

# THE Camptonville Courier

Connecting the Community  
Since 1997



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## The Snowstorm Issue

By Shirley Dickard, Senior Editor

Night fell on December 25, 2021 without my hoped-for White Christmas. A few solitary snowflakes drifted in on December 26. By the next morning on the 27th, Camptonville awoke to mounting snow that wreaked havoc for weeks – electric power out, landlines dead, cell phone coverage sketchy, long roads obscured by several feet of snow, fallen trees and power lines crisscrossed on the road like pick-up sticks. Many were unable to make contact for help for days, as their food, water, firewood, gas, and propane tanks slowly depleted. Up and down Highway 49, the entire Sierra was similarly impacted.

Then “The Helpers” arrived – and boy did they! This issue is filled with gratitude to all the individuals and organizations who came to the rescue with random acts of kindness, basic provisions, and heroic rescues. We also learned about our community's state of preparedness for both winter and fire season emergencies, and know we have work to do!



Snowflake on Hair  
Photo by Carsten Sevier

## A Snowstorm Story for the Books!

By Dakota Pratschner, Firefighter with CVFD

From my perspective as a volunteer firefighter, the snowstorm felt like one long, cold, and wet incident. I spent hours shivering in my turnouts, limping with blisters that never had the chance to heal, and carefully warming my raw and frozen hands all stiffened and cut up by tree limbs and ice. We all spent hours on the side of Highway 49 sawing up fallen trees, turning traffic around, pulling cars out of ditches, and sometimes even pulling people out of cars. It was a series of seemingly never-ending days and nights that were taxing and exhausting.



Photo by Dakota Pratschner from the back of snowmobile driven by North San Juan firefighter, Andy Guetebier, as they returned in the early morning light with their patient towed behind.



The calls during that storm were unforgettable, but one in particular was quite challenging. I accompanied Andy Guetebier from the North San Juan Fire Department who brought their snowmobile to help us accomplish a rescue mission to reach our patient. The night was ongoing with drifts of blinding snow. There were countless times we seriously thought we would not make it considering the snow was brutally deep and there were dozens of downed trees and powerlines in our path. But in the end, we successfully covered 16 miles of wilderness in 7.5 hours with 4 feet of snow, 2 people, and 1 chainsaw. I've never been more relieved to see the sunlight, as it was morning by the time we headed back with the patient being pulled in a sled. It's a story for the books, but we could not have done it without North San Juan's help. Such gratitude for our neighbors!

(More on Page 2)



## More Updates from the CVFD

(Continued from Page 1)

By Dakota Pratschner, Firefighter with CVFD



It's been a while since I've had the time or resources to write an update for you all, so I have a lot to say this time around! First of all, Happy New Year from our fire department to you! Our department has been busier than ever for the past two months, and it just so happens that we have also been short staffed. It's been strenuous for all of us volunteers and especially Chief Brandi Dudek. She is one of the strongest women I know, and we volunteers are so fortunate to have her as our chief. We love you, Brandi!

After these past few weeks' snow, I've had an even bigger appreciation for things like band-aids, dry gloves, plowed roads, electricity, and this volunteer fire department. We will get through this hard time of being short staffed and short funded. This year, we will be calling on the community for help. I will be working on ways to make donations and fundraising easier for everyone. We need our community just like this community needs us.

Training is still every Tuesday night from 6-9 pm. Remember that there is always something valuable and interesting to learn. It is completely free, and we would love to have you! Come on up to the station on 15410 Mill Street!

For more information contact Brandi Dudek, CVFD Fire Chief, AEMT, at (530) 288-3303 or (530) 305-4495, or me at (530) 777-8820.

*Have a Wonderful and Safe February!*



## Waiting for a Storm

The day after Christmas, sitting here alone infused with memories of last night's sweetness, laughter, and sharing.

The glow of well-fed bodies and soft hearts.

A day of intermittent gift exchanges and eating.

Sometimes, rain.

Outside now, wind pushes and pulls the tops of trees while birds and squirrels hunker down to the something that is coming.

Inside, we will play on our electronics with lighting and sound.

If you take away our propane and grid things change very quickly.

For now, the illusion of safety still stands.

