

The BEAR FACTS

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

Spring 2023 Volume 17 Issue 1

The Momyer Trail

content curated but not written by Paul Tetreault

This is one of the most underused trails in the San Geronio Wilderness within the Sand to Snow National Monument. This area offers the visitor solitude and good views of Mill Creek Canyon and Yucaipa Ridge from the upper end of the trail.

In 1939, under a then new Forest Service regulation, unbroken tracts between 5 and 100 thousand acres could be declared "Wild Areas". By 1955, the Primitive Area had now become the San Geronio Wild Area. No protest of any kind was received against the designation, although the region was still too small to qualify as federal wilderness.

By December 1962, the continuing threat from ski associations prompted the formation of the Defenders of the San Geronio Wilderness, an amazing group headed by Harry James and Joe Momyer (a retired San Bernardino postal superintendent) and secretary Alice Krueper.



The trail is named after Joe Momyer. (Pronounced: MO-my-ur). Joe fought to protect the San Geronio Wilderness from development in the 1960s and lobbied for inclusion of the primitive area in the Wilderness Act of 1964.

The trailhead (1E06) is reached by turning east off Highway 38 to Forest Falls, continue up the road two miles to the large parking area (5,400') on your left 100 yards before you reach the fire station. There are no restrooms at this trailhead, but restrooms can be used at the Big Falls Picnic Area another mile further up the road.

The trail first descends to Mill Creek wash and you must cross the creek. There is no bridge so please

exercise extreme caution and it is recommended that you do not cross when the water level is high.

Alger Creek Camp (7,100') is 3.7 miles from



the wash. The single site is located about 0.25 miles below the trail. Two miles further is Dobbs Camp (water available-7,200'). Another 1.5 miles is Saxton Camp (8,400'). Water here is obtained from a small spring 0.2 mile below the camp along the trail. Two miles further is Dollar Lake Saddle (9,960 feet, no water).

Day use permits are required and have been since the beginning of September, 2020. For overnight permits, reserve through the San Geronio Wilderness Association.

- Group size limited to 12 people and 8 pack/riding animals per group.
- No campfires allowed. Portable gas stoves are allowed.
- There are No restrooms
- Camp on a durable surface at least 100 feet away from trails and water sources.
- and Most Importantly,
Pack out what you pack in and Leave no Trace!

Mill Creek Visitor Center
34701 Mill Creek Road, Mentone, CA 92359
1-909-382-2882 Thursday thru Monday.
(Closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays)

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/sbnf/recarea/?recid=26571>

<https://sgwa.org/about/history-of-the-san-geronio-wilderness/>

<https://inogolo.com/pronunciation/Momyer>

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

by Debi Welch



Hello Friends and Neighbors! Hope you are all doing well during this deceptively fine weather as Old Man Winter thinks about hanging up his hat. Don't be fooled and start planting early, he will be back. Its okay to do yard clean up and trimming but no outdoor planting until after Mothers Day in May for best results.

I heard a rumor Chili Cook Off was coming back. Did you attend one or all of the 20 Forest Falls Annual Chili Cook-Offs? Would you like to see it return? Did it end the last year you moved here or before you came to the mountain? Well wait no longer and mark your calendars! The Forest Falls Chili Cook-Off will resume Sunday May 28th, Memorial Day Weekend! Mountain C.A.R.E. will be sponsoring this wonderful and fun event!

Please dust off your cook books and start thinking about how you can participate. Whether its helping with the planning, cooking chili or just hanging out with friends and family in down town.

Chili Cook-Off will be as always in downtown, Forest Falls. We are working directly with the county and permitting is in process so if done right, can continue to function for many more years to come.

Because of the permitting process cooking space will be limited and we need applications submitted and processed in advance so that we are in compliance with health code.

All you folks who've been telling us for years that you wanted to help, Now is the time, we need you to step up to the plate so we can plan this event. We are already under the gun as we have bumped up the event a month early so as not to compete with but rather compliment the Jamboree.

Please email or text me and let me know you want to help @ 909.260.0215, or debi@forestfalls.com. This is going to be a fun and wonderful day kicking off the Summer Season on the mountain. Please Plan to be there!

Check out the town & road conditions on the

Mountain C.A.R.E. Web Cams




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

Household Hazardous Material Disposal
every Saturday in Redlands 9:30am-12:30 pm
City of Redlands Corporate Yard
at 1270 West Park Ave near Kansas Street

How Fallsvale is Doing

by Katie Fisher - 5th Grade

HelloBear Facts Readers! It's me again: Katie! I have some more fun events to talk about at Fallsvale School. I am very excited to tell you about this one first: the Friendship Dance. Just wait for the second event! It's the biggest one of them all.



