

# THE Camptonville Courier

Connecting the *Community*  
Since 1997



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NUMBER 1



Happy  
**2026**  
New Year



Bears Head (*Hericium abietis*) looks like a coral mushroom. The difference is the icicle like protrusions akin to Lion's Mane and grows on logs not from the ground.

## Fun Fact: Fire and Fungi

By Geoff Burke, CVFD

Here's a little-known connection between mushrooms and fire: Some mushrooms, like morels, actually thrive after wildfires. These "fire followers" pop up in recently burned forests, helping to recycle nutrients and kickstart the forest's recovery. While the fire department works hard to prevent and control wildfires, it's fascinating to see nature's resilience in action—with mushrooms leading the way!

Also, while exploring the woods for these fascinating fungi, always remember to put safety first. Many wild mushrooms look similar, but some can be toxic or even deadly. If you're not 100% certain about a mushroom's identity, it's best to leave it be. Always forage with a knowledgeable guide. If you suspect mushroom poisoning, call 911 immediately.



Photo by S Ross

### Disclaimer/Warning:

*Along with the CA Poison Control System, "The Courier" staff discourages consuming wild mushrooms unless they have been confirmed safe by an expert.*



Photo By J Kesselman

Photo by Janie Kesselman

## From the Editor

By Sandy Ross

Happy New Year! As 2026 begins for all of us, it's also my opportunity to say "Thank you," and "Good bye." It's been an honor to work with my amazing co-editors. A special shout out to Shirley Dickard, who I have thought of as a mentor for close to three decades. She has shown me the meaning of true commitment to focusing on community.

I would also like to acknowledge all of the behind-the-scenes folks on the editorial staff (don't forget to look at the box below); the faithful, occasional, and new contributors; and all of you readers who keep *The Courier* going strong. Thanks for allowing me to ramble!

## Phenomenal Fungi of 2025

By Sandy Ross

What a way for a mushroom enthusiast to say goodbye to 2025! If you have had the opportunity to take a walk on a forest trail or almost anywhere these last few months, you have probably witnessed the plethora of mushrooms that the fall and winter rains have encouraged. Growing in clusters on the ground, forming "shrooms" under the duff, creating magical fairy rings, bursting out of fallen logs, or adorning the bark of a majestic oak, we are blessed with these magical gifts of the forest. Whether you enjoy reading about, hunting, identifying, photographing, or eating them; most of us can acknowledge that their sudden appearances at certain times of the year can be rather mysterious! These "non-plants" even belong to their own biological kingdom and have been referenced in ancient mythology, art, and writing for their extraordinary spiritual and healing properties.



Oyster mushrooms

(cont.) Let me reiterate, I am far from being a scientist or a mycologist, but as my interest in fungi has grown, I've learned that their mycelium is the key to the intricate connections between tree roots and the exchange of vital nutrients. They are part of a communication system that is far more vast than even the internet! Setting aside for a moment the potential dangers of wild mushroom foraging for consumption (unless you are an expert); the importance of mushrooms to our ecology and the health of our forests cannot be overlooked.

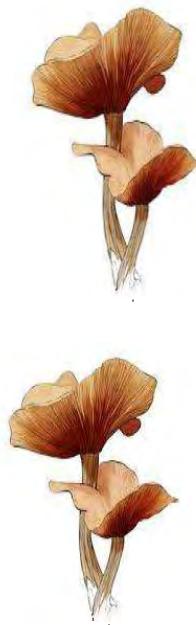
With more winter months ahead, I'd love to recommend a few of my favorite books that added to my understanding of the importance of fungi to our forests:

*Mushrooms Demystified* by David Arora

*All That the Rain Promised and More* by David Arora

*Finding the Mother Tree* by Suzanne Simard

*The Hidden Life of Trees* by Peter Wohlleben



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## May Your New Year Unfold In Song, Story and Poetry

Wordsmiths & Music Makers - January 11th

By Yakshi Vadeboncoeur

Wordsmiths & Music Makers invites you into the warm and creative heart of your community **Sunday, January 11th, 2026 at the Camptonville Community Center. Doors open at 3:00. Show starts at 3:30.** Hopefully, hectic end-of-the-year holiday activities will have faded, and winter's opening salvo of daily deluges will have abated, and we will all be ready to share a relaxing afternoon of music and spoken word musings with neighbors and never-before-met friends.

Among featured Music Makers will be Camptonville's own **Cathy LeBlanc, Jesse Golden, and Joel Morsberger.** NSJ will give us **Seaghan Lambert** on Banjo, and if we're lucky, singer songwriter **Jim Bond** from Nevada City will be recovered enough to make the long journey up here to serenade us with his deeply-wise, whimsical creations and guitar playing virtuosity. Featured Wordsmiths will include **Shirley DicKard** and **Ginny Berry** doing a Readers' Theater enactment from *Heart Wood*, and poets **Maya Borhani** and **Yakshi**. As always, featured feast components will include pozole and a vegan alternative, salad, quiche, and quite probably by popular demand the last bourbon balls of the holiday season – all included in your \$5 ticket at the door.