– Marcy Risque, December 26, 2021



Where's My Fire Truck?! Photo by Mary Yager

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# What Was That?!

By Patrick Brose, Superintendent/Principal

What was that!? We returned to school after the winter break to find ourselves buried under several feet of snow, no power, and minimal heat. That didn't deter Camptonville School from opening. Starting with **Tedd Sapp** the plowman, we got the parking lots and walkways cleared.

**PG&E** sent us enough propane to keep our whole-school generators running, which provided power and heat to the school. With those items in place, on January 3, we were able to open our doors to our students and open a warming center to the community. By coordinating with **Camptonville Community Services District (CCSD)**, **Camptonville Community Partnership (CCP)**, **Yuba County Office of Emergency Services (OES)**, and the **Yuba County Office of Education (YCOE)**, the school became a hub for services to the entire community. Generators, firewood, and food were all brought in to support the people of Camptonville and to help reopen a number of resources in town. I am so fortunate to have so many people help and support, as this allowed us to maintain a strong, warm, and healthy environment for our students and community.

Looking forward, **CUESD**, **CCP**, **CCSD**, **OES**, **YCOE**, and the **US Forest Service** are looking to form a coalition to better streamline emergency responses. In the coming months, we will be developing a systematic plan to ensure that when the next storm arrives, we are able to mobilize supplies more quickly and more efficiently. Thank you to all who helped and stepped in to keep this community alive!



Photo by Katie Sapp



Photo by Patrick Brose



Tedd Sapp to the Rescue!

Photo by Katie Sapp



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### Be Careful What You Wish For!

By Beverly Cameron-Fildes, YWP&FSC

I used to think that if I had one piece of advice for my younger self it would be, "be careful what you wish for." We've heard that phrase over and over, sometimes in jest, however other times in earnest. In a moment of desperation, we wish for material things, or adjustments in our lives that might well, if we were thinking ahead, bring unexpected and possibly undesirable alterations to our lives. And I can honestly say that I have, on occasion, gotten what I wished for and wished I had given it a little more thought before I made my "plea."

In the last couple of years, we have suffered due to the effects of our changing climate: insufficient precipitation, huge lightning bursts, and longer, hotter, drier "fire seasons"... a "perfectly" horrible storm. Many of us were ecstatic with the recent rain and snow that brought hope of lessening the drought (the complications of the most recent snowstorm notwithstanding). As meteorologists calculated the precipitation percentages against previous years, I know I was thrilled.

That joy was tempered by my older, and I hope wiser, firesafe self. While we needed the rain and snow, my new advice to all would be, "prepare for what you wish for." Although the rain and snow will bring relief to our lakes, rivers, and streams, it will also bring a plethora of new fuels that will have to be managed before the heat of summer is upon us.

After the 2017 Cascade fire, we had some pretty impressive rains. Given all that burned away in October, it was a surprise to many just how much vegetation needed to be dealt with by May.

So prepare now! Make a plan for the work that needs to get done before fire season is upon us. For help prioritizing your home hardening and defensible space work, request a Wildfire Mitigation review. Also, pick up a copy of the Yuba Watershed Protection & Fire Safe Council 2022 calendar, with many tips for making you and your home fire safe.



Buy your 2022 FireSafe Calendar at the Lost Nugget Market, Camptonville Post Office and CCP's Resource Center.

Photo by Beverly Cameron-Fildes

### YOYO72 - CamptonvillePrepared!

By Shirley Dickard




YOYO72 means "You are on your own the first 72 hours of any emergency" – something that hit close to home during the December/January snowstorm!

CamptonvillePrepared! (CP!) first met in March 2014, organized by the late Judy Morris. The goal of this citizens group was to provide us with supplies and resources so we could be safe and comfortable during those first 72 hours of an emergency before help arrives.

For several years, CP! developed neighborhood communication maps, gave classes, put monthly "Survival Tips" in *The Courier*, and coordinated with the Red Cross and Yuba County organizations. When Judy passed away, CP! passed away too because no one kept it going.

If weather trends continue, both winter and fire seasons will become more severe and unstable. If you'd like to be involved in helping Camptonville become better organized and prepared for future emergencies, please contact Camptonville Community Partnership at (530) 288-9355.

