

Camptonville Community Courier

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The Snowflake Button

This piece was written in the Winter of 2006 at a Camptonville Writer's Group. The authors are listed in order of the parts they wrote: Jenifer Bliss, Shirley Dickard, Yana Slade and Diane Pendola. It was written spontaneously as a group, each taking ten minutes to write their part.

I was looking through the box, the button box where Grandmother saved all her buttons. There were shoe buttons from Aunt Ethyl's baby shoes, and coat buttons from Grandpa Charlie's P coat that he wore in WWII. But I wasn't interested in those. No, I was looking for the silver snowflake button, polished so that it reflected light like a little mirror.

I lifted it out of the box and looked up at Grandmother who gazed at me with a knowing smile. I held it out and set it into her waiting hand. She walked over to the soft couch near the fire and sat down. I followed, climbing up next to her and snuggling into the comfort of her open arms. She held the button up toward the firelight and I watched as the flames danced over its surface.

"Why did you choose this button, my dear?" Her voice was soft and distant and her eyes glistened in the firelight, matching the dancing flames on the snowflake button. "It's always been my favorite," I said, trying to remember why I would spend so long searching for this particular one. "Do you know where it came from?" she asked, as she peered down into the mass of golden ringlets on my upturned head. "I bought five snowflake buttons to adorn the white silk cape I made to go over my wedding dress, when I married your grandfather. That was just before World War II."

"Your grandfather didn't return. He was lost in a battle early on. I remember opening the door to two army men, come to bring me the news, although I already knew. Your grandfather's spirit came to me

to say goodbye. I awoke one night, filled with dread. Swirling before me was an energy so bright, wrapping its love around me. I knew it was him. And then it disappeared. In my grief, I took my wedding dress apart, sewing pieces of it into every dress or shirt I made – keeping your granddad close to me. As the years went by, cloth fell apart, disintegrating. But the snowflake buttons still reflect the love I have for your granddad."

Snuggling next to my grandmother, into her softness, her warmth, I felt Grandpa's spirit present somehow. It was a familiar presence. And I knew that his presence had been in that snowflake button all along, calling out to me, calling me to place it into grandmother's hands, so I could hear his voice in her story. And – though I didn't know it then – so their story could weave its thread into my own.

Clay Babe-Chic Lotz

See page 4.



Camptonville Buddies & The Season of Giving – HOPE

By Judy Morris

November through January is a special time, when people are giving gifts to loved ones and sharing with others who might need a little help. The CB's invite you to help us provide the Gift of **HOPE** through a donation to the American Cancer Society. We know and understand that the current economic climate has us all cutting back. But people and their loved ones facing cancer need our help now more than ever.

One of American Cancer Society's missions is to continue helping people with cancer and saving lives. Some accomplishments during 2008 were:

~Helping People Get Well: American Cancer Society is helping those affected by cancer make decisions about their care and overcome obstacles in their personal fight. In 2008, they saved cancer patients and their caregivers more than \$18 million in lodging expenses by providing a free place to stay when treatment was needed far from home.

~Finding Cures: American Cancer Society invests in research that yields groundbreaking discoveries of cancer's causes and cures. The recently released "Annual Report to the Nation on the Status of Cancer," led by American Cancer Society researchers, shows that for the first time in 10 years, the rate at which new cancers are diagnosed and the death rates for all cancers combined are decreasing for both men and women.

Relay For Life is celebrating 25 years in 2009. This 24-hour event is truly a life-changing experience. CB's invite you to join us as a team member or donate to the Fight Against Cancer. 'Tis the season to give **HOPE**. Log on to:

www.relayforlife.org/nevadacountyca

and join our team. Help us provide that **HOPE** to a cancer survivor -- it might be a family member, a neighbor, a co-worker or even someone you don't know yet. For more information please call Paula & Judy at 288-1228 or email us at: owlsneagles@inreach.com

Hope is Alive

By Cathy LeBlanc

Hi from a winter wonder world! I'm on vacation until January 5th. This month you may find the Children's Roundtable Report available on-line at www.camptonville.com. Until then here's my two cents for the New Year: It's important to hold a place for hope to manifest. It's a new year with a new U.S. President, a good reason for hope! Hope plants the seeds of intention and intention leads to a path of action. Happy New Year!!!

