


The BEAR FACTS

A publication of Mountain C.A.R.E.

<http://www.mtnicare.com>

Summer 2020 Volume 14 Issue 2

Forest Falls Community Cares

By Michelle Macri

“Neighbors Helping Neighbors”

When the Corona virus pandemic hit the US I developed a plan to collect and distribute food to folks in need. The Community Church in Forest Falls allowed us to utilize their facility to store and share food to anyone in our 3 communities. The Neighbors Helping Neighbors food pantry gave us a giant boost to start up and away we went. With the support of our local communities’ donations of food, paper supplies, pet food and everything in between came pouring in.

Since September 2014 “Neighbors Helping Neighbors”, the brainchild of Dee Konczal, has been networking the mountain communities with families in need. Many THANKS to Robin Bailey and Lisa Faust for allowing the use of their bungalow for the food pantry these past 6 years. As the pantry has evolved over the years, we now have a permanent home at the church for the food pantry. So once this pandemic is behind us “neighbors helping neighbors” will continue.

For now, “Community Cares and Shares Food Pantry” is available for all of those in need every Monday and Friday from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Community Church in Forest Falls. If you can not make it to the church you can email: ffc.shares@gmail.com and we will gladly deliver food to YOUR front door.

We have been blessed with continuous donations including a large variety of fresh fruit and veggies, meats, canned goods, breads, perishables, fresh eggs and just about anything else you could think of. Many folks have dropped off bag after bag of food, gone shopping for us, donated fresh bread and local citrus, plus all the monetary support. I am telling you our communities always answer the call to help and do so in a HUGE way. I would like to THANK Dee Konczal, Chuck and Michelle Mayfield, Mark and Renata Campbell and The Community Church for supporting this endeavor.

VFCCI has a link on their website where you can make a monetary donation through PayPal. If you would like to mail in a donation please make check out to VFCCI and send to PO BOX 41 Forest Falls, CA. THANK YOU to all that have made this effort a success. I appreciate each and every one of you!!!!

A Sign of the Times

These signs have popped up all over Forest Falls! We might be a small community but have a mighty community spirit! The signs are a product of Redlands artist **Judy Coates** from **O’Flanary’s Emporium**.



Pacific Pines Assisted Living and Hospice

During this pandemic our neighbors who reside at Pacific Pines in Angelus Oaks were locked down. Their families and friends could not visit them. Members of the Mountain C.A.R.E. board helped to organize a friendly “Hi There, from your neighbors.” Members of our community sent cards, letters, and homemade masks to the residents so they would not feel so isolated.

This meant so very much to the residents. So let’s keep it up all the time. Mail cards and letters to: **Resident, Pacific Pines, P.O. Box 1190, Angelus Oaks, Ca. 92305**

Pandemic “Shout Outs”

By Suzanne Serdahely

During the pandemic many people from our mountain communities stepped up. Some were essential workers, some first responders, some medical personnel, and some were neighbors. These people and businesses listed here were sent to us by our community members wanting to recognize them for their sacrifices and service:

Nurses: Lorraine Duncan has a shout out to her daughter Rosie an ER nurse at Redlands community Hospital. Alex Hancock of Mountain Home Village is an LVN at Kaiser. Donnette Grand is an RN.

Health Workers: Theresa Eulberg of Forest Falls is a Home Health Physical Therapist.

Physicians: Doc Evans of Forest Falls.

Mask Makers: Cindy Mooney, Andrea Riley, and Judy Acuna of Forest Falls Several have made hundreds of masks and donated them to local hospitals and our own Pacific Pines Assisted Living and Hospice Facility in Angelus Oaks. Susan Fredricks Nelson has made masks through Cherry Berry Quilting in Calimesa – 7,300 masks made and donated to hospitals and Riverside and san Bernardino Counties Sheriff’s Departments! Nancy Wirth has made masks for Beaver Medical Group, family and friends and the Forest Falls Post Office Bear!

Beaver Medical Group



Valley of the Falls
COME WORSHIP WITH US
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Local Merchants

The Oaks Restaurant – Angelus Oaks
For staying open for take out and delivery!

The Elkhorn General store – Forest Falls
For staying open for all our immediate needs!

The El Mexicano Restaurant – Forest Falls
For staying open for take out!

The Country Store – Angelus Oaks
For staying open for all of our needs!

Jessica’s Treasurers – Forest Falls
For being on line for so many products, curbside pick up!

Post Offices

Our post offices have been overwhelmed with so many more deliveries but our postal workers have handled it! Thank you Forest Falls and Angelus Oaks postal workers!

First Responders

Fire Station 98 – Angelus Oaks



Fire Station 99 – Forest Falls



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Pandemic "Shout Outs" (continued from Page 2)

Law Enforcement

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department
California highway Patrol

Truck Delivery / Essential Workers

Mark Eulberg – Forest Falls
Fed Ex shipping and receiving

UPS, Insta Cart, Fed Ex, Chewy

Food Assistance

Dave Druck – Forest Falls
For preparing and donating BBQ to friends and neighbors!

Michelle Macri – Forest Falls
Opening up and managing the food distribution at Forest Falls
Community Church

Other

Cameron Dehart – Crew Leader for the
California Conservation Corps

Sandy De Senna sends a shout out to daughter Julie who is
obtaining her EMT certification at Crafton Hills College and is
a volunteering at Yermo-Calico Fire Department.



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Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

Lorraine Duncan says Happy April Fools Day to
Charley Duncan who turned 35 on **April 1**

Heather says The Maloney's say Happy Birthday to
Justine Maloney who is 17 on **May 8** and to dad
Brian Maloney on **May 4**

Hey **Jacob Ranabauer**-Mom and Dad say Happy 11th
Birthday on **May 10**.