Katie Fisher

The Friendship Dance wasn't held at the school. It was at Big Falls Lodge. This event was on the 10th of February. Snacks and drinks were provided. We had a D.J. and the kids got to recommend some (school appropriate) songs for this dance. This event was provided by our wonderful Booster Club. The last time this event happened was in the 2018 to 2019 school year. It's been a while! My friend Laelah says she is really excited for this event because she hasn't done this in a long time.

The next fun event I have to report on is the Variety Show. This year we are doing it in person, last year and the year before, as some kids remember, we did this online. The things we can do are poems, dances, lip sync, etc. Kids can help some teachers backstage with lights, music, technical, and more! I can't wait to see what the kids do. It's at the Valley of the Falls Community Church across from the school at 5pm on March 16. Parents and children will be happy seeing all the people performing. I can't wait to see everyone smile.

Life is Messy, Let's Clean it Up!

**SATURDAY
MAY 20th 2023
8:00 am - 12 Noon**

Heads up fellow mountain folk!
This year's **Canyon Clean-Up** is coming, Saturday, May 20th, 8:00 – 12 noon.
Come early because when the bins are full we're done.

Yard waste, old furniture, metal salvage and recycling. No tires please nor hazardous waste at the old cinder pile, or, as some are calling it, Big Horn Flats. General trash bins will also be at Mountain Home Village and across from Big Falls Lodge. There will be E-waste reclamation at Fallsvale schoolhouse. We will have a crew cleaning up graffiti.

You are all invited to help out at one of our waste stations, graffiti clean up plus roadside trash pickup.

It's a lots of fun and a good way to meet your neighbors.



Gardens in Winter?

by Frozen Green Thumb Garden Club

Our Winter Season is here and we are awaiting Spring. There may be snow outside now, while you are reading this article. In the Frozen Green Thumb Garden Club, we have a rule of thumb that suggests we don't plant anything new outside until Mother's Day. Therefore, at this time I would love to talk about our garden that we can have inside of our homes. I'm talking about indoor plants or houseplants. I love indoor plants! I can still see my mom taking care of her houseplants. Some of those had flowers or bright colors. When I got married 22 years ago, I was thinking to have indoor plants, but I didn't have too much success because of the weather. All the indoor plants in my country are outdoors plants here. But when I moved to Forest Falls, I was in heaven, because I could have indoor plants again.



Here I have some tips for Houseplants or Indoor Plants

- Match plants with light conditions. Houseplants vary in their light requirements...
- Choose the right container...
- Use good-quality potting soil...
- Water properly...
- Fertilize and control pests...
- Increase humidity and prevent drafts...
- Keep foliage clean.

Tips for Healthy Houseplants

- Spin your plants around so they grow evenly and not lopsided...
- Don't fertilize in the winter...
- Use pots with drain holes in them...
- Try taking your houseplants outside for the summer and grow them in the shade...
- If you are prone to watering too much, buy a moisture meter.

At my house I have a few indoor plants, around 20 plants, some of those give me flowers or some color. Like Red Leaf Euphoria or Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas cactuses. Also, I have Lucky Shamrock, and so many more. I'm not lucky with African Violets. It's so nice that we have the option of having an indoor garden with our houseplants, since our surroundings in winter are mostly white until next spring.

It always draws a smile to my face when I see a flower or a new sprout.

Enjoy your gardening, Romina LaBerteaux

Believing in Tomorrow

by Frozen Green Thumb Garden Club

“Planting a garden is about believing in tomorrow” the lovely Audrey Hepburn once said. In our mountain communities, we look forward to a series of tomorrow's with the four seasons that come tumbling by. Each month, the Frozen Green Thumb Garden Club meets to learn, discuss, observe, and encourage each other in the goal of creating a more beautiful space for our homes and community. This past year, some of the topics included proper tree trimming to ensure healthy and safe trees, learning tips from a master gardener, becoming educated about the Golden Oak Borer, plus enjoying a great lesson on wildflowers! This year, we look forward to making terrariums, learning about native medicinal plants in our canyon, visiting nearby botanical gardens and plant nurseries, plus a field trip to Descanso Gardens and much more!

