

Weed Community Association at Work



This sign, announcing Weed events, is the result of the efforts of the members of the Weed Community Association to locate, purchase, and install it. Thanks to all of you, but a special thanks to Jeff Winkel, Francis Newell, and Tom Ward!

Fire Department Finally Gets "New" Rescue Truck

- Elaine Wright

After several years of trying, and the efforts of many volunteers in the Sacramento Weed VFD, we finally have a "new" rescue truck in the station at Sacramento. It's about 10 years old, but low mileage and much larger and more comfortable for driver, EMT's and patients alike. It's a 4WD diesel, and a roomy box-style truck rather than the small van we used to have. If you were at the Weed Bluegrass festival last month, you probably saw our volunteers proudly showing it off.

There is also a new patient cot, or gurney, in the back as well. It is a modern Stryker cot, identical to the cots carried by the ambulance services in Cloudcroft, Alamogordo, Artesia and other surrounding communities. This was quite an investment for our department, but it was considered worthwhile in order to increase patient comfort and safety. Now, when we must transfer a patient from our rescue vehicle to an ambulance service with higher level medics on board, we can do so simply by exchanging cots, patient and all. We no longer have to move the patient from bed to bed in order to make the transfer. It also moves more easily in and out of the truck, making injury to the volunteers much less likely.

Firefighters and EMT's spent time getting to know the new truck and cot at their last couple of meetings and it turned out to have been a good thing they did. As of press time there have been four EMS calls in July since the new truck hit the road, two of which involved evacuation of the patients by helicopter. The new truck performed beautifully, and that new gurney made moving the patients across the field from the truck to the chopper easier, safer, and more comfortable for patients and responders alike. It is a relief to all to have a reliable rescue truck in our community.

By the way, don't forget that there is an EMT-Basic course taking place here in the mountains this fall. It's a great opportunity because it is rare that these courses are offered in the mountains. There is still room in the course; so if you want to know more about it or want to put your name on the list, give our EMS director, Russ Wright, a call at 687-3073 or an email at rewright@pvt.net.

Sac/Weed VFD News

- Elaine Wright

Your volunteers responded to two fires during June. Both were handled in short order. Hats off to those folks who are ready and willing to drop what they are doing and investigate, then take care of, emergencies in our community. Many of our neighbors have scanners, and that's a pretty good way to keep up on what's going on in these emergencies. But you should know that you hardly ever get the whole story just by listening to the scanner. If you really want to know what happened, who took care of it, and how things went down, the best way is to join up, volunteer, and then show up. You'll receive some good, useful training, and state-of-the art equipment. And by the way, if you hear one of your neighbors making fun of the volunteers, or criticizing what they do, please take a moment to politely invite them to join the fire department -- and truly make a difference in our community. Our next meeting is August 7 at 7 p.m., in the Weed VFD.

Another Successful Bluegrass Festival

Many, many thanks to everyone who helped make the Bluegrass Festival a huge success. A special thanks to Francis Newell who literally made the festival his life's work from beginning to end. The bands were great, food delicious, volunteers terrific, and attendance fantastic! Another Weed community success!

Water Matters

- Steve Cook

The South Sacramento Water Group will meet August 9, 6 p.m., at the Mayhill Community Center. Presentations will be given by David Chace on Sandia Laboratories Hydrological Studies To Date on the Salt Basin, and Geoff Rawlings, N.M. Technological University Findings To Date, The Sacramento Mountain Hydro-geological Project.

Update on the Dumpster and Compactor

Hooray! The dumpsters are coming, the dumpsters are coming. Actually, they're already here. For the time being, we will receive a new dumpster on Monday and Friday. This should alleviate the overstuffed dumpsters. The next time you see Bill Lee Parker tell him thanks. Apparently, Bill Lee was able to convince the powers-that-be that we needed more service in Weed. Thanks Bill Lee! Repairs of the compactor are underway. Apparently the motor is broken. Not sure if the motor had a problem or if some non-household material was put in the compactor, would not compact, and overloaded the system. Remember, the compactor is for materials that can be compacted. Items such as construction debris or rolls of barbed wire are not candidates for the compactor. Household trash only.

