

Valley of the Falls Community Center Needs Your Support

by Bernadette Griffith



Mountain Jamboree; Photo by Burgess Photography

Having lived in Forest Falls for 20 years and volunteered at our community center for the last 10, I have seen first hand the impact that a small organization, run by a group of dedicated volunteers, can have on a community at large. Valley of The Falls Community Center Inc. (VFCCi) is the nonprofit organization charged with managing The Gail D Cox Community Center at Big falls Lodge and the programs associated with it. The lodge has been the backdrop for so many memories over the years. I attended my first Frozen Green Thumb Garden Club meeting there and it was where I completed my CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training. I started volunteering as an event staffer and saw people come together for concerts, artisan fairs, farmers markets and fundraisers. I have met representatives from local government and attended meetings with state and federal agencies in that building. I have personally hosted or attended gatherings that mark every one of life's major milestones, including baby showers, weddings and memorials. It wasn't until I became a member of the Board of Directors in 2012 that I realized the amount of time, energy, effort and funding needed to operate our non- profit organization, maintain the building and create and sustain the programs we offer. Our community center was created by residents willing to open

their hearts and minds to the needs of the community, people who then invested their time and money to provide a location that serves as the heart of our community. VFCCi still depends largely on the generosity of local residents to maintain this building that serves as the venue for our largest community functions. We host events held by our Fire Dept, Search & Rescue Team, Fallsvale Booster Club and other groups. When outside groups want to address our communities in times of need, the community center opens its doors. This year our fundraising efforts are focused on the acquisition of the area adjacent to Big Falls Lodge for secure parking during events. We have committed to purchasing one of

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Valley of the Falls Community Center Needs Your Support

by **Bernadette Griffith**

(continued from page 1)

the 2 available lots for \$35,000 but will have continued use of the 2nd property thanks to Bill & Rocky (VFCCI's new neighbors who will be buying the other lot). In the wake of Covid-19, and in spite of months of unforeseen shutdown, we have continued to support other groups and keep the building maintained. Due to our limited ability to fundraise, your support now, is especially vital to VFCCI. It will help us to continue to sponsor activities and house programs that enrich us, inform us and help keep us safe. This is the time of year that many folks are thinking about charitable donations. Please consider sending a tax deductible donation using the attached envelope or by visiting our website at www.Vfcci.org and clicking the donate button. Thank you to everyone who has made a donation or gifted their time in support of this great organization!

A Firewood Frame of Mind

by **Tracy Marrs**



Photo by Andreas Pajuvirta on Unsplash

When I moved to the mountains many years ago, I had never lived in a place that had snow and had never needed firewood. Winter was not a big deal and preparing for winter usually only meant buying

new windshield wipers or some good, warm shoes. However, living in the mountains is different and it really does change the way we think.

As an example, firewood makes living in the mountains different. Before I moved here, I did not realize how important firewood would be in my life. I don't think I ever really gave firewood much thought at all and I certainly did not think it would become something I would think about beyond fall and winter but, firewood is not just a winter concern.

Firewood is all year long. In the spring, trees are tagged as available to be harvested for firewood. This is when it is good to go early and get the best trees in the easiest locations.

Once permits are acquired, cutting and harvesting can begin, and wood is taken out of the forest to further process. Through the spring and summer, firewood is cut into rounds, split, and stacked so it can get ready (or seasoned) for the winter. For many residents, this is the point when wood is purchased since most people do not have the tools or time to process their own firewood.

Seasoned firewood is purchased and delivered in the early fall and individuals need to predict how much wood they will need. Once wood is delivered, it has to be stacked, then stacked closer to the house, then brought into the house, next to the fire, and finally used to warm the home.

Firewood requires preparation and planning. Unlike pushing a button on a thermostat, using firewood requires strength to carry the wood, skill to start the fire, and patience to wait for the warmth. Using firewood has changed the way I think about the seasons because each season has its own jobs. I think this is most clear as the fall slips into winter and the need to get the firewood into the home becomes a concern as natural as a squirrel collecting acorns. It becomes a part of how we think, how we prepare, and how we live.

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President's Message

by Debi Welch



Hello Friends and Neighbors!

Hope you are all doing well and enjoyed the glorious Autumn the mountain treated us to this year! Winter is coming and it's time to make sure we're prepared for what it holds. Attached are some of the things we do in preparation for the final season of the year.

