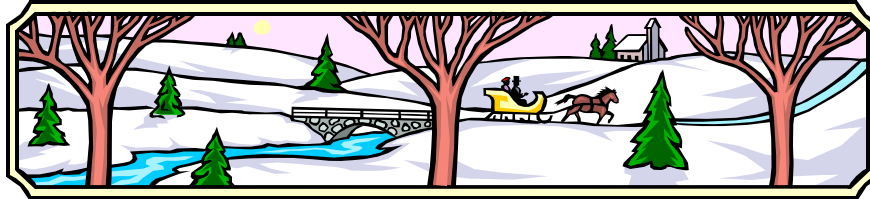


# Camptonville Community



# Courier

[www.camptonville.com](http://www.camptonville.com)

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## The Camptonville Resource Center in jeopardy of closing

By Shirley DickKard

The Camptonville Community Partnership is at a critical crossroads and needs the input and support of people in the community.

*If you come to only one meeting this year, THIS IS IT!*  
The 5<sup>th</sup> Town Hall Meeting will be held Tuesday, February 15, 6:30 pm at the school. We'll provide childcare and refreshments.

At this crossroads we can either say it was a successful ten years and close the door, or we can consider where we have the support and energy to go next. The Resource Center staff and Board of Directors can't do it alone.

It takes a lot of energy to keep things going. We need reinforcements of people and creativity. We need your ideas and enthusiasm. Also, we need ideas for funding. WE NEED YOU to make a difference in what happens! Do we forge new directions or close the door? With your support, the town's non-profit Camptonville Community Partnership can continue to grow our "cutting edge" reputation as "*The Little Town that Could.*"

For information call The Camptonville Resource Center at 288-9355

## Fundraising dinner/silent auction

Please join us at the Camptonville School on Saturday February 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. for fun, food, and fundraising. As you may remember, Greg Parker was seriously injured when a logging truck rolled backward pinning Greg underneath, paralyzing him from the waist down. We would like to help Greg and his family with some of the financial burden they are experiencing.

For your taste buds we will have Patsy Prout's yummy Lasagna, green salad and bread (and of course some decadent dessert) for a \$5.00 donation. For your enjoyment Cathy LeBlanc and Ron Fisher will entertain us with music and there will also be a surprise dance performance. For the competitive, we will have a silent auction.

Please come join in on the fun, and help with a good cause. If you are unable to attend but would like to donate money please contact Rita at the Resource Center 288-9355 or Skip at the School 288-3277.

## “24 hrs. of fun”

By Judy Morris

That's what you get when you are part of **Relay For Life**. What is Relay For Life? It's a Celebration of Life. Relay For Life is American Cancer Society's annual fundraising event.

It's 24 hrs. of games, raffles, food, music, walking, tears, laughter, and memories you will never forget. This event is a chance to honor those friends or family members who have won their fight & survived cancer. To join in all this fun, come be part of Camptonville Buddies team and help raise money for our fight against cancer.

Come to Twilight School, Tue. Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> and find out more about Relay 4 Life and Camptonville Buddies. See the enclosed insert for more information. Call Paula Goodman or Judy Morris @ 288-1228 or email @ [owlsneagles@inreach.com](mailto:owlsneagles@inreach.com) if you have questions or want to sign up. See ya Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>.

## Rubies and Roses

By Rochelle Bell

The weekly contemplation group is off to a good start. It felt good to take a break from our busy hurried world to sit still and explore the riches within us all. When it was over I felt refreshed, like I had a quick nap. We will continue gathering at the 1,2,3 Grow building on Tuesday afternoons at 2:30. Take the afternoon off and join us.

## Forest Landowners

By Rod Bondurant

One of our FireSafe Council members, John Middlebrook, wrote an informative article about fireSafe councils and what they do, which was in the fall issue of the publication of the Forest Landowners of California. This organization exists to help and assist private forest landowners.

