

THE Camptonville Courier

Connecting the *Community*
Since 1997



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What Opens Your Heart and Brings You Joy?



Whether it's a thousand wings rising into the azure sky or the changing colors as the sun races towards dusk, aside from family, there is nothing that opens my heart more than taking in the beauty of nature. – Beverly Cameron-Fildes

Photos by Beverly Cameron-Fildes



In honor of Valentines Day and celebrating **LOVE** in February, I asked readers:
What opens your heart and brings you joy?

These breathtaking scenes of the Sutter Buttes were sent in by Beverly Cameron-Fildes. A crimson sunset and flooded rice fields near Marysville, alive with swans, geese, and other migrating waterfowl – also some of my favorite parts of winter – are guaranteed to lift our hearts and make them sing!

Enjoy other moments of joy on

Page 3. – Editor

From the Editor I Can't Believe it's Been 10 Years!

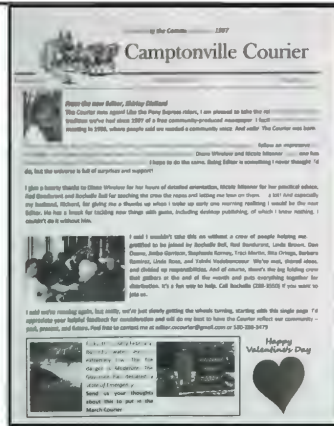
– Shirley DickKard

I can't believe it's been 10 years since I tentatively put out my first issue as Editor. The February 2014 *Courier* was only four pages with no ads because I had *no* clue how to produce a newspaper and it was the best I could do. I'm embarrassed to admit I even tried printing an article, then literally cutting it out and pasting it with glue onto a mock page. That didn't last long!

I usually feel capable of what I tackle, but my desire to keep *The Courier* from dying after having had no editor for five months made me volunteer for something way over my head. I struggled for a while, but with the tech support and emotional encouragement from my husband Dick and people who were so happy to see the paper revived, I persisted. And here I am, 10 years later, with an amazing team of volunteers who faithfully help produce each issue.


I'm still here because an Editor Collective now shares the load with me: **Janie Kesselman, Marcy Risque, and Sandy Ross**. A huge appreciation to our volunteer crew (many with me since 2014, and some even before): Copy Editors/Proofreaders: **Yakshi Vadeboncoeur, Jimbo Garrison, Linda Brown**; Ads and Subscriptions: **Linda Brown**; Folding and Distribution: **Rochelle Bell**; Editorial Advisory Staff: **Rod Bondurant and Rita Ortega**; Finances: **CCP/Corrin Burdett**; Website: **Jesse Golden**; a troupe of volunteers who prepare *The Courier* for mailing at the monthly fold; and last but not least, the ever-smiling **Jennifer Nelsen** at the Post Office.

I share this hoping it will be an inspiration to others. If there's something you want to try, just jump in and give it a go – that's how Coffee started. Camptonville is filled with people who can support you. The worst-case scenario is you'll say, "Well, that didn't work." But the best case is you'll say, "I can't believe it's been 10 years!"



February 2014 Courier


CAMPTONVILLE MOVIE MATINEE
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2:00 pm



**QUIGLEY
DOWN UNDER**

Sharpshooter Matt Quigley is hired from Wyoming by an Australian rancher paying a very high price. But when Quigley arrives Down Under, all is not as it seems. With Tom Selleck, Laura San Giacomo and Alan Rickman, 1990 PG-13

Movie & popcorn \$2 * Movie host Pam Davis
Cosponsored by Camptonville Community Service District



**Camptonville
COMMUNITY CENTER**

15333 Cleveland Ave
Camptonville
(530) 288-5016



Family Karaoke Night and Dinner – March 1st

By Sonja Rice



Mark your calendar: **Friday, March 1st, 5:30-9 pm**, at the Camptonville Community Center, the annual Camptonville Christmas Club fundraiser will return for more fun and good times! Enjoy a Spaghetti Dinner and the best night of fun singing with your friends and community! \$10 adults, \$7 kids 5-12 years.

This event benefits the Camptonville Christmas Club and is sponsored by the Camptonville Community Services District (CCSD).

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Read *The Courier* online (in living color) at: www.camptonville.com
Free to Camptonville residents; Subscriptions: \$16 yr. Tax-deductible donations are appreciated!

What Opens Our Hearts and Brings Us Joy?

February Cherries

If the word engrossing
 the root cellar's beard-braided parsnips
 were not February...

If wordless I did not
 lose myself lost nights in the dark supplications
 of your arms...

If I did not sometimes forget
 the yeast foaming in the kitchen bowl
 to plunge hands tap root deep

into snow-melt saturated soil
 when would those hands ever
 be stained and dirty and I heedless
 joy a dark rye bread rising
 under unexpected winter sun?

When would I ever lose myself
 and – emptied, abandoned – be
 naked and blissful before
 this life as it is?

When would I ever find myself
 suddenly in the yard browsing on cherries,
 hard red flower buds
 on gray February branches,

satiated on fruit
 that will not ripen
 'til June?

Yakshi, 1/26/96

Our Pets!



Piper

– John Deaderick



Shonko

– Dick & Shirley DickKard



Weasey

– Beverly Cameron-Fildes



The Heart of Nature

Nature truly touches my heart
 and is the love of my life! I have
 found it to be my absolutely
 favorite companion.