Haiku

Hawks soar overhead
Seemingly as free as wind
But resting on earth

By Carey Ruff

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Camptonville School Fundraising

By Lynda Jones

Due to cutbacks in funding for our schools, Camptonville School has launched several fundraising projects in our efforts to obtain new equipment and monies to help defray the cost of field trips, etc. for our students.

We are collecting both General Mills "Box Tops for Education" and Campbell Soup "Labels for Education." Collection boxes are located at Rebel Ridge Organics, Lost Nugget Market, and Burgee Dave's as well here at our school.

We are also registered with Save Mart's "Apples for Education" (http://www.savemart.com/pdfs/20080806_Apples_Web_SM.pdf) and their S.H.A.R.E.S. program. (http://www.savemartshares.com/program_highlight_s_php) "Apples for Education" is the simple donation of your Cash Register receipts, for which we would be extremely grateful. Due to an over abundance of schools needing S.H.A.R.E.S. cards we are still patiently waiting to receive ours, but will have them soon to give to those interested in helping our school.

Anyone interested in supporting our school can contact either the school at 288-3277, or our fundraising coordinator Lynda Jones, at 288-3253.

Emergency Assistance Available

Do you know someone who has lost their job, run out of unemployment insurance or is facing a similar crisis and would benefit from some emergency assistance? If so, call the Camptonville Community Partnership at 288-9355. We are here to help our neighbors on a confidential basis.

Heating assistance is also available through the Yuba County Heating Energy Assistance Program also known as "HEAP." Please call them at 671-7590 Mondays & Wednesdays from 8:00a.m.-noon for more information.



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Clay Babe-Chic Lotz

By Stephanie Ruff

Approximately a year ago Chic Lotz and her husband Keith Montgomery moved to Moonshine Road. For those of you who do not know who Chic Lotz is, there is a lot to find out; she is one fabulous potter who has been getting her hands dirty for the past 34 years!

I first met Chic when our oldest son Carey was taking pottery classes at the Potter's Wheel in Grass Valley. That was about twelve years ago. We still have the wonderful pieces he made at her studio.

Chic started creating with clay in college as a hobby. Her area of study was teaching special education, which she did for 5 years before realizing she would rather share her love and skill of working with clay with children. Soon she discovered that kids with learning disabilities greatly benefitted from the classes. These lucky children learned focusing and fine motor skills by creating with clay.

Chic opened the Potter's Wheel in 1993. It was a pottery studio with a gallery in the front and a large classroom in the back. Many children and adults learned different aspects of pottery from hand building to working clay on the wheel. When Chic closed the doors to the Potter's Wheel in 2001 the loss was felt, especially by the children.

In 2003 the Nevada County Board of Supervisors, feeling this loss, opened the Mud Hut to fill the void. Classes for home schooled children and after school programs were soon actively attended. Chic's presence in the clay studio was greatly appreciated. Her teaching hours have subsided a bit, as she is currently writing a book on clay glazes that is projected to be published in a year.

Recently Chic has been involved in a new clay endeavor: the "Clay Babes." When asked about the Clay Babes she told me that about a year and a half ago she attended the California Clay Convention in Davis, where she learned a tip from one of the speakers: form a critique group if you want to get really good. She talked with her clay cronies and Clay Babes was born. The group consists of eleven women who gather to critique one another's work. Another Moonshine resident, Linda Rose, is also a member. The Clay Babes recently had an art gallery opening at the Center for the Arts in Grass Valley.

Chic has been well known for her wheel work, making all kinds of wonderful dining wares. A few years ago while working on the wheel she had a mishap and the vase she was working on ended up looking like a bird. This opened a whole new creative vein for her, and she

has since delved into more hand built sculpture. Angels and birds are now flowing from her fingers.

Chic is still interested in teaching small intimate pottery classes. Children learn to make all kinds of animals, dragons, and castles. She is open to teaching adults also. She would like input on what types of classes locals are interested in taking. You can email her at chic@potterypoet.com with suggestions. Her website is www.potterypoet.com.



Smile Secret tip #6

Baby Teeth are very important.

Children need their teeth for;

Smiling, Talking, and Eating

The Whole family must help take care of teeth.

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Yuba River Ranger District

by Betty Leffew

For up-to-date information on the status of the snow trail system, feel free to call the ranger station. We have plenty of the free Winter Recreation maps. Come in and pick one up and enjoy some winter fun.

Campgrounds continue to be in winter status: no services, no fee.

