

November 2011

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## Octoberganza Wrap-Up

By Regine Miller

The Camptonville School Parents Club extends an enormous "Thank You" to all who contributed financially and in-kind to *Octoberganza*, and to all who attended the event. We were delighted to out-do ourselves and know the money raised will be put to great use on the students at Camptonville School. Many, many thanks!

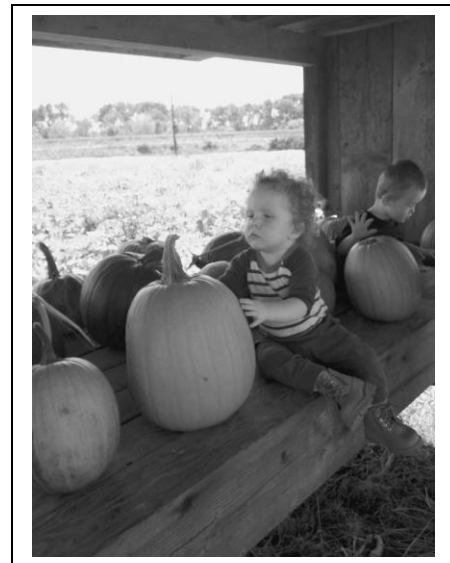
The *Octoberganza* Chili Cook-off was a huge success in its inaugural year with eight cooks and over 60 tasters. Eric Queriquincia won the prize for *Best Overall* while Steve Mendoza took *Most Meaty*, Patsy Prout seized *Full O'Beans*, Wendy Tinnel pocketed *Where's the Fire Extinguisher?* and Cheryl Durrett secured *Most Far Out*. There were many sidebar conversations during the cook-off about stepping up the competition next year, so start refining your recipes now!

Gargantuan pumpkins dominated the *Octoberganza* Big Max Pumpkin Growing Contest. Seems the kids know how to grow them with Kyle Ledson and Ledson Family Farm taking first place with their 60-inch circumference pumpkin followed by Hank Mullins at 59-inches and Taylor DeMaranville at 50-inches. Perhaps now it is time for a pumpkin-carving contest!

Other highlights from *Octoberganza* included outstanding local, live music from Jeff and Kyle Ledson, Cathy LeBlanc, and the crowd favorite, a trio, 18 Strings, composed of Kyle Ledson, Davia Pratschner and Kai Pratschner. These kids are amazing musicians! See page 5 for photo. Kids of all ages were entertained throughout the event with loads of games, face painting, and Sunshine the Clown and her "Mini-Me". Thank you to all who purchased Halloween costumes, fall photos, and silent auction items.

A festive time was had by all at *Octoberganza*.

The Parents Club would like to reiterate our most sincere appreciation for all of the support the community put toward this event. Thank you and here's to the students at Camptonville School!



*Conner and Christofer waiting for the hay wagon to return to pick up the group and pumpkins-see page 3.*

## Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Bring a dish to share and join the fun and celebration at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner. This free dinner will be held at the Masonic Lodge Hall in C'ville Thanksgiving Day, Thursday November 24<sup>th</sup> from 1-4pm. Please call Diane at the Pelton Wheel Café at 288-3410 to donate, volunteer or for further information. Look around town for flyers with details.

## Site Council Calendar

The Camptonville School Site Council plans to meet monthly. Below is a schedule of tentative calendar dates. Meetings will be held the last Monday of each month at 3pm in the teachers' lounge. Any date changes made will be posted in advance at the school. Parents and community members are welcome to attend the meetings. Nov. 28, Jan. 30, Feb. 27, March 26, April 30, May 21.

## Secret Shopping

By Sara Hickman

It's time again for the preparation of the kid's secret shopping area held at the Camptonville Christmas Craft Fair. The Parents Club is asking for donations of gently used or new items.

**(please no clothes)** This gives the kids the opportunity to purchase Christmas gifts for family and friends secretly and affordably and they all love this. Any donations can be dropped off at the school office. We appreciate all donations and thank you for the support.

## Fire Dept. Volunteers Needed

You don't have to carry hose, wear funky clothes, and wake up at weird hours to be a fire volunteer! We need help in many ways: vehicle maintenance, equipment repairs, building a workbench and shelving, office work, cleaning. If you're looking for a volunteering outlet, come see what we have to do. We need your help. For information, call Mark or Char at 288-9320.