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### Let Me Re-introduce Myself



By Cara Olson, CCP's New Executive Assistant

A while back, I was asked to submit an article to *The Courier* introducing myself to the community as Camptonville Community Partnership's new front desk employee. Well, I thought it was only fitting that I re-introduce myself in my new position since I have been so much more active

on local public platforms.

Since being hired in 2019, I have eagerly and actively taken on bigger and bigger projects. Cathy LeBlanc (CCP Executive Director) has taught me so much about listening to the community and taking action to address the issues they voice. Cathy has spoken about retiring in the not so distant future (February 2023), and I am laser focused on absorbing as much of her wisdom as possible before that happens. I have been promoted to Executive Assistant with the intention of learning the many ways CCP holds down the community fort, until the next Executive Director of Camptonville Community Partnership is discovered, even if that doesn't take place in the next year.

I look forward to having a more impactful role in helping not only Camptonville, but all the Yuba County foothills, continue to thrive. And most of all, I look forward to hearing directly from you about how I can help. My contact information is [cara@theccp.org](mailto:cara@theccp.org) or call (530) 288-9355.



### Where's My Car?!!

Photos by Cathy LeBlanc (top) and Janie Kesselman (bottom)



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

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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

**Camptonville Community Partnership (CCP) 501(c)(3)**

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## Monkey Mind: Mind on Freedom

By Jesse Golden

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 for the month of February.



February is Black/African-American History month. It began in 1926 as "Negro History Week," launched by historian Carter G. Woodson, who, says Wikipedia, "contended that the teaching of black history was essential to ensure the physical and intellectual survival of the race within broader society: 'If a race has no history, it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world, and it stands in danger of being exterminated.'"

But the telling of history – which stories get told, how they're told, and who gets to tell them – often reflects the values and struggles of the present as much as the past.

I thought about this while listening to a January episode of the public radio program, *This American Life*, titled "Talking While Black." In covering some recent incidents of books on black history and black experience being banned from school libraries and curricula, it mentioned that several states in the US have recently passed legislation "prohibiting teaching any lessons that might make students feel, quote, 'discomfort, guilt, or anguish' because of their race."

It's true that learning about history – personal history, local history, national history, world history – may make some people uncomfortable. When we decide, however, to shut some history out because it's embarrassing or brings up hard questions, everyone loses.

**Here are a few ideas for learning more about African-American history this month:**

- Listen to "Talking While Black" Search your podcast app, or: [thisamericanlife.org/758/talking-while-black](https://thisamericanlife.org/758/talking-while-black) .
- Watch the 2014 movie *Selma*, a chronicle of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s campaign to secure equal voting rights via an epic march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, in 1965.
- Read articles about the hidden history of slavery in California and a state commission to consider reparations at: [aclunc.org/sites/goldchains](https://aclunc.org/sites/goldchains) .

## Elections coming up – June 7

By Jesse Golden

For those wanting to run for public office in the June 7, 2022 primary, the nomination period is open until March 11. In Yuba County, races include District 1 Supervisor (East Linda and part of West Linda), **District 5 Supervisor (Camptonville** as well as Hallwood, Loma Rica, Smartsville, Browns Valley, Challenge, Dobbins, Oregon House, Strawberry Valley, Rackerby, Forbestown, and Reclamation District 10), Superior Court Judge, Assessor, County Clerk, Superintendent of Schools, District Attorney, Auditor Controller, Sheriff-Coroner, Treasurer-Tax Collector, and Yuba County Water Agency, South Division.


Who's going to run? Well – how about you? Though politicians are often maligned, the fact is that communities need good, well-informed people – with thick skins – to take leadership.

Feel like you don't know enough about government to run? Why not join a county board, commission, or committee? Yes, Marysville is a long drive for us Camptonvillians, but this is the age of Zoom! Current vacancies are: Child Care Planning Council, First 5 Yuba Commission, In-Home Supportive Services Advisory Committee, Measure K Citizens' Oversight Committee, Regional Housing Authority, Resource Conservation District Application, and Yuba-Sutter Habitat Conservation Plan. These are listed on: [https://www.yuba.org/departments/clerk\\_of\\_the\\_board\\_of\\_supervisors/boards\\_and\\_commissions.php](https://www.yuba.org/departments/clerk_of_the_board_of_supervisors/boards_and_commissions.php) .

