



Alta Dutch Flat Gold Run COMMUNITY

Volume 34 – No. 2 PUBLISHED BY THE DUTCH FLAT COMMUNITY CENTER WITH MEMBER SUPPORT Summer 2023

Dutch Flat Cemetery Clean Up

By YubaNet, May 18, 2023

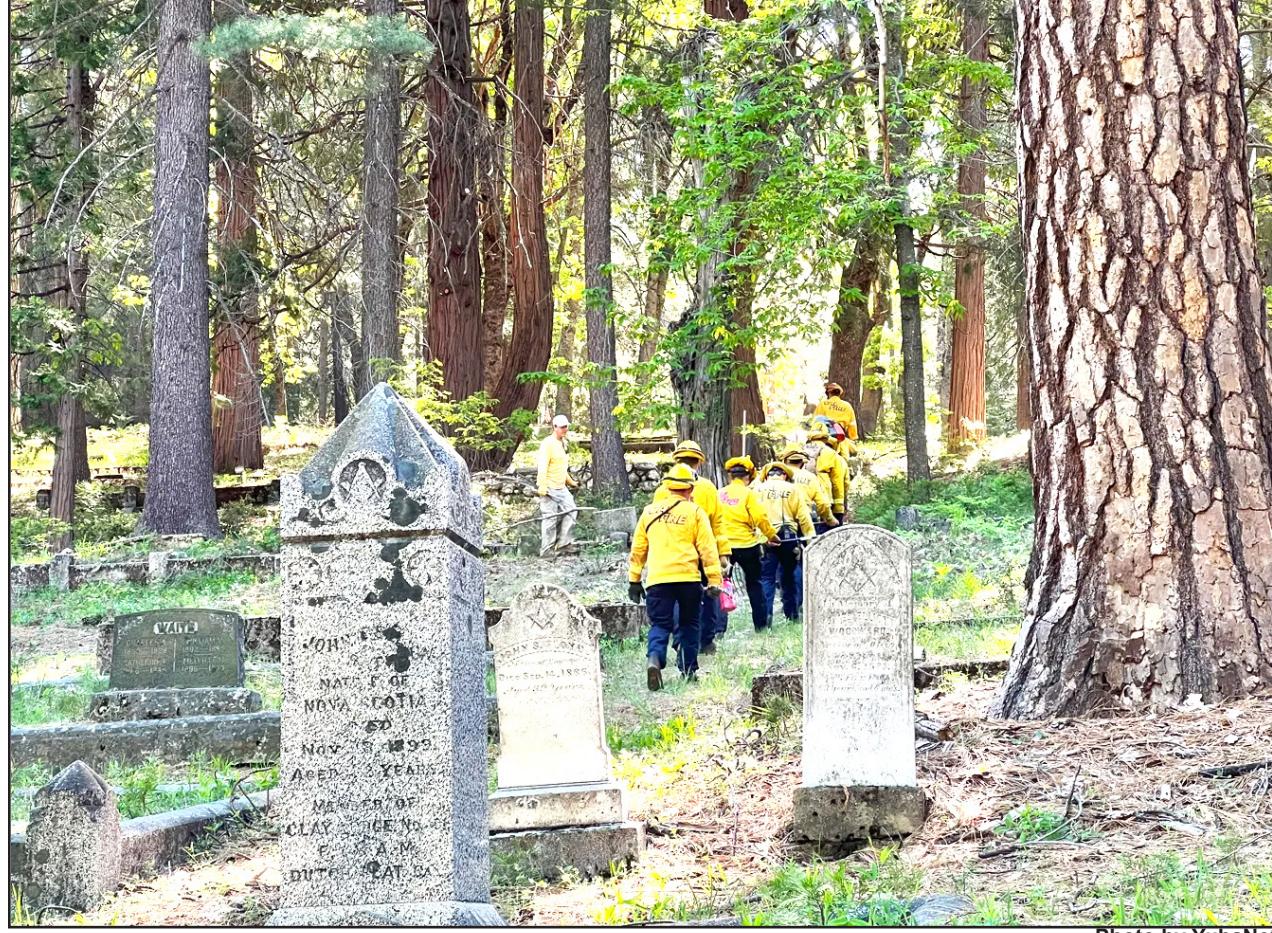


Photo by YubaNet

Cal Fire's Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit sent more than 30 of its members to help with the cemetery clean up

Between 1851 and 1873, more people lived in Dutch Flat than any other place in Placer County. Today, the population has shrunk to 110. Damage to the historical cemetery, caused by exceptionally harsh winter storms, was more than resident volunteers could handle. Today, the community got a hand from CAL FIRE's Nevada-Yuba-Placer unit.

