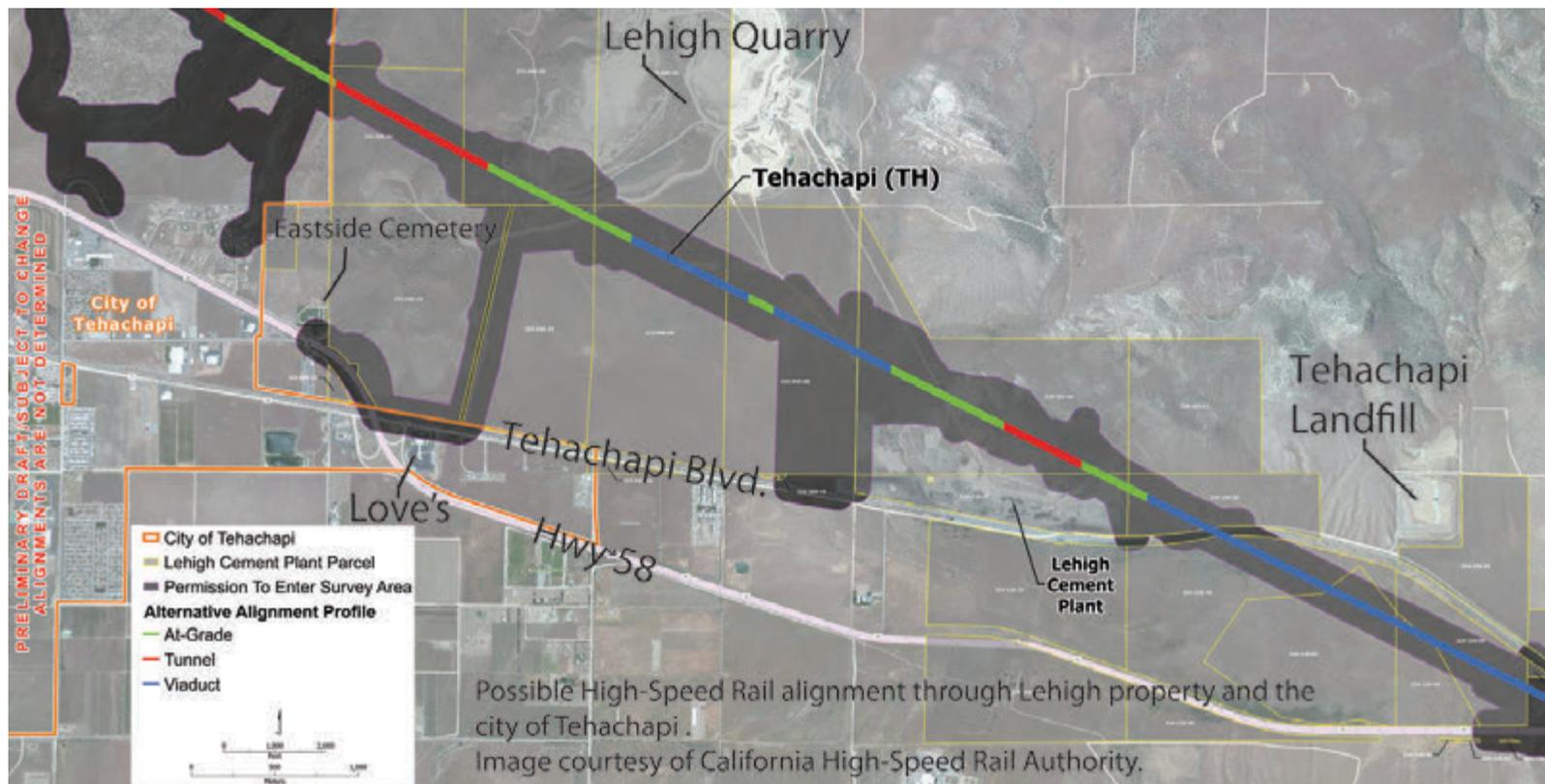
"We haven't heard anything for quite a while," Tehachapi City Manager Greg Garrett said. In its present configuration, the rail line will cut through the hilly, undeveloped northern reaches of the city, just behind the new hospital.

"After they made numerous requests for access, we decided to meet with them," said Loop Ranch owner John Broome, Jr., whose family property runs for 10 or 12 miles along Hwy. 58 and would be the location for miles of the HSR. "We decided to meet with them more than a year ago."

Broome said they have not yet granted access to HSR representatives.

Lehigh Southwest Cement Co. has allowed access. The cement plant and quarry are directly in the path of the proposed HSR route.

"They have come and done initial biological and cultural surveys for CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act)," said Craig Mifflin, manager of environmental and public affairs for Lehigh. "They walked the property. We met with them. The route was changed two or



three times."

The visit was about a year ago, Mifflin said.

The proposed alignment, east to west, he said, "comes out of the canyon... cuts across Proctor Lake bed, crosses Tehachapi Boulevard north to between the plant and the dump [Tehachapi Landfill]. It goes underground north of the [plant's] dome and cuts across between the quarry and the cemetery through the saddle there. A lot of it is underground."

Mifflin said the track would run "a couple of hundred yards" from the quarry.

"It would have a significant impact on the plant operations. It is too close for safety and fly rock."

Lehigh, owned by the German Heidelberg Group, which has other properties impacted by the HSR, has another problem.

"We've mapped out all the rock available for 50 years," Mifflin said. "The area we plan to mine in the future, this would go through."

Mifflin said the Heidelberg Group has a land management group in Fresno that is dealing with the HSR.

"We are still looking at a number of options in the Bakersfield to Palmdale segment," Lisa Alley, spokesperson for the Authority, said. Any decision is "several months away," she said.

"It's a lengthy process. We are not expecting environmental clearance [for the segment] until 2018-2019."

"The process is still several years in the making for the Bakersfield to Palmdale segment," Alley said.

"The Merced to San Fernando Valley HSR [which includes Bakersfield-Palmdale] will be operational by 2022."

John Broome has his doubts.

Given the cost of the project, he said, "It seems like it's highly improbable that it's going to come to pass."

James E. Moore, who is professor of Industrial and Systems Engineering at the University of Southern California Viterbi

School of Engineering, is an expert witness in opposition to the project.

With inexpensive forms of transportation in California, Moore calls the project "an atrocious waste."

"I don't think it will ever recover its costs," he said.

Will the project be completed?

"I hope not," Moore said. "But I'm afraid it will be built."

Route redux

The western, or Bakersfield, side of Tehachapi Pass is the site of one of the seven wonders of the railroad world, the Tehachapi Loop.

Under the leadership of civil engineer J.B. Harris, chief of construction for Southern Pacific Railroad, civil engineer William Hood designed the spiral in which long trains cross over themselves while gaining 77 feet in elevation at a steady 2 percent grade.

It was an exquisite way to modify the unrelenting, steep mountain grade.

Hood, a graduate of Dartmouth College class of 1867, is a hero at his alma mater. Robert Fletcher, dean of Dartmouth's Thayer School of Engineering from 1871 to 1918, described the Tehachapi Pass as "a bewildering labyrinth of lofty peaks and ridges where the roadbed twists and squirms by every sort of horseshoe curve, S-curve and spiral."

The Tehachapi Loop, as written in the winter 2013 Dartmouth Engineer Magazine, "is the crowning glory of the 28

miles of rail line that snakes through the mountain pass."