1. Do we have plenty of wood for the season, is it dry and covered with a tarp? Do we also have kindling and some soft easy-to-start wood?
2. Was the annual sweeping of our chimney done, the roof blown off and gutters free & clear of pine needles and leaves?
3. Are all the timers and hoses for watering pulled and drained for winter, Summer yard furniture, umbrellas, etc put away?
4. Do our cars have good tires, fresh windshield wipers, are the chains/spider spikes in the back for the CHP chain up station? It's the law, even w/ 4x4.
5. Are there snow boots, a jacket and ice scraper in the back? Somedays when we leave for work its sunny, but it snows a foot or more during the day, always be prepared.
6. Do we have proof of residence in glove box in case the Canyon gets closed to locals only?
7. Have you met your immediate neighbors and exchanged info so if you don't make it home they can check on your house and pets for you?
8. Do we have extra cans of Gas for our generator and did we already fill all our propane tanks?
9. Bulbs planted, fruit trees and roses trimmed up to withstand winters cold and freezing?
10. Bag in your vehicle with dry clothes, extra jacket, shoes, water and small shovel in case you get stuck somewhere?
11. Snow shovels pulled out and dusted off w/ gloves out and ready to be put to use?
12. If you find snow melter or cinder keep it in a bucket by the door to help melt stairs and other treacherous potential slip spots.

With Christmas approaching we would like to remind you that the Spark of Love Toy Box is at The Elkhorn General Store and it will be there until 12.18.21. Usually we have a second box up at the Big Falls Lodge, but since there's no Breakfast with Santa this year we are missing out on that opportunity. All gifts and donations will be kept in Forest Falls, Mountain Home Village and Angelus Oaks for Families in need this holiday season.

On Saturday December 18th at 6:30 pm, Santa and his Elf will be arriving via Station #99 making their second annual Christmas parade through Forest Falls. Some of the University of Redlands Singers will be caroling them into town. Please bring your lawn chairs and join us in downtown for some fun, singing and hot cocoa!

Wishing all a safe and happy Holiday Season. Merry Christmas Friends!

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A Look Back; Roof Shoveling in 1969

by Leonard C. Campbell, Forest Falls, CA (1969)



be checked. The guards did not want the men on roofs of occupied homes, and instructed the men be kept in close units so all could be seen as much as possible. This accounts for the manner the men were sent out.

Leonard C. Campbell - Forest Falls, California 92339

March 11, 1969

To: Fallsvale Service Co.

From: Leonard C. Campbell, Chief Forest Home Fallsvale Fire District

SUBJECT: Report on Roof Shoveling

During the period of the storms and immediately after we logged 161 roofs shoveled by the Conservation Work Crews plus 3 trailer homes, and one garage that was ready to go down. Many more were done by the local residents both men and boys. Most of these were arranged by the owners.

Tuesday night Feb 25, we received one crew, which half were split up and put on two homes on Cedar and Sycamore, the other part on 3 cabins on Hemlock. Later on during the night they were put together and sent up on Forest Home Blvd [the road subsequently changing to Valley of the Falls Dr., from its original name; Valley Falls Rd., in the upper Canyon], North of Redwood Dr. We did a total of 7 roofs that night. Thursday morning when we were sent more men we set a crew up on Rock Drive, one South of Forest Home Blvd, and Redwood Dr. and the other At Oak and Sycamore. The directions any roof less than a 6 and 12 pitch were to be shoveled and especially the valleys. If the cabin had visible signs of trouble it was to be shoveled regardless, also shed roofs were th

Friday the men continued on the same assignments until noon. The two crews were sent to the North of Forest Home Blvd., and one was split and taken to Pine and Forest Home Blvd. Saturday, One Crew was left to complete Dogwood drive and the other Went down Pine and Oak to the west. The third crew continued on Cedar, Maple, and some on Spruce. We learned Tuesday night that to completely clear a roof would take too much time and we had too many cabins to try to get cleared thus the idea of the swath in the middle of the roof. Also we left about a foot of snow on the roof to save from a shovel putting a hole in the roofing.

