

FREE

Sierra Lodest

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January 9 - 22, 2019

Entertainment Magazine Serving The Mother Lode.

Welcome to Sierra Lodestar

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On The Cover

Amy Mazzaferro-Carr always dreamed of sewing costumes. Learn about her and other tales of dreams coming true inside.

Photo by Margaret Sloan



These dreams did come

I wasn't much of a daydreamer as a kid, but I had imagination for days. If we count all the laser battles I scribbled onto paper with felt pens, I was a budding engineer-cum-rocket ship designer. I thought about those long-ago intergalactic battles I drew as I read part of our feature this time, because I'm downright jealous of Forest Stearns, whose artworks are probably circling overhead even as you read these words. This week we meet people who have landed what they consider their dream jobs, and there are some fine stories sprinkled with dream dust here.

I've known another of this edition's subjects, Amy Mazzaferro-Carr, since before she was crowned First Princess in the Miss Calaveras Scholarship Pageant in 2007, and I'd swear she was born with needles for fingertips. She crafted costumes for several theater companies here in Northern California and today, she works in costumes in Southern California. She even knitted a hat for Diana Ross in 2013, speaking of a diva in a dress.

Youngsters who graduate from high schools in the Mother Lode occasionally feel isolated from the rest of the great big world. Stearns took his mastery of drawing – even the creation of graffiti – and forged a career in celestial art. Mazzaferro followed her needles, buttons and bolts of fabric to Tinseltown, where she sews and stitches for a professional opera company. Who says dreams don't come true?

"Every great dream begins with a dreamer," said Harriet Tubman. "Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world."

Having a dream is great, but it's the seeking of those dreams that separates people. Some take entire lives following their visions, while others find their passion, hone their skills and strive to make their visions reality.

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams," said Eleanor Roosevelt.

After reading about the dreamers we found here at home, I believe. You will, too.

Dream on!

Mike Taylor

Editor

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SIERRA Lodestar
Entertainment Magazine of the Mother Lode

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Sierra Lodestar is published by the Calaveras First Company. More than 15,000 copies are delivered to readers through racks located at more than 600 businesses and high-traffic areas throughout the three counties of the Mother Lode and in parts of Alpine County. An online edition of Sierra Lodestar is also available for readers at calaverasenterprise.com. To obtain copies of Sierra Lodestar for free distribution at your business or other location, e-mail circulation@sierralodestar.com or call the Calaveras Enterprise at 754-3861. For advertising information, email advertising@sierralodestar.com or call the Advertising Department at the Calaveras Enterprise at 754-3861.

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Sierra Lodestar accepts unsolicited manuscripts and photographs which, at the discretion of the editor, may be used in the magazine. No compensation is offered nor should it be expected except as expressed in writing by the editor. We welcome submissions about people and places in the region, particularly stories about its history, places to visit, sights to see and things to do. All published submissions become the property of Sierra Lodestar. Every effort is made to assure that calendar listings and events are accurately described; however, readers are always encouraged to contact event organizers directly to verify that changes have not occurred after the magazine has gone to print. Please submit editorial contributions, calendar items, press releases and other information to Mike Taylor at mtaylor@sierralodestar.com. Copyright Calaveras First Co. Inc. 2019/2020. All rights reserved.

Dreams come true

“What is the wildest creative dream you’ve ever had?”

Forest Stearns, one of the people we meet this time, reveals what may be his answer to that question as we look at some lucky people who have pursued their dreams. They saw their individual visions and set to work to achieve what they saw, and even from modest surroundings in the Mother Lode, their efforts are now seen all over.

When words connect

The coming-of-age novel is one of the great traditions of American literature. From the generational disruption of F. Scott Fitzgerald’s “This Side of Paradise,” to the rough, rebellious regret of S.E. Hinton’s “The Outsiders,” the need to chronicle our journeys into adulthood has proved irresistible to countless American authors. Now, an up-and-coming personality from Sutter Creek has made her own contribution to the genre – and fulfilled her dream of landing a publishing contract in the process.

Jessica “Jess” Moore’s childhood years were spent on the move. She grew up all over the Midwest and eventually settled in Ohio. Ten years ago, she was working as a teacher when her husband, Josh, was offered a job at Mark Twain Medical Center in San Andreas. The couple soon made the leap to full-time lives in the Mother Lode, and Jessica was employed as a social worker before she decided to focus on raising her children. She had always had a literary streak, and after settling into a certain rhythm in Sutter Creek, there was finally time to express that energy.

“When I decided to stay at home with the kids, I started writing more seriously,” she recalls. “Sometimes that creative outlet felt like the only way to be in my own head.”

Jessica rose early in the morning, before her family awakened, and began to shape the stories that ran through her head. She also took long walks to try to figure out the characters that slowly formed. She began writing passages for what would eventually become “The Evolution of Jeremy Warsh.” The young-adult novel explores the trials and tribulations of a budding comic artist and a creation on his pages, a character named Penny Kind. The story is, in every sense, an original take on the classic coming-of-age tale.

“I love the idea of trying to figure yourself out,” Jessica notes. “Even though there are several moments for this in life, those teenage years are a big one. There are so many huge choices and so many feelings.”

Jessica met with the Amador Fiction Writers to help fine-tune the chapters she forged. Passing pages by Kathy Boyd Fellure for nearly 12 years, the close-knit, encouraging cohort helped Jessica start to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Kathy said that she wasn’t surprised that Jessica eventually found a publisher.

“She was putting her work through a pretty intensive method of critiquing,” Kathy recalls, “and she just sailed. Jess was very faithful to the commitment of the book, too. I always

believed in her writing.”

From Jessica’s perspective, the writing regiment that Kathy’s group demanded kept Jeremy Warsh marching ahead.

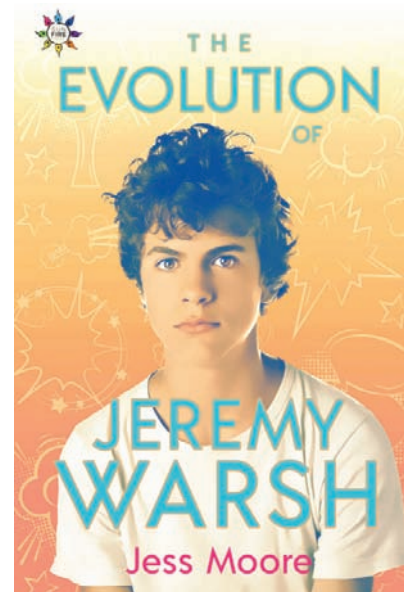
“It always kept me moving forward,” Jessica stresses. “They meet every two weeks, so I never had a chance to stall out.”

Jessica also turned her husband into her “main beta-reader.”

After three years of work, the novel was completed. Jessica decided to pitch it through a biannual Twitter contest that was monitored by book publishers and literary agents. In less than 280 characters, Jessica made an argument for why Jeremy Warsh and his visions of Penny Kind would connect with readers. NineStar Press, which was just starting a young-adult division, decided Jessica’s story was exactly what it was looking for. While NineStar Press is a new generation publishing house that has more than 100 titles in its catalog, “The Evolution of Jeremy Warsh” is one of its first forays into connections with younger readers.

“I was excited,” Jessica remembered. “I’d written and tried to publish a YA book before, and I’d ended up with something like 100 rejection letters. So, for this to happen in four weeks after it was on Twitter was really amazing.”

The novel was officially released in November. It’s available online and makes its debut in area bookstores soon. Among its virtues, the book has strong themes around the need for empathy and inclusivity. In an era when online bullying and teenage suicide rates are reaching epidemic levels, Jessica says these are topics that don’t just concern young people, but most parents as well.



“The Evolution of Jeremy Warsh” was published in November.

By Scott Thomas Anderson

“Inclusivity is something I’ve thought more and more about, especially since becoming a mom and watching my kids start to grow up,” Jessica said. “I meet so many parents who just want the best for their children and want them to feel like they can be a part of the things happening around them.”

Being a full-time mother doesn’t leave a lot of time to tour and work the literary circuit, but Jessica is beginning to hear from readers of “Jeremy Warsh” through social media and her itwasjess.wordpress.com/books site. Meanwhile, fans on the popular GoodReads website have called the book “immersing” and “tear-jerking.” Hearing from readers who see a part of themselves in the work is just one more aspect of Jessica’s dream coming true.

“It is a little weird to finish something and have it go out into the world and then have no control over it anymore,” Jessica observed. “But on the other hand, hearing from readers is something that’s been so incredibly positive.”



Courtesy photos

Jess Moore signs copies of her new book at her Sutter Creek home.

A career stitched together

By Margaret Sloan

According to Laurence Olivier, an actor should be able to create the world in the palm of his or her hand. But clothing makes the man, as they say, and Amy Mazzaferro-Carr works behind the scenes to create the actors' costumes with a needle in her hand.

Amy, a self-described proud Bullfrog from Bret Harte High School (Class of 2007), is living her dream in Los Angeles, stitching her way to a career in costuming. She has sewn costumes for film, television and, most recently, the Los Angeles Opera.

Life in the theater started early for Amy, with school drama classes and community theater.

"While I was in Calaveras County, I worked with Murphys Creek Theatre back when they had the Mirror Creek Youth Program. I did that every summer until I turned 16."

Her love of technical theater and backstage work really ignited when she worked at the amphitheater at Stevenot Winery outside Murphys. And, she said, "I started doing costumes for the shows at Bret Harte. I kind of got bitten and it just stuck."

"Calaveras County is so lucky that it has two incredible drama teachers in its schools," Amy said. "My sister (Ann Mazzaferro at Calaveras High School) was one of my best teachers. I did shows with Grover Anderson at Bret Harte back in the day."

But perhaps her strongest inspiration and teacher has been her mother, Kathy Mazzaferro.

"So much of where I am now is part of a house that was built on a foundation that she gave me," Amy said. She described how Kathy — theater aficionado and co-founder and president of the Calaveras Sings Theatre Arts Repertory for Kids — taught her to sew. "When she was making costumes for other theater groups, she would

teach me. She would say, 'This is how you cut out a pattern,' 'This is how you put a pattern together.'"

Amy says her mother was always supportive of her creative endeavors.

"I got really into fashion when I was 16 or 17 years old, after binge-watching the first season of 'Project Runway.' Mom would come home on Friday night with a stack of black T-shirts. She'd kiss me on the forehead and say, 'Have fun.' I'd cut up all of my clothes and put them back together in interesting ways."

When elder sister Ann commented that Amy possibly looked a bit odd, Kathy told her to "Let Amy be Amy."

Amy being Amy led to school in Los Angeles at California State University, Northridge, where she is finishing her bachelor's degree in theater. It has taken some time because Amy has worked professionally at the same time.

"For a while I was taking classes, for a while I was working in retail and taking shows when I could," Amy said. "In the last year and a half, I started getting more consistent work in costuming. In the last year, I have been able to completely support myself between film, TV and theater work."

In August Amy was hired at the Los Angeles Opera, a dream-come-true job for her.

"I've been there ever since. I love my job," she said, but admitted that, "It's also completely insane."

This past fall she worked on a production of Engelbert Humperdinck's "Hansel and Gretel." This production of the 19th century opera brought to the stage gigantic dancing gnomes, owls, mushrooms and furniture.

