

# THE Camptonville Courier

Connecting the Community  
Since 1997



VOLUME 26

JANUARY 2022

NUMBER 1



Photos by Shirley Dickard



Barbara (on guitar) and Wendy

Camptonvillians celebrated the holidays at Coffee @ the Center

...And for a finale: a post-holiday snow storm!  
More photos in next month's issue — to share yours, send them to  
[camptonvillecourier@gmail.com](mailto:camptonvillecourier@gmail.com)

Happy New Year!!!



Photo by Shirley Dickard



Photo by Marcy Risque



Photo by James and Tosha Prince

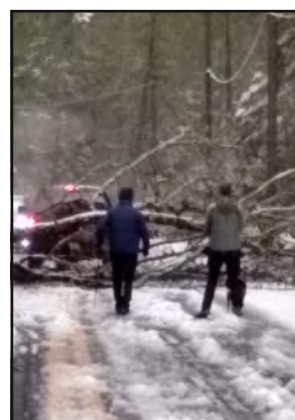


Photo by Shirley Dickard



## Gardeners' Market Benefits Center By Rochelle Bell

Due to the phenomenal success of the market this year we had \$1,100 dollars to spend on safety improvements at the Community Center. Gravel was purchased and spread around the rear of the building and down the driveway. In front of the building, the dangerous gap between the parking lot and the walkway was filled in with the aid of an additional anonymous donation and volunteer help. We would like to thank **Ted Sapp** and family for their assistance in this endeavor. Also, thanks again to all those loyal customers and helpers who supported the market!

## Pendola Road Association to Meet at Center

Submitted by **Jesse Golden**

Do you live on or near Pendola Road in Camptonville? Are you concerned about fire safety and other neighborhood issues?

A group of Pendola Road-area residents have formed the Pendola Road Association, and plan to meet on **Saturday, January 15th, at 11 am** in the Performance Room of the Camptonville Community Center, and continue on the third Saturday morning of each month. Come early to enjoy Coffee @ the Center!

## From the Editor - Marcy Risque

Greetings everyone! As I write this, we are having unprecedented snow and rain, and it feels like we are literally being blessed by the heavens. Bring it on!

May the coming year be hopeful for us, individually and collectively, as we navigate the unknown future.



## \$750,000 Awarded to Improve Camptonville's Water System!

By **Richard DicKard**, Camptonville Community Service District

We're excited (and relieved) to announce that CCSD has just been awarded \$750,000 to help renovate our old water system! As you probably know, the 200 folks in Camptonville have been on restricted water usage due to the drought and the badly deteriorated wells and water structure at Campbell Gulch. We at CCSD have been working hard to keep some water flowing and to find money to renovate the water system.

After two years of work, we are excited to get these grants for the Camptonville Water District:

- \$717,000 for a new well from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). A huge thank you to the **Yuba Water Agency** for funding the grant application to DWR and to **Bennett Engineering** for preparing the successful grant application to DWR.

- \$35,000 – two grants from the Rural Community Assistance Corporation to:

1. Determine the Median Household Income for the Camptonville Water District users. Hopefully, if everyone fills out the survey that's going around, Camptonville will be designated a Disadvantaged Community and we will then be able to get 100% funding.
2. Create a state-of-the-art electronic map of the connections in the Camptonville Water District.

For more details, contact me at **288-3479**.

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**Free to Camptonville residents; Subscriptions: \$15 yr. Tax-deductible donations are appreciated!**

# Foothill Food Pantry's Holiday Blessings

By Lisa Baker, YFACA Vice President/Christmas Program Coordinator and President, Foothill Food Pantry

Yuba Foothills Agricultural Communities Association (YFACA) recently held their annual Christmas Family Food Box program on December 20th. For many, many years, this has been a tremendous program, blessed with fantastic donors and sponsors. We are blessed to be able to help fellow community members who sometimes need that something extra during the holidays.

