



HAPPY 1ST BIRTHDAY TO

The Hitchin' Post

March 2006

Patsy Ward, Editor



A Community Oriented Newsletter for Weed and Surrounding Communities
"If You're Lucky Enough to Live in the Mountains, You're Lucky Enough"

CW Has "Gone Fishin'"

CW's Place, The "Little Store on the Corner," has been sold and Carl and Dolores are now living a life of leisure! We welcome new owners Bernard and Susie Cleave, long-time residents in the vicinity. New owners but the same great service! Be sure to stop by and say hello.

Sac/Weed Fire & Rescue Department

On February 1, there was a fire at Mile Marker 3 on Highway 24. Our wonderful Fire Department volunteers and Forest Service employees were able to put it out quickly, with only a small area burned. They would say they were "just doing their job." However, to those of us who live here, we are truly blessed to have them. And remember, as Smokey Bear says, "Only YOU can prevent forest fires." Please report fires and suspicious smoke as soon as you see them by calling 911.

More Sac/Weed Fire & Rescue Dept. News

The Sacramento/Weed Fire and Rescue Department is proud to announce our latest class of graduates. Ten members of the department recently completed a 40-hour first-aid class. This class consisted of emergency first-aid, CPR, emergency oxygen application, and AED (automatic external defibrillators). We are now in the process of equipping these members with a first-aid bag. We always strive to respond to an emergency as quickly and safely as possible. With the addition of these dedicated members our response times continue to improve. A special thanks to members Al and Terri Alvarez for instructing the first-aid class. Two of the most patient people you'll ever meet. Thank the both you for a very informative and entertaining class. Thank you Julie Burris for homemade cinnamon rolls and chile bowl.

We have 8 members, to date, signed up to take the EMT class beginning on Feb. 23. This class is a test of our fortitude as the class runs through July. With the addition of eight EMTs to your department, the level of pre-hospital care escalates to the highest level while en route to the emergency facilities. Our current two EMTs have shown a level of emergency care and emotional care that is unsurpassed in any EMT system and will be mentors to our new additions. Thank you both.

With permission being granted by our medical director, Dr. Boehm, we are now able to rendezvous with Cloudcroft EMS, Artesia EMS, Roswell EMS, and Ruidoso EMS. The patient will have the option of being transported to any of these emergency facilities. Please do not call and tell us now which direction you want to be taken. If a patient is unconscious, the on-board EMTs, by law, will be making the call as to which hospital to transport or air lift into. Due to granted permission

to travel in these directions, we are desperately seeking to obtain a new or newer Rescue Unit (ambulance) to replace our aging 1986 model. Things are looking very promising for a newer, much needed unit.

In December of 2005 Sac/Weed VFD was able to purchase a used Water Tender. This is a 2500 gallon unit that can draft water from pooled sources and pump fire lines. This unit has been very instrumental in the success we have experienced on two small fires this year.

The Sacramento Methodist Assembly has graciously donated a parcel of land, located in Sacramento, which will house an additional two bay building. This will allow us to replace our 1964 Ford pumper with a new or newer replacement unit. Thank you to the board of directors and Jim Hengstenberg for all the work on this project.

This year fire season has not ended. The Forest Service has brought its crews back to work earlier this year than in the past. The Forest Service and our local Hot Shots have responded on both small fires that we have had and we thank them for responding. These guys are the pros, and we do realize how lucky we are to have them so close and responding. Thanks. All departments in the mountains are keeping a close ear open and are ready to respond to any area of need. This is what it's going to take this fire season to be effective.

We would like to thank the communities of Weed, Sacramento, and surrounding areas for your continued support as we strive to improve our services.

We want to remind everyone to be fire safe. Wet down our ashes. Put out cigarettes. Put off burning that pile of slash until later. Let's all keep our homes and those of our neighbors as safe as possible.

Respectfully submitted,
Randy Adams
Fire Chief
Sac/Weed VFRD

Water Matters

- Russ Wright

The East Slopes Chapter of the Sacramento Mountain Watershed Restoration Corporation and the Sacramento & Weed Chapters of the South Sacramento Water Group will hold a combined annual meeting on March 4 at 2 p.m. in the Weed House of Prayer Fellowship Hall.

The agenda will include:

- SSMG Bylaws
- Water Master: Impact on You
- Domestic Well Regulations
- Update Salt Basin Commercial Sale of Water
- Hydrogeological Study
- Selection of Board & Delegates

Other Dates to Remember

...March 4 - Weed Community Activities Planning Meeting, 11 a.m., Weed Café. Everyone is invited to participate.