It's healing, invigorating,
 stimulating, inspiring, calming,
 wondrous, and amazing all at
 the same time! Wherever I look
 there's peace and beauty. So in
 celebration of love, here's a
 Valentine from the woods for
 all of you! Happy Valentine's
 Day! Love, Katie O'Hara-Kelly

The Grandkids!
 – Barbara Gaudin O'Donnell



**Watching my
 grandchildren dance**
 – Beverly Cameron-Fildes

What Lights Me Up

I'm in my element when I'm dancing, with music or
 without. I have had experiences while dancing, both in
 nature and on stage, that were sublime, feeling
 connected to myself and all of life. There is also an
 experience of transcending time the way we think of it,
 so when I'm really in it, I am outside of time. I have
 experienced these qualities in so many locations:
 among hundreds of people and completely alone: on
 beaches, in the woods, at a zoo, in a store window,
 many theaters, and endless dance floors. As I age and
 adapt to a less versatile body, transcendence and
 connecting with the divine become even stronger.

Another thing that gives me a full, simple joy is
 watching birds, from chickadees to sandhill cranes.
 I love animals, but
 birds in particular
 have a way of
 making my heart
 sing, and I just feel
 happy watching
 them.

– Marcy Risque



Pacific Ocean at Mendocino
 – Photo by Caroline Fowler

The Ocean Fills My Soul

– Beverly Cameron-Fildes

Upcoming events for Seniors on the Go Luncheon 11:30 am to 1:30 pm

10034 Marysville Rd. Dobbins

Where seniors come to have fun!

February 7th: Karin Day, Physical Therapist
Simple steps to reduce your risk of falling.

March 6th: A Meals on Wheels rep. will be showcasing both the Meals On Wheels and Dine Around Town programs.

April 3rd: Jacob Young, Collins Lake guest speaker.

May 1st: Needles N Clay will lead us in an artistic endeavor, instructing us on the creation of painted ceramic plates that will later undergo the firing process.

6 plate styles to pick from

June 5th: Yuba-Sutter Legal Center for Seniors - Guest Speaker.

July 3rd: Mike Workman, floral design demonstration.
Brought to you by YFACA and its wonderful members and volunteers!

New Programs for Yuba Foothills

Examples

Sapp Enterprise

Land Clearing
Forest Management
Excavation
(530)913-3501
Tedd@sappenterprises.com



Presidents Day – February 19th

RENT THE
Camptonville
COMMUNITY CENTER

Private party rentals available

Info at bit.ly/rentCCC
or call 288-5016

SECOND ANNUAL

FREE SEED EXCHANGE

Saturday, March 23, 2024
Camptonville Community Center
During Coffee from 10 am to noon

Bring seeds to share or just come and get some to grow and share for next year!

Questions?
Call Mackenzie 404 414 0852
or Diane 530 648 8034

2nd Annual
Seed Swap
2 - 4 pm
Sunday, Feb. 18th
Alcouffe 9185 Marysville Rd.

Free Community Event
STOP BY, WITH OR WITHOUT SEEDS!

Yuba Foothills Agricultural Communities Association **YFACA**

All About the Election – March 5th

By Jesse Golden

Tuesday, March 5th is California’s primary election. Vote by mail continues to be a safe and easy choice, but see below for other options. You can check or change your registration status online at voterstatus.sos.ca.gov, or call the County Clerk to learn more. In Yuba County, call 530-749-7855, Monday-Friday, 8 am-5 pm.

Who and what’s on the ballot? The presidential primary and primaries for both California US Senate seats are on the ballot, plus US Congress District 3 representative, and California State Assembly District 3.

Locally, the seat representing northern Yuba County on the Yuba Water Agency Board of Directors is on this ballot. (See articles: next column and pages 6 and 7).

We can also vote on Proposition 1, which changes the funding structure and the name of the Mental Health Services Act and issues bonds for veteran housing and homeless projects.

How to vote? The elections office will begin mailing ballots by February 5th to registered voters; you can mark that ballot, sign the envelope on the outside and drop it in the mail so that it’s postmarked on or before Election Day (no postage required).

You can also vote at the County Clerk’s office prior to the election or on Election Day, or drop off your ballot there, or register there. On election day, you can vote at any polling place in the county in which you’re registered, though the process will go more quickly if you vote at your designated polling place, which for Camptonville residents is the Alcouffe Center on Marysville Road in Oregon House.

Are you curious about Camptonville’s past voting record? In the last presidential primary, March of 2020, county records show that 53% of 496 registered Democrats and Republicans in Camptonville actually cast a vote. The overall turnout for registered voters for Yuba County was 31% in that election, and statewide was 33%, so we can congratulate ourselves for a (relatively) high level of participation. In conclusion: please make sure you’re registered, and please VOTE!

Dirty Tricks Alert

By Jesse Golden



With the March election coming up, it’s good to keep an eye out for every variety of dirty trick, from misleading information to downright fakes.

I received a recorded call recently, warning that “our children, our community groups, and our local government are being taken over” by what it called a “cult.” Since the call lacked attribution and verifiable facts, it has no credibility, but it does serve as a reminder that we may see other dirty tricks before election day.

Here’s a possible rule of thumb: if a story appeals mainly to greed, fear, smugness, or xenophobia – if it includes no verifiable facts, credible sources, or ways of checking – if it relies on pushing emotional buttons and blaming others – then don’t believe it and don’t share it. Imagine a world in which we all refused to be baited! Wouldn’t that be great?