We hold a Plant Sale, which is on Saturday morning, June 3rd, to continue our education about



gardening and, also, support our community when needed. Please go grab your calendar, be it paper or digital, and commit to helping either set up/take down or participate in some way to this event that benefits so many in our community. More information will be coming your way! Do all of us have lovely gardens? Nope. Some of our members leave the gardening to Mother Nature but come for the fun of meeting new neighbors, laughing with friends, going on field trips, and gaining knowledge of the local flora. Did you know that Forest Falls has three distinct gardening zones? While the lower canyon residents may grow tomatoes and enjoy their goodness, upper canyon gardeners grow lovely green tomatoes that rarely see the blush of ripeness. Ask me. I know.

Our usual meeting place is at the Lodge, the third Monday of the month, however, floods and heavy snow sometimes take precedence.. If you are available, please come and join us. We bring a sack lunch at 11:30 AM and the meeting starts at 12:00. You will quickly feel a part of a vibrant group of people that care for our communities. Some people can only come a few times a year, others come every month. All are welcome. Membership information will be given to you if you wish.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. Text first because I don't answer when I don't recognize the phone number! Jan Horton, VP Membership 714-914-6575

Flashovers

by Tom McIntosh, Capt. Forest Falls Fire Station 99



2022 Alarm Review San Bernardino Fire District, Forest Falls Station 99 had a quieter 2022 while the length or complexity of some of the alarms were beyond the norm. Over the past decade our "request for service" or alarms averaged about 260 per year with 2018 jumping to 315 alarms and now that

2022 is in the bag, total alarms were 186. Here is the breakdown:

Medical Aid: 95 or 52% of total alarms in which we were Cancelled Enroute 7 times, mostly for calls responding to Angelus Oaks when Sta 98 did not need our assistance.

Rescue: 12 or 7%, 7 of which were in Big Falls of which 6 where Hoist Rescues and 2 involved multiple patients. The upper reach of Big Falls remained closed in 2022 which we believe accounted for a reduction in Rescue alarms there.

Traffic Collision: 27 or 9% with 20 involving injuries where we were Cancelled Enroute 9 times, 3 Over the Side, 1 requiring extrication and 3 being non-injury.

Fire: 24 or 13%, 4 Structure Fires, 4 Vehicle Fires, 6 Wildland Fires, 7 Illegal Fires (camping/warming) 2 Truck Fires, 1 Commercial Fire Outside Investigation, 16 or 18%. **Inside Investigation:** 5 or 2%. Other, 7 or 3% including 2 Public Service, 2 HazMat, 2 ZAP (wires down) and 1 Wind Storm.

Chipper Daze: After decades of having Chipper Service provided by our County Fire crews the Fall 2022 event was cancelled due to budget and time constraints. It is possible we will only have Chipper Daze 1 time a year, in the Spring, so create your defensible space and get your piles built for April or May chipping.

Middle Control Road Closed

from the Office of Dawn Roe

Angelus Oaks, Middle Control Road between SR-38 in Angelus Oaks and Seven Oaks Road in Pinezanita is closed in both directions for the winter season. This annual closure is expected to conclude on April 1, 2023.



Flashovers - continued

Farewells and Welcome Aboard: Farewell to Jordan Schaefer and Jorge Mandujano who have moved on to other interests... While your time with Station 99 was brief, it was appreciated. Welcome aboard to Kristi Ranabauer, Carrie Crider and Andrew (Drew) Loden. Station 99 has 2 opening for Firefighter or Firefighter Trainee positions. If you are curious about an avocation as a Paid Call Firefighter please contact me or any of the existing or previous firefighters who have served their community from the Forest Falls firehouse.

And Thank You to all of you who have supported our Forest Falls Firefighters Association year after year.

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Defensible Space is the Law



HARDENING YOUR HOME

Fire hardened means your home is prepared for wildfire and an ember storm. It does not mean fireproof. Home hardening addresses the most vulnerable components of your house with building materials and installation techniques that increase resistance to heat, flames, and embers that accompany most wildfires.

KEY ELEMENTS OF A DEFENSIBLE SPACE

- Keep your gutters and roofs clear of leaves and debris.
- Maintain a 10-foot noncombustible zone around your home and deck.
- Break up fuel by creating space between plants, and between the ground and the branches of trees.
- Keep mulch away from the house. Bark mulch helps plants retain water but ignites and becomes flying embers during a wind-driven fire. During a wildfire move anything burnable—such as patio furniture or gas BBQ tanks—30 feet away from structures.

We've learned from recent fires that hardening your home and keeping the 10 feet closest to your house clear of flammable materials greatly improves the chance of surviving a fire. Maintaining defensible space is the law within 100 feet of a home in wildfire-prone areas, and highly recommended elsewhere. If a garage, shed, your neighbor's house or the property line is closer than 100 feet, it is especially important to "harden" the home itself to reduce vulnerability to radiant heat, and to work together with your neighbors to reduce risk—a great way to build community while protecting assets.