Each year, recipient households (from Camptonville, Dobbins, and Oregon House) receive a week's worth of food, including everything needed for their Christmas dinners. Fresh and canned items, cereal, milk, a ham or turkey, and much more go into the boxes. Toys from Toys For Tots are bagged up for each child (whose delight we can only imagine when they get to unwrap them later!).

YFACA members and food pantry volunteers put in hours of coordinating, shopping, bagging, and boxing in preparation. Finally! The day comes, and the muscle for loading everything comes through the door, ready to pull wagons to each vehicle, amidst the laughter of community members greeting each other and enjoying time for a quick chat.

Times may be tough; but it's tougher if you don't live in a community like ours, where people come together to help their neighbors. I am counting my blessings.



Photo of YFACA volunteers by Lisa Baker

Many thanks to our donors/sponsors:

- Barbara Hogan, Camptonville coordinator
- BriarPatch Food Co-op
- Brown's Gas
- BSA Troop 6400
- Butte Sierra District Dental Society
- Collins Lake Recreation Area
- Food Bank Of Nevada County
- Foothill Lions Club
- Grocery Outlet, Yuba City
- Oregon House Grocery
- Richard and Shirley DickKard
- Margaret Fowler
- Sysco Food, Incorporated
- Toys For Tots, Nevada County
- Yuba Sutter Colusa United Way

Many thanks to all the other anonymous community individuals who also gave generously!

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SECRETARY  
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CCSD  
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*"...the path to heaven doesn't lie down in flat miles. It's in the imagination with which you perceive this world, and the gestures with which you honor it."  
-Mary Oliver, The Swan*



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Photos by Madison Thomson

## The Healthy Places in Between

By Beverly Cameron

On my frequent trips up Willow Glen Road to Brownsville, I was repeatedly struck by the magnitude of the devastation left by various fires on a stretch of a road that I had always considered a magical landscape: open meadows, lush green bushes, a babbling brook, and a variety of trees. After the Glen fire the landscape became a monochromatic palate that screamed out in pain. It was like an accident — I tried hard not to look at it, but at the same time I couldn't look away.

On my most recent trip, I noticed small patches of green pushing up through the scorched earth, marking a severe contrast in the burn scar with the density of the debris on the ground. While I loved the lush, dense, romanticized "forested" appearance before the fires, I realized just how that overgrowth contributed to an unhealthy imbalance of dead and dying ladder fuels and poorly spaced trees, all suffering due to competition for water, air, and sunlight; a perfect prescription for rapidly spreading fires during the previous summer.

While I can't quote the source, I've heard it said of a healthy forest that you should be able to ride a horse at a gallop in any direction. That's certainly not what I think of as "forest." I'm always picturing "Hansel and Gretel" walking through dense darkness with trees so close together as to not be able to find their way out. I've learned over these many years that that isn't a "healthy forest."

So what do we do? When our Wildfire Mitigation Advisors review a piece of property, we tend to focus on three zones closest to structures. However, there is another component that may be just as important — particularly on large parcels. Thinning and removing trees to create open space will reduce competition for water. Removing and reducing dead and downed ladder fuels is crucial. There are a number of other treatments that can create a more resilient forest and reduce fire danger.

For help, contact the **Wildfire Mitigation team** at [YubaFireSafe.org](http://YubaFireSafe.org) and request an advisory visit.



*Rural people working together for a safe, sustainable, and healthy community.*

Located at our **Family Resource Center** behind Camptonville School  
**Monday thru Thursday 8:30am – 12:30pm**

**High speed WiFi available for community use. Drop on by!**

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**Highlights of our community-driven activities in the Yuba County foothills:**

- Youth enrichment and skill building projects
- Family Resource Center
- Community Health Action Plan
- 1, 2, 3 Grow Parent participation child enrichment for 0-5 year olds
- The Camptonville Courier

**Development of:**  
 Community-scale forest biomass to energy facility and business center

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Photo by Jesse Mullins

### Sending a Huge “THANK YOU!”

By Jesse Mullins

Camptonville Christmas Club wants to send out a huge *thank you* to our generous community. With all the kind donations that came to the Christmas Club, we were able to host our annual tradition of bringing “Santa to Town” for the kiddos of our community and our neighboring communities. We collected \$1,925.00 from all donations. Thank you for mailing checks, supporting our Venmo account, and dropping bills and coins into the can at The Lost Nugget. Every little bit helped out this year!