Powering A Brighter Future for Yuba County

Flood Risk Reduction ♠ Water Supply ♠ Hydropower
Fisheries ♠ Recreation

@yubawater YubaWater.org

Why Vote for the Yuba Water Agency Board?

By Jesse Golden and Shirley Dickard

Locally, the seat representing Northern Yuba County on the Yuba Water Agency Board of Directors is on the ballot, with candidates **Randy Fletcher, Donald Schrader, and Charlie Mathews** (incumbent).

The YWA board position is important to Camptonville. CCSD’s sphere of influence extends to the middle of Bullards Bar Reservoir. Yuba Water Agency has been a longtime financial supporter of many of our projects, including CCSD’s water, fire, and emergency services, CCP’s BioEnergy project, and also *The Courier*. Please read the candidates’ statements on pages 6 and 7, and vote for who you think will be responsive to our remote foothill community as well as to Yuba County.

The seven directors of the agency (the five County Supervisors, plus one South County and one North County representative) make decisions on the multi-million dollar budget, including millions of dollars in grants and loans to local projects in Yuba County, as part of its Community Impact Grant and Loan Program.

This non-partisan position will be decided in March if a candidate gets 50% + 1 vote; otherwise, the top two candidates will be on the November 2024 ballot.

ENDORSED BY OUR FORMER SENATOR JIM NIELSEN



"Randy Fletcher has proven effective as a Yuba County Supervisor and Water Agency Director. He is a continuous advocate for important issue like water, public safety and bringing more jobs to Yuba County."

Vote Randy FLETCHER

Yuba Water Agency

Paid for by Randy Fletcher for Yuba Water Agency 2024, FPPC#1465162



Candidates for the Yuba Water Agency's Board of Directors

(Pages 6 and 7)

YOUR WATER, YOUR MONEY

CHARLIE MATHEWS

YUBA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

- An Historian with 5 Decades of Water Experience
- Current North District Director, Yuba Water Agency
- Works for YOU!



cmathews@pulsarco.com
(530) 218-1002
www.charliemathews.info

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Charlie Mathews, Director Yuba County Water Agency 2024 FPPC# 1384900

Hello foothills voters!

Randy Fletcher here! My experience as a police officer, small business owner, your former County Supervisor, and Yuba Water Agency Director, has prepared me to lead, and be effective from day one, at the Yuba Water Agency.

During my terms on the Board of Supervisors, Yuba County was hit hard, experiencing the worst droughts and wildfires in recorded history and navigating through COVID. I focused on building local, regional, state, and federal relationships that helped us make huge strides and come out of each crisis stronger.

I served over 20 years in local law enforcement and was a nominee for Officer of the Year. I then started Fletcher & Associates Insurance, which is now Farm West Insurance Services, where I serve as CEO. My wife Kathy and I have lived in Yuba County for over 40 years.

If elected, I will use my insurance expertise to focus on reducing flood and fire insurance costs and increasing coverage options. Through decades of good planning, the Yuba Water Agency is thriving for the people of Marysville and Yuba County. I will work every day to keep that momentum going.

I'm honored to have the endorsement of our former Senator, Jim Nielsen; Bishop's Pumpkin Farm Owner and Yuba Water Agency Director, Wayne Bishop; 5th generation rice farmer, Charley Mathews Jr.; and many more great community leaders!

Learn more and contact me at www.RandyFletcher.com.

Friends and Neighbors,

I'm honored to currently serve as your North Director for the Yuba Water Agency and I'd appreciate your vote for my re-election. As a lifelong, 4th generation Yuba County (Hallwood) resident, I graduated from area schools, the University of San Francisco, and Ag Leadership. After managing peaches and prunes on our family's District 10 ranch, I began growing rice 58 years ago. My family's roots run deep with California and Yuba County water issues. My father was a Governor appointee to the State Reclamation Board and also chaired the Cordua Irrigation District. He and I designed much of today's irrigation connections in the North Yuba area.

I joined my first water/irrigation board nearly 60 years ago, when I began rice farming. I've served continuously as an active advocate on various water issues since that time and in the 1980s, served my first term as a member of the Yuba Water Agency. I again won a seat on the board in 2016 and have held it continuously since then.

One of my top priorities, and that of the YWA, is fire mitigation. We must support forest health and reduce catastrophic wildfire risk in the foothills. I have supported and will continue to support grants and other funding that assists Camptonville and its neighboring communities to be prepared with ample water, firefighting professionals, and other fire resilience efforts.

New Bullard's Bar Dam does not only store water and produce energy for Yuba County and beyond, but it is also our greatest recreational asset. It, along with Lake Francis Dam in Dobbins, are owned and maintained by YWA. We'll continue to provide a variety of recreation, camping, and other outdoor activities.

I have the experience and qualifications to represent all residents in the North District and humbly ask for your vote.

www.charliemathews.info

DON VOTE SCHRADER

Election Date
March 5th
2024

SECURE OUR WATER
SECURE OUR FUTURE

EXPERIENCED LEADERSHIP

With a history of serving as a Yuba County Supervisor, Don Schrader brings a wealth of experience and a deep understanding of local water management issues.

COMMITMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Schrader played a pivotal role in the Lower Yuba River Accord, demonstrating his commitment to protecting natural resources and promoting ecological balance.

PROVEN TRACK RECORD

His involvement in critical projects like levee improvement and flood protection showcases his ability to handle complex projects that are vital for community safety.

