

THE Camptonville Courier

*Connecting the Community
Since 1997*



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NUMBER 12



Great Spirit whom the sea of boundless thought
Nurtures within its unimagined caves,
In which thou sittest sole, as in my mind,
Giving a voice to its mysterious waves...

- Percy Bysshe Shelley
An Excerpt from 'Great Spirit'

Original watercolor of Sierra Buttes by Margaret Brown

It's Time for the Secret Santa Project Again – Can you Help?

By Barbara Mueller-Hogan

I have been doing the Secret Santa program since the 1990s, and many children and families in our community have received full Christmas dinners and extra food for the winter break from school. Over the years, so many people have sponsored a child or family for gifts.

If you or anyone you know would like to be on the list for food, please call me by **Sunday, December 10th** at 530-288-9311. Give me the family's name, how many adults and children (list children's ages), and a phone number so I can call and let you know where and when to pick up the food. (My phone number comes up as "Private Caller" — please let the family know.)

If you would like to sponsor a child or family for gifts, let me know as soon as possible so I can get a "Wish List" from them. I will not be able to shop this year due to health issues. I know this is late notice, but I know we can make it work if we try. Please call! Best wishes for a blessed holiday season!

From the Editor

- Marcy Risque

Many thanks to the three Camptonville women who generously donated money for this issue's color covers: **Jesse, Yana, and Tonie**. We really appreciate it!

In addition to December's usual events (see pg 11), Santa is coming (pg 3), the Craft Fair is happening (pg 3), and last but definitely not least, the classic movie "A Wonderful Life" (pg 4) is showing right here in Camptonville.

I wish you a peaceful month and holiday time. A helpful reminder for us all when feeling stressed: S.T.O.P. – Stop, Take a breath, Observe, Proceed.

Thank You, My Friends!

By Barbara Mueller-Hogan

I would like to thank all my good friends in Camptonville for all the cards and donations of money to get my car fixed while I was in the nursing home. I'm happy to be home again and hope to continue being an active part of the community that I love. Blessings to you all.

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Free to Camptonville Residents; Subscriptions: \$15/year; Tax-deductible donations are appreciated!

Wordsmiths & Music Makers Redux — January 14th

By Yakshi Vadeboncoeur

New Years ushers in a blend of new and old formatting for **Wordsmiths & Music Makers on Sunday afternoon, January 14th from 3-7 pm at The Camptonville Community Center.** Featured performers include **Shabda Owens, Quantum, Joel Mörsberger, Maya Barhani, Yakshi, and family friendly teller of folktales and Cornish legends, Claudia Tonge** (who also happens to be Yakshi's longtime friend from high school days of yore and visiting us from Sonora, California). Your \$5 ticket at the door includes the show, the usual feast, and helps support The Community Center.

Thank you, everyone – artists, helpers, audience – for your amazing support of Wordsmiths' renaissance last year after a long COVID hiatus. Inclusivity and nurturing creativity are the twin chambers of Wordsmiths & Music Makers community-loving heart. The format we experimented with for the last year was wonderful, but September's equinox five-hour marathon stretched audience's (and clean-up crew's) resilience to the max. Some of us are just too old to sit for five hours or to stay up that late. So here's what we have in mind for 2024. We'll have two sets of featured performers doing 15-20 minutes each. Between them, as in the olden days, we will draw tickets from the Golden Tin to let audience members do one song or poem.

We'll have hors d'oeuvres before the show and at intermission, but save the usual feast for the end at around 6 or 6:30. This way people can sit and enjoy friends, neighbors, artists, and hot food at their leisure (or eat and run if that's what they need to do). Music makers of the quieter variety can serenade us in the dining hall if they so desire.

Hope to see you all there. For more info or to get on the featured artist list contact me at yakshiv@gmail.com.

Santa Claus is Coming to Town December 15th!

By Jessi Wilcox

Ho, Ho, Ho! Merry Christmas! Come out and see **Santa on Friday, December 15th!** He will be at the **Camptonville Community Center. Doors open at 4:30 pm. Santa arrives at 6!** Line up with patience to visit and get a picture with Santa. Santa's elves will be handing out a special gift and a stocking full of goodies for each kiddo.

This annual tradition is one of my favorites. As a child I remember visiting with Santa every year. It warms my heart to be able to continue this tradition with the Camptonville Christmas Club. A huge shout out to all those devoted folks of the past and to all the devoted folks of the present. Santa has been coming to Camptonville for over 60 years now. With that said, let's keep it going strong. Please come out and join us for a merry evening of visiting, warm soup, hot cocoa, and cookies.