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## Home Alone - Sunday, January 25th at the Community Center

By Jesse Golden

Join Pam and Joel, the hosts of the **Timberline Theatre Movie Matinee**, on Sunday, January 25th at 3 pm for *Home Alone*, the 1990 comedy starring Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci, and Daniel Stern. Rated PG, 1 hour 43 minutes. Laugh, have some popcorn and throw \$2 into the pot!



Next month, the Matinee will return to showings on the second Sunday, which will be February 8th. Let Pam or Joel know if you have a suggestion!

## Help the Camptonville Volunteer Fire Department to Help You

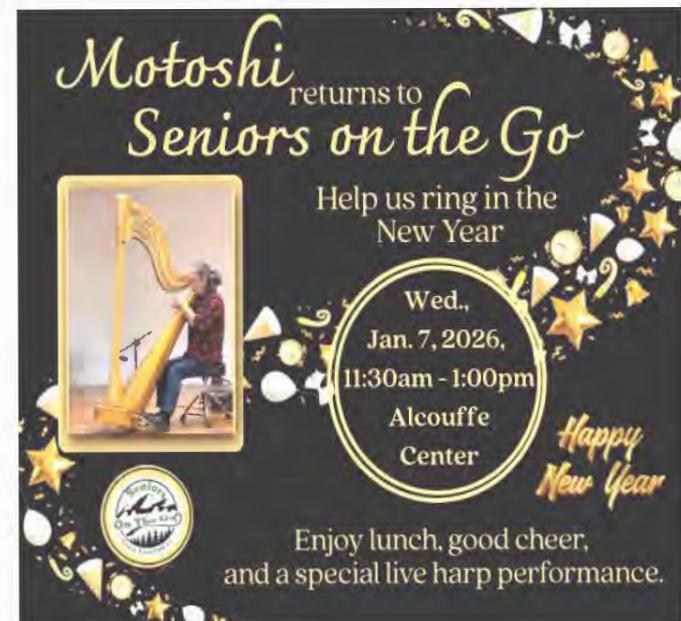
By Elizabeth Zapata, Administrative Assistant CVFD



We had a well-attended CPR class last month. We are still seeking volunteers. We have lots you can do around the Fire House if you cannot actually fight fires. Please contact Jody Deaderick for more information. [jodead@gmail.com](mailto:jodead@gmail.com), or EZ at [camptonvilleassistant@gmail.com](mailto:camptonvilleassistant@gmail.com).

If you have not done so already, clean your stove pipes and spark arrestors. Put it on your list of spring chores next year so that you will be ready and don't have to live with a smokey house. Clean your clothes dryer vents and under your dryer if you have one - housefires start from there too.

Thanks for your ongoing support of the Camptonville Volunteer Fire Department, we look forward to serving you for many years to come.



**Motoshi** returns to  
**Seniors on the Go**

Help us ring in the New Year

Wed.,  
Jan. 7, 2026,  
11:30am - 1:00pm  
Alcouffe Center

**Happy New Year**

Enjoy lunch, good cheer, and a special live harp performance.

## No, Bullard did not own a saloon... Bullards Marina gets the real story

By Rod Bondurant and Rochelle Bell

We enjoyed a tour of the new Emerald Cove Marina facility and visited with the general manager Daniel, the store manager Josh and other friendly staff. Daniel eagerly purchased copies of *Bullards Bar Reservoir What's Under the Water*. The story of the almost forgotten town that gave the manmade lake its name is now told by Rod Bondurant in the Camptonville Historical Society's latest publication. The booklet chronicles events starting with a discovery in 1849 of a gold bearing river gravel bar that was then named after the discoverer:

William H. Bullard. The area attracted numerous explorers who settled at the bar and the neighboring area of Garden Valley, both of which are now under water.

The booklet contains stories based on the extensive research done by residents Elma Davis and Bill Irving in the 1980s. It can be obtained by contacting Rochelle at 530- 288-3550, or get a copy at Saturday Coffee when the History Room is open.



## Poached Eggs with Chanterelle and Ham Cream Sauce

By Stephanie Williams

This is a condensed version of one of our favorite recipes from *Fantastic Fungi Community Cookbook*.

### Ingredients:

2 T butter

1/2 cup finely chopped ham

1/2 cup minced onion

2 cups Chanterelles chopped into bite sized pieces

Salt/Pepper to taste

1 cup sour cream

2 T milk

Melt butter in medium skillet over medium high heat. Add ham and cook until it sizzles, less than a minute. Add mushrooms and onions cook until chanterelles release their water and the water mostly evaporates about 8-10 minutes. Add salt/pepper to taste. Remove from heat. Thin the sour cream with the milk and stir into mixture.

Place on top of toasted English muffin or toast; top with a poached egg. YUM!



Photo by Rochelle

Rod and Daniel

## Swings at the Community Center

By Richard Dickard, CCCA

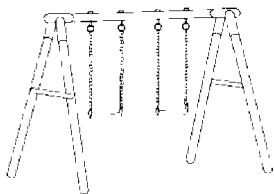
In January, weather permitting, a swing set will be installed on our new property below the Community Center.

Enjoy, but please be careful! The swings can be lotsa' fun but you need to pay attention so you don't get hurt, whether you're swinging or standing nearby.

