

Camptonville Community Courier

www.camptonville.com



May 2009

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Plant Sale & Flea Market

By Carolyn Mumm

Join us Saturday, May 16th 9am-3pm to buy, sell, and/or trade vegetable or other starts. Consider having a booth to sell your unused items because, "one person's junk is another's treasure."

One reason to come to our plant sale is the opportunity to become acquainted with some heirloom varieties that are favorites of Camptonville gardeners, such as the Rocky Ford melon aka the Netted Gem. Who will be selling plants? Jessi Wilcox of Rebel Ridge Organics will have many vegetable starts including 15 varieties of tomatoes, sweet and hot peppers, cucumbers, summer and winter squash, eggplant, pole and bush beans, and flowers. Anahat Farm will be selling many heirloom tomatoes and other vegetable and flower starts. Roger Rollins and his You Bet Farm will have his varied and often unusual perennials. Camptonville School children under the direction of Cheryl Durrett will have tomato and flower starts for sale. 123 grow, which is Camptonville's nursery school children will be represented by Candice deMaranville, who will sell herbs. There has long been a request for someone to sell herbs at our sale. If you are looking for a particular herb for your kitchen look for the 123 Grow booth. Rochelle Bell and Carolyn Mumm will be selling their starts as well.

Which Flea Market and non-profit groups will be on the field? The Relay For Life-Camptonville Buddies, will have a booth with another original colorful quilt made by Shannon Gomez, which you may purchase raffle tickets. They will also have flea market items and baked goods. Georgette Fowler and friends will have fruit kabobs for sale to benefit Camptonville's Christmas Club. Sandy Watson will sell her organic homemade baked goods for 123 Grow. Also, the Rebel Ridge Market will sell homemade Pioneer Pasties. Anyone who has craft or handmade items is also welcome to participate.

How do you sign up for a booth? Call the Rebel Ridge Market at 288-3650 or stop by the market to sign up. The fee for a booth space is \$10. There is no charge for non-profits offering information at their booths.



CAMPTONVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
"WE STILL MAKE HOUSE CALLS!"

Appreciation

Thank you to everyone who helped contain the fire off of Pendola Ext. and rd. 47 last week. When Paula was coming home from Grass Valley she noticed a plume of smoke rising out of the mountains by the north fork of the Yuba River. She called the forest service. They didn't know anything about it and they said they would check it out. It turned out to be a fire right off forest rd 47 close to our house. Within a short amount of time, we could hear the planes and a large ground crew had assembled.

We are so grateful for the quick response by everyone. You are very appreciated!

Yana and Paula

For more information on the Hill Fire see page 9. KCRA has a photo from the fire. To see the photo of the fire check this link out:
<http://www.kcra.com/image/19255437/detail.html>

I Scream for Ice Cream, We All Scream for Ice Cream...

By Judy Morris

Mark your calendars: On Saturday, May 16th from 4pm –5:30pm, Paulette's Country Kitchen is hosting Nevada County's Relay For Life Ice Cream Social for Cancer Survivors and their Caregivers. If you are a cancer survivor, we invite you to a **Free** Ice Cream Social to provide you with information on **Free** services offered from the American Cancer Society and to learn more about Relay For Life. Ice cream being provided by Lazy Dog Confections -- Yummy!!! Come join us at Paulette's Country Kitchen in Grass Valley. Call Judy or Paula at 288-1228 or email owlsneagles@inreach.com for more information on this event or about Camptonville Buddies.

Sierra County Arts Council presents: Lynn Zanetta in Concert

Saturday May 9th at 7:00pm, Downieville local singer/songwriter and recording artist Lynn Zanetta will be performing at the historic Yuba Theatre in downtown Downieville. Lynn plays an eclectic mix of soulful acoustic music with guitar and vocals - with a voice that is both powerful and soothing. Lynn sings all original songs - her lyrics and melodies inspired by nature, humanity, and the sacredness of life. She will be accompanied by the beautiful harmonies and instrumentation of Bay Area artists Alisa Fineman & Kimball Hurd, who have earned national acclaim touring the country, appearing at festival's such as California's Strawberry and Kate Wolf Memorial Festival, Austin's South-By-Southwest, the Kerrville Folk Festival, the Connecticut Family Folk Festival and the Wizards of Wooden Music.

