

# Camptonville Community Courier

www.camptonville.com



April 2009

Circulation 515

Vol. 13 No.4

## Red Tail Rescue

By Shirley Dickard

The Red Tail Hawk was hunched over by the side of Moonshine Road when Ross and Tristan Trotter spotted it. It was fluffed up and droopy. Over the next few hours they, along with Debra Foote, myself, and a volunteer from Wildlife Rehabilitation & Release tried to save it. The on-call rescue person, Donna, gave us instructions and reassurance over the phone, though we weren't too sure about covering the raptor with a blanket and putting it into a box, especially since it had tumbled its way down the river bank. But we did - thanks to brave Ross. Donna met us by the bridge and we transferred the bird to her care, filled out some paperwork, and wished the hawk well.

We're lucky to have the Wildlife Rehabilitation & Release center nearby in Penn Valley. It's a non-profit with trained volunteers who last year released 900 animals back to the wild. If you come across an injured or orphaned bird or animal you can call them at **432-5522** for help and advice. Their website [www.cawildlife911.org](http://www.cawildlife911.org) also has information.

Note: I called the next morning and found out that the hawk didn't make it. It wasn't injured, but it did look emaciated, like it hadn't eaten -perhaps sick, old, or poisoned?

How to Help an Injured or Orphaned Animal:  
From the Wildlife Rehabilitation & Release  
Brochure

1. Call **530-432-5522** as soon as possible to make arrangements to transfer the animal to the experienced rehabilitators at Wildlife Rehabilitation & Release.
2. Keep the animal in a warm, dark, quiet place.

3. Put a small bird or animal into a paper bag with paper towels or cloth in the bottom for stability and warmth. Larger animals can be put in a cardboard box with a top.
4. Please do not attempt to feed or give water, as inexperienced "help" can be fatal.
5. Not all animals really need help. Do not remove a young animal from its surroundings unless you know that its mother is dead or the animal cannot fend for itself.
6. Well-intentioned people often "kidnap" young wildlife without realizing mothers often leave their babies alone for up to 4-6 hours. Make sure the parent has had time to reclaim its young, with no people around.

If you want to make a tax-deductible donation, mail to WR&R, PO Box 868, Penn Valley, CA 95946, or visit [www.cawildlife911.org](http://www.cawildlife911.org)



*Donna, the Rescue Person, with an injured hawk*

## Easter Egg Hunt!

Please join us for the Camptonville Easter Egg Hunt!

Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM to Noon, at the Rebel Ridge Market.

Fun, Food, Games, Prizes, and an Easter Bonnet Contest!

For information call Georgette (288-3429)

OR;

Tari and Rovillia (288-3650)

Bring a kite!

Donations are welcome!

Weather permitting.

## Update on Local Transportation Survey:

By Cathy LeBlanc

Well some folks in Camptonville are interested in using public transportation for a variety of reasons, ranging from doctor appointments to seeing a movie. I have received nine surveys back. If you want to fill out a survey or are still holding on to one please contact Cathy at the Camptonville Resource Center 288-9355.

Per request, collected information will be presented to Sierra Public Transit as soon as a meeting is set, to see if Camptonville can "hitch a ride" on their van when space allows. This is still in the preliminary stages as we have yet to formally present our ideas to the transit board. I'll keep you informed of our progress.

## Broadband Update

By the Camptonville Resource Center

In a phone conversation Susan De Lisle (staff at the Camptonville Resource Center) spoke with a representative of Digital Path regarding the recent progress in getting high speed Internet in our area. She was informed that during the last two weeks about 20 Camptonville residents have had the service installed. The cost is \$250 for installation with monthly charges ranging from \$39.95-\$49.95 depending on the plan. Currently in order for Camptonville residents to take advantage of this service, they must be in direct line in sight of Oregon Peak. Digital Path is looking for additional repeater locations to broaden service to more residents. For more information you may contact Dennis Bell at 1-800-676-PATH or [info@digitalpath.net](mailto:info@digitalpath.net) or write him at 2755 Airpark Blvd Suite 500 Chico CA 95973.

## Breaking News!

By the Editors

The Ruff family has been offered the job of Executive Editor of the New York Times. The family has recently returned from the "Big Apple" where they met and interviewed with current Editor Bill Keller. Mr. Keller was pleased with the family's enthusiasm and especially liked their small town attitude which he feels would bring a fresh new outlook to the nation's largest newspaper. Mr. Keller has been with the N.Y. times since 1984 and is seeking early retirement so he can fulfill his life long dream of sailing around the world while he still can. See page 13 for further details.