Good news – To keep everyone as safe as possible, we are installing playground wood chips surrounding the swings to soften the impact of any mishaps.

And please, for safety's sake, young children must be supervised when using the swings.

Do Enjoy and be Safe!



## Cheesy Meatballs With Mushrooms

By Debbie Seyms

This is a healthy and easy dinner to prepare on a cold night .

### Ingredients:

1 pound ground beef

3 T milk

1/2 cup dry breadcrumbs

1 egg

1/2 cup finely chopped onion

3 T grated Parmesan cheese

1/2 cup chopped fresh parsley

Salt and pepper

Olive oil

1-2 cups sliced mushrooms

6 ounces of baby spinach

24 oz jar of marinara sauce (or homemade)

3/4 cup mozzarella or jack cheese, shredded

Fresh basil (optional)

Mix together beef, milk, breadcrumbs, egg, onion, Parmesan cheese, parsley, salt, and pepper. Don't overmix.

Gently shape into about 16 balls. Refrigerate for 15 minutes or more so they won't fall apart while cooking.

Heat oil in a large skillet. Cook meatballs until brown on all sides, about 10 minutes. Transfer to a plate.

Add mushrooms to the pan and cook until brown. Add sauce and spinach and simmer until the spinach wilts. Return meatballs to pan and sprinkle with mozzarella. Cover pan until meatballs are cooked through. Sprinkle with basil and serve. Enjoy!

## It's a New Year at 1,2,3 Grow

Tyann Jordan, Program Manager



Welcome back, families! We're delighted to begin the new year with you on **Tuesday, January 6th from 8:30-11:30 am** after winter break. January is filled with exciting opportunities for your children to learn and grow, from exploring winter weather themes and Snowman Math to enjoying Weather Walks.

Children will dive into cozy stories, joyful songs, and creative snowy art projects. They'll also practice important math skills with snowman shapes and discover the wonders of frost, clouds, and animal tracks during outdoor adventures.

We're especially excited to invite you into our classroom community. Your involvement makes a big difference! Whether you'd like to share a winter story, help with a math activity, or join us for a Weather Walk, we welcome your participation. This month, we're also unveiling our new weather station and worm house. Please come by to see these hands-on science additions and learn how they enrich our children's experiences.

Don't miss the chance to meet our new classroom mascot, Bow! Where will Bow go in January? Stop in to find out. Bow might be exploring the weather station, checking out the worm house, or joining us for a Weather Walk.

1,2,3 Grow is a Camptonville Community Partnership sponsored program, funded through First 5 Yuba. If you are interested in learning more about our program, contact Tyann at 530-288-9355.



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**BOAT RENTALS**

## Another Successful Camptonville Craft Fair

By Tyann Jordan, CCP's Event Planner

With another wonderful Craft Fair behind us, it's inspiring to reflect on the success of the day. The event was truly enjoyable, and it was heartwarming to see everyone come together and support one another. The variety of vendors added to the festive atmosphere, and partnering with the Coffee was a treat. Activities and crafts for children, student-made goods, and contributions from community groups made the fair inclusive and lively.

This year, we were delighted to welcome the Grinch to the Craft Fair! Many attendees enjoyed capturing the moment with photos and joining in the fun.



Photo by Jessi Mullins

Rally Point youth making crafts

Thank you to everyone who supported all of our local crafters and to all of our vendors for signing up and reserving a space. We hope you were able to get some local shopping in and to leave with some wonderful, unique items to share with your friends and family.

The Camptonville Craft Fair is a Camptonville Community Partnership (CCP) sponsored event. For information or to volunteer, please contact: [Events@TheCCP.org](mailto:Events@TheCCP.org) or call 530-288-9355.



**Camptonville Elementary School**

530.288.3277 — [cville.k12.ca.us](http://cville.k12.ca.us)

## Santa's Visit to Camptonville

By Jessi Mullins, Camptonville Christmas Club

Another merry, exciting, fun evening was had by all! Santa arrived at the Community Center on our very own Volunteer Fire Truck. He was greeted by so many ecstatic children! After lots of HO, HO, HO! Merry Christmases and hugs, Santa made his way to the secret Santa room where he prepared to visit with 90 kids throughout the evening.



Photo by J Mullins Danika with Santa



Randy and Maya

baseplate to build on, and a stocking full of fun and treats. Every kid in Camptonville has Legos now!

We hope the night with Santa brought some magic in the moment and will continue to create some family engagement with building and creativity for years to come. Thank you to everyone who came to see Santa and to everyone who made this night a success! It is a truly a community effort to put this event on and the Camptonville Christmas Club greatly appreciates all of you!



"And to all a good night!"

Please keep your eyes posted for our Karaoke Night Spring Fundraiser. All of our earnings throughout 2026 will go towards bringing Santa to town in December of 2026!

Photo by J Mullins

## Thank You, Secret Santas!

By Barbara Mueller-Hogan

I just wanted to say thank you to all of the Secret Santas and Lisa Baker! So many families and children have been blessed by your kindness and gifts! I hope everyone has a happy and beautiful New Year!



