

The BEAR FACTS

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Spring 2020 Volume 14 Issue 1

A Community Comes Together and Good Prevails

By Dave Druck

The forest is a special place to most of us. The areas we see on a daily basis reflect on our community and of the mountain as a whole. When we see something like trash or vandalism it tugs deep at our hearts and we take it personally. This is our home and it upsets us to see it disrespected and for good reason.

Recently Thurman Flats picnic area was subject to this type of behavior. The day-use recreation area was "hit" by vandals with spray paint cans. Graffiti was apparent and sprayed in various colors on almost every surface imaginable. This upset many and that's when we all pulled together. See, good will always prevail over bad in this World and without much effort we had over twenty volunteers from all over the mountain, the valley and as far away as Orange County. It was inspirational. People viewed the defaced property on social media and it was powerful story.

The workforce who showed up spoke volumes about the true class of people and what the world stands for. GOOD.

Within a day of finding out about the harm done, an entire crew showed up to tackle the task of cleaning up the picnic area. It was amazing. People brought paint, rollers, gloves, water and even an amazing local couple from Angelus Oaks donated lunch. It was great to see and within hours they had the place looking better than before. In fact, the entire picnic area received an impromptu make-over with new signage, tree trim work, glass cleaning and even dumpster overhaul. It was above and beyond.

This story is just a small reminder of how a community can come together for the greater good and how we should never doubt the strength of it's members. Everyone that was involved that day should be proud of their work.

Special thanks to all involved and the Forest Service contacts for the assistance they provided. T. Mason - Front Country Rec. Officer / S. Thomson II - Lead Forestry Tech. / M. Duffy, Forest Tech.



Peace's Pieces Mountain Bakery

By Olivia Borges

Ever wonder how Peace's Pieces Mountain Bakery started? Well, being a new resident to Forest Falls and a customer I thought it would be interesting to interview our very own humble owner of Peace's Pieces Mountain Bakery, Julie Beckman. So, here I go!

Long time resident and local baker, Julie Beckman moved to Forest Falls, CA, when her Father moved the family up in 1978. She was only 8 years old. It was here in Forest Falls where she discovered her love of being in the kitchen. When she was old enough, Julie worked in a few of the local restaurants here in town, at a couple of camps in Barton Flats, and at a convalescent hospital in Mentone.

Fast forward to when Julie was in her 30's she moved down the hill. She was working at her local Kmart, when she decided to start making her own cookie recipes for their potlucks. All her co-workers really enjoyed them and thought she would make a great baker. It was then that Julie decided to go to Culinary School.

In February 2012, Julie enrolled at the International Culinary School at The Art Institute in San Bernardino. This was a huge step out of her box of going to work and going home. Julie kept working full time at Kmart and took on a full class schedule with complete support from her bosses, co-workers and friends. She graduated with highest honors in June of 2013. In August after 10 years working at Kmart, she quit and started her baking career.

Julie's first baking position was for Vons Bakery. Three months later an opportunity came up to work in a main baking factory for a company called Bread Farm. After about eight months of driving the Corona Crawl to Buena Park she was transferred to the store in Corona. Julie worked there as the main baker until she decided to move back home to Forest Falls in 2016.

After moving back, Julie went back to retail and would bake on the side at home. She would share with friends and family and received great reviews. So great that her friends encouraged her to start baking to sell. At the end of 2018, Julie received her health food license to have a cottage food business. Being both nervous and excited, she didn't know what to expect because she was baking out of her home kitchen.

The name Peace's Pieces came from a school project, where she had to have a catering business. Peace and Love sent with a Rose was always a saying for her and wanted to have that part of her business name.

When asked, what's your most challenging part of baking, her reply "Getting use to the proofing times in the higher altitude". In addition to keeping the kitchen warm due to inconsistencies

in weather. Her most rewarding part of baking is seeing her customer's joyous smiles. Because a good tasty baked item always brings out the happy in people no matter they're mood. Julie's favorite thing to bake is "Anything Chocolate". Her personal favorite is cheese-cake, while brownies and cupcakes are a close second. And of course her famous 3 and 4 ounce chocolate chip cookies.

Although a lover of chocolate, Julie's passion also lays with all types of breads. French, Honey

Wheat and a limited amount Sourdough are baked weekly. A couple of her favorites are Challah and Brioche as well. Most of her customers message her through her **Peace's Pieces Mountain Bakery** page on Facebook, or they text her.

Baking is her world and she takes it very seriously! Julie is very happy with her town's continuous support of her business. It's more than she ever expected it to be. Julie likes to challenge herself its new recipes and flavor combinations as she feels this keeps her customers happy and coming back.

Editor's NOTE: Peace's Pieces Mountain Bakery is permitted by the San Bernardino County Health Department.