Thank you in advance to all those who help put this event on, including all who joined us for our Fall Brunch fundraiser! We had a wonderful turnout and appreciate the support. This special evening is really a community effort!

Camptonville Holiday Craft Fair December 2nd

By Tracey Munson, CCP

Camptonville Community Partnership is once again sponsoring the annual **Holiday Craft Fair on Saturday, December 2nd, from Noon-3 pm at the Camptonville Union Elementary School gym** (16585 School Street, Camptonville).

This fair will include goods from a variety of Camptonville artisans providing an opportunity for our community to gather while supporting our local economy. For \$15 a vendor will receive a 4' x 6' space. For more information or to get on our list of vendors, please contact **Tracey Munson at 530-288-9355 or tracey@theccp.org.**

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Camptonville Volunteer Fire Department Report for December

By Elizabeth Zapata, Administrative Assistant, CVFD

Currently, we have 14 firefighters and one cadet.

We would like to remind you that even though the ground feels wet, there is still a danger of burn piles getting out of control. Always keep water, shovels, and other "just in case" tools at hand.

With many of us bringing trees and other foliage into our homes this time of year, we need to remain fire vigilant. Cut trees can dry out quickly, especially if there is a fireplace in the home.

Check water daily, and remove from the house after celebrations as soon as possible.

As always, we are looking for volunteers. Even if you don't feel like there is anything you can do, we can find a place for you!



Movies in our Town!

December 3rd Movie Matinee "It's a Wonderful Life"

Come join movie host Pam Davis for the **Camptonville Community Center December Movie Matinee at 4 pm on Sunday, December 3rd!** Our movie is "It's a Wonderful Life" – in color! There'll be fresh popcorn and enthusiastic movie fans, and it's affordable — the requested donation is \$2!

This 1946 film is considered to be one of the greatest films of all time and among the best Christmas films. Director Frank Capra revealed that it was his favorite among the 36 feature films he directed. "It's a Wonderful Life" ranks number 1 on the American Film Institute's list of the most inspirational movies of all time.

Gardeners' Market 2023

By Jimbo Garrison

The fabulous Camptonville Community Gardeners' Market has wrapped up another wonderful year. We had a very long season, starting much earlier and ending much later than ever before. Much thanks to **Diane Neubert** for running the market and bringing all the amazing veggies that she and her husband Terry grow in Pike. And massive thanks to **Lindsay Ostrander** and **Joel Morsberger** for their tireless work getting there bright and early to set up the market for us every Saturday and for all their help at The Community Center. You guys are awesome. It is so appreciated!

Over \$600 of proceeds from the market will be donated to the Center for operating expenses. Big thanks to all the other vendors and especially to all our wonderful customers. It just keeps getting better, and we are expecting more exciting things for next year. We love you all!

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Camptonville School's Salmon Expedition



Photos by Sara Spiers

Students Learn and Have Fun

By Patrick Brose, Superintendent/Principal

To highlight our first trimester, our 3rd-5th grade class took an amazing excursion salmon rafting on the Yuba River. They learned all about the lifecycle of our native salmon and how humans have impacted their environment. It was an amazing hands-on experience for our students!

It is that time of year with lots of exciting things happening at the school. To top it all off, our **Winter program is December 14th** in the school gym. Happy December to all!



Hank Mullins...

There are multiple reasons why I love Rally Point. There are a lot of things we get to do and I get to hang out with people I don't see every day. I love Rally Point for a lot of different reasons; for fun, games and a good time.

Camptonville School Photo

Rally Point Happenings

By Amber Mehrmann, CCP

At our first meeting in November, we got together and discussed more about the importance of practicing gratitude. We then created a gratitude tree, where the youth cut out leaves and wrote something they're grateful for to hang on the branches. The gratitude tree remained at The Community Center for the remainder of November, which allowed others in the community to add a gratitude leaf of their own and enjoy this interactive art installation.

Rally Point is a youth group for ages 10-15 that meets every **first and third Tuesday of the month from 5-7 pm at The Camptonville Community Center.** Those between the ages of 16 to 18 are welcome to come participate as "Peer Mentors." For more information, please contact **Amber Mehrmann** at amber@theccp.org or give us a call at 530-288-9355.

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Immersive Education Explorations

By Eugene Salganik, 1,2,3 Grow

1,2,3 Grow is a parent participation early childhood program. We're open every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, providing a flexible schedule for families to participate. For questions, please contact Eugene at eugene@theccp.org or call 530-288-9355.