The cold weather and icy conditions seemed to have kept a few families from coming out and about, but overall it was a cheerful success, and our leftover gifts and stockings were dispersed to families in need. It’s always so heartwarming to see Santa chat with the kids, and in return see the giggles and smiles on their faces!

We hope to get back on track with our annual fundraising events as soon as possible, and have our traditional in-person event next Christmas season!



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### Monkey Mind

*The monkey mind is a term sometimes used by the Buddha to describe the agitated, easily distracted, and incessantly moving behavior of ordinary human consciousness. As an ordinary human afflicted with monkey mind, I offer these thoughts –Jesse Golden*



### Got Rides?

By Jesse Golden

Imagine gas going to \$10 or \$15 a gallon, or more. Arguably, that could be a good thing: the higher the prices, the more we're all incentivized to use other means of transportation, which has the happy result of reducing carbon emissions, pollution, and car accidents.

But higher gas prices are rough for rural folks, especially since we don't currently have a transit alternative or electric charging stations available.

So often we rural folks find ourselves driving solo to town to pick up a prescription or a needed part; that's a lot of gas and money to burn for one person, one errand. And what about the folks who need to get to town but can't because of illness, car problems, cost of gas, or lack of a car? Surely we could find a way to pool our resources, help each other out, and cut our fossil fuel use as well.

Ride sharing could be a cost-effective alternative. Uber and Lyft have created app-based ways to enable private drivers to conveniently and safely provide rides; could that kind of software be used for ride-sharing? The #7 bus runs between North San Juan to Grass Valley three times on weekdays; Yuba County transit runs occasional buses between Marysville and Brownsville; could a shuttle be set up to connect to these? Craigslist and Next Door are web sites that list ride-share information; could they be possible platforms?

Got ideas? Write me at [monkeymindthecolumn@gmail.com](mailto:monkeymindthecolumn@gmail.com).

Switching gears to what's happening in January: let's celebrate Martin Luther King Jr's birthday! On **Monday January 17**, the non-profit organization **Color Me Human** presents **Living the Dream**, a family event, from **noon to 10 pm at the Miners Foundry in Nevada City**. Art, workshops, food, children's activities, speakers, and entertainment; for more information, go to [www.facebook.com/colorme](http://www.facebook.com/colorme) [human.org](http://human.org).



## Water Bears and Moss Piglets!

By Katie O'Hara-Kelley

In ponds and amid the wet leaves of mosses and lichens live tiny .5mm creatures called Tardigrades, also known as Water Bears or Moss Piglets. They can be found around the world, from the heights of the Himalayas to the depths of hot springs. They are known as extremophiles, meaning that they can live in places on Earth that most creatures couldn't handle. Tardigrades can endure temperatures of absolute zero, pressure higher than that of the deepest oceans, radiation that would kill all other animals, and they can go without food or water for more than 10 years!

These microscopic creatures are in the Kingdom Animalia. They have brains, a body fluid pumping system (but not a heart), a nervous system, a digestive system, a light-sensitive organ, and eight legs with three claws each. They live off of the fluids contained in the cells of mosses, lichens, liverworts, and algae, and pierce one plant cell at a time with a stylet to suck out the contents of the cell. They can also eat nematodes and rotifers.

You can observe live Tardigrades if you have a dissecting microscope, damp moss or lichen, and fresh, untreated water. Here is the method:

- 1) Collect a small 2-3" piece of damp moss or lichen.
- 2) Put it in a bowl with 1/4" of water (preferably not tap water), and let it sit for 24 hours.
- 3) After 24 hours, gently squeeze some of the water into a shallow dish.
- 4) Observe the dish of water under a dissecting microscope.
- 5) When you are done observing them, make sure you return the lichen or moss, and Tardigrades, back outside where you found them!