The California Fire Safe Council (CFSC) helps coordinate a strong network of partnerships with local, regional, state, and national organizations in order to help California residents acquire the education, resources, and tools they need to be better prepared for wildfire.

Angelus Oaks Fire Safe Council is currently looking for individuals who can spare a couple of hours a month by joining our group. We assist our community by providing available programs on Dead Tree Removal, Weed Abatement and Chipping. Our Fire Safe Council covers all communities within the 92305 areas. Please call Cherie at 909-725-1622 to find out more about our program.



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IN WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP

Saturday Services

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

Bible Study 10:00 a.m.

Musical Praise Service 11:00 a.m.
(Musicians are encouraged to bring their instruments)

Worship Service 11:30 a.m.

Weekly Potluck Fellowship Dinner 12:45 p.m.

Finazzo's Pizza Box History

by Anna Finazzo

Our story in Forest Falls started about 6 years ago when we moved to this beautiful town. We decided to make the move to Forest Falls because of Matt's dream to live here after trips with his dad and younger brother to hike and play in the snow. When he brought me along to help him in the last year of the chili cook-off, I too felt this was the place for us; even though he came in second to the fire department. Another one of his dreams was to start his own food establishment. Matt has been a chef across many kitchens over the span of 15 years and has always had a passion for food. Since the day we moved up here we fell in love with everything about this town, from the relaxing scenery to the tight knit community, we knew we had found the place where we would raise our future family. As amazing as this town is, Matt felt it was missing something, Pizza. He set out to make this community some amazing food and when he sets his mind to something he achieves it. Now as most of this town knows it took him some time jumping through hoops with plans, permits, and approvals but after a year and a half of battles Finazzo's Pizza Box was open for business. For

those that don't know me my name is Anita Finazzo Baker I am Matt's wife and where the name Finazzo's Pizza Box comes from. Matt has always loved my last name and the Italian culture I come from which is why he decided to dedicate his new business to my family name. You may have not realized but a few of our pizzas are



Team Finazzo

even named after family members of mine, for instance the Big Poppy's Combo is named after my Grandpa Manny Finazzo who our daughter Bailey would refer to as her Big Poppy. Once we were open for business we received nothing but support from this community, so much so that we realized we needed an extra set of hands to help with how busy we had become. Luckily Matt had someone in mind that he was able to work with while he volunteered to cook for the Mountain Jamboree last year. Nicholas Boyarski (most of this town knows as Nick) has been such an amazing addition to our food truck family. He is truly a hardworking and respectful individual; his parents should be extremely proud to have raised a young man as wonderful as him. We are so lucky to have all the love and support this town has shown to us since the day we opened, it really is a blessing to be able to watch our dream come true. If you are ever curious about us or when and where we might be open we post our information to our Facebook page Finazzo's Pizza Box, as well as we try to keep our weekend hours and phone number posted at the Elkhorn store. If you have not yet tried our food we hope to see you soon.



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

You've got questions,

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

We've got answers,

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

www.AngelusOaks.info

www.MountainHomeVillage.info

www.ForestFalls.info

Community Events & Activities Calendar

Angelus Oaks - Forest Falls - Mountain Home Village

Spring 2023 Special Events

When	What	Where	What else?
Mar 7th	History Thru Music w/ Daniel Weston	Smiley Library Redlands, CA	6:30 pm at the Contemporary Club, Guitar virtuoso and Redlands resident Daniel Weston performs a special concert and discussion
Mar 16th	Fallsvale School Variety Show	Valley of the Falls Community Church	starts at 5pm - Live and in-person the kids will be doing poems, dances, lip sync, etc
Mar 18th	Mountain Fun Night	Big Falls Lodge	from 5-8 pm Family Fun and Games, Bring you own games too!
May 20th	Canyon Clean-up	Old Cinder Pile lot MHV & across from Big Falls Lodge	Yard waste, old furniture, metal salvage and recycling. E-waste reclamation at Fallsvale schoolhouse. No tires or hazardous waste.
May 28th	Chili Cook-Off	Downtown Forest Falls	from 11 am-3 pm, with a town photo at 3pm, call 909-260-0215 to sign up as a cooker. Enjoy Chili tasting, Music, Dunk Tank and more
June 3rd	Annual Plant Sale	Big Falls Lodge	9 am to Noon, Sponsored by the Frozen Green Thumb Garden Club