- Jeff Winkel

A BIG THANK YOU to Jeff for taking on the challenge of the dumpster and compactor and to other residents who took the time to call the County about the "trashy" situation. It's nice to know there are people in the area who truly care about our neighbors and our beautiful mountains.

- Ed.

Total Lunar Eclipse - Tom Smith

Hi all, I want to share the news of a total Lunar eclipse that is going to take place on the early morning of August 28 at about 4:30 a.m. local time. If the weather cooperates this should be a very nice sight, so get up early and enjoy it!

Anniversaries, Birthdays, Comings & Goings, Get Well Wishes, Etc.

Happy Anniversary to:

...Carl & Deloris Whinery, 8/3
...Jim & Claudine Walls, 8/11 (57 years)
...Lee & Janie Hudman, 8/16 (51 years)
...Robin & Cindy Bagwell: Kirk & Roberta Hall, 8/20

Happy Birthday to:

Lorraine Gardner, 8/2
Kim Comino: Cory McClain: David Williams, 8/4
Edith Posey, 8/5
Mike Schuhen, 8/8
Michelle Buttram: John Yates, 8/10
Rae Samford, 7/11
Jaired Ham: Mary Murillo, 8/15
Chris Davis, 8/16
Erica Lavin, 8/17
Jimmy Goss: Jessica Coder, 8/18
Pat Scott, 8/21 (80 years young)
Pam Ward: Lynnet Post, 8/22
Cindy Samford, 8/25
Glenna Freeland: Sandra Stringer: Tanya Maberry, 8/27
Michael Hull, 8/28
David Lane, 8/29
Lillian Sturgis: Jena Johnston, 8/31

Comings & Goings:

...Barb & Dub Schuessler were treated with a visit from Barb's son, Jeff, and his wife and daughter, Marty and Christina.
...Tom & Patsy Ward enjoyed a week-long visit from their granddaughter, Taylor Robbins. Taylor had fun working at the Weed Café while here.
...Ken and Dee Hester plan to be here for at least a month. We're so happy to have you back with us.

Get Well Wishes & Prayers to:

...Obie Manning
...Pat Scott
...Pat Hammett
...Ira Murray
...Noel & Shirley Akers
...Sam Henderson

Welcome to:

...Steve & Pamela Morrill, new Directors of the Camp of the Tall Pines.
...Michael, Melanie & Lakota Burris. The Burris family has started a Cowboy Church in Hay Canyon and invites everyone to attend. Michael is the son of Julie Burris.
...Edward & Christina Jewett from Tucson, AZ who bought Dub & Barb Schuessler's house.

Piñon News - Margaret Merritt

Late June brought showers of rain and visitors to Piñon. Oldtimers heard about our grass cover from holdover of 2006 Fall rains. Came to relieve their eyes from years of no-grass drought. Rate of stocking is drastically down since short Fall grass has meant heavy cutting of keeper animals for several years. General pattern is to keep the best/sell the rest. Short numbers to ship/sell. Best grass in New Mexico since 1880s, oldtimers say.

Cow/calf working was handled this year by Mike Joy and various Merritt family members. This week's crew was Mike and Jim & Jane Murray

of Diamond, MO. Jane was raised in Piñon, but Jim is amazed at how stock work happens here. "How do you know where they are?" is different from stock farming where a comparable herd is easily visible from the breakfast table.

Raccoons are around Piñon this year. One encountered David Monson at the Post Office. David prevailed. Sleep time at the Merritt's is interrupted by raccoon discussions over cat food and pecan trees. Got away in the dark.

Jim set a live trap for coons on the door step. So far, no coons but released two cats and almost had to release the inquisitive 20-month-old grandson. Nearly got in! Warm weather brought out the wading pool which made warm cement steps inviting climbing up to trap area.

Some spraying for cedar bush infestation in the area is still producing areas of paper clutter since tissue makes an excellent marker of sprayed areas. Visible but dissipates quickly in the wind and rain.

Bentonville, AR is a long way from a Piñon ranch. The Burns were visiting grandma of Murray, Wyatt, and Jack Everette. Fed cows, hiked, found rocks of many splendid kinds, and quite a few creatures to identify. One spectacular day, they hiked the Trestle Trail in Cloudcroft and were closely visited by a Phantom Jet coming up/over from Alamogordo. The boys identified it and were duly impressed by the beauty of its design and flight. Once-in-a-lifetime thing.