"Normally when you're working in costumes it's a lot of chiffon and alterations and heavy velvets, particularly when you're working in opera." But for this show, Amy said, "There was a lot of puppet work. There was a

lot of fake fur. At one point there's a scene where some of the objects, like some of the furniture, stand up and move and it's all covered in raffia and dried grass. It was so funny to try and figure out how do we make this bigger? How do we make this better? That was really fun. They were so cool to work on."

Success hasn't taken Amy away from the Calaveras County theater scene. She still comes home to help her mother and sister with their theater projects. Those who saw Calaveras High School's 2018 production of "Cinderella," directed by Ann, couldn't help but be wowed by the step-daughter's dress that transformed from a peasant maid costume to a fancy ball gown. Based on a costume by designer William Ivey Long, it took a lot of research to figure out how to make the transformative piece work.

"I spent a lot of time yelling at my dress form," Amy said.

"Costuming is a lot of trial and error. Failure is such a big part of discovery. It's so easy when you're young to be afraid of that, but it's the only way you grow. If you're going have any kind of creative career, you have to be comfortable with the fact that you're going to fail and be wrong a lot."

"My mother always said, 'It's one step forward and two steps back. It's not a disaster; it's just a cha-cha.'"

Amy also notes the importance of developing a variety of skills for a life in the costume shop.

"If you have an interest in costume design, learn how to sew. I've gotten more work as a costumer and a seamstress. It makes you a better designer, a more well-rounded theater technician. I'm a one-woman band."

One thing that Amy really wants to pass on, especially to younger readers, is the



Photos by Margaret Sloan

Amy Mazzaferro has sewn costumes for theater shows since high school and today creates for the Los Angeles Opera.



importance of determination in the creative world.

"I wasn't the best in school," Amy said. "I was a good student in high school and college, but I was by no means the best in the class. I wasn't even the most talented costume designer or seamstress in college, but I was the most determined to succeed. I worked hard, studied everything I could about theater and costuming. I took risks and, more than anything else, I was determined to build my career in the performing arts. I was always taught that luck is when preparation meets opportunity. I was very prepared when opportunities came my way."

"This is what I've wanted to do since I was a kid," she added. "Now that I'm here, I just want to keep doing it. If I am fortunate enough to do that for the rest of my life, that's my dream. I am so happy and I am so lucky because I've found this place where I belong."



Amy was home in the Mother Lode for the holidays, which gave me a chance to do a photo shoot of her and the amazing costumes she has made that pack her mother's closets. Afterward, at the kitchen table in less than a minute, Amy threaded a needle and

ran it through a purple ribbon to create two inches of ruffled and rippled glory. She laughed at my amazement.

"It's what I do every day!" she said with a peal of laughter, gathering another fold of cloth.

Ancestors help cook life

By Sarah Lunsford



Photos by Sarah Lunsford

Jenny Baxter looks through a 1998 edition of *Sunset*, where her recipes were featured.

“A dream is a wish your heart makes,” says the song from the Disney film “Cinderella,” and sometimes a wish can be so tightly bound to the heart that when the dream comes true, you didn’t realize it was a dream.

“I learned to cook from my Lebanese grandmother,” says chef and expert on entertaining Jenny Baxter. “But really, I’ve been cooking since I was 11. I have always loved being in the kitchen.”

Jenny’s love of cooking, along with the freedom to experiment and be as creative as she wanted in the kitchen, began to plant a wish in her heart. The spur for the wish was a pile of *Sunset* magazines on the coffee table of her parents’ house.

“When I was growing up, my mom was an avid *Sunset* reader,” Jenny said. “I would sneak into the sitting room and look at the magazines, and I thought I would give anything if one day I could be in a magazine like that. *Sunset* was a big deal.”

Sunset was a bit different then than now. Then it was the periodical for entertaining and cooking, focused

on all facets of planning parties and serving wonderful meals. The avid entertainers of the time perused *Sunset* to discover new recipes and innovative ideas.

Even though Jenny would grow up to become an educator, her love of cooking coupled with memories of reading *Sunset* evolved into a wish that became a dream.

Jenny turned her love of entertaining into a second career when she opened a catering business with a partner in 1982. Later she branched out on her own and founded Jenny’s Kitchen in 1987, a brand that would see her to today’s world with a television show that is shown in Calaveras, Tuolumne and Sacramento counties. She began to write cooking and entertainment columns for newspapers, too, but even with all those accomplishments, she still dreamed of *Sunset*.

The awakening started with a phone call Jenny received in 1998.

“I came home and played my messages and I just couldn’t believe what it said. I had to listen to it three times to believe what I was hearing. It said, ‘Jenny, this is Linda Anusasananan of *Sunset* magazine, and we would like to feature you in Christmas in the Gold Country.’ It was a total surprise, and I literally felt like I was walking on air.”

She found out later that she was chosen from three potential Mother Lode cooks to be in the magazine, representatives of which had called Jan Hovey of Target Marketing to find out who the cream-of-the-crop cooks were in the Gold Country.

Magazines like *Sunset* have long lead times as they plan features, and Jenny was introduced to the world of foodie writing as part of the piece’s creation.

“I had to submit my Christmas menu and all the recipes, then they tested them in their *Sunset* kitchens in the Bay Area,” she said. “Then they came to my kitchen” in March.

Word began to spread that *Sunset* was going to feature Jenny, and people offered to help her prepare for the article and photo shoot any way they could.

“As word got out, the community wanted to help,” Jenny said. “Duff’s Florist filled my house with color and scents, and Milliaire paired the wine that would go with my meal.”

The *Sunset* crew stayed three days and brought two food stylists, three scene setters and one lighting director, and that was just for the photographs.

“Every day they took shots for three days,” Jenny said. “They took over

150 Polaroids to make sure the lighting and everything else was perfect for the actual photographs.”

Not only were there food shots, but Jenny invited family and friends to join her in her dining room that was dressed for the occasion. Those people are in the photographs that accompanied the article.

“The article focused on food philosophy,” Jenny remembers. “And, I always think that people eat with their eyes; if it looks good, they’ll try it.”

The photos and the recipes were not only featured in the Christmas in the Gold Country edition of *Sunset* that year, but Jenny’s recipes from the article were included in *Sunset*’s annual cookbook. That led to an invitation to sign copies of the recipe collection at the Barnes and Noble Bookstore at Arden Fair Mall in Sacramento.

“After they left, a week or so later, I saw that I had gotten something in the mail from *Sunset*,” Jenny said. The mystery envelope contained a check for \$500. “I was just honored that they chose me, let alone paid me for something that I enjoy doing.”

The dream of *Sunset* that came true got Jenny to thinking.

“Once my dream came true about *Sunset* magazine, I thought to myself, ‘If I can do this, what else would I like to do?’ I had always wanted a TV cooking show, so I went to the Public Access Television Studio in San Andreas and spoke with the manager, Ed Lark, and he told me I had to have a sponsor for each show. I left and immediately called on everyone I knew that could be a potential sponsor and asked them to sponsor my TV shows.”

The shows are still in production 20 years after Jenny was featured in *Sunset*, but she credits the magazine feature with allowing her to get those first sponsors and realize another dream.

“In my wildest dreams, I never thought that when I was a little girl sitting in the living room of the house I was reared in would my dream of being published in *Sunset* magazine ever come to fruition!” Jenny muses. “Once this dream was recognized, I am convinced it spurred me onto attempting to fulfill my other dreams of expanding the catering business, hosting my own TV show and writing a food column for a newspaper. Disney was right, ‘Dreams do come true!’”



Jenny Baxter’s Angels Camp kitchen has the *Sunset* article memorialized on the wall.

There are easels in space

By Patricia Harrelson

Forest Stearns dreamed he could put art in space. Though he may not have been able to articulate his dream as a child, his mother claims his passion about space began at an early age. Dianne Stearns has pictures to prove it, including a drawing of “Star Wars” aliens her son drew on a plate when he was 4, and a photo of him on a chair in a spacesuit at his 5th birthday party, addressing his friends who are similarly dressed.

While his early passion for space found outlets in costumes, friends, laser beams and Yoda voices, the drawing on the plate indicated Forest’s interest in art was simultaneously initiated. Having a mother who was a gifted artist served him well.

“I think art is a teachable, learnable skill in someone who has the desire,” his mom once told me, which seems like an appropriate comment coming from an artist who has worked with Tuolumne County students to build beautiful mosaics at Columbia and Jamestown elementary schools and taught calligraphy classes at Twain Harte Elementary. Because she is a teacher, Dianne often invited her son and his friends into her studio to make art.

Forest definitely had the desire. When he was 8, he entered a 3-D origami piece in the Mother Lode Fair and won Best of Show. When he was in high school, the City of Sonora hired Forest to draw caricatures for the annual Spring Fling. From there, Forest’s “artist journey” (his words) combined formal education and a willingness to fully explore unique opportunities.

During conversations with Forest, I’ve gathered some of the highlights of that journey, some of which I have reported before in Sierra Lodestar. For instance, he credits his mother with providing one particularly useful early steppingstone.

“I grew up going to art shows and receptions,

where I talked with adults about art,” Forest explained. “Those conversations are actually what gave me permission to explore art.”

After graduating from Sonora High School and traveling for a while, Forest went to California State University, Humboldt, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in fine art. While in Arcata, he and a group of artist friends opened a studio called Empire Squared or E2.

“We agreed that we were going to have a new show every month, and that made us fearless,” Forest said. “That intention forced us to go for it. Much of what we did was a mix of fine art and graffiti, and there was not a whole lot of technique.”

During that endeavor, Forest got an offer to illustrate a children’s book about otters, which introduced him to the world of illustration, which led him to pursue a master’s degree in illustration. That was when he began to seriously study technique. To pay for graduate school, Forest sold 200 silkscreens of the Dali Lama celebrating the practice of gratitude.

After getting his degree, Forest got an offer from Deviant Art to be a beta tester. Forest describes Deviant Art as the “largest conversation about art on the web; kind of the Facebook of art.” That assignment led to an offer to be the website’s art director, which required him to address 30 million users on their journeys toward making pieces of art successful.

Forest admits that the job at Deviant Art was more about getting art done than actually creating it. Though this was an exciting and growth-filled step on his path, he was scanning for opportunities to make art and earn a living.

Let me sidestep here to mention that Forest makes art every day. In every conversation with him, he

emphasized the need to practice.

“I draw every day in a sketchbook. It’s my middle name: Forest Practice Stearns. I figure by the time I’m 80, I’ll be a good artist.”

While with Deviant Art, Forest envisioned an opportunity when he took part in a venture capitalist retreat in the Santa Cruz Mountains called Camp Grounded. During that weekend, he heard a talk by Robbie Schlinger, president of Planet Labs, a company that makes Earth-imaging satellites. As Forest looked at Schlinger’s product, his passion for space merged with his love of art in one clear thought: “I wanted to draw on that.”

This is where Forest’s imagination and fearlessness fused in yet another conversation about art. He approached Schlinger and relayed a story about the art that was drawn on the noses of bombers during World War II. Then he leaped to his idea of putting that kind of art on Schlinger’s satellites.