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## POTHOLES IN MY ROAD

By Robert Mumm, 2009

Thunder breaks the sky in mighty clap  
while snow comes to grace the mountain cap  
It is then that mighty dragons leave their deep abode  
to brew dark beer in the potholes in my road  
Then well into their cups they wheeze and roar  
with scaly tails they whip the trees and call for more  
Like peanuts with their beer  
they gobble up the filler stones and burp and sneer  
These stones that we have placed to fill the holes  
are gone again as dragons take their toll

Then as dragons watch with bleary lustful eye  
storm clouds do bawdy dances in the sky  
In such a wild party these dragons do partake  
dragon jinks is all they wish to make  
Pothole beer is to blame  
for drunken dragons know no shame  
Perhaps it could be my aim  
to pave my road in concrete and spoil their game  
Then too there are other things I MIGHT DO  
I could snare a small dragon beast and make a stew

Hear that you smirking dragons  
there are more ways to fix your wagons  
But never mind I hear that dragon stew is nasty stuff  
and dragon scales are awful tough  
So when all the rain and snow have given pause  
I will haul more stone to fill the holes as is my cause  
For it is a smooth road that is my wish  
too bad you think as good host I fill your party dish  
Party on dear dragons snort and wheeze  
just remember this , your beer can freeze

## News from the School Board

By Ruth Schwartz

David Brown gave his letter of resignation to the board in our March meeting. The board would like to thank David for his many years of service and wishes him well with future endeavors. Good luck Dave!

The board also received one letter of interest for a new interim board member to fill in for the duration of Dave's position. All community members are encouraged to submit letters of interest by our April meeting. It is important that we notify you of this

opening and welcome as many new interested people as possible. If you have any questions about how to do this, please do not hesitate to contact me.

In other news, we received our mid year budget report. Along with all California school districts, we are faced with reduced funding due to statewide cuts. While the board hasn't had an opportunity to review all spending, the board did decide, based on these current numbers that we are able to keep the current staffing through the 2009/2010 school year.

You are welcome at each and every board meeting to find out how money gets spent and how policies are made. You are also welcome to bring any input to the board. It is important that the school board hears from parents and community members. Be involved. Oh yeah... join the board.

This meeting is at 6:30 in the school library on April 22nd. (A week late due to spring break.)

Call me any time!

Ruth Schwartz

288-0180

ruth@vandermeer4.com

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## Jessi's Garden

By Jessi Wilcox

Spring has sprung! Let's start getting our hands dirty. The weather during the month of April can either be beautiful and forgiving, or the worst month we've seen all winter here in Camptonville, so take advantage of the glorious days and get out in your garden.

All winter those obnoxious weeds have been waiting to sprout, and now that spring is here they will come in strong, so stay on top of them. Don't let them colonize. Get rid of them and then mulch heavily over the area. Cardboard works great in areas that are going to be planted in the near future or wood chips on the areas that will not be planted, such as pathways or in between rows. Weeding is always a good afternoon project, before you go in for the evening, even if it's for 10 minutes. Every little bit stops the colonization.

If you planted cover crops in fall, you'll see that they are growing now, and will really start growing with a week or so of warm weather. So, be patient with this, you want as much green growth out of your cover crop as possible. All that green growth is organic matter for your soil, but it does need 4-5 weeks to fully decompose. Decomposing is important; as organic matter is breaking down in the soil it is using the nitrogen in the soil to do so. You want it pretty well done decomposing before you plant, or the young plants will not have as much nitrogen available to them, due to it being held up in the decomposition cycle. Lots of available nitrogen is important during the vital growing months of May and June. So, either till or dig under your cover crop 4-5 weeks prior to planting. If it is starting to go to seed, enjoy the flowers for a couple of days and then turn it into the soil.

Work up the soil in the areas where you want to plant all your early season crops, like greens, lettuces, brussel sprouts, etc. Adding an adequate source of nitrogen is always good for these leafy green crops. Plant these crops in early to mid April, when the temperature is still cool.

If you want to know exactly what your soil is lacking, bring a sample in to us, we can do a soil test for you and let you know what to add.