Forest Home Christian Conference Center housed and fed the men some of the meals. and San Gorgonio Lodge fed the balance of the meals. A question may come up as to the difference in cost. Forest Home used their regular rate and furnished same things plus a container to carry coffee. The men at San Gorgonio felt they could not get out and shovel roofs, so in the same spirit charged only their absolute cost.

I felt we saved many homes, the total will never be known, but in this district our figures show 6 homes were lost by snow load on roofs, 2 by rafters falling to the ceiling joists, and 3 by avalanche. There are many with manor damage, and we have no idea at this time the figure. There are several garages down. We had a home and 1 garage go down while the men were working on them.

We would recommend you might express your thanks to Mr. Donald Henley Jr., S.B. County Civil Defense office and Mr. Jack Burke County Fire Warden, whose offices made these crews available to us. Mr. M.O. Sheri, Deputy State Forester, P.O. Box 1070 Riverside, Calif., is the man who is responsible for getting this Conservation program going in this district. I am sure he may be interested to know your feelings. We would also say much of the success of this program was due to the able assistance of Mr. Frank Johnson, Mr. Dave Johnson, Mr. Robert Holman and Mr. Adelbert Sterling, [all Forest Falls residents] during these difficult days.

Respectfully submitted,
Leonard C. Campbell, Chief

[NOTES: The above letter is reproduced in its original format with a few [notes] inserted for clarity. Fallsvale Service Company is the

(continued on page 12)

Valley of the Falls Community Center Inc.

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Big Falls Lodge
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The VFCCi board of directors meets every three months to discuss ongoing concerns. If you have ideas or suggestions for a great use of the building or fundraising, reach out – we'd love to hear from you! We work hard to make it available to everyone. We hope you appreciate having this great building in your community. If you would like to attend our September meeting, you can email: director@vfcci.org or call 909-389-0585.

Basic Gardening Info for New Residents

by Romina Labertoux

Basic information for our new residents on the hill...

I decided to start with some basic information since we have some new people in our towns. When I first moved here, I didn't do too much because I didn't have enough information, (I also didn't want to be a plant killer), but at the end I decided to jump into the cold water. I started trying different flowers, plants, herbs, and veggies. The second summer I had success with tomatoes and strawberries. The third summer I had success with Swiss chard, but had no tomatoes this time. The plants had a lot of flowers, but at the end no tomatoes. Now it's my 4th summer here and I didn't have any success with the veggies. I decided to plant the flowers that are easy growing up here in the mountains; Roses, Foxglove, Lavender, and Snapdragon. These four are my favorites. They are easy to grow and the best part is they don't die with the snow. My other problem is that the ground is so hard you can't dig, so I'm using a lot of planters.

To know what to plant up here you will first need to know what your climate zone where you live is. I used to live in Covina and I planted everything. I had tomatoes all year around. Bougainvillea, the trumpet flower; I had grapes, lemons, pomegranate, etc. When I moved to the mountains I didn't know, for example, that Bougainvillea can't survive up here. So, little by little, you will gain more information about what works for your garden.

Forest Falls is listed as zones 7 (Upper canyon) & 8 (Lower canyon). What does that mean? USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map is the standard by which gardeners and growers can determine which plants are most likely to thrive at a location. Zone 7& 8 has minimum average low temperatures of 0° to 10°F. With these temperatures our period for gardening is very short. Usually the rule of thumb is planting between Mother's Day and October. Last year I had flowers blooming until the first snow.

If you want to know more about gardening in our mountains, check out the Frozen Green Thumb Garden Club and/or buy a copy of Mountain Gardening: A Short Cut to Insanity which goes into more details about gardening in our unique setting.

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by Sonia Wynne

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 read a story
 have some fun
 'cause winter is coming

Honoring the Life of Caren Covey

by Kat Covey



Our community sadly lost a friendly face on Friday, November 28, 2021, when Mrs. Caren Covey, passed away peacefully in her sleep after her battle with cancer. Caren was born on May 16th, 1957, to Stanley and Donna Phillips in Lynwood, CA.

She attended Lowell High School and received her diploma in 1974. Caren married Anthony Covey on July 25th, 1993. Caren had 2 children, Jacob Munhoz and Kaitlyn (Kat) Covey. Caren and her family moved to Forest

Falls in November 2005 where she worked as a domestic goddess (a stay-at-home-mom and homemaker). She was an avid shopper and loved making arts and crafts. Often Caren would make greeting cards and wooden boxes for the local art shows and gift them to her friends and family in this community.