Once again, Tehachapi Pass, with its rapid elevation, granite landscape, existing rail track and State Highway 58 to share the "twists and squirms," presents a renewed challenge to engineers working on the California High-Speed Rail. One engineer familiar with the project said it poses the most complex challenges for high-speed rail construction "in the world." Other engineers are not so dramatic, citing developments in braking and the ability of engineers to build high-speed rail lines through rugged mountains in Europe.

Dartmouth's Dean Fletcher said that Hood's success lay in his training in descriptive geometry (where images on a two-dimensional surface can be modeled in 3-D).

Hood had this advice: "The essence of engineering consists not so much in the mere construction of the spectacular layouts or developments, but in the invention required – the analysis of the problem, the design, the solution by the mind which directs it all."

Shedding light on local issues.

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

CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL
 STATEWIDE RAIL MODERNIZATION

FAST RAIL: THE BIG PICTURE



While opponents believe the California High-Speed Rail (HSR) project to be a wasteful folly, the California High-Speed Rail Authority is moving the project along doggedly in small steps akin to building a cathedral in the Middle Ages, when frequently it took hundreds of years and generations of craftsmen to complete one glorious structure.

The Authority is building the massive project in a non-linear manner.

The plan includes Improvements at the HSR "bookends" of San Francisco and Los Angeles -- mostly, at this time, in the San Francisco area -- that will integrate existing and new regional rail systems into the future High-Speed Rail. Subsequent extensions will add Sacramento and San Diego to the High-Speed Rail line.

The first new HSR track will be laid over a 29-mile stretch in the Central Valley, from Avenue 17 in Madera to East American Avenue in Fresno. The contractor is completing design work preparatory to construction.

The HSR contracts are awarded on a design-build basis, with private companies taking responsibility for their sections. In a joint venture, the companies Tutor Perini/Zachary/Parsons (TPZP) won the design-build contract for Construction Package One (CP 1), the Madera-Fresno segment.

Project and construction management for CP 1 is a joint venture by PGH Wong Engineering, Inc. and Harris & Associates (Wong+Harris).

The contractor Tutor Perini/Zachary/Parsons is finishing the design portion of CP 1, Authority spokesperson Lisa Alley told Forde Files on April 24. The work includes utility relocation, robots inspecting sewer lines and archeological investigations in downtown Fresno, followed by geotechnical soil drilling to determine how much dirt they will have to move.

"They have found [old] pots and pans and a doll," Alley said of the archeological investigations. "They will be finishing in the next two weeks."

The Authority is in the process of obtaining parcels of property in the Madera-Fresno section over which the HSR will run.

"We have to purchase 380 parcels on the 29-mile section," Alley said. "We have purchased some. We are helping property owners relocate."

The relocations include moving sections of Highway 99.

The Authority has established an apprentice program for HSR-generated employment opportunities.

"It's all happening at the same time in Fresno," she said.

The HSR railroad station in Fresno will be located near the Fulton Mall.



Prayer Breakfast features test pilot Russ O'Quinn

The 28th Annual Kiwanis Prayer Breakfast on Thursday, May 1, 2014, will feature speaker Russell O'Quinn, an acclaimed test pilot and aircraft designer whose story, "Live Life to the Limit," is a testimony to the power of a dedicated Christian life.

A resident of Cummings Valley, O'Quinn fell in love with airplanes as a youngster, watching them and working as a line boy at Van Nuys Airport. He earned his pilot's license at age 16 and his parents, who had objected to his flying, "realized this wasn't going to go away."



O'Quinn served in the Air Force and worked for Douglas Aircraft as an electronics technician, earning a commendation from Donald W. Douglas, Jr. for actively saving -- during the course of a test flight -- an aircraft that was suffering a design flaw that would have brought down the aircraft, the personnel and the program. O'Quinn established his own fleet of test aircraft at his headquarters in Long Beach, filling a need for private contractors who were waiting up to two years for space aboard

Air Force vehicles to test their aviation products, such as navigation systems.

O'Quinn moved his Flight Test Research operation to a then-sleepy Mojave Airport in 1966, basing it in an old wooden hangar.

The U.S. government called on O'Quinn to organize a food and assistance airlift to Biafra, and he subsequently established the Foundation for Airborne Relief, airlifting aid during tribal warfare in Africa and in Bangladesh, where people were desperate following a devastating typhoon. His work, with his wife Mary Alice and church support, includes a flying hospital and air droppable units.

The Kiwanis Prayer Breakfast returns to McMullan Hall at St. Malachy Catholic Church (407 West E St., Tehachapi), at 6:44 a.m., with breakfast prepared by Linda Pettitt and a crew of Kiwanis members. Tickets are available at The Original Apple Shed, 333 E. Tehachapi Blvd.; Witt's, 20437 Brian Way in Old Town;

both branches of Bank of the Sierra, 224 West F St. in Tehachapi and 2100 Mission St. in Old Town; and from any Kiwanis member. The price is \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door. Tables of seven available for \$57. For tickets or information, contact Don Bowman at 661-822-5516 or donbowman@att.net.



Aviator Russell O'Quinn stands ready to fly the Skyfox, a T-33 he redesigned to fulfill critical missions. Photo courtesy of Russ O'Quinn.

May 1 is the National Day of Prayer, whose 2014 theme is "One Voice, United in Prayer." This year's scripture is Romans 15:6.

The non-profit organization National Day of Prayer Task Force plans for "a huge wave of prayer, flowing from

one coast to the other." The non-profit organization National Day of Prayer Task Force plans for "a huge wave of prayer, flowing from one coast to the other."



California City Arts Commission to Host Art Show May 4 and 5

Article by Susanna Monette

The California City Arts Commission will be holding its annual Art Show, "Arts by the Lake" on May 4 and 5. The show represents work from many regional artists. The theme for this year's show is "My Favorite Place". Other entries are welcome; however, themed pieces will be photographed and will be juried for entry in the commission's 2015 calendar.

Art by the Lake will be open to the public Saturday May 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday May 4 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The California City Arts & Community Building is located at 10400 Heather Avenue in Central Park. Turn north off of California City Boulevard at Conklin and right on Heather to the end of the parking lot. The Art Show is concurrent with the California City Tortoise

Festival which also takes place in Central Park. Don't miss these fun and educational events.

Interested in entering your art? Artists from age 16 and up may submit up to five works, with an entry fee of \$2 for each work exhibited. Work in photography, water media, oils, collage, sculpture and 3D art, mixed media and fabric art are welcome. All entries must be appropriate for a family-oriented audience.

Please call Brenda Daverin, Parks and Recreation Supervisor, at 760-373-3530 or Helen Dennis at 760-373-4570 for more information. Applications can be picked up at City Hall or at the Parks and Recreation Office at the Strata Center in Central Park. Applications are also available by mail or email by contacting Helen Dennis.



Visitor's view a past California City Arts Commission show. Photo by Helen Dennis.

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A Glimpse Into the Past: The Opera House, a Bank, a Hotel and a Bar!

by Pat Gracey

The Opera House, an early Tehachapi building, was located on F Street in the place where the present College Community Service building now stands (113 E. F St.), next to the little yogurt shop. It was a focal point for dances, local entertainment, meetings and silent movie films. A 1915 newspaper announced a Charlie Chaplain movie, *The Little Tramp*, being shown at the local Opera House.