Rebel Ridge Organics is very busy right now getting things ready for your gardens. We will be attending the plant sale in May with a huge variety of organic starts. We have over 15 varieties of tomatoes, a good variety of peppers, herbs, flowers, etc. A selection of greens and early crops are available now. We are getting ready to start all the other seeds, like corn, cucumbers, beans, squash, tomatillos, pumpkins, watermelons, eggplant, etc. These will all be available for sale at Rebel Ridge Organics as well as the plant sale.

Just a few notes to keep in mind: We have bulk compost coming soon, and we are trying very hard to set up a compost tea brewing station where you can buy freshly brewed compost tea by the gallon. We are changing our hours; we will be open on **SUNDAYS** for April and May!! We will be open Sunday, Monday, closed Tuesdays, Wednesday through Saturday, ALWAYS 9-5.

Thanks so much and enjoy your gardens.  
*"Good for the environment, great for your health - garden organic!"*

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## C Ville CoOp

By Carol Holland

It's April and that brings the beginning of work in the garden. The winter's mess needs to be cleaned up, the lawn fertilized, and then there is the castor oil to keep down the gophers and moles. Oh my, gotta do something with the veggie fence that fell during winter or the deer will eat my veggies! The deer! Oh man, better pick something up at Rebel Ridge Organics to keep the deer away! Then there is all the wood that will need to be gathered for NEXT winter and it starts all over again!!! Scheesh...How will I ever get all this done?????? I know! I'll call the CoOp!! The extra hands will help a LOT! And it's FREE!!

If you don't already belong to our wonderful coop...you need to! It is simply a trading of points for work done. No money involved and it is the community helping the community! Call me for any questions or to join up. 288-3558

## Update: ARRA 2009

Cathy LeBlanc

While on a recent statewide conference call with Steve Stabner of CommunityChange.org regarding the ARRA (American Revitalization & Recovery Act) I learned:

The ARRA has made available \$787 billion in spending & tax cuts to limit the depth of the current recession. The goal is to get cash to families and the focus is on transportation infrastructure and healthcare. This piece of legislature does not include one pot of money but many different pots going to states and localities to benefit low-income folks by creating jobs. It should be used as a resource for funding streams. Where and what folks get as far as local jobs and funds will require a local effort to reach out proactively.

Provisions require state government to take action for programs under this Bill. Example: Increase food stamps in 30 days or unemployment extensions or improved benefits. \$13.5 billion of that money is obligated. This means, state government has a period of 6 months to start jobs under this funding allotment or wait for the second half to be obligated in the second six months.

The biggest pot of money is in transportation: \$27 billion highway funding (not for big start-up projects) for maintenance at state and local levels. We must think about work for the people in our community with these projects -- 80% goes to local government. CalTrans: state & local contractors are obligated to look at local community for work force. (Example: trails, bike lanes, jobs for locals, youth work force/WIA, USFS, etc.)

During the first 100 days we must put pressure on elected officials, saying we want our share locally. We know what's in the package & how it can be used. People need to monitor the state's implementation at a local level. Advocates need to help insure low-income folks get the benefit of this money, i.e. jobs!

On that note I have contacted County Supervisors (749-7510) asking them what are Yuba County's plans for ARRA. I let them know I was disturbed to find out that neither Yuba County nor Marysville took advantage of increased Federal allocation to the Community Development Block Grant from Housing and Urban Development. This funds many of the local programs and services for Yuba County. Under this ARRA funding Yuba City was able to increase their grant by \$148,487. Sadly, Yuba County was not alone. Nevada, Sierra and Butte Counties did not apply either. I am trying to find out WHY.

Our Community Development Services Department which (administers the CDBG) does offer programs and services to county residents. For more information you may go to:

[www.co.yuba.ca.us/Departments/CommunityDevelopment/CommunityServices/](http://www.co.yuba.ca.us/Departments/CommunityDevelopment/CommunityServices/)

or phone: 749-5460 [dphilips@co.yuba.ca.us](mailto:dphilips@co.yuba.ca.us)



## Yuba River Ranger District By Betty Leffew

We have had a lot of rain the last few days. The rivers are high and moving fast. Great for kayaking! Please use caution. Here are some updates:

- Bullard's Bar will open April 15.
- Campgrounds along Hwy 49 will open April 25
- Opening weekend of fishing season April 25

