

The BEAR FACTS

A publication of Mountain C.A.R.E. (<http://www.mtnicare.com>)

Spring 2022 Volume 16 Issue 1

They're Back - Proceed with Caution

by Paul Tetreault



Local Big Horn Ram (photo by David Russell)

Have you seen them? The Big Horn Sheep? or the new signs warning drivers of their presence? The bighorn sheep made a modest appearance last year but this year they've been around a lot! Many of our residents have been posting some great photos of the herd in and around the cinder pile between the "Y" and the bridge into town on local social media sites. They are quite majestic and always worth a pause to enjoy.



New Big Horn Signs (photo by David Druck)



Our herd crossing the VOF (photo by Jeff Miller)

Be careful out there though, this current herd doesn't seem to be to frightened by humans and they had little interaction with cars at this point. Apparently there is vegetation closer to the creek in the center of the canyon that they like to eat. This has many of the sheep crossing the road in a very dangerous part of our neighborhood where cars are still at relatively high speeds coming off Highway 38 as they're slowing to come into town. These are big animals and they will cause significant damage to vehicles when hit, not to mention killing the sheep, when all we have to do is slow down and pay attention to the animal activity in this area.

continued on page 2

Mountain C.A.R.E. Board of Directors

Debi Welch
President

Matt Bottenberg
Vice President

Nicole Adams
Secretary

Bernadette Griffith
Treasurer

Carol Burgess
Member at Large

Terry Hamilton
Member at Large

John Ruble
Member at Large

position available
Member at Large

position available
Member at Large

Bear Facts Staff

Editor
Position Currently Available

Paul Tetreault
Layout Artist

to submit
Letters to the Editor
write to:

bearfactseditor@gmail.com



Please Support Us \$15/yr

Mountain C.A.R.E. President's Message

by Debi Welch



Hello friends and neighbors! I hope you are all doing well in this beautiful, yet chilly weather. It's that time of year when our daffodils are either under snow or popping up out of the ground...popping it is! I like to joke, if you don't like the weather in Forest Falls, wait fifteen minutes it will change. No we are not done with snow for the season, plan on getting snow up until Mothers Day in May. If you want to guarantee a snowstorm go get a whole bunch of pony pack starter plants and plant them in your garden.

With so many new residents on the mountain we want to welcome you and encourage you to meet your neighbors. Do a phone number & key swap and know that in a natural disaster like flood, fire, or earthquake, your neighbors are your first and best resource and you should be one for them as well.

Are you looking to be more active in the community? Do you feel like you have time and energy to share with one of our local organizations? There are many groups in town that you can become an active member from The Frozen Green Thumb's to Fallsvale Booster Club & site council and even our own Mountain CARE Board. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you want to be a part of one these organizations and don't know where to start, debi@forestfalls.com

Lastly, our annual Canyon Clean-Up is coming up. We want to encourage everyone to participate in this wonderful event sponsored by Mountain CARE. Canyon Clean-Up originally began as an Earth Day event. However due to Mother Nature's unpredictability we moved it to May for the best chance of favorable weather. Dumpsters are brought in for trash, yard waste and ewaste. In addition to all the clean up we also stage and offer graffiti busting! We have the paint and necessary supplies for those who want to help clean the rocks that have been tagged. We always need help with this part of the event. In addition to painting on the 14th, consider sponsoring a rock and commit to keeping it clean throughout out the year. This year's Canyon Clean-Up will be on Saturday May 14th, so please mark your calendars and plan to participate!

Big Horn Sheep are Back

continued from page 1



Local Big Horn Sheep butting heads (photo by David Russell)

Due to the many concerns from our residents about this potential travesty, from phone calls to Facebook posts, our San Bernardino County Supervisor, Dawn Rowe and her team have been in contact with and made the request of Cal-Trans, who acted quickly to get electronic signs up to warn drivers who might not be aware of the Sheep's presence. The electronic sign was up for about a week and then in a very timely manner replaced by static metal signs with an image of the bighorn sheep on them, again warning drivers about the sheep in this stretch of road.

As beautiful as the creatures are and as awesome as it might be to get out of your car and snap a few pics, please proceed with caution. These are wild animal and we want to keep them that way. Pull all the way off the road, DO NOT STOP in the middle of the road to take pictures, others behind you might not be expecting you to do that. Stay 10-20 yards away from these animals, do not feed them, remember we want to KEEP THEM WILD.

You moved up here because you loved the nature around you and want to be close to the trees, rocks and wildlife. That is going to take extra responsibility on the part of all of us as residents in this heavenly canyon. Whether it's Big Horn Sheep at the cinder pile or bears, coyotes and bobcats in our yards or the relatively recent sightings of the grey fox which seemed to have disappeared long ago but are here again, stay frosty, be aware, drive slow and enjoy these majestic animals in our own home.

A Trustworthy & Personal Cleaning Service

- Residential
- Commercial
- Professional & Punctual

Silver Touch HOUSECLEANING

\$50.00 OFF
\$10 OFF First 5 Cleanings (Weekly & BI Weekly Cleanings)

"They have been cleaning for me for more than 20 years. It has been great and I can't imagine anybody else. I give them FIVE stars." - Eric

909.794.6715
949.366.6633

www.silvertouchhousecleaning.com
Licensed, Bonded, Insured.

MOUNTAIN C.A.R.E. NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

Please renew your subscription!

MtnCARE.com now has a PayPal Option

It's SAFE, SECURE and Convenient or you can send a check in the mail to

PO Box 13
Forest Falls CA 92339

Just \$15 per household per year shows you care

All Donations are Tax Deductible

Canyon Clean-Up 2022 is Coming

by Terry Hamilton
Save the date!!