LEARN MORE AT DONSCHRADER.COM

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT DON SCHRADER FOR YUBA COUNTY WATER AGENCY NORTH
P.O. BOX 1780 MARYSVILLE, CA 95901

Yuba Water Agency Names Jon Messick, Chairman and Gary Bradford, Vice-chairman for 2024

By Bonnie Dickson, Public Information Officer, YWA

On January 2nd, Yuba Water Agency’s Board of Directors named Jon Messick as chairman and Gary Bradford as vice-chairman for 2024.

“I appreciate the board’s vote of confidence to lead this year,” Messick said. “There are some really big, really important efforts all coming to fruition this year, and I’m honored to be trusted with a leadership role as we advance strategic priorities that will have a lasting impact on Yuba County.”

Yuba Water’s seven-member governing board is comprised of all five members of Yuba County’s Board of Supervisors, plus two at-large, elected positions representing North and South Yuba County. Messick joined the agency’s board in 2023 following his election to the Yuba County Board of Supervisors representing District 5, which includes Yuba County’s foothill communities – including Camptonville.

Bradford was named vice-chairman after serving as chair for the past two years. Bradford has served on the board since 2017 through his role as a Yuba County supervisor representing District 4, which includes Plumas Lake and Wheatland.

Yuba Water’s board works with the agency’s general manager to set policy and make decisions related to the agency’s missions of flood risk reduction, water supply reliability, fish habitat protection and enhancement, hydroelectric power generation and recreation at New Bullards Bar Reservoir. It’s work is guided by a five-year strategic plan.

Learn more about Yuba Water’s board of directors and missions at yubawater.org.

Dear Camptonville,

I want to take a moment to share with you why I believe I am the right choice for the upcoming Yuba County Water Agency election. While it might seem self-promotional, I believe it's important for you to know why I am running. You see, my journey in public service has been a long and fulfilling one. I have had the privilege of serving as a three-term Yuba County Supervisor, and I have been an active member of the Yuba Water Agency board.



What sets me apart as a candidate is not just my experience, but my commitment to our community. I have been a part of Yuba County for decades, and I deeply care about our well-being. This commitment goes beyond politics; it's a part of who I am. Throughout my years as a Yuba County Supervisor, my decisions have always been driven by what I believe is in the best interest of our community, and I have always aimed for tangible results.

One of the most pressing issues we face is related to our water resources. My experience on the Yuba Water Agency board has given me valuable insights into water management. I understand our agricultural needs, environmental preservation, and the well-being of our residents. My candidacy is not about winning an election; it's about securing a prosperous future for Camptonville and Yuba County. I am aware of the challenges ahead, and I am ready to face them.

I encourage you to learn more about my vision for our community and the values that drive me at donschrader.com. As we approach the Yuba County Water Agency election, I hope to earn your support and trust. Together, we can shape a brighter future for Camptonville.

Thank you for considering my candidacy.

Sincerely, Don Schrader

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

JON A. MESSICK
Supervisor 5th District

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

Office: (530) 749-7510
Cell: (530) 812-5416
Fax: (530) 749-7353
E-mail: jmessick@co.yuba.ca.us



Betty Leffew

Had a heart just as true as morning dew
 Reflecting the sky blue
 She raised five kids in the Sierra Nevada mountain range
 Strange how she never met a man that could hold her
 She was stronger and much bolder than your average bear
 With her mischievous smile and long fine lush hair
 You can have all your city livin' mammas, your expensive makeup and Gucci
 They pale in compare to hard working hands and eyes that demand respect
 You want all them diamonds and pearls?
 You can have them
 I'll keep Betty — J. Linderborg



Betty was the face of the North Yuba Ranger District for many years. I had the opportunity to share the front desk with her early in my career. She was so helpful and knowledgeable about the forest. She was incredibly reliable and had the best work ethic! — Donna Tate

Remembering Betty Leffew

"There are no goodbyes for us. Wherever you are, you will always be in my heart."

— Gandhi

On the morning of November 22, 2023, Elizabeth (Betty) May Leffew, gained her angel wings after her battle with cancer. She had the love of her family surrounding her and was welcomed into the arms of God. She was 83 years old.

Betty was born on May 12, 1940, in Santa Maria, California, to Chetwald and Louisa Ryan.

She worked for Teledine until moving to northern California where she worked and retired from the US Forest Service.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Chetwald Albinus Ryan and Louisa May Kinnison, and her brothers, Johnny Leroy Hall, Robert Albinus Ryan, and James William Ryan. She is survived by her children, Renee Horton, Teresa Wilkinson, Bobbie Pullen, Clay Leffew, Clint Leffew, her 11 grandchildren, and 7 great grandchildren.

She lived a large portion of her lifetime in Camptonville, California.

A memorial will be held at a later date when her ashes will be spread in the family garden at her home.



Betty was dear to us here in Oak Valley. Although we knew her for only a short while, she made a lasting impression on us. She was a strong woman, a family woman. We loved to hear the stories of times past in our little community. From chopping firewood to raising up to 600 rabbits for sale at market to milking cows in our little barn, Betty knew what it took to thrive out in the woods. She will be greatly missed. — Lindsay and Joel



I knew Betty from work at the Yuba River Ranger District here in Camptonville. She's the one who held that office community together and kept everything running smoothly.

I'm guessing she worked there about 30 years or so... but I don't know exactly.

She was there every day with a smile, and willingness to help. She was the heart and backbone of our District, and we were all so sad when she retired. I'm so sorry to hear of her passing.