Margaret Erbel, a young Tehachapi resident still in her teens, was known to play the piano for the silent films for without inspiring climactic accompaniment, the sad, glad and bad moods of the film were lessened. Imagine a villain absconding with a fair maiden in stark silence. No way. The same, Margaret Erbel would play for the Saturday night dances at the Opera House and then arise early the next day to play the old pump organ at St. Malachy Catholic Church. The Opera House burned down, and I have no idea what started the blaze. Time seems to erase a lot of facts that everyone knew at the time, but no one bothered to write down. The blaze was not even printed in any surviving papers of that era but Margaret Erbel's daughter, the late Mary Farrell, remembered her mother talking about the blaze. Fortunately, Mary mentioned it to me one day.

When the present Hitching Post Theatre was built, they had a contest offering a prize for the best name of the establishment. I sent in The Opera House for my entry with an explanation of the historical issue, but the present name was chosen. It's good and has an Old West flavor, but I wonder if they knew there was a **Hitching Post Bar** for some years on the west side next to Kelcys' Café's present site on Main Street (Tehachapi Blvd.)? I used to walk past it on my way to the telephone office where I worked as an operator in 1947 and 1948 for .65 cents an hour. If I had the all-night shift I would pass by at 10:30 in the evening to the sounds of music and singing wafting out to greet me. They usually left the front door open for some reason and I could sometimes see people sitting at the bar or dancing. Occasionally I would see a spot outside on the sidewalk where someone had vomited and also have been known to step over large wet spots on the sidewalk in front of the establishment which I hoped was spilled beer. What bothers me most is, I can't remember what their phone number was! The local populace seldom called by number but depended on the operators to know them all. We did, mostly; there were only a few hundred numbers! oH How could I have forgotten?

The Bank of Tehachapi was a quaint, attractive old light brown brick structure that was built in 1906. Green Street was lined with Honey Locust trees that added to the charm of the scene. Tec Computer Repair now occupies that site. It was one of the few banks in this country that did not need to close during the throes of the depression of the 1930s. I was employed there as a teller/ secretary having left the telephone operator job behind. Perhaps a little more prestige, but I still only made 65 cents an hour.

As a result of my employment, I was a participant in the move from the old bank to the new one on F Street. The **New** bank was built in 1948 on the old Opera House location (today, the College Community Service site). The day we moved in did not merely involve walking a half block to the new location; we also had to move the money! No Brinks truck was called, just the local law man (singular). He drove over in his vehicle, and we five bank employees all

The Spirit of Tehachapi

rode with him, and the money, the half block to the new bank and the new bank vault that actually had a timed lock. The vault in the old bank was somewhat less secure but it did have a combination lock.

We were never robbed but one day, my boss - Mr. C.V. Spencer - spent some anxious moments as he watched a local man, standing in front of the bank under a locust tree, chain smoking and nervously looking up and down Green Street, obviously waiting for someone. The man was known to have robbed a bank in the Midwest and had actually done time for the deed. Finally the nervous chain smoker was picked up by someone in an old Chevy sedan, and off they went! Actually, the ex-bank robber was a very nice man and became a well-respected citizen who lived here for many years until he died. He'd have gotten a good laugh had he known what my boss was fearful of on that long ago day. The "elder" bank building was destroyed in the 1952 earthquake.

The French Hotel. Going back to the corner of Green and F Streets, before the Hitching Post Theatre, before Gong's Drug Store, before J.B.'s Drug store, before the 1952 quake, there was another building; a tall, two story wooden frame building standing there. We called it the French Hotel though there was another hotel, across the tracks, by the same name. Sometimes it was called the Basque Hotel, but the sign on the building clearly read Tehachapi Hotel. It didn't matter, people knew what they meant! One could hear laughter and music when walking by. The upstairs had rooms for rent; mostly people who stayed permanently, and the downstairs had a bar, restaurant and a place to dance. They played French/Basque music as well as the popular songs of the day.

In 1945, when I was a Junior in High School, the French Hotel became The Tehachapi Inn changing the cuisine to Italian fare. The upstairs rooms were **not** rented as the owner, John Rizzardo, had his family living there. Johnny Rizzardo, as the name tells us, was an Italian and was an excellent cook; I'd say chef. He had a good business and each Saturday night people came there to dance at the "new Italian" place!

By that time, I was old enough - at least seventeen - to enter the establishment to dance. There was live music and we high school kids liked to come on Saturday evenings. John Rizzardo's daughter, Helen, became my best friend and stayed my friend until her death a few years back.

One day, when we were upstairs in her room on the second floor, I asked Helen why there was a flag holder on the wall. She told me it had once been a school. It was then I found that the tall, framed wooden building had once been Summit School and had been moved from across the tracks after a newer school had been constructed. Many of our city's buildings "traveled" with their owners in years past. Those early pioneers knew how to do what almost seems, with the means they had, impossible. "Just pick up a house and move it on log rollers with a team of horses!" Nothin' to it!

Time marches on and memories soon fade. A little glimpse into the past never hurts anyone, though.



The Lost Spike

by Bruce Gripkey

By the time this article appears in the Loop, we will be but only a few days away from every true train geek's favorite national holiday, May 10. This year will mark the one hundred and forty-fifth anniversary of the ceremonial driving of the "Golden Spike" at Promontory Point Summit in the then Utah Territory. This story will end a little differently than what you remember.

As the Transcontinental Railroad was approaching completion, David Hewes - San Francisco contractor and close friend of Central Pacific's President Leland Stanford - was disheartened when he discovered that no one had prepared anything to commemorate its completion.

Using his own gold, he contracted the W.T. Garatt Foundry of San Francisco to cast a golden spike. Also cast and heavily plated with silver by tool maker Conroy & O'Conner was a maul for the driving of the spike. After Leland Stanford and Union Pacific President Thomas Durant carefully tapped the gold spike into a specially made California laurelwood tie with the silver hammer, the ceremonial spikes were removed (there were four).

The Laurel tie was then replaced with a tie made of pine and four iron spikes to be driven into place with an iron hammer. This was the part of the ceremony that both the mighty men of industry historically took their swings and completely missed the spike.

Thomas Durant didn't even hit the tie. A regular railroad worker drove home the final spike which, along with the hammer, was wired to the transcontinental telegraph system. The entire country "listened."

At 12:47 p.m. on May 10, 1869, W.N. Shilling, a telegrapher for Western Union, tapped out four letters, "D-O-N-E."

After the hoopla settled down, the artifacts from the ceremony were displayed at various prominent locations for all to see. The golden spike and silver hammer were presented to Leland Stanford and have been on display in Palo Alto, Calif. at Stanford University since 1892. The laurelwood tie ended up at the offices of the Southern Pacific Railroad in San Francisco after the Central Pacific was reorganized in 1890. It was destroyed in the earthquake and fires of 1906. Up 'til this point, we have been on a fairly

Train of Thought

straightforward trip on Mr. Wizard's wayback machine. Then last month I read this story:

"Sometime last night someone attempted to steal the 'Lost Golden Spike' at the California State RR Museum in Sacramento.

They broke a glass panel behind the C.P. Huntington locomotive to gain entry and then used a sledge hammer to beat on the spike's display case in an attempt to crack it open. Unsuccessful, they left the museum without doing any further damage."