Evie Port – **May 13**

Debbie Richard says **Katie Rose Fisher** Happy Birthday on
May 15 from Grandma, Dad and sister Scarlett

Lorraine Duncan says happy Birthday to **Ruby Duncan** who
turns 9 on **May 15**

Caren Covey – **May 16**

Kat Covey who was Mom Caren Covey's best birthday gift
ever **May 17**

Brian Winikoff your Mom Suzanne Serdahely says Happy
Birthday **May 21**

Erik Foxvog - **May 23**

Glenda Wilkins – **May 31**

Don Wilkins – **June 19**

Barbara Griffith – Wishing the happiest of birthdays on
August 30 – from Bernie and all those who love her.

Anniversaries

Glenda and Don Wilkins are celebrating **50 years**
of marriage on **August 28!**

Tom and Dee Koczal are celebrating **60 years**
of marriage on **June 18!**

Sandy and Tim Wood are celebrating **35 years**
of marriage on **May 25!**



Local Chimney Sweep

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2020 Graduates

Hayley Marie Alvillar
Citrus Valley High School
June 2, 2020

Jake Ranabauer
Promoted to Moore Middle School

Harley Madison Hayes
Transferring from Moore Middle School to
Redlands East Valley High School

Cienna Short
Sky Mountain Charter School on May 20th, her future
plans are to study biology and then on to vet school to
become a veterinarian

Ashley Ranabauer
Promoted to Redlands east Valley high School

Paul Crowe
Bachelor of Science Physics

Jenna Crowe
Masters in Nursing Education
(A very Proud Mom Deborah Cohen Reports)

Jake Michalovich
Nephew of Ronald Riville resident of Angelus Oaks
Corbin University in Salem Oregon
Bachelor in Exercise Science

Francesca James Hayes
Pre School Graduate
Crafton Hill Child Development Center
She will be attending Fallsvale



Cienna Short



Harley Madison Hayes



Jake Michalovich



Franchesca James Hayes

The San Gorgonio Lodge: A Ghost Among Us

By Shannon Wray

In the 1970s, the owners of the San Gorgonio Lodge ran ads headlined, "Return to the Comfortable Dining Atmosphere of the 1800s at San Gorgonio Lodge." They had taken a reasonably ordinary building and added many 19th century touches to the décor, not original to the structure. These included a stamped tin ceiling, a beautiful, long bar with old coins imbedded in it, stained glass windows, and velvet fringed drapes that offered privacy for diners in secluded booths. However, the 1880s myth of the Lodge's origins persisted in many people's minds.

The truth is somewhat less exciting, but perhaps more interesting. The first land survey in Mill Creek Canyon was in 1858, but it only surveyed about as far as the present-day "Y" where Valley of the Falls Boulevard and Highway 38 meet at the base of Monkey Face Falls. Unsurveyed land couldn't officially be patented. Moreover, all of Mill Creek Canyon was part of the alternating checkerboard of public and railroad lands that covered the United States at that time. The public areas weren't available for homestead patents until a final survey was completed in 1896. Therefore, it wasn't legal, or even possible, to build a resort in the upper reaches of Mill Creek Canyon in the 1880s.

Southern Pacific's land ended at what is now the western end of Pine and Oak streets. The land abutting it to the west was federal land belonging to the U.S. Forest Service. On March 4, 1915, the federal government enacted The Term Occupancy Act "to allow private use and development of public forest lands for terms of up to 30 years by persons or organizations wishing to erect summer camps, hotels, or other resorts." (Tweed, 1989). After 1925, when the San Bernardino National Forest came into being, some of the railroad lands were still intact, and the Southern Pacific Railroad wanted to sell. Noah Levering of Redlands purchased the entire 640-acre railroad section, which included the falls, and he petitioned the county supervisors to let him build a road the length of the canyon to his property, which he subdivided into home lots. Before the paved road, it was rough going with many crossings of the creek and an unimproved dirt track. After completion of the road in 1926, it quite literally paved the way for further development.

In 1926/27, Samuel Benson Coen of Riverside negotiated a special use permit with the U.S. Forest Service to build a resort with 18 buildings, including a grocery store, café/dining room, gas station, and cabins. This kind of arrangement permitted him to build, own, and operate a commercial enterprise but not own the land. He opened his resort in the summer of 1928 and named it the San Gorgonio Lodge resort. Over the next decade,

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Is Your Property Ready for the 2020 Wildfire Season?

By Janice Lisboa

Fire Hazard Abatement

Fires are a serious problem in Southern California. In an effort to reduce the threat of wild fires, the San Bernardino County Fire Hazard Abatement (FHA) Program enforces the fire hazard requirements outlined in San Bernardino County Code Section 23.0301–23.0319. The primary function of the Fire Hazard Abatement Program is to reduce the risk of fires within communities by pro-actively establishing defensible space and reduction/removal of flammable materials on properties.

Fire Hazard Abatement may be reached at the following numbers: (909) 884-4056 and (760) 995-8140.

The Fire Hazard Abatement Program conducts surveys to identify fire hazards throughout the year. Fire hazards are identified and notices to abate the hazard(s) are mailed to property owners. Property owners are given 30 days to abate the violations. Failure to abate may result in citations, penalties, and/or fees for abatement by the County. The Fire Hazard Abatement Program responds to complaints year round in the unincorporated areas and contracting Cities and Fire Districts. The services are as follows:

- Valley & Desert Regions get two surveys per year during early spring and early fall due to growth cycles of differing types of noxious vegetation.
- Mountain Regions receive one survey in the summer.