Regularly Scheduled Events

What	When	Where	What else?
Angelus Oaks Fire Department	2nd & 4th Tuesdays each month at 6pm	Angelus Oaks Fire Station (98)	
Forest Falls Fire Department	Tuesdays at 6:30pm	Forest Falls Fire Station (99)	909-794-4413
Angelus Oaks Fire Safe Council	Meets periodically	Angelus Oaks Fire Station (98)	Dates announced on the A.O. FSC Bulletin Board in the Angelus Oaks Post Office.
Supper Night at Big Falls Lodge	2nd Thursday of every month 5-7 pm	at Big Falls Lodge	a community "Potluck Dinner" every month providing Baked Potato or Salad with fixins. You bring side or dessert and your own dinnerware
Valley of the Falls Church Youth Group	Wednesdays 6pm-8pm.	Valley of the Falls Community Church	Ages 12-18 welcome.
Frozen Green Thumb Garden Club	3rd Monday each month 11:30 am - 1:30 pm	at Big Falls Lodge	All are welcome.
Music Night in Forest Falls	Mondays 6:30-9:30 pm	at Big Falls Lodge	All Musicians, all styles, all levels are welcome, anyone can come play or just come to listen.
The Needlers Knitting Group	Tuesdays 9:30-11:30 am	7th Day Adventist Church, Forest Falls	All are welcome, Contact Denise Reid 794-5130.



Valley of the Falls Community Church

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

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

Thom Wellman, Pastor
Dr. Paul Reed, Teaching Pastor

(909) 794-3189

40262 Valley of the Falls Drive, Forest Falls, CA 92339

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Valley of the Falls Community Center Inc.

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Night, Game Night, Weddings, Memorials, Birthday Parties ...
- How many of these have YOU attended?**

www.VFCCi.org

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Hello Friends and Neighbors! So many new folks in town the last couple of years, lots of new faces and talent, all adapting to the unique challenges of mountain living. With COVID largely in our rear-view mirror, and access to our Community Center getting back to normal, it's time to celebrate the magic of living in paradise together! The COVID regulations for gathering places such as community centers hit very hard, but we're resilient and have made it through to the other side.

For those who don't know, VFCCi is the non-profit 501c3 which owns and operates "Big Falls Lodge", YOUR community center. It's a great place for meetings, classes and private events. Our board of directors are members of the community who volunteer their time and expertise to keep the doors open to all. Whenever crises occur, VFCCi is there to support outside groups who come to our aid. We are always open to new ideas for use of the building, so if you have a great passion – let us know what it is – let's do it!

We are looking for community members who want to serve on committees to realize their visions. We also need help for our fundraisers and ideas for new fundraisers, as expenses have skyrocketed in the last couple of years. Our long-time insurance company was forced to drop our fire coverage (like many of you) after the 2020 Apple and El Dorado fires. So we too are now on CA Fair Plan, which has more than tripled our annual insurance cost.

In July 2022, VFCCi was awarded a county grant for building improvements largely due to the efforts of Supervisor Dawn Rowe. Look for some much-needed capital improvements to our kitchen and building, coming soon. It's an old building and needs a lot of love. Our operational costs however, are not included

in those grant funds, so we rely primarily on fundraisers. Our next big fundraiser is Mountain Jamboree, this year on SUN JULY 2 – so tell your friends and family! We could use some help with the kids games, food, set up and clean up, and everything else that goes into making the day great for everyone. I've heard from many new residents "how can I get involved"? First and foremost, get to know your near neighbors – they have experience living here and will happily share their knowledge. They're also your first line of defense when circumstances dictate you're staying home (or if you get trapped away from home). Attend community events and meet your not-so-near neighbors, you'll quickly find who you "gel" with. Another great way to be involved is to join a CERT program. Community Emergency Response Teams are an excellent way to learn survival skills, as well as specific history for our area and what to do when things get out of control around here. VFCCi is the fiscal sponsor of CERT and we work closely together. A website few may be aware of with live updates and a huge amount of local information for emergency preparedness, is vfccibeprepared.info – check it out.

Other groups in town that use Big Falls Lodge for their purposes include Fallsvale School Booster Club, San Gorgonio Search and Rescue, Forest Falls Firefighters Association, Mountain C.A.R.E., Frozen Green Thumb Garden Club. These are all great groups to get to know.

If you want to learn more about VFCCi, attend a board meeting, schedule an event, or be added to our mailing list, please email director@vfcci.org or call 909-389-0585. Visit our website at vfcci.org, or find us on Facebook. If you'd like to support us with a donation, contact a board member, paypal@vfcci.org, or send to VFCCi/PO Box 41/Forest Falls CA 92339. See you at the Lodge!