## Mark Your Calendars...

Santa will be coming to Camptonville on Friday December 16th at 6:30 pm. We are still accepting any Santa photos to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Santa coming to Camptonville. Please mail or hand deliver photos to Pam Wilcox, PO Box 352, Camptonville, CA 95922.

## CCP Craft Faire

Believe it or not we are fast approaching the holidays! The Camptonville Community Partnership is once again hosting the Holiday Craft Faire on **Sunday, December 11**, from 12:00-3:00 p.m. If you are interested in selling your products please contact Rita at 288-9355 Tuesday-Thursday 8:30-11:30 a.m. to reserve a space.

## Mountain Guild Quilt Show

The women of Brownsville's Mountain Quilt Guild are busy as bees getting ready for their 10<sup>th</sup> annual quilt show. There are many details to get in order, as well as finishing up those last few quilts. The show will be held at the Ponderosa Community Center, 17103 Ponderosa Way, Brownsville on November 5 and 6. It will open at 10 am on both days, close at 4 pm on Sat. and at 3 pm on Sun. There is a \$5.00 admission fee and there will be food available. There will be many beautiful large quilts on display as well as many smaller items. One can do some early Christmas shopping with the vendors or at the Country Store. The guild spends much of their time making smaller quilts to donate to various causes: the fire departments, women's groups, sheriff's department, hospice, and veterans. These quilts will be given to these civic functions on Sunday afternoon. There have been tickets sold all year for a gorgeous quilt and the winning ticket will be drawn about 3 pm on Sunday. So we hope to see you there.

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## Obituary

Donna M. Freeman (Carey, McVey)

January 25 1934 – October 2, 2011

On October 2, 2011 a special lady was taken to join the angels in Heaven.... She was a gentle and loving soul... She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, and best friend.

She leaves behind her husband of 29 years Jim Freeman, children Denies McVey, Doug McVey, (Allen McVey-Yelton), granddaughter Kourtney, grandsons Shane Wild and Cooper McVey Yelton. Donna was great-grandmother to Dylan Ketchersid, Dorian, Kyra and Andrea Wild.

She was preceded in death by her parents Paul and Leona Carey, brothers Doyle, Dennis, Duane and Dale Carey, sister and brother in law, Dottie and Shorty LaPorte and her grandson Zachery Najera.

Donna will be greatly missed – her smile, friendship, and never-ending love.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Camptonville Fire Department.

To Char, Mark, Jacs and Mike, thank you.

## 123 Grow

By Birdsong Sundstrom

1, 2, 3 Grow and Connie's Critters teamed up to take on Bishop's Pumpkin Patch! Camptonville's two school readiness programs went on a joint field trip October 13, visiting Bishop's in Wheatland. This working farm also offers hayrides, multiple playgrounds, picnicking, a train tour of the farm, and much more. We look forward to collaborating on more trips over the course of the school year.



*The group searches for the perfect pumpkins to take home and decorate.*

## Gardeners' Market Thank You!

By Jimbo Garrison

Well, another season of the fabulous Camptonville Community Gardeners' Market has come and gone. It was another wildly successful year for the C.C. G. M. We earned over \$800.00 for our beneficiaries; Friends of the Camptonville Cemetery, the Camptonville Courier and Camptonville Community Partnership programs. Many, many thanks to all who participated, especially our 3 big donors, the great Hal Stocker, Mac Claar and Keith Montgomery. Thanks guys!

Also, thanks and appreciation to all our other gardeners, including the Ledson's Family Farm, Carolyn Mumm, Jessi Mullins, Rod & Rochelle and many others too numerous to mention in this limited space. Thanks everybody! Let's not forget Diane & Ron of the Pelton Wheel Café for all their help and providing a space for the market, thanks again!

Special thanks to Rod & Rochelle for all their help and hard work, couldn't have done it without you! But the biggest and most important thanks go to all our wonderful friends and customers without whom we wouldn't have a market. Thanks to you all!!

Peace be with you, Yours truly, Jimbo Garrison

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## Chief's Report

By Mark Jokerst

As reported last month, we are in the midst of a re-organization. When I started "chiefing" here in 2008, I made the pitch that the job is too big for one person, and Camptonville's perennial problem of finding a new Chief stems simply from "burn-out". I know how they feel. So this week I am tasked with making not one, but two Assistant Chief appointments. And this following just recently appointing five Captains. A little top heavy, you say?