Fire Hazard Abatement is an important component in keeping our communities safe and minimizing the devastating effects of wild fires within our communities.

The defensible space guidelines are listed below.

Within 15 Feet of Structure

- Remove tree limbs (not trunks) within 10’ of chimney and stovepipes
- Remove leaves, needles or other dead vegetation on roof or structures
- **ALL** shrubs produce high-energy-release components and are considered high fire fuels: Manzanita, Service Berry, Mountain Whitethorn, Sage, Ironwood, Juniper Shrubs, Spanish Broom and other species as determined by the County Fire Chief/Fire Warden **MUST BE REMOVED**

Within 30 Feet of Structure

- **ALL** trees with trunks smaller than 4 inches in diameter that stand within 10 feet of another tree must be removed (not to include well maintained low energy deciduous ornamental trees)
- **ALL** high energy-release shrubs must be separated by a space double the size of the tallest shrub (not to include well maintained low energy deciduous ornamental plants)

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- Local family owned business
- Grading, tractor work, yard clean-ups
- Haul off, operated equipment rental
- Retaining walls, landscape design
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Interview With a Mask Maker

By Theresa Eulberg

Challenging situations can break people apart or bring them closer together. When one lives in a small community, and disaster strikes, neighbors tend to bond tighter, check in on one another, and do what they can to help where needed. Our small mountain communities are blessed to have many people who have true care and concern for the well-being of those around them. When coronavirus hit, businesses were shut down, schools closed, and most entertainment venues temporarily shut their doors. Only those considered “essential workers” were allowed to go to work. Mandates were handed down for social distancing, safer at home, and to wear masks when out in public. A local Forest Falls artist, and dear friend to many, immediately stepped up to fill the need. **Andrea Riley** never stopped to question why masks were needed. She, instead, found supplies needed and began to sew. Over 500 masks later, she continued to sew! Andrea took time out of her busy sewing schedule to answer a few questions that many people have been asking!

Here is an interview with a mask maker:

Q: How many masks have you made?

A: I think I made over 500

Q: Of those, how many have been donated, and where have they been donated?

A: I think I donated almost 375. They were donated to hospitals, the sick, nursing homes, kids, Caltrans, elderly, and homeless.

Q: Were they donated locally? What was the furthest you traveled to deliver?

A: They went to Loma Linda, San Bernardino, Palm Springs, Banning, and Fontana. The furthest was Banning.

Q: Why did you feel the need to make masks?

A: I just wanted to help, and this was a good way to help.

Q: What statement can you give on how it has made you feel to help with this part of the Coronavirus pandemic? And what can you say to others to help motivate them to also help in the community?

A: It made me feel warm-hearted in this unknown time to be able to help the ones in need, and to protect themselves. The message I would like to give is "do everything you can to protect yourself and others, and follow the advice from the people on the frontlines". I would also like to give out a big THANK YOU to all the nurses, doctors, grocery workers, food service, law enforcement, fire department, paramedics, Cal-trans, in-home care, and everyone who is still working or volunteering. Thank you!

Our mountain communities would like to say a huge THANK YOU to Andrea Riley for seeing a need, and without a second thought, filling the need!!!



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Those Who Have Left Us

Elise Antionette Hanson, loving daughter of Antionette Hanson, and loving mother of Rashaun Quaites both of Forest Falls entered this world on June 25, 1981 and left us February 4, 2020 after a long illness.

Conder Tee Seasholtz passed on March 29, 2020 from complications from Parkinson’s Disease. Conder was a former resident of Forest Falls and the founder of Music Night. Conder was born on April 23, 1953.

Guido Orsini beloved husband of Michelle Orsini left us on May 4. Guido was a talented man known for his warm smile, beautiful singing voice and his whimsical drawings. Michelle and Guido moved to Forest Falls in 2002, remodeled their mountain home and were married there in August of 2006.

Thank You, Linda Jones!

The VFCCI board would like to thank Linda Jones. After many years as President of VFCCI she has resigned. She has shown great leadership amongst the board, and has worked diligently to keep the community center thriving. Through the years she has worked with her team to tackle major repairs around Big Falls Lodge. She is to thank for keeping us compliant with the building permits, without those we would be shutdown. We appreciate all of her fundraising efforts and personal time over the years. We are not losing her too quickly though! Linda has agreed to stick around as facilities manager. She has an extensive amount of passion for the community center. Thank you Linda for all of your dedication to Big Falls Lodge!



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Forest Falls Community Events and Activities

WHO/WHAT	WHEN	WHERE
Music Night	Every Monday from 6:30 to 9:30 PM	Big Falls Lodge in Forest Falls Everyone is welcome to attend
Seventh-Day Adventist Church: Bible Study, Church Service and potluck lunch.	Every Saturday. Bible Study at 10:00 am, Church Services 11:00 am, and potluck lunch at 1:00 pm	40551 Valley of the Falls Drive in Forest Falls
Valley Of the Falls Community Church: Worship Service	Every Sunday at 10:30 am	40626 Valley Of the Falls Dr., Forest Falls
Forest Fall Fire Department	Every Tuesday at 6:30 PM	

Angelus Oaks Community Events and Activities

Angelus Oaks Fire Department	2nd and 4th Tuesday at 6:00 PM	Angelus Oaks Fire Station 98
Angelus Oaks Quilters Group: Weekly meeting	Every Wednesday from 1-5 pm	Angelus Oaks Community Room
Weekly Bible Study: All are welcome	Every Wednesday at 6:30 pm.	Martinez Residence in Angelus Oaks