The best way to find them with your microscope is to not initially focus too closely. Look at the water that was lightly squeezed from the moss or lichen, at the lowest power of your microscope. Watch for movement. Then power up to zoom in close on the movement. At first, the only movement I saw were transparent nematodes swirling around in the water. Then in a little while I saw a tiny, transparent critter, that was slightly jelly-bean shaped scooting around in the water. When I focused closer I realized it was a live Tardigrade. WOW! It was super cool to watch! Try it yourself if you have a microscope handy. You will be amazed!

*Enjoy Katie's weekly blog of the natural history of the Yuba watershed at: [northyubanaturalist.blogspot.com](http://northyubanaturalist.blogspot.com)*



Photo © by cloudfront.net

Photo © by Science Photo Library - Getty Images

## Big Party

By Robert Mumm

The other morning my computer had a really bad hangover; no matter what I asked of it, the result was strange and unexpected. Mostly it claimed not to be able to find what I wanted, and that whatever it was really didn't exist, while at the same time hinting strongly that I was crazy to even ask for it.

Two cups of coffee and a lot of swearing failed to bring it to its senses. I considered a dash of cold water but fortunately held off, thinking that was a bit too extreme. There we sat — a befuddled bit of electronic circuitry and an impatient old man, glowering at each other. I had dire thoughts about artificial intelligence while contemplating taking a hammer to the damn thing. Of course it had the upper hand, for within its secret files it held all sorts of my personal treasures.

Our impasse went on for a time with this mess of chips and wires claiming not to be able to restart, because mail would not shut down and mail wouldn't give up no matter what COMMAND I gave it. Eventually I had to admit defeat, for even in this addled state it was going to win if it came to brain power, so I went physical and pulled the power plug. That took care of mail for sure.

The bottom line is that as we deal with a world ever more controlled by artificial intelligence, we might have to get physical at times, especially when the machines go out to have wild parties overnight!



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# Redistricting, Politics, and a Note

By Jesse Golden

Based on the 2020 Census, Yuba County has new supervisorial districts, and our congressional district has changed boundaries. The aim of redistricting is to equalize the population of each district. How the district boundaries are configured can make the difference between empowering and maximizing voters' voices or minimizing and muting those voices.

In Yuba County, Camptonville is part of the 5th Supervisorial District, currently represented by Randy Fletcher. With population growth mostly in the more urban areas of the district, our rural district had to increase in size so that it includes one-fifth of the Yuba County April 2020 census population of 81,575. Supervisor Fletcher said in an email comment that "due to redistricting, our district is now about 50% bigger than it was before, so [for the district supervisor], there will be more travel covering more space." He added, "This next year I am focused on fire (insurance), water, and broadband...Although I am not running for re-election, I will be working closely with the new candidate (Bob Bagley) to give him a head start on these important issues."

You can see the map of the new supervisorial districts at [www.yuba.org/departments/county\\_administrator/adjusting\\_districts.php](http://www.yuba.org/departments/county_administrator/adjusting_districts.php).

The Congressional district boundaries in California have shifted significantly. In a November article on [calmatters.org](http://calmatters.org), titled "California Redistricting: Which Incumbents are in Tough Spots," Sameea Kamal wrote, "What's it like campaigning for re-election in 2022 when you're not sure which voters will be in your district? Just ask U.S. Rep John Garamendi, a Democrat who lives in Walnut Grove and now represents voters in a

district that stretches from Fairfield and Davis to Yuba City, as well as part of the Mendocino National Forest." Under draft maps from California's independent redistricting commission, his current district has been chopped up, with significant portions shifted to majority Republican districts now represented by Doug LaMalfa and Tom McClintock and to a district held by Democrat Mike Thompson. On top of that change, Garamendi would be stuck in the same district where Democratic Representatives Ami Bera of Elk Grove and Doris Matsui of Sacramento also live, though he could try to run in a neighboring district that doesn't have an incumbent. "For every California representative, there's a high degree of uncertainty," Garamendi told CalMatters by phone from Washington, D.C. "It appears as though the commission is developing an Interstate 80 district. Exactly where it begins and where it ends is unknown. But I've represented the Interstate 80 corridor for 11 years, and I'm looking forward to doing it again."