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The Great 92305

By Susan Lenti

*The Angelus Oaks, Ca. Zip Code 92305 isn't just about our village. Did you know that although **The AO** is the gateway for all the natural gifts and wonders that the San Gorgonio Wilderness encompasses, 92305 covers all of Seven Oaks, Barton Flats and continues up to Rainbow Lane and into the desert beyond? Bisected by the stunning Scenic Highway 38, with its 'Rim of the World Highway' designation, there are vistas of lakes and blue skies and mountains; adventures beckon! I invite you to travel with me as I tour you through the area.*

First Stop: Starting from Redlands at Milepost 0, drive up **Scenic Highway 38** past the **Mill Creek Ranger Station**. Continue past **Mountain Home Village** — (our sister community), up past the “Y”, the intersection of 38 and Valley of the Falls Drive leading to **Forest Falls** (our other sister community) — and the **Angelus Oaks** sign appears! You have arrived! Historic **Angelus Oaks**, a true four-season village located on Highway 38 at Milepost 20, at an elevation of 5763 feet, may be tiny, but it has lots of heart!! Check us out; we even have our own Wikipedia page! https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angelus_Oaks,_California

The **AO** features a great, and historic place to lay your head. The **Angelus Oaks Lodge**, operated by congenial hosts **Sunny and Charlie Morley**, has lovely cabins fully furnished for a great getaway on the **San Bernardino National Forest**. The cabins are semi off-the-grid, so be prepared to enjoy Nature, and the peace and quiet She offers. All cabins have electricity, kitchens and shower baths. For your weekend getaway, call 909-963-8357.

If you are hungry, **The Oaks Restaurant** is a family-owned spot serving breakfast, lunch and dinner from 7:30 am to 8:30 pm. Their breakfasts are famous and served all day! Burgers and fries, sandwiches and salads and other traditional fare are all on the menu. Their new Mexican specialties are highly recommended; especially on “Taco Tuesday”. Beer and wine are

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Seven Oaks Flood Recovery

By Kurt Arend

February 14th 2019 is a day that many local mountain residents will not soon forget. Not for the flowers and candy that are supposed to bring in the day, but for the torrential flooding that took place. Our communities were hit hard. The combination of snow on the ground, then warm rain that fell all the way to 9,000 feet, caused a huge amount of runoff in a very short period of time. Forest Falls had extensive damage, but one small community was hit unbelievably hard, and didn't get the coverage that other places received: Seven Oaks.

Our local community activist and favorite person, Forest Falls resident Linda Jones asked me to take a break from helping out some of the people in Forest Falls and come take a look at Seven Oaks to see if there was a way to help. I have been going to Seven Oaks since I was a young lad for camping and fishing. As we started down the steep Glass Road it was becoming evident that it wasn't going to be good. Linda's Jeep made it through the worst of it, and as we neared the Seven Oaks Resort, I fought back the tears. Complete devastation. Words do it so little justice, the power of the water and a whole community just ripped apart by one storm. I was quickly introduced to Greg and Malissa Fink, owners and operators of the Seven Oaks Resort. As we talked my heart broke. Greg lost his father just days before the flood. Greg's father bought the resort 40 years ago. It was his home and Greg has spent his adult life helping out around the resort and taking over once Dad decided to retire. Malissa told us the harrowing tale of being trapped in their home as the Santa Ana River cut off their only access, jumped the banks, and started eating away at the dike that kept the river out of their living room. For 36 hours they just huddled in their home as the foundation of their home shook from rocks, some the size of cars, tumbled just 100 feet away. When the water started to go down, the damage was clear. The river was just feet from jumping the final berm and taking out the house, and quite possibly their lives. Where the campground once was, over 300 fallen trees now lay, piles of debris 30 feet tall, and the

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Holiday Hole-in-One for Angelus Oaks

By Amy Robbins

What do Disc Golf players have to do with a giant Christmas tree in Angelus Oaks? Everything. The Lodge at Angelus Oaks has been hosting disc golf on Sundays for interested mountain participants over this past year. Just weeks before Christmas, this group of golfers had a “revelation”- let’s make the Angelus Oaks dream of having a tree lighting ceremony a reality!

Brandon Crow, Alfred Messina, Dale Juhl, Josh Williams, Anthony Martinez immediately got to work on a large star for the top of a Pine tree visible from Highway 38. Sally and Brandon Williamson donated paint. Cindy Martinez painted a large tree slice snowman gifted by Charlie and Sunny Morley. Residents brought special ornaments in advance to be displayed on the branches. Samuel Lupian Godines assisted with the rigging of the lights and Tony Hernandez took on the wild task of climbing the seventy-foot tree to secure the giant star and lights. The guys even dug a trench and buried the extension cords.

Station 98 made a surprise visit and delivered Santa to the tree lighting ceremony on December 22! Friends and neighbors enjoyed homemade goodies, Christmas carols, sweetheart kissing under the mistletoe and good fellowship.



Concert at Big Falls Lodge

Gypsy Soul is coming to the Big Falls Lodge on Saturday April 25th! Doors: 6:00pm, Concert: 7:00pm, \$20

Contact Erik Foxvog with any questions and to reserve your seat: efoxvog@juno.com / 909-528-3129



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Aussie Ladybugs Love Mill Creek Canyon

By Tom McIntosh

Folklore: the traditional beliefs, customs, and stories of a community, passed through the generations by word of mouth. The following bit of folklore has been passed down in various forms, but what you read here comes from my memory as passed down from some of the previous Canyon elders, including Chester and Richard Gillmore, plus a little help from a Google search.



In the late 1880's, when the citrus crop from Redlands to Riverside was becoming a booming enterprise, the fruit was attacked by an aphid the local ladybugs would not eat. As this blight spread and threatened to destroy the groves, biologists took a sailing ship to Australia where many of the orange trees had been imported from and were able to locate the ladybug species that thrived on this aphid.