“Why would someone want to put art on a satellite?”

“For the same reason that we put art on our T-shirts!” Forest answered when the question was posed in a classroom full of seventh-graders. “Art is one of the ways we celebrate what we do as humans. Get weird,” added the enthusiastic guy who proposed putting art into space.

Schlinger agreed to give the charismatic creator a chance, so Forest became the artist in residence for Planet Labs. Forest now boasts the largest art show in low-Earth orbit, with 340 images circling the planet.

However, Forest’s dream did not come to fruition overnight. Moreover, he was not done dreaming. His story about putting art on satellites has propelled him to his next dream, which is to use art to encourage people to become curious. That may seem like a more abstract, if not incon-



Courtesy photos

Forest Stearns, above, with one of the satellites that carries his art.

ceivable, dream than putting art into space, but it is a deeply practical intention.

“Everyone has to solve problems,” he said and, according to him, it takes curiosity to find solutions. He explains this beautifully in a TEDx Talk he delivered in Sonoma County in November.

Dapper in a suit, porkpie hat and red-framed glasses, Forest stands on a stage to address the audience. He describes the path he took to get his art on satellites, including the incredible challenge of determining how to put the beautiful designs he created onto the spacecraft. The problem was that he needed to find a medium that could withstand the pressures and wild temperature fluctuations of space.

The story involves consultations with numerous experts and reconsidering everything he ever learned about producing art. It’s a compelling tale told in an engaging manner by a proficient speaker. And that’s the most amazing aspect of the talk, at least for Forest, who claims to have a



The Planet Labs satellites get Forest Stearns’ immersive drawings applied before launch.



Planet Labs has more than 300 of Forest Stearns’ artworks in low-Earth orbit right now.

fear of public speaking. "I've never worked so hard to do something outside of my field," he declared. Here again, he stressed the importance of practice, practice, practice. Preparing for and producing the TEDx Talk is yet another step in the artistic journey Forest has taken, and he constantly seeks opportunities to grow. For one thing, he joined Toastmasters International to hone his public-speaking skills. And after five years at the aerospace lab, he has moved on to a position as artist in residence with Google for the purpose of putting art on quantum computers. Once again Forest's work is about creating bridges between seemingly dissimilar fields: art and science.

Talking with Forest is as mind expanding as listening to his TEDx Talk (which can be found on YouTube by searching "Tedx Talk, Forest Stearns"). Here are a couple of quotes from our recent



As early as age 5, Forest Stearns knew space figured into his artistic journey ...

encounter that illustrate how a single comment he makes can be so thought provoking. "We are a mark-making species." "Companies need to innovate. Artists do this all the time." "Art adds value to the corporate setting. It 'humanizes' the mission." "Firms with an artist in residence position arrive at

better solutions." Forest claims that when artists and scientists converse about their work, they ask one another, "Why are you doing it that way?" This kind of curiosity propels people in both fields to imagine solutions. He swears that when you get hyper-intelligent scientists into conversations with artists, they fuel each other's imaginations in profound ways.



... and he grew up to deliver a Tedx Talk on art and life late in 2018.

It's not hard to have confidence in a guy who dreamed of putting art into space and succeeded. So, people of the Mother Lode – and planet Earth – keep your sights on Forest Stearns, for this dude is sure to travel far as he dreams big.



One bad night brings out the best

Stolen guitars and pinched memories. That's what Frank Allen contemplated the Friday after Thanksgiving when he opened his Drytown Club and discovered it had been raided by thieves in the night. It could have been a sad tale, but since then, people have let Allen and company know exactly how much they appreciate the raucous "wet spot" next to Dry Creek.

The Drytown Club is one of those old Highway 49 rarities, a weathered, Western-style bar shadowed by oaks that's often flanked by Harley-Davidsons. People love how its dusty, hitching post facade captures the smoked tones of yesteryear. Visitors enjoy sitting on its porch, watching American flags drift idly in vehicle exhaust. It's come-as-you-are at this watering hole, day and night. That's what makes it unique; in every sense it's a roadside oasis, a calm, blues-soaked juke joint that's just a little out of time.

Allen has owned the venue for 15 years. Inside, it's clear he has marked it with plenty of character. A full drum kit and sound system are constantly stationed next to a crackling fireplace. Dart boards and stone faces hang on the cluttered walls. Photos of



old tractors are pinned near a saloon sign that's scrawled in barbed-wire fencing. It's an atmosphere that would make everyone from Willie Nelson to Buddy Guy comfortable strapping on an ax and shredding. It's also a place that has created a lot of fun memories for people. For Allen, that's what hurt most when he walked into the burglary scene. He found the culprits had taken \$600 worth of commemorative currency signed by customers who'd enjoyed their experiences at his club. The money had been pinned and taped to the ceiling as nostalgic decor. Some of the bills had been signed by visitors from all over the country and the world. Equally devastating, the thieves swiped four of Allen's beloved guitars.

If you want proof of what an uncommon destination the Drytown Club really is, look no further than the reaction to this particular burglary. The crime brought news crews

Continued on next page

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At the Drytown Club, bartender Alissa Mathers pours some local wine, weeks after scoundrels broke into the popular bar.

Photo by Scott Thomas Anderson



Continued from previous page

from all around the capital region to Amador County.

"I'm pretty sure every television station from Sacramento came out here," bartender Alissa Mathers said. "The 'Good Day Sacramento' show was here. It was pretty crazy."

Indeed, these were reporters based in a city that averages dozens of commercial burglaries every night, crimes that almost never make the evening broadcasts. Nevertheless, the news vans quickly rolled on this one, trekking an hour into the Gold Country to highlight the Drytown Club break-in as a major story.

Why? It's partly because Allen has been a sonic staple in the foothills for years, fronting a blistering southwestern band called the Doghouse Blues. Two years ago, he also headlined a TGIF summer concert show staged by AmadorArts at Kennedy Gold Mine Park playing guitar and dobro for the Church Street Sinners. Now, with Allen's cherry guitars gone, Aug. 4, 2017, might have seemed like the day the music died.

Far from it. Just a week after the crime, the Drytown Club celebrated its 15-year anniversary – and Allen's own birthday – with a live blues show and Texas barbecue. By mid-December, the popular Johnny Cash tribute band the Cash Prophets per-

The Drytown Club

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formed at the venue, keeping it as lively as ever.

"As you can see, the dollar bills are starting to come back," Mathers said, pointing to an array of freshly signed strips of money that customers have taped skyward or may have been sent through the mail.

"One bill came in an envelope, and the person included a note that read, 'Get my dollar back onto that ceiling!'" Mathers added with a smile.

Amador County Sheriff's detectives have actively investigated the case. Three weeks after they arrived at the scene, investigators had their first break. A woman had strolled into a Walmart in Citrus Heights and spent some \$201 worth of distinctly marked bills, probably swiped from the Drytown Club. The store's surveillance cameras captured a crystal-clear image of her pushing a cart full of merchandise out the front door, bearing a huge, guiltless smile on her face. Most of the reactions to this image in Amador County can't be repeated here in print. Sheriff's deputies are still looking for that woman.

One of Allen's friends started a GoFundMe page to help replace the missing musical equipment. Amadorians and fans of the Drytown Club from across California donated nearly \$2,000 to the campaign to get the bar's music going again. No doubt some of the out-of-towners who chipped in did so because they'd had a dose of rough, rural fun in Drytown.

When it comes to area residents, the help is even easier

to understand. For all its faults – for all the squabbling over local politics – Amador County is a place where people take care of their own. While neighbors get curt with each other at the coffeehouse or in the supervisors' chambers or on the digital rattrap of Facebook, all that seems to fade away when someone is in genuine need. Perhaps more to the point in this case, when Amadorians hear that a member of their community has been put-upon by someone from outside of the community, it brings their blood to a hard, popping boil.

The deluge of new dollar bills, and the success of the GoFundMe account, aren't just a tribute to the rhythms of life in Amador, but also to the mark that Allen, his staff and the Drytown Club have left on that same cultural mindset. Mathers said that she, Allen and the regular guitar pickers at the bar have been blown away by the response.

"It's pretty amazing how many people we heard from," Mathers said. "I think, in that sense, it ended up being bittersweet."

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Mike Taylor

Calaveras Sluice Box

With a new year come a few slower weekends in January, but you really don't get much time to recharge because this weekend has some fun in store. You can also prepare for a chili dinner that will help local song-

stress get to the Big Apple. We get to sample the best wines in the county on Saturday at the First Taste of the Year, the 33rd annual fundraiser presented by the Copperopolis Community Center. From 4 to 6:30 p.m., taste wines in engraved souvenir wineglasses from loads of area wineries with fine hors d'oeuvres to nosh, all at the Armory on Main Street, that is, O'Byrnes Ferry Road. The annual event raises money so that the community center can maintain, improve and renovate the Armory and an old church in Copperopolis.

"We are currently restoring all the windows in the historic brick church built in 1866," said Copperopolis Community Center Board of Directors President Linda Beck.

Lots of residents rub shoulders at the event, eager to sip wines and support the historic causes in town. If you ask, many residents of Copperopolis know the histories of the old church and the armory, and they are colorful pasts, to say the least.

Take a sip and prep for a trip

The armory has served as a kind of center of town for more than a century, and it's walls can speak of interesting times even as far back as during the Civil War.

Tickets to the party are \$15 in advance at the Saddle Creek Golf Resort or call Beck at 785-8587. If there are tickets available, they are \$20 at the door on Saturday. Remember that this is an over-21 event. For more, call Sigrid at 785-4358 or Marlys at 785-8720.

If you made the resolution, you can probably work off the hors d'oeuvre calories from the First Taste of the Year before Jan. 22 so that you have room for Chili Tuesday. This dinner at 5:30 p.m. at the Mokelumne Hill Town Hall on Main Street in Moke Hill is part of the push to get the Mountain Melody Women's Chorus of Calaveras County to New York City in March.

I sing Mountain Melody's praises for good reason; the group is not just a bunch of gals who sing together. No, these women converge to share when times are tough, too, and they help each other through good times and bad. One woman wrote a song after some members' homes were lost to the Butte Fire in 2015, and after the fire, rehearsals also became makeshift group sessions as the ladies shared struggles and triumphs.

"A delicious chili dinner

First Taste of the Year

WHEN: 4 to 6:30 p.m. Saturday

WHERE: Copperopolis Armory, 695 Main St. (O'Byrnes Ferry Road), Copperopolis

TICKETS: \$15 in advance at 785-8587 or \$20 at the door

MORE INFO: Sigrid at 785-4358 or Marlys at 785-8720

will be served to warm up this January night, along with cornbread, tangy coleslaw, a vegetarian chili option and dessert," says a release. "There will also be some fine items offered for a silent auction as another way for you to give back and end up with something nice for yourself or a loved one."

Fifteen members of Mountain Melody are going to perform in March at Carnegie Hall in New York City, and the chorus is busy raising money to make the trip a reality. The group was invited after director Julia Shelby submitted an audition to Distinguished Concerts International New York City in 2018.