Not really. When you consider all of the management it takes to run the department, and I'm talking day-to-day get-it-done stuff, it takes a herd.

My new Captains and I have met four times in the last couple months, and tossed around ideas on how to "break it up", that is how to divide all of this work and divy it out to more than one person. We figure one chief, two asst chiefs, and a hand full of Captains gives us the breadth of overhead needed to keep the department running without such rapid burnout. Still, you say, why all the brass? Because if you put folks in charge, you gotta make them responsible. And if you make them responsible, you gotta give them authority. Otherwise, it doesn't work.

I am so excited at the prospect of having five or more folks helping do my job. I'm also not so excited at the prospect of the rest of the town rolling their eyeballs. So please, before you judge, come down and see the laundry list of work we need to do everyday. I'm hoping for your support! Next month, we'll be naming names!

**WINTER IS COMING:** The burn ban has been lifted and open burn season begun, and I'm here to remind you that just because we've gotten a little rain doesn't mean the fire danger has past. Every year we see burn piles escape their lines in the middle of November, December, January, and some turn into bonified wild fires, so please continue to work smart and take care of our blessed wood. Remember, all a spark needs to go "nuclear" is a few dry days and a little wind.

But basically "wildfire" season is over. People ask "isn't it nice?", but really it just signals the start of house fire season! Please take a few moments with me to check out your appliances and wiring. Let's make sure that the chimney is clean and soundly installed, and all rusted out or bent parts are replaced. I'm talking wood stove chimney, furnace flue, hot water flue, all them flues! If your exhaust flues are not able to exhaust, the heat builds up in



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the appliance and a house fire is gonna happen. Bent flue pipes are a fire hazard and need to be replaced.

Let's also take a look at all electrical wiring, especially those hasty-made "extensions" that power the TV, stereo, computer, et cetera: Too many live appliances on one circuit will overload the circuit. If your breakers work, fine but if your breakers are not quite up to snuff, you will get fire.

Finally, back by popular demand, the "Top 10 Ways to Burn Your House Down":

1. Dirty, Cracked, Bent or Loose Chimneys
2. Hot coals in the ash can left near the house
3. Overloaded Electrical Circuits, Power Strips, and Cords
4. Candle + Cat = House Fire
5. Too much lint around the Dryer Vent
6. Combustibles too close to heaters and stoves
7. Water Heater Air intake and exhaust dirty or kinked
8. Grease Fires + Water = Fire Explosion
9. Hot coals hidden in the Carpet near the wood stove
10. and don't forget: Cigarettes just before nap time.

Remember, if you smell smoke or see fire in your house, call 911 first and then go about making things good. We are more than happy to arrive at your house with nothing to do, better safe than sorry.

And one last thing, don't forget to drain your irrigation piping (like I did last year); the freeze is coming!

## Occupy!

By Cathy LeBlanc

Hi folks!

The movement is gaining momentum even in Grass Valley hundreds are gathering weekly to show support for Occupy Wall St. The question being asked of protesters across America (and beyond) what are your demands?

I am curious: What would your goals be for a government more in line with Main St. rather than Wall St.? Do you see an injustice at the way Wall St. is once again conducting "business as usual"? Once again profits for corporations are soaring while the hard working Americans who bailed them out are still struggling to stay afloat (if they have not already sunk) financially? Or do you feel the "protesters are jealous of Wall St., bankers and people who have succeeded...." (from Herman Cain conservative Presidential candidate and former head of Godfathers Pizza)

Please write me an email ([cathy.marie17@gmail.com](mailto:cathy.marie17@gmail.com)), or give me a call at the Resource Center 530 288-9355. If I get enough response, I'll collect our views and share them next month.



*The 18 Strings Trio at the Octoberganza!*

## Secret Santa Holiday Food Baskets

By Barbara Mueller-Hogan

Well, believe it or not it is almost Christmas time again! I've been asked by people if I'm going to be able to help with Holiday dinners. Yes, at this time I have a limited amount of dinners available for families or individuals who need a little extra help this season. So, if you or anyone you know needs a Christmas dinner, please call me and let me know how many are in the family and give me a phone number where I can make contact. I will set about getting the dinners and let you know when to pick them up here at Camptonville School. Last year I had so much help and I know that many families and individuals who would not have had such a blessing at that time were thankful. Please call and leave a message for me at the resource center 288-9355 or my home 288-9311.