Returning to the Inland Empire the Aussie aphids were introduced and saved the crops in record time.

Somehow these Aussie ladybugs made their way into upper Mill Creek Canyon where to this day they hibernate and breed in the higher elevations of our community. Snow Canyon seems to be their favorite winter residence but often handfuls can be found under deep snow in your yard where they seem to like buried vinca plants and ivy. If you discover them, gently pick up a handful and wait for them to come alive as the warmth of your body triggers them into activity.

When the Spring temperatures reach around 70° downtown the annual migration begins as waves of the little critters make their journey to the valley orange groves over a few weeks. There is no evidence of a return route which suggests that each year the breeding takes place in the Canyon for the following years migration. Some ladybugs stay behind and take care of our plants and gardens as evidenced by the photo taken in our yard a few years back.

Our ladybugs don't "bite" but rather produce an enzyme to dissolve its prey which feels like a small bite on your skin. A group of ladybugs is called a "loveliness of ladybugs". Sunset magazine once labeled Forest Falls as the "Ladybug Capitol of the West Coast".

Sidebar... After the citrus industries rapid recovery, in 1891 more than two thousand rail cars left from California's citrus belt sidings headed back East. The ice to protect the crop was first produced by a ice house in Mentone who received its power from Southern California Edison who supplied the first "three phase" power west of the Mississippi from Mill Creek power plant #1, a building that still stands today Northeast of "Edge wild" and just across Mill Creek with an original hydro power generator sitting idle on display near others who continue to produce electricity for us all.

Spay/Neuter Your Pets

By Veronica Hampton

Pet overpopulation is a worldwide epidemic. Hard statistics aren't easy to come by, but it is estimated over 4 million domestic cats and dogs are euthanized every single year in the United States alone. 8 million dogs and cats enter the shelter system every year. More than half won't make it out alive. Your taxpayer dollars account for \$1 billion dollars **annually for animal control** to pick up, house and kill homeless animals. If only 5% of that money were allocated to spay/neuter programs, the US could sterilize more than 4 million animals each year. We cannot adopt our way out of the pet overpopulation epidemic. The only way to "fix" the problem is to "fix" our pets.

The **health benefits of spay/neutering your pet will save you in vet bills. Examples of these benefits include:**

- **Your female dog will live longer and have less of a chance of getting uterine infections and breast tumors**

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Community Announcements

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Etc.

Hayley Alvillar turned 21 on February 24, with a birthday bash in Las Vegas planned for March.

Roxanne Rockwell of Forest Falls wishes her husband **Allan Rockwell** a very Happy Birthday back on January 19.

2020 is a big anniversary for **Roxanne and Allen Rockwell** of Forest Falls – 41 years of residency in Forest Falls!

Jodean Ballard-Forgues says HAPPY BIRTHDAY to grandson **Justin** who turned 13 on February 16!

Loch Leven Camp & Conference Center is running a “Hike for Camp” fundraiser on March 28, 2020 with the ultimate goal of sending kids to camp who cannot afford it. This fundraiser will include a 5-mile round-trip hike to our local waterfall, a BBQ lunch, and free and paid activities for families to enjoy. For more information call Loch Leven at (909) 794-2507.

VFCCi offers the use of Big Falls Lodge, at no charge, for friends and family wishing to hold a celebration or memorial of the life of a resident, past or present, within the Mill Creek Canyon communities. Contact Dee Konczal at 909-794-0885 or dkonczal2@gmail.com

Obituaries

Anthony Serdahely, father of Forest Falls resident Suzanne Serdahely passed away at the age of 94 on December 7, 2019 in Orange. Tony was an avid outdoorsman who spent many hours during the 1960’s and 1970’s hiking, fishing and hunting on the mountain. He knew Jenk’s Lake very well.

Kathleen Zavodnik, 62, passed on February 5, 2020 after being hospitalized for a stroke. A long time resident in Forest Falls, she was a very giving person. She was in administration at Loma Linda University Medical Center.

Robert Joel Scarborough, 79, passed away Jan. 6, 2020. He was born July 20, 1940. He was a resident of Mt. Home Village and Forest Falls for 41 years. He had a passion for cars and motorcycles and good conversation. He loved time with his family and dog, dozer. He is survived by his three children; Craig, Shana and Aaron and five grandchildren. Memorial service will be March 14, from noon to 3 p.m. at Mt. Home Community Building, 8251 Mt. Home Creek Rd. in Mentone.

Joyce Effinger, long-time resident of Angelus Oaks, passed away on January 23, 2020, from a short illness. She was at home with her husband of 68 years, Dave Effinger, and her family. Joyce was an active member of our community. Currently there are no plans for a memorial. Please send your condolences to Dave Effinger, P.O. Box 360, Angelus Oaks, CA 92305.



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Kurt Arend

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Not Goodbye Just Something Different

By Jodean Ballard-Forgues

With a new year ahead of us, we look forward to new adventures or change. I have been doing some soul searching myself, and feel after 17 years of doing business in my great little town of Forest Falls, I'm ready for something a "little" different.

March 1st, I will be closing the store, and continuing my retail business online/and at my home here in Forest Falls.