Photo by S Ross Eagerly waiting for Santa, the Noble family and friends

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

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

### Development of:

Community-scale forest biomass to energy facility  
and business center

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## Camptonville School Winter Program

By Sara Spiers, Teacher, Grades 3, 4, and 5

On December 11th, Camptonville School students presented their annual Winter Program. As the audience settled and the curtains opened, the performers quickly gained confidence.



K, 1st, and 2nd Grade Students

Our kindergarten, first, and second graders delighted the audience with their performance of *Mother Goose's Character Camp*. They showed what makes them wonderful young people by exploring sharing, kindness, perseverance, honesty, and forgiveness.

The third, fourth, and fifth graders entertained everyone with their version of Sherlock Holmes in the play *Geology Rocks*. They took the audience on a geological adventure as they searched for their missing professor, hoping he would make it home for the holidays.

Our sixth, seventh, and eighth-graders continued their focus on people skills. They reminded us how important it is to listen, think before speaking, notice body language, handle conflict, and make amends during their performance of *Social Skills: How to Interact with Human Beings*.

The Choir Club, led by Mrs. Frost, closed the evening with the wonderful voices of 12 young singers. They inspired everyone with a great theme for 2026: Let's be in harmony, work together, and have fun!



3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade Students



6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Students

Photos by Sara Spiers

## Looking Back

By Jesse Golden

### 25 years ago in *The Courier* (January 2001):

- Richard DicKard announces a meeting of the Middle Yuba River Area Citizens League (MYRACL) to consider establishing a land trust for the watershed area of the Middle Fork of the Yuba River.
- Yana Slade writes about Robert and Ruby Harvey's purchase of the Mill property, with possibilities including co-located businesses for furniture making and a bio-mass cogeneration electric plant to power the town.



### 10 years ago in *The Courier* (January 2016):

- Camptonville Rocks! Tonie Hilligoss describes the volunteer effort to collect, load, and unload river rocks for the sign that Robert Mumm will create for the Camptonville Community Center.
- Linda Rose profiles Brian Price and Sandi Kubich, proprietors of Burgee Dave's at the Mayo since 2005.

### 5 years ago in *The Courier* (January 2021):

- Alix Lamb reflects on Change and Constancy: "I think it is important to remember that the nature of the universe is change. Nothing will be the way it was before; it cannot be. Living things are in a constant state of flux, maturing and being changed by their interactions with the world. It is against the fabric of the universe to stagnate or isolate."
- Beverly Cameron writes about giving of our resources and of ourselves: "I realized that what I feel when I do things for others is a joy that isn't just in my head, but is truly felt in a deeper place. It starts as a small, warm flicker, and before I know it, it's shining out of my eyes, sometimes as a little tear."

*Find back issues of the Courier chronologically at [bit.ly/courierpast](http://bit.ly/courierpast) or search by keyword at [bit.ly/courierdigital](http://bit.ly/courierdigital).*

## Food Distribution in Camptonville

By Jessi Mullins, Executive Director,  
Camptonville Community Partnership (CCP)



Hello Camptonville Community! CCP is in the beginning stages of developing a local food distribution program. We are excited to share that we were awarded funding to help support its launch. Sierra Health Foundation, an independent foundation committed to supporting health-related activities in Northern California, awarded \$7,500 to CCP to improve health outcomes and address food insecurity through the distribution of nutritious food to vulnerable community members in Yuba County.

We know many community members are traveling long distances to access food distribution sites. For some families and seniors, that travel is difficult or simply not possible. Our goal is to reduce that burden by building a consistent, reliable option right here at home. So far, we've held two distribution days and the response has been strong. Our first distribution served 20 families, and our second served 25 families, with positive turnout, helpful feedback, and thankful community members.

As we build this program, we need the community at the table. We're actively looking for: community feedback as to what's working and what's missing; volunteers to help with packing boxes, distribution days, and logistics; input on needs and preferences (days/times, types of food, accessibility). If you'd like to participate, please call or stop by the Camptonville Resource Center to get added to our distribution list and/or our volunteer list.

Our current plan is to host one distribution day per month at the Camptonville Community Center. Please watch for flyers with details about our January distribution day. Because we're building this from the ground up, we're still working through logistics such as food pickup and delivery, storage capacity, and the best system for smooth, equitable, dignified distribution. We appreciate your patience as we learn and we are so thankful for Sierra Health Foundation, supporting our need to bring more nutritious food to Camptonville.

Call us at 530-288-9355 to sign up, share ideas, volunteer, or ask questions. We're ready to hear from you and we're committed to making this program work for Camptonville.

**Camptonville Resource Center Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-12:30 pm.**

## Thank you, Tedd Sapp!

By Richard Dickard, CCSD

Tedd Sapp submitted his resignation as a Board Member of the Camptonville Community Services District at their December 18th regular meeting. The Board accepted his resignation and thanked him for all that he has contributed to the Camptonville community for decades. Thank you Tedd!

*Thank  
you!*

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## Talk to Your Doctor about your End-of-Life Options

By Mary Abbott, End of Life Choices California

If you think that in the future, you would want to exercise your legal



"End of life Option" also known as EOL, or Medical Aid in Dying (MAiD) in the event of a diagnosis (whether existing now or a remote possibility), when should you bring it up to your primary doctor? The answer is simple: Now. Bringing up the topic of MAiD to your doctor, difficult as it might seem, may save a lot of distress later. A best-case scenario is finding out now that your doctor would be willing to prescribe MAiD and would support you if you chose that option for your end-of-life care.