Canyon Clean-Up this year is coming May 14th, 7:30 to 12 Noon
 We want your junk, greens, recyclables, metal, and electronics.
 It's a party for a great cause. Hundreds of people will be there.
 Don't miss the opportunity to clean out and throw away all those "treasures" you have been saving for too long.
 We need your help at the various dumpsters. Won't you consider giving us a hand?
 We need your help picking up trash, graffiti removal, and generally sprucing up your neck of the woods. You will be paired with seasoned vets of the Clean-Up. If you are new to Forest Falls, Mountain Home Village or Angelus Oaks, this is a great way to meet your neighbors.
 Our beautiful mountains have been so good to us, a half day on Saturday, May 14th is the least we can do to pay back.
 Don't miss it and don't be late, once the bins are full, we're done.
 Any questions? Contact us on the Forest Falls Facebook group.
 John Ruble and Terry Hamilton, Canyon Clean Up Coordinators.

Our 2022 Annual

Canyon Clean-up

Saturday, May 14th

It's time for a little Spring cleaning

The Big Falls Picnic Grounds, our local streets, and creek-sides can use our help. Roadside clean-up and graffiti removal can be done in the days before the arrival of the large bins. Large dumpsters will be available to clean our own properties. Join us.

Let's clean it up!



7:30 to 12:00*

Cinder Pile Lot

- Regular Trash
- Recyclables
- Green / Garden Trash
- Metal Recycling

Big Falls Lodge

- Regular Trash

Fallsvale School

- E-Waste

Mountain Home Village

- Regular Trash

Sorry, NO hazmat at any of these sites

* until the bins are full



Remember:

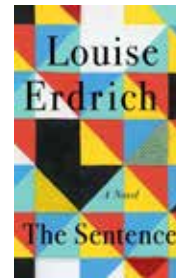


both the current issue & old issues
 are On-Line with Live Links at:
<http://www.mtnicare.com/bear-facts>

Considering Books

by Katherine Thomerson Bird

Hello Mountain Communities!! I am so very happy about being asked to review books again for the Bear Facts!! I have missed this terribly. It's cold there as it is here in Indiana where I now reside. And there is nothing like cozying up on a snowy winter day with the fireplace roaring and reading an engaging story, slipping away into another life or land and finding out how life might work. So here, my reader friends, we go!



THE SENTENCE by Louise Erdrich

"From the time of birth to the time of death, every word you utter is part of one long sentence."
 Sun Yung Shin, *Unbearable Splendor*

Do not fear! This book is not about grammar! Erdrich writes in her story, "Ghosts bring elegies and epitaphs, but also signs and wonders. What comes next? I want to know, so I manage to drag the dictionary to my side. I need a word, a sentence. The door is open. Go.." This is the last paragraph of the novel spoken by Tookie, a character in the novel and a Native American, who was incarcerated and now works in an independent bookstore in Minneapolis.

The bookstore is haunted by a ghost, Flora. Flora dies on All Souls Day and hides in the bookstore and won't leave; she is the most annoying customer, even while alive. Tookie needs to solve this mystery while trying to understand all that occurs in Minneapolis within the year of 2019 – 2020, a year of tribal affairs, killings, grief, astonishment, isolation (pandemic) and furious, troubling clashes, family included.

This novel is funny, heart-rending and shares Native American culture, especially food-wise. Flora's ghost is hated and lovable. She ghosts the bookstore in 2019 and leaves a fever of unforgettable "book stuff" in 2020. Wait until the end and find out why!

Now it just so happens that Louise Erdrich owns an independent bookstore in Minneapolis called Birch Bark Books which she says IS haunted by a book-loving ghost. She IS a member of the Band of Chippewa and brings a marvelous and delicate realism to the characters in this story. She IS a National Book Award Winner for the novel, *Round House*. This IS a great read!

Critic Review: "No one can break your heart and fill it with light all in the same book, sometimes in the same paragraph, quite like Louise Erdrich."

The back of the book, **Tookie's Totally Biased List of Favorite books**. First section, **Ghost Managing Book List**, First Title, **Uninvited Guests by Sadie Jones**. I highlighted several books for reading later. This novel was engrossing and a delight!!! Read it!!!

Household Hazardous Material Disposal

every Saturday in Redlands 9:30am-12:30 pm

City of Redlands Corporate Yard

at 1270 West Park Ave near Kansas Street

Fallsvale

by Abbiy Holland



Fallsvale School has had a very good last few months. We had a great Thanksgiving, with our traditional Turkey Feast at school. The month of December seemed to fly by. The littles did fun activities surrounding Laura Ingalls Wilder (Little House on the Prairie). The middles had PJ day and compared a couple of different movies. And the olders finished a couple of class novels and got to compare them to the movies. Then we all went on vacation!

Shortly after we returned, Fallsvale School had to deal with an outbreak of COVID-19, in which we were able to do distance learning. In some classes, on a few days, the students that made it to class were down as low as four kids. Due to the outstanding abilities of our teachers and the perseverance of our students, all that participated in distance learning proved to be overall a success. As this article is being written, there is still a standing mask mandate for all schools in California. According to the Governor of California, the indoor mask mandate should be ending some time next week for those that are vaccinated. With the students and faculty all seeming to be on the mend, everyone has returned to school. Now that we are back at school, and healthy, we are looking forward to sharing Valentine's Day gifts and having some good old fashioned playground time and some fun.

Community Fire Safe Meeting

Meet with officials from County Fire, USFS Cal Fire, and more on **Saturday, April 9th 2022**. The meeting in **Angelus Oaks** will be at the Fire Station from **10am-noon**, and on the same day in **Forest Falls** at Big Falls Lodge from **3pm-5pm**. Folks from any community can come to either meeting.