There are many reasons to keep the store in town, but even more reasons to work from home. As a business owner you can give up so much of your time, working hard to make your business successful, that before you know it....17 years of your life has gone by.

I'm ready for a new chapter in my life, and I'm looking for a way that brings me change, but also gives me the same joys of working my store.

I also want to have more time at home. As a business owner, you put things off, you rush to get things done at home, you don't always get tie with your family, you miss out on some really important things, and some of your joys, well, are put down for a..."Someday I will get to that".

By having JT's at home, I can have the time, and the joys of doing both.

It's been a pleasure having a business in town, I love my store, and I love my customers. I'm excited to start this new chapter....



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Spay/Neuter (continued from page 5)

- Neutering your male animal prevents testicular cancer and some prostate problems.
- Your spayed female pet won't go into heat. In their effort to advertise for mates, they'll yowl and urinate more frequently all over your house!
- Your male dog will be less likely to escape and roam away from home. An intact male will do just about anything to find a mate, including finding creative ways escape from the house. Once he's free to roam, he risks being killed by traffic and fights with other male animals.
- Your neutered male may be better behaved. Unneutered dogs and cats are more likely to mark their territory by spraying strong-smelling urine all over the house. Your dog might be less likely to mount other dogs, people and inanimate objects after he's neutered. No one wants to be mounted by your dog when they come to visit!
- Some aggression problems may be avoided by neutering.
- Spaying/neutering your pets is also highly cost-effective. The cost of your pet's spay/neuter surgery is far less than the cost of having and caring for a litter.

Do yourself, your pet and your community a service by spay/neutering your animals. If you cannot afford the cost of the surgery with your vet, there are several options available:

- The Humane Society of San Bernardino Valley offers low cost spay/neuter. To make an appointment please call (909) 386-1400 Monday through Friday.
- Visit [Spay California's website](#) or call 866-738-7729 to book an appointment.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

We all have times of inconvenience and hard times, even if only for 1-2 months. We want to serve, anonymously, anyone within our mountain communities. We are a small food pantry that survives because of the thoughtful people donating the food.

If you need assistance or even know of someone who does... please contact me via FB or email (dkonczal2@gmail.com).

This quarter we collected 659 pounds of food. This is also possible due to people moving and donating food that they could not take with them. THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH!

As of Feb. 1, 2020 our shelves could use a little more help. Here are some suggested items, however, ANYTHING HELPS! These are only suggestions.

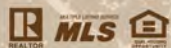
- All kinds of beans – Pork ‘n Beans, Refried, Chili etc.
- Canned tuna, canned meat, canned fruit
- Dish soap & bars of soap, laundry detergent
- Paper goods like Kleenex, TP, paper plates, and similar



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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 May 16, 2020, from 7:30 AM to 12:00 PM



At the Cinder Pile Lot

- Regular Trash
- Recyclables
- Green Waste
- Metal Salvage

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

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Also accepts e-waste and sharps

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Redlands, CA 92374

Also accepts e-waste and sharps

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

NO TIRES or hazardous waste will be accepted at any mountain site.

Notes From the Frozen Green Thumb Garden Club

By Katherine Bird

"I realize there is something incredibly honest about trees in winter, how they're experts at letting go."

Jeffrey McDaniel, American Poet

The celebrations have ended and a new year has begun! Frozen Green Thumb Garden Club's 2020 calendar is filled with thriving and exciting new ventures during these next, new 12 months with lectures, activities, gardening and so much more! Look at the schedule and mark your calendars! And of course, if you're not a member already, JOIN! We welcome all!

This February 17th, please join the Garden Club and bring your coats! Jeannie and Warren Peters have arranged a slide lecture about their amazing and "cold" trip to Antarctica. Come travel through their words, pictures and descriptions!

Other events throughout the year include fascinating and interesting guest lecturers. Award-winning poet, Juan Delgado will discuss his writing and read from his books, then autograph. He is a well-known writer in the Inland Empire and an amazing speaker. Other lectures calendared for the year are "Bees and Butterflies; Species and Extinction", "Gardening with a Master" and "Edible Flora and Fauna". Bring a friend, your lunch and listen to these intricate and incredible lectures!

Possible field trips for Garden Club members include a trip on the Metrolink to San Juan Capistrano, an all day affair with good talk and laughter amongst friends. Bring your camera! Another trip is carpooling to Sam Maloof's home and gardens. Again, bring your camera!

Besides trips and exciting meetings, the Garden Club will need every member's help for the traditional and yearly Plant Sale on June 20th. We will need plant donations, volunteers to work and baked goods for the Garden Club Plant Sale Bakery Table. This is also a fun event; and monies from sales help Frozen Green Thumb Garden Club in giving donations to Forest Falls Community; Search and Rescue, Firefighters Valley of the Falls Community Center and Fallsville School. We also work on "Beautification Projects" for our Haven-town of Forest Falls. The Garden Club is a community that gives back to the Community.

Dates for the Frozen Green Thumb Garden Club meetings and events will be posted soon. Watch for the Calendar. Garden Club meetings are every third Monday of the Month at 11:30; meetings are held in the Community Center. If you are interested in becoming a member of this beautiful and community service minded group, AND if you would like to understand more about gardening, please call our membership chair, Beth Tetrault at 909-794-9145 for more information. Please come JOIN us.

"A cynic is a man who, when he smells flowers, looks around for a coffin."