Other Community Events and Activities

California Turtle and Tortoise Club: Weekly meeting	1st Friday of every month at 7:30 pm	Ark at Redlands Church Of the Nazarene 1307 E. Citrus Ave., REDLANDS
Yucaipa Valley Gem and Mineral Society: Monthly meeting	2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm	Mousley Museum on the corner of Panorama and Bryant in Yucaipa

Canyon Cleanup 2020

Saturday June 13, 2020, from 7:30 AM to 12:00 PM



At the Cinder Pile Lot

- Regular Trash
- Recyclables
- Green Waste
- Metal Salvage
- Tires (no more than 4)

Near Big Falls Lodge

- Regular Trash

At Fallsvale School

- E-Waste

In Mountain Home Village

- Regular Trash

Household Hazardous Waste Sites

San Bernardino International Airport

2824 East W Street, Bldg. 302

San Bernardino, CA 92408

Also accepts e-waste and sharps

Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Redlands City Yard

500 Kansas Street at Park Avenue

Redlands, CA 92374

Also accepts e-waste and sharps

Saturdays 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

We Can Learn From the Past

By Tom McIntosh

Okay, the old saying probably is true, the only thing that is for sure is death and taxes. We learn little from the effects of our money being taken for taxes and it should not be necessary for someone to pass on in order to learn from them but it seems often that is just the way it is. Everyone means something to someone and no loss of life should go without mention however it is not too often that two people who had a great impact on our local communities pass this close to each other.

Wally Fagerstedt, life long Mountain Home Village resident passed recently at age 93. For a compelling history of his life check out the Bear Facts archives from 2016 for Shannon Wray's wonderful 3 part series "The Stonemason's Tale". Wally was the poster child for kindness, humor, and honesty. Integrity was written for him.

I recall when he was the "consultant" on our concrete causeway crossing at Mill Creek, after all Wally had maintained a log bridge across the creek for many years to allow access the old Chester Gillmore property which was then used as a picnic area for Wally's church. Upon completing the causeway I turned to Wally and proudly announced, "well, this should take care of any problems" at which time Wally smiled from ear to ear and gently replied, "Tom, in the early 60's when there was 10' of snow at Elkhorn Store, the following Spring Mill Creek ran 100' wide by 4' deep for 3 months..." we all then started talking about a future cable car system.

Among his many talents Wally was the pro from dover for Septic tank systems. On more than one occasion I remember being told of how he would bid an install or repair, only to come back later and give the customer a partial refund cause the job did not cost as much as Wally had anticipated. Wally was always willing to share his talents including how to use a transistor radio to find the steel lid on a septic tank.

Any maybe one of his best statements was his reply to routine requests to hire him to plow snow when again, his great smile revealed words of wisdom, "I just can't in good conscious take money to move something that is just going to melt anyway".

We remember Wally driving his tractor from Mountain Home Village to Forest Falls, followed by

his loving wife Jan. One time I was asked "Why does Jan follow Wally to his jobs? The answer turned out be simple, to give him a ride back home.

Dennis Hansberger Passed on May 8th at 78 years old. We have enjoyed some good and not so good County Supervisors and Dennis stood out as a fine example of a politician working for the people, a rare trait in our current State of affairs. Even after leaving County government Dennis routinely visited Forest Falls where his smile and kindness was contagious. Dennis did so many good things for our communities but two examples stand out to me today.

In the late 1970's when we fought the State over going to sewers we were threatened with arrest and jail time if we did not comply with their demands. Dennis came to our community, expressed his concern over the real possibility that these threats would be enforced and then stepped back and asked what we wanted him to do on our behalf.

We enthusiastically replied that we would not give in at which point he smiled and said "okay, that is what I will represent for you and will be happy to visit you all in jail if it comes to that".

Around the same time we petitioned the County to re-name our main road "Valley of the Falls Dr." being closer to its historical name and a far cry more appropriate than Forest Home Blvd. which it had become. I recall attending the Supervisors meeting where

County Roads "rejected" the proposal due to the cost of making new road signs and then, to my surprise Supervisor Hansberger asked for a few minutes where he presented a wonderful video showing our waterfalls, tree lined road and high peaks.

Ending his presentation with a statement similar to "it seems fitting that the name Valley of the Falls Dr. represents the true nature of this community". Motion Passed! Some think Dennis might have dissed us when in the late 1999 his statement that Mill Creek Canyon, given the propensity to natural disaster, could be one of the most dangerous places around. What grew out of that was our new motto, "we would rather dodge boulders than bullets" and his support, financial and otherwise was again shown after that large event.

And to so many others, including long time Forest Falls resident and friend, Walter E. Simon, who passed away at the end of March... may you all Rest in Peace.

Grayback Disaster Preparedness Group

By Janice Lisboa

The Grayback Disaster Preparedness Group was established as a 501©(3) non profit organization in 1993 after a major earthquake created rock slides which isolated the community for over two weeks. The mission of the Group "is to prepare the people in the mountain community of Angelus Oaks and its outlying areas for the event of a major disaster/emergency. Preparation shall include training for residents and responding personnel, and the storage of food and supplies to enable the community to be self-sufficient for a minimum period of 72 hours or more, operate and maintain a communication system that will be able to make contact for outside assistance, as well as within the community, a management system that will afford the most effective use of available resources. The management system will operate, prepare, update, and distribute the "Community Emergency Plan" as needed."

Greyback Volunteers are known as Trained Volunteer Emergency Workers (TVEW) and are organized either geographically as Block First Responders, or as Special Reserves who have support functions such as radio communication, first aide, managing shelter or food supplies, equipment maintenance and general assistance. Block First Responders are trained to do damage assessment and reporting during the initial phase of a disaster event in an assigned area in their neighborhood.