The Agenda will cover:

- a welcome by IEFSA
- Defensible space - SBCounty Fire
- Firewise Communities
- Insurance / CA FAIR Plan - Representative from FAIR Plan
- USFS - Update on projects in the area
- GSOB Basics (life cycle, hosts, indicators, treatment)-CAL FIRE
- GSOB Treatment Funding - IERCD
- IEFSA/FSC Info - Laura and/or local FSC reps
- GSOB Field Survey - IERCD (after end of meeting in the field)

Each meeting will be followed by an opportunity to go and do a field survey with foresters to learn how to identify GSOB infested trees.

For any further information contact,

Laura Dyberg with MRFSC & IEFSA at 909-528-6975

FFART Gets Emergency Service Approval

by Debi Welch



Forest Falls Animal Rescue Team, is approved and getting ready to be implemented. For those of you who don't know, FFART came into being during the El Dorado Fire. Once everyone evacuated town we found many animals stranded through no fault of their owners. Some folks went to work and never made it home until the evacuation order was lifted.

The more we looked, the more we found. From chickens to pigs, you name it, if we found 'em, we fed 'em. By the time the town was allowed to come home we had 22 stops on our daily rounds for food, water, litter box cleaning etc.

We kept getting word through many resources, (as you may remember we were completely cut off from the world, no cell, no internet, no power) that animals were left at home and their owners couldn't get back. For those of you who say let animal control do their job...let us tell you, if you have a doggy door animal control will not come up and get your pets, they were on their own. This was unacceptable when folks didn't get home for 20 days after evacuation. Some pets were old and leaving their home was not an option. The pig was too big and couldn't be transported. There were

various reasons all these animals needed our help.

FFART has been approved to work with emergency services. What does this mean to us as a community? In a natural disaster, flood, fire etc. we have the means to feed, rescue and transport your pets off the mountain to a rescue to be held until you can get to them. It means peace of mind when you leave your home knowing there is a back up plan in place to care for your beloved's when nature strikes. We had several fish, birds and small reptiles in addition to the plethora of animals we cared for. Every critter counts is our motto.

FFART will be mobile and working to train other teams to provide animal rescue protocol and resources in times of need. Please keep your eyes and ears open as we will be reaching out to our communities to set this program up and make sure no home or animal is unaccounted for.



On Being Prepared

by Frank Sexton, Mill Creek Canyon C.E.R.T.



After a “social distancing” hiatus, the Mill Creek Canyon Community Emergency Response Team will be providing our “Basic C.E.R.T. Training” course this March and April.

This course is designed to help you help yourselves, or, if you choose, help you to help our Team and your Community. It consists of some online training, and approximately 24 hours of in person instruction.

See the adjacent flyer for the dates that we have secured for the in person training so far. It will be updated in the near future.

If you would like to sign up, or have any questions, please email our Team Coordinator, Frank Sexton at fyermann@yahoo.com

It's Not If, ...But When...

For those who have already taken the Basic course and want to review or perhaps those who have started the course but did not finish, check the Mill Creek Canyon CERT page on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MillCreekCanyonCERT/> for more training opportunities. For more ideas on being prepared, check out the C.E.R.T Website: <http://www.fema.gov/community-emergency-response-teams>

We have a new 2022 Course Starting

C.E.R.T. TRAINING

Community
Emergency
Response
Team

Are you prepared

in the case of a **Disaster?**

FIRE • FLOOD • AVALANCHE • EARTHQUAKE

Be Part of the Team or
just get some really great training

- Home Evacuation Planning
- Fire Suppression
- Search & Rescue
- First Aid
- Disaster Communications



The County Provides Course Text, a Backpack and Helmet

This is a multi-day course

Participants must attend all sessions

Mar 26th

Apr 16th

Apr 29th

SIGN UP NOW - CALL 909-553-5483

“QUALITY FIRST” - RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
serving the Inland Empire and Local Mountain Communities

JUHL Electric

JAMES 5-13

DALE JUHL (909) 796-0097

24565-UNIT G REDLANDS BLVD., LOMA LINDA
LICENSE #528729 • P.O. BOX 194 • LOMA LINDA, CA 92354
P.O. BOX 418 • Angelus Oaks, CA 92305

Mill Creek Plumbing LLC

a VFCCI Founder

909-794-0206



Serving our Mountain Communities
Maintenance for Home, Business, & Rentals

Bill Forgues & Joaquin Baeza

Lic. #1075415



TOM PAOLI
GENERAL CONTRACTOR - CARPENTER
(909) 810-3718

RESIDENTIAL REMODELING

SPECIALIZING IN:

- REMODELING
- KITCHENS & BATHROOMS
- FLOORS & TILE
- DRYWALL
- PLUMBING
- CARPENTRY
- ROUGH & FINISH
- WINDOWS & DOORS
- CUSTOM STAIRS & DECKS

QUALITY - RELIABILITY - HONESTY

CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE!

SERVICING SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
LOCATED IN FOREST FALLS



NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Mountain Communities Food Pantry

THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND DONATIONS.

Just a friendly reminder from Renata, Dee, and Michelle. We are here for anyone who needs a helping hand. You can call any of us & we will be happy to meet you at the Pantry (Forest Falls Community Church) THANK YOU!



Community Food Pantry
Please contact one of us if you need assistance



Michelle Mayfield 909-794-3135
Renata Campbell 408-410-7510
Jenn Hollingsworth Text: 619-992-1872
Dee Konezal 909-794-0885

Valley of the Falls Community Church

Dr. Paul Reed



Our Community Church at 40262 Valley of the Falls Drive

In case you may not have noticed (but I hope you have), Valley of the Falls Community Church is back up and meeting! Covid has been a very difficult challenge for us all! For many months in 2020 and 2021, Valley of the Falls Community Church did not meet. However, for the past few months, God has allowed us to reopen our doors and meet again.