Caren was a member of the Frozen Green Thumb Garden Club and enjoyed their meetings and social outings. She could frequently be found in her garden when she wasn't attending local events here in Forest Falls. She loved being a part of this community for 15 years and looked forward to every event (from the Chili Cook-Off to the Haunt on the Hill.) Caren was usually the first person to reach out to the newbies on the mountain to make sure they felt welcome in this small town. She was always a friendly face for everyone and enjoyed having conversations with her neighbors. Caren loved Forest Falls and the people in it dearly. She always had a kind heart to everyone on the mountain and was a social butterfly.

Caren is survived by her husband and two children. Caren Covey will be missed dearly. A Celebration of Life is to be held at a later date with an announcement to follow.

Her family would also like to thank everyone for their kind words and thoughtfulness in this trying time.

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The Trouble with SCE Power Outages

by Bret Reed (Forest Falls Resident, Lower Canyon)

Residents of Forest Falls have been receiving a continuous waive of planned power outage (PPO) notices from Southern California Edison for years. These are for non-emergency, routine repair, maintenance and equipment replacement. We all appreciate how SCE responded following the El Dorado Fire with generators and support to keep the lights on as all of the burned poles and equipment were replaced.

But the trouble with these PPO's is not with the work, or even the annoyance or inconvenience factors. It is with the consistent failure by SCE to come anywhere close to their estimated power restore (EPR) times. Typically the PPO notice will state a 'start' time of 8AM with an EPR time of 5PM. Unfortunately it has become the norm – not the exception – for SCE to miss its restore time by one, two, even four to five hours. If this were occurring on a rare basis we could all likely live with that. But both before and since the fire, SCE is consistently exceeding the restore time by a significant margin. Multiple complaints made to SCE's Government Relations Manager, Jennifer Cusack (Jennifer.Cusack@sce.com) have fallen on deaf ears.

This becomes an even more critical problem as we head into the winter season. Families are left in the dark as early as 4PM, and having to light candles (or worse from a health and safety standpoint, kerosene lanterns that emit toxic fumes) just to be able to prepare dinner, to function. Unless they have a wood stove, elderly FF residents are literally left 'in the cold' as well, creating a major health and safety risks to them.

One recent FF Facebook posting (Oct. 13, 2021) asks a very real and pertinent question, expressing (with a little good natured humor) the frustration many of us residents feel:

Does anyone know when the electricity will come back on? My husband needs to get back on his oxygen and the most important reason is the Dodgers game is on! WTH??? Lol..

SCE, come to find out, is institutionally cavalier in missing its power restore time periods – not just in the Forest Falls community. Case in point: the City of La Cañada has recently filed a formal complaint against SCE with the California Public Utilities Commission for this very conduct, per Hope Christman, Local Government and Community Liaison, Executive Division - California Public Utilities Commission:

The City of La Canada's recently filed formal complaint, proceeding number, C2109013 can be seen at the link below:

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Efile/G000/M410/K194/410194746.PDF>

What would be helpful is to learn how many Forest Falls residents have been adversely affected by the disregard SCE has for our community by ignoring its EPR times on planned outages – where they (presumably) know ahead of time the scope of the job at hand, the amount of workers and equipment needed to complete the work in a timely manner, etc.

If you have stories, issues, concerns or opinions on this, please feel free to share them by sending them to Bret Reed at bhrjr9491@gmail.com.



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The regular schedule for the Bear Facts submissions and issue "in mailbox" dates are as follows:

	Submission Deadline	MtnCARE.com post Date	In the Mail Issue Date
Issue 1 Spring	Feb 1st	Feb 20th	Mar 1st
Issue 2 Summer	May 1st	May 20th	Jun 1st
Issue 3 Autumn	Aug 1st	Aug 20th	Sep 1st
Issue 4 Winter	Nov 1st	Nov 20th	Dec 1st

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Have You Seen It? - A Post-Covid Movie Review

by Sharon Cady

A major pleasure that Steve and I missed, during the Covid lockdown and before we got vaccinated, was going to a theater for a movie. Yes, we saw lots of DVD's and taped TV shows during that time but not much "new stuff." Since our local theaters re-opened in late Spring 2021, initially with masks and socially distance seating, we estimate that we've seen nearly 30 movies in a theater.