Presently there are 23 members, six of whom are also CERT qualified. You do not need to be CERT qualified to be a Greyback volunteer. The opportunity for CERT training will be available to any interested volunteer as COVID 19 restrictions allow.

Our recruitment goal is to double our membership. The reason for this is that a disaster can strike at any time of the day or week, which means one-third to one-half of the group might be away from the community when a disaster occurs. Therefore, we need two to three volunteers trained for each area of responsibility to assure a strong response during a disaster event. While we welcome anyone who is interested in volunteering, we are in particular need of folks who live in the following areas: Sugar Pines Circle, Tripp Lane, Lake Drive, Frontage Rd. Upper Rd, Pine Ave, Manzanita Ave, Springer Ave/Ponderosa Dr, Cedar Ave/Cedar Court, and Spruce Ave.

Please consider volunteering to become a member of our disaster preparedness and response team.

Jan Lisboa is the Greyback Disaster Preparedness Group and CERT Coordinator for Angelus Oaks. You can contact her on Face Book, Messenger, Messenger+, phone (910) 368-1075 or email: lisboanc01@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE – GREYBACK DISASTER PREPAREDNESS GROUP ANNUAL BBQ, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2020, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM AT SAN BERNARDINO FIRE DEPT, 5766 FRONTAGE RD, ANGELUS OAKS

Just Desserts! Keeping with tradition, we look forward to the dessert donations from the bakers in our community!

2020 Wildfire Season Preparations

(continued from page 6)

Within 100 Feet of Structure or to Property Line

- **Remove ALL** combustible debris
- Maintain weeds/grasses to 4 inches or less
- In and under **ALL** plants, trees and shrubs; Remove all dead branches and leaf litter
- Remove pine needles, leaf litter or chipped/ground mulch on the ground that is over 2" in depth
- The foliage and branches within 6 feet of the ground on trees or 12' in height **must be removed**. Limbs should be cut top ness then ¼ inch from the trunk of the tree to preserve health of the tree
- On and under **ALL** shrubs; lower foliage, leaf litter and dead vegetation **must be removed** up to 18 inches from the ground
- Remove trunks or branches from the ground that are less than 4 inches in diameter (not to include split and neatly stacked firewood)
- Remove flammable vegetation within 10 feet of a roadway or driveway, regardless of distance from structure

All content for this article is derived from the San Bernardino County Land Use Services Department Fire Hazard Abatement web page and other department communication.

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Flashovers

Tom McIntosh

Coronavirus has changed the rules. For the past several months and unknown how far into the future the way our local Firefighter EMT's and PSP's (Public Safety Provider, formerly known as Emergency Medical Responder or First Responder) respond to emergency alarms has been altered. For the safety of both the patient and the firefighter we are now required to respond to any Medical Alarm with full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including gown, and if possible ask that the patient meet us at the door to preclude firefighters from having to enter what might be an infectious environment. Of course, should a patient not be able to come outside, we are ready to enter and address the situation. These protocols extend a bit further, consider our response to a traffic accident with conscious or unconscious occupants... whenever we can't maintain proper social distancing we will, at a minimum, be wearing eye protection, mask and gloves when working with a patient. Routine Tuesday night training at the firehouse has also been cancelled for the time being.

Canyon Patriarch Wally Fagerstedt passes away at 93 years old. For generations Wally has been a household legend in Mill Creek Canyon. Always a friend to the local communities including the Forest Falls firehouse where we are honored and humbled to have a genuine Wally Bear as our station mascot. RIP Wally...

Chipper Daze dates for Spring of 2020 are still on hold while the County Fire crew determines how they will be proceeding this year as they work around COVID 19. The recent chipping activity you have noticed was County Roads taking action to prepare for a chip seal coating of the Forest Falls roads scheduled to be done in June.



A Forest Full of Bears

By Michelle Macri

Welcome to living in the forest. All three of our beautiful mountain communities have a variety of wildlife. None seem to cause a bigger ruckus than our local Black Bear. If you have seen one up close and personal you quickly realize why folks become so fascinated with them. Having a bear join you in your home or use your vehicle as a fine dining experience maybe not so much. None the less they are intelligent, beautiful and agile creatures. Living with a bear for a neighbor brings a whole new skill set to mountain living. This is not the city. You will see wildlife at its best. You will also see how bad human habits and behaviors affect our wildlife.

Bears have an incredible sense of smell and of course they love to eat. A bear will take advantage of a quick, easy meal if available. They will teach their cubs that our towns are full of quick and easy meals. An example of this is something we all have: TRASH. Most of us have these big, black plastic containers that are smelly and draw the attention of a passing bear. Once a bear

makes a meal out of trash that's it. Now every trash container it sees will be fair game to the meandering bear. Oh, and you can bet they will be back. Same holds true if they succeed in finding food/trash in your vehicle, a freshly used BBQ, a dirty ice chest, a forgotten pet bowl left out on the front porch and yes even your bird feeders will fall victim. We all must stay vigilant in keeping our wildlife wild. Keeping a bear off and away from your property is much easier said than done. I mean, we do live in the mountain surrounded by the forest. The bears have no idea your front yard is off limits.

I learned this from a game warden many moons ago. A bear is motivated by two things, food and fear. That simple statement along with, a fed bear is a dead bear is what you need to keep in mind when you see a bear. Bears need to forage for food in the forest and need to be afraid of US. Scaring them back into the forest will save their life, ensure a new generation of bears to survive and keep our forest full of bears.