H.L. Mencken, Journalist

"Never to a doctor whose office plants have died."

Erma Bombeck, American Humorist

The Great 92305 (continued from Page 3)

currently served, but a liquor license is in the offing! To order to-go, or to make a reservation or buy a Gift Certificate, call **The Oaks** at 909-794-2777.

Are you thirsty? AO has a fully stocked liquor and convenience store! **The Country Store** has just about anything you need or desire, including gasoline! The store has all the goodies for munchies and for dinner. They have a cooler full of designer IPAs and a full liquor complement. **The Country Store** is open 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. You may call them at 909-389-7268.

We love our Postmasters (**Lee and Ramona**) and our Post Office Highway Driver (**Rob**), who take care of all the mail for the town, the Highway residents, **Seven Oaks**, and **Barton Flats** camps and residents! They also offer Passport pictures. Call the **AO Post Office** with your questions, 909-794-2909.

Our other local businesses are **Gilmore Real Estate**, and **Pacific Pines**, an Elder Care Facility. **San Bernardino County Fire** also has a presence in town with its **Station 98**. We are also home to a big **Caltrans** yard. (These are the good guys who take care of Highway 38 during the snowstorms, mud slides and rockslides.) We are lucky to have them here. To check the current highway traffic situation, go to the **mtncare.com** website <http://mtncare.com/web-cams/web-camera-index> or Caltrans website <https://roads.dot.ca.gov/>

Just above Station 98 is the **San Bernardino Peak Trail**, 1W07, which is a hard eight-mile hike up to 10,624 feet <https://hikingguy.com/hiking-trails/best-la-hikes/san-bernardino-peak-hike/>. You may need a permit and/or a Forest Service Adventure Pass to park in the lot at the trailhead. You may call the **Mill Creek Ranger Station** at 909-382-2882 or check with the San Geronio Wilderness Association (<http://sgwa.org/wilderness-permits/>) for more information.

Heading up the 38: Now that you are rested, fed and full of gas, start a leisurely pace up the highway towards Barton Flats. The views as you head up the mountain are picture perfect!

Continued on Page 17

Authentic Mexican Food
Live Music
Food To Go
Cold Beer

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Considering Books

By Katherine Bird

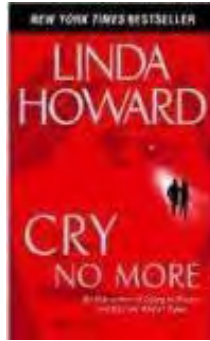
CRY NO MORE by Linda Howard

"I love the solitude of reading. I love the deep dive into someone else's story, the delicious ache of the last page."

Naomi Shihab Nye

CRY NO MORE was on the New York Times Best Seller list. I could care less about this list. But, a friend of mine highly recommended the book before I knew it had made the New York Times and I furiously read it. I loved "the delicious ache of the last page."

Milla Edge is the director of FINDING, a non-profit organization she began; finding lost children and teens, lost husbands, wandering elderly. This is her passion and fervent commitment in life. Her elite passion is finding kidnapped babies which motivates her following dangerous ventures across the border from Texas into Mexico.



Sometimes Milla's "finding" travels place her in harm's way; that's why she carries a gun. She encounters two powerful men both dangerous; wealthy billionaire True Gallagher (beware that name) who wants her or wants to kill her, and the invisible, dangerous Diaz, a mercenary or government agent????? Diaz and Milla meet, make a contract and travel intensely to find her real heart-passion, a son who was snatched out of her arms 10 years earlier at a market in Mexico when he was just six weeks old. She and her doctor husband were living there working at a medical clinic. Diaz and Milla's search is for a devious one-eyed man. Emotional surprises await the reader.

In trying to find out what happened to her lost baby, Milla rides -out a divorce from her doctor husband who cannot bear her determined struggle to find their son. Milla travels to fundraise for FINDING and travels in the darkest of nights across the border on tips that she will find a ring of abductors. But there becomes something even more dangerous than kidnapped babies. This is a compelling and scary novel. Howard's two main characters, Milla and Diaz are "scarefully" developed and complete opposites. The reader never knows when Diaz will show up. Mexico fears him. So does the reader!

One reviewer stated, "...from the chapter where the baby is stolen to the last chapter page, I could not put it down." My "sit on the edge of my seat" scene was when Milla and Diaz were caught in white rapids, fighting to survive and the descriptive breath-taking (literally) struggle. This story-part caught my gasp!

So many jolts in this "quest" novel, especially at the end! This is a "must" read. Oh yes, and there is also "hot" romance to keep those pages turning. Good read for a cold day on the mountain, but be ready to cry.

Publisher's Weekly: "...emotional impact and gripping tension."

Could not say that better!!! Have a "gripping" read "into someone else's story".

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Mill Creek Canyon CERT

By Frank Sexton

Spring can come in like a lamb and go out like a LION in Mill Creek Canyon. Warmer air, such as what occurs in the Spring actually can hold much more moisture than colder air. When you think of winter, our minds naturally equate to storms. The truth is, the colder air is not capable of holding nearly as much water vapor.

What is the point of all of this you ask? Do not be lulled into a sense of security March through May as far as snowfall is concerned. When warmer air from the "Pineapple Express" collides with a cold air mass coming down from Alaska, the result can be huge snowfall totals because the cold air cannot carry the extra moisture.