*As the comedian Moms Mabley put it – "If you always do what you always did, you will always get what you always got."*



"60 years ago, 6-year-old Ruby Bridges walked to school and showed how even first graders can be trailblazers." – CNN, 2020



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### Love You, Little Generator!

By Robert Mumm

The generator drones on in the background. Not so much in the background as I would like; I would rather have the quiet of the woods around me. Little sounds of melting snow from trees and roofs perhaps, or fire burning in my woodstove. Little sounds are lost in this endless ongoing engine sound. Damn! I am getting tired of that sound.

No so fast though; I really love that sound – that sound means our refrigerators keep working; it means that we have good lights while cooking our dinners. There are some things that little generator can't do such as pumping our water, but what it does is remarkable. That little generator is forty years old now and mostly can just run and run, though it can take lots of gasoline. Keeping a supply on hand is daunting, especially when gas stations run out.

There were a couple of days when we were a bit frantic though, days when it was hard to start, or it just stopped mid-run. We could be at our wits end after trying all the regular things to no avail. So wonderful when it started and would run again, even with that endless drone. With this clear weather, perhaps PG&E will be able to fix all the downed lines and our little generator can have a long rest. So far, it has done so well and deserves a break. LOVE YOU, LITTLE GENERATOR! Rest well soon.



Thank You, Little Generator! Photo by Robert Mumm



Photo by Yana Slade

### Love You, Community!

By Yana Slade

It's quiet now...glorious silence...without the sounds of 24/7 generators. Reminds me to be so grateful for the silence of electricity and solar and wood.

I have such gratitude for all the community members who brought water, wood, food, generator, and gas all the way out a bad, unplowed road to our little community down Pendola Extension Road.

We have been here for 40 years, so we are well prepared. Yet this storm made me aware of holes in my plan...like running out of propane and not being able to get a delivery because of the unplowed roads.

To all those who have learned the hard way, I say it's never too late to be better prepared for the next time. Don't be hard on yourself. It's a learning curve.

The cold in the night seemed to be the hardest to tolerate. So happy to see the sun and to be able to run the heaters at night. My friends finally can reach me now that my phone works. I am proud to be able to reassure them that my community watches out for us. Love you, community!! – Yana Slade







**Storm Damage**

Robert Mumm's Shop (above); Janie and Peter's Storage Shed (below)



No power? No propane? No problem! Just camp on the floor by the wood stove!

Photo by Mia Narell

**The End of This Year**

It has been snowing and snowing,  
 nature gleeful in her power,  
 trees coming down,  
 power lines all in tangles,  
 roads buried,  
 people ensconced in their homes,  
 many without any power at all.  
 We really are at her mercy.  
 And mostly, we are not merciful  
 to her — and still, she gives.  
 Now, a shift to slow melting.  
 Silence, the sky still white  
 after days.

I saw large flocks of birds  
 overhead — twice —  
 very many flying north,  
 and they were small  
 like robins, such joy  
 to simply look up  
 and see hundreds of dark flecks  
 going somewhere, lively,  
 resuming.



— Marcy Risque



Snow Piled Outside Window Photo by Mandy Sanders



## SAY Love, Camptonville

By Sandy Ross

I wished for nothing more than to start 2022 by turning off my social media accounts and burrowing down for the winter. On the contrary, it began with several feet of snow, a sweeping loss of power and mobility, and a feeling of being helpless and forgotten. That lasted for a few days until I remembered that what makes us Camptonville is the ability to connect, come together, and help our own in the most dire of circumstances. It wasn't long before that feeling of being hopeless and forgotten was replaced with just enough determination to start writing emails, making phone calls, and using social media as a tool to connect! It was immensely heartening to see that there were many others seeking to help others in any way that they could.