Seven Oaks Recovery (Part 2 of 2)

By Kurt Arend

This is part 2 of Seven Oaks Recovery. Part 1 was published in the Spring 2020 issue of The Bear Facts. Part 1 described how the Seven Oaks community and camp ground was nearly destroyed by the Valentines Day Flood of February 14, 2019. Kurt Arend's company, KT Enterprises, was hired to repair the extensive flood damage to the neighborhood, campground, and nearby areas. This article details Kurt's experience.

Part 2: In March of 2019 with the permits finally in place, KT Enterprises started down Glass Road with some heavy equipment in tow. With the help of my in-law's company, Diversified Equipment, we took up the whole road. Butterflies filled my belly as we embarked on our biggest project yet. The brakes strained under the load, close to 30,000 lbs. on my poor truck. Malissa ran across her foot bridge (by foot bridge I mean a 12-inch-wide plank that was elevated just 2 feet above the raging Santa Ana River) and greeted us with a hug and a smile that makes you feel right at home. Greg asked us to start with the RV resort side and to reestablish the famous duck pond. With multiple excavators, front loaders, and a dump truck we started the process of removing over 300 dump truck loads of debris which was pushed into piles. Picnic tables buried in over 15 feet of debris, fire pits washed away never to be seen again, water pipes broken, electrical lines pulled apart, water literally everywhere. Equipment got stuck, machines broke, and lots of fuel was used, but after 3 weeks of work we had a functioning driveway, some RV spots, and a duck pond! We held our heads high as Greg and Malissa made us feel like super heroes. In the back of my mind I knew Greg was going to ask about the main campground. Was he insane? There is no way that was going to be done. What we did on the RV side was just a tip of the proverbial iceberg compared to the "other side". My father-in-law told me if Greg asks, "I want no part in that hell."

Two weeks later I found myself on the phone with Dad... "oh it won't be that bad..." As we start down Glass Road for the second time, this journey was different. It was 2am, I had flashing lights on my pickup, and a sign that read OVERSIZE LOAD. I watched in my mirrors as Dad negotiated his 65 ft long semi-truck, almost 12 feet wide, and weighing close to 100,000 lbs. We needed the big equipment for the "other side."

With excavators, bulldozers, and large rock trucks, we started to make some headway. We put the mighty Santa Ana River back into its rightful home (the middle of Seven Oaks Road didn't seem like a happy home), and started the moving the over 100,000 tons of material that was piled into every nook and cranny of the campground. We pushed massive boulders into the large ravines and hauled countless loads with our 35-ton rock truck. Our rock truck operator said he lost count at 38 loads; it was only lunch time. We just told him to hurry up. Hey, he was 16, and my son, so we could give him a hard time!

After almost 5 weeks of effort, the campground took shape. We imported another 500 tons of material to cap off the campground. We did it. Somehow, someway we did it. As we pulled out of Seven Oaks, I was driving the semi-truck with my son by my side, behind me was my wife, daughter and other son, pulling a tractor on our trailer, in front was dad with another tractor, and leading the pack was mom in the motorhome. The sense of pride was overwhelming. We as a family stuck together, lifted each other when down, and no matter what we smiled and laughed constantly.

Greg and Malissa Fink, after everything they went through, never lost hope. They always made us feel like we were at home. They made lunches for us and the County workers every day, they stayed positive, and never let us not believe in the vision they had. They are truly wonderful people that do so much for our little mountain communities. So please show your support for them. When spring time hits, go grab one of their famous burgers, or my personal favorite a patty melt. Go camp and fish on the new campgrounds. And if you see Greg or Malissa have them tell you about the flood. The tale of the Valentine's Day Flood will live on and keep you on the edge of your seat.

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San Gorgonio Lodge (continued from page 5)

there was an almost comical pattern of Coen putting the resort up for sale in the spring every year, then running ads for someone to operate the store and café each summer when it didn't sell. He was clearly a reluctant resort owner.

By the time Coen opened the San Gorgonio Lodge, he was 65 years old, and it certainly seems possible that he built the resort speculatively, hoping to sell it and make a quick profit. Unfortunately, the resort wouldn't let him go for more than a decade. On July 26, 1941, the 78-year-old resort owner was found dead in his car at the side of the road, and the coroner's report determined that he'd had a heart attack while driving from the San Gorgonio Lodge to a nearby camp.

Mr. and Mrs. Herb Cook of Redlands took over the management of the lodge, presumably during the settlement of Mr. Coen's estate. Next, it was sold to a man named Arthur Dolan, who was particularly vigorous in advertising and involvement in the chamber of commerce. In 1951, the San Gorgonio Lodge was sold in an estate sale, indicating that Arthur Dolan, too, passed away while still its owner.

The new owners, Bob and Faye Holman, brought a new era of great Americana feelings to the resort. Everyone who lived in the canyon or came to it frequently remembers that Faye had a magic touch when it came to piemaking. Bob also had a hardware store in town and helped to build many homes and buildings that still exist as well as some of our signature stone walls. The Holmans frequently hosted community barbecues on the patio across the street from the lodge in front of the cabins. In 1953, in association with the chamber of commerce, they began the first Mountain Hey Day, which featured a western pit barbecue and musical entertainment as an annual event. The event grew over several years to eventually include a Miss

Forest Falls pageant, a burro race, greased pig and cow milking contests, old-time wagons and carriages, and hayrides. The Holmans also held square dances every Saturday night, starting in 1954. San Gorgonio Lodge became the center of the community. The newspapers would call Faye for the weather, the chamber of commerce met there, fire or search and rescue reports were called in to the lodge, and it was always a hub of home cooking and activity.