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# Camptonville School News

By Sandy Ross

## Parent Power!

If the Camptonville School staff makes up the well-oiled gears that run the school, then the PARENTS must make up the foundation upon which that building is based. By the way, when I say parents, that includes moms, dads, uncles, aunts, grandmas and grandpas, etc... It has been several years since I have witnessed the strength and solidarity of a group of parents who are willing to do whatever it takes to support our students and staff. It is not simply the creativity that they put into their fundraisers and their ability to raise large sums of money by providing a PLACE for families to have fun right here in our community, but it is their ability to build upon and utilize the local resources that are important to those families. Working as partners, they have offered to financially assist in providing assemblies, field trips, after school programs and sports teams at Camptonville School. What they ask in return is that the community and school support their fundraisers financially, with manpower, and by showing up and being a part of the fun!

With their outrageously successful Octoberganza behind them, they are now helping the school to amp up the FUN level of our Halloween Carnival! We will be extending the carnival beyond the school day for families who want to participate in carnival games and activities, have something to eat, and hang out until it's time to Trick –or –Treat around Camptonville.

A HUGE THANK YOU to the Parents Club for all you have done and continue to do for the students of Camptonville School!

## Art Program

Our long time visual and performing arts specialist, Katie O'Hara Kelly, has retired from her position at Camptonville School. Over the years, Katie has graced Camptonville with her incredible talent and ability to assist students in creating individual work, group masterpieces, and projects. She showcased the artwork of student and community artists with her amazing Bouquet to Art Show, dazzled us with her trash fashion, and contributed sets for school plays. Writing and producing plays were another of Katie's many talents and she even brought a performance by Mrs. Wittler's class to the Downieville Theatre to perform. Katie's past duties included working in the classrooms and library, compiling a monthly Camptonville newsletter, teaching photography, and creating many beautiful yearbooks with the students' help. Along with a

degree in Art, Katie's extensive knowledge also included a background in forestry, knowledge of native plants and wildlife biology, which she generously imparted to students on field trips and outings. Katie will be greatly missed and we would all like to thank her for her tireless commitment and contributions to the students of Camptonville School.

## New School Board Trustee

We are happy to announce that Jacqueline Longshore has been appointed to the Camptonville School Board of Trustees. Jackie comes to us with a background in incident command and management related to forestry and natural resource management. She also attended school at a small historic schoolhouse on the Central Coast as a child and is looking forward to her son having the same opportunity. We would like to welcome Jackie to the position and thank her for her willingness to contribute to the Camptonville Community.

## After School Program

In response to popular interest, we will begin a pilot after-school music program on Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Local musician and songwriter, Cathy LeBlanc, will offer basic instruction on the guitar to interested students and community members for six Thursdays. We have a limited number of guitars available for students to use, so if you have one, please bring your own. More information will be sent home with students. There will be a fee of \$5 per class. Scholarships will be available upon request. We hope to expand this program to have music and/or art classes for younger students as well. Please contact Sandy Ross at 288-3277 if you are interested in teaching music or other visual and performing arts after school. All instructors/volunteers will be required to be fingerprinted.

## Job Openings

Art Specialist – 6 hours per week

Library Specialist/Title I Assistant – 8 hours per week

Bus Driver – 3 hours per day

*For more detailed information on any of these positions, please call Sandy Ross or Pam Wilcox at 288-3277 or submit a letter of interest and a current resume to Camptonville School at P.O. Box 278, Camptonville, 95922.*

# NORTH GOLD SENIOR MOUNTAINEERS

By Carol Wenger

The North Gold Senior Mountaineers (NGSM) is a nonprofit organization of senior adults, 55 years of age or older, or 50 years of age if disabled, but you do not have to be a senior to join in our activities. The Senior Center, in North San Juan was formally established in 1988 and is the only Senior Center between Grass Valley and Downieville that serves our counties' senior community. Our goal is to sustain a program that provides a weekly-congregated lunch, offers health resources, recreation, socialization, and various supportive services to seniors. The Center freely furnishes a site and volunteer support for the monthly distribution of food and commodities to low income recipients.

The area we serve of Nevada County is north of the South Yuba River and is not served by any other program or provider for such services proposed within our facility. The patrons are widely scattered. Most must travel miles to get to our facility. Our organization is not unique or innovative in its approach. It responds directly and appropriately to the needs it witnesses. If it were not for the services offered at the Senior Center, very few, if any, of the patrons would seek these same services in Grass Valley.