Whether you had a plow, a shovel, connection to a local agency, cash to donate, or a caring heart and a loud voice, you made important things happen. It was the collective "We" that mobilized. We got our Yuba County leaders to recognize that we had an emergency, the **Yuba County Public Works** to come up and plow the roads (thank you **Ambrosha**), **PG&E** to come and deliver firewood (thank you **Molly, Scott, and Norm**), the **Briah Patch and Nevada County Food Bank** to deliver food (thank you **Janie, Shonti, Norm, Matt, Jessi, Tonie, and Cliff**), the **Yuba County Sheriff's Office, OES, and Health and Human Services** to come and check on seniors and provide supplies including generators (thank you **Patrick, Cathy, Cara, CCP, and Tom**).

Looking on the bright side, we learned about a wonderful grassroots organization from Yuba City called **SAYLove Sutter and Yuba**, that delivered a huge dump truck load of wood along with a generous donation of cash to our residents in need. Their purpose is to create positive changes in their area (which fortunately includes Camptonville).

While we all suffered through this emergency together, what I saw was that the power of many always usurps the power of one in creating positive outcomes. I saw so many local heroes that it's hard to mention a few because I know that many will be left out. I would also like to give a nod to social media. Despite its many pitfalls, it is an amazing tool for reaching people in our community who we might not ordinarily get to see or hear from. I hope that we can continue to say "love" to our neighbors and friends by becoming even more inclusive and responsive as we delve into formulating emergency response plans for our community.



Thank You "SAYLove Sutter Yuba" for Delivering Wood! Photo by Sandy Ross

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# Relief from the Storm



By Cathy LeBlanc, CCP

The late December storms hit us with a fury most of us have not seen since the early 2000s. Many folks were caught off guard when they found themselves snowed in, with trees stretched across roads, no power, phone, internet, or enough dry firewood to stay warm. But relief was on the way. Fortunately, Camptonville had infrastructure in place and ready.

Former Camptonville School Principal/Superintendent, now CCSD Board member, **Sandy Ross** worked with the **Nevada County Food Bank** and **BriarPatch Co-op** to deliver food and water. On Monday, January 3, she and volunteers opened the doors of the Community Center to hand out these lifelines.

On that same Monday, Camptonville Principal/Superintendent

**Patrick Brose** set up a conference call with **Yuba County officials** and **the Office of Education** to share the urgency of the situation. Soon calls and emails started to come into the **Camptonville Community Partnership's (CCP)** Resource Center from folks and agencies willing to lend a hand. The rich outpouring of relief was delivered the following Friday. There was so much that we arranged for the load to be shared with Foothill Food Pantry in Dobbins. A community giveaway was arranged and posted immediately. (Please see "A Hearty Thank You" on page 11.)

Early on, CCP's **Cara Olson** coordinated door-to-door wellness checks for seniors at the Rebel Ridge Mobile Home Park with **Tom Sargent**, manager, and **Yuba County Health and Human Services**. Residents were without electricity and, for a while, propane, until Tom managed to get a propane truck to deliver in the aftermath of the storm. Cara also organized a posse (**James Dondono, Jay, Skylar, Chase, and Noah Noble, and Corrin Burdett**) to bring much needed food, water, supplies, generators, and wood to families. This group traversed treacherous roads with many downed trees and deep snow to help out neighbors.

**Newcomers were often hit the hardest.** We spoke with a number of local folks affected and discovered that those who were the hardest hit were often residents new to the community within the last 10 years. These Camptonvillians were not privy to the days of yearly 4-6 foot drifts or the sage wisdom of **CamptonvillePrepared!** whose tag line was **YOYO72**, which means, in the event of an emergency, **You're On Your Own for the first 72 hours** (see article on page 4). Being on your own implies a certain amount of stocking up and paying attention to current conditions, like approaching severe winter storms.



Donated Food Distributed at the Center

Photo by Janie Kesselman



Photo by Shirley Dickard



Hard Traveling after the Snow!

Photo by Jessica Tosh Prince



### Supporting Communities After Winter Storm

By Diana Vasquez, *The Appeal Democrat*

This is an excerpt from *The Appeal Democrat*, January 7, 2022, in which Francisco Reveles, Superintendent of Schools, Yuba County Office of Education, describes his experience transporting supplies to the snow-bound foothills.