Garamendi's District 3 now includes Solano, Yolo, Sutter, Yuba, Colusa, Lake, and Glenn counties – a much more rural profile than previously.

Next door, California District 1 now includes the counties of Nevada, Sierra, Butte, Plumas, Tehama, Lassen, Shasta, Modoc, and Siskiyou. The current Congressperson is Doug LaMalfa.

For those interested in seeing a more diverse representation which may reflect other points of view, visit the site [runforsomething.net](http://runforsomething.net), which recruits and helps young progressives to run for office. Their proposition: "Throw everything you know about politics out the window. You're qualified to run for local office — we're here to help."



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## Yuba Water to Transfer Water to Bay Area – A Benefit for Humans and Fish!

By DeDe Cordell, Yuba Water Agency

Yuba Water Agency's board of directors voted to authorize a water transfer agreement with Contra Costa Water District and East Bay Municipal Utility District, to sell at least 10,000 acre-feet of water, and potentially more, if the conditions allow, during the spring and summer of 2022.

"This is a great opportunity for us to provide water to other communities in need during the drought, and bring in additional revenue for Yuba County water projects," said Yuba Water Agency General Manager Willie Whittlesey. "This agreement does not change the way we operate or how much water we release at all. It's just a change in where a relatively small portion of the water we are already releasing goes. We would be releasing this water for fishery benefits in the lower Yuba River, anyway, and this agreement will allow us to bring home even more benefits for Yuba County."

Water transfers are a key element of the 2008 Yuba River Accord, a collaborative, multi-party agreement that ensures a holistic approach to water management on the Yuba River. This landmark agreement benefits lower Yuba River fisheries and ensures water supply reliability for Yuba County's agricultural community and others who purchase water from Yuba Water Agency. It also provides revenue to fund local flood risk reduction and water supply projects and other activities to further Yuba Water's missions.

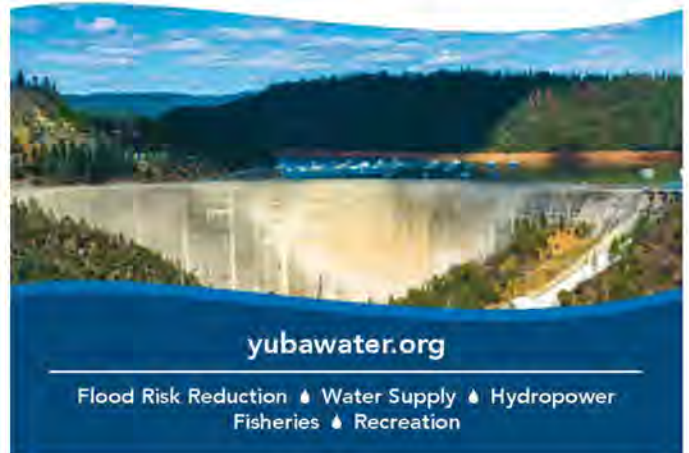


In short, the water that is released in the Yuba River for the benefit of the fish, can then potentially be sold to others in the state who need it, and the revenue from those transfers goes to projects that benefit Yuba County. "This is a big deal for us," said Yuba Water Agency Director Brent Hastey. "One of our goals has always been to expand our options regarding who we sell water to, so that we have more flexibility and can consistently bring home the benefits of water we are releasing to help Yuba River fisheries."