Burn permits are no longer needed for dooryard burning. You still need to check the Department of Air Quality for burn day status. During business hours, call the Yuba River Ranger Station for burn status information. After hours or on weekends please call the appropriate county:

Sierra County
289-3662

Nevada County
274-7928

Yuba County east of Bullards Bar
(Camptonville) 289-3662 or 274-7928

Yuba County west of Bullards Bar
741-6299

As of December 18th we had 9.09 inches of precipitation, with .50 from December. We got a good bit of snow from during the last storm systems. Last year at this time we had 13.03 inches of rain. More snow is expected this month. Please be very careful out there!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to one and all!

State Visitor Helps 123 Grow

By Birdsong Sundstrom

Just before holiday break, Lee Ann Shaffer of California Community Care Licensing paid a visit to 123 Grow and confirmed that we are allowed to operate as a license-exempt program under Section 101158(11)(a, b) of Title 22, the law that governs operation of child care centers. She was also helpful to us in looking over our existing location and making suggestions about getting licensed, should we choose to become a full service child care facility. The only issue she found that we would need to resolve was that of having two dedicated classrooms, one for infant/toddlers and one for preschoolers, in order to be granted a license.

We shared with her CCP's plan to survey our community in January to determine what needs for childcare, preschool and other community services exist besides those of parents who can stay on campus with their children while they participate in 123 Grow. Please be watching for that survey in your mailbox, and remind your friends to fill theirs out as well. We will be including a stamped return envelope, to make sure we get as many responses as possible.

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News from the School Board

By Ruth Schwartz (Rocky's mom)

Besides the routine oversight that the school board brings to school policy and to finances, it has the responsibility to get input from parents and the community. At our December meeting we had a number of parents and community members and county personnel present for a lively meeting. In response to this input, the board has a consensus to have an open discussion of issues concerning students.

The next school board meeting will include a discussion about the possible creation of a homework policy. Community, parent and staff input is encouraged. Please plan to attend on Wednesday, January 14th at 6:30PM in the school library.

In other news a Title 1 and GATE program parent involvement meeting happened early in the month. Katie did an art project for kids and parents. If you get a chance to attend the next planned evening or afternoon enrichment program, you really should. Watch for news of the next date.

Usually the Yuba Feather Lions Club in Dobbins brings Christmas presents to the students of our school but this year they found themselves a little short on cash... So our Club Live kids (Grades 6-8) decided to take some of their earnings (\$200!) and donate it back to The Lions Club. What great kids we have! Ho Ho Ho!

Mr. Kelly is getting ready to sell off some of the school's older, but still working, computers for \$20 each. If you are interested please contact Mr. Kelly at the school: 288-3277.

I've been mentioning that a few of our board members are ready to retire and one is already setting that date. We need new members for this board. If the parents of our school don't do it, will it be done by people in Marysville? We don't want that, do we? Besides, what a great opportunity to oversee the direction of the school in these changing times. It is a once a month commitment. Can you do it? Yes, you can. Call me. Or better yet, come to the next board meeting (Jan. 14 at 6:30) and check it out.

Ruth 288-0816
 Happy New Year
 ruth@vandermeer4.com



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Election 2008

By Rod Bondurant

How does our opinion compare with the rest of the world?
 Compiled by Rod Bondurant, with thanks to our District 5 supervisor Hal Stocker for sending me the info.

President	State total	C'ville total
Barack Obama (Dem)	8,063,473	178
John McCain (Rep)	4,902,278	136
Alan Keyes (AI)	39,620	2
Cynthia McKinney (Grn)	37,432	3
Bob Barr (Lib)	65,654	2
Ralph Nader (P&F)	105,375	5

Obama got 61% statewide and 54% locally.

Propositions	State	C'ville
1A Safe, Reliable High-Speed Train Bond Act	YES	NO
2 Standards for Confining Farm Animals	YES	YES
3 Children's Hospital Bond Act. Grant Program	YES	NO
4 Parent Notif. Before Terminating Minor's Pregnancy	NO	NO
5 Nonviolent Drug Offense. Sentencing, Parole, Rehab	NO	YES
6 Police, Law Enforcement Funding. Criminal Laws.	NO	NO
7 Renewable Energy Generation	NO	NO
8 Eliminates Right of Same-Sex Couples to Marry	YES	NO
9 Criminal Justice System. Victims' Rights. Parole.	YES	YES
10 Altern. Fuel Vehicles and Renewable Energy Bonds	NO	NO
11 Redistricting	YES	YES
12 Veterans' Bond	YES	YES

Regarding the different opinions:
 Prop 1A vote: state 53% yes C'ville 55% No
 Prop 5 bigger difference: state 60% No, C'ville 52% Yes
 Prop 8 close: state 52% yes, C'ville 51% No

Camptonville turnout: 427 registered, 329 voted or 77%. WOW!