In addition, a special presentation of Lynn's latest video/song will be shown on the big screen using the theatre's new high-definition projection equipment. It's a perfect way to honor the gift of family and life this Mother's Day weekend!

Tickets are \$10 and are available through www.yubatheatre.org, and at the Downieville Day Spa (309 Main St, Downieville) –as well as at the Yuba Theatre, the night of the concert. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

History of the Camptonville "CB's"

By Judy Morris

Camptonville Buddies, aka CB's, formed in 2003 with a few community people interested in fighting cancer. The group was brainstorming for a team name and suddenly the idea of the Navy Seals -- Seabees came up. Seabees were known as "builders for peace" as they taught construction skills to Vietnamese people, paved roads that provided access to farms and markets, supplied fresh water to countless numbers of Vietnamese through hundreds of Seabee-dug wells, provided medical treatment to thousands of villagers, and built schools, hospitals, utilities systems, roads and other community facilities. With a slight twist on the name we developed the community team called Camptonville Buddies. The name is so true and personal for both Paula & I, as we struggled through Paula's cancer treatments and what not. We needed help from neighbors to sit & keep Paula company so I could return to work full-time. We developed a list of "Paula's Buddies," so the name Camptonville Buddies is the most appropriate name and it reflects what this community is about -- helping others when they need it without asking for anything in exchange.

We are sure there are others within our community whom unfortunately are dealing with hearing those three words: "You have Cancer," and we want you to know you are not alone. The American Cancer Society is there to help 24/7 -- just call -- it's FREE: 1-800-ACS-2345, or check out their website at www.cancer.org -- lots & lots of information. Or if you prefer call us, Paula or Judy at 288-1228 and we'll be happy to help you however we can.

We also would like to invite Camptonville residents to join Camptonville Buddies at the 10th annual Relay For Life. This is a yearly Celebration of Life that helps raise awareness of cancer, providing information on healthy life changes that prevent cancer, research that enables us to fight back against this disease, and about the various patient services that are FREE and available through the American Cancer Society. So mark your calendars: May 30th & 31st at the Nevada County Fairgrounds-- it's a FREE event -- come walk a lap in honor of a loved one or in memory of one who has lost their battle to cancer. Visit www.relayforlife.org/nevadacountyca for more information or email Paula & Judy at [www.owlsneagles@inreach.com](mailto:owlsneagles@inreach.com)

"There is no finish line until we find a cure"

PCVFD's 1st Annual Studhorse Wildcard Poker Run

By Mark Jokerst

The only way you can get out of doing yard work on May 16th is to hop on your Harley and head for the Brass Rail in North San Juan for Pike City's 1st Annual "Studhorse Wildcard Poker Run" fundraiser.

This event, organized by the PCVFD Board with much assistance from A.B.A.T.E. and many other volunteers, is a motorcycle run that starts 10:00 a.m. at the Brass Rail in North San Juan. From there, riders pick up Poker Cards at Peterson's Corner, the Driftwood Inn at Mooney Flat and on to stops in Browns Valley, Willow Glen, Burgee Dave's in Camptonville, the Pike City Firehouse, and ending back at the Brass Rail around 2-3 p.m. for lunch, raffle and live band dancing the rest of the afternoon.

The proceeds of the event, including entry fees, t-shirt sales, refreshment sales, and raffle ticket sales will be deposited in their entirety to the PCVFD Vehicle Fund. Generous donations by many of our local businesses are bringing in lots of raffle prizes and covering such costs as project insurance, t-shirt printing and advertising.

The Pike City Firehouse will feature some on-sale refreshments and a "Dunk-the-Chief" tank with Pike City Chief Mark Jokerst, Sierra County Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County Sheriff John Evans and others, all braving the cold waters of the Dunk Tank for any able-armed ball tossers willing to exchange some pocket change for a chance to "Dunk the Chief."

All Riders are Welcome, and everyone is welcome to come by the Pike City Firehouse and join the fun around 12:30 when the riders are due in Pike. Remember, everyone is welcome to join the fun at the Brass Rail around 2-3 p.m. for the lunch, raffle and live music and dancing.

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Youth Development Community Action Coalition Comes to Camptonville!