The display case is really a vault, with the spike either up on display behind 1" of polycarbonate glass (bullet proof and then some!) and safely recessed behind several inches of armor-grade steel. The spike is one of **two** gold spikes made in 1869 for the transcontinental railroad completion ceremony.

Unknown at the time, the jeweler charged with engraving the spike did two. The bill states this, but the thinking at the time was that one bill was for the casting of the spike and the other for engraving the names and the date, May 8, 1869*. The jeweler's family held onto the second spike until 2005 when the "Lost Spike" emerged, was donated to and is now on display at the California State Railroad Museum.

* - The ceremony actually took place on May 10: the "Lost Spike" has the correct date. The spike that was used at Promontory Point is engraved with May 8, the original anticipated date of the ceremony. After casting, the golden spike was engraved on all four sides and the top. Two sides bore the names of railroad officers and directors. Another side was engraved, "The Pacific Railroad ground broken January 8th 1863 and completed May 8th 1869." The fourth side was engraved, "May God continue the unity of our country as the railroad unites the two great Oceans of the world. Presented - David Hewes -San Francisco." The top of the spike was simply engraved, "The Last Spike." Let's all have a happy Golden Spike Day.





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Community Happenings

May 17, Summit Singers Concert

by Corinne Stone

The weather is fine, the Easter Bunny has come and gone, and it's time to get your tickets for the May 17 Summit Singers concert.

The Spring concert is always a fun and happy way to say hello to Spring and enjoy a relaxing evening of music. Tickets are now available from all Summit Singers, and from: The Apple Shed, Books & Crannies, Mountain Music, and Tehachapi Furniture.

Starting time for the concert is 7 p.m., at the First Baptist Church, 1049 S. Curry. Enjoy the music and the after-concert social time, with home made cookies and a visit with the Summit Singers.

You may call Corinne at 822-3836 if you have any questions.

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.

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)

Smart Driving Course Being Offered

The AARP Smart Driver course will be conducted April 30 and May 1 at the First Baptist Church, 1049 S. Curry St., Tehachapi.

This course is designed to keep drivers aged 50 and older to stay current on driving rules and laws, and new technologies in vehicles today.

Driving situations are discussed and how medications might affect our driving. Strategies to aid us in our driving skills are offered. Reservations are required as state law limits class size to 30.

Call Gene at 661-823-0825 to reserve your seat.

Golf Tournament, June 28

The Fourth Annual Relay for Life Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, June 28, at The Horsethief Country Club in Stallion Springs. The format this year will be a two-person scramble. Shotgun start will begin 9 a.m. Cost is \$35 per player for HTCC members and \$65 per player for non-members – includes green fees, cart and lunch. Have fun and support a worthy cause at the same time!

For more information or to sign up, contact Bill Duggins at 661-972-4077 or 661-823-8170

End of Burning Season

Kern County Fire Department Declares the End to Open Burning within the State Responsibility Areas of Kern County

As of April 14, 2014 and effective immediately the Kern County Fire Department has declared an end of open burning within the State Responsibility Area of Kern County.

This declaration has been made a little earlier than usual due to higher than normal temperatures, low humidity and drying conditions of the vegetation.

Beekeeping Workshop, May 24

Tehachapi Beekeeping Club is hosting a Beekeeping Workshop, May 24 and 25 with Les Crowder.

Les Crowder has been a beekeeper for over 30 years and is a former President of the New Mexico Beekeepers Association.

He has been teaching beekeeping classes both in the States and internationally since 1983. Les is a proponent of natural beekeeping practices. The cost of the workshop is \$120 per person for both days (10 - 5 p.m.). If you would like more information on Les his website is www.fortheloveofbees.com. Information regarding the workshop, please contact Liz and George Wolfe at 661-822-5892 or email Liz at liz.wolfe1@gmail.com.

Defense Against A Bully Class

Fri., May 16 5 to 6 p.m. This class is designed to assist five- to 12-year-old students. Deadline for Sign-ups is May 9. Cost \$25, Sign-up at Tehachapi Martial Arts Center 20418 Brian Way, Suite 6, for more information, call 661-823-0621.

Eighth Annual Self-Defense Seminar for Ages 13 and up

No Experience Necessary
Realistic techniques to help teens, women, men, law enforcement, security and others defend themselves.

Limited Space available - Combat Hapkido Seminar - Saturday May 17, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. - Lunch included.

Hosted by Tehachapi Martial Arts Center 20418 Brain Way, Suite 6. 661-823-0621

Lions Set Annual Canned Food Drive for May 1 on 'Friends & Family Night'

You know them – the men and women who offer you a WHITE CANE for a donation to help their programs to aid the blind and nearly sighted around the world.

Yes, those folks and this year the local Lions Club is sponsoring a free dinner for anyone who comes to the Senior Center on this Thursday night – May 1 at 6:30 pm with a can or two for their annual drive to help the Salvation Army.

Any non-perishable canned food is acceptable and you get a hot dog or hamburger dinner for free! Everyone is invited and the members of the local Lions Club, part of the world's largest charitable organization, will be on hand to greet you. Bring your cans and your appetite to the Tehachapi Senior Center, located one block off Tehachapi Blvd. at So. Hayes and F St. The next White Cane Days are May 9 & May 10 - look for your volunteer Lions at larger stores in the area.

Tehachapi Senior Center Weekly Activities

Lunch at Noon on Weekdays

Bingo Closed Until Further Notice

Monday

10:30 a.m. – Tai Chi

12:30 p.m. – Mexican Train (Dominoes)

1 p.m. – Line Dancing

Tuesday

10 a.m. – Pinochle/Cards

10 a.m. – Club Strength & Wood Carving

1:30 p.m. – Grief Support

Wednesday

10 a.m. – Zumba Gold

11 a.m. – Tai Chi

12:30 - 3 p.m. – Poker

1:30 p.m. – Caregivers Education (1st Wed.)

1 p.m. – Early Stage Dementia/ Recipients (Second Wed.)

1 p.m. - Poker on the Green Felt

Thursday

10 a.m. – Club Stretch & Bridge/Cards

1 p.m. – Knitting and Crocheting

1 p.m. – Caregivers Support (4th Wed)

HEARTS Connection Schedule of Events

• Sensory Story Time sponsored by HEARTS Connection at the Tehachapi Public Library, Saturday, May 3, 10 a.m., story and crafts for ages two to five.

• HEARTS Connection Support Group for parents only (always the first Tuesday evening of each month at 7 p.m.). next one is Tuesday May 6, 7 p.m., special guest speaker on Behavioral therapies.

• Playgroup for ages up to five, next one is Tuesday May 13, 10 a.m., a special day at City/Central park. (Others in the future will be at the playroom in my office, will let you know).

• Tehachapi Mothers of Special Needs, a Mom's Pampered Brunch, Saturday, May 17, 10 a.m., RSVP for location, special brunch with some makeovers and light pampering.

Send us your Community Events!

Submit them to:

articles@

theloopnewspaper.com

by Friday, May 2

Third Annual Tortoise Days, May 3 and 4

The California City's Chamber Of Commerce is very excited to be hosting our Third Annual Tortoise Days of California City! We are very pleased with the changes we are making this year.