Valley of the Falls Community Center News

Supper on The Hill

by Dale & Robyn Clark, Dee Konczal & Joseph Lierl

An old idea revisited, renamed and hopefully becomes a new tradition in Forest Falls. Not too long ago, the community hosted "Soup Night" at Big Falls Lodge - now the idea is brought back to life in a new form titled "Supper on the Hill". New approach, New name, but same community care and love for a nice supper with friends.

Supper on the Hill is a community potluck event put on by volunteers to bring people together. It will be held on the 2nd Thursday of every month at Big Falls Lodge from 5 to 7 pm. We hope to have a 'theme' each month; for the first event in January, we celebrated The Casserole. The community will provide drinks and some of the food - Baked Potatoes and the fixings or Salad with delicious add-ons. You, the participants, are asked to bring either a themed entre, side dish, or dessert to share. It is also very important that you bring your own place setting: plate, bowl, cup, utensils. Unless, of course, you are volunteering to be the dishwasher (LOL). See you there for dinner, conversation, and neighborly fun!



Thursday January 12th was the first community Supper on the Hill at our Community Center. If you ever attended Soup Night you'll know how welcoming our Supper Nights will be. We had a great kick-off for our first Supper on the Hill potluck. Everyone brought lots of delicious food and happiness. It was wonderful getting reacquainted with friends and neighbors.

IF you are new to FF, AO, MHV, try it out and come between 5-7pm! We'll have a Baked Potato Bar and you bring a side dish. Suggestions for the themed events are welcome! A survey will be at each table during the event so participant feedback can be shared along with request for future themes. Some of the awesome suggestions that we will be considering for upcoming events, included Nacho Night, Soup Wars, Asian Cuisine Night among other interesting ideas shared by the first night's participants.

If you want to help, come to the Community Center at 10am on Wednesday or Thursday.

Some feedback from the inaugural event included:

Jenna Crowe "It was so nice! All of the food was great! Thank you to everyone who was involved"

Tracy Marrs "Thank you for bringing back the community potlucks. Our family had a great time and went home too full.

Looking forward to the next one."

Janet Skinner Horton "What a wonderful community! So fun!"

Jamie Orr "I'm really happy that these are starting monthly again. I didn't know what "community" felt like until I moved up here. More and more new neighbors will get a chance to experience it with events like these."



If you weren't able to be there this month, it would be terrific to see you next month on the second Thursday - March 9th. The theme for that Supper will be: "A Loved Family Dish"

Plan to bring:

1. A "themed" side dish or dessert to share,
2. Your own place setting (plate or bowl, flatware, napkins & cup)
3. Friendly conversation and a smile!

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<http://www.mtnicare.com/bear-facts>

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

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

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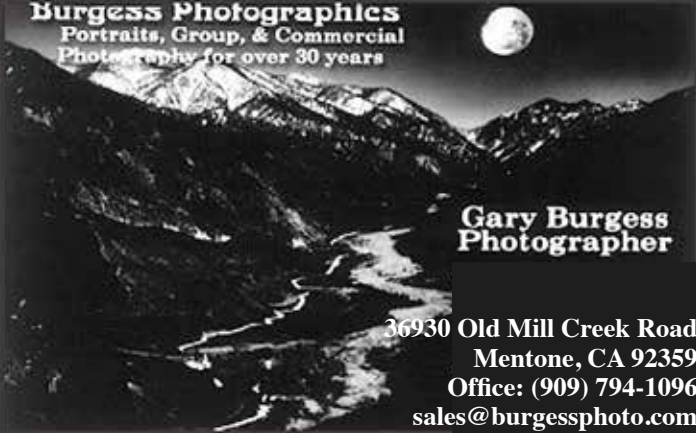


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Our Congressional and State Legislative Representatives

by Mark Wirth

After the 2022 election, our mountain communities have some continuing elected representatives and some new ones. The California Redistricting Commission created new districts, which is done every ten years after the new federal census. Republican U.S. Representative Jay Obernolte continues to be our Member of Congress after he was re-elected. Although the boundaries of his district changed he continues to represent the entire San Bernardino Mountain region and parts of the desert region. His new district added Yucaipa and part of Redlands. He is a member of the House Committee on Natural Resources and the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands. His official website is <https://obernolte.house.gov/>. Republican State Senator Rosilicie Ochoa-Bogh continues to represent our area in the California State Senate. She was not up for re-election in 2022 as she is in the middle of her four year term. She will be up for re-election in 2024 in a district that includes all the San Bernardino Mountain region as well as some parts of Riverside County and San Bernardino County. Her official website is <https://ochoa-bogh.cssrc.us/>.