*Their mission statement is:*

*“Advance sustainable, science-based management practices to enhance and ensure long-term productivity and beauty of California's private forestlands.*

*Provide access to experienced members and professionals in the fields of forestry, fire protection, product marketing, eco-system management, estate planning, accounting, law and education.*

*Protect the family forest owner from unreasonable regulations.*

*Promote improved marketing opportunities for forest products and recreational and wildlife benefits of forestland.*

*Provide opportunities for family forest owners to meet and share common goals, challenges and interests.”*

Check out their website [www.forestlandowner.org](http://www.forestlandowner.org). There you can learn more about this organization. You might consider joining. You can read online the fall issue which contains several interesting articles along with John's. Also, I enjoyed the humor section of the website.

The Yuba County FireSafe Council meets at 9:30 on the second Wednesday of each month at the North Yuba Ranger Station. You are welcome to attend.

**Published by the Newsletter Committee of the CCSD Auxiliary.**

**Address all correspondence for the Camptonville Courier to:**

**PO Box 32 Camptonville, CA 95922**

**Contact:** Rod or Rochelle 288-3550, or Cathy 288-0913

Your Camptonville Newsletter Committee

Roger Rapp (world correspondent), Cathy LeBlanc, Bob Carpenter, Rod Bondurant, Joan Carpenter, Rochelle Bell, Yana Slade, Judy Morris, and Joel Gomez

## Not until the lion sleeps

By Shirley DickKard

Obi sits at my feet, perplexed. His morning routine has been changed and he doesn't know why. He doesn't know that I am protecting him from being eaten by a mountain lion. He only knows that he is sitting inside watching me eat my toast and coffee when he is usually out in the early dawn making his rounds. With twelve acres to cover, he is impatient to get on with his self-appointed duty of sniffing out the lingering traces of furry wanderers who quietly traversed our property while we were sleeping.

Obi's brown eyes search me for clues, his tail long rhythmically sweeping the carpet. As I lean forward to scan the dim light outside, he immediately heads for the door. "Now? Now?" he seems to say. His long silky ears flop to the side as he wistfully looks outside the window where he would like to be.

"No Obi, not until the lion passes. Not until the sun is up and he has gone." Obi looks at me, but doesn't share my worry. He hadn't heard Rochelle, our neighbor as she breathlessly described watching a mountain lion take down a deer yesterday right on her front steps, then drag the limp carcass through the brush and out of sight. "Cougars are out feeding at dawn and dusk" she warned me. How do you make a dog understand when this is also their nature?

Cougar stories abound in our Sierra Nevada mountain community: blood-curdling screams at night during mating season; big cats who drag large dogs over six foot fences; an older couple who encountered a pride of mountain lions lounging peaceful in their grassy back yard; the sight of a powerful and illusive eight-foot lion briefly illuminated by headlights as it bounded across the highway.

Several years ago I let my old cat Tigger out at dawn. He never returned. All we found were faint prints of enormous cat paws around our pond where Tigger took his morning drink. That week the cougar also took two other neighbor cats, one right after the other. The last time the cougar came right up to the porch where the cat lay sleeping.

Mountain life requires sharing, something we humans don't always like to do. We build our homes across deer migration paths, erect tall fences to protect our vegetables and fruit from bear and deer,

concoct wire cages so that gophers can't get to the garlic first, cage our chickens to thwart hungry foxes, and expect cougars to spare our domestic pets. In time we learn.

"So Obi, not until the sun comes up, not until the lion sleeps. Here, have a piece of my toast and try to be patient with us humans as we learn how to live together with our indigenous land partners."

Note: Got a *Cougar Story* to tell? Let's start a new column in The Courier!



## Celestial Valley Towing

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## Opinions

As a means of fostering meaningful dialogue in our community, the Courier encourages you to present your opinions here. We welcome letters from our readers that are original, thoughtful, and respectful.

We will read and consider all submissions. The decision to print any submission is completely at the discretion of the Courier. We will not publish anonymous letters or those with a pen name or those that we feel are abusive or contain unsubstantiated accusations. Please limit your letter to 500 words or less.