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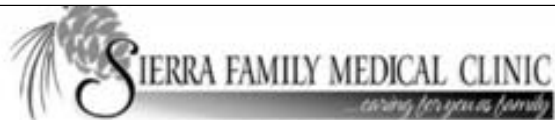
Club Live Kids

Steve Kelly is the Superintendent at Camptonville School. He advises the school's Club Live organization. Recently the kids decided to donate money they raised to the Yuba Feather Lions Club of Dobbins in appreciation for all the years the Lions have donated Holiday gifts for Camptonville school kids. Steve was so proud of them he sent us the accompanying letter the students wrote to the Lions, for publication here:

December 9, 2008

Dear Lions Club,

Camptonville School students want to thank you again for your generosity over the years in bringing us presents every Christmas. During the year, Club Live puts on various fundraisers such as bulb sales, craft fairs, dances, talent shows, rummage sales, etc. Because of the generous support of our local community, Club Live would like to donate this money (\$200) to the Lion's Club. Merry Christmas!!!



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Local Poets?

The courier staff would love to print poetry from local writers. Please send your poems or very short stories to:

camptonvillecourier@hughes.net.

You may also mail them to the Camptonville Courier PO Box 32 Camptonville, Ca. 95922. Our deadline is the 20th of each month. We look forward to your contributions.

Welcome Tari and Rovillia, new proprietors of Rebel Ridge Store!

By Carey & Roy Ruff

Sisters Tari and Rovellia, are the new proprietors of Rebel Ridge Store!

This local market has seen a lot of changes over the years. According to Tari and Rovellia, who also operate *Pioneer Pasties* and are long-time members of the community; we can look forward to several innovative and exiting new changes. Pioneer Pasties has supplied Casey's in Alleghany and others with delicious pasties for several years, and the two have plans to offer more prepared foods such as pasties and sandwiches on the premises, as well as having a table and chairs to sit and eat. While they are still waiting for their tobacco license to be approved, beer and wine is now available again and the staff have all been certified to dispense propane so that is back on sale now too. They will continue rebuilding inventory with an emphasis on what locals want stocked. They encourage members of the community to stop by and let them know what you would like to see offered. They intend on continuing to offer many organic and natural foods and also say they will continue the tradition of local events such as the Saturday growers markets in summer and the Rebel Ridge Days/Fireman's Picnic taking place at the large field adjacent to Rebel Ridge Store. They would also like to expand the repertoire of events. One thing which won't change in the "New" Rebel Ridge Store is the familiar face of Jan Jero, who has worked in the store since 1980. Be sure to say hi to Rovellia, Tari and Jan any time. The new number for Rebel Ridge Store is 288-3560.

And a big thanks to Denise Stratton for operating the store for the last two years!

Courier Classified Ads

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Chicken Chronicles

By Stephanie Ruff

After the big snow storm hit I realized I had not removed the sun tarp I had hung by the hen house to give the girls some relief from the heat. When I went out to check on them there was a foot of snow on the tarp and it had fallen in front of their little door. The tarp had been tied to the fencing and the hen house-the weight of the snow pulled down some of the fencing and pulling out some of my hardware cloth ventilation. We had to dig the poor girls out! Roy and Liam put up the storm windows as well for extra warmth!

I want to stress the importance of winter care for your chickens in this article as we seem to be having a lot of cold weather this winter. Chickens deal with cold weather better than the high temperatures of summer. But there are still a few things you need to be aware of.

First of all, check water several times a day to make sure it is not freezing. If you live at higher elevations you may have a problem with freezing water and may have to get one of those poultry water heater doo-dads. Check the feed stores for them. You can purchase them online as well. Food needs to stay dry as moldy food can be deadly to poultry.

Housing must be neither damp nor drafty. Make sure you have ventilation as well, as moisture will build in the house. Combs and wattles may freeze easier when the hen house is damp. The moisture in the air absorbs body heat causing your poultry to become very cold. Keep the bedding dry!!!