Children are enjoying the comfort and privacy of Elijah House. Walkie-talkie is handy. No phone service there. Later?

Jim & Jane are stockpiling Grandma's wood for 2007-2008 winter.

Paul works with water publicly in his area. Brought some equipment to gain some information on water flow in this area. Studies done in similar areas in Arizona and elsewhere, mixed with measurements, fall and water level markings, indicate immense numbers of gallons passed down Piñon Creek last year. We who saw it flowing so long and so high agree it is awesome. Two million gallons a minute doesn't sound impossible to folks who live on the banks for years. Believe the water warning signs. They are NOT humor!

July 4 was a quiet day of family ranch fun until 7 p.m. when 24 friendly Piñon residents gathered at Mitch & Kelly Hibbard's backyard to share potluck supper/BBQ with family, friends, kids, dogs, and a few brave cows and chickens which were curious about the fun. Fireworks provided by Sue & Bobby Melton kept us watching the fire crew (James & John) until the little folks began to encourage the older folk to head for the barn. Wonderful day for all concerned.

Piñon proper is so quiet lately, the church mice (if any) may be lonesome. Locals are all working on jobs which help support our beloved ranch lifestyle. Between times, the actual ranch work gets done.

Piñon Store A.M. Coffee Club is struggling without its member Sam Henderson. Happy to report that Sam's kidney replacement seems successful, and we hope to see him home soon.

Piñon was dark last week, but not quiet. We gathered Wednesday night for Bible Class. Just got started when electricity flickered. Lantern was brought out. Fine for a few minutes - battery played out. So we visited and shared experiences and sang songs we knew by heart.

Supposed to have Homeschoolers program on Flag Etiquette at the Extension Club Thursday. All prepared. Speakers prepared. Sandwiches and drinks ready. Piñon Creek came down for 3 to 4-1/2 hours about 26 inches deep. No people, no program, no club. Nice rain.

July was a fabulous month for moisture. Mostly slow, night rains but cloudburts sent creeks down. Mud and debris filled cattleguards. Cattle walk over the guards and out onto the highway. A black bull on a dark night totaled Fleming's "tall truck" at Antelope Lake area. Even at 20 mph, a black bull is a real road hazard. Except for the bull, there were no fatalities but some medical care needed for various injured human parts.

Adios for now. Margaret

This 'n That

Friday the 13th was a banner day for us at Sacramento Mountain United Methodist Church. We had our first ever VBS - for gals! To refresh your memory..Cyndy Nesbit said that summer isn't summer without VBS and since we didn't have any kids, why not have a VBS for gals. Seven women gathered to sing kids songs and do crafts...both led by Cyndy Nesbit...interspersed with "Jesus Moments." We all had a grand time and finished off the morning with a brown bag lunch. And best of all, we wound up with five kids....grandkids....and they truly were "grand" kids! We're already making plans and doing some anticipating for next year!

- Joy Garrett

On July 7 there was a worship and praise party at the Davidson's with German pizza. Wow! was it an inspiring party and fantastic food. Singing outside and watching the clouds, and birds flying around and feeling God's love all around us made it so awesome. Everyone needs to do this once in awhile. Our thanks go to Jim and Birgit!!! - Evelyn Miller

Arts & Crafts Opportunities - Cyndy Nesbit

The Cloudcroft Art Society's (CAS) August program will be given by Weed resident Donna Smith on the art of Quilling. Quilling is also called paper filigree and involves coiling thin strips of paper into shapes. This will be a hands-on program. Some supplies will be available at cost at the end of the program if you're interested. The date for the program is August 5, 1:30 p.m. in the red brick schoolhouse in Cloudcroft. Everyone is invited to these programs.

This is just another of the fun and informative programs we have set up this summer. September's program will be on mini-collages that can be turned into greeting cards, frameable art, magnets, and much, much more. This program is scheduled for September 2 which is in the middle of Labor Day weekend, but we hope you can attend.