We look forward to hearing from you in letters that provide fresh insight into current topics of local interest.

## Freedom

Winter provides me with the time to reflect on all that has gone by this year and what it means to me, my wife, my children, and grandchild.

This year I learned the true meaning of the value of the liberties that our troops are fighting for in Iraq. Those values which are part of the freedom our president wants to bring to the world. One of those essential freedoms is to be free from governmental interference in our life so long as we are law abiding citizens. Yes, the government must provide for the general health, safety and welfare, but not at the expense of our civil rights.

The presidential election this year, we are told, was determined by the basic concerns about family values. These values, we are also told, were for many based on religious teachings. Now here is where I start to get edgy. I don't want anyone's religious values becoming a part of the political landscape because the next thing you know they are going to be making laws based on those religious (family) values.


Our founding fathers fought for the separation of church and state and the sanctity of our homes as a government-free zone. Today it appears that we have all become too lazy to do our job as parents so we want government to do it for us, which I see as a step on a slippery slope. Or perhaps we are fearful of what will be presented to our children in the way of life style contrary to our values. We should not sacrifice personal choice to fear, or someday our freedom of choice will be sacrificed to government control. Teach your children what is right living and don't give government the power to regulate choices. You can't legislate morality or ethics! It has to live within the person. It has to be taught in the home and house of worship not mandated by legislatures.

Take prayer in the schools. Why do we need that? Prayer should be in the home and the church, synagogue or mosque. Once you bring prayer into the schools the question comes up as to whose prayer. If all religions are equal then shouldn't they all have the same opportunity to be heard in the classroom? The kids would never get work done. Let's keep prayer in the home or religious hall. And the same goes for family values. Let's not bring family values into the political arena in a search for new laws. Religious and family values are personal, something we each carry in our hearts. Let's not seek heavenly solutions for political issues and let's not make heavenly issues into political issues. Let's keep government out of our schools, our homes, and our bedrooms and let us be free and respect the freedom of others to live their lives as they wish in peace this new year.

Joel Shawn

THE FATES LEAD  
HIM WHO WILL  
HIM WHO WON'T  
THEY DRAG

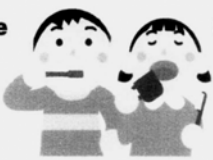
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(Roman philosopher)



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For Parents

- \* Don't let babies fall asleep with bottles in their mouths
- \* Brush your child's teeth and gums daily
- \* Give your child fluoride tablets daily- it's safer, cheaper and better than fillings
- \* Start taking your child to a dentist who sees children at age 2 and every six months thereafter

## The origins of Groundhog Day

By Stephanie Ruff aka Foothillbillie

Tradition states that on Feb.2nd Mr. Groundhog will emerge from his mound - if the sun is shining and he sees his shadow, frightening the little guy, he will return to his home to endure six more weeks of winter. If the weather is cloudy and no shadow seen, we will have an early spring.

This tradition was brought to America by the Germans in the 1700's. Changing it slightly as no native hedgehogs were to be found. So, they substituted with our glorious groundhog. I've read of other cultures using badgers and bears. But the origins of Groundhog Day can be traced back even further to several ancient Celtic festivals such as Imbolc, Candlemas and the feast day for Brigid-the fertility mother goddess of ancient Ireland. She was later to become St. Brigit when Christianity supplanted Paganism as the dominant faith.

Imbolc was a festival meaning "in the belly" or "ewe's milk". This day marked the midway point between winter solstice and spring equinox. We notice the days growing longer, the ground warming and softening for the upcoming planting and sheep are full "in the belly" with their babies. It was a time of rejoicing for the coming of spring. Birth and the renewal of the land, fertility, purification and vitality were celebrated with the sacredness of the fire and the hearth. It was a time for families to make candles for the year's upcoming festivals.

Candlemas was celebrated by the early Christians during this time, also having its origins stemming from Imbolc traditions as a purification ritual for the Virgin Mary. Clergy blessed candles and gave them to the people. In the dark winter a lit candle was put in every window.