Our goal is to really bring the community and families together for this wonderful event. We will have a carnival, a police vs. fire departments softball game, the parade, and a 5k run sponsored by Cal City Fitness.

Attention California City Chamber members: We are offering a free vendor booth to all current chamber members. All we ask is that our members pay a \$50 deposit to ensure attendance both days of this great event.

Tortoise Days Events and hours are as follows:

Parade - Saturday May 3 at 9 a.m.

Events in park - Saturday May 3 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Events in park - Sunday May 4 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Softball game Sunday May 4 held at the Little League fields at 4 p.m.

The Lions Club will be selling hot dogs, chips and a drink for \$3 at Desert Tortoise Days on May 3 and 4 at Central Park.

We will have T-shirts for sale again this year and if you are interested in advertising and sponsoring the T-shirts please contact the chamber office at 760-373-8676 for more information.

We look forward to all your support and attendance at Tortoise Days 2014.



Programs

Have you ever wanted to take swimming lessons, learn about digital photography or attend a Summer camp?

Tehachapi Valley Recreation and Park District offers all of those activities and many more at our two community centers, public pools, Ollie Mountain Skate Park, Phillips Marx Central Park, Meadowbrook Park, West Park and in our Youth and Adult Team Sports Programs.

TVRPD now accepting online registrations for programs and classes, so go to TVRPD.org to find out more!

Upcoming Programs/Events Include:

Memorial Day Event – May 26, 2014
Run with the Wind (and under the Sun)– May 31, 2014 (Registration available online now; Race Day Registration starts at 8 a.m., and Race starts at 9 a.m.)

Brew and Grill Fest Needs Barbecue Competitors

Tehachapi, Calif. – The Tehachapi Mountain Brew and Grill Fest is looking for barbecue competitors to compete for cash, prizes and bragging rights on July 19 at the Benz-Visco Sports Park in Tehachapi, Calif.

The festival is looking for teams of four people to compete in Tri-tip, Chicken or Pork categories. Judges will award First, Second and Third place awards with a Grand Champion and the public will choose who they like the best in a People's Choice award. Each team will also get discounted tickets to the event. Entry is only \$75 per team and category.

General admission tickets (\$45)

include lots of beer tastings and barbecue samplings, as well as dinner. VIP admission (\$100) includes a fully catered VIP section, wine, beer and other adult libations. Overnight R.V. parking is available, as well as shuttle service to select Tehachapi area hotels. The event is strictly for those 21 years of age or older.

Tickets and more information are available at: TehachapiBrew.com. The Tehachapi Mountain Brew and Grill Fest will donate a portion of its proceeds to local charities, including Make-A-Wish Foundation, AYSO Region 479 and more. Local vendors are welcome and may register on-site by June 23.

Poker Benefit for BeeKay Theatre

by Kenny Chugg, Tehachapi Community Theatre

Poker players, ante up! Tehachapi Community Theatre is sponsoring a Texas Hold 'em Poker Tournament on Saturday, May 17 at 2 p.m. at the Golden West Casino, 1101 South Union Street in Bakersfield. Proceeds from the tournament will benefit the BeeKay Theatre Expansion Project. Buy-ins are \$100 with a chance for 2 additional re-buys. Top three winners will receive cash prizes!

Tehachapi Community Theatre is raising funds to expand the back of the theatre. Currently there is very little support space for sets and props, or dressing rooms and make-up stations. The space is so limited that when a large cast of actors, dancers or musicians must take to the stage, they must be housed in a borrowed RV behind the theatre when waiting for their entrance or they are crammed on the tiny stage when performing.

This expansion will add 12 feet to the stage and another 12 feet for the actors' dressing rooms. In addition, the expansion will include a fly loft, ticket office and other needed space. The expansion will also benefit others in the Tehachapi area, including Heritage Oak School, Tehachapi Pops Orchestra, Tehachapi Dance Studios and countless others.

Enjoy an afternoon of poker while supporting TCT's fundraising efforts! For information on the buy-in and to reserve your seat, visit www.tctonstage.com/texasholdem.html. Don't play poker but still want to help in this important project? Visit <http://www.beekayexpansion.com/> for the many ways you can help.

Golden West Casino, www.goldenwestcasino.com, GEGA# 000371. Must be 21 to participate in the poker tournament.

Problems gambling?
1-800-GAMBLER (1-800-426-2537)

Kid's Day at the Museum, May 17

To celebrate National Museum Day, the Tehachapi Heritage League is sponsoring "Kid's Day at the Museum." The free event will be held on May 17 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Tehachapi Museum and the Errea House Museum at 300 S. Green St.

All the Tehachapi Museums will be open so that area children can learn about Tehachapi's history and see historical items from the past. Activities for children of all ages will be ongoing with prizes awarded for various contests. Many service groups will be on hand including the Tehachapi Library, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Kern County Sheriffs Department, Scouts, Tehachapi Valley Recreation and Park District and others.

There will be demonstrations of woodcarving, origami, robotics, skateboarding, badge making, and more. Some of the contests for kids of all ages include: hula hoop, basketball hoops, beanbag toss, panning for gold, and scavenger hunts. There will be several antique vehicles on display and our storyteller, Bob Reynolds, will be reading stories for the younger children in the Errea Garden. The kids will prepare freshly popped corn.

Bring the family and don't miss the fun. Down the street, the Railroad Museum at the Depot will also be open, so while you are in the historic downtown area, stop by the Depot on the corner of Green Street and Tehachapi Boulevard. For more information, call the Tehachapi Museum at 661-822-8152.

Windmill & Wildflower Hike, May 10

Join Paul Gipe and Tony Swan for the 29th annual six-mile hike on the Pacific Crest Trail's Cameron Ridge. A carpool leaves Bakersfield for Tehachapi at 7:30 a.m. For more information call Tony Swan at 661-363-5106 or Paul Gipe at 661-325-9590.

PCT 'Clean up the Trash' Day, May 4

by Sam K. White
On Sunday, May 4, I am headed to the PCT trailhead on Hwy 58, Cameron Rd exit. I am inviting intrepid trash picker uppers to meet at the K-Mart parking lot at 9 a.m. Sunday, May 4, to carpool. Bring gloves, a smile, a snack, water, and a desire to make the experience for the PCT hikers pleasurable. Feel good about yourself for doing something good for the environment. Come join me!

Prayer Breakfast, May 1

The Kiwanis Club of Tehachapi 28th Annual Prayer Breakfast will be at St. Malachy Catholic Church McMullan Hall, 6:44 a.m. The speaker will be test pilot Russell O'Quinn. Tickets are available at The Original Apple Shed, 333 E. Tehachapi Blvd.; Witt's, 20437 Brian Way in Old Town; both branches of Bank of the Sierra, 224 West F St. in Tehachapi and 2100 Mission St. in Old Town; and from any Kiwanis member in advance for \$8 or at the door for \$10. For tickets or information, contact Don Bowman at 661-822-5516 or donbowman@att.net. May 1 is the National Day of Prayer, whose 2014 theme is "One Voice, United in Prayer." This year's scripture is Romans 15:6. The non-profit organization National Day of Prayer Task Force plans for "a huge wave of prayer, flowing from one coast to the other."