Robin Reynolds lives next to the historical cemetery and feels a responsibility to take care of the landmark. What started out as hiring a crew to weed-whack and help clear the paths between the sections and plots turned into an annual community volunteer cleanup day.

This morning, he greeted volunteers, CAL FIRE crews and media, sharing some of his family history. His father surveyed the Bear River, way before I-80 was built, and settled in Dutch Flat. Robin and his wife Diane, a retired teacher, continue to make their home in the historic town. Both are very aware of the need to reduce fuel loads and allow for a healthy forest to grow.

Taking care of the cemetery is a natural extension of their stewardship for the land, a sentiment shared by the other volunteers who hauled branches, brought loppers and rakes to keep this part of their town in good shape.



Doug Hughs was joined by Robin Reynolds, Diane Star, and Alan Willsmore volunteering their time to make our Cemetery more fire safe

Photos by Diane Star



Be sure to go to YubaNet.com to watch the excellent video by Riparian Studios, capturing the efforts and activities of that day, featuring interviews with Robin Reynolds and Diane Star.



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July 4th Celebration in Dutch Flat

By Sarah Fugate



Photo by Tom Fugate

2023 Grand Marshal: Charlie Bridges

Dutch Flat will host its Independence Day celebrations on Tuesday, July 4. Here's what is scheduled:

- In the morning, the Alta-Dutch Flat School Parents' Club will host a **breakfast** in the back garden of the Dutch Flat Hotel, offering pancakes, sausage, eggs, orange juice and coffee.
- The Rustic Table will be selling **breakfast burritos** in front of the Dutch Flat Community Center.
- The **Parade** begins at 10:30 am. Charlie Bridges, retired Chief of the Dutch Flat Volunteer Fire Department and all-around volunteer extraordinaire, will serve as Grand Marshal.
- At noon, the Dutch Flat Community Center will host a **Salad Luncheon**, \$10/adult and \$5/child.
- Abe will be offering barbecued **hamburgers** at the Dutch Flat Trading Post.
- After the parade, Alta-Dutch Flat School Parents' Club will be selling **snow cones and cotton candy** in the back garden of the Dutch Flat Hotel.
- The **Golden Drift Museum** will be open until 4 pm.
- Local band, **Malarkey**, will play at the Dutch Flat Hotel from 2 pm to 5 pm.

July 4, 2022

Photo by Sarah Fugate



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Views expressed in letters, guest opinion pieces and other contributions do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor, the Dutch Flat Community Center, or its Board.

This newspaper is published quarterly and distributed to Dutch Flat Community Center members and to residents of the Center's service area from Gold Run to Emigrant Gap in Placer County, California.

We welcome contributions from readers. Submission deadline for the next issue: **September 10, 2023**.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Attic: Thursdays, 10 am - 1 pm.

Auburn Interfaith Food Closet: Monday-Friday, 10 am-2 pm, Wednesdays, 4-7 pm, last Saturday of each month, 10 am-2 pm. 1788 Auburn Ravine Rd, Auburn. 530-885-1921. Delivery available.

Dutch Flat Community Center Board of Directors Meeting: 2nd Mondays, 6:00 pm. Location varies. Contact Laura Glassco, 916-778-8308.

Dutch Flat Community Center Potluck: 3rd Thursdays. 6:00 pm. Bring a place setting, your own drink, and a dish to share. July and August at the Dutch Flat Pool.

Dutch Flat United Methodist Church Pancake Breakfast: 2nd Saturdays, 8:00 am -10:00 am.

Dutch Flat United Methodist Church Arts & Crafts: Thursdays, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. All are welcome. Learn something new!

Dutch Flat United Methodist Church: Sundays. Fellowship Dinner, 5:00 pm. Worship Service, 6:00 pm.

Golden Drift Historical Society Board Meeting: 1st Monday of February, April, June, August, October and December, 7 pm. Golden Drift Museum, Main Street. Contact Sarah Fugate, 530-210-5085.

Pioneer Union Church, Gold Run: Worship Service, Sundays, 10 am.

Placer County Library Mobile Service: See schedule on Page 8.