"Mountain Melody received this invitation because of the high quality



Courtesy photos

First Taste of the Year revelers get hors d'oeuvres with their Calaveras County wines in Copperopolis on Saturday.

and high level of musician-ship demonstrated by the singers, as well as the high quality of their audition recording," said Dr. Jonathan Griffith, artistic director and principal conductor for DCINY. "It is quite an honor just to be invited to perform

in New York. These wonderful musicians not only represent a high quality of music and education, but they also become ambassadors for the entire community. This is an event of extreme pride for everybody and deserving of the community's recognition

and support." I've included Griffith's words here before because Mountain Melody truly deserves the chance to visit the legendary hall and sing in a special show with other women's groups from

Continued on next page

Chili Tuesday

WHEN: 5:30 p.m. Jan. 22

WHERE: Mokelumne Hill Town Hall, 8283 Main St., Mokelumne Hill

TICKETS: \$20 for adults and \$15 for ages 11 and under at 768-5325

MORE INFO: mountainmelody.org



The Mountain Melody Women's Chorus of Calaveras County is raising money to make a trip to New York City in March.

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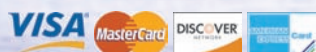
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Continued from previous page

across the country. And, I think the ladies deserve it because they have followed the old joke about Carnegie Hall. How will they get there? Practice! Lots and lots of practice.

If you've never heard the women sing tunes in glorious harmonies, maybe they'll regale the crowd with a tune or two on Jan. 22 in Moke Hill. Tickets for the dinner are \$20 for adults and \$15 for ages 11 and under at 768-5325.

If you cannot make it to Chili Tuesday, you can contribute to Mountain Melody's journey at gofundme.com/MountainMelody. If you're interested in more about the group, visit mountain-melody.org.

Many of the 15 singers slated to make the trip east have been part of Mountain Melody since it started. The membership rolls ebb and flow a bit as women's lives do the same, and after

the trip the group begins rehearsals for spring shows that are performed all over the county. Ladies interested in auditioning (after March) can also check the website.

Maybe I'm a bit spoiled, because I've gotten to listen to the ladies in Mountain Melody rehearse, and it's a groovy, easy going time. Shelby has sung in what folks in the business call "professional" choruses and she knows how to inspire the Calaveras chorus to sing brightly, clearly and beautifully. I sure hope county residents step up to assist in sending the singers to Carnegie Hall because they really will represent us with tremendous talent.

From tasting the best to supporting the best, 2019 is off to a great start.

Send word on your Calaveras County events to mtaylor@sierralodestar.com.

Finally, an artist finds her family



"I knew from a young age that I was adopted," explains Laurie Sylwester, a Tuolumne County ceramic artist, photographer and art historian. "I love my relatives and thank god I was adopted."

Nevertheless, her adoption has served as a confounding thread running through her life.

In Sylwester's adopted family there were no artists, but art has always been a compelling force in her life, which becomes clear when she relates stories about her childhood.

"In the elementary school I attended in Oakland, students spent time at different learning stations. I would throw a

tantrum when I had to move from the art station," Sylwester admits with a chuckle. "When we moved to Tuolumne County, I put all the paintings I had made in school in a bag, which was placed in the moving van. I never saw them again. It mattered to me that they went missing."

"In my new school in Twain Harte, there was no art – at least not until I was in Elizabeth Hodge's fifth-grade class. We made mosaics and I still have mine. Stained glass and mosaic continue to be big influences in my art. In seventh-grade, we took a field trip to Quyle Kilns in Murphys. I still have the piece we made there."

Holding on to art she made as a child reveals its importance to Sylwester.

"Back at home from the field trip," Sylwester continued, "I recognized the yellow clay in our backyard and began to make things with it. That was my only clay experience until high school, when I took ceramics from John Mayer. I loved art, but my parents couldn't see a future in it, so they weren't particularly supportive."

Sylwester tells an interesting story about her parents wanting her to join 4-H. Their motivation had to do with getting their bookish daughter out into the world to socialize. To break



Courtesy photos

Ceramics abound in Laurie Sylwester's home.

through the young girl's reluctance, they told her about a ceramics class that was available. At that point, she began to enter pieces in the Mother Lode Fair.

"In 1982, I won Best of Show, which allowed me to enter the state fair."

Eventually, Sylwester served as a teacher's aide for Mayer, launching the arts educator side of her career. She has taught ever since, most recently art history and ceramics at Columbia College. She received her bachelor's degree, teaching credential and a master's


degree from California State University, Stanislaus. She has also taught at Twain Harte and Summerville elementary schools and at the Sierra Conservation Center.

But Sylwester is first and foremost an artist who has shown her work across the nation.

"I chose to start at the top," claims the curly haired, vibrant woman. "I read a book by Andy Warhol, and his philosophy was to start at top. In a cheeky move, I took my work to Neiman Marcus in San Francisco, and they agreed to show it."

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Laurie Sylwester works clay in her Tuolumne County studio.

After that, Sylwester could put the top-of-the-line gallery on applications to show elsewhere.

Despite her success, Sylwester admits to an internal struggle.

"I was driven by art, but my parents didn't get it. It was hard for them to be supportive."

The other piece of the struggle was more subtle. "There was no one in my family who looked like me." This lack of resemblance to anyone else was troubling.

A piece of the puzzle fell into place when Sylwester's birth mother located her in 2005, and she met her half-sister.

"My sister and I tend to dress alike. We both are obsessed with the color pur-

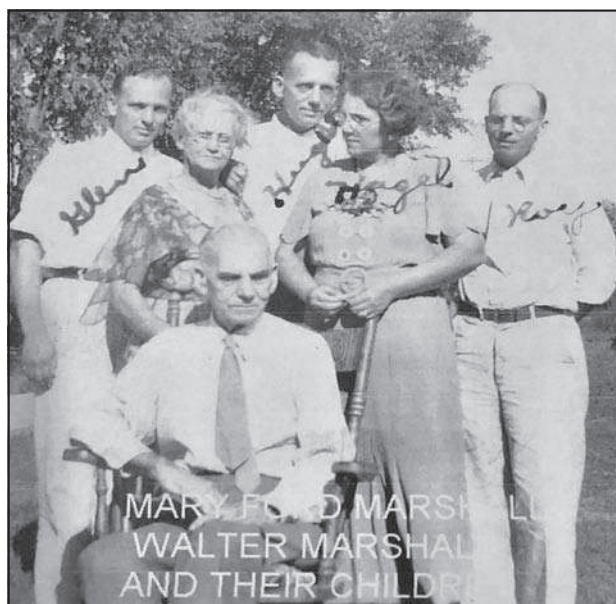
ple. We have the same carpet and duvet covers. Once I bought a garnet necklace and, on the same day, she bought garnet earrings."

Though the half-sisters were copacetic in many ways, there was little physical resemblance between them.

About six years ago, Sylwester purchased a 23andme package. The genetic testing and analysis service provides information about health, traits and ancestry.

"I wanted to do it for the health information," Sylwester explained.

Recently, regulations related to genetic testing changed to allow access to more information. That's when Sylwester discovered



An old photo showed Laurie Sylwester unfamiliar relatives.

people on her birth father's side of the family. In October, she sent an email to a woman who appeared to be her second cousin, and that's when all kinds of pieces fell into place.

Sylwester's cousin wrote back immediately and told her there were plenty of artists in her biological family. In fact, her birth father – who died a couple of years ago – was a professional painter who had a Public Broadcasting Service television show.

So there it was, the artistic connection in her ancestry. The most satisfying discovery came, however, when the cousin sent a family picture in which one of Sylwester's great aunts appears. For the first time, she saw another

human being who looked like her. Moreover, she learned that this woman was a ceramic artist.

"That's when the art piece jelled inside of me," Sylwester asserts.

Of course, art truly jelled inside of Sylwester many years before when she stood at the elementary school art station, but 23andme helped her fill in a missing piece. The desire to connect to one's ancestry can be a strong call – as strong as the call to make art.

May you make surprising discoveries and satisfy yearnings in 2019.

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Signs it is time for new windows

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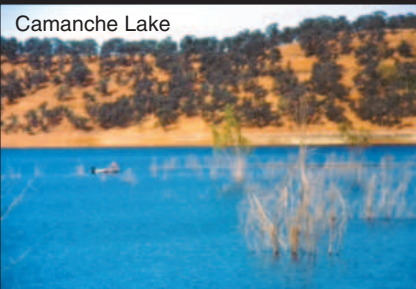
Although homeowners can typically get many years out of their homes' windows, ultimately windows will need to be replaced. Homes that are more than 20 years old and still have their original windows could be due for an upgrade. Aluminum- or wood-framed windows also may be ripe for changing. Here are some signs that it's time to replace windows, courtesy of Good Housekeeping, Centra™ and the real estate website Redfin.

- Drafty feel in the home: Window frames can begin to shrink as they age, allowing air to flow from the outdoors in and vice versa. Homeowners may notice drafts when standing near windows or hear whistling on notably windy days.
- Rising energy bills: If energy bills are inexplicably on the rise, then old windows could be to blame. Aging, drafty windows can make it necessary to run HVAC systems more often and at higher or lower temperatures in order to keep homes comfortable.
- Windows are difficult to open or close: Homeowners may get used to the quirks of their windows, but those that are difficult to open or close may require replacement. In addition, if windows need to be propped open, it's time to replace them.
- Water infiltration: Warping or decaying window frames can make it easy for rain or snow to get into the home. Wood frames are particularly prone to moisture decay. If frames are warping or allowing water into the home, it's time for an upgrade.
- Condensation on windows: Fog or condensation buildup on windows can occur if the seal between panes is broken. In this instance, replacement windows are necessary.



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4776 Pettinger Rd. • Valley Springs • \$359,000 • #1802734

Bring the horses and animals to this affordable 3 BR, 1 BA home on a level 8 acre parcel. Fenced and x-fenced w/outbuildings. The cozy home offers newer kitchen appliances, gas range and frig. Classic old fashioned claw tub in the bathroom, heat and air system + free-standing gas stove. Detached 3 car garage/shop w/studio apt.



8937 Greer Wy. • Valley Springs • \$395,000 • #1802459

Park-like setting for this 4 BR + den, 2 BA home on 2.15 acres. approx. 2060 sq. ft. with custom touches throughout, hickory floors in the downstairs master BR, w/access to a private deck. Tile floors in the kitchen and entry, small wet bar, vaulted ceiling in the living room, newer Pella windows and outdoor kitchen w/sink & 2 BBQs.



2837 Black Ok Dr. • Arnold • \$391,848 • #1802443

Spacious 3 BR, 2 BA, with 2412 SF and bonus room. Beautifully updated with a spacious open floor plan, new roof, septic and paint, quartz counters in the kitchen, updated master bath, new flooring throughout, new radiant heat, and wood stove. Walk to shopping. A great home for year around living or a vacation home.



116 Warmwood Pl. • Valley Springs • \$439,900 • #1802647

Nearly new 3 BR, 2.5 BA home with 2635 SF on a large corner lot w/RV or boat gate to the backyard. Large open floor plan, stainless appliances and granite counter in the kitchen + walk-in pantry. Separate laundry rm w/half bath, formal dining, huge office plus bonus room, deluxe master suite w/jetted tub. Fenced yard. Great price!