Fuel wood season opens mid May on the Tahoe National Forest. Permits can be purchased at any ranger station or by mail. Permits will be sold through November. In general, the permit allows removal of dead and downed wood on TNF system lands, but not on private land

Dooryard burn permits are due May 1. You can pick up one at the ranger station Monday through Friday. You still need to check with the Department of Air Quality or the ranger station for burn day status. During business hours, call the Yuba River Ranger Station. After hours or on weekends please call the appropriate county:

Sierra County:  
289-3662

Nevada County:  
274-7928

Yuba County east of Bullard's Bar (Camptonville)  
289-3662 or 274-7928

Yuba County west of Bullard's Bar  
743-1189

Rainfall for March 2009 was 6.86 inches as of March 20, bringing our season total to 37.95 inches. Last years total was 39.71 inches.

## On Returning Home

By Shirley DickKard

I watched the Osprey male slowly circled the pine snag, and by evening he had enticed his mate to join him. They had returned to their Moonshine Road tree from their winter grounds the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in March, right on schedule.

Two neighbors, Ross and Rod, called me with the excitement of having seen the return of the ospreys. "I know the feeling" Ross told me, comparing their homing instinct with his return to Camptonville to live after a long absence. We also see Camptonville kids who left and are now returning home to live and raise their own families.

It got me to thinking. Do we all have a homing instinct? What is it about "going home" that holds such a deep-felt longing? Even if childhood memories weren't so good, I think there's still a yearning for the feelings of welcome, safety and familiarity that "home" brings. I feel it in my breast as I drive up my driveway after being away. Or the long heart-to-heart embrace after being reconnected with someone I love. There's also a sense of returning home at both ends of our lives - we hold newborn babies snugly to give them a sense of love and security, and at the end of life, we hear of a longing to "return home." The return of the Ospreys reminds me that it's a deep well that calls us home.




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## Camptonville VFD Chief's Report

By Lee Brown

My name is Lee Brown, and I am the new Chief of the Camptonville Volunteer Fire Department. Our Department is continuing to grow, with 16 volunteers at the present time. Four of our volunteers are undergoing EMT Training, something that will add greatly to the Emergency Services provided by the Fire Department. Others have just completed the Basic 32 class, which provides training in wildland fires, a very serious concern here in Camptonville. I believe 2 or 3 of our volunteers were taking both classes at the same time, a huge academic undertaking. Two are in the First Responder class, which is advanced medical care. We are committed to making this Department one all of you can be proud of.

The much needed finishing touches to the station on Mill Street are underway. Once all the work is done, we plan on having an Open House. A considerable amount of the labor and materials have been donated by townspeople, some of whom are volunteers with the Department. This has reduced the overall cost considerably. Thanks to all of those who have helped in this effort.

The Department recently purchased a 4,000-gallon Water Tender, which is currently being fitted with emergency lights and radios. Members of the Department are also doing this work. When done, this vehicle will give us much needed support at fires, especially wildland fires. It has the potential to make us some money by being used on Forest Service calls.

Since July 1, 2008, the Department has had 39 calls. Here is a break down on the types of calls we have had:

- Medicals-18
- Vegetation Fires-5
- Vehicle Accidents-11
- Structure Fires-1
- Vehicle Fires-1
- Landing Zones-2 (Set up LZ for helicopter)
- Standby/Assist-1 (a power line down)

Six of the calls were Mutual Aid given to Pike City, North San Juan, and Downieville.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank Chief Mark Jokerst of Pike City, for running our Department from July to December of last year. His efforts greatly improved our Department. We have gone from approximately 3 volunteers to the present 16. He continues to help us in many ways, such as training and responding to medical calls. Thank you very much, Mark!!

## 123 Grow

By Birdsong Sundstrom

Camptonville Community Partnership has continued to deepen its commitment to early childhood education by supporting extensive training for the 123 Grow program staff this year. Birdsong recently attended the PITC Academy for Program Directors, hosted by WestEd in Berkeley February 11-13, 2009. This conference was designed to give Program Directors in the infant/toddler field the opportunity to work together on ways to deeply incorporate the most current research in infant/toddler development into their programs. WestEd's stated mission is to be a research, development and service agency, working with education and other communities to promote excellence, achieve equity, and improve learning for children, youth, and adults. PITC is their division that focuses on the very earliest learners. Barbara has attended a series of PITC classes aimed at caregivers and sponsored this spring by the Children's Home Society (our county's child care resource agency), as well as taking Infant Toddler Development at Sierra College last fall, further strengthening our infant-toddler curriculum.