Train Fun in Tehachapi, April 26 and 27

Trains have been traditional gifts for young and old alike. The Tehachapi Loop Railroad Club would like to share their toys with all of you at their Spring Model Train Show to be held on Saturday, April 26 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, April 27 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Listen to the whistles, bells, huffing and chuffing as you watch the operating layouts in Large Scale, Lionel, HO and N Modules. It's a fun time for the public as well as the modelers. There will also be a promotions and table, featuring gift items for the rail fans in your family: hats, shirts, mugs, pins, patches and more. There will also be a vendor selling train items.

The Lancaster North Western Garden Railroad Club will be joining us with their "G" Gauge layout. We will also have a bake sale.

The show will be held at the West Park Activity Center of the Tehachapi Valley Recreation and Park District at 491 W "D" Street off of Mill Street and, as always **admission is free**. This is wonderful fun for all ages and all the railroaders are anxious to share their passion with everyone.

We will have a raffle for a train puzzle and a six month membership.

For more information call Mike at 661-821-5271 or Linda at 661-822-7777.

Visit Tehachapi Depot Railroad Museum

Free to Public - Open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursdays through Mondays, at the corner of Green Street and Tehachapi Blvd.

TPops Concert, April 27

The Tehachapi Pops Orchestra, 'TPops', will have their first concert of the year on Sunday, April 27, at 4 p.m., at the Grace Fellowship, 326 East Tehachapi Boulevard. Our annual Spring concert is a fund raiser for the Fellowship. For some years Grace has given their hall to us for rehearsals, and this has helped us considerably as we grow in numbers of members and in musical fun.

TPops will present a program featuring a number of exciting new pieces. They include Chuck Mangione's Children of Sanchez, Leroy Anderson's Irish Suite, and a selection from Stephen Schwartz's soundtrack to The Prince of Egypt. TPops continually grows in spirit and range of material. Daniel Musquez, the music teacher at Mira Monte High School in Bakersfield, has been our conductor for a year now; his musical ability and humor have kept our rehearsals challenging and productive. And

this past year has brought us many new members, kids and adults.

In the coming year, we will again play a Fourth of July concert, a Concert in the Park in August, a Christmas Concert in Bear Valley, and for the first time, we'll be playing at the Relay for Life in July!

At intermission we will have a Cake Walk. As the music plays, participants walk from one numbered marker to another, and when the music stops, one number is drawn from a bin, matching the number of the winner. This has become a TPops tradition; kids like it a lot, and adults do too!

TPops is unique to Tehachapi. Anyone who has played or does play an instrument at an intermediate level, and who wants to be in an orchestra, can play with us. The mix of different ages, experiences, and abilities makes for challenge and pleasure. We get to play music!




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What's Up in Stallion Springs?

by Ed Gordon

Stallion Springs Fire Chief Jason Schillinger reminded the residents of the upcoming June 15 deadline for Hazard Reduction at the April 15 Board of Directors meeting.

Board president Dave Burt noted that the CSD is down to only four payments left on both the Police/Administration and Community Center and the Police/Administration buildings.

Payments are made twice a year so both buildings will be paid off in two years.

Police Report

Stallion Springs Police have issued a Scam Alert Reminding residents to not respond to mailed or telephone demands from collections companies, investigate first or file an electronic report with SSPD at www.mysccsd.com.

An officer will contact you as soon as possible regarding your request.

For the month of March the department reported 121 calls for service, 98 officer initiated investigations, three arrests, and two medical assists.

Chief Mike Grant provided a methamphetamine education presentation to the Tehachapi Crime Watch group and a gang education presentation to students at Tehachapi High School.

Grant also provided Terrorism and the Disaster Psychology blocks of instruction to various Tehachapi and Stallion Springs C.E.R.T. groups. Officer Neil also provided additional training to the Stallion Springs C.E.R.T. group.

Sargent Gary Crowell reported that six Citizen Volunteers for the police department have completed training at the Sheriff's Police academy. Crowell also reminded the group the police are dispatched through the Sheriff's department. On 911 calls, you should note that you are in Stallion Springs and non-

emergencies should be reported to Sheriff's dispatch at 661-861-3110 to help expatiate service, so that a record of the call is on file.

Manager's Report

General Manager Mary Beth Garrison announced that the pool will open on Memorial Day weekend.

Staff is beginning to weed all of the mailbox sites and all the easements and roadways will be sprayed. The medallions on the covered bridge will be removed and refurbished in the coming weeks.

The CSD is working with Don Brown, Aquality Consultant, reviewing operation and recommendations for improvements at the waste water plant.

Water use increased significantly in February vs last year, probably due to the unseasonably warm weather. Water users are requested to try to conserve as much as possible.

Upcoming events

Movie Night, Friday, May 2, 7 p.m. at the Community Center a free showing of "Tangled".

Saturday, May 3, Spring Cleanup Day, 8 a.m. to Noon in the CSD parking lot. Acceptable items include bulky items such as washers, dryers, furniture, carpeting, electronic waste, TVs, computer monitors/towers and car batteries. Items not accepted include hazardous waste, construction materials, asphalt, concrete, alkaline batteries, fluorescent tubes, and light bulbs.

Saturday, May 10, Annual Round UP and Flea Market, 8 a.m. 'till Noon sponsored by the POA will be held at the Community Center.

Saturday, May 17, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Houchin Blood Drive at the Community Center.

Saturday, May 31 Stallions Springs 5K Color Run/Walk at the Community Center. Come dressed in white. Registration is \$15 before May 16 and \$20 the day of the event.

Totally Eclipsed

by Mark 'Doc' Fisher

Recently (April 15), we had the first of four total lunar eclipses that are going to occur in the next several months. The media kept calling it a "blood moon", apparently from the red color of the moon when the eclipse was total. I'm not sure when this started to be done. When I was young and we watched lunar eclipses, the Moon turning red was how we could tell the eclipse was total. It was just part of the deal.

The moon has always turned red when there is a total eclipse.

The reason why is because of the Earth's atmosphere. The way a lunar eclipse happens is that the Sun, Earth and Moon line up, with the Earth in between so that its shadow lands on the Moon.

Since the Moon goes around the Earth every month, we have the potential for a lunar eclipse each time, but because the Moon's orbit around the Earth varies up and down some, the Moon doesn't go into the shadow every time. So we only get the eclipse now and then.

The red color is also understandable. It happens for the same reason that sunrises and sunsets give us those amazing colors.

Sunlight, as it passes through the Earth's atmosphere, gets scattered. During the day this scattering is what makes the sky blue. In the evening or early morning, the sunlight is coming through more of the atmosphere. This scatters it more, and we get red skies.

Due to this scattering of the Sun's light, the Earth's shadow, which the Moon enters, isn't completely black. Think about your own shadow. You block the light coming directly from the Sun, but your shadow isn't completely black.

There is still light being reflected from other objects being reflected into the

Lost in the Stars

shadow. The light in the Earth's shadow gets there by refraction – not reflection –, but you get the idea.

Now, since the composition of the Earth's atmosphere changes, the amount of red on the Moon can change, but it has always turned red. However the recent trend of calling a lunar eclipse a "blood moon" seems to be more marketing that science.

Of course calling it that makes it sound ominous. Some folks look to make it a sign of something, and maybe it is. It's a sign of how good our understanding is of how the orbits of the Earth and Moon work. We can predict eclipses years in advance, so that people trying to say that a "blood moon" is a sign of something supernatural don't even pay attention to the fact we know exactly how they happen.