...March 9 - South Sacramento Water Group, 6 p.m. Mayhill Community Center.

...March 20 - Spring begins

...April 2 - Daylight Savings Time begins

Bookmobile

The bookmobile will be in the vicinity of the Weed Post Office March 7, 1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Bible Study

Bro. Dub Schuessler conducts a Bible study class every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in the Weed House of Prayer Fellowship Hall. Please join us.

Weed Café

March 11, 6 p.m., Music and bingo. Please bring a wrapped "white elephant" gift for the prize stash.

April 8, 6 p.m., Music and an Easter Bonnet Parade. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes to be awarded.

And there's always the Breakfast Group. This fun social is open to everyone! It provides an excellent opportunity to visit with neighbors you don't see very often and share in the everyday happenings of everyday life. Come join us on Tuesday and/or Friday mornings at 7 o'clock. You'll be glad you did!

Weed 2006 Bluegrass Festival T-Shirt

A reminder that the deadline for Bluegrass tee shirt design entries is March 31. First prize, \$50. Contest open to everyone.

SMA "Former Staff Reunion and Retreat"

This year, the Sacramento Methodist Assembly is celebrating its 75th year of life in our mountains. The Assembly is having a "Former Staff Reunion Retreat" the weekend of March 31-April 2. There are many of us in the mountains who have worked at one time or other at the Assembly, and Camp Director Jim Hengstenberg is getting out the word about the retreat to all former SMA staff. Call the SMA at 687-3414 to get information and to register. He is also requesting we get out the word to friends and family who live elsewhere but who may be interested in a weekend of music, relaxation, and reconnecting ... while seeing the paved roads and new Forrest Lodge at SMA.

"Journey Towards Healing" Workshop

- Russ Wright

Sessions are held at RavenWind, 3 p.m., the 3rd Sunday of each month. All are welcome.

Discussion topics will include pain control, stretching exercise, guided imagery, kinesiology, aromatherapy, energy healing, and diet. The workshop will begin with a presentation on a

specific topic and include demonstrations where appropriate. There will be plenty of time for questions and discussion. The setting is comfortable and informal, and healthy refreshments are served. There is no charge.

Library News

- Joyce Komraus

Spring is coming and the Weed Community Library is planning to open when the weather is warmer and the water is turned on in the library. So what great things are coming up in the months ahead???!!!!!!!

In the meantime, the Michael Nivison Public Library has more "leased" books for you to read.

S Is For Silence (Sue Grafton)
Brush County (Elmer Kelton)
Irish Crystal (Andrew Greeley)
Lovers and Players (Jackie Collins)
More Than Friends (Barbara Delinsky)
5TH Horseman (James Patterson)
1001 Events That Made America (Alan Axelrod)
Aunt Dimity and The Deep Blue (Nancy Atherton)
Rock From Mars (Kathy Sawyer)

What does leasing books mean to you????
Like leasing a car only there is no cost to you. But it does mean that the "lease" books are in our library for about 3 months; then I return them and more come in. We can keep 1 out of 5 books in the leasing program for our circulation. Great way to get more books in and send back those which we don't want to keep.

Don't forget, if anyone is interested in computer classes, be sure to call the library and let me know what type of things you want to learn. We will then set up a time for you to come in.

In Case You're Wondering

The red helicopter you've been seeing belongs to the NM Department of Game and Fish personnel who have been counting turkeys and other wildlife in the area.

Art Stuff

We had a great time at the card-making class taught by Cyndy Nesbit and hosted at Patsy Ward's house. And we almost used the whole house! It was a good time for all. We learned something, met new people, and had fun with friends. Cyndy is thinking about doing something crafty about every 3 months if the interest is there. If you think you have no talent, you'll fit right in. Hope you can join us for the next one. And, as always, you are welcome to join the beginning watercolor class held at the Weed Café each Wednesday afternoon from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. For a fee of \$25, all supplies are furnished for the beginner or you are welcome to bring what you have. For more information, call Cyndy at 687-3486.

From Your Chimney Sweep

We have had a very mild winter which is especially hard on the flue or stove pipe. When you keep a roaring fire going, the system takes care of itself. With low- burning fires, the creosote and clogging have a better chance to build. If you've noticed any change in the draw of your smoke, you might need a

cleaning. Tip Top Chimney Service will gladly come and inspect your system. Give us a call at 687-3486 to make an appointment.