— Barbara Graham



Photo by Joel Morsberger

A Little Backstory on Camptonville

By Shirley Dickard

I have to smile when I look at all the crowds of people at Coffee@theCenter, the annual Plant Sale, and Camptonville Volunteer Fire Department Picnics. It wasn't always like this – at least since Dick and I arrived in Camptonville in the mid-1970s. Back then, if you didn't have children with activities at the school, the only places to get together were Doc Willys and The Water Wheel (The Mayo). There was no internet, social media/Facebook, or Community Center to connect us.

Camptonville had a different reputation back then. Viewed by Yuba County agencies as an outlaw town with drugs, shootings, and poverty, agencies protected their staff by only sending them up here in pairs.

But some of us felt Camptonville had the potential to be better.



Photo by Rod Bondurant

Here's my perspective on some of what happened next.

In 1995, a few people from the school applied to Yuba County Health and Human Services for funding for the new **"Camptonville Outreach Project,"** spearheaded by Tonie Hilligoss (School Board member with expertise in community development and grant writing). This was an innovative approach because our program had local staff who acted as a bridge between families and the school and county agencies. Outreach Project members were **Yana Slade**, Counselor; **Sandy Radoff (Ross)**, Classroom Aide; **Barbara Mueller-Hogan**, community volunteer; and myself, **Shirley Dickard**, School Nurse. Yuba County liked our program so much, they offered it as a model for other schools.

In 1997 we began partnering with other larger school districts to qualify for three very significant programs.

1) The three-year **"Healthy Start Program"** (State Department of Education) gave us funds to renovate part of the school's old high school building for our new **"Wellness Resource Center"** and to offer various student programs. By then, we were called **"The Camptonville Collaborative."**

2) In 1997, The Annenberg Foundation funded another three-year innovative program under Tonie's leadership: the new **"Yuba Watershed Alliance,"** which was part of a national effort to reinvent public education. Along with the local schools serving Downieville, Pike, and the San Juan Ridge, we focused on rural education with a place-based emphasis that celebrated our communities and the environment we live in.

3) Also in 1997, we were accepted into the ten-year **"Community Partnerships for Healthy Children"** (CPHC) initiative by Sierra Health Foundation in Sacramento. Their goal was to improve children's health in Northern California, and they wisely understood that the best approach was to help communities help themselves. They gave our staff, volunteers, parents, and students ten years of trainings, tools, and funding to help our community decide what we needed and how to get there. It was a game changer.

As we became proficient in Asset Based Community Development (ABCD – a future article), we held our first Town Hall Meetings to agree on what we wanted. Then we divided into various Action Teams to work on them. In fact, *The Courier* was started by the Communication Action Team in 1997. I could go on and on, but I'll end by saying that in 2001, "The Collaborative" evolved into the non-profit **"Camptonville Community Partnership" (CCP).**

In future "Backstory" articles, I'll share more about ABCD, how Camptonville became a finalist for the All-America Cities and Communities award in 1997, how our volunteer fire department auxiliary played a pivotal role in the early backstory, and more.



Photo by Shirley Dickard

LOST NUGGET MARKET
Ice Cream! Cold Beer!
Hardware
Gas, Bait, Videos & more



16448 Highway 49
Camptonville, CA 95922
288.3339

Small Town Winter Adventures



By Eugene Salganik, 1,2,3 Grow, CCP

In our snug, small town classroom at 1,2,3 Grow, every day is an adventure, and weather is our playful accomplice. When the rain taps on our windows, it's not gloom but a call for muddy boots and puddle-jumping escapades. Laughter echoes as children splash into the fun, turning a rainy day into a canvas for delightful memories. And when icy temperatures roll in, it's not about bundling up and staying indoors; instead, frozen wonders become the backdrop for imaginative play. Weather isn't a hindrance but a catalyst for creativity, turning each day into a chapter of laughter and unexpected joys.

In January, our small town classroom welcomed new families and little adventurers into our cozy fold. Amidst the rainy-day escapades and frosty fun, there's an added sparkle of excitement as friendships blossom. These newcomers seamlessly weave into the fabric of our tight-knit group, making new friends under the twinkling lights of our classroom. Social skills take center stage as everyone practices the art of sharing muddy puddles and crafting frosty wonders together. In our small-town haven, it's about creating a welcoming space where every child feels embraced, making each day a shared journey of laughter and discovery.



Photo by Tracey Munson

Rally Point Happenings

By Amber Mehrmann, CCP

We have been having all kinds of fun in Rally Point! In December, the very talented local artist, **Ruby Cook**, taught us about color theory and brought some of her beautiful black light art pieces to show us. We then painted ornaments with black light and glow in the dark paints in honor of the Christmas season.

On January 17th, we all went to Marysville for a skate night at the Tri-Counties Community Center. Thank you to our volunteer drivers, **Tyann Flower** and **Crystal Bouchard**. We met up with the youth group from Challenge and had a fun time skating and making new friends. We are hoping to do another get together soon!

Our next meeting will be on February 6th, from 5-7 pm at the Camptonville Community Center. Youth ages 10-18 years are welcome to join us. Hope to see you there!

1,2,3 Grow is a free parent-participation early childhood program for children birth to 5 years. Located behind the school, we're open Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. For information, call the Resource Center at 530-288-9355.



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

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

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

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)

530-288-9355 • corrin@theccp.org • camptonville.com
PO Box 218, Camptonville, CA 95922

The Yuba County Family Resource Center (FRC) Network works to advocate for & support policies, programs & resources to strengthen the capacity of Yuba County FRCs and to help Yuba County families & communities thrive.