PITC stands for "Program for Infant & Toddler Care" and espouses several key research-based components. These include primary care, continuity of care, cultural responsiveness, offering care in small groups, individualized care for each child at each stage of development, and inclusion of children with special needs.

On the preschool side, Susan has utilized Sierra College's online course program this year to take two of the classes she needs to complete her Teacher permit (she already has an AA in another field), and Birdsong was awarded a scholarship from Yuba First Five to attend the California Association for the Education of Young Children's annual conference in Sacramento at the end of March. The staff will be researching and adopting a preschool curriculum that matches the California Department of Education's Developmental Standards if they receive adequate funding for the coming school year.

123 Grow is primarily funded by grants from Yuba First Five and Sierra First Five. Proposition 1D, on the upcoming May 19<sup>th</sup> special election ballot, will take money from all of the First Five Commissions to help balance the state budget, putting in funding jeopardy such programs as ours that specifically serve the 0-5 population and the teachers who serve them.

Smile Secret #6

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## Plant Sale & Flea Market!

Get ready for the upcoming plant sale and flea market at the Rebel Ridge Store! This year's event will be held Saturday, May 16th. 9am-3pm. Clear out your sheds, closets, barns or garage and sell your wares. Remember one person's junk is another person's treasure!

May is a wonderful time to start planting! Beautify your land! Start a garden or add to your existing one. Growing your own food is so rewarding! Reserve your booth space now!!! Call the Rebel Ridge Store: 288-3650



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# Good Weather = Better Health

By Judy Morris

Spring is here, the weather has everyone smiling and feeling like getting out and "being physical"... walking & exercising is what I mean. Well Camptonville Buddies and the American Cancer Society can help you do just that and much more. Nevada County's 10<sup>th</sup> annual Relay For Life event is May 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>. It is a Community Team event that raises awareness of Cancer, prevention & treatments as well as funds for the never ending research to find a cure for this disease.

Camptonville Buddies was one of the top 10 Fundraising Teams in 2008. Our goal for 2009 is to be one of the top 5. It's possible with *Your* help! Camptonville is a Community that doesn't quit. You all have shown that over & over again with building the Fire Hall, maintaining various youth & Sr. programs despite all challenges. So, Yes Camptonville Buddies ask again for your support, to help us eliminate Cancer from all OUR LIVES.

How? You ask. Simple, challenge yourselves or others to give up a "luxury item" (that daily Latte or Cappuccino; the weekly Ice Cream Treat; or package of cigarettes - mine is the chocolate bar) for the entire month of April. Then go online to [www.relayforlife.org/nevadacountyca](http://www.relayforlife.org/nevadacountyca) click on View Teams, (right side of screen) scroll down to Camptonville Buddies and click. Donate the savings, as little or as large as they may be, from your sacrifices for the month to the Community team. Just think how good you will feel in 2 ways---1.) Healthier-not indulging and 2.) Emotionally / spiritually providing funds to help support the American Cancer Society with all their various programs that support Cancer patients and their families and to fight this disease.

For more information about American Cancer Society log on to [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org) or about Camptonville Buddies call Paula & Judy at 288-1228 or email at [owlsneagles@inreach.com](mailto:owlsneagles@inreach.com)

There is no finish line until we find a cure. Relay On...

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"We had a great time at the 43<sup>rd</sup> annual Bidwell Bottle Show in Chico last month. This is a beautiful example of what you can find at a bottle and insulator show. There were many other treasures as well." - Liam Ruff

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## Big Changes at Luigi's!

By Carey Ruff

If you enjoy a delicious pizza at Luigi's Pizza Parlor, then you should be sure to check out their new additions to the Menu: Sandwiches!

Luigi's Pizza now offers a great selection of delicious sandwiches, as well as having further amenities such as a new pool table, their well-maintained patio and a large screen TV! And, yes, they are still serving their great pizza as always.

So next time you feel like grabbing a slice of pizza OR a tasty sandwich, make Luigi's your first choice. They're open every day of the week except Wednesdays, from 5 P.M. to 11 P.M. and, you can also pre-order pizzas by calling 288-3466.

So drop by Luigi's Pizza for a meal you won't forget!