We meet for worship at 10:30 on Sunday mornings and have a time of Fellowship immediately after the service. We also have Youth Ministry that meets at 4:30 p.m. on Thursdays for elementary and high school students. In the coming months we plan to begin a Men's Bible Study on a weekday morning, an Adult Bible Study on Sunday mornings and other ministries.

We would love to see you on any Sunday. If you have any questions about Valley of the Falls Community Church, please feel free to contact, Dr. Paul Reed, Teaching Pastor, at (909) 486-3500 or pastorpaul@forestfalls.com.



El Mexicano

Authentic Mexican Food

40977 Valley of the Falls Dr
Forest Falls, California
(909) 794 - 3186

Food To-Go
Cold Beer & Wine
Open Seven Days A Week
Live Music / Entertainment Weekends

Specializing in Mountain Property Since 1925

Angelus Oaks
37690 Hwy 38
(909) 794-2969
Fax 794-2173
eMail: greff@verizon.net



Calif DRE #01294178

Forest Falls
40978 Valley 'Falls Dr.
(909) 794-2518
Fax 794-5436
eMail: greff@verizon.net



Sales • Rentals • Property Management
• Consulting • Multiple Listing Service



Forest Falls - Angelus Oaks - Mountain Home Village

www.GillmoreRealEstate.com • www.ForestFalls.com

Community Events & Activities Calendar

Angelus Oaks - Forest Falls - Mountain Home Village

Spring 2022 Special Events

When	What	Where	What else?
Mar 2nd	Zoom Call with Supervisor Rowe	on-line	please check www.SBCouty.gov to register for the ZOOM call
Mar 26th Apr 16 & 29	CERT Training	Big Falls Lodge	Community Emergency Response Team, Disaster Preparedness, attendees must be available for all 3 8hr sessions, 24 hours of training
Apr 3rd	Lifestream blood drive	Big Falls Lodge	Blood drives are from noon til 5 PM in the Bloodmobile. Links to sign up will be posted on FB as each drive gets closer. Thank you!
Apr 9th	Community Fire Safe Meeting	Angelus Oaks Fire Station	10am-12pm, join SB County officials discuss Fire Safety topics like Defensible Space. County Fire, Cal Fire, USFS, & more.
Apr 9th	Community Fire Safe Meeting	Big Falls Lodge	3pm-5pm, join SB County officials discuss Fire Safety topics like Defensible Space. County Fire, Cal Fire, USFS, & more.
Jun 5	Lifestream blood drive	Big Falls Lodge	Blood drives are from noon til 5 PM in the Bloodmobile. Links to sign up will be posted on FB as each drive gets closer. Thank you!
Jun 18	Gardens of the Heart Plant Sale	Big Falls Lodge	The Frozen Green Thumb Garden Club's Annual Plant Sale., Bake Sale & Raffle from 9am-1pm

Regularly Scheduled Events

What	When	Where	What else?
Angelus Oaks Fire Department	2nd & 4th Tuesdays each month at 6pm	Angelus Oaks Fire Station (98)	
Forest Falls Fire Department	Tuesdays at 6:30pm	Forest Falls Fire Station (99)	909-794-4413
Angelus Oaks Fire Safe Council	Meets periodically		Dates announced on the A.O. FSC Bulletin Board in the Angelus Oaks Post Office.
Valley of the Falls Community Church Youth Group	Wednesdays 6pm-8pm.	Valley of the Falls Community Church	Ages 12-18 welcome.
Frozen Green Thumb Garden Club	3rd Monday each month 11:30 am - 12:30 pm	at Big Falls Lodge	All are welcome.
Music Night in Forest Falls	Tuesdays 6:30-9:30 pm	at Big Falls Lodge	All Musicians, all styles, all levels are welcome, anyone can come play and listen.
The Needlers Knitting Group	Tuesdays 9:30-11:30 am	7th Day Adventist Church, Forest Falls	All are welcome, Contact Denise Reid 794-5130.

Valley of the Falls Community Church

Worship Each Sunday at 10:30 a.m.
followed by Fellowship Time

Youth Ministry Thursday Evenings
at 4:30 p.m.
with a Fellowship Meal

Thom Wellman, Pastor
Dr. Paul Reed, Teaching Pastor (909) 794-3189

40262 Valley of the Falls Drive, Forest Falls, CA 92339
Follow us on Facebook @forestoffthefallscommunitychurch

 **Griffith**
Professional Services

Bernadette Griffith
909.295.4888
griffithprofessionalservices@gmail.com

Tax Preparation | Signing Agent | Notary Public | Document Services

Music Night

by Paul Tetreault



Every Tuesday Night (weather and schedules permitting) musicians of all types and levels are invited to Big Falls Lodge in Forest Falls for Music Night. We've been gathering weekly now at Big Falls Lodge for over 10 years. Once in a while an abundance of snow or lack of electricity has stopped us from this weekly event, but for the most part, we've had a nice jam sessions pretty regularly. Most folks are beginners or intermediate players, we get Singers, several Guitar Players, a few Keyboard/Piano Players, Banjo Players come once in a while, a few Harmonica Players and even a violin and flute player once in a while. Candi Loiseau is our official liaison to the Big Falls Lodge management team of VFCCI and they have continually supported our resident jams for the entire time. We play Pop, Rock, Country, and Folk. We all sit in a big circle and take turns picking songs. If you want to do a song that some of us don't know, just be willing to teach us! We have a white board too!

Valley of the Falls Community Center News

New Website for Emergency Awareness



In an Emergency Call 9-1-1

Live Emergency Updates

Hey, have you ever wondered what to do in case of an emergency? If you want to consider what actions to take to prepare for an emergency, there is a new resource available. VFCCI, has partnered with Southern California Edison and our local CERT program (Community Emergency Response Team) to launch an Emergency Preparedness Website. This website is a one-stop location for you to view live updates on current situations effecting mountain communities. Utilizing various social media platforms and archived data sources, it is *the* place to go to, for info on weather, traffic, natural disasters, and much more. It can help guide you during a crisis and more importantly how to plan before an emergency occurs.