When decisions concerning end-of-life care aren't discussed beforehand, there is potential for a complex need to find a doctor who can support your choices in the midst of a scary diagnosis. It is never too early to have these conversations and to plan accordingly.

As our medical needs change through the years, it is important for us to discuss with our medical providers (and family members) end-of-life issues such as Advance Directives, Power of Attorney for Health, POLST (Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment), and ultimately MAiD, should we receive a diagnosis or have a prognosis of less than six months to live.

Here are some tips for speaking with your physician about your end-of-life options:

- Notify your physician at the time of making your appointment that you wish to discuss your end-of-life preferences.
- If you learn that your doctor is not willing to support Medical Aid in Dying, or has no knowledge of it, seriously consider changing doctors to one that will support your choices, sooner rather than later.
- Make sure your Advance Directives are current and filed with your medical providers, with a copy in your automobile glove box, and be sure to inform your family of your wishes (more on that later).

If you or someone you know needs more information or a referral, that's what I and the dozens of skilled, empathetic volunteers with End of Life Choices CA (EOLCCA) are here to provide. Call us at 760-636-8009. All services are provided at no charge.

## Impressed with Harmony Health!

By Jesse Golden

We have a fantastic health clinic here in Camptonville - have you tried it? Harmony Health's mobile Clinic on Wheels comes every second and fourth Friday to Camptonville, at the Community Center, from 10 am-3:15 pm. They're also in North San Juan on Tuesdays, alternating between the Family Resource Center on Oak Tree on the first and 3rd Tuesdays and the Community Center on Highway 49 on the second and 4th Tuesdays, 10 am-3:15 pm.

I recently switched to Harmony Health as my primary care provider, and I am very impressed by the high-quality care they provide. The Nurse-Practitioner, Rachel Michaels, is outstanding. She's a great communicator and an excellent listener and very serious about diagnosing and addressing health problems. And the clinic's medical assistants Shawn and Chelsea are very attentive and helpful.

In addition to the Clinic on Wheels, patients can go to Harmony Health's locations in Marysville on North Beale Road, weekdays, Saturdays, and Sundays and in Yuba City, Mondays-Fridays. Established patients can make appointments or walk in.

I encourage you to take advantage of this great resource—you might feel, as I do, that you've never had healthcare this good! To get started as a patient, come to the mobile clinic during their appointment hours.

## Clinic on Wheels

Appointment Hours: 10:00 - 3:15

Closed For Lunch From 12:00 - 1:00

2ND/4TH TUESDAYS:  
NSJ Community Center, 29190 Highway 49

1ST/3RD TUESDAYS:  
SJR Family Resource Center, 18847 Oak Tree Road

2ND/4TH FRIDAYS:  
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## Community Projects and Events with Rally Point!

By Amber Mehrmann, Rally Point CCP

November and December were busy months for Rally Point.

November's project was painting signs for Camptonville Community Partnership's (CCP) annual events. Sonja Rice, local artist and sign painter for many of Camptonville's events, presented youth with a "How to" on sign creation.

Sonja guided youth participants to agree on a color scheme and begin painting the lettering that she had penciled in. As they painted, lessons naturally occurred on taking their time, having patience, using the correct amount of paint, and being aware of their surroundings. Next, they got to choose the appropriate graphics for the event. Design and placement was really fun for them!

These signs will advertise CCP's annual Christmas Craft Fair and St. Patty's Day events. It was a great project to get the youth involved in helping out the community, teaching them how to advertise for future business ideas, and also being creative and learning how to catch the eye of folks passing by. Please keep an eye out for the "HUGE" signs that will be placed at the end of Marysville Road along Hwy 49 and thank the Rally Point Youth and Sonja Rice for helping create the masterpieces.

CCP staff would like to thank Sonja for her awesome presentation, for the work she put into getting the signs prepped for the youth meetings, for being a community mentor, and for providing paint and brushes for our youth to use. "Sonja, we appreciate you so much!"

In the first week of December, we crafted some fun things to sell at the Craft Fair. Rally Point's vendor space was represented by the youth as they sold the crafts they created. The money earned will go towards an end of the year field trip.

Our last meeting of the year was a Christmas Party. Youth played several games, won prizes and made Christmas cookies. Tyann Jordan came and did a presentation on how to roll and cut out Christmas cookies, followed by how to decorate them using piping bags with frosting and decorative candies. Thank you so much Tyann for your fun and sweet lesson on cookie making!

We are certainly excited about this new year! Please note that we'll be meeting from 4-6 pm. This will give us a bit of daylight to be able to play some games outside before it gets dark. We hope to see you at our next meeting on **January 6th from 4-6 pm!**

Rally Point is a Youth program, open to those 10-18 years of age. If you have any questions please contact Amber Mehrmann at 530-288-9355 or e-mail [amber@theccp.org](mailto:amber@theccp.org).