Learn more!



- YES Charter FRC
- C.A.F.E of YCOE
- Camptonville FRC
- Challenge FRC
- Harmony Health FRC
- YCOE FRC (Special Needs Focused)
- Beale Airman & Family Readiness Center

First 5 Yuba is a proud member of the Yuba County FRC Network.

Ski with a Ranger Tour!

By Lauren Faulkenberry, TNF Public Affairs Officer



Tahoe National Forest's **Ski with a Ranger** education program at Alpine Meadows at Palisades Tahoe continues until early April. Intermediate level and above skiers and snowboarders are invited to join. Weather permitting, one-hour tours depart every Friday at 10 am and 1 pm from the Alpine Meadows Base Lodge deck. Tours are led by knowledgeable conservation education staff, with topics covering the cultural and natural history of the area. Tours are on a first come, first served basis with a maximum of 12 per group. Participants must provide their own lift ticket and gear. Contact: 530-448-2603 or roberta.walkerforest@usda.gov for information.

Postmarked Vermont and California 1862-1864

By Jennifer Nelson, Postmaster, Camptonville Post Office

As a self-proclaimed history junkie, I am constantly searching for long lost treasures that give new insight into the rich past of the area. After simply searching "Camptonville" I acquired a book published in 1940 of letters sent to and from Rollin C. Smith, a young man from Vermont who came to California in 1862. This discovery is so interesting because he lands in Camptonville, first teaching school then becoming the Postmaster! As the current postal employee I was excited to read every page and to share them with Camptonville readers!

It is my pleasure to present a series of letters from Mr. Rollin C. Smith, detailing life in the early days of this town. Rollin and his friend Jerome Fenton left for California in November 1861 to seek their fortunes, traveled through the Panama Canal, landed in San Francisco, then rode a riverboat to Marysville arriving in February 1862. (Please note the letters are edited to include his life and travel only in this area) Enjoy!

Marysville, CA Dec. 29th, 1861. Dear Father and the Rest,

"I do not know but you will think I have forgotten you, but I have been waiting hoping I might get a situation and so let you know what I was up to, but I have not succeeded in finding a place yet. People in this state are very little like those in Vermont for they have little confidence in each other. Their motto seems to be Treat everyone like a Gentleman but think him to be a scoundrel. Money is not worth half so much here as at home. Fitch Buck is here with a team of mules for the mine. He is doing a good business, owns three of the mules and gets \$50 a month so his earnings amount to near a hundred dollars. He leaves here tomorrow for the mountains and I shall go with him as far as Downieville where Ed Gale is. Shall stop with him and try to get the school in Camptonville for this school will want a teacher in about three weeks. There is a great many drinking saloons - as many as a dozen on every street and strange to say I have seen but one near-drunk since I came here. A man is taken care of directly if he has taken too much. Yours very regardfully, Rollin"

Marysville, Cal. Feb. 3rd, 1862. Dear Father, Mother, and Sisters,

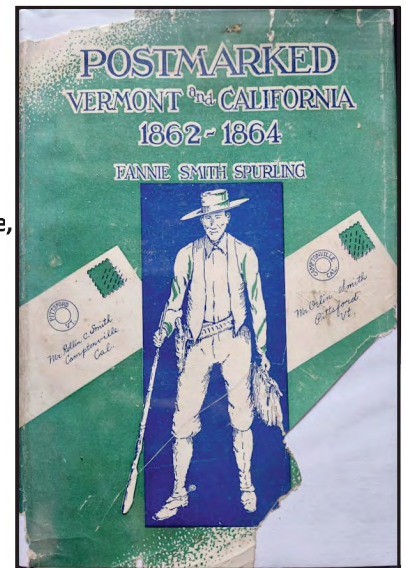
"I have been here a week waiting for the roads to be repaired and bridges put up so I can get to Camptonville. We got away from the Bluffs after a while and by dint of perseverance Jerome and myself got to this place. One day we walked 33 miles and carried our carpet sacks, and the mud was from three inches to three feet deep at that. But we shall have heat and dust enough as soon as the dry season commences for then we have seven months when it does not rain at all. There was seventeen days at one time that we did not see the sun and most of the time it rained very hard. I am confident that the mountains is the place for me. It must be healthier here than in the valley where everything for miles around has been covered with water for a month. There is one place between here and Sacramento where we cannot see land. There is so much high water here that the people can neither work their farms nor their mining claims, consequently there is any amount of help lying idle ready to work for their board or anything. There is much snow on the ground now and as soon as we get out of the valley in Cam'ville I am told the snow is two feet deep but it does not seem like the snow in Vermont. Is more like sugar snow - stays on only a day or two and serves to make more mud when it goes off. Wood is about \$12 a cord, butter 75c per pound, flour \$14 a bbl.