Please check out the link: <https://www.vfccibeprepared.info/>.

Are you tired of trying to get local information via Facebook?

You've got questions,

Done with social media drama and political posts when you're looking for community information?

We've got answers,

Find out about community meetings, garage sales, special events...
Get all of the important local telephone numbers for mountain living!

www.AngelusOaks.info

www.MountainHomeVillage.info

www.ForestFalls.info

Valley of the Falls Community Center Inc.

Think
Big Falls Lodge
for your next event...



**Craft Fairs, Potlucks, Breakfast with Santa, CERT Training,
Garden Club Meetings, Music Night, Community Swap Meets,
Search & Rescue Breakfast, The Haunt on the Hill, Movie Night,
Canyon Clean-Up, Weddings, Memorials, Birthday Parties ...
- How many of these have YOU attended?**

www.VFCCI.org

Event Coordinator
Dee Konczal
events@VFCCI.org
909.794.0885

Caretaker
Megan Danner
909.809.7605

Board of Directors

Olivia Borges, President
oliviaborges76@gmail.com
909.794.0734

Josh Olsen, Vice President
jolsen@wfgtitleco.com
951.203.4461

Susan Iles, Secretary
susan@forestfalls.com
909.794.5756

Bernadette Griffith, Treasurer
bernie@forestfalls.com

Dee Konczal
events@VFCCI.org
909.794.0885

Misha Boyarski
misha@forestfalls.com

Barbara Dickinson
bd4r63@verizon.net

David Flake
4300df@gmail.com

Micah Kiter
micah.kiter@yahoo.com

Hello Friends and Neighbors!

VFCCI would like to thank everyone who helped fund, organize and make the purchase of the lot adjacent to the community center possible. With this area secured we will now be able to ensure more parking spaces available for everyone.

VFCCI is the acronym for Valley of the Falls Community Center inc. We are a nonprofit 501c3 organization that owns and operates Big Falls Lodge, also referred to as the community center or "The Lodge". We have a board of directors made up of 9 local community members who meet quarterly to discuss matters associated with the building and future goals.

Big Falls Lodge is often used as a meeting place for the local water agencies, garden club, Tuesday music night, belly dance and yoga classes, CERT training, emergency preparedness, and any time we need to hold a general community meeting or to use during an emergency situation. We offer use of the building for annual fundraisers by the Forest Falls Firefighters and Search and Rescue when they have pancake breakfasts and dinners as well as the monthly Fallsvale Booster Club's movie nights and their annual "Breakfast with Santa". These fundraisers benefit those groups directly.

VFCCI also holds their own fundraising events such as the "Mountain Jamboree" in July and "Haunt on the Hill" in late October. Prior to these events we ask for people to sponsor the event. The proceeds raised during the event go to our nonprofit to help with maintenance fees and building repair costs and to keep the community center up and running. Even though these are fundraisers it's a great opportunity to get our tight knit communities together for some fun! Our planning committees will be gearing up soon for this year's events and we are always looking for help from residents. As long as county Covid guidelines stay at a level where we can safely gather, events at the lodge will be "a go". Please stay tuned on the local Facebook pages or keep an eye out for flyers around town for more information. Everyone in our tri community areas are welcome and we always enjoy our neighbors in Mountain Home Village and Angelus Oaks.

We work hard to make the building available to everyone and we hope you appreciate having this great building in your community. We are proud to offer the space for private events such as weddings, birthday parties, family gatherings and memorials to name a few. If you are looking for a place close to home for your next special event, please consider Big Falls Lodge! If you would like to learn more about VFCCI or would like to attend an upcoming meeting, information can be found at VFCCI.org or you can email: director@vfcci.org or call 909-389-0585. Leave us a message and we will get back to you with answers to your questions. If you are on Facebook, search VFCCI to see current postings or browse our photo gallery.

Please Donate - We would like to invite you to make a donation to support VFCCI and Big Falls Lodge. Just go to www.VFCCI.org and look for the Pay-Pal link. Also, if you haven't done so already, please sign up for "Amazon Smiles", then choose "VFCCI". This is a free way to support us and give back to the community every time you make an Amazon purchase.

The Bear Facts is a publication of Mountain C.A.R.E., a non-profit organization. We appreciate the patronage of our advertisers and the services they offer to our readers. However, the subscribers and the Board of Directors of Mountain C.A.R.E., are not endorsing these companies simply by including the ads in this publication. The advertisers pay for the privilege to post their ads and The Bear Facts is produced in part by those fees. We hope you will enjoy the services these companies offer.

It's easy to have *YOUR* business ad in *The Bear Facts*
 Go to mtncare.com and click on ADVERTISE or contact bearfacteditor@gmail.com

The Bear Facts Ad Rates	
Half Page	\$350 /year
Third Page	\$275 /year
Quarter Page	\$250 /year
Business Card	\$150 /year
Special Full Page Inserts	mtncare.com/contact-us

Quarter Page size ad
\$250 / year

CHIMNEY KKRRIKITT'S
 HONESTY INTEGRITY QUALITY
 Smokes or Broke? Inc.
 CHIMNEYS - FIREPLACES
 STOVES - DRYER VENTS
 CHIMNEY CHECK

CERTIFIED CHIMNEY SWEEP
 CSIA # 2833 www.csia.org

DON'T RISK FIRE SAFETY TO YOUR HOME! BEWARE Hiring less than a CERTIFIED CHIMNEY TECH for service and repairs can have catastrophic results. PUT MY EXPERIENCE TO WORK FOR YOU: 33+ YEARS and OVER 25,000 CHIMNEYS!
THOMAS BEFORT - CSIA CERTIFIED TECH #2833