## From the Editors

We would like to thank everyone for their wonderful contributions to the Courier. There are times when we have too many articles to fit in an issue. We must make the difficult decision to omit certain items. We do apologize. Articles and poetry are saved for future publication when space permits. We would also like to thank Gary Wall for the use of the Club House for the Courier folding night. We appreciate it very much. We encourage everyone interested to join us for folding-it's a great way to meet new people, change your routine and we *always* have fun! Give us a call to find out when in is as it does change each month. 288-3512. Thank you!



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## Car Seat Inspection!

By Birdsong Sundstrom

California Highway Patrol Officer Nichols will be in the school parking lot doing car seat inspections on April 15<sup>th</sup> starting at 9 AM. He will check the seat your child is currently using, and help you make sure it is adjusted for optimal safety. He will advise on whether it is time for a replacement, and hopes to have some on hand that he can distribute as well.



**Mountain Range Lodge #18**  
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Meeting Time 1:00 P.M.  
Monthly on 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays  
March To December  
Potluck Lunch 12:00 P.M.  
Sojourners Welcome!

Still looking for page 13?

**April Fools!!!!**

## Chicken Chronicles

By Stephanie Ruff

Spring has arrived and with it comes crazy unpredictable weather. The increase of sunlight is also noticeable. This increases egg production -yea! We actually had to buy eggs-gasp! I bought a dozen; showed it to the girls and told them to get busy. I think they took this personally as they immediately started laying more. Hmmm? Coincidence? I think not. Some people choose to put lights in their hen houses to keep their hens laying more during the winter months. I like to give my girls a rest. They deserve it.

We were able to get some new fence posts in for the expansion of the hen yard before the snow hit. The hatchery called and our order was delayed till the first week in May. Yes, that buys me some more time to get everything done but makes for late layers as the pullets will come of age in October or November.


Kama came into the hen spa (aka laundry room) for about 2 weeks. She seemed to appreciate the warmth and dryness. Her diarrhea cleared up and she began laying again. I fed her greens, rice, yogurt and fresh garlic. She perked right up. Kama was also missing many back feathers from being picked on by the other girls. I wanted to keep her in as long as possible. Her feathers began to grow back. After 2 weeks of confinement it was clear she wanted out. She had even started to crow!!! The wonder of hens!

We waited till dark to sneak her back into the hen house. I thought all was well. The next morning when I went to feed and water the girls poor Kama had obviously had a rough night. Her comb was pecked and bloody. Poor thing! I decided to let nature take its course and see what happened. The girls needed to work this out amongst themselves. I just hoped Kama would survive. I kept an eye on her comb for infection and watched the interaction of the flock. She got pushed around for a few days but now there seems to be a sense of resumed order. But her back feathers are missing again! I am always amazed at how brutal hens are. I worry about the blending of the new hens when they are old enough to join them.

Lucy continues to escape on a daily basis. She's our little Houdini. The new green grass and clovers on the other side of the fence are too much for her to resist. This has been tense but essential for our red heeler's training. He does get excited and wants to herd her with his shoulder. He will come when he is called but I fear if I'm unaware of this happening he would herd her to death as he is very intense about his mission-he knows she should be in with the others. I need to work with him more.

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I have plenty of work ahead of me with the approaching arrival of the baby chicks and garden time. I grew a winter soil builder cover crop in my raised beds and they are almost ready to till under. I've never done this so it will be interesting to see the difference. The garlic has grown well over the winter but the onions seem a bit wimpy. As soon as the weather cooperates the potatoes will go in. How's that for an update?

*Kama in the Hen Spa...*





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## This Budget Mess: part 2

By Cathy LeBlanc

Hi folks! At the March 12, 2009 Children's Roundtable, advocates were privy to an excellent panel of experts, assembled in an attempt to help us to understand our current Budget position. Here's what they had to say:

Scott Graves, California Budget Project asked us to step back to a few weeks ago when we, as a state, were trying to close a budget gap of \$40 billion dollars (over 2 years), which legislators did with many difficult provisions, including 5 ballot measures to "balance our budget." Now we hear that will not be enough. A significant gap has opened up. Unemployment has risen, tax revenues from personal income taxes are down, and the number of folks who need services has risen. Part of the package (Proposition 1A) reflects a temporary sales tax increase that does not indicate a shared sacrifice, and limits the states' ability to meet future needs. All the while cuts to corporate taxes amount to \$1.5 Billion.