In 1960, the Holmans sold the resort to Wallace and Ramona Jones, who carried on the down-home friendly atmosphere the Holman's had established. Wally Jones kept a large glass jar on the counter for a snow pool so that residents could bet on the date of the first snow. It was a big scandal when someone stole the jar full of money, and superstitious folks thought it meant there wouldn't be any snow that year. Ramona kept up the low-tech weather reports, looking out the window at the thermometer and guessing at the depth of the snowfall for the newspapers. They were also instrumental in expanding on the Mountain Hey Day celebrations, which became Chuck Wagon Days in the mid-'60s.

The Jones family sold San Gorgonio Lodge to Bob Norris and Don Rhoades around 1968. Don was a gourmet chef who had worked in top Los Angeles restaurants. Local legend had it that he was the baby in the original Little Rascals/Our Gang serials, but if he was, he wasn't credited. His partner, Bob, was the host and played cocktail piano. He was quite a character, and he stomped his foot while he played the piano with little puffs of dirt coming up between the old floorboards in the dining room, which had a tree growing up through the middle of it. Bob and Don were exceptionally generous. They fed the search and rescue team when they came back from a rescue and were very involved in the community. Under their ownership, the

Continued on Page 15

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San Geronio Lodge (continued from page 14)

restaurant and bar became one of the top destination dining experiences in Southern California. In the small building to the right side, sisters Debora and Teri Wirth had a little hippie shop with handmade items from the community called Hodge Podge Lodge.

Many people remember the mid-1970s as the real heyday of the San Geronio Lodge. Owners Earl Drown and Tom Johnson purchased some land and made a land swap with the Forest Service, finally securing land ownership for the lodge. They kicked up the fine dining a few notches, and the décor was decidedly Old West Victorian, as previously described. The restaurant drew crowds from Los Angeles and Orange County with long waiting lists for reservations and featured live music and continental cuisine. The Croffut brothers, Art and Kenny, and Ed Pellissier added the Saddletramp Saloon to the side building, and then the place was rocking. So much so that there were frequent complaints about drunk driving down the boulevard and Highway 38, but there’s no question that a good time was had by all.

By 1980, the lodge had changed hands again, this time to partners Mel Yermat and Richard Hill with a third, silent partner. But the restaurant was found in violation of a 1975 Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board prohibition on waste water leaching from the septic tank into Mill Creek. Although the owners tried to mitigate the problem, ultimately, they decided to close in March 1982. The lodge property sold to a relative of the silent partner who became an absentee landlord and did little to maintain the property for more than two decades. Sadly, the county condemned the lodge and cabins. As many witnessed, the 93-year-old buildings with such a rich history of enjoyment disappeared beneath the bulldozer's blade. Arguably, the San Geronio Lodge had already become a ghost of a different era among us, even before its destruction. Now it will only live in the memories of those who worked, played, dined, and danced there.

Shannon Wray is the author of “Pioneers of Mill Creek Canyon,” which will be published on August 29, 2020, by The History Press.

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New Leadership at Mountain C.A.R.E.

By Jeff Schaefer and Debi Welch

After 5 years as president of Mountain CARE I'm handing off that role to Debi Welch. It's been a fun ride, and I'm sticking around to manage the web cam network. I want to thank the wonderful board members who have served over the years, and the community in general for donations that have made Mountain CARE financially stable.

Debi Welch is the new president, and she will have several long time board members and a few new residents helping support the mission of Mountain CARE.

- Jeff Schaefer

Hello Neighbors and Friends! My name is **Debi Welch** and I'm the incoming President for Mountain Care.

I was asked to write a little introduction about myself, which is hard, I'd much rather talk about our communities and how wonderful they are and how we can continue to improve them.

In 1979 my mother, brother and myself came to Forest Falls to get out of the city for the weekend, just as many still do today. Our campsite was close to the creek and at the top of the picnic area and after we set up camp, the fog rolled in and it was magic. We were hooked, my mother bought a home that same weekend and we never left!

Living in Forest Falls with no car made job hunting pretty hard for a teen, so my first job at 14, was a waitress at the Cleghorn serving breakfast and lunch. We now call it El Mexicano.

For a majority of my life after high school I worked down the hill. However 20 years ago, I fell in love with my future husband of almost 20 years here in Forest Falls, we had our first child and my mom Patricia Drummond and dad Tom McIntosh

encouraged me to change careers and work at Gillmore Real Estate. It was a big step, but I made it! I love selling homes and helping people achieve the American Dream.

When I started in the office my associate Marcie Green Whitney encouraged me to join the all of the committees in town...at one time I was on every committee. But there's only so much time in life so I backed down a bit and became the FFCCO chairman with my buddy Gail Forgues, prior to that I'd never been involved with a fund raiser. Almost 20 years down the road, lots of jello shooters served and thousands of dollars made...It was a good run!

When my children went to Fallsvale elementary, I was "elected" Booster Club chairman, its in quotes because no-one wanted the job and when I started their whole fundraising campaign consisted of Campbells soup label collecting. It was my joy to work with Fallsvale for 11 years, but when my kids graduated it was time to move on. I'm proud to say that we raised enough money for: educational supplies, i.e.: anything the school needed that was not supplied by the district. Also it was imperative the we provide at least one or two good field trips a year by bus, including the LA Zoo, Aquarium of the Pacific and so much more. However what I'm most proud of is in my term our three mountain communities worked so hard that we are able to purchase a new playground for the children which was definitely needed as ours on site was from 1925.

When asked to join Mountain CARE, I was quite excited as its the only board in town I've never served on, and since my heart beats for our mountain communities I hope to help.

So that's enough about me, I'm here for you and look forward to a long and happy relationship!

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Weekly Potluck Fellowship Dinner 12:45 p.m.