- Wood Stoves
- Pellet Stoves
- Gas Stoves
- Insert Sales w/Install
- Gas Logs Available
- Dryer Vents
- Soot Removal
- Draft Problems
- Firebox Replacement
- Masonary Repairs
- Tuckpoints
- Chimney Caps & Screens
- Smoke Test
- Chimney Scan
- Reline / UL Listed Pipe
- Waterproofing with Guarantee - 3 level Inspection (NFPA 211 Standards)

Local Service Company, Working On and Off the Mountain

1-800-NO-2-SOOT
 1-800-662-7668
 (909) 797-7668 • 24/7/365
 - No Charge Just to Show Up
 - Prompt Phone Response Guaranteed.

MENTION THIS AD AND SAVE

The Bear Facts - Release Dates
Next Submission DEADLINE: May 1st

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

Please make sure any ad artwork, articles, calendar updates, and photos are sent to bearfacteditor@gmail.com on or before the submission deadline (all submissions digital and layout ready please). For questions call the editor, send an email to bearfacteditor@gmail.com.

Business Card size ad
\$150 / year

Mountain Hacks - Spring

by Nicole Adams

As we migrate from winter to spring, check out these “hacks”, listed here, from our locals willing to share their secrets!

- Pack an “essentials tote” for your car.
- Load buckets with de-icer to spread on steps and when icy.
- If you have no power, cook frozen pizza/lasagna on the BBQ.
- Instacart can be less expensive than driving to the store.
- Electric blankets are helpful to keep warm.
- Spray bottle with rubbing alcohol will de-ice windshields.
- Window Insulating Film helps seal out drafts.
- A pot of water on top of your fire stove, adds moisture to the air.
- Tortilla chips, toilet paper rolls filled with lint, and pine cones are easy fire starters.
- Start thinking of what you need in your garden, visit the local Garden Club to learn about gardening in the mountains.

**Start making a home maintenance list, spring time is the most beautiful time of our year! It is also a time to get prepared for projects and complete routine maintenance to keep your home running smooth for years to come. My list includes chimney cleaning, roof repairs, leaky pipes and anything I didn't feel like doing in the middle of winter!

Look for the 2022 Summer Mountain Hacks in the next edition of the Bear Facts



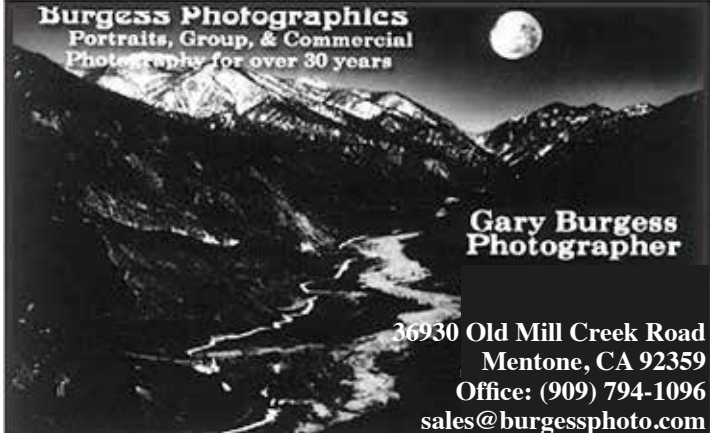
CHERRY CREEK *A tradition of trust*
MORTGAGE COMPANY

De Anna Gillespie-Bangerter
Sr. Mortgage Advisor, Branch Manager
Licensed CE Instructor

Mountain Home Loan Specialist
Licensed in CA, CO, ID, OR, TX, UT, WA

75 East 7200 South
Suite 132
Midvale, UT 84047
deanna@ccmclending.com
www.deannabangerter.com

NMLS# 23114
Cell: (801) 502-0184
Cell: (714) 381-9565
Toll Free: (800) 303-6588



Burgess Photographies
Portraits, Group, & Commercial
Photography for over 30 years

Gary Burgess
Photographer

36930 Old Mill Creek Road
Mentone, CA 92359
Office: (909) 794-1096
sales@burgessphoto.com

ANGELUS OAKS
LODGE



TOO MANY VISITORS?
NOT ENOUGH ROOM?
LET US HELP YOU

VIEW OUR CABINS AT:
www.lodgeatangelusoaks.com

CALL: 909-794-9523 FOR RESERVATIONS

CABINN OF THE FALLS
"Forest Falls vacation retreat"
Nightly - Weekly - Seasonal Rental
Authentic 1930's Log Cabin
2 bedrooms, full kitchen, large dining area, stone fireplace, front porch.
Short walk to creek, shops, store & cafe. WiFi, Sat TV, DVD & Fun!

Call 909 794-2518
See the Cabinn on "AirBnB.com"



VFCCI Members,
Weekday and
Extended Stay Discounts

Important Phone Numbers

by Beth Tetreault

Living in the mountains is serene, breath taking and peaceful until it's not. Then it's challenging and unpredictable. Over the years, we have added a number of phone numbers to call and signed up for a variety of programs that send us text communications to keep us informed of impending issues. We offer these to help you stay informed. There may be others but here's our top priority list.

The San Bernardino County Sheriff is responsible for crime prevention, resolution and the evacuation process (warnings and mandatory evacuation). By signing up for their TENS program (emergency notifications), we receive text communications but you can also sign up for landline calls.

By setting up an online account, specifically for notifications, SoCal Edison will text or call to advise when the power may be shutoff. In the past, we had maintenance outages to upgrade the power system in our canyon and prepare for the Public Safety Power Shutoff program. Now, they can notify specific areas of the canyon for maintenance outages or when weather requires shutting off the power.