Make sure that you are still prepared for the rest of the season. Stock up on firewood and propane. Pack a "go" bag with you when you leave the canyon and make arrangements with your friends or neighbors for the care of your pets in case you stuck down the hill, you may not be able to get home for a few days.

Don't forget about ice. If you don't know the classic, "known problem" areas for ice formation on the roadways in Mill Creek Canyon, ask a long-term resident. Or, better yet, when you call me to sign up for our next Basic C.E.R.T. Course I can tell you what I know about them.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster re-

sponse skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. CERT offers a consistent, nationwide approach to volunteer training and organization that professional responders can rely on during disaster situations, allowing them to focus on more complex tasks.

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Flashovers

By Tom McIntosh, Admin Captain, Forest Falls Station 99

2019 Alarm Review: San Bernardino County firefighters from the Forest Falls Station 99 responded to 230 alarms in 2019. A considerable decrease from 2018. Why the decrease? We believe two reasons: 1. Big Falls remains closed in the upper reach above the Observation Point and Medic Engine 9 from Mentone is now routinely responded to most alarms in Angelus Oaks, reducing the number of times we were dispatched to a MA in AO. These MA Cancelled Enroute call totals are not included in the Cancelled Enroute totals contained in the grid below.

EMS, Emergency Medical Service, calls continue to dominate the Fire Service, when you include the alarms that extended beyond a MA and demanded EMS in conjunction with a Traffic Collision, Rescue or Fire the percentage of EMS calls reaches 55 to 60% of annual alarms. From the breakdown on page 14 (See Station 99 Alarm Summary on page 14) you can see how the numbers change from year to year. Our readiness, however, remains 24/7/365. My annual thanks to all the community Fire Fighters and those who support our service to others in need.

Firehouse Projects: The new microwave communications tower is online and running smooth, allowing us to transition to the new digital communications network and vastly increasing our operational and safety platform. Prior to this change, if a firefighter were lost, injured or trapped there was no clean way to send out the alarm. Now, simply pressing an emergency button on our radio sends a signal to dispatch that starts a rescue procedure without delay. Additionally, everyday communications were greatly enhanced. "I can you hear you now?"



Firefighter Training, comings and goings: Congratulations once again to **Firefighter Dave Druck** for having completed the second Driver Operator course, D/O 1B. This 40 hour training held at the Calimesa Fire Department dealt primarily with Fire Engine pump operations from the basic ground fire to a complicated multistory evolution. Most every Fire Station 99 firefighter completed the Phase 1 live burn component of **Modern Fire Behavior** and soon will go through the Phase 2 "live fire attack" provided by our Training Division cadre.

Congrats also to those who recently completed an intensive five week Public Safety First Responder EMS course. Graduates include; **Driver Operator Thom Wellman**, and **Firefighters Misha Boiarski, Lloyd Sherman, John Ranabauer and Jorge Mandujano**. Also taking the course are our two new hire applicants; **Kristi Ranabauer** and **Eddie Herrera** whom we expect will be joining Company 99 soon.

Sadly it is time to say farewell to retiring 13 year veteran **Firefighter Terry Uldricks**. And Farewell to **Firefighter Jordan Schaefer** as Jordan transitions to a career as a full-time Ambulance Operator and soon as a regular Firefighter with our San Bernardino County Fire Department.



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Station 99 Alarm Summary

Continued from Flashovers on Page 13

Alarm Type	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
TOTAL ALARMS	230	315	262	282	242
MEDICAL AID (MA)	89 (38%)	144 (45%)	115 (44%)	108 (38%)	103 (43%)
TRAFFIC COLLISION (TC)	37 (16%)	47 (14%)	88 (34%)	46 (16%)	39 (16%)
w/Injuries (TI)	19	14	31	32	
Over The Side (TO)	3	2	7	6	10
w/Extrication (TE)	3	4	3	1	
RESCUE (RQ)	7 (03%)	28 (08%)	12 (04%)	23 (08%)	55 (23%)
Big Falls	4	20	10	20	45
w/hoist	1	6	2	7	10
FIRE	28 (12%)	19 (06%)	22 (09%)	34 (12%)	29 (11%)
Structure (FS)	2	0	2	4	5
Wildland/Vegetation (FG)	12	15	12	12	16
Vehicle, car/truck (FV/FT)	5	4	6	10	3
IN/OUT INVESTIGATION	55 (24%)	52 (16%)	21 (08%)	59 (20%)	14 (06%)
ElecIncident (ZAP)	19	1	4	31	4
HAZMAT (HZ)	1	3	1		
PUBLIC SERVICE, OTHER	13 (06%)	25 (07%)	3 (01%)	13 (04%)	2 (01%)
CANCELLED ENROUTE	41 (17%)	47 (14%)	43 (16%)		

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David Gomez—30 Years at El Mexicano

By Suzanne Serdahely

March 3, 2020 will mark **thirty** years that David Gomez has braved snow, sleet, rain, fire, wind, floods, tourists and downed trees every day to drive from Highland to Forest Falls to cook at the El Mexicano Restaurant.

Patti and Glen David Burbano want to thank David for his loyalty and devotion to the El Mexicano and the patrons.