"We were wet," said Reveles. "It almost felt like we were in a giant slurpee. It was cold rain, but everybody was out there. So first we made a stop at the Dobbins Food Pantry and the person there was just unbelievable. She was all wet, but she was out there giving directions, telling us where to drop off the food, and everybody was so appreciative. Then from there, we went up to Camptonville. We saw a lot of snow. They were so happy. They even brought up students to help us out. It was so beautiful. They were making cookies. So, I mean, it was unbelievabe, but clearly there's a lot of need right now."



Patrick Brose and Dr. Reveles Unload Supplies  
Photo by Amy Nore, YCOE

### A Hearty Thank-You to Help from Yuba Sutter area!

By Cathy LeBlanc, CCP

The following list of help was shared by Amy Nore, Yuba County Office of Education's Community Engagement & Emergency Response Administrator.


- **Sam Stephens** of the non-profit **SAYLove** (found on Facebook), and the **4g Foundation** (4gFoundation.org) donated funds to the Lost Nugget store for gas. The gas was for the six generators **PG&E** supplied in collaboration with the **Yuba County Sheriff's** office that delivered them here.
- When another issue developed and the Lost Nugget needed a generator to run the gas pumps, **Yuba Water Agency** had one on the way and power to the store was restored.
- **SAYLove** also cleared driveways and delivered a total of 10 cords of wood, two pallets of heavy blankets, pillows, and sheets, and two pallets of water.
- The **4g Foundation** received \$193 in donations that went to purchase other specific supplies.
- **Veterans Services** sent wool beanies.
- **First 5 Yuba and the Yuba Sutter Foodbank** sent diapers, wipes, and Desitin.
- **Yuba County Health and Human Services** sent beanies, socks, gloves, and batteries.
- **Hope for the Heart** sent 3 pallets of Lunchables, Nutrigrain bars, and drinks.
- **Yuba Sutter Task Force** sent gift cards.



Foothill Food Pantry Crew Photo by Amy Nore, YCOE

A hearty thank you goes out to *everyone* who helped with this relief effort!





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## The Subnivean Zone - What Goes on Under the Snow?

By Katie O'Hara-Kelly, North Yuba Naturalist

With recent winter weather and snow, I thought it would be appropriate to discuss what goes on under the snow! The following information from:

<https://yosemite.org/getting-in-the-subnivean-zone/> explains it clearly!

"The below-snow haven is the subnivean zone, a very real facet of winter life for many mammals. *Subnivean* zone – from the Latin for under and snow – refers to the small space (about 1") between the ground and the bottom of the snowpack. As snow piles up, heat from the ground warms the lowest layer of flakes, transforming them into water vapor. The vapor freezes, creating a cozy winter home: icy roof above, bare ground below. Subnivean spaces can also form when tree branches, leaf piles and other natural objects hold snow off the ground.

"We often talk about snow "blanketing" the earth – for some of the local smallest animals, including mice, voles, and shrews, that's not just a nice turn of phrase. As animals around them head south, nestle into dens, or don their cold-weather coats, another group of creatures moves into a wild, bustling winter world that remains, for the most part, out of our view. For them, the layer of snow above their subnivean hollows serves as an insulating and essential quilt, blocking out the wind and keeping below-snow temperatures at around a relatively balmy 32 degrees Fahrenheit.

"Throughout the winter, subnivean-dwelling mammals move through a network of snow-covered tunnels, snacking on leaves, seeds, and bark, or feasting on insect eggs and larvae. Some animals stockpile sustenance in preparation for winter, while others take a more spontaneous approach, eating what they can find. Holes connecting the tunnels to the surface provide vital ventilation, allowing carbon dioxide to escape.

"To the human senses, the subnivean zone is nearly invisible. We might spot tiny tracks leading to small entrance holes or see the remnants of icy-roofed tunnels as the snow starts to melt, but usually the bustling sub-snow ecosystem eludes our notice.

"For the animals that depend on subnivean life for survival, however, that winter world is a constant focal point. Coyotes listen for subtle movements in blanketed meadows; when they sense potential prey scurrying underfoot, they plunge headfirst into the snow to nab their meal. Owls, too, use their extraordinary hearing to listen for tiny feet pattering through subnivean tunnels, then swoop down to scoop up their quarry. Short-tailed weasels, which sport a brown coat in warm months but wear white in winter, take advantage of their small size and snow-colored camouflage to slide into subnivean tunnels and hunt below the snow."