Photo by Amber Mehrmann

## CAMPTONVILLE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT CONTACTS

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Randy Rizzo  
530-288-3658

- SECRETARY  
Pam Wilcox  
530-391-8887

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## Miracle on Highway 49

By Yana Slade

A week ago or so, my friend and I decided to have lunch in Downieville. We met up to go in one car and in a moment of distraction, I put my phone down on the hood of my car. When I realized I didn't have my phone I looked in my car, her car, and the ground. NO PHONE!!!!

When I calmed down, I began the process of ordering another. Luckily a friend had a back up phone I could use. A few days later I got a call from that friend. A mutual friend had called her and said someone found my phone.

The man who found my phone was walking up Hwy 49 towards Downieville. He saw a shiny object in the road and picked it up. It was my phone. He was able to open it



because I had a very basic security code. When he moved his fingers around the face it opened. He went into my contacts and found a name he recognized from 40 years ago and called her. She called our mutual friend who happened to be the person who lent me the back up phone and knew the number. She called me. The next morning I went to get my phone.

I gave him a thank you gift and he sang me a Lakota prayer.

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**For more information:** Visit [SierraClinic.org](http://SierraClinic.org)

## Yuba Water Supports Early Literacy

By Bonnie Mettler, Public Information Officer

Yuba Water Agency's Board of Directors approved \$10,000 in sponsorships to support early literacy and stewardship of the Yuba River watershed. A \$5,000 sponsorship to First 5 Yuba County will support local implementation of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. A second \$5,000 sponsorship will support the South Yuba River Citizens League's Wild & Scenic Film Festival.

Learn more about how Yuba Water is powering a brighter future for Yuba County at [yubawater.org](http://yubawater.org).

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[yubawater.org](https://www.yubawater.org) [YubaWater.org](https://www.yubawater.org)

## Hello Beautiful Community

My craft tutorials are becoming a hit, and I would love for more of the community to come craft with us. Keep your eye out for January's Flyer.



Melody Dilka  
[D.mel@yahoo.com](mailto:D.mel@yahoo.com)  
530-845-1673

## Letters Home from Camptonville, 1863

Transcribed by Jennifer Nelson, Camptonville Postmistress

**Pittsford. Nov 22nd, 1863:** My dear boy Rollin, You ask in your letters if we have changed our looks. I can answer No, only for the better. We are smart enough to wake ourselves in the morning without a watchman. It may pay in California to have a man wake you but it won't in Vermont. My best respects to Jerome, tell him to keep the hearth swept up and dishcloth clean and his face well washed, and to give you boys plenty to eat. O. Smith

**Camptonville, Cal. Dec. 5th, 1863:** My dear Parents and sister, I never enjoyed myself better in my life, and like the business if it will only keep on. The Reese River has hurt this country, but give me California yet. Bearss put all his money in a team and load, and a thousand dollars besides, and has got it yet on his hands, except the part of his team that died. The last letter I had from him he was sick, flat on his back, and I should judge by his talk as homesick as he is sick. I doubt if he can sell his goods for what he paid for them in Marysville, to say nothing about his team and wagon which at present is worth nothing. I am very thankful, Mother, for your picture, think it a very good one. Nothing more tonight. Yours respectfully, Rollin

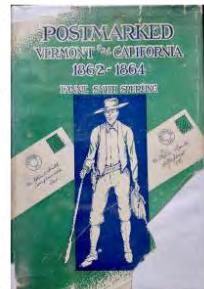
**Camptonville, Cal. Dec. 8th, 1863:** Friend Addie, Friday night as I was at work "sorting the mail" out dropped your letter from the Atlantic package and looked me right in the face. Was glad enough to say "How are you." I suppose at this date you are having cold weather, and have to keep good fires and have the doors closed. But we, when it does not storm, enjoy pleasant sunshine, with some mud.

**Sunday, Dec. 13th:** I broke off writing suddenly last week. My friend Wardner came in and said he was going to Marysville and wished me to accompany him. So I got a man to ride for me and we started in the morning on mule back. We rode the whole distance (forty-five miles) in ten hours. The mud in and around Marysville is about a foot deep from that upwards, or downwards, rather. I did not have much business to do and soon began to sigh for home, mostly to be able to get away from the Mos-ke-toes. They were so thick and bit so hard that I looked as if I had the small-pox. They last the year around down there. We do not have any here, and to fight them in Dec was more then I could stand. Came home on Sat and found everything in good shape, so shall go again sometime when I want to. I remain yours very respectfully, Rol C. Smith

**Camptonville, Dec. 27th, 1863:** Dear Father, The people here make a great account of the Holidays and with some it is kept up from Christmas until New Year's Day. Most everyone closes stores and spends the day either in calling or riding around. I had five horses to lead to Brandy City from the stable here, and then to take them back the next day, and we make them all pay. On New Year's Eve there is to be a grand party at Galena Hill – just sold them ten dollars worth of candy to sweeten their chops on. Don't know as I shall go but guess yes. I have not got the appointment of Postmaster yet, neither have I heard from Bearss resignation. Do not know what to make of it. Yours respectfully, Rollin C. Smith

**Camptonville Dec. 30th, 1863:** My friend Addie, Well how did you spend Christmas? I arose at four. Had my horse fed an hour before we started out expecting to make a quick trip but before I could get out of town the stable man hailed me and said he wanted me to take six saddle horses to Brandy City to bring in as many persons, three gents and as many ladies.