David Gomez and Patti Burbano in the kitchen of “El Mex”

Seven Oaks Recovery

Continued from Page 3

river cut a ravine 15 feet deep through the middle of the campground. Across the street the river touched the lodge, wiped out half the RV camping spots, and left a 12-foot-deep gash down the middle of the driveway. Some of the residents lost their homes. I was so humbled by the power of nature.

Greg and Malissa asked if we could help rebuild, and by we, I mean the company I own with my wife, KT Enterprises. I looked at the scope of the project and just thought there is no way. I actually told Greg it can't be fixed. Let me tell you about this Greg character; he lost his father, then gets completely devastated by this flood. This is enough to floor most anyone, but he smiled it off and asked us to just try.

To be continued. See the Summer 2020 issue of The Bear Facts for the rest of the story. See how KT Enterprises successfully restored the Seven Oaks Resort and surrounding areas.



KT Enterprises Rebuilding the Seven-Oaks Resort

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The Great 92305 (continued from Page 10)

First stop is **Jenks Lake West**. There are two 'loop trails' here, one on each side of the highway, named "Ponderosa" and "Whispering Pines". Each are about 0.5 miles in length. The Whispering Pines trail is noted for being featured in a 1969 episode of the "Lassie" TV show, <https://youtu.be/x0MGCfNitKI> and because of that has interpretive signs in Braille, a unique feature on any trail on the SBNF. During Snow Season, this area is called the Barton Flats Snow Play Area, which is officially designated by the U.S. Forest Service. The area is a favorite destination for that fun time in the Winter!! (This was news to me, because I thought all the snow players from down the hill came to Forest Falls or the AO or just stopped on the Highway!) The area is defined as the only legal snow-play parking area on the National Forest between Jenks Lake West and Jenks Lake East. Feel free to recommend it!

Continuing to the right, **JLW** will take you around a peaceful loop toward **Jenks Lake**. You will notice several signs of local group camps as you drive. **Jenks Lake** is a seasonal fishing area with canoeing and kayaking. They closed as of October 6th but will reopen next April, in 2020. Jenks Lake offers fishing from its pier, along with fishing pads along the shore. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife plants rainbow trout twice a month in spring and summer. There are abundant picnic tables, fire rings, restrooms and trails to walk. There is a \$5.00 entrance fee for cars. Hours are from 7 am to 6 pm. If you haven't met the Jenks Lake Hosts, Bob Halloran and Stephanie and Lisa Rector, you are in for a treat!! Their hospitality is warm and wonderful! And you will meet them next April! <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Jenks-Lake/105554029478527>

As you continue around the loop, you will see the **South Fork Trailhead** parking lot, 2.5 miles from Highway 38 on **JLW**, which will take you up to the **San Gorgonio Wilderness**. Along the way you will pass the entrance to the famous "Poop Out Hill" <https://abhiking.blogspot.com/2011/10/poop-out-hill-san-bernardino-national.html>

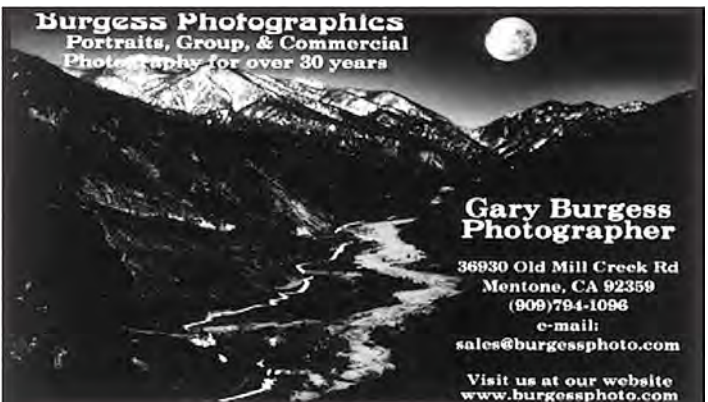
The **SGW** is a huge attraction and there are many trails to hike to the peak. Be sure you are prepared for inclement weather and get the proper permits from the Mill Creek Ranger Station. For more information, check out the San Gorgonio Wilderness Association (SGWA) <http://sgwa.org/wilderness-permits/> The **Wilderness** starts on the western slope of the San Bernardino Mountains. On February 12, 2016, President Obama signed a proclamation creating the **Sand to Snow National Monument** which comprises 154,000 acres on the Sonoran Desert floor up to over 10,000 feet in the San Bernardino National Forest. From the U.S. Forest Service: "The striking diversity of lands within this monument is breathtaking-they are filled with the stories of ancient peoples, soaring mountain peaks, critical wildlife corridors and rich biological diversity. The **San Gorgonio Mountain** region serves as an important recreational hub for 24 million people living within a two-hour drive of the area." Our California Senator, Dianne Feinstein pushed this legislation through to save a large part of the **SG Wilderness** for the future

San Gorgonio Mountain and Wilderness area. **Mount San Gorgonio** or "Old Greyback" is the highest peak in Southern California and the Transverse Ranges are 11,503 feet. A wilderness area is a region where the land is in a natural state; where impacts from human activity is minimal. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sand_to_Snow_National_Monument

The **Barton Flats Visitors Center** is at the entrance to the area's tent/RV campgrounds. The Visitor Center is located just off Highway 38. Many local wildlife fauna and flora from the **San Bernardino Museum** are on display. The **San Gorgonio Wilderness Association** develops and presents interpretive programs for over 1,000 children each year. Informal Astronomy viewings at the Greyback Amphitheatre are popular due to no city light pollution. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Greyback-Ampitheater/192615997478311>. **BFVC** offers a unique view of the **Sand to Snow National Monument** too. Some of the tent/RV camps are **Barton Flats, Council Group, Heart Bar, Lobo/Oso Group, San Gorgonio, South Fork and Wild Horse Equestrian Campgrounds**. Call to check on availability and for more information 909-794-4861.