By Cathy LeBlanc

The Youth Development Community Action Coalition (YDCAC) and Youth Development Chapters are part of the Sierra Health Foundation's (SHF) Reach program and Friday Night Live that gets kids and adults together to share ideas and create more activities for youth. Thursday May 14, 2009 from 4:30-6:30 pm at the Camptonville School Gym is your chance to come and check it out! Join our Camptonville Chapter as we host the meeting with YDCAC. We will provide healthy food and drinks for the event. Youth (10-18 years of age) and interested adults are welcome. **Youth below 7th grade need to be accompanied by an adult.** This event is sponsored by Camptonville Club Live, Friday Night Live in Marysville and the SHF Reach Coalition. Watch for Fliers! For more information contact Jean Black at the Camptonville Resource Center: 288-9355.

Smile Secret #6

Baby Teeth are very important.

Children need their teeth for;

Smiling, Talking, and Eating

The Whole family must help take care of teeth.

Brush Floss and Pick daily!

Don't smoke-Do see a Dentist

Jessi's Garden

By Jessi Wilcox

It's too late for snow peas, but there is still a little time to plant all your greens. Pick a shady spot in the garden, so your greens will last longer.

With such beautiful spring weather I bet you're all anxious to get a head start on your gardens, but remember cold May freezes are not that uncommon around here. Take just a minute - remember last year.

Keep things watered, keep weeds under control and get ready to plant your veggie gardens around mid May. Rebel Ridge Organics has a variety of vegetable starts growing; we now have bulk compost available by the yard. We will see you at the plant sale on May 16th.

"Good for the environment, great for your health - garden organic!"

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Complicated Car Seats

By Birdsong Sundstrom

Officer Rich Nickells of the California Highway Patrol offered a car seat inspection and safety information program to the parents of 123 Grow and the community on April 15th in the Camptonville school parking lot. We all learned several important points about shopping for car seats and using them safely. First, before you even shop, check out ratings on www.safekids.org, <http://www.nhtsa.gov>, or through Consumer Reports magazine.

At the store, pick a model that is rated for the weight of your child. Take the seat out of the box and search for a stamped manufacture date; the seat you choose could already be several years old, even though it is still in the box! Officer Nickells cautioned that the current recommendation is to **not** use a seat that was manufactured more than six years ago. Keep looking to make sure you buy one that will last for the number of years you expect a child to need it. Children need to be in an appropriate car seat until they are both over six years old AND weigh more than sixty pounds. They also need to be tall enough so that a safety belt's strap crosses their shoulder rather than their neck.

Seats may have seemed fine when purchased, yet are later recalled; Officer Nickells had just printed out a list of recalled seats that morning and checked all of those present against the list, discarding one that 123 Grow had. He spent lots of time helping individual parents fit a new seat into their car. If you have questions about your child's current seat, or need help getting a replacement or upgrade, call Officer Nickells at 273-4415. 123 Grow continues to offer a free child enrichment and parent program, funded in part by Yuba First Five; if you would like to attend, call 288-9355.

CHP Officer Rich Nickells shows Wendy Tinnel how to make sure her new car seat is snugly fastened in place.



Yuba River Ranger District

By Betty Leffew

Campgrounds along Highway 49 to Union Flat are now open. You can make reservations at Recreation.gov or by calling 1-877-444-6777. The boat ramps are open. The trails at Bullard's are open. No estimate yet on when the dock will be put in. Some of the trails in the high country, on the south facing slopes, are opening with patches of snow and some trees across them. The North Yuba Trail along the river between Indian Valley and Goodyear's Bar is also open. Dogwood and redbuds are blooming. Wildflowers are close behind.

Fuelwood season opens May 13, 2009 on the Tahoe National Forest. Permits can be purchased at any ranger station. Permits will be sold through October 31. The price per cord is still \$15.00 with a 2-cord minimum and a 10-cord maximum per household. Applications for mail-in permits can be found online at www.fs.fed.us/tahoe. We will also send you mail-in applications. In general, the permit allows removal of dead and downed wood on TNF system lands, but not on private land. Trees may not be cut if marked with paint, wildlife signs, boundary landmark signs, other official signs or in areas closed to woodcutting. Carefully study the maps accompanying the permits to see which areas are closed. Woodcutters are responsible for knowing what the daily fire restrictions are. The following day's information will be on the recorded message, after 5 PM, at 288-3231. Try to get your wood in early in case fire restrictions limit woodcutting, due to potential fire danger this summer.

Dooryard burn permits are now due. You can pick up one at the ranger station. You will need to check with the Department of Air Quality or the ranger station for burn day status.