I will review three of our favorites, all of which could be considered great summer entertainment, not Oscar contenders:

1.) Jungle Cruise - PG-13 with a Rotten Tomatoes critic score of



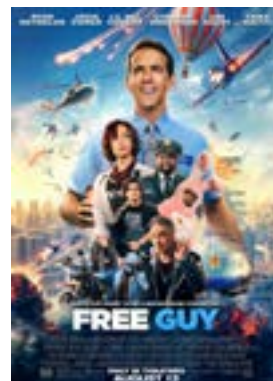
63% and an audience rating of 93% -in theaters for months! Loosely based on the Disneyland ride - but better than the Pirates of the Caribbean movies to us - this movie has family appeal with humor (never-ending puns like the ride), and high adventure, and the star appeal of and chemistry between Dwayne Johnson (AKA The Rock) and Emily Blunt. The movie has hints of past movies, including Bogart/Hepburn in African Queen and the newer Jumanji movies with the Rock.

2.) A Quiet Place Part II - PG-13 with a Rotten Tomatoes critic score of 91% and audience rating of 92%.

Be very careful which children/young teens you let see this movie. See the first Quiet Place without kids to decide. This is an edge-of-your-seat unique horror/sci-fi story, almost entirely silent with subtitles to show what is being "spoken," almost all by sign language. To make any sound—even a dropped item—will bring human-devouring, barely-seen alien creatures. The star in both movies is Emily Blunt (same as Jungle Cruise), but in II, the daughter played by Millicent Simmons, deaf in real life and in Quiet Place, makes a powerful impression on what it's like to be quiet when you can't hear the sounds that bring danger! Alert: There is a sequel coming!



3.) Free Guy - PG-13 with a Rotten Tomatoes critic score of 80% and audience rating of 94%. This video game meta-comedy, starring Ryan Reynolds, will entertain gamers and non-gamers alike.



(Think of what many of you enjoyed during lock-down!) You gradually realize you're in a video game at the start of the movie, but the plot centers on the game's creators fighting to save their tech-intelligence property from a usurper. It reminded Steve and me of The Truman Show (1998) with Jim Carrey, in which the main character Truman gradually realizes he is living in a fantasy world and then rebels against it, in that film's case, a TV show.

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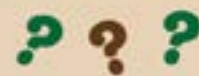
You've got questions,

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Find out about community meetings, garage sales, special events...
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Santa is Coming to Town!

by Dave Druck



Your local station 99 firefighters want to invite you out on December 18th to have some festive fun with Santa and his Elf. Santa and his crew of firefighters will be traveling through town atop a decorated fire truck with music and handing out candy to the little ones. The parade route starts in lower canyon at 6pm on Prospect and makes it's way up through town with a short stop in Downtown around 630pm. Please bring a chair, a flashlight and dress warm. The event takes approx an hour and it's a fun filled time for the entire family. We hope to see you all there!

For more information, questions or route information please contact Dave Druck at 909-794-6524.

A Look Back; Roof Shoveling in 1969

by Leonard C. Campbell, Forest Falls, CA (1969)

(continued from page 4)

water purveyor to the upper Canyon from the SDA Church to the Falls Recreation Area, its original charter provides for much more than simply supplying water. The Forest Home Fallsvale Fire District later became the Forest Falls Fire Protection District which then consolidated into what is now the San Bernardino County Fire District. Article digitized by: Tom McIntosh, Admin Captain, Forest Falls Sta 99. 5/13/2021]

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COMMUNITY EVENTS & ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Angelus Oaks • Forest Falls • Mountain Home Village

Fall 2021 Special Events

Date/Time	Event	Location	Details
Sat. Dec. 18th 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Station 99 Christmas Parade	Throughout Forest Falls	For info, route info, or questions please call Dave Druck at 909-794-6524