Scott also had this to say about Prop 1A: "Read it first before you read anyone's analysis and ask yourself: Do I understand this and what would it mean? (Including all the budget complexities) If you don't understand it, how will you vote?"

Christian Griffith, Chief Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee informed us: "This is an historic budget package containing 37 bills, most written in the wee hours of the morning with sleep deprivation. And to top it off, the Legislative Analyst Office will say it's out of balance tomorrow (3/13/09). How will California pay bills? We are in a position of disparity. Trying to save money puts the basic operation of the state at risk. Our state is trying to borrow, but no one will lend." Because the balance of the 2009-2010 budget is dependant on the outcome of the election, the Governor has moved the date of the May revision of the State Budget until after May 19th.

Mike Herald, Western Center on Law and Poverty stepped up to say: "A year ago advocates were worried over a \$16 Billion deficit. Today there is much in the February budget to dislike but it's what we asked for. It's a combination of revenue and cuts. It's the *real deal*. But it doesn't get us all the way there. It seems inevitable that we will spend any stabilization (stimulus) money on the 2009-2010 budget. If Propositions 1A and B fail we'll be in the same position as we are today."

Sheri Novick, First 5 Association of California told us: "This is a textbook case of what happens with dead of night negotiations made with sleep deprivation." All along County First 5 Commissions stepped up, voluntarily indicating a willingness to help the state with its debt, and even brought \$16 million to Healthy

Families (Children's Health Initiatives across the state).

She told us that because Proposition 10 (1998 tobacco tax to fund tobacco control and early childhood development programs) was brought to the ballot by the people through the initiative process, it has no legislative champion. And now we have ballot measure 1D (uses funding from First 5's) which was drafted as an (unsuccessful) attempt during budget negotiations to get votes from 2-3 Republicans. Sheri also informed us that a mistake was written into the language of ballot Proposition 1D when budget negotiations took place. There was no one in the room who understood First 5's funding stream. It basically states: First 5's get their money after the State gets theirs. First 5 has no yearly pot of money. Revenue is brought in monthly from tobacco sales. This mistake in the language could effectively shut down County First 5 Commissions while they wait 6-8 months of each fiscal year to receive state funds if proposition 1D passes.

The Big 5 (Governor, the Assembly speaker, the Assembly minority leader, the Senate president pro tempore, and the Senate minority leader) made an agreement to take 50% (from First 5's) for 5 years. \$268 million is half of what county First 5's currently receive. By years 3, 4, and 5 this will amount to a 70% loss. (FYI: First 5 is the funding source for Camptonville Community Partnership 123 Grow Program.)

Sheri wanted us to be aware one other thing: First 5's are the only source in the state for undocumented kids to get health coverage. Sheri fears this may have been the Senator Cox agenda all along.

Kristen Barlow - California Mental Health Directors Association (CMHDA): Just as prevention and early intervention programs are starting to roll out around the state as a result of mental health Proposition 63 (2004 ballot initiative), along comes Proposition 1E, also on the May 2009 Ballot. IE calls for the funds from Prop. 63 to be diverted to Early and Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT). Kristen let us know CMHDA has taken a neutral position on Prop 1E in order to give staff flexibility to do public education on Prop 1E.

I'd like to share with you the thoughts of Mark Carlson of the Lutheran Office of Public Policy. Mark asked the panel: "Where did the other revision options go? the Alcohol Tax? the Oil Severance Tax?" It seems like all we are left with is the package brought forth to garner Republican votes.

## April Calendar:

Easter Egg Hunt  
Car Seat Inspection

CCSD  
School Board

Yoga

Food Bank

Sat. April 11<sup>th</sup>, 10am-noon, at the Rebel Ridge Store  
Wed. April 15<sup>th</sup>, 9am, Camptonville School parking lot

Mon. April 20<sup>th</sup>, (3<sup>rd</sup> Mon. of month), 7pm Camptonville school  
Wed. April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6:30pm in the Camptonville School Library

Tuesdays at 5:30 PM at the Camptonville School

Third Thursday at the Lake Francis Grange, Dobbins

Published by the Newsletter Committee of the CCSD Auxiliary.

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Editors: The Ruff Family 288-3512

Advertising/Proof Reading: Janie Kesselman 288-3600

Subscriptions: Joan Carpenter 288-1616

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