- Dean & Cyndy Nesbit

Rainwater Harvesting

According to the Texas Manual on Rainwater Harvesting (3rd Ed.) there is a simple calculation to determine how much water you can capture by harvesting rainwater runoff from your roof(s). The "collection surface" in square feet is simply the footprint of the structure from eave to eave. The shape of the roof is irrelevant to the calculation. Then, assume that you will collect approximately .62 gallons per square foot of collection surface per inch of rainfall. So if you have a 1200 sq. ft. house with a 400 sq. ft. porch, with gutters all around, the "collection surface" is 1600 sq. ft. In a 1 inch rainfall you will collect: 1600 sq. ft. X .62 gal = 992 gallons. The Texas Manual on Rainwater Harvesting is a fascinating source for information on how to design a collection system. Systems can be designed to collect water for household use, irrigation or stock watering. The Manual is available at www.twdb.state.tx.us. Or call Elaine or Russ Wright to see a copy.

Thinning Projects

Sixteen Springs has been chosen as an experimental area for commercial logging, then a thinning will be done, then the slash piles taken care of. Logging to start by July 1, 2006. No burns to be done unless there is a minimum of 2 inches of snow coverage. Area is approximately 7 x 1½ miles. David Venable reported an agreement has been reached between the village of Cloudcroft and the Forest Service to do a survey of the village right-of-ways for thinning. (Article taken from the last minutes of the South Sacramento Water Group).

Apache Point Observatory -Cathy Jordan

The 2.5 SDSS telescope at Apache Point Observatory was featured on a video by the American Museum of Natural History which was on site last fall for filming/interviews. The video is very informative and can be viewed at <http://sciencebulletins.amnh.org>.

Bob Pfaffenburger is working with Wendell and Cathy at APO now. If any Weed/Sacramento resident would like to take a tour, please call Wendell, Cathy, or Bob at 505-437-6822.

Our Sympathy to:

...the family of Donna Hiett who passed away February 7. A memorial service was held on the 18th at the Old Weed Gym.

...Janie and Lee Hudman on the death of Janie's brother after suffering a heart attack.

Thank You Cards

"The family of Geraldine Bundy wants to thank you for all your care and concern during our time of sorrow."

"I just want to thank all the people who called, came to visit me at the hospital, phoned, and

especially those who said a prayer for my recovery. I still need your prayers. I am told now it is just a matter of time for a complete recovery. Thanks again."
- Dub Schuessler

"Thank you for all the concern and prayers you sent our way after the loss of my dad. Wonderful are the friends that fill in the hole a loss brings."
- Cyndy & Dean Nesbit

Anniversaries, Birthdays, Congratulations, Get Well, Thank You, Welcome, Etc.

Happy Anniversary to:

...Dennis & Phyllys Newton, 13th
...Steven & Stephanie Toth, 20th
...Russ & Elaine Wright, 23rd
...Don & Glenna Freeland, 26th
...Walter & Lillian Stugis and Tom & Patsy Ward, 30th

Happy Birthday to:

...Sandra Hunt and Meagan Coder, 7th
...Janie Hudman, 10th
...Ryan Harvey, 14th
...Pat Hammett and Katie Walker, 19th
...Jeff Petersen, 22nd
...Rachael Burton, 23rd
...Doreen Teal, 24th
...Janson Ham, 26th
...Paul Schreiber, 27th
...Rentz Ankrom, 28th
...Ken Hammett, 30th
...Dennis Newton, 31st

Comings & Goings

...Barb Schuessler enjoyed spending a few days at Disney World with her daughter, Kim, and granddaughter, Sienna.

...Bro. Don & Anna Rae Brown have been seen around town.

Congratulations to:

...Obie & Pat Manning on becoming grandparents of Emily Nicole Manning who entered this world on February 9, weighed 7 lbs. 10 oz., and was 20" long and Josie Ann Beckham who was born February 10, weighed 7 lbs. 8 oz., and was 20-1/4" long.

Get Well Wishes to:

...Jimmy Goss who had hand surgery on the 20th.
...Evelyn Miller who had a nasty bout with a cold that put her out of commission for a week.
...Kathryn Stephensen who is recovering from surgery to reattach her retina.

Thank You to:

...Mary Lou & James Otts for the donation of a print cartridge and to
...Everyone who contributes articles to the Hitchin' Post.