Rainfall for April 2009 is 1.71 inches bringing our season total to 40.83 inches. Last year's total was 41.22 inches. Less rain, more snow. Not looking good so please use extreme caution as things dry out.



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Moonshine Ospreys Update

By Shirley DicKard

Last month I was happy to write that the Osprey pair had returned to their nesting site off Moonshine Road. They perched for about a day on their old familiar tree snag, and then flew off to find a better pine on which to rebuild their nest.

They're out of sight now, but I can still hear them calling to each other from a short ways up the hill. Peeking through the trees with my binoculars I knew they'd found a new home when I saw the male land on top of the female to mate, then return with a dozen long-stemmed roses...I mean, a three foot long branch which he then placed upon the bare pine top to start their nest.

Bodymelt Massage



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haircut's, highlight's
& perm's



by Jeannie
288-0220

Egg Hunt

By Stephanie Ruff


Last month's Easter Egg Hunt at the Rebel Ridge Market was a huge success! Approximately 75 people showed up for the event. The weather cooperated nicely. Some of the festivities besides the egg hunt were sack races, an egg toss, Easter bonnet contest and best of all-a pie eating contest! What a treat that was to watch. The children all received wonderful treats and prizes. Georgette Fowler was honored for doing so much for the children of Camptonville. Thank you Georgette! Here are a few photos of all the fun!



Georgette receiving recognition from Tari, co-proprietor of the Rebel Ridge Market.



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Twilight School Economic Development Forum

By Cathy LeBlanc and Wendy Tinnel

Hi folks. The March 31, 2009 Twilight School hosted by Camptonville Community Partnership (CCP) was well attended. Twenty community members showed up to participate in the economic development forum/meet your merchant venue. We all agreed our effort should encompass these economic principles and strategies: Sustainability, Holistic Orientation, Collaborative and Asset Based, Entrepreneurial, Responsive to Community Needs and Sensitive to the Capacity of our Environment.

After introductions the group looked into what opportunities we could develop and collaborate on in Camptonville. We prioritized our possibilities and agreed that most importantly we need people to champion these ideas. That's where you come in. Below is a brief list of what we came up with:

Current under utilized resources/opportunities

Downtown businesses

Camptonville Co-op barter with your neighbors

Free Wireless Internet currently available at Willow Creek Campground

Laundry by appointment at Willow Creek (the owner Don Deane will upgrade current equipment if there is interest in this idea.)

Commercials on National Radio- Helpful for Camptonville businesses

"The Lioness Tale" book by Diane Pendola about women in prisons **Underwriters needed**. Series begins May 09

Community Center begin to plan/build using Economic Stimulus dollars

Solar Project to supply downtown Camptonville with power

Transportation for youth & everyone

Stagecoach type space in Camptonville/ Car pooling Co-op/ Hitch hikers club-bulletin board

Communication:

Use website more as a coordinating force for economic development

Expand Courier-to include *local business* feature articles
Informational Kiosk on the lake / Willow Creek / RR /Lost Nugget

Gardeners Market ideas

The Downieville Mobile Medical Clinic information table
Plant an extra row of veggies for neighbors
Distribute unsold produce for those in need
Distribute excess to local markets for sale include Willow Creek Campground/Emerald Cove Marina
Ask *Jessie* (Rebel Ridge Organics) column in the Courier

Great place to connect and share with neighbors
Expand Market to include gardener's workshops-
Reach out to North San Juan to expand the vendors available

Advertise in Mountain Messenger/other local news

Live Music Venues

Willow Creek 1x a month music and vendors@
Willow Creek

Rebel Ridge Organics amphitheater seats about 150

Annual Events will bring outside income here are our ideas

Annual Film Festival

Pelton Wheel/ Green Energy Festival

49er Gold Country History

Christmas crafts faire/ Parade

Annual History Gathering

Anniversaries- create rituals

Host Weddings to remember include

Celebration/Divorces etc.

Restaurants photos mountain weddings/creek side

Rent a community include Co-op points

Clubs/organizations that could rent local places in winter / hobbyist's

Packages to regional associations in winter months
Give locals discounts

Stay tuned and get involved. CCP is planning follow-up Action Meetings in June if you are interested or for more information contact Cathy or Wendy at the Camptonville Resource Center 288-9355.