9131 Montero Rd. • Valley Springs • \$445,000 • #1802431

Gorgeous 3 BR, 2 BA plus bonus room w/bath, on 1.08 acres. 25x40 shop w/loft, and 25x25 carport/slab and ample parking, 30 amp hookup, above ground pool, 5 sheds and new energy efficient roof, new windows and laminate flooring. Newer appliances in kitchen, LED lighting, huge laundry rm, pantry and more.



3171 Crestview Dr. • Valley Springs • \$599,000 • #1802540

NEW 3 BR, 2 BA plus office with 3349 SF and located on a 5 acre parcel. Open floor plan. Dream master suite w/2 walk-in closets, sitting area and outside access. Master bath has jetted tub and walk-in shower. The guest rooms have built-in cabinets w/walk-in closet. Dream kitchen with designer cabinets, granite counters, large island and pantry.



6025 Thornicroft Dr. • Valley Springs • \$599,950 • #1802507

Stunning 4 BR, 3 BA with 3040 SF, 3 car garage and is located on 1.09 ac. Custom features inside and out, sounds of the Calaveras River from the back patio and picturesque scenery and vista views. Grand entry leading to a designer kitchen w/oversized island, stainless appliances, granite counters and ample storage. Formal living and dining room, plus open family rm, and incredible master suite w/2 walk-in closets.



8748/8774 Center St. • Mokelumne Hill • \$590,000 • #1801619

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7474 Ospital Rd. • Valley Springs • \$948,000 • #1802010

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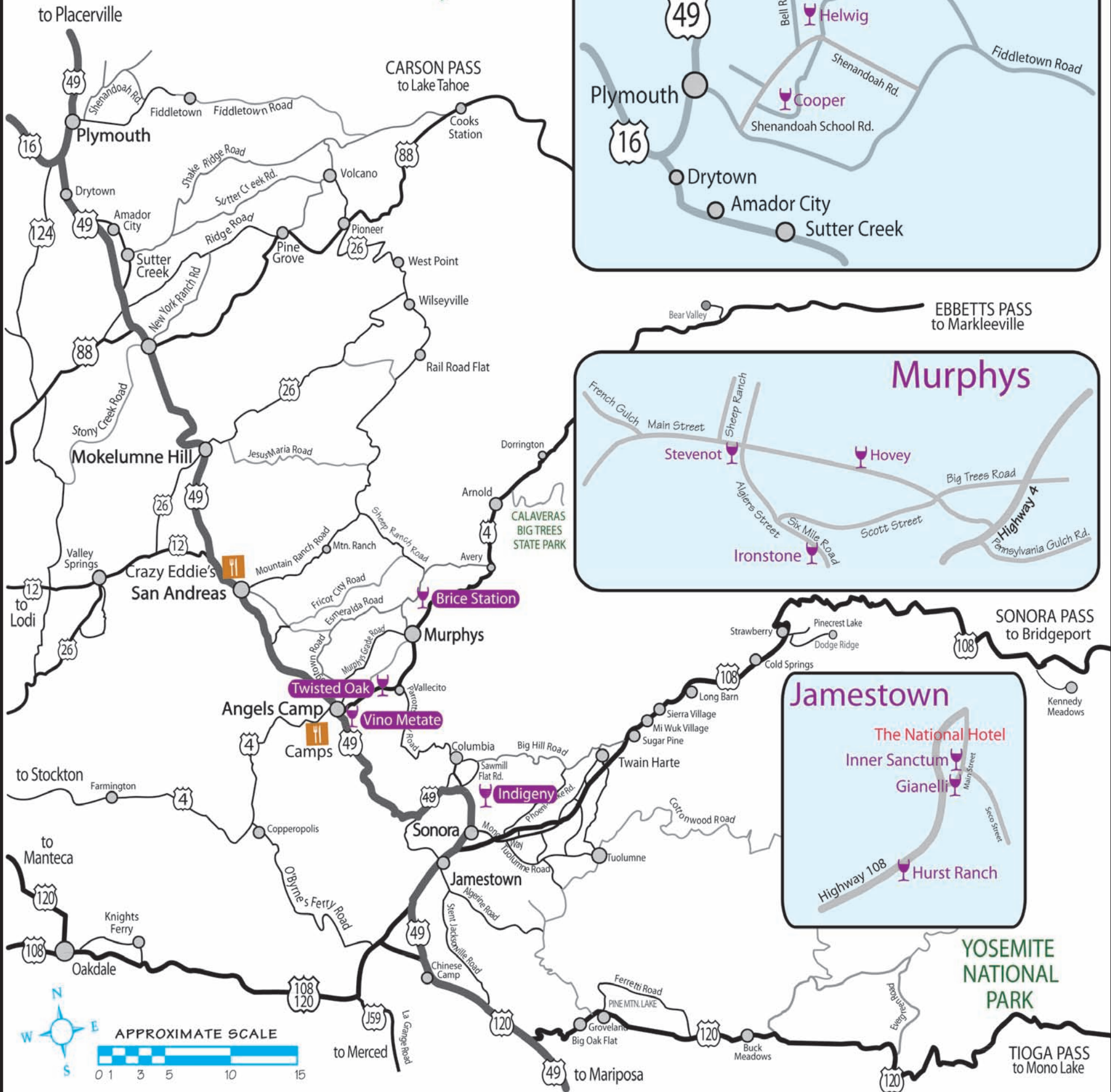


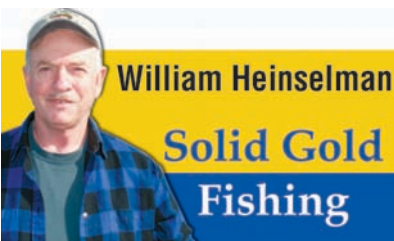
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Solid Gold Fishing

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To the delta and beyond for winter catches

we cast, fishermen and women have to switch their tactics to keep the bites coming when the seasons shift.



It's a fruitful day with a few species of fish in the cooler.

I got the chance to fish the delta in early November when I was invited to fish with co-worker Toll Chea. I met him at his house in Stockton and he drove his pickup and boat to Paradise Point, just off Eight Mile Road. After we loaded our gear as Toll warmed up the outboard motor, we slowly idled from the marina area toward the open water of the delta. It was 9 a.m. and there was already a sustained breeze at 10 mph. Our destination was the San Joaquin River channel and with so many sloughs, I was

glad Toll knew where he was going. We made a few casts along the way and within an hour we dropped anchor.

Toll told me at work that the bluegill were biting and the striper were active in the same area. We both had two rods; one had a double-hook worm setup for bluegill and our second rod was a large hook setup with a drop weight to run live bluegill as bait for striper.



Photos by William Heinselmann

Toll Chea motors through the San Joaquin River Delta in search of bluegill and striper.

The wind did not die down; instead, it became stronger and stronger as the hours ticked by. Toll's boat is 12 feet long and the strengthening winds even dragged the

craft's two anchors. Despite the wind, Toll and I did very well in catching bluegill. The striper limit on the delta is two at a minimum length of 18 inches

and the bluegill limit is 25 per angler. The striper action wasn't very good on that day, with three in the boat but only
Continued on next page

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one was a keeper at 20 inches long. After several hours, we were back at the launch with 40 bluegill and one fat striper.

My son, William, called the following week and asked me if my wife Erica and I wanted to go after some Dungeness crab at Bodega Bay. November is when the Dungeness crab season started, and it attracts thousands of anglers to California's coast through June 30. We agreed on the outing and drove to my son's house in Granite Bay the next day. We then drove with the boat in tow to Bodega Bay. William told us on the way that this would be a quick trip. We would drop the baited traps, go to lunch and take a boat ride to see the sights. William had his wife, Sang, and their three kids Billy, Bailey and Bella along, which made the trip part of some precious family time.

I had never fished for crab before. Once, 20 years ago,

I visited Bodega Bay, so this trip was very exciting for me. William purchased his 26-foot Rogue Jet boat in 2017 and it can seat up to 10 passengers, so there was room for us all. I backed the boat into the sea and we were off. The water in the bay was calm, and since William and Sang had done this before, we loaded eight traps with bait and coiled the ropes to make sure they were tangle-free as we headed about three miles offshore. There were dozens and dozens of buoys floating at the surface, marking other anglers' traps.

When it came time to drop our traps, William marked the coordinates on his fishing graph. After a lovely lunch and a grand tour of the area, the sun was getting low. The traps were only down about three hours, so we worried we might not collect much. Sang hooked each buoy and she and I wrapped the rope around an electric winch to pull the

traps to the surface. We got a dozen keeper-sized crab (Dungeness and rock crabs), so the day was a big success.

Tip of the week: Identifying crabs takes some care. Dungeness have gray-brown shells and the tips of their claws are white (they turn that red color after they are cooked). Rock crabs have red-brown shells with large, black-tipped claws. Both species are good eating. The limit on Dungeness is 10 and the shell width must measure a minimum of 5.75 inches. The limit on rock crab is 35, with a minimum back shell width of 4 inches.

On the water:

Bass anglers with good electronics have the edge during the winter months. Search for baitfish and schools of bass near the bottom at depths between 25 and 40 feet. Once you mark the fish, try small swimbaits, crawling jigs, and drop-shot rigs at a very slow pace.



A rock crab

Don Pedro, New Melones, Camanche and Amador

The trout are near the surface and close to the shoreline during the winter. Troll needlefish, Speedy Shiners, curl-tailed grubs or Kastmaster spoons. Bank anglers should try short casts from shore with PowerBaits, small Kastmasters or crappie jigs. Fish for lightning trout at the Camanche South Shore Trout Pond and at Lake Amador.



Photos by William Heinselman

Toll Chea lands a striper in the San Joaquin River Delta.

New Hogan – Find threadfin shad for the best chance of hooking a striper. Search the backs of coves and the creek arms.

Pardee – Closed for the season.

High Sierra lakes – If the weather allows, this is your absolute best chance at hook-

ing a wild trophy brown or lake trout. Try night crawlers, large Kastmasters or Krocodile spoons, shallow-diving crankbaits or broken-back Rapalas.

Contact William Heinselman at mtaylor@sierralodestar.com.

It's time for good bread

Now that the holidays have passed, we are broke and the weather is frightening; what do we do? Why, we bake, of course.

The holiday baking season is over. Our sugar intake was increased by leaps and bounds from all the cookies and other treats we prepared and ate. No one thinks to bake savory items during the holidays, and as much as I love the smell of cardamom, cinnamon and nutmeg floating around my kitchen, the aroma of fresh-baked bread can't be beaten.

We lived with my maternal grandmother for a while as my father built our house, and I remember her standing at the kitchen counter covered in flour as she kneaded bread dough. When she pulled the Arabic bread from the oven and wrapped it in a tea towel to steam, no one could get me out of that kitchen because once the towel was pulled back, I was offered the first soft hot slice of this delectable bread.

My mother, on the other hand, was not a from-scratch baker like my grandmother. She would thaw a loaf of Bridgeford frozen white bread dough and then form it into a round

loaf before she popped it



Jenny's Kitchen

Jenny Baxter



into the oven. She also liked those biscuits that come in a tube that she used to slam on the edge of the counter to open. I most proudly say that I followed in my grandmother's footsteps.