Our Senior Center provides weekly lunches & socialization every Tuesday at noon, with 25 to 50 contacts weekly depending on the weather. Nevada County Nurses come to our center on the last Tuesday of the month to provide blood pressure checks and consultations. They also can administer yearly seasonal Flu Shots, when available. We periodically have educational speakers from local, county and state governments, and other resources that supply information that may be relevant to our seniors' needs. We have racks of County/State-Informational Brochures. We also have Book Recycling/Sharing, provide a Greeting Cards Rack with low cost greeting cards and we have Seasonal Garden Sharing from our gardeners. We have a member that supplies fresh eggs, when available, to the Center that we offer for a small donation. The NGSM Center is supported through grants and our own fundraising efforts. We have no employees, but our contract laborers are, the Cook, Cook's Assistant and the Clean-up person. Their positions

are currently being supported through the Nevada County's Community Service Block Grant (CSBG)\* through the end of 2011.

Our usual fundraising activities include, Bingo on the 1st & 3rd Friday's of the every month, the Christmas Craft Fair, on the first weekend of December, the Cherry Festival Activities in June, and The Harvest Stew and Raffle in October. We have the 'Monthly Food Fest', which provides a monthly dinner at no cost, at the Center. We also have various fundraisers throughout the year, which could include The Chili Cook-off, Saint Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage and periodic flea markets and bake sales and other activities. We also rent out our facility to the public to bring in funds.

Interested in our organization? You can call Carol Wenger at 288-0933. For the weekly luncheon, reserve a meal by calling Muriel August at 292-3351 before 5 p.m. on Sunday. New members and donations are always welcome. All activities are open to people of all ages.

*\*Since the writing of this article the Senior Center found out it will not be getting the usual support from Nevada County funds as stated in the article. Please support the North Gold Senior Mountaineers. It would be a shame and a great loss to lose this much-needed organization and the programs they offer.*




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# OLD MEN AND OLD SHEDS

By Robert Mumm

After finishing a small project in one of my storage sheds I paused as I walked away. I looked back, for a moment I saw it as my son would, a rather low gray structure, which has never known paint or trim. It is nothing more than a shelter under which to stash stuff or park one of my pickups when it rains and my son has voiced his disapproval of it and another equally casual relic on my hill.

In that pause I reflected on myself and other old men I have known and it seems that old sheds have somehow been part of who they were. So many times the thing they wanted to show me most was in some little building that seemed to be very tired and just seeking to shelter in the earth. Little patched up things that hadn't been graced by a coat of paint in years, if ever. My shed certainly hasn't and not all its walls are completely filled in, so to my son it is an eye sore, to me it is a comfortable space to work in or be my pack rat self and store junk.

What I see in my shed and my son does not is a clear assessment of myself. The shed and I are an assemblage of worn parts and we both hold bits and pieces of what was once dear to us. So what! If we both, the shed and I, become shorter and grayer with the years, we need not last forever. This old shed has stood through snow, withstood rain, and wind; it will outlive me like an old reliable friend. Perhaps in time other eyes will see it as I do, not so much as architecture but as place. An organic sort of thing that has grown sub sheds over time and accommodated my needs through the years.

Real treasure often hide in such sheds. Sometimes it might be a marvelous antique tractor or a 1936 Hudson Terraplane pickup, more often an old lawn mower or perhaps a lawn tractor that just needs a special part to make it go. So much of what old sheds are about is that which could be or could have been,

the high expectations of youth still burn in us old guys but tractors and lawn mowers more often go unfixed and just preserved in our old sheds. Whatever you do don't mess with an old man's shed for it broods like a mother hen over our unfulfilled dreams.

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## Yuba River Ranger District

By Annie Prout-Garcia

CAL Fire's Nevada, Yuba and Placer Unit have lifted the burn ban. Cal Fire officials have declared an end to the suspension of all residential burning within state responsibility areas of Nevada, Yuba, Placer and Sierra counties effective October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 8:00 am. You are still required to have a valid burn permit and check with the Department of Air Quality for burn day status. During business hours, you can call the North 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	741-6299

The requirements listed on the burn permits must be followed. Keep in mind – violations of any burning permit terms are in violation of state law. Homeowners can be held liable for suppression costs or be issued a citation.