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Fire Chief's Report

By Lee Brown

In this month's report, I would like to introduce the men and women who make up the Camptonville Volunteer Fire Department. As the name implies, this is an all volunteer department. These folks donate their time and effort to making Camptonville a safer place to live. Here is a roster of our current members:

M. Lee Brown—Chief
 Alan Kinne—Assistant Chief
 Tony Scarafiotti—Captain/EMT
 Jim Esry—Captain
 Char Sanders--EMT Trainee
 Mike Hines—EMT Trainee
 Brandi Dudek—EMT Trainee
 Andrew Beams—EMT Trainee
 Cliff Hilligoss—Safety Officer

Michael Lewis
 Glenn Smith
 Danny Rasmussen
 Daniel Tinnel
 Jeremy Olson
 Mike Dudek
 Chris Dozier
 Mike Rogers
 Tristan Trotter--Cadet

Weekly Department training is held on Tuesday nights at Station #1 on Mill Street. Other forms of training are held on weekends, locally and with other departments. There are classes on First Aid, Vehicle Extrication, Wildfire, Hazardous Materials, and the list goes on. Training is an ongoing thing. All of this training is squeezed in around everyone's personal life. Most of our volunteers have full time jobs. Captain Tony Scarafiotti is a full time Firefighter with the Grass Valley Fire Department. He serves as our Training Officer, and we are very fortunate to have him. Ask one of our EMT Trainees how much free time they have while trying to get that EMT Certification! Chief Mark Jokerst of the Pike City Fire Department continues to help us with valuable training. Our volunteers have the dedication and commitment it takes to make this a good department. We strive to make it better.

Now we need your help with a very serious issue, and that is having your address clearly marked so that we can find you!! It gets a little frustrating sometimes trying to find an address when there are no signs. Help us help you by making your address visible. If your house is on fire, the chances are pretty good we will find it! But, if it is a medical emergency, valuable minutes can be wasted getting to you. Our community is not like the "Big City," with the streets all laid out in a nice grid. Ours twist and turn and go all over the place. Please make it easier for us to do our job by making your address clearly visible.

For the month of March, we responded to 3 medical calls and 2 vegetation fires.

Remember, the fire season is upon us!! Clear that brush away from your house. Be careful with burn piles. NEVER leave them unattended and make SURE they are out before you leave.

*Journey Home
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Hill Fire

By Stephanie Ruff

On April 22 the Hill Fire broke out in area about 4-5 miles north of Bullard's Bar Reservoir. I was able to get some information from Camptonville's Asst. Fire Chief Alan Kinne and Shawn McClain. Here are some of the details of the fire:

- 125 initial personnel
- 6 fire engines
- 5 crews
- 2 dozers
- 5 water tenders
- 1 helicopter
- 10 smoke jumpers

Three Camptonville firefighters were on the fire scene, including Chief Lee Brown, Chris Dozier and Mike Dudek in the water tender. I learned that "the water tender was used to keep a portable pond filled so that the engines fighting the fire could replenish their tanks." There were other people at the station in case there were any more local calls. 25.5 acres burned and the cause of the fire at this time is still under investigation.

A big thank you to the following agencies that worked hard to put this fire out quickly: Forest Service, Camptonville Fire Department, Pike Fire Department, NSJ Fire Department, Calfire and our local Hot Shots.

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School Board News

April's meeting was cancelled. Please contact Ruth Schwartz for information on May's meeting. 288-0180.

May 19th Ballot Just say NO

By Cathy LeBlanc

Okay folks I'm going to talk straight about this ballot, so here is the official disclaimer: The thoughts and opinions expressed here are solely my own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of this paper nor any of my employers.

This ballot of state budget balancing measures is a mess. These are not satisfactory solutions. Like the U.S. Congress to U.S. automakers, I believe we should hand this mess back to our legislators. We should ask them to please come up with a plan that does not take from children!

Our legislators are asking voters to make changes to the California Constitution because Congress could not come to 2/3's majority agreement regarding the state budget. **Now we are supposed to figure out if these measures are a good way to balance these pieces of the state budget. I say NO.** I do not want to pay schools back the money borrowed from them (by the Governor, now due under the Proposition 98 guarantee 2004) with other money that is supposed to benefit children.