I got along well enough on the wagon road but when I took to the trail they were some cumbersome. Had hold of only one halter, the rest of the horses were tied to the horses tail before him. I couldn't help but laugh at the sight and wondered if the folks at home wouldn't think me a hard-hearted wretch could they see me in that condition, rushing seven horses along at a two-forty rate on a narrow little trail just wide enough for one horse. And all the time they had putting the ladies on, beat me. They would try a chair for them to stand on and that would frighten Mr. Horse, and the lady would utter a faint scream, (very pretty) and try again. Finally I concluded I would not let them hinder me anymore so I tried my hand and succeeded in getting them mounted. When I arrived in Camptonville I found all had been to dinner but there was enough left for me. The lady of the house made herself agreeable by sitting by my side while I related to her why I was so late. She then related some of her experiences coming to this country, across the plains with an ox team. They were six months on the road. I suppose that is about as rough living as a person can find – so much sand and dust and a scarcity of water. I often laugh when I see emigrants coming through town – animals, wagons, men, and women all look alike and that is the picture of despair. Write often, Addie. I prize your letters highly, Truly yours, Rollin C. Smith



## Foothill Food Pantry Season of Community Giving

By Lisa Baker, YFACA Christmas Coordinator

This Christmas season is definitely a little bit brighter for fifty Yuba Foothills families. Yuba Foothills Agricultural Communities Association (YFACA) held its annual Christmas Family Food Box program, where families (with minor children) living in Dobbins, Oregon House, and Camptonville received a week's worth of food and new toys!

We are so grateful for our donors and volunteers who help make this happen every year! So much time and effort goes into all the details, but the blessings are so worth it. Seeing parents smile at the sight of a child sitting with Santa, receiving some much-needed help from the multitude of bags and boxes, and the reminder that there are those who care about neighbors in need; all this is why we do it.

Merry Christmas!

**Donors/Supporters:** BriarPatch Co-op, Richard and Shirley Dickard, Randy and Kathy Fletcher, Foothill Ace Hardware, Foothill Food Pantry, Yuba City Grocery Outlet, Nevada County Toys For Tots, Oregon House Grocery, Yuba County Supervisor Andy Vasquez, Yuba County Supervisor Jon Messick, Yuba County Supervisor Gary Bradford, Yuba Sutter Food Bank, Yuba-Sutter-Colusa United Way, Several anonymous donors, and Mr. and Mrs. Claus.



Photo submitted by Lisa Baker

## Winter Greetings from the San Juan Ridge Community Library!

By Roo Cantada

The library is just across the river and ready to welcome our Camptonville friends! We are happy to provide a warm space during these wet months. We continue to offer ongoing free classes and activities including: Knitting on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, Karate every Wednesday, Qi Gong and Spanish on Fridays, and Crafts most Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Special activities for the next few months include Tech, Craft Day, and a Special Guest. On Saturday, January 10th and Feb 21st from 2-4 pm we will be offering a NEW class on editing videos on your phone. We created this class in response to community feedback. If we get a good response, we will pursue more tech classes. This is just one way we try to listen to our community's needs. Check our calendar for other activities such as STEM fun.

Are you aware of the San Juan Ridge Tapestry Project? The library is spearheading a new tapestry telling the story of the creation of the library. It will only take around \$1000 and we are offering that anyone who donates over \$100 will get their name forever immortalized in thread! In addition to all the classes and activities, we continue to offer high-speed internet, tech help, DVDs, printing services, and public computers as well as a wide selection of over 10,000 items for checkout. We are here to foster a love of reading for families, elders, students, and even babies! Please stop in and check us out!

### San Juan Ridge Community Library

18841 Oak Tree Road

All classes are FREE and happen in the Annex or outside.



### 4 LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU!

1908 N. Beale Road, Marysville  
 Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
 Saturday - Sunday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
 WALK-INS WELCOME SATURDAY & SUNDAY  
 (established patients only)

Wellness Center  
 1930 N. Beale Road, Marysville  
 Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

920 Chestnut Street, Yuba City  
 Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
 WALK-INS WELCOME (established patients only)

114 D Street, Wheatland  
 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
 Closed Wednesdays

530-743-6888 | [myharmonyhealth.org](http://myharmonyhealth.org)



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[yescharteracademy.org/yes-highschool/](http://yescharteracademy.org/yes-highschool/)

## Planting Bare Root Fruit Trees

By Darlene Markey, Sweetland Garden Mercantile

Planting fruit trees is not hard! The hardest part for me is choosing which ones! To select your tree, consider if you want keepers or ones that you need to eat or process quickly. How much space do you have? What trees will be successful in your yard? Do you have needed pollinator trees? What zone are you in and do you have the chill hours needed for some fruit?

We are lucky we live in a cold hardy zone (Zones 9, 9a for many of us.) We are able to grow trees that require a high amount of chill hours to be successful, like apples, pears, cherries and some stone fruit. Talk to your local nursery about what will grow for you. Research Dave Wilson's web site or Felix Gillet Institute to learn more. You will find information on whether your tree is self pollinating or needs a pollinator tree to produce fruit, chill hours, taste, storage, and the way the tree grows.