Sierra First Baptist Church, Alta: Worship Service, Sundays, 11 am. 33990 Alta Bonny Nook Rd., Alta. Contact 530-389-2168.

Sierra First Baptist Church Bible Study: Mondays, 8:30 am,

Sierra First Baptist Church Community Lunch: Mondays, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm. Free.

Sierra First Baptist Church Food Pantry: Thursdays, 10 am - 12 pm.

DUTCH FLAT COMMUNITY CENTER'S

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Antiques, Estate Treasures, and
Heirlooms, too!

White Elephant Sale

Labor Day Weekend

Saturday, 9/2 & Sunday, 9/3

9 am—2 pm

DONATE

Drop off donations at the
Community Center on
Wednesdays and Saturdays
from 9 am to noon,
July 12 through August 30

VOLUNTEER

Work a few hours at a time
from now through the end of
August sorting, freshening,
and displaying donated
items. Bring a friend.

Help preserve the historic
Dutch Flat School House!

Questions?

Email Shelley Willsmore at

sywillsmore@gmail.com

or call the DFCC at

530-389-8310

and leave a message

SHOP

Come and enjoy the hunt.
Clothing, toys, collectibles,
heirloom's, household
gadgets, art, furniture,
holiday decor, tools,
sporting goods, and much
more.

A message from the DFCC President

HELLO SUMMER!

After such a crazy, wet and snowy winter we and our flowers and fruit trees are ready to welcome warm sunny days!

Winter may have canceled our annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner/Dance, but our Spring Fling Dinner/Dance was a big success! This event netted over \$3000 for the Center. Many thanks to all those that attended and to the crew who helped make this event such an achievement! From ticket sales, set-up/decorating, food purchase and preparation, serving, 50/50 sales, silent auction donations to cleanup – we all made it happen! A huge thank you to Jami Janes who graciously accepted our request to be the chef! Jami's extraordinary culinary talents provided over 100 people with a delicious savory tri-tip dinner!

And with our sporadic warmer weather came a great crew of Board members and local residents who planted and spread compost to finish off the two front areas. Additional work was done to trim trees and remove a broken wire fence. The rhododendrons and azaleas were in full bloom and spectacular. A few weeks later, a crew spread river rock and we'll complete the groundwork with a new rock driveway. Next up is the repair and painting of the white picket fence and an entry trellis will be installed.

Many of you are aware, that similar to our Community Pool, Placer County has had a contract with the Community Center to repair and maintain the tennis/pickleball court and playground. A new five-year agreement was successfully negotiated. This means that these important public areas will continue to be maintained and improved for our use.

We are very excited to announce the addition of two new Board members, Sharon Alves and Shana Brown, both joining the Board as at-large members! Congratulations to you both!

The 8th grade graduating Class of 2023 from Alta Dutch Flat School held their graduating party at the Center in June. The Dutch Flat Community Center presented a Visa gift card to one of the outstanding graduates. Congratulations to all the graduates!

Your Board continues to find ways to bring in revenue for the Center. This year insulated tote bags (\$20) and license plate frames (\$15) are for sale. These are both wonderful, unique items that make great gifts and support the Center. Please contact Suzanne Vidal via our email account which is dutchflatcommcenter@gmail.com or call the Center at 530 389-8310, if you'd like to make a purchase.

Another fundraiser in full swing is our Pet Mayor's Race. Any community can have an Honorary Mayor, but a Pet Mayor? Now that's unique! Be sure to cast your vote as many times as you'd like for the pet or pets of your choice. All types of pets have entered so be sure to watch the July 4th parade to see which pet won! Voting boxes are located at The Trading Post, Alta Store and Monte Vista Inn. Voting ends July 2nd. As with the merchandise, all proceeds will benefit the Center and its continued maintenance.

**Make sure you mark your calendars:
July and August 3rd Thursday Potlucks
will take place at the Community pool!**

Enjoy your summer!
Laura Glassco



Welcome Home - *A personal story*

By Bill Gallaher

This Summer's 2023 column and the next couple are dedicated to the brave Search and Rescue (SAR) aircrews that protected and rescued downed aircrews during combat missions in South East Asia (SEA).

So that others may Live

"Sandy 7, this is 8". "Sandy 7, this is 8", repeated over and over... The guns in the overgrown Laotian jungle are silent now. The frantic call to Sandy 7 is a memory echoing unanswered across all these years."