James Canyon VFD BBQ - Phyllis Watters

The James Canyon VFD Auxiliary will sponsor a BBQ at the Red Barn at the entry of Cloud Country Estates (Hwy 82 between mile markers 26 & 27) on Saturday, September 1, from 4 p.m. to 5:45 p.m., with an auction at 5:30 p.m. Adults - \$7; children under 12 - \$4. Dinner ticket entitles you to participate in the raffle. Lots of prizes! Tickets available at the door.

Area Churches

Mayhill Baptist Church - Norman Green, Pastor. Sunday School at 10 a.m., worship services at 11 a.m. Children and youth Bible drill and adult and youth Discipleship training, 5 p.m. Evening worship service, 6 p.m. Children and youth Bible study and adult Bible study and prayer meeting, Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Men's breakfast and

devotional, Thursday, 7 a.m.

Mayhill Church of Christ - Marlon McWilliams, Pastor. Sunday Bible class, 9:30 a.m.; worship service, 10:30 a.m. Evening worship, 6 p.m., and Wednesday Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Piñon Baptist Church - J. B. Craft, Pastor. Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.; Worship service, 11:30 a.m.; 12:30 potluck.

Piñon Church of Christ - Bible Study, 10:30 a.m., Worship Service, 11:30 a.m.; potluck 12:30 p.m.; Wednesday Bible study, 7 p.m.

Sacramento Mountain United Methodist Church - Joy Garrett, Lay Minister. Sunday worship service at 10 a.m., Sunday School at 11 a.m.

Weed Baptist Church - Wade Maberry, Pastor. Sunday School 10 a.m., Worship Service at 11 a.m. Bible Study/Prayer, Wednesdays at 2 p.m. A potluck luncheon is held every third Sunday of the month.

Weed House of Prayer - Don Brown, Pastor. Services are held every Sunday in the home of Jimmy and Frances Goss. Prayer and singing at 10 a.m.; sermon at 11 a.m. Prayer service is held each Wednesday at 10 a.m. Wednesday Bible study class, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. A potluck luncheon is held the second Sunday of the month.

If you have additional information you would like to include about your church, or if there are changes to the existing info, please let me know. Ed.

Letter to the Editor

- Russ Wright

The piece on the front page of the Hitchin' Post last month which defined a "True American" caught my attention. It bothered me enough that I feel compelled to share my thoughts. I am a veteran who served during Viet Nam. I served to protect our diversity and our freedom. At the time, some said I was a "True American" for serving my country. Others said I could only have been a "True American" if I had refused to serve. I listened to those who would judge me, and then did what I had to do.

I believe that all law-abiding citizens are "True Americans," whether or not they agree with the majority, or the prevailing government policies. I believe we should be careful not to judge other law-abiding citizens as to whether or not they are "True" Americans. It is the vast diversity among Americans that has made this country great and free.

The First Amendment of the Bill of Rights establishes a system that ensures a diverse and vibrant country, one that changes and adjusts with the addition of each new citizen. Although people around the world may disagree with our government's actions at times, this Amendment is the envy of ordinary people all over the world.

Amendment I: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

The First Amendment does not specify Baptist or Catholic or Islam or Buddhist. It allows for the practice of all religions - or none. It protects each of us so that we can worship or not, as we wish. It protects us from the adoption of one religion as the "official" religion of the "State." We are not an Islamic, Communist, Christian, or Buddhist State. We are a secular state. This separation ensures continued diversity and most importantly, freedom.

The First Amendment allows us to speak out

individually and in groups when we do or do not agree with our elected and appointed leadership. It does not qualify this right. It does not say "except about War" or "unless you disagree with the majority", or "only if you are white". It provides for a vibrant and active discussion. It ensures continued diversity and above all, freedom.

The First Amendment ensures that the press can question and investigate governmental action. You can create your own Blog. You can read a liberal paper like the NY Times or a conservative paper like the Washington Times. You can listen to CNN or FOX or BBC. You don't have to worry about the government closing down a paper or deleting a written or televised editorial because government leaders don't agree with the content. It ensures continued diversity and above all, freedom.

This is a diverse country with many ideas on how it should be run; many beliefs on the true path to salvation; many understandings of how to live a good and productive life. Let's not diminish the greatness of the American people by excluding those with whom we disagree, or with whom we don't worship.

As a serviceman during Vietnam, I listened to daily intelligence briefings on seemingly endless body counts. I was thankful for the brave and diverse public editorials, public discussion and demonstrations, and the religious activism that finally brought that war to an end.