In the Spring you can see the evidence of Pocket Gopher activity in the subnivean zone. They bring dirt to the surface from their underground tunnels. Due to the covering of snow, they can't pile up dirt on the forest floor. Instead, they make tunnels in the subnivean layer and fill them with dirt. When the snow melts in the spring, you often see these tube-shaped lines of dirt on the forest floor!



White-footed Deer Mouse Photos by K. O'Hara-Kelly



Evidence of Subnivean Activity

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Early Snowfall Over Bullards Bar Dam

Photo by Alex Boesch, YWA



Yuba Water Agency's Board of Directors. From left to right: Don Blaser, Seth Fuhrer, Brent Hastey, Gary Bradford (chair), Randy Fletcher (vice-chair), Andy Vasquez and Charlie Mathews.

## Yuba Water Agency Selects 2022 Officers

By DeDe Cordell, YWA

At its first meeting of the new year, Yuba Water Agency's board of directors elected the new chair and vice-chair to lead the seven-member board in 2022. **Gary Bradford** will serve as chairman and **Randy Fletcher** will serve as vice-chairman. Bradford is also a county supervisor representing the Plumas Lake and Wheatland areas and spent the last year serving as Yuba Water's vice-chair. He has been on the board since 2017. Fletcher is a county supervisor representing the foothills and eastern Yuba County and has served on the Yuba Water board for seven years.

Yuba Water Agency is a stand-alone public agency created in 1959 to serve the people of Yuba County in the areas of flood risk reduction, water supply reliability, fish habitat protection and enhancement, hydroelectric generation, and recreation at New Bullards Bar Reservoir. As the owner and operator of New Bullards Bar Dam and New Colgate Powerhouse as well as other, smaller facilities, Yuba Water reinvests its hydropower and water sales revenue into projects related to the agency missions that can improve the public safety and quality of life for the residents of Yuba County.

Learn more about the agency and its role in the community at [yubawater.org](http://yubawater.org).

## Public Meeting: Yuba River Ranger District Move from Camptonville

By Randi Shaffer USFS



On **Thursday, February 17, at 5:30 pm**, the Camptonville Community Partnership and U.S. Forest Service will hold a public meeting to give updates on the planned move of the Tahoe National Forest's (TNF) facilities from Camptonville to Nevada City. The meeting will be held at Camptonville Community Center, 15333 Cleveland Avenue, as well as online.

The TNF plans to move its Yuba River Ranger District facilities to Nevada City in 2025, when the TNF constructs a new campus for both the Yuba River Ranger District building and the main forest supervisor's office.

The Tahoe National Forest and CCP began hosting community meetings regarding this issue in June 2021 to promote a healthy community partnership. Agenda items will include an update on the project's timeline as well as a discussion on remaining Camptonville facilities, potential job opportunities, and housing opportunities for future USFS employees.

If community members cannot attend in-person, the meeting will be livestreamed online via the Camptonville Community Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/theccp.org>. Viewers do not need a Facebook account to watch the livestream, but do need one to comment.

**YUBA**  
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[yubawater.org](http://yubawater.org)

Flood Risk Reduction ♦ Water Supply ♦ Hydropower  
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## Local In-Home Help Available

**Experienced IHSS/Private Pay Caregiver available to provide assistance with personal care, housekeeping, shopping, cooking, and general needs in the Camptonville area!**



**30 years experience as a social worker.**

**Available immediately.**

**Local references available.**

**Contact Sheri Reece at (530) 774-4910.**

## Free COVID-19 Rapid At-Home Test Kits Now Available Online

From: [www.covidtests.gov/](https://www.covidtests.gov/)

The Federal Government has made COVID-19 Rapid at-home test kits available at no cost. The limit is four kits per household, and will be sent via the US Postal Service.

Ordering is easy – Just click: <https://www.covidtests.gov>

### When should you take an at-home test?

- If you begin having COVID-19 symptoms like fever, sore throat, runny nose, or loss of taste or smell, or
- At least five days after you come into close contact with someone with COVID-19, or
- When you're going to gather with a group of people, especially those who are at risk of severe disease or may not be up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines.