We can still look up at these "blood moons" with just as much awe as cave dwelling humans might have tens of thousands of years ago, but we don't have to feel any fear about it. We can stagger out of our houses at midnight (or whatever time the eclipse occurs), look up and see that once again things have lined up just right, just like we knew they would.

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



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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*.

Cowboy & Cowgirl 'Up'...

By Nick Smirnoff, TMRA

This Sunday, April 27, kicks off the start of the Tehachapi Mountain Rodeo Association season. Sunday is the first of seven rodeos for the year of 2014. This year features two professional rodeo events and five "Junior Rodeo" events.

Sunday brings the first Junior Rodeo event and is for participants up to the age of twenty.

In the Pee Wee Division, Cowboys and Cowgirls will be competing for points in such old time western events as Stick Horse Racing, Mutton Bustin and Dummy Roping to name just a few.

For the Buckaroo, Junior and Senior Divisions, their point gaining events will include Pole Bending, Barrel Racing, Calf Tying, Team Dogging, Steer Riding, and a host of other events.

"Junior Rodeo" is a series of five rodeos, with all points leading toward a sixth and final "Junior Rodeo" held on Sept. 7 with the top

point winners present.

This kickoff rodeo promises to be exciting for participants and the audience as well. All

Tehachapi Rodeos are held at the Tehachapi Event Center and Rodeo Grounds, an official joint venture between the TMRA and the City of Tehachapi. Located off of Dennison Road, adjacent to Highway 58, the gates open at 7:30 a.m. Late entry sign up will commence, following with a Ground Rules Meeting for registered participants at 8:45 a.m. The Grand Entry ride in is at 9 a.m. with the days competition starting right after.

Plan to spend the day. Bring a picnic along with a blanket and coat as backup; after all this is Tehachapi. The TMRA food stand will be open during the day

for beverages and light food.

For additional information go on line to Tehachapiprorodeo.com or visit them on Facebook at Tehachapirodeoassociation. Be sure to see the front page for another photo.



Two and a half year old Bristol Eyraud as she works towards points on her roping skills and Stick Pony Riding, during the 2013 season. Photo by Nick Smirnoff (NPAA).

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The Local Scene

Tehachapi Depot Museum Holds Volunteer Appreciation Event

The Friends of the Tehachapi Depot (FotD) held its annual Volunteer Appreciation Event on Tuesday, April 22, 2014. The theme for the evening was "You Are The Stars That Make The Depot Shine." Each volunteer was recognized and presented with a yellow lanyard imprinted with the words, "You're A Star." Two volunteers, Sunny Fields and Joan Pogon-Cord were presented with one year service pins.

In 2013, over 70 Volunteers devoted 6,547.5 recorded hours of service in various capacities. They served on the Board of Directors, worked on the Monday Crew (that maintains the Depot and the train signals), welcomed and educated the public as General Docents and Cashiers and filled other jobs and responsibilities too numerous to mention.

If that number of hours were multiplied by the minimum wage, it would equal \$47,469.38 and if multiplied by the average amount volunteers are said to have earned if paid for their services,

\$19.15, the total would have been a staggering \$125,384.63. The Depot Museum could not operate without these Shining Star Volunteers. The Event was held at the Museum and

catered by Mill Street Kitchen.

Anyone wishing to become a member of Friends of The Depot or desiring to be a volunteer should call the Depot at 823-1100.

Depot hours are Thursday through Monday, 11:00am to 4 p.m. The Museum is closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Photo provided by FOTD



New Home for Hall Ambulance

Harvey L. Hall –founder and President of Hall Ambulance Service, Inc. – addressed the crowd gathered for the Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening on April 25 at the new facility on Pinon Dr.

Supervisor Zack Scrivner (sitting in left picture) was one of the presenters along with Darrell Stapley, Assistant Manager Ambulance Division and Mayor Pro-tem Susan Wiggins City of Tehachapi and Edward Hill, Director Kern County EMS.



Photo by Sam K. White



Photo by Nick Smirnoff (NPPA)

The new facility has space to park six ambulances under covered storage. Each bay is equipped with power, so each ambulance is fully charged and ready for use.

Halls Maintenance Technician Dennis McGee (pictured bottom), paints in a fresh red safety zone in front of the driveway. Six paramedics and six emergency medical technicians (EMTs), are assigned to POST 11, with a paramedic and EMT pair working each 48-hour shift.

The new facility on Pinon Street once housed the Tehachapi City Fire Dept. The city sold the property to Hall Ambulance for a newer, more permanent facility than the one formerly located on F Street.

Get Back to Eden with Gary Mazzola and Friends

Mother's Day Weekend



Mother's Day Weekend holds a special gift this year! Grab your Mom (or a favorite Mom-sub) and head to the Beekay Theatre for a special musical event with Gary Mazzola and Friends. After last year's quick sellout of his one-night show – "Night of the Crescent Moon" –, Mazzola has added a second showing, so everyone (and their mother) has a chance to experience this extraordinary collection of musicians and original music.

Mazzola, a longtime staple of the Tehachapi music scene, has put together a super-group of the best musicians in Tehachapi for two performances of exceptional entertainment. Joining Gary onstage will be his usual band mates Ken Leiboff on harmonica, Jerry Mulkins on lead guitar, and John Kamplain on bass – with special friends Greg Hahn on drums, Doug Jockinsen on keyboards, Bob Schetter on guitar and Jeff Thorsnes on violin.

Vocalists Gloria Yeager and (co-writer) Joy Gray add their special magic to the lineup with gorgeous voices and contagious energy.

This year's show is titled, "Get Back to Eden." Mazzola says, "Eden can be defined as innocence and bliss. That's what I feel when I play music. It brings me back to that sacred spot where I feel most comfortable and at home. Everyone has that – they just have to find it. So I urge us all toget back to Eden. It's also the title of one of my new tunes."

GM and Friends will be performing several brand-spanking-new-never-heard-before tunes as well as a few favorites from albums gone by. (Mazzola states there will be no repeats from last year's concert.)

Due to last year's quick sell out, get your tickets early! Tickets are \$15 and available on line at www.tctonstage.com. See you there!

Spring is Here and so is the Wildlife



A bobcat sighted in Scott & Christi Friesen's yard. Scott took the photo: "In my yard right now... I'm calling him Robert. Get those squirrels!!"

Spring is here and so are the sheep grazing in the field off Stallion Springs Drive and Banduci Road. Photo by Ed Gordon.

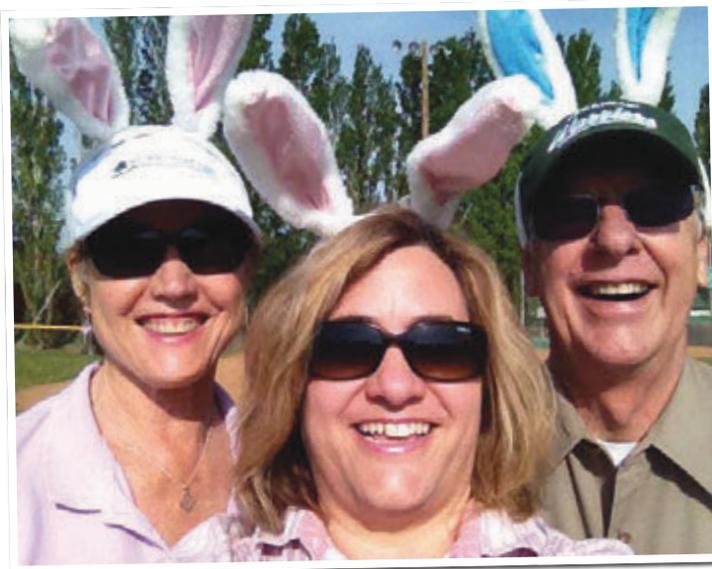


Tide Pools



On April 24, the Parent and Me class (through Tehachapi Valley Recreation and Parks) pretended to be sea anemone. They used their imaginations to explore other creatures commonly found in tide pools and under the sea. Photo by Megan Turk.