Thus, paraphrased, begins a book titled "Cheating Death", by USAF Captain George Barrett, a Skyraider pilot and his true story of rescue and recovery missions over Laos during the "secret war" within the Vietnam war.

Secret war? Most of us never heard of a "secret war" in Laos. It was secret because "officially" the USA was not involved in Laos. But in reality, the USA was in Laos and Cambodia to slow down the transportation of personnel and supplies along the Ho Chi Minh trail. Although the US did not have ground troops in Laos and Cambodia, we used airborne interdiction, attacking targets that were well defended by effective anti-aircraft guns. As a result, many Navy and Air Force aircrews were shot down. Because of a special group of heroes whose sole job was to bring back our aircrews, most of the men who survived the crashes were rescued. These hero's names were "Sandy", "Jolly", and "Nail".

Search And Rescue SAR. This is their Story.

So that others may live was the creed of Search and Rescue. Flying extremely dangerous missions, low and slow at tree top level, in bad weather, literally at point blank range of enemy guns, rescue aircrews put themselves in harm's way to save downed aircrews.

Working with rescue helicopters, pilots flew the World War II Douglas A1 Skyraider, a single-engine prop driven, slow-mover in a war of "fast movers".

Operating under the call sign "Sandy", the A-1's ability to fly over a downed airman for an extended period complemented its massive firepower. Whereas jet aircraft often had to leave an area for refueling or rearming, the Sandys provided nearly continuous suppressing fire until helicopters could extract downed airmen. It was called the "Flying Dump Truck" because of the thousands of pounds of ordinance it could bring to a fight. It could also take a beating. Planes often came back from a mission with multiple bullet holes.

Rescue missions often started with a call to crews standing alert in either Thailand or South Vietnam. Sandy's and Jolly Green helicopters, call sign "Jolly", would be



Douglas A-1 Skyraider, an American, single-seat attack aircraft

scrambled as soon as an airplane was shot down.

Many times, aircrew were able to punch out over a friendly area. If, however, they were in enemy territory, surviving aircrew were largely dependent on "Sandys", Jollys, and "Nails" (Forward Air Controllers -FAC, in small observation planes, often an O-1 or O-2), to save them.

Rescue missions were always very dangerous, often suicidal, resulting in the loss of rescue aircraft and their crews. (A total of 40 US Navy and 104 US Air Force men lost their lives flying the A-1 in Southeast Asia. 14 Skyraider pilots were lost from one rescue squadron based in Thailand.)

All missions were exciting, if not all "typical". A mission might look like this:

While over an enemy position, an airplane has been shot down. The downed pilot's wing man has called in the emergency while watching for a parachute and listening and getting a bearing to the emergency radio beacon. He's trying to pinpoint his partner's location, but because of anti-aircraft artillery (AAA), the 300' three-layer jungle canopy, and deteriorating weather, he's having difficulty knowing for sure. Also, his downed wingman is moving away from the parachute as he evades capture.

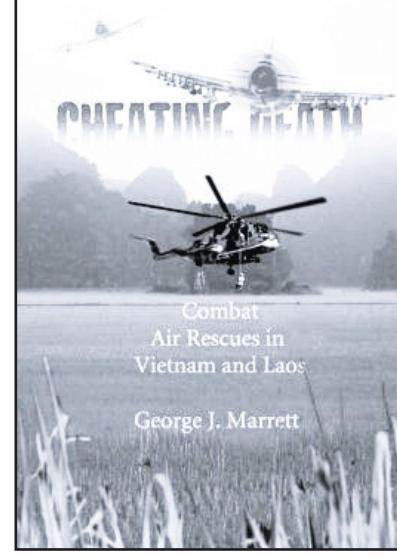
Once the call went out of a downed aircrew, a whole mess of phases starts happening. "Sandys" and "Jolly Greens" in Thailand have been scrambled. F-4s and F-105s from South Vietnam have been scrambled to eliminate AAA. (Anti-Aircraft Artillery)

Watching all the activity from a higher altitude, "Nail", having originally identified the target that was the cause of this shoot down, is the temporary on scene commander. He watched the AAA sites shooting at the downed airplane. Nail is waiting for the "fast movers" to arrive on scene so they

can take out the AAA sites after he marks the sites with smoke rockets. After the jets and Sandys have eliminated as many hostile guns as have shown themselves, Nail knows he may still have to spot AAA sites by flying low enough to get them to shoot at him.