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program, insurance enrollment and referral linking to other services

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<b>Del Norte</b> 389 Del Norte Ave. Yuba City, CA 95991 (530)763-4252	<b>Plumas</b> 1215 Plumas St. #1400 Yuba City, CA 95991 (530)777-3190

Most insurances accepted  
[www.myharmonyhealth.org](http://www.myharmonyhealth.org)





## Food Distribution in the Yuba County Foothills



### The Foothill Food Pantry:

Drive-through distribution at the Alcouffe Community Center in Oregon House  
 9185 Marysville Road (across from the fire department)  
**The 1st and 3rd Friday, 12–1:30 pm**  
**February 4 and 18; March 4 and 18**

### The USDA Commodities Food Bank

Located at Willow Glen Restaurant, Oregon House  
**The 2nd Friday: 10:30-11:30 am**  
**February 11 and March 11**  
 Distributed by The Gleaners.

### North San Juan Food Bank, Nevada County:

Located at Oak Tree School  
**The 2nd Tuesday, 10 am–Noon**  
 Free Food and Clothing Closet: call 292-3174 for hours



Photo: www.AirMedCareNetwork.com

## HELP & HOPE

For emergencies first call 911.  
 All area codes are 530 unless otherwise specified.

### CAMPTONVILLE:

- Cemetery ————— 277-6737
- Community Center ————— 288-5016
- Community Partnership (CCP) ————— 288-9355
- Community Services District (CCSD) ————— 288-3676
- Elementary School ————— 288-3277
- Family Resource Center (CCP) ————— 288-9355  
*Hours 8:30 am–12:30 pm, Tues/Wed/Thurs*
- Post Office ————— 288-3348  
*Hours 11 am–1 pm, 1:45–3:45 pm, M-F*
- Volunteer Fire Department ————— 288-3303
- Yuba River Ranger District ————— 362-8259/288-3231

- Alcoholics Anonymous: Local 24 hr Hotline — 272-6287
- Burn Day Status (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

## Do you have Life Flight Insurance?

By Brandi Dudek, CVFD Chief (Reprinted from previous issues)

If you get in a car accident or have a major medical issue, such as a heart attack where time is of the essence, you may be flown by air ambulance to a trauma center or a hospital. Helicopter rides are expensive and could cost in excess of \$25,000.

First responders in our area do **not** get the option of which air ambulance will be dispatched. It could be AirMedCare or Enloe FlightCare.

My recommendation is to have BOTH of these emergency air flight plans:

- **AirMedCare/Reach:** [www.AirMedCareNetwork.com](http://www.AirMedCareNetwork.com)

Phone: (877) 281-4648 (Membership is \$85/household; \$65/Seniors)



- **Enloe FlightCare** (Enloe Hospital, Chico):

[www.enloe.org/services-and-treatments/emergency-services/flightcare/flightcare-program](http://www.enloe.org/services-and-treatments/emergency-services/flightcare/flightcare-program)

Phone: (530) 332-6774 (Membership is \$40/individual; \$50/family)





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**Snowy Evening in Camptonville** Photo by Mary Yager

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## FEBRUARY 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 verify meeting venue and times before attending*  
 CCC = Camptonville Community Center



**February 14 - Valentines Day**  
**February 17 - Public Meeting with USFS**  
**re: Closure of Camptonville Office, 5:30 pm, CCC**  
**February 21 - Presidents' Day**



### 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, at CV School  
Call to confirm: 288-3277
- Pendola Road Association**: 3rd Saturday, 11 am, CCC

### WEEKLY Events

- Mondays**: HH Clinic on Wheels, 9:30 am-4:30 pm, School
- Tuesdays**: Yoga, 5 pm, School Gym  
Camptonville Fire Dept Trainings, 6-9 pm, Fire Hall
- Fridays**: HH Clinic on Wheels, 9:30 am-4:30 pm, Lost Lugget Market
- Saturdays**: Coffee@The Center, temporarily **CLOSED** through February  
Qi Gong: 12:30-1:30 pm, February 12, 19  
(Contact: [semakelly@protonmail.com](mailto:semakelly@protonmail.com))

**All Food Banks** - See Page 15