Let's do the math related to these ballot propositions: To pay back the schools (borrowed from Prop 98) we take money from programs and services set up for children and families such as: California First 5 serving children 0-5 years of age, funded through Prop 10*, or programs for preventive mental health services prop 63. Then add into that Prop1A the biggest budget balancing act which has buried in it unilateral gubernatorial authority to make mid-year budget changes (cuts) without legislative approval. Oh! Now we can subtract pay raises for legislators (in bad times). Now take total and multiply it by the square root of the lottery and you will have short-term balanced budget? Just say no!

Say no because of the ridiculously high price we'd have to pay back in lost *Social Capital* (from Wikipedia: Robert Putnam, *Bowling Alone* suggested that social capital would facilitate co-operation and mutually supportive relations in communities and nations and would therefore be a valuable means of combating many of the social disorders inherent in modern societies, for example crime.)

We are being asked to make these decisions because our legislators would rather take money from programs benefiting children instead of raising revenue such as the Oil Severance Tax? (A 6% tax on oil extracted from California was part of the original state budget package. We are the only oil producing state without one.)

Please you do not need to take my word on this election. Get a hold of a ballot or go on line

<http://ca.lwv.org/lwvc/edfund/elections/2009/may/index.html> I urge you to read the full content of the ballot measures. (You may see Children's Roundtable report for more on this)

Just say NO!

*First 5 Commissions was set up with a funding stream independent from state government for just this reason.

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VFD Auxiliary

By Stephanie Ruff

As Lee Brown our local fire chief says, "The fire season is upon us!" Would you like to get involved and help out our truly excellent Volunteer Fire Department? If you are unable to join the fire crew you can still help the VFD by joining the VFD Auxiliary. This wonderful group of volunteers is headed by Rita Ortega, and meetings we be starting soon. Money raised by this group has gone to help with the fire station, t-shirts, patches and more! The Auxiliary is the support system to our fire department. If you are interested in joining please call Rita at 288-9355 or 288 3421.

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Correction

By Cathy LeBlanc

This correction is for last month's article, "Update:ARRA 2009."

Correction: After the April Courier went to press, I was informed, by Debra Phillips, Yuba County Community Development and Services Agency Housing and Community Services Manager, "Thanks again for your interest and concern Yuba County did will take advantage of increased Federal allocation to the Community Development Block Grant (CBDG) from Housing and Urban Development (HUD) This funds many of the local programs and services for Yuba County. "I assure you that we are doing our best to get all the funding we can."

Chicken Chronicles

By Stephanie Ruff

Gads! May is here and I have so many baby chicks soon to arrive at the post office-I'm in a panic. Did I get any work done over spring break? No!!!..too much rain. But we did figure out that we won't need to build an extension on the existing hen house. We just need to add more roosts. The fence posts are in-I'm just waiting on some 6 foot fencing to arrive at the store. The girls will soon have more room to wander and shade too!

The main project will be the separate Bantam Bungalow. Liam and I plan to build a special house with a nice area for ranging. We have our plans figured out we just need to buy lumber and get busy. Luckily the baby chicks will be living in the bathroom at first-yes that gives us a wee bit more time. Remember baby chicks cannot keep themselves warm. They need to be kept in a warm place till they are fully feathered.

Every spring at least one of my articles stresses the importance of a clean coop. Here I go again! After the winter rains it's always a good idea to really scrub and clean your hen house. A 10% bleach solution works well to disinfect all the nasties that have moved in for the winter months. Did you know that Northern Fowl Mite populations increase more in the cold months? After you have thoroughly cleaned your hen house it's a good idea to use linseed oil on unpainted surfaces or repaint painted areas. This helps with all kinds of external parasites. After everything is dry-dust with diatomaceous earth (not the swimming pool kind!) or a pyrethrum powder which you can buy from the feed store. Nesting boxes should be cleaned and dusted regularly. Don't forget to use your bleach solution to clean your waterers as well. Never let them grow algae or mold!

That should keep you busy for awhile. Have a nice month...see you at the plant sale!

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This Budget Mess, Part 3:

By Cathy LeBlanc

The April Children's Roundtable brought together a panel of experts to help decipher the propositions we will see on the May 19th Ballot. Most of the propositions revolve around balancing the state budget. It was interesting to note that even this panel was in disagreement as to how this ballot will affect children in California.