Here is an old English saying tying it all together!

If Candlemas be fair and bright,  
winter has another flight.  
If Candlemas brings clouds and rain,  
winter will not come again.

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## The Foreign Broom

By Heather Morrison

Registered Professional Forester #2681

Every year, up and down Highway 49 and throughout California and the western states, the "Broom" advances. On the San Juan Ridge, it has invaded and occupied vast areas, forcing out other plants and increasing the fire hazard.

These invaders are known as Scotch and French broom plants, native to Europe and introduced into the U.S. as ornamental garden plants. Loved for their bountiful yellow flowers produced in the spring, many gardeners unknowingly purchase these plants at local nurseries or stores (yes, they are still sold), even though they are listed as a noxious weed by the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

So why is there a problem with brooms? Exotic plants are listed as the 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest threat to native plants (behind development). It is an aggressive plant, spreading rapidly into stands of native vegetation. Most broom-infested areas create high fire hazards because of the plant's flammability, fuel load (amount of plant material that will burn), and its frequent location on steep slopes. In forest clearings, competition with broom prevents the reforestation of tree seedlings.

The plant is difficult to control as well – plants are hard to pull and if cut down, they re-sprout. Individual plants can produce up to 100,000 seeds which stay viable in the soil for up to 80 years. Fire increases germination rates and thus should not be used as a method for removal. It is easily spread via vehicles (you might notice most areas of infestation are along roadsides), and commonly planted as an ornamental.

So, how can this weed be stopped? One method is containment; keeping an established population of the weed from spreading to non-infested areas. This strategy is especially useful when time and money are in short supply or when the infestation is very large. Another method is reduction; reducing the area covered by a weed, or reducing its dominance. This strategy can also be used against new or established weeds, but it requires more resources and more time than containment. Eradication is the most costly, but removes the

plant completely from an area. It is very important to remember that once a plant is removed, maintenance is extremely important as buried seeds will continue to germinate for many, many years.

For more information on Scotch and French Brooms, control of noxious weeds and other forestry related questions, contact the Forest Stewardship Helpline 800-738-TREE.

*Editor's note: More on Scotch Broom in the "for gardeners" section on our Camptonville.com website*



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## Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

### Sunday Services

10 am Sacrament Service  
 11:20 am Sunday School/Primary  
 12:10 pm Relief Society  
 Young Women / 2hr Primary

Family History Center 288-1420 home 288-3574

Tues 1:30 pm – 5:30 pm  
 Wed 4 pm – 8 pm  
 Other times by appointment

Third Friday at 6:30 pm  
 Potluck Social  
 Everyone is welcome  
 Hwy 49 and Marysville Road, Camptonville

## Courier Classified


Free classified ads. Call 288-3550 to place yours.  
 Free- metal toddler bed with mattress. I am looking for cheap t-posts and fencing materials. Call Stephanie at 288-3512  
 Free: large (it will take 24" wood) insert for a fireplace. In great shape, air tight Call 288-0607  
 Free: Upright Piano, works, you haul. Also, free upright freezer. Call Laurie 288-3414

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# FEBRUARY CALENDAR:

Twilight School	Tuesday, Feb. 8 <sup>th</sup>
Community Discussion	Tuesday, February 15 6:30 pm at the school
Rubies and Roses forum	Continuing Tuesdays, 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm. At the 1-2-3 Grow building at the school
Camptonville Community Partnership	Board meeting Monday, February 28, 4:00pm at the Resource Center.
Food Bank	Third Thursday of each month at the firehall.
Ongoing AA meeting	Sundays, Call 288-9355 for info.

## Volunteer Subscription to Support the Camptonville Courier

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Note: *Mailed subscriptions are for subscriptions outside our delivery area, and the \$10.00 annual fee just covers the expense of mailing. Volunteer subscriptions are funds the readers provide to maintain a local community newspaper.*