We are again in a time of great discussion. Listen to the thoughts of others whether you agree or not. **We must all respect each others' rights and freedoms in order to preserve those rights and freedoms for ourselves.**

[From the Editor: Well said, friend. Well said. To everyone else who was offended by the article, please excuse my poor judgment in printing it.]

Farmers' Almanac August Gardening Tips

- 1 Favorable day for planting root crops, fine for vine crops
- .2-3 Barren days, do no planting.
- 4-6 Root crops that can be planted now will yield well.
- 7-8 Any seed planted now will tend to rot.
- 9-10 Most favorable days for planting beets, onions, turnips and other root crops. Plant seedbeds and flower gardens
- .11-15 A barren time. Best for killing weeds, briars, poison ivy and other plant pests. Clear wood lots and fence rows.
- 16-18 Good days for planting aboveground crops. Excellent for sowing grains, winter wheat, oats and rye. Plant flowers.
- 19-20 Plant peas, beans, tomatoes, peppers and other aboveground crops in southern Florida, California and Texas. Extra good for leafy vegetables. Plant seedbeds.
- 21-23 Cut winter wood, do clearing and plowing, but no planting.
- 24-25 A good time to plant aboveground crops.
- 26-27 Barren days. Fine for killing plant pests.
- 28-29 Favorable days for planting root crops, fine for vine crops.
- 30-31 Barren days, do no planting.

From the Editor

Many, many thanks to everyone who contributed in any way to this month's issue of the Hitchin' Post! Believe me, I couldn't do it without **YOU**. Your input makes this newsletter the best source of community news in the area. The Hitchin' Post has something for everyone.

Due to the Mountain Times deadline of the 25th

of each month, the deadline for the Hitchin' Post is now the 22nd of the month. If you don't care about your news getting into the Mountain Times, you may still submit your items two or three days before the end of the month for general distribution.

Would you like to receive the Hitchin' Post by e-mail? Just let me know, and I'll add your name to the list. Save trees!

If you would like to donate to the Hitchin' Post, please consider giving me your empty print cartridges instead of throwing them away.

Hunting in Unit 34

...September 1-22, deer & bear, bow

...September 10-18, turkey

...September 23 - November 30, bear, any legal weapon

For Rent or Sale

Furnished 2-bedroom, 1- bath cabin in Sacramento, NM. Newly remodeled. Very nice! Includes washer/dryer, free-standing wood-burning fireplace. Rent \$350/mo. plus \$200 deposit. No smoking or pets in house. For sale price or additional information, call Tom Ward at 505-687-3104. Would make a wonderful vacation home.

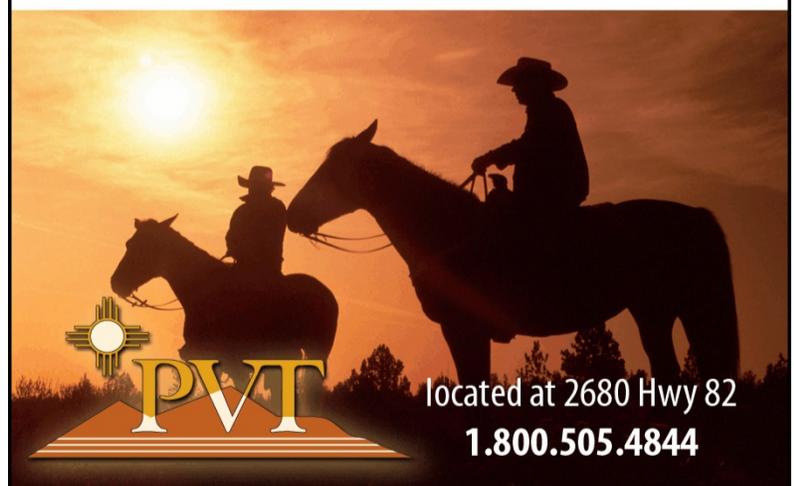
For Sale

195 Agua Chiquita Rd., Sacramento, NM., 3-bedroom, 2-bath mobile home, 16'x80', 12'x32' covered porch, on 1.777 acres. Call 505-687-3349 for more information.

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