The first speaker was Christopher Woods, Budget Director for Assembly Speaker Karen Bass. He gave his reasons why he is for Proposition 1A and 1B, and brought with him a chart to help explain benefits. He left longtime children's advocates shaking their heads in disbelief with his conservative viewpoint. He suggested, "The benefits of Prop 1A would be a flattening of the tax system, cutting capital gains tax and raising taxes on everyone else." Mr. Woods also told us what he thought Republicans would think if Californians voted Proposition 1A down: "People on the right think this (Prop 1A) is a tax referendum. If it fails and Californians say "No to taxes," Republicans will use that as their strategy. They will point to this and say it failed and we will never get people to vote for taxes again." We did not all agree with that logic. He suggested Yes on 1B, 1C, 1D, and 1E, which left me wondering where Woods was coming from. Is he a Republican? He has the dogma down.

Another thing Proposition 1A will do: It would give the governor unilateral authority to make mid-year budget revisions without the need for legislative approval. The governor has hoped to gain this authority ever since he entered office.

Next on the panel, Trudy Schafer Director, for Programs at the League of Women Voters let us know that the **League opposes the majority of propositions 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D and 1E, and has taken a neutral position on 1B and 1F.** Schafer said, "It's just not the right approach. This is not the right solution." On 1A: Legislators need flexibility to balance the budget. 1A makes the situation worse. It reduces flexibility and sets priorities that may not be priorities at certain times. She let us know that 1A relies on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) that has proven with past legislation to be an ineffective measure of growth because it relies on population figures. Prop 1C she said is a "bad way" to put together financing solutions. And she let us know, according to the Legislative Analyst Office (LAO), that these are short-term solutions only.

Lori Easterling of the California Teachers Association (CTA) chimed in, "This is a difficult situation for everyone. We can agree to disagree on where we are and how we got there." She felt if proposition 1B doesn't pass; the CTA would be in litigation. **The CTA supports 1B.**

Panel member Anthony Wright, Executive Director Health Access said regarding **Proposition 1A, "Tough choices don't minimize the situation. Let's be honest: these propositions came out of a hostage situation. We thought the state was going to fall off a cliff. Now voters have a separate opportunity to weigh in."** There is disagreement among colleagues and allies. We need to deal with the fundamental problem: There is not enough money for services California needs and deserves. He added that 2010 is a time advocates should plan for. We will have a new Governor in 2010. Prop 1A has a ratcheting affect for programs without constitutional protections. What we're being offered is a long term Constitutional change for a short-term balance to 2012.

Health Access spoke out against propositions 1D and 1E also.

Finally, Jerre Jeffe, Deputy Executive Director, California Council of Community Mental Health Agencies and lead organizer for the Prop 63 effort said, "What Proposition 1E does is provide a half billion dollars in real cuts to mental health. Proposition 63 is funded by the Millionaire tax." **He says No on 1D and No on 1E.**

The main thing I came away with is: These are all very complicated ballot measures with more twist, turns and possible dead ends than a labyrinth. It's a very confusing and cumbersome way to balance a budget. We are in this mess partly because in prior years this Administration borrowed from the future to balance yearly state budgets, instead of raising taxes all along. Well now the future is upon us and is it fair our kids pay? No!

Once again I ask: **What about an Oil Severance Tax?** (California is the only state without one) A 6% Oil Severance Tax was at some point part of the state budget negotiations and was dropped from it in the wee hours of negotiations.

I'm calling this a Just Say NO Ballot. You may also go to easyvoter.com or smartvoter.com for a fuller explanation of the Ballot Propositions. Please see related article on Ballot Propositions, *Just say No!*

May Calendar:

Lynn Zanette concert
Plant sale & flea market
Ice Cream Social
PCVFD Poker Run
Election
Relay For Life
CCSD
School Board
Yoga
Food Bank

Sat. May 9 ,6:30pm at the Yuba Theatre, Downieville
Sat. May 16, 9am-3pm at the Rebel Ridge Market field
Sat. May16, 4pm-5:30pm, at Paulette's Country Kitchen
Sat.May16, 10am Brass Rail in NSJ
Tues. May 19
May 30 & 31 at the Nevada County Fair Grounds
Mon., (3rd Mon. of month), 7pm Camptonville School
2nd Wed. 6:30pm in the Camptonville School Library
Tuesdays at 5:30 PM at the Camptonville School
Third Thursday at the Lake Francis Grange, Dobbins

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