The water transfer is consistent with Governor Newsom's recent executive orders and proclamation of a drought state of emergency that encourage local agencies to voluntarily coordinate use of available water to protect public health.

The transfer water in this agreement would be diverted at East Bay Municipal Utility District's Freeport diversion facility and at Contra Costa Water District's diversion facilities near Rock Slough. The payments for the transfer water will reflect market rates agreed to by the parties.

To learn more about the benefits of the Yuba Accord and how water transfers benefit the people of Yuba County, visit the Yuba Water Agency website.



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## Food Distribution in the Yuba County Foothills

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(At the Community Center)

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**March 11**  
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- Community Services District (CCSD) ————— 288-3676
- Elementary School ————— 288-3277
- Family Resource Center (CCP) ————— 288-9355  
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*Hours 11 am-1 pm, 1:45-3:45 pm, M-F*
- Volunteer Fire Department ————— 288-3303
- Water Plant ————— 775-980-7138
- Yuba River Ranger District ————— 362-8259/288-3231

- Alcoholics Anonymous: Local 24 hr Hotline — 272-6287
- Burn Day Status ([www.fraqmd.org](http://www.fraqmd.org)) ————— 741-6299
- CA Rural Legal Assistance (Yuba Co) ————— 742-5191
- CoRR (Community Recovery Resources) ————— 273-9541
- Domestic Violence:

- Casa de Esperanza Hot Line (Yuba Co) — 674-2040
- DVSAC Crisis Line (Nevada Co) ————— 272-3467

- KNCO 830 AM (Nevada Co) ————— 477-5626
- KUBA 1600 AM (Yuba Co) ————— 673-5400
- KVMR 89.5 FM (Nevada Co) ————— 265-9555
- Legal Center for Seniors (Yuba) ————— 742-8289
- Mental Health 24 hr Crisis Line (Yuba) ————— 673-8255
- NAMI -Support for Mental Illness ————— 272-4566
- PG&E Outage Line ————— 800-743-5000
- Red Cross of NE California ————— 673-1460
- Road Conditions CalTrans ————— 800-427-7623
- Sheriff (Yuba Co) Emergency ————— 911
- Sheriff (Yuba Co) Non-Emergency ————— 749-7777
- Supervisor Randy Fletcher (Yuba Co) ————— 749-7510
- Yuba County Emergency Services (OES) ————— 749-7520
- Yuba County Health and Human Services — 749-6311

Contact Editor for additions or corrections

**To the Camptonville Community from "The Traveling Vet":**  
After forty years of serving Yuba and Nevada County, I am  
retiring. I will miss my patients, clients and my good  
friends. Thanks for supporting me. Happy New Year!  
-Dennis Spence, DVM

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## January 2022 Community Calendar

The *Camptonville Courier* and Calendar are online IN COLOR at [Camptonville.com](http://Camptonville.com).

To add local events to the calendar, email: [calendarville@gmail.com](mailto:calendarville@gmail.com)

**Call first to confirm meeting times and whether held virtually or in person**

(CCC = Camptonville Community Center)



### WEEKLY Events

- Mondays:** HH Clinic on Wheels, 9:30 am-4:30 pm, School
- Tuesdays:** Yoga, 5 pm at the school gym  
Camptonville Fire Dept. Trainings, 6-9 pm, Firehall
- Fridays:** HH Clinic on Wheels, 9:30 am-4 pm, Lost Nugget
- Saturdays:** Coffee@The Center, 10 am-noon  
Qi Gong class, 12:30-1:30 pm, CCC



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### MONTHLY Events

- CCP Board** - Meets 3rd Wednesday, 1 pm, Resource Center. Contact: 288-9355
- CCSD Board** - Meets 4th Thursday, 6:30 pm, CCC. Contact: 288-3676
- School Board** - Meets 3rd Thursday, 5 pm, CV School. Contact: 288-3277
- Pendola Road Association** - Meets on 3rd Saturday, 11 am, CCC

**All Food Banks - See Page 9**