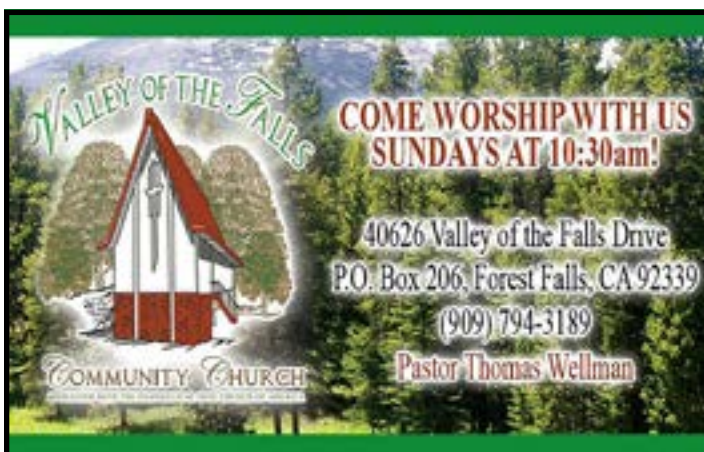
Regularly Scheduled Events

Event	When	Location	Details
Frozen Green Thumb Garden Club	3rd Mon. every month 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Big Falls Lodge	All welcome. For questions call Olivia Borges 626-506-7484 or Sue Bottenberg 909-794-7167.
Forest Falls Fire Department Meeting	Every Tuesday 6:30 PM	Station 99 Forest Falls	Call 909-794-4413 for more information
Valley of the Falls Community Church Youth Group	Every Wednesday 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Valley of the Falls Community Church	Ages 12 to 18.
Angelus Oaks Fire Department Meeting	2nd and 4th Tues. every month @ 6 PM	Angelus Oaks Fire Station	
Angelus Oaks Fire Safety Council	Council meets periodically	Angelus Oaks	For meeting dates, check A.O. FSC Bulletin Board @the A.O. Post Office.
The Needlers Knitting Group	Every Tuesday 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM	7th Day Adventist Church, Forest Falls	All are welcome. For more info call Denise Reid at 909-794-5130.
Mill Creek Canyon C.E.R.T.	TBD	TBD	Call Paul Tetreault 909-794-0077 to get on waiting list for new courses.
Music Night in Forest Falls	Every Tuesday 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM	Big Falls Lodge	All musicians, all styles, all levels welcome. Anyone can come listen.

*** Please contact the organizer to determine if there are any Covid-related restrictions or changes in schedules. ***

For the most up-to-date list of upcoming events, please visit

www.mtnicare.com/community-calendar



If you would like to see most of this issue's photos in color, visit www.mtnicare.com

The Last of the Beaver Moon

by Julie Beckman

The last of the Beaver moon hides behind the trees casting shadows upon the early morning forest floor. While the sun sneaks a peak above the horizon sucking the warmth out of the air to leave one last chill before sunrise. Sending colors of pinks and blues throughout the sky, leaving silence for the light to shine. The trees almost bare of their golden browns, laying upon the ground. The winds of time have come to change. The forest's souls scurry about collecting their winter survival. Soon the Snow moon will be upon us and just days after will bring the Winter Solstice. The few dark months we must endure for we were gifted such beautiful sunlit days of seasons past. May the snow falls be pleasant, forgiving, and fruitful. May your inner child be free to play and your chimneys smell of warmth and comfort this winter.