Pine cone painting. It is like a paint explosion, with each pine cone becoming a unique masterpiece. The 1,2,3 Grow room transforms into a gallery of colors, showcasing the individuality and creativity of every child. Pine cones become the unexpected canvases, and the walls tell the story of a day filled with laughter, camaraderie, and a bit of messy fun.

Now, let's talk apple crafts — sticky, messy, and an absolute blast! From apple prints to creating mini apple characters, it's a hands-on journey into the world of fruit-inspired art. But it's not just about the mess; it's about getting up close and personal with apples, learning about their varieties, and realizing that education can be as fun as it is informative.

And the grand finale? Apple identification! No, it's not a tech thing; it's about figuring out Granny Smith from Gala, turning a simple fruit into a fun guessing game. It's not just a lesson; it's a sensory experience that makes learning memorable.

In our preschool, it's a fusion of education and sheer, unfiltered fun. Because when you combine learning with laughter, you create an environment where students aren't just absorbing facts—they're actively enjoying the journey of discovery. Welcome to our world of twice the learning and twice the fun!

Let's Create Community Art!

By Caroline Fowler

Let's create art together. I'm welcoming all creative minds to join me in community building through group art practices at the Camptonville Community Center. I began manifesting a dream about community and connectivity through art last winter, and now is the time to act on it. I propose to create and grow healthier together as a community. Let's gather for "Coffee collaborations" and other community building art projects, and publish our artwork in *The Courier*.

As a teaching artist, I am ready to facilitate simple art practices for all ages in our community. I hope that all will come create with me. I'm currently engaging in an art community event titled 'Poems for Peace of Mind'. Next time you're at Coffee, please think about taking a few minutes before you leave to join in our community artwork. The opportunity to write for emotional release and healing is a powerful, free outlet. The art of writing is strong in our community, and I would be honored to write with you.

Let's also write a story together. I invite everyone to join in a storybook write and pass along tale. Join in and write a few sentences to let your creativity flow and get to know one another's creative side.

I'm looking forward to our creativity at Coffee and beyond. Let's make community art. See you soon at Coffee on Saturdays, 10 am-12 pm and in our community!



Photo by Caroline Fowler

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Autumn Affair Mahalos

By Tyann Flower, Loose Ladies Events Coordinator

As I reflect on the success of the First Annual *Autumn Affair*, I am overwhelmed with gratitude. The level of support we received was amazing. I cannot thank enough the just over 20 volunteers who pulled together and without whose hard work the *Autumn Affair* would not have been possible. Donations of pie, bread, and soup were outstanding!

Camptonville is blessed with some amazingly talented culinary artists. The event was very well attended and exceeded our expectations; we were sold out of soup within the first hour. Pie-by-the-Slice was a success with over 60 slices coming off the table. Many thanks to **Debbie Seyms** for keeping the Pie Table organized and the slices moving. Thank you, **Linda Brown** and **Keith Montgomery**, for serving up smiles. Mulled Wine might have to make a reappearance next year. Apple pressing was a hit, a huge shout out to the Ladies that made that activity possible; **Mackenzie Garrot**, **Diane Neubert**, and **Shonti Burke**, thank you for your vision and willingness to make things happen. **Scarecrow**, **Joel Morsberger**, stole the show during the scarecrow costume contest. I hope next year brings more costumed community members. A special THANK YOU to **Alix Lamb**, for without her hard work and attention to detail, the *Autumn Affair* would not have been. Mahalo Nui Loa, Alix, you are a treasure to work alongside.

What took an afternoon of organized effort to transform The Community Center was quickly dismantled. Again, I was surprised by the many hands pitching in to make clean-up a breeze. A shining mention to **Ellen McCarthy** for keeping the kitchen organized and the dishes clean throughout the evening. Wow, you made it look easy. If you were not named here directly, it's not because I didn't notice you. Thank you, everyone involved, I feel blessed to be a part of the community.

Feedback is welcomed! What did we do well? What could we improve on? What would you like to see next year? Email cvillelooseladies@gmail.com.

Staying Fire Safe

By Beverly Cameron-Fildes, YWPFSC

Last month I mentioned several activities that we, as home/property owners, can, during the winter months, begin completing in order to be ready for the fire season. I want to offer a few more specifics that might just provide a "jumping off" place for prioritizing the work ahead.

In the area of **Home Hardening**, there are several ways to harden your home that are low cost and will offer great return on the investment in terms of protecting your home in the event of a fire.

Cover all vent openings with 1/16-inch noncombustible corrosion resistant metal mesh screen. This includes the 2" continuous soffit vents (I call them pigeon holes). I've seen a number of homes where birds have made nests in those openings, places where an ember could catch hold of the materials and lead fire right into the attic. Covering them not only prevents the risk of a buildup of flammable materials but it might also prevent bees and wasps from building nests in your attic. And it's work that can be done ahead of the warmer weather.