Regarding our representatives in the California Assembly, the situation is a bit confusing. There are some rather odd district boundary lines created by the Redistricting Commission. Forest Falls and Mountain Home Village, but not Angelus Oaks, are in a new Assembly district that stretches from Redlands to Palm Springs. Republican Greg Wallis was elected in that district. He is a new Assembly Member. He was previously the District Director for former Assemblymember Chad Mayes of Palm Springs who declined to run for re-election in 2024. The official website for Wallis is <https://ad47.asmrc.org/>. Angelus Oaks is in a new Assembly district that includes Big Bear, Lake Arrowhead, parts of the desert and stretches to parts of Palmdale and Lancaster. The 2024 General election had Republican Assemblymember Thurston Smith against Republican Assemblymember Tom Lackey. Both incumbent legislators were in the same district and Lackey, who is from Palmdale, won the election. The official website for Lackey is <https://ad34.asmrc.org/>.

In my opinion, it would have made more sense for Forest Falls and Mountain Home Village to be in an Assembly district with the rest of the San Bernardino Mountain communities rather than in a district that is dominated by the Palm Springs region. There has been wide spread criticism of the commission for its lack of respect for including communities with common interest in the same districts. For instance, Redlands is cut up between two Congressional districts, two State Senate districts and three Assembly districts.

Additional general information can be found at:

www.AngelusOaks.info	www.forestfalls.com
www.ForestFalls.info	www.fs.usda.gov (UFSSF)
www.MountainHomeVillage.info	www.MtnCARE.com
www.Socalmountains.com	www.VFCCI.org

Flatlanders and Highlanders

by Tracy Marrs

Here in our mountain communities, I see and hear a lot of talk about flatlanders. The term is not usually a complimentary one as it refers to others – outsiders – tourists. There are three major topics people discuss about flatlanders: traffic, trash, and trespassing.

If these people are the flatlanders because they come from “down the hill,” then what does that make us – the people that live here now ... highlanders, mountaineers? The Spanish word for highlander is Serrano and that is the name given to the original people that lived here for over two thousand years. Before the roads (traffic), before modernization (trash), and even before the settlers (trespassing), there were people living here that had to contend with invaders much worse than a weekend tourist. Where our flatlanders drive recklessly and endanger our people – their flatlanders attacked and displaced the people of this area.

Yuhaaviatam, is the traditional name for the original inhabitants of the area now called the San Bernardino mountains. Yuhaaviatam translates to the “People of the Pines.” The “people, now known as the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, are the Yuhaaviatam clan of Maara’yam (Serrano) and continue the tradition of holding sacred the land and everything it provides’ (SanManuel-nsn.gov).

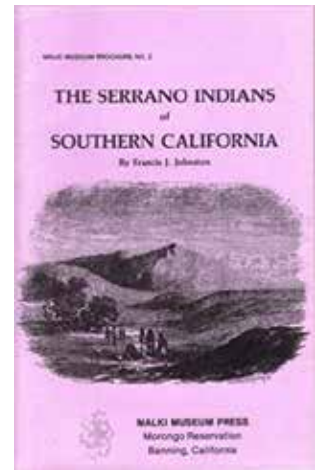
The Yuhaviatam today

One important resource we can agree we need to hold sacred is the resource of each other. This last year was an exciting year for many local native people and the non-native people that celebrate native culture because this year saw the return of local powwows. For many of us, the return to each other through gathering was an important way of renewing our dedication to holding our land sacred by celebrating the people that live and flourish in this beautiful place.

Gathering together has returned to our communities here in the mountains. Garden Club, family game nights, art events, community potlucks, and movie nights – all of these things are our renewal – the way we can hold each other sacred, because we need each other. It is through each other that we are strong.

Yaamava’ is the Serrano word for Spring, or rebirth, the mountain people are in a time of Spring – we who are healing from sickness, recovering from floods, and still remembering fires. After learning about the meaning of the word, I smile when I see Yaamava’ – because it is a word of survival from a strong people that have survived and thrive. It is on the verge Spring, and it is an exciting time to practice renewal of self and community.

If you are interested to learn more about the local Serrano people and their history, I highly recommend a visit to the Malki Museum or checking out “The Serrano Indians of Southern California” by Francis J. Johnston.