Area Churches

Mayhill Baptist Church - Norman Green, Pastor. Sunday School for all ages begins at 10 a.m., with worship services beginning at 11 a.m. Children and youth Bible drill and adult and youth Discipleship training, 5 p.m. Evening worship service begins at 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 begins at 9:30 a.m.; worship service begins at 10:30 a.m.

Evening worship is at 6 p.m., and Wednesday Bible Study is at 7 p.m.

Piñon Baptist Church - J. B. Craft, Pastor. Sunday School for all ages begins at 10 a.m., with worship service beginning at 11 a.m.

Piñon Church of Christ - Ralph Skelton, Pastor. Sunday worship service begins at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday evening Bible Study begins at 7 p.m.

Sacramento Mountain United Methodist Church - Dulaney Barrett, Pastor. Regular Sunday worship service begins at 10 a.m., with Sunday School beginning at 11 a.m. Pastor Barrett will be preaching a series of sermons in the upcoming weeks dealing with the various aspects of grace.

Weed Baptist Church - Tom Dusak, Pastor. Sunday School begins at 10 a.m., with the worship service beginning at 11 a.m. A potluck luncheon is held after church on the third Sunday of the month. Bible Study class is held each Wednesday.

Weed Church of Christ - Ralph Skelton, Pastor. Bible study is taught from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. every Sunday; worship service begins at 10 a.m. Sunday evening services are from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Weed House of Prayer - Dub Schuessler, Pastor. Services are held every Sunday in the home of Jimmy and Frances Goss. Prayer and singing begin at 10 a.m.; sermon begins at 11 a.m. Prayer service is held each Wednesday at 10 a.m. A potluck luncheon is held on the first Sunday of the month.

The **South Sacramento Mountain Ministerial Alliance** is sponsoring a "Soup" lunch each Wednesday in the season of Lent, 12 Noon, Cloudcroft United Methodist Church. The luncheons begin March 1 and will continue through April 12. Each year, attendance seems to have grown. Good fellowship and a brief devotional are included. If you cannot stay for the whole time because of work or other commitments, take part in as much as possible. Dub Schuessler and Dulaney Barrett are members of the Alliance. All are welcome.

The Cloudcroft Renaissance Fantasy Faire
Up until a week ago, this event was just a dream shared by many locals. The Cloudcroft Chamber of Commerce approved the event to be held on Burro Street for June 10-11, 2006. The details are still in the planning stages; but confirmed is a public stock for naughty adults and children, a parade, the "Pickle Lady," a hat and toys booth, a turkey leg and fried dog on a stick food booth, games and activities for the whole family, and an outdoor masque ball in Zenith Park on Saturday evening. There is also a t-shirt contest for best artwork representing the new event. Ruth from QTeez has offered to print the winning t-shirt and pre-orders will be taken shortly after the award ceremony. The Skyline Forest Faeries & Guardians are raising funds for entertainment through an Old World merchant map poster they will be selling and through other related items. In the works is an area for local artist and crafters to sell artwork, give demos and host creative activities. For more

information, you can go to <http://skylinecyberworld.com/SpecialEvent.htm>.

Health Alert

The New Mexico Department of Health announced that an adult Texas resident was hospitalized in Texas with plague. The patient was likely exposed while hunting and skinning rabbits on a ranch in Lea County, NM.

Initial laboratory tests conducted by the Texas Department of State Health Services were positive for plague. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will conduct confirmatory testing in Fort Collins, Colorado.

"It is unusual to have a human case of plague in southeastern New Mexico," said Dr. Paul Etestad, public health veterinarian at the New Mexico Department of Health. "The last record we have of a human case in Lea County was in January 1951. Plague cases are more likely to occur in the summer, but winter cases do occur and are often associated with direct contact with infected animals, such as skinning rabbits."

To reduce the risk of contracting plague, Etestad advises hunters to wear rubber or latex gloves while skinning and field dressing game and promptly wash their hands or use alcohol-based hand cleaners afterwards.

Plague, a bacterial disease of rodents, is generally transmitted to humans through the bites of infected fleas. The disease can also be transmitted by direct contact with infected animals, including rodents, wildlife and pets.

Most people become ill two to seven days after being infected with the plague bacteria. Symptoms of bubonic plague in humans include fever, painful swollen lymph nodes in the groin, armpit or neck areas, chills, and sometimes headache, vomiting, and diarrhea.

Cats can also become ill with similar symptoms. Fever, lethargy, not eating, and swollen lymph nodes (usually in the neck area) are the most common signs. With prompt diagnosis and appropriate antibiotic treatment, the fatality rate in people and pets can be greatly reduced.