As you travel along Highway 38, turn left on Glass Road, and follow it down to **The Seven Oaks Mountain Resort**. The Resort is situated in the Santa Ana River Canyon, four miles below Highway 38. They are a private, seasonal resort, open from April to October each year. It sits on the Santa Ana River which is a local fishing favorite. The community of Seven Oaks is located roughly halfway between Highway 38 and the Bear Creek/Santa Ana River confluence. The Resort offers great camping spots, and a fun restaurant and bar open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Grab a delicious burger or patty melt with a side of 'frings' (french fries and onion rings) with beer or wine all summer long. It's a cool place to hang out, and mountain people watch! For camping reservations or information call 909-794-2917 <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Seven-Oaks-Mt-Resort/206484429388676>.

Please stay in your seats until The Great 92305 Tour is over, which it is! It's a good zip code!



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Editor's Corner

By Suzanne Serdahely



Well, Spring is here! We will be seeing the wonderful wildlife that we share the mountain with. Mommies of all shapes and sizes are emerging from winter with their babies. Every year we sadly lose a bear due to humans ignoring the responsibility we all have to our furry neighbors.

Last year a tragedy occurred that is a glaring example of this. A sow with triplets delighted us all. But, sadly and preventable one of the cubs lost their lives. First Mom found several food sources in the neighborhoods. Second humans were so enthralled with the sight of mom and the triplets they did not chase her out of the area of the homes. So, mom felt comfortable and welcome to bring her babies up and down the residential streets. That meant Mom crossed back forth across Valley of Falls with the three tiny ones in tow. Then a speeding vehicle slammed into one of the cubs and left the baby to die.

Remember **a fed bear is a dead bear**. Don't leave out your trash out, clean your BBQ Grill, bring in your dog, cat and bird food, and do not purposely leave food out for the wildlife. If you scare the bears off they will learn not to come around the houses. And lastly SLOW DOWN! It is not just going to save the life of a bear or deer or bobcat that crosses the road but your neighbors who out and about on our narrow streets.

In this the first year of the new decade lets all strive for this: NO DEAD BEARS. Thanks!

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

By Jeff Schaefer

Once again, Mountain CARE, the organization who publishes The Bear Facts and runs our community web cam network, will coordinate many of the activities comprising our annual Canyon Cleanup event. For those of you new to our town, Canyon Cleanup is a time when our local residents come together to pick up trash, clean graffiti, and collect recyclables. This year Canyon Cleanup will take place on Saturday, May 16.



Like in past years, Burrtec will donate several large dumpsters for large junk items, green waste, and recyclables. The primary drop-off site for these types of items will be at the cinder pile just above "the Y" outside of Forest Falls. The e-waste drop-off site will likely be at Fallsvale School, and extra dumpsters for large junk items will be located in Mountain Home village and at the Community Center in Forest Falls.

We tried to work with San Bernardino County to include a household hazardous waste site in one of our towns. But due to their increasingly stringent requirements, we were unable to accomplish this. But on May 16, the day of Canyon Cleanup, you can take your household hazardous waste to Redlands:

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.

The Bear Facts — Release Dates

Next Submission Deadline: **May 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
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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 !



In November we started having Saturday Coffee Social Hour and had a great turnout. This town loves to get together! We'll be having Coffee Socials from 10:30 to noon the first Saturday of every month to share coffee and pastries from our own **Peace's Pieces Mountain Bakery**. No set topics or speeches, just hanging out, catching up and sharing news. If you're new in town, come on out and meet your neighbors!

If you're in Forest Falls, you will be receiving a survey in the mail soon asking what you'd like to see going on at our Community Center, and what you'd like to participate in. What are you passionate about? What would you like to share with us? In particular we'd like to get programs started that will draw people in and encourage participation. None of this works without YOU! It's nice to want to see something, but it takes showing up to make it happen. So what would you like?

You can bring your survey to the next Coffee Social or drop it back into the "Forest Falls" slot at the mailbox. We'll pay the postage on the ones that get returned that way.

With any nonprofit, it takes money to make things happen. We're hopeful that creation of programs will allow us to get grants to support them. There are some good ideas floating around out there, so stay tuned and let us know what you want!

As always, you can support VFCCi by participating in the free-to-you Amazon Smile program – just shop at smile.amazon.com and choose us as your charity. Donations can always be made by PayPal to donate@vfcci.org or check mailed to PO Box 41, Forest Falls CA 92339.

We cherish every donation and try our best to spend every penny wisely. It costs an average of \$1,000 per month to keep our doors open, and on top of that there are continuing capital expenses for building maintenance repairs. Support your Community Center!

www.VFCCI.org

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Spring 2020 Volume 14 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.

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