Last week I came across A.L. Bingham, the Vermont sheep man. His losses were heavy this winter - he told me that \$15,000 would not place him where he was last fall. He lost two thousand sheep and a great many hogs. He says I shall do well out here if I take care of myself, and I guess I am as capable of doing that as he is, for he was as much as two sheets in the wind when I saw him. Give my love to all enquiring friends, and write soon to Camptonville, Yuba Co. If any of the boys have got the California fever, send them on - this is a good place to cure it. Very lovingly yours, Rollin"

Camptonville, Feb. 7, 1862

"As I have not sealed your letter I will put this in. I shall start school here tomorrow with 12 to 20 scholars. I charge them \$1 per week or \$12 per quarter but that is not making money very fast for board is so high. I am paying \$10 a week here at the hotel but shall go into a private family tomorrow. I'm way off here where there is not a soul I ever saw before. It is hard and no mistake. I shall stay here a month or two and if I suit the people I shall get the public school. Yours as ever, Rollin"

Stay tuned for the March letters next month. I look forward to sharing these Camptonville gold rush days with you throughout the year – Jennifer





Singing and Musing the New Year In

By Yakshi

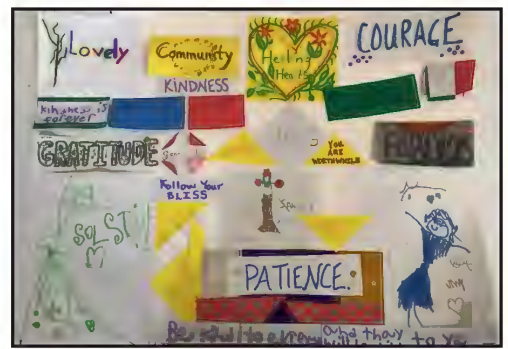
Vadeboncoeur

So much creative talent, so many helpful hands!



Thank you everyone who helped make the winter Wordsmiths & Music Makers such a wonderful event. First and foremost, because I neglected to publicly acknowledge them during the sound system cable conundrum at starting time, my absolutely indispensable and multitalented teammates, **Mary Yager** and **Pam Saporta**, helping hands from table-setup to last dirty dish, thank you, thank you, thank you! Thank you also to the amazing musicians, **Quantum** and **Jhon Renoir**, **Shabda Owens**, and **Joel Morsberger**, they made the evening a musical delight and resolved the early technological issues. In between those masterful music makers were poets **Yakshi**, **Maya Barhani**, and special guest **Gene Berson**, roped in at the last minute because sickness felled one of our featured artists. Lucky us! We pulled audience tickets from the golden tin to hear from **Momo**, **Darshan**, **Flip**, and **Fox**. And last but not least, thank you to the attentive audience members. Your receptivity, your helpful straightening up of the room at concert's end, and your entry ticket help support the artists, the event, and the Community Center.

I'm still debating over the date for spring Wordsmiths & Music Makers. I'm torn between doing it near the actual equinox in March, when several other events will be happening at the center, and Easter celebrations outside of it, or waiting until Sunday, April 7th. Public input is welcome. If you are interested in being a featured artist or a helping hand, contact me: yakshiv@gmail.com



Creativity at the Center!

By Caroline Fowler



Creativity abounds in Camptonville. A community-written storybook began in December, and **"Coffee Compliments"** has been added into the chapters! I would like to invite everyone to write a compliment here. This section of our book is nonfiction and an open, heartfelt way to express your love for Coffee@theCenter and your community members. We began this writing exercise to paint a true picture with words of who and what we appreciate when we gather as community.

It is such a great gift to create something easy and tangible together and watch it grow in good company. We started weaving together a written tapestry of positive affirmations this January and shared encouraging words. The contributions made by community artists include these uplifting words and more:

Lovely, healing hearts, community, courage, carpe diem, gratitude, caring, solstice, harmony, sweet, and nice.

In February we will make a collage of hearts together as one community with many hearts. All generations are welcome to join in and make art. See you soon for coffee collaborations at Coffee@theCenter!



CAMPTONVILLE COMMUNITY SERVICE DISTRICT CONTACTS

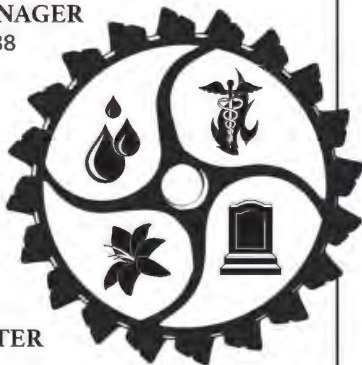
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JT Rumsey 775-980-7138

CEMETERY
Linda Brown
530-575-6172

SECRETARY
Pam Wilcox
530-288-3676

COMMUNITY CENTER
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Our Fire Department News and Weather

By Elizabeth Zapata, CVFD
Administrative Assistant



- The cold weather has finally arrived. Make sure to keep your stove pipe clean.
- Drive carefully as roads are probably icy, and don't drink and drive. Your friends would rather you sleep over than sleep forever.
- Make sure you don't fall on the ice. I have a pair of ice cleats I slip over my boots – they really work!
- Flu season is here – take care of yourselves! Let's check on our neighbors.
- Burn season is still here and permits are suspended, but remember to only burn on burn days.
- December was a busy month for our CVFD. There were 14 calls, 8 were medical.
- Our volunteers have also been very busy in January with 9 calls so far! (as of January 28th).
- Our current roster is 12 firefighters and 1 cadet.



Our CVFD is always looking for volunteers. Come on by and say hello. You do not have to become a firefighter. If you have time and energy, we will find something for you to do as we have many non-firefighter projects. Stay well, warm, dry, and fire safe!

Save your Home; Save your Homeowners Insurance

By Beverly Cameron-Fildes, Yuba Watershed Protection & Fire Safe Council

It's wet and cold and even though most of us aren't thinking about wildfires, now is the time to start preparing, especially in the face of some staggering issues that foothill residents are running into. Homeowners' insurance costs are either rising to almost unsustainable highs or, worse, policies are being cancelled all together.