Inspect exterior siding for dry rot, gaps and cracks. Caulk or plug gaps greater than 1/16" in siding and replace any damaged boards including dry rot. While these cracks might not seem like much, ember intrusion into the crack or dry rotted wood can ignite the home.

In the area of **Defensible Space**, be sure that your burn piles are within proper size requirements (4' x 4'), materials are dry and have been covered. This helps with reduced smoke and more complete burning. Also be sure that you've created a bare dirt area of approximately 10 feet around the pile so that there is no chance of flame escape. When there is a designated burn day in your area, remove the covering and burn your pile. Keep water supply close and be in attendance with a shovel until the fire is out. Be sure to check with CalFire that weather conditions, especially wind, allow for safe burning.

Wishing you Happy Holidays and stay Fire Safe. For more information go to YubaFireSafe.org.

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Courier Rate Increases 2024

After 10 years, *The Courier* is finally raising the Advertising and Subscription rates by a small amount to keep up with increased costs of producing issues. (The additional expense of COLOR covers is handled separately through donations, which we hope community members will continue to support!).

Starting with the January 2024 issue:

Business Card Size Ads - \$125/year

Double Size Ads - \$200/year

Subscriptions: \$16/year

For a full description, see <https://courier.camptonville.net/p/welcome.html>



Migration

By Katie O'Hara-Kelly,
North Yuba Naturalist

As the days shorten and temperatures get colder, many wildlife species begin their migration to warmer climates where they will overwinter. Some travel incredible distances, while others may only travel to nearby lower elevations.

Mammals, birds, and even some insects migrate, mainly because of a lack of food in the colder, snowier environments.

Ladybugs, however, are the exception to that "rule!" Every fall, Ladybugs migrate uphill from the foothills to my neighborhood at 2,500' in elevation to spend the winter. When they arrive, they congregate in large groups on tree trunks, bare branches of low-growing shrubs, or even on the ground in leaf litter and pine needles. They initially mate while in these large groups, and then become inactive/dormant as the temperatures drop. To eliminate the possibility of freezing while in this dormant state, they produce an anti-freeze (glucose etc.) in their body fluids. They stay here through the snowy, cold winter, and then return to the foothills in the spring!

Deer will migrate to lower elevations not only because of the lack of food, but because of the snow. Snow covers up the plants on which they forage, and also makes it much harder for the deer to travel.

Birds are the probably the most migratory of all the local species. Every fall we delight in seeing the Sandhill Cranes migrating west to California's Central Valley from their breeding grounds in Oregon, Washington, and northeastern California. The following information from allaboutbirds.org discusses many aspects of migration:

"The term migration describes periodic, large-scale movements of populations of animals. One way to look at migration is to consider the distances traveled. Permanent residents do not migrate. They are able to find adequate supplies of food year-round. Short-distance migrants make relatively small movements, as from higher to lower elevations on a mountainside. Medium-distance migrants cover distances that span a few hundred miles. Long-distance migrants typically move from breeding ranges in the United States and Canada to wintering grounds in Central and South America. Despite the arduous journeys involved, long-distance migration is a feature of some 350 species of North American birds."

Escaping the cold is a motivating factor but many species, including hummingbirds, can withstand freezing temperatures as long as an adequate supply of food is available.

The Vote

By Robert Mumm

In late October of 1952, I stopped off at the Meek Mercantile Store on my way home from work at the Camptonville Sawmill. After checking for my mail and purchasing a couple of grocery items I knocked on the door to Acton's office, Judge Cleveland, who was our contact with the County and all things beyond. The Judge invited me in and asked what I needed. I told him that I wanted to register to vote, so he got some papers to fill out and asked me if I wished to register Republican or Democrat. I was surprised because I hadn't considered that question. I told him that I didn't know, and went on to ask just what difference there was between them. So we went on for some time in conversation as Acton attempted to answer my question. Having studied government in school, I had a good idea about how our governmental system worked, but didn't quite understand what the two main parties were about.

In Acton's explanation, the difference was in that one was more progressive and risk-taking, while the other was more conservative and cautious in making changes; so as a responsible young man I chose to register as a Republican — after all, what could go wrong with such a well thought out system to work with? I thought slow and steady is best. Of course, it was assumed that anyone who reached the level of the Senate or Congress would be responsible people and look to the best interest of the country in the votes they cast. I expected even more of the President, and Supreme Court Justices would of course be beyond reproach.