As soon as Sandy's and Jollys arrive and are briefed by Nail, the on-scene commander will change to either a Sandy or Jolly pilot. Once the area is declared safe enough to attempt a rescue, the Sandys will provide close air cover while the Jollys either lower a cable with an extraction device to lift the airman into the helicopter, or land if possible. Many times, all this while under heavy enemy fire because sometimes the enemy didn't show his hand until the rescue was under way. And once the rescued aircrew were safe in the Jolly, they still had a ride to get home.

A final note: Sandy 7 was captured and spent 5 years as a POW. He was shot down while on the rescue of Streetcar 304, a naval pilot who spent 40 hours on the ground awaiting rescue after ejecting over Northern Laos. My next column will tell that story.



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Is There A Disease Amongst Us?

By Annette Rodgers Purther

Spring and Summer tend to perk us up and motivate us to get outside. With this comes fun with yard work, garden tending, and baby season; along with pollen, bugs, and for our wildlife and for wild birds, sometimes disease.

Remember always, that we feed the birds for our entertainment and that, the truth is, they do not survive because of our feeding them. This is true and, along with our best intentions we at times, can become a contributor to the spread of disease. The most common songbird diseases are: Conjunctivitis, Salmonella, Avian Pox, and Trichomoniasis.

This 2023 season, Conjunctivitis is showing up in the intakes at our local Placer County Wildlife Rescue, GCWR (Gold Country Wildlife Rescue). It's early season but I've actually already taken an adult male House Finch into GCWR with sure signs of Conjunctivitis. I noticed an erratic flying bird trying to find the bird feeder perch. Upon closer inspection, I noticed a closed eye and a general poor health appearance. And, I was able to net him way too easy for a healthy bird. I put him in a small box with paper towel on bottom, nothing else in box, and drove him in a quiet car w/o AC or radio to our local rescue GCWR in Auburn. Note:

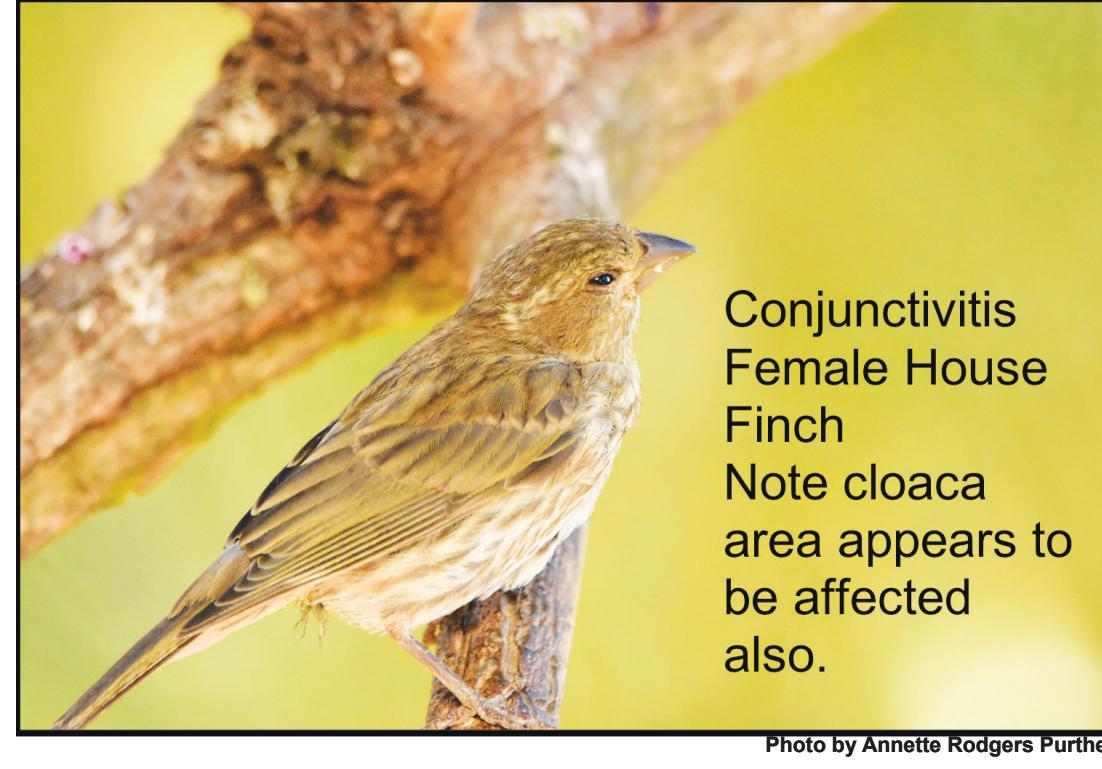
Choose a Rescue in close proximity to where

wild animal is found so that returning to the wild and same-species-buddy for babies can be more easily accommodated.