Consider how wide your selected trees will grow; what space will they require? Will they have sunshine? The ideal time of year to get your trees into the ground is winter or early spring when the ground is okay to work and the weather is not too warm.

Check the drainage of your soil; dig a hole about 12 inches deep; fill it with water and see if it drains. If it does, keep digging. If it doesn't, find a different spot! Create a hole that will be wide and deep enough for the roots of your tree. Loosen the sides of the hole. Clip off any sprouts from the rootstock. Plant your tree with the graft above the soil line. Back fill with loose soil, maybe lightly amended or just with good compost to increase beneficial microbes. Generally, plants do not need to be fertilized right away, but good microbes, seaweed, and a little calcium help.

Tamp down the soil around the plant. Some folks like to add a stake for stability. You can paint the stalk with white latex paint, if you feel like sunburning might be a problem. Add some mulch or more compost around the base of the tree. I like to use a good compost or a mulch — one that mixes well into the soil, like peat, coir, or a soil booster product.

Trim your tree: snip the main branch to encourage lateral growth and prune any odd branches that may not want to grow. Grab a frost blanket to have on hand when buds bloom and a freeze occurs.

And then wait. Watch for the bees that will come and help pollinate. Look for the start of that tiny apple or peach.

Remember the Chinese Proverb. "The best time to plant a fruit tree was 20 years ago. The 2nd best time is NOW."



### Call for Artists

Submitted By Bear Yuba Land Trust (BYLT)

Can you imagine a world without butterflies? To draw attention to the decline in the Western Monarch Butterfly population, the *Plant the Seed* initiative is presenting a February-long exhibition of butterfly-inspired artworks at Treats ice cream shop in Nevada City.

Artworks are to be delivered to Treats between January 29th-30th, with all proceeds benefiting *Plant the Seed*. Find out more at <https://www.bylt.org/monarch-meadow-project/>



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## Food Distribution in the Yuba County Foothills

### Foothill Food Pantry:

Drive-through at the Alcouffe

Community Center in Oregon House

9185 Marysville Road (across from the fire department)

\*PLEASE NO EARLY ARRIVALS\*

To sign up, bring your ID (nothing else needed)

The first and 3rd Friday, 12 to 1:30 pm

January 2nd, 16th

### Yuba-Sutter Food Bank Commodities:

Located at Willow Glen Restaurant, Oregon House:

The 2nd Thursday, 9 to 10 am

January 8th

### 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 Events in Camptonville

(CCC = Camptonville Community Center)

All area codes are 530 unless otherwise specified.

## WEEKLY Events

**Mondays:** Yoga, 5 pm, School Gym Contact: 798-6778

**Wednesdays:** C'ville Fire Dept Trainings, 6:30-9 pm, Fire Hall

**Fridays:** HH Clinic on Wheels, 2nd and 4th Fridays, 10 am-3:15 pm, CCC

**Saturdays:** Coffee@theCenter, 10 am-Noon, CCC

## MONTHLY Events

Call first to verify meeting times before attending

**School Board** - 2nd Tuesday, 6 pm, at CV School

Contact: 288-3277

**Rally Point** - 1st and 3rd Tuesday, 4-6 pm, CCC

**CCP Board** - 3rd Wednesday, 1 pm

Resource Center. Contact: 288-9355

**Third Thursday** - 3rd Thursday, 5-7 pm, CCC

**CCSD Board** - 4th Thursday, 6 pm, CCC

Contact: 391-8887

## HELP & HOPE

For emergencies first call 911.

All area codes are 530 unless otherwise specified.

### CAMPTONVILLE:

- Cemetery \_\_\_\_\_ 288-3658
- Community Center \_\_\_\_\_ 288-5016
- Community Partnership (CCP) \_\_\_\_\_ 288-9355
- Community Services District (CCSD) \_\_\_\_\_ 391-8887
- 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](http://www.fraqmd.org)) — 741-6299

CA Rural Legal Assistance (Yuba Co) — 742-5191

CoRR (Community Recovery Resources) — 273-9541

### Domestic Violence:

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

KNCO 830 AM (Nevada Co) — 477-5626

KUBA 1600 AM (Yuba Co) — 673-5400

KVMR 89.5 FM (Nevada Co) — 265-9555

Legal Center for Seniors (Yuba) — 742-8289

Mental Health 24 hr Crisis Line (Yuba) — 673-8255

NAMI -Support for Mental Illness — 272-4566

PG&E Outage Line — 800-743-5000

Red Cross of NE California — 673-1460

Road Conditions CalTrans — 800-427-7623

Sheriff (Yuba Co) Emergency — 911

Sheriff (Yuba Co) Non-Emergency — 749-7777

Supervisor 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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### JON A. MESSICK

Supervisor 5th District

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Photo by Janie Kesselman



Photo by Caroline Fowler



## **January 2026 Community Calendar**

**January 7th - Motoshi at "Seniors on the Go" (pg 3)**

**January 11th - Wordsmiths & Music Makers (pg 3)**

**January 25th - Timberline Theatre Movie Matinee, *Home Alone* (pg 3)**



Photo by Sandy Ross