The CHP is responsible for issues impacting highway 38; chain control, illegal parking. For questions on highway closures call (800) 427-7623 for recorded information. Chains and scrapers are put in our cars in the fall and put back in storage in about

May. If there is a storm coming, we make sure we have cash with us to pay for chain control personnel put on our chains... sorry but I'd rather pay than sit on the ground. Valley of the Falls Blvd and our side streets are the responsibility of Yucaipa Police or SBC Sheriff.

Other sites for information:

Socalmountains.com logs emergency calls and is a first check for why we may hear sirens or see smoke.

At MtnCare.org/webcams is where we check to see the status of the roads with four different webcams.

Additional information can be found at:

- www.AngelusOaks.info
- www.ForestFalls.info
- www.MountainHomeVillage.info
- www.Socalmountains.com
- www.forestfalls.com
- www.fs.usda.gov (USFS)
- www.MtnCARE.com
- www.VFCCi.org

CA Highway Patrol	800-427-7623	for Road Conditions
Code Enforcement	909-387-4044	Illegal Dumping
Building & Safety	909-387-4244	Building Codes
So Cal Edison	800-655-4555	Customer Service
FF Firehouse	909-794-4413	Non-Emergency
Fish & Wildlife	909-484-0167	for Bear & Lion Issues
Forest Service USFS	909-382-2682	Forest service property

Your Property is Serious Business

Don't Gamble on your Real Estate team

Get your home **SOLD** quickly, call us today!



Franklin Sexton
CA DRE BRO #01139893
CanyonRealtors@aol.com



(909) 553-5483

Best Mountain Properties



It's easy to have *YOUR* business ad in *the Bear Facts*
Click on the "Advertise" button on the mtnCare.com home page

Check out current community news at www.mtnCare.com

Check out the town & road conditions on the

Mountain C.A.R.E. Web Cams




<http://mtncare.com/web-cams/web-camera-index>

Rettig Machine, Inc.

Franz A. Rettig

P.O. Box 7460 · REDLANDS, CA 92375
301 KANSAS ST. · REDLANDS, CA 92373
(909) 793-7811
FAX (909) 793-0662
franz@rettigmachine.com

**“Of all the paths you take in life,
make sure a few of them are dirt”**
~ John Muir

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO JOIN THE

FOREST FALLS SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

IN WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP

Saturday Services

40551 Valley of the Falls Dr.
(Next door to the Post Office)

Bible Study 10:00 a.m.

Musical Praise Service 11:00 a.m.

(Musicians are encouraged to bring their instruments)

Worship Service 11:30 a.m.

Weekly Potluck Fellowship Dinner 12:45 p.m.

AO Resident Opens Veteran’s Campground

by Suzi Sands Vanos



December 2021, Sugarloaf, CA

It was a beautiful warm November Sunday morning, an adventurous team of three: Suzi Sands, Randy Vanos of Sugarloaf and Big Bear Lake News Editor, E T Russell, as they found their destination near Angelus Oaks, and State Route 38.

Other than the experience of the forest and its rugged mountain terrain in the San Bernardino Mountains, the three were invited to the dedication of a camping area especially for the use of military Veterans, by Adam Brown owner of the property and coordinator/ planner Keri Leigh.

The excitement mounted as three San Bernardino County Fire Unit #98 stationed at Angelus Oaks, arrived to punctuate the ribbon cutting ceremony for the first SoCal Veterans Park in the San Bernardino County mountains. Just prior to the ceremony, Adam and his daughter gave a brief dissertation about respect for U.S. Veterans and how Adam and his team want to give back by this property dedication. The Sunday dedication ceremony was significant as a commemoration to honor the local area’s heroes.

Brown and Leigh also shared hopes and dreams for future expansions on the rustic 22.9-acre site. A gorgeous redwood crafted sign was erected by Keri Leigh, Richard Pena, Jen Leigh Pena and Adam Brown. During the day’s event, guests were served a plethora of tasty food prepared by the accommodated staff, as they dined in the outdoor mountain atmosphere. An extra treat was the guitar band that played throughout the day with Stephanie on percussion, Bob and Eric on guitar. Guests thoroughly enjoyed the artistry of Angelus Oaks professional’s handcrafts, offered by Bessy, Dominick and Amy Ray. A tiny patriot dressed in his red shoes and shirt did not miss a beat, as he danced his way into the hearts of all!

Those who strolled around the campground acreage, learned of the well delineated paths through the forested areas, as they lead into the open community area. Keri Leigh was most informative about the future proposal of the property, as she welcomed visiting Veterans and patriots. Regis Duncan presented Adam Brown with an especially hand-crafted Bird House, to be displayed at the entrance of SoCal Veterans Campgrounds.

Continue to check here at: <http://www.bigbearlake.net/The-Serving> for information and updates on the progress of the property and interest of support, as well as donating to the organization.

Mountain Gardening

by Frozen Green Thumb Garden Club, Romina LaBerteaux



In gardening, we have different types of gardening methods. For this Spring, I want to talk about container gardening. I have been using containers since I moved to Forest Falls almost 4 years ago. The four types are:

- **In-Ground Gardening:** The most typical garden that people have is the backyard in-ground garden. ...
- **Raised Gardening:** Like the in-ground garden, raised gardens are outside gardens that typically use soil. ...
- **Hydroponic Gardens:** These use water instead of soil.
- **Container Gardening**

Since I married, I have lived in a warm zone where I can grow whatever I want. Most of my garden was in the ground. When I moved here to Forest Falls, I found out that it's very hard to grow something in the ground, especially because we have so many critter visitors. So, I decided to have everything in containers. It works well.

How do I start a container garden?