Fuel wood season is still going this year. The prices remain the same as last year, \$15 per cord with a minimum of two cords. Yuba River Ranger District's fuel wood season will be ending November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Truckee, American River and Sierraville Ranger District's fuel wood season will be closing December 4<sup>th</sup>.

Logging is still going on with the Red Ant Timber Sale, which is located on Saddleback Road, just north of Downieville. The logging and hauling will continue at this location until winter begins. Please drive carefully on the Saddleback and Forest Service Road 25 (Cal-Ida).

Bullards Bar Campgrounds are closed, however trails and boat ramps are still open. All other campgrounds are in winter status, which means no services and no fees. For up to date information on the status of the snow trail system feel free to call the ranger station, (530) 478-6253. We have plenty of free Winter Recreation maps to help you enjoy some winter fun.



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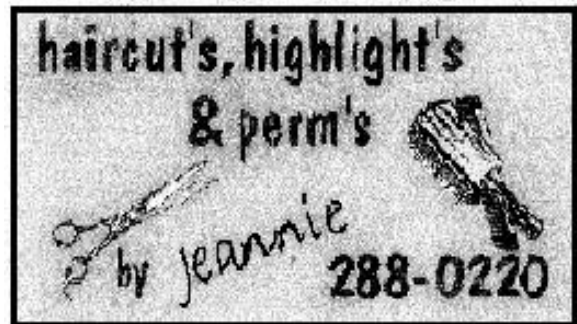
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website: willowcreekcampground.net  
email: office@willowcreekcampground.net

## Jessi's Garden

By Jessi Mullins

November in the garden.....

Here are some things that we are doing in our garden:

### **Cleaning things up for the winter months**

\*create a burn pile with the summer veggie garden clean up (in the middle of the garden works good), the addition of potash to the soil is always nice or compost.

\* pull or cultivate weeds before they have a chance to go to seed.

\*Pruning – WAIT until winter months when plants and trees are more dormant.

### **Fertilizing**

\*an application of fertilizer on the lawn sometime this month.

\*well balanced fertilizer on fruit trees and shrubs

### **Planting**

\*Bulbs, wildflower seeds, trees and shrubs, transplant rhodies and azaleas.

### **Dormant Spraying**

\*Fruit trees-as soon as the leaves fall from the branches, apply your first round of dormant spray this month.

### **Winterizing**

\*mulch around your tender plants to protect their root systems (such as artichokes)

Enjoy your gardens and take care. Rebel Ridge Organics will be closing for the winter months. We have some exciting family activities planned.

Thank you to everyone who supported us this year, we had a great season. It sure was FUN, and I have to admit quite tiring, but now we get some time to rest and work in our gardens. Hey, the best of both worlds.

We are closing November 1<sup>st</sup>, but will reopen for a huge weekend sale, on **November 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. 30% off most inventory**, so keep your eyes open for flyers. I will be available by phone to set up times to meet for dog food, cat food, etc. Please call; there is no need to go to town. Contact info is available at Rebel Ridge Organics.

*Good for the environment, great for your health – garden organic!*

## C'ville School Calendar

Nov. 1 – Percussion Assembly

Nov. 2 – 8:45 a.m. Awards Assembly/Minimum Day (12:30 p.m. dismissal)

Nov. 4 – Report Cards Home

Nov. 10 – 10:15 a.m. Veteran's Day Ceremony (Cemetery)

Nov. 11 – Veteran's Day (No School)

Nov. 14 – 6:00 p.m. School Board Meeting

Nov 21 & 22 – Parent Conferences (Minimum days)

Nov. 23 – 25 – Thanksgiving Holiday

Nov. 28 – 3:00 p.m. Site Council Meeting

## Honey pumpkin pie

From [pumpkinrecipies.org](http://pumpkinrecipies.org)

### **Ingredients:**

2 medium eggs

½ cup honey

½ teaspoon nutmeg

¾ teaspoon cinnamon

½ teaspoon salt

¼ teaspoon powdered ginger

¼ allspice

1-½ cups pureed cooked pumpkin

¾ cup milk

one prepared pie shell

### **Directions:**

1. Preheat oven to 450°F.

2. In a large bowl, beat eggs until yolks and whites are well blended. Gradually beat in honey until incorporated and thick. Add the nutmeg, cinnamon, salt and ginger.

3. In a separate medium bowl, whisk together pumpkin puree and milk. Pour into egg mixture, whisk until smooth, and pour into pie shell.