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Editor’s Corner

By Suzanne Serdahely



Wow, since our last edition things have really changed in our world. I’m very proud of our mountain communities and how we all have pulled together. Neighbors helping neighbors and watching out for each other. Our normal from now on will be different. When we go to work or school I guess we will be color coordinating our masks as fashion accessories.

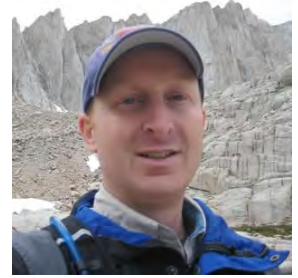
This issue is different from any other. We wanted to acknowledge all the good things that our little corner of the world has seen in the last three months. We wanted to say special thanks to those went above and beyond. We wanted all our grads to know how proud we are of all of them.

We are and always have and always will be Mountain Home Strong – Angelus Oaks Strong and Forest Falls Strong – through mud slides, snow, floods, fires and pandemics!

My love to you all!

Mountain C.A.R.E. President’s Message

By Jeff Schaefer



This year marks the 30th anniversary of Mountain C.A.R.E. Our core mission remains the same today as it was in 1990. And that mission is to help educate members of our communities about local environmental concerns and the need to restore and preserve the environment for future generations.

While our primary objectives remain unchanged, our methods and tactics have evolved over the years to accommodate changing issues and take advantage of advances in technology.

While this newsletter (The Bear Facts) remains our primary communications channel, our website (www.mtncare.com) provides additional information and resources, like an archive of previous issues of The bear Facts and community calendar. It’s also home to several weather stations and web cameras showing current road conditions as a community safety service.

While we no longer supply the recycle bins as we did in the early days, because the local trash company now fulfills that need, we continue to coordinate the annual Canyon Cleanup event. During Canyon Cleanup, extra dumpsters are obtained, recycle stations made available, and dozens and of volunteers pick up trash and clean up graffiti in and near our communities.

Looking forward, the future of Mountain C.A.R.E. looks bright given the extensive support we receive from those who donate their time, money, skills, talents, or other resources to support our activities. On behalf of our enthusiastic and dedicated board of directors, we thank you for your support.

The Bear Facts — Release Dates

Next Submission Deadline: **August 5**

Please make sure any ad artwork, articles, calendar updates, and photos are sent to bearfactseditor@gmail.com on or before the submission deadline (all submissions digital please). For questions call the editor, Suzanne Serdahely at 909-553-8508.

Schedule for Bear Facts submissions and publication dates.

	Submission Deadline	MtnCare.com Posting Date	Mailing Date
Issue 1 Spring	Feb 5th	Feb 20th	Mar 1st
Issue 2 Summer	May 5th	May 20th	Jun 1st
Issue 3 Autumn	Aug 5th	Aug 20th	Sep 1st
Issue 4 Winter	Nov 5th	Nov 20th	Dec 1st

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Valley of the Falls Community Center

**Think
Big Falls Lodge
for your next event...**



Big Falls Lodge belongs to ALL of us!

VFCCI is the nonprofit which owns our Community Center, and its mission is to own and operate Big Falls Lodge for the benefit of our community. We want to encourage you to USE the community center and help us think of ways to further serve our towns. Got an idea for an event? Let us know at director@vfcci.org !

Big Falls Lodge Misses All of You!

In mid-March, Valley of the Falls Community Center Inc. (VFCCI) made the difficult decision to close the doors to all gatherings and events held at Big Falls Lodge. This was due to rising concerns of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although this was a tough decision by our board members, we felt it was necessary to help keep our residents safe, as well as to comply with County guidelines for social gatherings. This would normally be the time of year we start planning for our annual "Mountain Jamboree". We do not have an answer at this time, but we ask for your patience as our planning committee is monitoring the current situation to determine if we will be able to hold an event this summer.

With many stores temporarily closing due to COVID-19 related restrictions, VFCCI partnered with Cost plus World Market in Redlands to distribute Easter Baskets to our community. This allowed baskets to be delivered to many of our neighbors in the tri mountain communities of Forest Falls, Angelus Oaks, and Mountain Home Village just in time for Easter. We would like to give a sincere thank you to Cost plus World Market for their generous donation. Also, a big thank you to the Fallsvale Booster Club and all of the volunteers who helped with this mission. From assembling baskets, to the delivery, this could not have been accomplished without you all! More good news is the expanded food pantry, thank you to the volunteers for their hard work. This act of selflessness paints a picture of how caring our neighbors are up here. VFCCI is a proud sponsor of the food pantry. Donations can be made by check in the mail or on our website. Please leave a comment under the donate button online or in the memo section of your check that it is for "food pantry".

During this time of closure, VFCCI has taken the opportunity to complete some much needed repairs and general maintenance around the building. A big project was the installation of a new fire suppression system in the kitchen. We have passed all Fire Marshal inspections and are now back to full kitchen use with no restrictions!

VFCCI is a nonprofit organization. We own and maintain Big Falls Lodge and pay the bills with money earned from fundraising events, community center rental, and donations made by our neighbors. This is how we survive and keep things up and running. A few folks recently asked how they can help the community center. One suggestion to support VFCCI is by participating in the free-to-you Amazon Smile program – just shop at smile.amazon.com and choose us as your charity. Money donations can always be made by PayPal to donate@vfcci.org or a check mailed to PO Box 41, Forest Falls CA 92339. This is where food pantry donations can be made as well.

We look forward to the day we announce we can get back to normal operations at Big Falls Lodge. From all of us at VFCCI, take care of yourself, lookout for your neighbor and be safe out there.

www.VFCCI.org

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Summer 2020 Volume 14 Number 2



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:

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