As the years went by, some second thoughts arose, and I left the Republican party, not that either party really lived up to my young expectations, but I came to a more liberal point of view, and in the turmoil of the 60s went Peace and Freedom for a time. Now if I had a choice, I would take either of those two imagined parties of that time past when I registered to vote, a time when lawmakers could sit down and talk together, even carpool to work together. The tribes won't have it now, though.



Photos by Katie O'Hara-Kelly

Remembering Frank Williams

By Don Kissig

T'was the day before Christmas in Camptonville on December 24, 1948. That seems like a long time ago — Robert Mumm was 16, Skip Ness about 10, and I was 13. Roads at that time were bad, and power had yet to arrive in Camptonville. Christmas season was in full swing, as families ventured into the forest and brought home the perfect trees, which were decorated with care. Kids were eager to open presents their parents had purchased through the Sears and Montgomery Ward catalogues, and all was set for the joyous yuletide season.

Then shocking news came that Frank Williams, the son of Clifford and Ada Williams, who at that time were Principal and Teacher at our school, had been fatally shot and killed in a shooting at Vivian's Shooting Gallery in Marysville. In addition to his parents, Frank left behind three brothers, Jack, Dick, and Howard.

Frank served in the Navy during World War II and, at 24, was working in the Shooting Gallery. He had found it necessary to ask a patron to leave due to misbehavior, and the patron returned shortly thereafter with a gun and opened fire fatally wounding Frank. Frank was buried in the Camptonville Cemetery, where his grave is marked with a headstone.

Frank's death by gun violence was practically an unheard of event at that time, and severely hampered the Camptonville Christmas spirit that year. We now hear almost nightly on our TV news about multiple shootings. We live in a different world, and I wonder if it can or ever will be stopped.

Eat, Drink, and be Merry on December 16th!

By Denise Ruane

The Pike Community Support Foundation would like to invite the extended community to our annual Christmas raffle and potluck on **Saturday, December 16th, 5 pm, at the Firehouse, 100 Pike City Road.**

Prizes will be Briarpatch gift certificates: grand prize \$100 certificate, first place \$75, second place \$50, third place \$25. Tickets are \$5 each, three for \$10, or seven for \$20, and are available now at 155 Ridge Rd, at 530-288-3335, and at the door. Winners need not be present to win.

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

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- Elementary School _____ 288-3277
- Family Resource Center (CCP) _____ 288-9355
Hours 8:30 am-12:30 pm, M-F
- Post Office _____ 288-3348
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) _____ 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 Jon Messick (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

Food Distribution in the Yuba County Foothills

The Foothill Food Pantry

Alcouffe Community Center in Oregon House
9185 Marysville Road (across from the fire department)

The 1st and 3rd Friday, 12-1:30 pm
December 1 and 15
January 5 and 19

The USDA Commodities Food Bank

Willow Glen Restaurant parking lot, Oregon House

The 2nd Friday, 11-Noon
December 8
January 12

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



Ongoing Meetings and Classes in Camptonville

(CCC = Camptonville Community Center)

Monthly Events

- CCP Board - Meets 3rd Wednesday, 1 pm
Resource Center. Contact: 530-288-9355
- CCSD Board - Meets Tuesday, December 19th 5:30 pm,
CCC, Contact: 288-3676
- School Board - Meets 3rd Thursday 5 pm, CV School,
call to confirm: 530-288-3277

Weekly Events

- Tuesdays: Yoga, 5 pm, School Gym
Rally Point, 5 pm, CCC, 1st and 3rd
Tuesdays
- Wednesdays: Camptonville Fire Dept. Trainings
6-9 pm, Firehall
- Fridays: Harmony Health Clinic on Wheels,
9:30 am-3:30 pm, CCC
- Saturdays: Coffee@The Center, 10 am-Noon, CCC
Qi Gong: 12:30-1:30 pm, CCC

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

JON A. MESSICK
Supervisor 5th District

**YUBA COUNTY
GOVERNMENT CENTER**
915 8th Street, Suite 109
Marysville, CA 95901

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December 2023 Community Calendar

Enjoying the **COLOR** covers? The entire issue is in **COLOR** online at camptonville.net. Please sponsor a month's **COLOR** cover by making a tax-deductible donaton of \$100 to The Courier (online at camptonville.net, scan this QR code, or mail a check to: PO Box 32, Camptonville CA, 95922). *Thank you!*

December 2nd – Camptonville Holiday Craft Fair (pg 3)
December 3rd – Movie “It’s a Wonderful Life” (pg 4)
December 15th – Santa is Coming to Town! (pg 3)
January 15th – Wordsmiths & Music Makers (pg 3)



Photo by Marcy Risque