The Department of Health recommends people take the following precautions to avoid the plague:

- ...Avoid sick or dead rodents.
- ...Teach children not to play near rodent nests or burrows.
- ...Treat pets regularly with an effective flea control product.
- ...Clean up areas near the house where rodents could live.
- ...Keep pets from roaming and hunting.
- ...Sick pets should be examined promptly by a veterinarian.

There were four human cases of plague in 2005 in New Mexico, three in Santa Fe County and one in Bernalillo County. The last plague fatality in New Mexico was in 1994 in a child from Rio Arriba County.

USPS March Gift Idea - Debbie Stone
Consider a First Class phone card a great gift for any occasion and for travel. The USPS also has

available a Global Phone Card which is great for international calls!

New Postage Stamps - Debbie Stone

On March 8, 2006 two new stamps will be issued for sale nationwide by the USPS.

Issued will be a 63-cent honoring medical scientist Jonas Salk (1914-1995) who was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1977 for developing the first safe and effective vaccine against paralytic poliomyelitis.

Also to be issued is an 87-cent stamp honoring virologist Dr. Albert Sabin (1906-1993) whose successful efforts to develop a polio vaccine made him one of the most esteemed scientists in the world. He received the National Medal of Science in 1970 and the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1986.

Also available March 8 will be the 24-cent (First-class postcard rate) Common Buckeye Butterfly stamp for collectors.

Farmer's Almanac March Gardening Tips

(This Bulletin is determined by the Almanac's age-old formula and applies generally to regions where the climate is favorable.)

1-A poor time to plant.

2-3 Fine for planting beans, peppers, cucumbers, melons and other aboveground crops where climate is suitable.

4-6 Seeds planted now tend to rot in ground.

7-8 Most favorable days for planting, beets, onions, turnips and other root crops where climate allows. Plant seed beds and flower gardens.

9-13 A most barren period. Kill plant pests and do general farm work.

14-16 Favorable days for planting root crops, fine for sowing grains, hay and forage crops. Plant flowers.

17-18 Plant carrots, beets, onions, turnips, Irish potatoes and other root crops in the south. Lettuce, cabbage, collards and other leafy vegetables will do well. Start seed beds.

19-20 Do no planting.

21-22 Plant sweet corn, beans, peppers and other aboveground crops where climate is suitable.

23-24 Good days for killing weeds, briars and other plant pests. Poor for planting.

25-26 Extra good for cucumbers, peas, cantaloupes and other vine crops.

27-29 A poor time to plant.

30-31 Fine for planting beans, peppers, cucumbers, melons and other aboveground crops where climate is suitable.

Free Tax Preparation Service

From 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, free tax preparation service is provided by AARP-trained volunteers and sponsored by the RSVP Office at the Sgt. Willie Estrada Civic Center, 800 E. First Street in Alamogordo.

Middle- and low-income taxpayers may use the tax preparation service, with free electronic filing. Bring all your W-2's, 1099's and other types of income. Identification is required. Help is also available for applying for your gas utility rebate if you haven't received one yet. For more information call 439-4154.

Assistance With Utility Bills

If you need assistance paying your energy bills, (propane, electric, etc.) you can apply at the New

Mexico Department of Human Services, Otero County Income Support Division, 2000 Juniper Dr, located off Indian Wells. You will need to take proof of income for the year and your highest energy bills for year. This program is for low- income families and is a one-time deal.

Courage

Courage does not always roar. Sometimes courage is the small, quiet voice at the end of the day saying, "I will try again tomorrow." ~ Unknown

Congratulations! to Patsy Ward on winning 3rd Place and Viewers' Choice Award in the Cloudcroft Chamber of Commerce Mardi Gras poster contest. Patsy's entry entitled "Kokopelli Swingtime" was chosen for the Mardi Gras tee-shirt. Not bad for a first-timer!



News for the Hitchin' Post may be mailed to Patsy Ward, Editor, P.O. Box 565 or sent via e-mail to patrice@cavemen.net anytime during the month, or one of our reporters may be calling you. **Deadline for submissions is the 25th of each month.**

If you have information you want included in the newsletter, call Joy Garrett, 687-3862; Evelyn Miller, 687-2170; Barb Schuessler, 687-2513; or Elaine Wright, 687-3073, with your news. If you prefer not to have your personal information included, please let us know.

Book Club

If you're interested in being a part of the monthly Book Club meetings, please call Barb Schuessler at 687-2513 or HB Newell at 687-4388.