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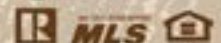
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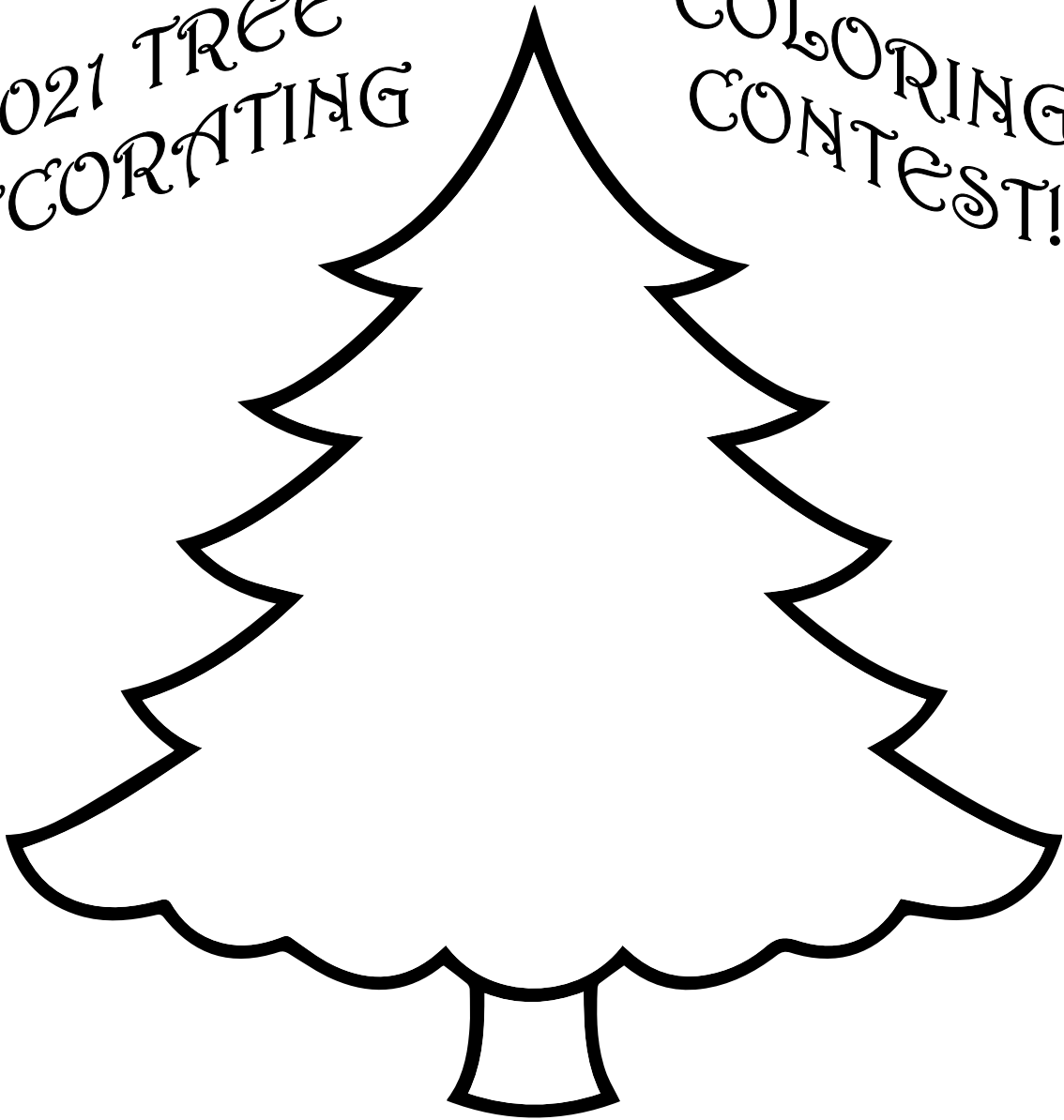
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2021 TREE
DECORATING

COLORING
CONTEST!



Coloring Contest Rules: Use your imagination to decorate your Christmas Tree! One entry per child (for households with more than one child you can pick up an additional coloring page at Gillmore Real Estate).

All entries must be delivered to the Elkhorn General Store or Gillmore Real Estate by Dec. 23rd, 2021. Winner will be announced on Facebook Dec. 24th, 2021.

Contest sponsored by Mountain C.A.R.E.

Childs Name: _____ Child's Age: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Parent's phone Number: _____





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Winter 2021 Volume 15 Issue Number 4

Mountain Citizens Acting to Restore the Earth

Mountain C.A.R.E. is a non-profit community based organization located in Forest Falls California. We are a group of volunteers that came together in early 1990 to arrange an Earth Day activity. Our articles state that "We are to educate the general public about environmental concerns and the need to restore and preserve the environment for future generations".

Our vision is to:
 Encourage the community to recycle, reduce, and re-use;
 enhance knowledge and love of the area;
 and show we care by keeping personal property and
 community areas clean and beautiful.

Your Subscription, Contribution, or Participation with Mountain C.A.R.E. helps to support the education and environmental work we do in the communities of Forest Falls, Angelus Oaks, and Mountain Home Village. It helps to create this Bear Facts newsletter which keeps our communities up to date on local events and important issues. We are a volunteer non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible as permitted by law and gratefully appreciated. Your donations keep this publication and all Mountain C.A.R.E. activities going strong. Thank you for all your support!

We have a commitment to each other and all our mountain communities. Please join us in that commitment by sending any donations to:
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