Did you know chickens are susceptible to frostbite? Especially roosters as they don't sleep with their heads tucked under their wings as hens do. Pale and discolored combs and wattles are the first sign of frostbite. You are lucky if you catch it while still frozen. Apply a warm (not too hot) wet cloth to the affected area until thawed. Do not rub! It's a good idea to apply an antibiotic ointment to the affected area and separate the bird from the rest of the flock until healing is complete. Isolation is important as the other chickens may peck the infected areas making matters worse.

If you find your poor chicken after the affected area has already thawed, the combs and wattles will look swollen, red and feel hot to the touch. Your bird may act sick and be in pain. Listlessness, loss of appetite and general malaise are also symptoms. If thawing has occurred you will not need to apply the warm cloth. Be sure to isolate the chicken, apply the antibiotic ointment and keep the bird warm. Keep a watchful eye! The affected area may scab, peel, become oozy and may even fall off.

Infertility can also occur. Gangrene has set in if the infected area has become black. Unfortunately, surgical removal may be needed at this point.

Fortunately, there are some preventative measures to ward off frostbite. Applying petroleum jelly or bag balm to wattles and combs may be helpful. A heat lamp may be necessary if you live in real cold areas. Extreme caution is advised as fire may occur if not done properly. If frostbite is a problem you might consider choosing breeds that have the flatter rose combs as they do not freeze as readily. Wyandottes are just one example of the rose comb breeds. For those of you who raise chickens I strongly suggest the book: *The Chicken Health Handbook* by Gail Damerow. This book has a wealth of information dealing with the care of your chickens. I credit this book for much of my information.

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Haiku

Dust settles slowly

Across that Dark Lonely Road

And I travel on

By Carey Ruff

ANCIENT NEW YEARS

The celebration of the new year is the oldest of all holidays. It was first observed in ancient Babylon about 4000 years ago. In the years around 2000 BC, the Babylonian New Year began with the first New Moon (actually the first visible crescent) after the Vernal Equinox (first day of spring).

- The beginning of spring is a logical time to start a new year. After all, it is the season of rebirth, of planting new crops, and of blossoming. January 1, on the other hand, has no astronomical or agricultural significance. It is purely arbitrary.
- The Babylonian New Year celebration lasted for eleven days. Each day had its own particular mode of celebration, but it is safe to say that modern New Year's Eve festivities pale in comparison.
- The Romans continued to observe the New Year in late March, but their calendar was continually tampered with by various emperors so that the calendar soon became out of synchronization with the sun.
- In order to set the calendar right, the Roman senate, in 153 BC, declared January 1 to be the beginning of the New Year. But tampering continued until Julius Caesar, in 46 BC, established what has come to be they did or known as the Julian Calendar. It again established January 1 as the New Year. But in order to synchronize the calendar with the sun, Caesar had to let the previous year drag on for 445 days.

FOR LUCK IN THE NEW YEAR:

Traditionally, it was thought that one could affect the luck they would have throughout the coming year by what ate on the first day of the year. For that reason, it has become common for folks to celebrate the first few minutes of a brand new year in the company of family and friends. Parties often last into the middle of the night after the ringing in of a new year. It was once believed that the first visitor on New Year's Day would bring either good luck or bad luck the rest of the year.

It was particularly lucky if that visitor happened to be a tall dark-haired man.

Traditional New Year foods are also thought to bring luck. Many cultures believe that anything in the shape of a ring is good luck, because it symbolizes "coming full circle," completing a year's cycle. For that reason, the Dutch believe that eating donuts on New Year's Day will bring good fortune.

Many parts of the U.S. celebrate the New Year by consuming black-eyed peas. These legumes are typically accompanied by either hog jowls or ham. Black-eyed peas and other legumes have been considered good luck in many cultures. The hog, and thus its meat, is considered lucky because it symbolizes prosperity. Cabbage is another "good luck" vegetable that is consumed on New Year's Day by many. Cabbage leaves are also considered a sign of prosperity, being representative of paper currency. In some regions, rice is a lucky food that is eaten on New Year's Day.

This article was taken from the website:
<http://wilstar.com/holidays/newyear.htm>



This is where I belong

This is where

I belong

In the swaying

Pines and gnarled oak

That move

So gently in the wind

By Liam Ruff

January Calendar:

School Board
CCSD
Yoga
Food Bank

Wednesday Jan. 14th, 6:30 PM in the school library
First Monday of the month, 7pm at the Camptonville School
Tuesdays 5:15 pm at Camptonville School
Third Thursday at the Lake Francis Grange, Dobbins

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Contributions are welcome, please address letters to the editor, classifieds, comments or potential articles to:

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