I've written often about doing some of your preparation in the winter and spring when dangers are not as high. Pick up a copy of the Yuba Watershed Protection & Fire Safe 2024 calendar at the Camptonville Community Center and CCP, and you will see the first three months focus on the very work that may well make the difference not only in your home's survival, but in actually keeping your homeowner's policy!

January focuses on the benefits of having a Wildfire Mitigation Review. Get your Review now in the winter before the advisors get heavily booked. It also gives you time to prioritize what work needs to be done before fire season begins.

If you are in the the process of applying, or just starting to organize your neighborhood to be certified as a Firewise USA Community, this could be the perfect time to gather the neighbors, get signed up for the required Wildfire Mitigation Review, and get your application submitted.

In the near future, being a Firewise USA Community (neighborhood) will have more far-reaching benefits than we ever imagined. More later about that. For help with organizing your neighbors or starting/filing your application, go to **YubaFireSafe.org** and find the "Firewise USA" drop-down under "Community Programs." You can also contact Sandie Huckins, our Firewise USA Community specialist, for assistance at sandie@yubafiresafe.org . If you're interested in scheduling a Wildfire Mitigation Review, you can also do that at the website under "Community Programs." *Stay Fire Safe!*

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– Clearwater



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5 years ago in *The Courier*
(February 2019)

• **Richard DickKard** announces a Sri Moonshine Music Series concert at the Community Center with Wu Man, "the world's premier pipa (lute) virtuoso and leading ambassador of Chinese music."

• **Linda Rose** profiles **Jeff Murphy**, Assistant Water Systems Operator, and "your local community go-to guy" for construction-related projects.

• **Les Wolfe** describes boyhood hikes near the Moonshine Sawmill.

10 years ago in *The Courier*
(February 2014)

• *The Courier* resumes publication after a pause of five months, with new editor **Shirley DickKard**, joined by **Rochelle Bell, Rod Bondurant, Linda Brown, Don Deane, Jimbo Garrison, Stephanie Korney, Traci Martin, Rita Ortega, Barbara Ramirez, Linda Rose, and Yakshi Vadeboncoeur.**

• **Cathy LeBlanc** of the CCP invites input and participation for a project to build a "forest-based business center" including a three megawatt bioenergy facility, with the old Celestial Valley Mill site as the planned location. (Note: for current information on this project, see camptonvillefbbc.org).

By Jesse Golden

20 years ago in *The Courier*
(February 2004)

• February "Twilight School" presentations include **Joan Journey** describing local hospice services and **Leland Pauly** telling tales of Camptonville's old trails and stagecoach routes.

• **Rochelle Bell** describes the Camptonville School visit by four Buddhist Monks from Gaden Lhopa Monastery in India.

• **Cathy LeBlanc** reports on a Sacramento CanWORK trip (with **Jeanie Costa** and **Dia McAfee**) to join a protest against Governor Schwarzenegger's plan to cut welfare benefits to children by 25%.

Read *Courier* Archives from 2003-present at courier.camptonville.net/p/archives.html

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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 2 and 16, March 1 and 15

The USDA Commodities Food Bank

Located at Willow Glen Restaurant, Oregon House
The 2nd Thursday, 9-10 am
February 8, March 7
 Distributed by The Gleaners.

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North San Juan Food Bank, Nevada County:

Located at Oak Tree School
The 2nd Tuesday, 10 am–Noon
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HELP & HOPE

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

CAMPTONVILLE:

- Cemetery ————— 575-6172
- 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, M-F
- Post Office ————— 288-3348
Hours 11 am–1 pm, 1:45–3:45 pm, M-F
- Volunteer Fire Department Business ————— 913-3501
- 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

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BOAT RENTALS

MONTHLY Events

- CCP Board** - 3rd Wednesday, 1 pm
 Resource Center. Contact: 288-9355
- CCSD Board** - 4th Thursday, 5:30 pm, CCC
 Contact: 288-3676
- School Board** - 3rd Thursday, 5 pm, at CV School
 Contact: 288-3277
- Thirsty Thursday** - 2nd Thursday, 5-7 pm CCC
- Rally Point** - 1st and 3rd Tuesday, 5-7 pm, CCC

CCC = Camptonville Community Center

Call first to verify meeting times before attending

WEEKLY Events

- Tuesdays:** Yoga, 5 pm, School Gym, Contact: 978-6778
- Wednesdays:** Camptonville Fire Dept Trainings, 6–9 pm, Fire Hall
- Fridays:** HH Clinic on Wheels, 9:30 am–3:30 pm, CCC
- Saturdays:** Coffee@theCenter, 10 am–Noon, CCC
- Qi Gong: 12:30-1:30 pm, CCC, Contact: 928-204-2677



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Yarrow Hearts - By Katie O'Hara Kelly

February's COLOR covers are sponsored by Dick and Shirley DickKard, who are grateful for all the ways LOVE shows up in this community!

To sponsor a month's COLOR cover (\$100) contact camptonvillecourier@gmail.com

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2024 Calendar

February 4 – Sunday Movie: Quigley Down Under (pg 2)
February 18 – Seed Swap – Oregon House (pg 4)

March 1 – Karaoke Night Fundraiser (pg 2)
March 5 – Voting Day! (pg 5)
March 10 – Daylight Savings Begins
March 23 – Seed Exchange – Camptonville (pg 4)

All Weekly and Monthly Events and Food Banks – (pg 15)