Instructions:

- 1. Choose the Right Soil.** A common mistake of container gardening starts with the soil. You'll want to use potting mix (also called potting soil), a lightweight and fluffy alternative. For the soil, I like to go to Cherry Valley Nursery.
- 2. Choose the Right Containers.** The options for planting containers are nearly limitless. I prefer clay containers (see below).
- 3. Ensure Good Drainage.** This is very important because the plants could get mold.
- 4. Select the Best Plants for a Container Garden.** Here in Forest Falls I have tulips, daffodils, and Honeysuckle in containers. Also, I love herbs in containers. Easy to move in wintertime.
- 5. Explore with different plants.**

What are some disadvantages of container gardening?

1. They can dry out easily, so need watering and feeding more frequently.
2. Only small amounts of vegetables can be grown in containers, so match the size of the crop to the container.

Terra-cotta (unglazed clay) pots are made of a particular soil and fired in kilns during the manufacturing process. The rusty brown color of clay is harmonious with every flower and foliage color.

Clay pots provide a healthy environment for most plants. The porosity of clay allows air and moisture to penetrate the sides of the pot. Clay pots also act like a wick to remove excess moisture from the potting soil. This can be looked at as both an advantage and a disadvantage depending upon your watering habits.

Plants which demand a well-drained, dry soil like cacti also prefer clay pots.

Outdoor usage of clay also has advantages. Clay pots have thick walls that protect plant roots from rapid changes in temperature which can be destructive. They also have a fair amount of weight and do not blow over as easily as some plastic pots. Clay does have the disadvantage of drying quickly. This can be a problem for moisture loving plants such as ferns or when attempting to germinate seeds.

Plastic pots are lightweight, strong and flexible. They are available in every color of the rainbow to coordinate with interior and exterior decor. Plastic does not have the wicking action that clay has making them an excellent choice for moisture-loving plants or for those gardeners who water infrequently.

Plastic pots are made of inert materials and are considered safe for growing plants. Many are made of recyclable plastic, so disposal is environmentally friendly when the pot is no longer usable (unglazed clay pots are fully recyclable as well). Plastic pots generally have thinner walls than their clay counterparts offering roots little if any insulation from temperature change. Black plastic can act as a solar collector, heating up the potting medium to plant damaging levels.

So, at the end, everyone has their own preferences about clay or plastic containers. Just make sure the pot you select has drainage holes in the bottom to prevent over-watering. I hope you find very helpful this information.



To all residents of:

Angelus Oaks, Mountain Home Village & Forest Falls

The Bear Facts is sent out in Mar, Jun, Sep, & Dec. Do you have a mountain event coming up that would benefit by being included in an upcoming issue?

The Mountain C.A.R.E volunteer staff gets excited every time the Bear Facts goes out to our three mountain communities, and to our canyon property owners who live elsewhere. Perhaps you would like to help with the newsletter's production.

Would you like to subscribe? Our valuable subscribers are folks who support The Bear Facts with a \$15.00 donation once a year. Our volunteer's names are on the front of this Bear Facts issue. We all are accessible. If you have an article or calendar entry for The Bear Facts, contact Paul Tetreault bearfactseditor@gmail.com.

All ad concerns go to mtncare.com home page and click on ADVERTISE

for all other concerns, please submit an inquiry at <http://preview.mtncare/contact-us>

Mill Creek’s Vertical Wonders

by David Lyons

Some of you may be aware that the gorgeous cliffs up and down our canyon are rather unstable, and not a draw for any rock climbers in their right mind. An interesting alternative to going up is coming down them on rappel via ropes and specialized equipment. Oftentimes on weekends, you can notice that a few vehicles are parked near the cinder pile, as Monkeyface Falls is one of the premier destinations in SoCal for “canyoneers” – those that enjoy heights and cold, pounding water.

While it may appear dangerous, descending canyons in this manner is done by people who are well trained and prepared for problems. Technical knowledge is critical to a successful outcome, so if you have any interest in this activity, reach out to the SoCal Canyon group on Facebook, or search for professional training from experienced guides such as Uber Adventures.



Big Falls (ie. “The Falls”) is a coveted classic rappel, but has been closed for a lengthy time due to the frequent traumas that non-canyoneers have experienced at this location. Unstable slopes and debris from recent fire activity contributes to the decision to have this off-limits at this juncture. The San Gabriel range has more offerings than our local mountains, but our little canyon has plenty of adventure right close to home.

Canyoneering allows a person to get up close and personal with rocks and water, usually with wetsuits and pretty good views. Having good teammates is important, and so is being in shape enough to hike steeply uphill for what can be over an hour or more. So, if you see a group of people with ropes and bright PVC backpacks trudging up the hillside, now you know why!



V. Mike
Your Friendly Neighborhood
Computer Guy

909.907.4708
tech@thetechrelay.com





I Sell Homes All Throughout the Inland Empire for Your Convenience... And I Can Sell Yours Too!

Deborah Jacobs
BROKER | DRE #01905167
909-503-5960



“Home is Where You Count Your Blessings”

MATRIX ESTATE GROUP, INC.

81035 for More Photos & Details  



Presorted Standard
US Postage
Paid
San Bernardino CA
Permit NO 28

Mountain C.A.R.E.
P.O. Box 13
Forest Falls, CA 92339

ECR WSS
Postal Patron
Forest Falls, CA 92339
ECR WSS
Postal Patron
Angelus Oaks, CA 92305
ECR WSS
Postal Patron
Mountain Home Village, CA 92359

Spring 2022 Volume 16 Issue Number 1



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 non-profit organization working with volunteers. 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:

Mountain C.A.R.E.
P.O.Box 13, Forest Falls, CA 92339

(please make checks payable to Mountain C.A.R.E. or contact us through www.MtnCAR.E.com)