4. Bake 10 minutes, reduce temperature to 350°F, and continue baking 20 to 25 minutes, until filling is firm. Remove and cool before serving.

## Farm Chronicles

By Jeff Ledson

Welcome back to the second edition of the Farm Chronicles- did you miss us while we were gone? Well, we feel you've waited long enough as last month we promised to answer the perplexing question, "Why *did* the farmers cross the road?" You've probably lost enough sleep wondering & your patience is about to pay off so here goes: The farmers cross the road because they live on the other side... Anticlimactic? Maybe a little but what did you really expect? If your daily commute glides you down our stretch of highway 49, you probably already knew that answer. Maybe you've just been wondering who those crazy folks are zipping back and forth on the quad packed with tomatoes, peppers or occasionally even pumpkins. From our perspective, it's a life-sized game of Frogger, dodging everything from Sunday sight-seers to packs of iron hogs & zipping crotch-rockets to top-heavy logging trucks and the list goes on & on. The extra adrenaline rush from crossing the highway also helps carry us into the first few hours of morning picking so it is a strange blessing in disguise. Who needs caffeine anyways? We dream of the day soon when our log home will be built on the property and the drive to the garden won't be risking life and death. Less adventurous? Maybe. Just remember, we're farmers, not stunt doubles.

When we last left, our friendly farmers were busy picking and planting away in the garden. Too bad they didn't have their umbrellas handy.. The rains hit hard. Dusty clay turned to soupy mud. The chips and mulch from our dead branches have held up well, keeping erosion to a minimum and also elevating our toes from the muddy barrier. But anywhere the chipping didn't cover is a slippery mess- the stuff mud wrestling is made of. This includes our gravel-less roads throughout the property. However, our raised beds are built for heavy rains. They will never load up with too much moisture as they can freely drain out the bottoms. Last year, we had our planting rows dug into the ground and the clay soils seemed to trap in the heavy rains like a bowl with no escape, which brings on more complications for the plants (they're not great swimmers). But the excessive drainage advantage of raised garden beds is also a disadvantage as we have seen our water usage has been slightly increased trying to keep these spaces moist during the dry summer spells.

Our time is once again drawing to an end and with

the spirit of the Halloween holiday still lingering in the cool fall air; we thought we'd close this issue with a truly gruesome story... Once upon a time, actually last July, your friendly CSA farmers decided to enter into the local Big Max pumpkin growing contest for Octoberganza. They purchased their one seed for a \$5 donation to the Camptonville School and planted it in a special place in the heart of the garden. They watered it daily and cared for it very well... And soon, it grew some and grew some and grew some... The end.

We hope you are enjoying the Farm Chronicles. If you'd like to send us suggestions, ideas or make a general comment, please send us an email at [farmchronicles@soilstock.com](mailto:farmchronicles@soilstock.com). We'd love to hear from you. And join us back here next month to find out if your friendly farmers have survived the "Attack of the Ladybugs..."

We hope you all enjoy your day and have a farm fresh month!

### Emergency Phone #'s

PG & E 1-800-743-5000

Yuba Co. Sheriff's:  
(NON Emergency) 749-7777

CVFD 288-9320

### Courier Classifieds

**Wanted:** wall, stair, and pillar building stones, as well as some larger boulders for a dry creek, Call Will @ 288-3249

**Wanted:** Homecoming descendant of original Welsh settlers is seeking rental house or room share with mellow old dog. Carolyn Perkins 317-694-8199

**Courier deadline:** Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>. Send inquiries to [camptonvillecourier@yahoo.com](mailto:camptonvillecourier@yahoo.com) or PO Box 32 Camptonville, Ca. 95922

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## November Calendar:

Quilt Show	Sat. & Sun. Nov. 5 & 6, Brownsville, see page 2
School Board	Mon. Nov. 14 (2nd Monday) 6:00pm, C'ville. School Library
Courier Deadline	Sun. Nov. 20
CCSD	Mon. Nov. 21 (3rd Monday) 7:00 pm, C'ville School
Thanksgiving Dinner	Thurs, Nov. 24, 1:00-4:00pm, C'ville Masonic Lodge
Site Council Meeting	Mon, Nov. 28, 3:00pm, C'ville School
Yoga	Tuesdays at 5:30pm, C'ville School
Food Bank	Third Thursday at the Lake Francis Grange, Dobbins

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