When I resided in New York, cake yeast was readily available. It had such an unexplainably pleasant aroma, and watching it turn to a cloudy goo as it dissolved in warm water fascinated me. But unlike my grandmother, I didn't have to spend 20 or 30 minutes kneading the yeast until my hands and wrists were sore. Once the flour, salt and warm water were added to the rising yeast, into my Kitchen Aide mixer everything went so the dough hook could work for me. After it was kneaded, into greased loaf pans the dough went, then they rested in a warm spot before I baked it.

Baking bread from scratch was a cinch. During my love-beads-and-headband days, the only white bread you found in my kitchen was sourdough, and even that was begun from the sourdough starter in my fridge. It was usually a whole wheat or multigrain bread that graced our

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meals, not regular white bread. When I moved to New York, I met Peter and Betty Perlow. He was my master teacher as I went through a program at Robert K. Dowling College in Suffolk County. We shared many meals together and I always loved Bev's yogurt bread. When I found out how she made it, I loved it even more. Once the ingredients are mixed, it rises in the refrigerator overnight. How simple is that? I put it together before I go to bed and then bake it in the morning. I used to bake two loaves each of cinnamon and "regular" bread on Saturday mornings; after all, I had to have a vehicle for the hotel

butter that I slathered on top of the warm, spongy slices I seemed to devour in minutes.

Refrigerator Oatmeal Wheat Bread

1½ cups each oatmeal and boiling water
1/3 cup each honey and oil
Pour the boiling water over the oatmeal in a large bowl. Mix well. Add the honey and oil and combine thoroughly.
2 tablespoons dry yeast
1 tablespoon sea salt
1 cup plain yogurt



Add the yeast, salt and yogurt to the oatmeal mixture and stir thoroughly.
¼ cup each wheat germ and sunflower seeds (the sunflower seeds may be substituted with raisins or

sesame seeds)
Add this to the above ingredients and blend together.
4 cups unbleached flour (added 2 at a time)
Fold the flour into the dough and work it in well. Place a cup of flour on a board and knead that into the dough
for 10 minutes if you don't have a mixer with a dough hook. If you do, then add the cup of flour to the bowl and let the mixer knead the dough for 10 minutes.

Place the dough in a greased bread pan and cover with a greased sheet of parchment paper and place in the refrigerator for up to 24 hours. Bake at 350 degrees for about 40 minutes without preheating the oven.
This recipe can be doubled.
Note: If you prefer, after the dough is kneaded, place it in a greased bowl and let it rise until it doubles in size. Punch the dough down and form it into a loaf and let it rise again. Bake as above.
Well, it's thyme to go.
"Jenny's Kitchen" appears on public-access television stations in Calaveras, Tuolumne and Sacramento counties.

Our oldest Zinfandel vineyard gets a birthday party



If you are a fan of the Zinfandel grape, there is an important birthday around the corner. The oldest Zinfandel vineyard in the United States soon turns 150 years old, and the venerable vines happen to be in our own backyard. The Grandpere Vineyard, nestled into the heart of Amador County's Shenandoah Valley, was planted in 1869 and continues to produce wonderful fruit. Three area winemakers currently utilize the vineyard's grapes, and the trio is also behind a special vineyard celebration, tour and tasting on Saturday and Sunday. Zinfandel grapes continue to grow in popularity and can be found in almost all California wine grape-growing regions. While the grape prefers warmer climates, it is also one of the more sensitive types when it comes to potentially wet conditions or its vines receiving a lack of sun. This brings us to the unlikely source and history of Zinfandel and its possible trek to Amador County. It appears that Zinfandel

vines made their way to the Mother Lode foothills in the late 1850s, along with a number of eastern native varieties including Catawba, Isabella and Muscadine grapes. There was already a fair amount of Mission vines planted in Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne counties at the time because vines were planted extensively along the coast for decades and the vines moved east. Zinfandel was a new variety that arrived a few years later from an East Coast nursery, and soon after, it prospered in the foothills. It is hard to imagine Zinfandel (or Zenfendel, as it was called by the New Englanders who brought it here) had its origin in the cold reaches of the Atlantic coastal region. Thought to have been imported to Long Island, N.Y., in the 1820s

from a nursery in Austria, the grape was originally called Black St. Peter. A nursery in Boston eventually grew vines indoors that were sold as table grapes. The rootstock made its way to Stockton in the 1850s, then it found its way to the foothills. It is thought that Zinfandel was probably used for raisin production back then. Researchers believe Zinfandel most likely came from Croatia, proved through DNA analysis. Amador's Grandpere Vineyard (aka Vineyard 1869) still produces sought-after fruit, but only four wineries are privileged enough to receive grapes from this storied vineyard. Three of them are in Amador County – Andis Wines, Scott Harvey Wines and Vino Noceto – and the fourth is Macchia Wines in Acampo. I happened to become aware of Zinfandel's historical importance as a home

winemaker after friends and I got grapes in the early 1980s from John Downing, the owner of the historic Amador vineyard at the time. The old vineyard, along with several others in Amador, was a popular source of

fruit for home winemakers at a time when there was a surplus of Zin grapes. We did not know what we had at the time, but the fruit made a wonderful, dark, ripe, award-winning Zin for us. If you would like to learn

more about this historic vineyard, join current winemakers for a vineyard tour and tasting. At 10 a.m. Saturday, Vino Noceto winemaker Rusty Folena leads a walk among the gnarly old vines, *Continued on next page*



Zinfandel grapes

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Courtesy photo

Taste Restaurant in Plymouth will host a special prix fix menu, featuring Zinfandel wine pairings.

Continued from previous page

or explore with Scott Harvey Wines' namesake wine-maker Scott Harvey at 10 a.m. Sunday. The vineyard is at 10861 Shenandoah Road, outside Plymouth. Reservations are limited to 24 tourists for each day; tickets are \$60 for a tour and tasting at all three wineries over the weekend, available at andiswines.com, Noceto.

com or scottharvey-wines.com. These tours will sell out, so try and reserve now.

The weekend actually starts on Friday at Taste Restaurant in Plymouth, where a special prix fix menu highlights pairings with OGP Vineyard 1869 Zinfandels from all three wineries.

From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, each winery offers current and library vintage tastings of their Grandpere Vineyard 1869 Zinfandels. Tastings cost \$40 for all three wineries, also available at the websites.

If you cannot join in on this weekend's vineyard walk or if it's already sold out, plan your own birthday wish with a visit to one of these three wineries in the Shenandoah Valley to try this historic Zin. You'll be reminded of how many decades of wine enjoyment have been generated from these gnarly old vines. Oh, the stories they could tell!

Imperfect is just that, and so be it

This time this column might better be entitled "The Imperfect Life."

I suppose anyone actively engaging in the Examined Life already knows it to be true, but this unsettling reality often rears its head around this time of year. All the glowing recollections that fill Christmas letters and cards almost always focus on the very best from the past year while leaving out those pesky occasions that remind us, over and over, of our imperfect lives. Still, many of us get trapped into thinking that our lives, our families, our homes and jobs are dull reflections of the joy so many of our correspondents seem to have shared in the past year.

Those of us who have served as family counselors in one form or another certainly understand this annual phenomenon. It often has our clients or parishoners expressing their desire to be like Ms. G or Mr. M, who

represent the perfect lives to their envious. Often, we counselors know only too well the problems in Ms. G's or Mr. M's own lives, which often have them wishing to have lives like Mrs. B, with the two children at Harvard, or the handsome man with the BMW. On and on the cycle repeats itself, while filling a minister's study or keeping many a therapist in business during the "Happy Holidays."

Thanks to the onslaught of perfect images – be they depicted on Christmas cards or every 12 minutes on TV – we subtly buy into the belief that we must emulate the falsehoods that permeate this semisacred time. A marriage goes bad or a job is lost, a child disappoints or a business goes bust, and we convince ourselves that perfection still just barely alludes us. "If only ..." we whisper and dream of others' lives who have it so good, so full of happiness and contentment, so perfect.

Surely part of what drives our economy forward is the deception that perfection is just around the corner in the house for sale or the car that we drive. A marriage quickly sours when the people involved fail to recognize the perfect person they married is as imperfect as they themselves.

How do we manage such a reality?

We start by acknowledging it. We confess the obvious aloud and to each other. There is no perfect life! We have to figure out how to live amid the imperfections

that fill our days. Such recognition is the mark of maturity, both psychological and spiritual.

What's more, it enables us to find happiness, contentment and pleasure outside of the mirage of perfection. Recognizing that we are not capable of attaining the perfect body, the perfect job or the perfect lover is to move closer and closer to true happiness and peace of mind.

Those weavers of beautiful Persian rugs, I am told, intentionally include a flaw in their intricate designs as witness to their belief that there is no earthly perfection. It is found only in the realm of Allah. Such a reminder is of great service to those of us who call gods by other names.

I recently read a lovely reflection on imperfection written by a woman, a mother, who had found herself as all of us at various times do, recognizing the imperfections that shape her life. She was walking through the woods pondering her dilemma, particularly her struggles to raise two teenaged daughters, when she came upon a deer, a three-legged deer to be exact. It was mindfully munching the grass while next to it were two very young fawns. The woman stood transfixed watching this beautiful but imperfect beast with her babies. And as she watched, she recognized the deer as a guide for her spiritual journey.

She wrote:



"(My teacher Thich Nhat Hahn) tells us that 'People who are awake see the manifestation of the Dharma in everything. A pebble, a bamboo tree, the cry of a baby, anything can be the voice of the Dharma calling.' But for me, it is the most unlikely of mothers: a three-legged doe. She has taught me to love myself unconditionally, and to accept my weaknesses as strengths. After all, if she can do it, so can I." (Heather Panahi, thichnhatanhfoundation.org, May 17, 2017)

Earlier today, my morning bike ride was concluding and my pedaling became less intense, my aerobic needs well attended. I was cruising home through the neighborhood, taking my time, enjoying the experience of another good workout. I noticed a young boy, no more than 2 or 3, being lifted out of an SUV. His mom placed him down in the grass and he looked around, stretched out his little arms and opened wide his eyes, his mouth agape. He was staring in wonder at all that is. He turned in a little dance with those arms still spread and took it all in. He was transfixed by joy. Looking out from the perspective of a 3 year old, I began to see what he saw; it was the wonder and beauty found in our imperfect world. It was perfect.

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AmadorArts offers poetry workshops

Weekly Poetry Out Loud (POL) workshops for student competitors are offered by AmadorArts on Tuesdays from 4 to 6 p.m. through Feb. 26 at the new AmadorArts Center in Jackson.

The free sessions will be led by local, professional literary and performance artists and teachers who coach high schoolers on how to



make their POL presentations the best they can be.

Poetry Out Loud is an opportunity for high school students to learn great poetry, perform it and win prizes. POL is a free program in

which students learn through poetry memorization and recitation. It helps students master

Continued on next page

Calaveras County goes to poets in January

The Calaveras County Arts Council is presenting its first ever poetry month. January has been given over to the spoken and written words, with locally written poetry on display at the Gallery Store on Main Street in San Andreas and a poetry slam event on Jan. 16 from 4 to 6 p.m.