Kiwanis Volunteers Help Make Easter Egg Hunt Fun!



Kiwanis helped run the TVRPD's Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 19. Pictured (left to right) are Gail Stewart, Donna Fischman and Dr. Richard Swanson. Kiwanians are all about the kids, so thank you for all you do.

Mountain Festival Theme Winner



"From Native Ways to Current Days" is the theme for the 2014 Tehachapi Mountain Festival®. Thank you Leslie Nuckolls, the winner of this year's Mountain Festival Theme Contest.

Presenting the check to Leslie is Mountain Festival Chairman Carl Gehrcke. Leslie and her husband will be our VIP guest to all events during Mountain Festival, including participation in the parade, tickets

to the rodeo and pancake breakfast, and an Official Tehachapi Mountain Festival® T-shirt featuring her winning theme.

The Mountain Festival theme sets the tone for the entire Mountain Festival. Once the theme is established the logo can be designed. Parade floats are planned based on the theme. The official Mountain Festival t-shirts, posters, brochures, and all advertising bear the official logo.

Fourth Annual Eggstravaganza Winners

The best decorated egg in the recent Eggstravaganza Contest was presented to Silent Wolf (brown egg), who created a 3D outdoor ultra miniature scene in a regular sized egg.

The Youth division had two winners, who tied for First Place - Karina Castillo (purple egg) and Kira Beaudin (white egg). Both presented creative and whimsical eggs.

Voting by the public took place at Gallery 'N' Gifts in downtown Tehachapi. This fourth annual event was sponsored by Tehachapi Valley Arts Association.



Photo by Alejandra Whittier.

The Original Apple Shed to Open After Remodeling

In accordance with the recent change in management the Original Apple Shed Restaurant closed for a few days this past week to do a deep cleaning and total interior re-model. Old flooring was meticulously hand scrubbed, new bathroom fixtures added, new kitchen flooring added and painting done everywhere.

Work was performed by a few local contractors with most all of the restaurant staff members lending a hand.

Work is due to be completed for re-opening early May.

Stop by then and take a look, you may need sunglasses to cut down on the glare, however.

Scullery engineers Michael Butler and Alicia Cleelend hand scrubbed the wooden floors to a sparkling new shine. Photos by Nick Smirnoff (NPPA).



Offering Independent Assisted Living for Seniors



Mulberry Place Assisted Living Community offers a beautiful home-like setting within a residential neighborhood conveniently located in the heart of Tehachapi.

We are dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for our residents. As they age in place, we can easily transition from Independent Living to Assisted Living. Our caring staff has a passion to willingly give of themselves every day and a desire to lend a hand when it's needed most.

We know families have many choices when it comes to finding the best living environment for their loved ones. That's why we are so proud to offer the warm and caring home-like atmosphere of **Tehachapi's Premier Senior Wellness Community of Mulberry Place.**

We encourage you to visit us soon for a complimentary tour! And remember that you saw it on Mulberry Street.

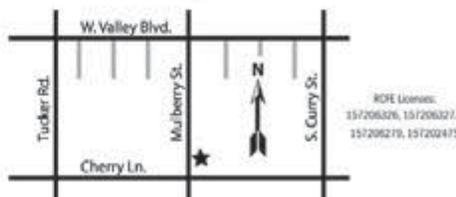


(661) 822-8077

809, 811, 813, 905, 910
Mulberry Street
Tehachapi, CA 93561



www.MulberryPlace.info



Mulberry Memories

Tiffini Hughes, founder of Mulberry Place, is very excited to announce the acquisition of Kathryn Holub as our new Director of Health, Wellness and Activities. Mulberry Place is an assisted living community in the heart of Tehachapi, and we are dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for our residents.

We know Ms. Holub has the experience and dedication to make Mulberry Place an even warmer, home-like atmosphere because she has demonstrated her strengths and capabilities through her positive attitude and willingness to adapt to her new position in such a short amount of time, thus far.

Moreover, Ms. Holub is experienced in a verity of fields in which her performance shines: working with seniors, having a positive attitude, being friendly, and the ability to understand an individuals needs are just some of her qualities. We have confidence in Ms. Holub because we believe she has the ability to fulfill her position by providing the following statement as an introduction to herself and the new community in which she has come to love:

"First, I am privileged to work with the knowledge and extent of care that Tiffini Hughes and her dedicated staff have shown to the residents of Tehachapi at Mullberry. I have experience working with a wide spectrum of ages – children (not just my three, who are now grown), but with school youngsters for most of my

life. I am a medical assistant that retired from The Lawndale Elementary School District and worked in the Health Office as a School Health Clerk for 15 years. With the district I was trained in a variety of medical expertise such as diabetic management because of the rise of diabetes in our youth. Now that I have this position with the elderly, I find that besides the elderly having much wisdom, some revert back to a child-like state, whereas they need guidance and motivation to manage their health. I am energetic, friendly and love to make people just feel better.

"I look forward to energize our residents with fun, activities, dance and just moving about, as the elderly can become sedentary in their later years. As a new Tehachapi resident, I moved here for a variety of reasons, one of which is to live in an area where the people are friendly and my newly beloved community makes sense. This is Kern County, the area I once called home two decades ago. Home has called me back to be here; where I am needed. I'm happy to work Tehachapians and their families, who need guidance in regards to making a difference for our aged people who have much to say and share.

"Thank you for listening to this because after all, health and wellness begins with communication. I'm shooting for the stars, and living in Tehachapi has made me 4,000 feet closer to them."

For more information on Mulberry Place please visit our website at www.MulberryPlace.info for more information.

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Mother's Day Brunch

Seatings at 11am, 1pm and 3pm
\$19.95 Adults - \$15.95 Children under 8

Appetizers

Stuffed Mushrooms - Fried Artichoke Hearts

Entrees

Roasted Prime Rib (Hand Carved) - Baked Lasagne - Tortellini Pesto
Chicken Piccata - Honey Baked Ham - Shrimp Scampi

Accompaniments

Pasta Salad - Antipasta Salad - Fresh Fruit Salad - Sautéed Fresh Vegetables
Yams - Garlic Mashed Potatoes - Rosemary Macaroni and Cheese

Dessert

Mini Cannolis - Chocolate Cake - Apple Pie and more.

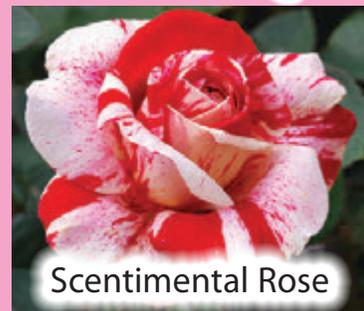


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