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Have You Seen It?

by Steve Cady



Have You Seen It? Everyone Should See This Movie. In my preparation for writing this, I did what I often do—I googled. If you google well, you will shift into areas of thinking you didn't consider when you started. After wading through the "best" and "favorite" thinking, I slid into movies

everyone should see. I didn't agree with all of the nominees, BUT Stephen Spielberg's most recent venture, **The Fabelmans**, most assuredly qualifies.

The film is a semi-autobiographical rendering of Spielberg's adolescence and early adult life—how the process of filmmaking helped to create the man he is today. It is the end-result of his playing with all of the events of his life and shaping them into a story that the audience can empathize with.



His family is first and foremost at the crux. Both parents are supportive bringing him up in a good, strong environment with a good education and good, moral religious values—should have been a slam-dunk, but no. Something else is happening with his beloved parents and his discovery is near-devastating. Film is how he is able to persevere. Within his family structure, he has three sisters. They are another cornerstone to come to terms with reality. As often happens in families, the parents' situation and behavior draws siblings closer together for support and consolation.

Actively involved in a Boy Scout troop, Spielberg finds an endless supply of actors—some with questionable abilities. In one scene (which I believe was in the previews) Spielberg begins honing a director's skill of working one-on-one with his actors. He carefully describes in great detail the scene the older boy will play and how the events in the scene will affect him. The actor is unable to contain his own personal emotions as he walks through the set and keeps on walking to the dismay of the crew.

There is much light-hearted material to keep us laughing, but there is a counter balance that forces us the other way. One situation involves his subjection to bullying because of his ethnic and religious beliefs as a Jew. An opportunity for vengeance can't be contained by Spielberg's alter-ego actor which not only causes more retaliation from the athletes, but also the necessity to look at his own soul and his actions.

Spielberg's co-screenplay writer Tony Kushner explains the choice of Fabelman for the family name. "Spieler" in Yiddish/German means actor. It's a short leap to "Fabel" which means fable in German. From my childhood, I remember my grandfather starting his little German polka band with "Eins, zwei, drei spielen," which translates to "One, two, three play." Since **The Fabelmans** has received an academy award nomination, it is still playing at many theaters in the Southland. You'll also be happy to know you can watch **The Fabelmans** from the comfort of your couch. Currently, you can rent **The Fabelmans** for \$19.99 or buy the film for \$24.99 from digital retailers **Amazon Prime, Apple TV, Vudu, and Google Play.**

Angeles or Angelus

by Paul Tetreault

"Angeles" is Spanish for "angels" or "messengers of God." A name deeply connected to religion, Angeles is often chosen by parents who wish to honor Mary. Los Angeles, the largest city in the state and the second most populous city in the United States, got its name from the Spanish Missionaries in the area, they called it, 'The Town of Our Lady, the Queen of the Angels'

Angelus, Latin for "angel" usually accompanied by the ringing of the Angelus bell, which is a call to prayer and to spread goodwill to everyone.

Angelus Oaks was initially called Camp Angelus. In 1849 there was a big gold strike in Holcomb Valley, north of Bear Valley and near the town that was later to become Big Bear. The only way to get supplies in and the gold out was by mule trains. The mule train traveled up the Santa Ana River Canyon, stopping overnight in Seven Oaks and then took a switch back trail (Clark's Grade; still visible on the mountain across from the Angelus Oaks Lodge) up to the gold fields. Eventually, a wagon road was built to replace the mule skinner trail. But, the Santa Ana River kept washing out the wagon road within the rugged canyon, and so another, better road, known as a 'Control Road', (because traffic was allowed to proceed one way in each direction only, with controls stationed at each end) was built in nearby Mill Creek Canyon. The "Lower Control Road" started at Mountain Home Village, in Mill Creek Canyon, and ended in Camp Angelus, at the Lodge. (The Lower Control Road later became known as Mountain Home Creek Road.) "Middle Control Road" started just east of the Lodge and meandered down to Seven Oaks. The final control road, 'Clark's Grade', went up and over the north side of the Santa Ana Canyon and into Bear Valley. The Clark Brothers, based at Clark's Ranch north and west of Seven Oaks, scratched out their control road by hand, and collected fees for its use.

In the 1970s, when the postal service decided to combine the two small post offices of Camp Angelus and Seven Oaks, closing the Seven Oaks location, they renamed the remaining office "Angelus Oaks". That name stuck with the town.

To all residents of:

Angelus Oaks, Mountain Home Village & Forest Falls

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

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

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

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Spring 2023 Volume 17 Issue Number 1



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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!

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