Arts council leaders want to paper the gallery with original poetry written by local bards, and they invite wordsmiths to bring in their poetry to hang on the walls. There will also be a poetry wall where guests can write poetry in real time using chalk, pen, pencil or crayon. Those who cannot make it to the gallery can email their poetry to ccacinbox@gmail.com, and gallery staff will print it out and put it up.

No frames are necessary (this is strictly an ephemeral show) and there is no theme to the inaugural event.



Poetry Slam

WHEN: 4 to 6 p.m.
Jan. 16

WHERE: Gallery Store, 22 Main St., San Andreas

COST: Free

MORE INFO: calaverasarts.org or 754-1774

The arts council asks that poets be respectful of others; hateful, racist or pornographic themes are not allowed.

The poetry slam celebrates spoken-word poetry. "Each participant will have up to 3 minutes to recite their original poem," says a release, "and everyone is invited to be an audience member; snap or applaud, whichever you prefer."

Guests don't have to imbibe poetry on empty stomachs because snacks are served.

The poetry slam is being held in support of the Poetry Out Loud competition scheduled

for 6 p.m. Jan. 30 at the Performing Arts Center at Calaveras High School in San Andreas. Students from Bret Harte and Calaveras high schools compete for a chance to go to the state competition in Sacramento.

Call 754-0127 or email ccacinbox@gmail.com for more information.

Abstract paintings overtake Sutter Creek Gallery

Abstract artist Curtis Stromme is January's artist at the Sutter Creek Gallery.

Stromme has an unusual way of affixing acrylic paint to the surfaces he paints. He does so without brushes. Instead, he uses blocks of wood to apply the paint. How he makes the circles that appear in his pieces by hand is anybody's guess.

Stromme also does not title his creations; he prefers to allow viewers to provide their own interpretations and connections to the artworks. He surrounds his paintings with simple chrome frames so as not to detract from the art, which makes them seem to extend beyond their boundaries.

Despite occasional excursions into representational art (inspired by numerous trips



A teal and red abstract painting by Curtis Stromme



This is one of Curtis Stromme's trading cards.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

public speaking skills, build self-confidence and better understand literary history and contemporary life.

Winners advance to schoolwide competitions and an Amador County competition on Feb. 4, then to one at the state level on March 10 and 11. If a student becomes the California State Champion, he or she advances to the National Finals in Washington, D.C.

The AmadorArts POL workshops are staged at the AmadorArts Center, 617 S. Highway 49, Jackson, in the Mother Lode Plaza. Situated in the back left corner next to the banquet room of the Highway House, the site is handicapped accessible. Refreshments will be provided.

The workshops are free, but reserve at 256-8166 or amadorarts@gmail.com.

Finding GOLD in Angels Camp



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Jan 12 – Living History Day, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Angels Camp Museum, 753 S. Main St., Angles Camp, history comes alive as docents staff the Artisan's Exhibits in the Mining and Ranching building; \$7 for adults, \$3 for children, angelscamp.gov/museum, 736-2963.

Jan. 12-13 - The Buck Stop gun show, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Calaveras County Fairgrounds, 2465 Gun Club Road, Angels Camp, hosted by Buck Stop Gun Shows. All federal, state and local firearm ordinances and laws must be obeyed; \$10, children under 12 free, free parking, 530-306-6011, tsbuck@ymail.com.

Jan 13 – Artist reception, 2 to 4 p.m., Manzanita Arts Emporium, 1211 Main St., Angels Camp, January Artist of the Month Twyla Olsen's abstracts, landscapes, and nature scenes in acrylic, mixed media and watercolor; free, 728-6171.

Jan. 15 – Salsa Tuesday, 7:30 to 10 p.m., Cascabel Restaurant, 1252 S Main St, Angels Camp, come for a Salsa dance lesson, followed by social dancing; free to attend.

Jan. 21 – Daytime Writers Unlimited, 9 to 11:30 a.m., Manzanita Arts Emporium, 1211 S. Main St., Angels Camp, writers gather to share work with other writers; free, 728-6171.

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to Portugal), Stromme realized quite early that creating acrylic abstract paintings was what brought him pleasure. Utilizing paper rather than canvas, he applies acrylic paint with blocks to create vivid compositions. He starts with a background color, then applies additional paints that skid across the surface and sometimes collide with those colors that were applied earlier. The layers create a textural surface, while metallic swirls, circles and lines add vivacity.



A purple abstract

Stromme says that "Knowing when to stop is the most difficult part of painting." He also produces what he calls art trading cards. These 2.5-by-3.5-inch abstracts are painted on mat boards. Some of these cards come mounted on paper and can be framed for display.

Guests can visit the Sutter Creek Gallery, 35 Main St., Sutter Creek, in January to view and purchase Stromme's pieces. The gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays through Mondays. For more, visit suttercreekgallery.com or call 267-0228.



An abstract with circles

Help others save their best for later

The University of California Cooperative Extension Master Food Preserver Program is looking for those who appreciate canning, freezing, dehydrating and even pickling foods to become Master Food Preservers. A volunteer training program begins on March 1.

"While experience with canning and drying food is a bonus, it isn't required," said Coordinator Sue Mosbacher,

Candidates for the program should enjoy working with people, have experiences with or like to do volunteer work and enjoy teaching people one-on-one or in group settings. Master Food Preservers enjoy volunteering and sharing what they know about saving fresh foods for later.

Master Food Preservers have all sorts of volunteer opportunities throughout the year. They teach classes and staff booths at county fairs and home and garden shows, and some write articles and newsletters. All Master Food Preservers stay current on the most recent food safety research.

The University of California Master Food Preserver Program shares research-based information about home food safety and preservation with the public. The program is a public service and outreach program operated under the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, administered locally by participating UC Cooperative Extension offices.

Those interested in becoming a Master Food Preserver may attend one of the following sessions to learn all about the program, its requirements and rewards. A meeting is at 12 p.m. Jan. 17, at the Angels Camp Business Association Board Room, 300 S. Main St., Angels Camp; at 3:30 p.m. Feb. 1, at the Calaveras Senior Center, 956 Mountain Ranch



Road, San Andreas; and 12 p.m. Feb. 4, at the Foothill Fire Protection District firehouse, 3255 Helisma Road, Burson. To reserve a space at any of the sessions, visit ucanr.edu/mfp-infomtgrsvp or call 530-621-5528.

There is an application and interview process conducted for would-be volunteers. Those accepted also need to be fingerprinted as part of a Department of Justice background check.

Training classes begin on March 1 and continue on Fridays through June 21.

For more on the program, visit ucanr.edu/mfpcs.

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Calaveras Office
(209)754-3498

Tickets available at the following locations: Angels Food Market and CVS in Angels Camp; MarVal in Valley Springs; Treats and the Senior Center in San Andreas; Ace in West Point; Murphys Fire Dept. in Murphys; Payless Market in Copperopolis; American Legion Ambulance office at 310 Russells Rd. in San Andreas.

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Happenings

Wednesday, Jan. 9

Calaveras County Garden Club

10 a.m., Rocca Bella Olive Plant, 5476 Highway 12, Wallace, the club hears from Terry Boudouin, who presents "The History of Olives"; lunch is \$20 at 890-0323; calaverascountygardenclub.org.

Thursday, Jan. 10

John McCutcheon show

7 p.m., Mokelumne Hill Town Hall, 8283 Main St., Mokelumne Hill, the Foothill Conservancy fundraiser features the folksinger who also fetes the release of his new album "To Everyone in all the World: A Celebration of Pete Seeger"; tickets are \$32.04 for adults and \$16.52 for children in advance at brownpapertickets.com/event/3913842 or \$35 and \$20 at the door; visit foothillconservancy.org for more.

Friday, Jan. 11

"Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" showing

Doors at 6 p.m., movie at 7 p.m., Sonora Opera Hall, 250 Washington St., Sonora, the Sonora Chamber of Commerce and Second Saturday present Friday Flix and show the classic film with a costume contest at 6:30 p.m. and prizes, goody bags, free popcorn and a no-host bar; tickets are \$5 at the door; 2ndsaturdayartnight.org.

Saturday, Jan. 12

Veterans' Services Open House

10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Jenny Lind Veterans Memorial District Hall, 1300 Daphne St., Valley Springs, the new location of the Calaveras County Veterans' Services office is open to show what information and services are available; free, 754-6910.

Studio 49 Fiber Arts Group

10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuolumne County Library, 480 Greenley Road, Sonora, all aspects of spinning, weaving, knitting, crocheting and other fiber arts are discussed; free, visitors are welcome, mlwsguild.org or 533-0593.

First Taste of the Year

4 to 6:30 p.m., Copperopolis Armory, 695 Main St. (O'Byrnes

Ferry Road), Copperopolis, the Copperopolis Community Center hosts its 33rd annual wine tasting fundraiser with souvenir wineglasses and hors d'oeuvres to support the restoration and maintenance of the historic brick church and Armory; tickets are \$15 in advance at the Saddle Creek Golf Resort or call Linda Beck at 785-8587, or \$20 at the door; call Sigrid at 785-4358 or Marlys at 785-8720 for more.

Music City Legends

8 p.m., Sutter Creek Theatre, 44 Main St., Sutter Creek, a four-part journey through "classics" (like Jimi Hendrix, classic blues and Elvis) is performed by Red Rooster, Rudy & the King, JIMI and the Unauthorized Rolling Stones; tickets are \$25 in advance at suttercreektheatre.com or \$29 on show day; call 916-425-0077 for more.

Sunday, Jan. 13

Jake Gill show

3 p.m., Bret Harte Theater, 323 Main St. (Highway 49), Angels Camp, the modern red dirt-style country music singer blends classic country and rock and roll into his show as part of the Ovations Performing Arts Series presented by the Calaveras County Arts Council; tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for students at calaverasarts.org or call 754-1774.

Tuesday, Jan. 15

Arnold SIRs meeting

11 a.m., Snowflake Lodge, 335 Blue Lake Springs Drive, Arnold, the group hears from Ebbetts Pass Fire Protection District Chief Mike Johnson, who discusses the Advanced Life Support Program Sustainability measure set for a May 7 mail-in ballot; lunch is \$18 by calling Kevin Andel at 795-9119.

Amador Fly Fishers

6:30 to 8 p.m., 810 Court St., Jackson, guest speaker Mike Costello discusses his 30 years of fly-fishing experience and his books; free, amadorflyfishers.org.

January

16 - Poetry Slam, 4 to 6 p.m., Gallery Store, 22 Main St., San Andreas, the Calaveras County Arts Council celebrates poetry with open mic time, and welcomes poets to exhibit their works; free, calaverasarts.org or 754-1774.

17 - Gala and Silent Auction,

Gala

4 to 6 p.m., Twain Harte Golf Course clubhouse, 22909 Meadow Drive, Twain Harte, the High Country Friends of the Library stages its annual gala with hors d'oeuvres and wine served as guests bid on a large number of items in an auction and peruse garage sale items as Glenn Morgan plays the hammered dulcimer; tickets are \$15 at the door; call Marilyn Wachner at 586-9471 for more.

18 - Daniel Kushnir show, 5 to 8 p.m., Twisted Oak Tasting Room, 363 Main St., Murphys, the guitarist performs; free, 559-6907.

18 and 19 - Garage Sale, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Twain Harte Golf Course clubhouse, 22909 Meadow Drive, Twain Harte, the High Country Friends of the Library stages its annual sale in which shoppers decide the fair prices they pay for myriad items to support library programs; free to attend; call Marilyn Wachner at 586-9471 for more.

19 - "Bare Dirt to Garden Oasis" class, 9 a.m., Amador County GSA Building, 12200-B Airport Road, Martell, the Amador County Master Gardeners provide resources and ideas to help bring the landscape to life, suggesting plants, materials and methods to help the yard look great, including water-wise gardening tips and much more; free, ucanr.edu/mgamador or 223-6838.

19 - Open Telling, 4 to 6 p.m., Sonora Joe's Coffee Shoppe, 140 S. Washington St., Sonora, the Mother Lode Storytelling Guild welcomes everyone to share a three-to seven-minute story with the group; free, sierranevadastorytelling.org.

19 - Crab Feed, doors at 4:30 p.m., dinner at 5:30 p.m., Tuolumne Memorial Hall, 19375 Fir Ave., Tuolumne, Soroptimist International of Twain Harte stages an all-you-can-eat crab feed with clam chowder, cheesy pasta, Caesar salad, rolls and dessert with drawings to support its programs for women; tickets are \$50 at twainhartesoroptimist.org or 928-1616.

19 - Crab Feed, doors at 5 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m., San Andreas Town Hall, 24 Church Hill Road, San Andreas, the Friends of the Calaveras Sheriff's Office serves crab with live and silent auctions and drawings to support the Sheriff's Office; tickets

are \$45 at focso.org, 728-5018 or 598-1467.

19 - Sourdough Slim and Robert Armstrong show, 8 p.m., Sutter Creek Theatre, 44 Main St., Sutter Creek, the accordionist who's also a bona fide cowboy yodeler and his saw- and stringed-instrument-playing compatriot bring humor and music together playing country blues, vintage jazz, cowboy classics and more; tickets are \$20 in advance at suttercreektheatre.com or \$23 on show day; call 916-425-0077 for more.

19 and 20 - Polystyrene Collection, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, on Microtronics Way next to the Waste Management Recycling site in Sonora, the Tuolumne County Master Gardeners collects No. 6 polystyrene so it doesn't crowd landfills; free, 533-5912.

20 - Tu B'Shvat Seder, 11 a.m., Copperopolis area home, the Mother Lode Jewish Community celebrates the "New Year of the Trees" with a potluck lunch of local fruits and vegetables and a tree planting; free, motherlodejewishcommunity.org or 533-1650.

22 - Chili Tuesday, 5:30 p.m., Mokelumne Hill Town Hall, 8283 Main St., Mokelumne Hill, the Mountain Melody Women's Chorus of Calaveras County fundraiser features a chili dinner with all the fixin's (vegetarian version available) to help the ladies get to New York City for a



Jake Gill Sunday

performance in March; tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for ages 11 and under at 768-5325 or at the door; visit mountainmelody.org.

24 - Martin Sexton with Chris Trapper show, 8 p.m., Sutter Creek Theatre, 44 Main St., Sutter Creek, the singer, songwriter and producer who plays pop, jams, classic rock, jazz and much more performs with the singer and songwriter The New York Times said is "... pure pop perfection"; tickets are \$30 in advance at suttercreektheatre.com or \$35 on show day; call 916-425-0077 for more.

26 - Tom Rigney and Flambeau show, 8 p.m., Sutter Creek

Theatre, 44 Main St., Sutter Creek, the fiddler, singer and songwriter plays fiery Cajun and New Orleans grooves blended with boogie woogie, blues and even ballads and waltzes with his band; tickets are \$24 in advance at suttercreektheatre.com or \$28 on show day; call 916-425-0077 for more.

27 - Open Telling, 4 to 6 p.m., Manzanita Arts Emporium, 1211 S. Main St. (Highway 49), Angels Camp, the Mother Lode Storytelling Guild welcomes everyone to share a three-to seven-minute story with the group; free, sierranevadastorytelling.org.



Sourdough Slim and Robert Armstrong Jan. 19

CLASSIFICATIONS

PERSONALS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- NOTICES
- EVENTS
- PERSONALS
- HEALTH/BEAUTY
- CHILD CARE
- SERVICES
- INSTRUCTION/SCHOOLS
- LOST & FOUND

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- CLASSICS
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- HELP WANTED
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- ANTIQUES/ COLLECTIBLES
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- LIVESTOCK
- FARM & RANCH EQUIP.
- MISC. WANTED

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- WANTED TO RENT
- RENTAL TO SHARE
- COMMERCIAL RENTALS
- HALL RENTALS

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- OPEN HOUSES
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under the Supervision of the Maintenance Manager/Maintenance Supervisor performs semi-skilled landscaping and maintenance work on CSD owned/controlled property. \$15.47/hr starting pay. Medical, sick and vacation pay. Job announcement and full job description located at www.saddlecreek.org To apply please send resume or letter of interest to the reply to sccsdclerk@caltel.net EOE. Job Type: Full-time Salary: \$15.47 to \$18.66 /hour

help wanted

application and complete job description To apply: Please submit an application, resume and three references by Jan 8th to: City of Sutter Creek/Human Resources Attn: Karen Darrow 18 Main Street Sutter Creek, CA 95685



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volunteers needed

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Do you like cats? Have a little extra time?

The Animal Shelter in San Andreas needs cat care volunteers! Interested? Want more information?

Contact Calaveras Humane Society www.calaverashumane.org or call 736-9417 and leave your contact information and you will receive a call.

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volunteers needed

help wanted

help wanted



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Mother Lode Food & Lodging Directory



AMADOR COUNTY

Jackson

Bonanza Dogs	535 S. Hwy. 49, #3	257-9965
Bistro Bella Cucina & Catering	250 French Bar Rd.	bellacucina3@gmail.com/223-2213
Dickey's Barbecue Pit	12240 Industry Blvd	223-2748
Mel and Faye's Diner	31 N Hwy 49	223-0853
National Hotel Jackson	2 Water St.	223-0500
Oko Sushi	12280 Industry Blvd Suite 84	223-4088
Rosebuds Cafe	26 Main St.	257-0227
Stanley's Steakhouse	2 Water St.	223-0500

Martell

Panda House	12300 Martell Rd.	223-3474
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Ione

Clark's Corner	12 W. Main St.	clarkscornersm@gmail.com/274-2233
Ione Public House	22 E. Main St.	theionepublichouse@gmail.com/332-0770

Sutter Creek

Featured

Hotel Sutter	53 Main Street	hotelsutter.com/267-0242
Foxes Inn of Sutter Creek	77 Main St	267-5882
Gold Dust Pizza	20 Eureka St.	267-1900

Plymouth

Shenandoah Inn	17674 Village Dr.	245-4491
Taste Restaurant	9402 Main St.	245-3463

Pine Grove

88 Giant Burgers To-Go	19845 Hwy 88	296-7277
Munnerlyn's Ice Creamery	20145 HWY 88	296-4400
Sierra Mountain Restaurant	20153 HWY 88	www.facebook.com/SMREatery/296-7671

Volcano

St George Hotel	16104 Main St.	296-4458
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Drytown

Old Well Motel and Grill	15947 State Hwy 49	245-6467
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Amador City

The Imperial Hotel	14202 Old Hwy 49	267-9172
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CALAVERAS COUNTY

San Andreas

Pickle Patch	577 W. St. Charles St.	754-1978
El Mezcal Mexican Restaurant	126 W. St. Charles St.	754-9771

Angels Camp

CAMPS Restaurant at Greenhorn Creek	676 McCauley Ranch Rd.	campstreastaurant.com / 736-8181
Angels Mexican Kitchen	206 N. Main St.	813-7250
Mikes Pizza	294 S. Main St.	736-9246
Travelodge	600 N Main St	centralsierralodging.com / 888-753-0226
Cascabel	1252 S. Main St.	890-7336
Far East Chinese Restaurant	51 N. Main St.	736-6718

Valley Springs

10th Green Inn	14 Saint Andrews Rd.	772-1084
145 Club	28 California St.	772-7145
Fusion Grill	1906 Vista Del Lago Dr	772-1182
Thai House	200 California 12 E3	772-8549

Copperopolis

Copper Grill at Saddle Creek	1001 Saddle Creek Dr	785-7400
Griffs BBQ & Grill	304 Town Square Rd	griffsbbqgrill.com / 785-4745
Roasters Coffee Corner	240 Town Square Rd 8A	785-5282

Arnold

Featured

Sequoia Woods Country Club 1000 Cypress Point Dr. sequoiawoods.com/795-1000

Bear's Lair Inn	830 Hwy 4	795-1882
Big Trees Market	Meadowmont SC	bigtreesmarket.com / 795-3868
Bristols Restaurant	961 Hwy. 4	795-2091
Black Bear Inn	1343 Oak Circle	arnoldblackbearinn.com / 795-8999
Dogwood	1224 Oak Ct.	813-7101
El Vaquero Restaurant	925 Hwy 4	795-3303
Giant Burger	846 Hwy 4	giantburger.net / 795-1594
Heart of Arnold	1225 Oak Cr.	813-7069
JJ's Dive Bar & Grill	1051 Hwy 4	795-1950
Snowshoe Brewery	2050 Hwy 4	snowshoebrewery.com / 795-2272
Susie's Diner	1308 Oak Ct.	795-5156

Murphys

Featured

Gabby's Cuisine 260 Jones St. 813-7043

Doke Sushi	403 Main St.	890-3963
El Jardin	484 Hwy 4	728-8300
Firewood	420 Main Street.	firewoodeats.com / 728-3248
Grounds	402 Main St.	groundsrestaurant.com / 728-8663
Murphys Hotel	457 Main St.	murphyshotel.com / 728-3444
Murphys Inn	76 Main Street (at Hwy 4)	centralsierralodging.com / 888-796-1800
Murphys Suites	134 Highway 4	centralsierralodging.com / 877-728-2121
Rob's Place	140 Main St.	robplacereastaurant.com / 813-7003
The Lucky Penny	75 Big Trees Rd.	theluckypenny.pub / 890-3122
V Restaurant, Bar & Bistro	402 Main St.	vrestaurantandbar-murphys.com / 728-0107

Mokelumne Hill

Whitewater Grill & Saloon at The Hotel Leger	8304 Main St.	hotelleger.com / 286-1401
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TUOLUMNE COUNTY

Sonora

Emberz Wood Fired Foodz	177 S Washington St.	532-2272
Nature's Whole Food Depot	19073 Standard Rd.	532-8878
The Gunn House Hotel	286 S. Washington St.	gunnhousehotel.com / 533-2310

Twain Harte

Twain Harte Market	18711 Tiffeni Dr.	twainhartemarket.com / 586-6100
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Jamestown

1859 Historic National Hotel	18183 Main St.	national-hotel.com / 984-3446
Willow Steakhouse	18275 Main St.	willowsteakjamestown.com / 984-3998

Columbia

Brown's Coffee House	22760 Main St.	brownscoffeehousesaloon.com / 532-1850
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