There is a protocol using Tylosin in water offered to a captive single bird with this disease. Caring for a sick or injured or baby bird is never a good idea and is actually illegal according to the Migratory Bird Act of 1918. I took the bird into care about 3-4 weeks ago and I was able to pick him up just yesterday to return it to its territory for a "Second Chance At Life"...YAY! Note: Rescues attempt to return releasable ADULT birds to their native territory, so let the rescue know where you found the bird and how to get in touch with you. Baby birds that come into care are raised together and soft-released together in safe areas for a bonding-favored survival rate.

Birds affected by Mycoplasmal Conjunctivitis often have red, swollen and crusty or runny eyes. This leads to difficulty finding food and makes them easy targets for predators, eventually not able to find food they starve.

Certain birds are more susceptible than



Conjunctivitis
Female House
Finch
Note cloaca
area appears to
be affected
also.

Photo by Annette Rodgers Purther

others. While it is most common in House Finches, it affects other species such as Purple Finches, Goldfinches, and several related Grosbeak species. Though it has been shown that other species such as Chickadees and Titmice have been exposed to it, so far it does not seem to cause disease in them.

IMPORTANT: The moment I see a sick bird, I remove all food and clean my feeders with a 30-50% bleach solution/Water and thoroughly rinse. I also spray(10%bleach/Water doesn't need rinsing, only left to dry) anything close to the feeders I can reach that birds have touched. I keep my feeders down for at least a week to allow the birds to disperse, remembering they are better off with more space between each other in the wild than huddled together on and around my feeders where Conjunctivitis will be easily spread. When I reintroduce the feeder, I monitor often using binoculars to get a close look at birds. Repeat if necessary, and thank you for caring.

More Common Wild Bird Diseases

Salmonella is mainly transmitted by fecal contamination of food, but it can also be transmitted from direct contact between birds. Salmonella can also be transmitted to people, so wearing gloves and washing hands is strongly recommended for anyone handling a bird with these symptoms. In 2021 I experienced Pine Siskens with Salmonella at my feeder here in Alta. It is not treatable, thus taking down feeders immediately is the protocol.

An infected bird can live for about a day once it shows symptoms, which include moving slowly, puffing out its feathers, and

having swollen-looking eyes. The bird then spreads the salmonella through its poop, and birds frequently poop when they land on bird feeders or at bird baths.

Avian pox is caused by several strains of pox virus (unrelated to chickenpox that affects humans) and affects a wide number of species. Most commonly, wart-like growths can be seen on unfeathered parts of the body such as the legs and around the beak and eyes, although it can appear on wings and other areas as well. This is treatable if caught soon enough.

Trichomoniasis is caused by a single celled parasite which mainly infects the upper gastrointestinal tract of birds, causing white plaques that can obstruct the throat and trachea. It is very common in doves and pigeons, with many adults carrying the parasite asymptotically. However, when it is transmitted to other birds via contaminated food or water it can cause more severe disease. Raptors such as Cooper's Hawks are also often affected after preying upon doves and pigeons; this is more common in urban environments. Birds with trichomoniasis may not have obvious external signs, but are often weak and lethargic from malnutrition.

Trichomonas gallinae, the parasite, often do not survive long outside the host, but can survive for up to 5 days in moist grain, and up to several hours in water. The ability for moisture to keep disease alive, is exactly why I do not often offer water. This disease is treatable if bird is taken to rescue for treatment soon enough.



Dawn M. Anderson, D.D.S.

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Dutch Flat Pool News

By Mike Mutto

We are fortunate this season to have a full complement of returning and new lifeguards. While visiting the pool, please show your appreciation and let them know that they are the ones that make it work every day. If you are so inclined, bring them lunch or munchies!



Photo by Sarah Fugate

Tickets (at the time of this writing) for the August 5th benefit Bar B Que are still on sale at the Trading Post and available from most of the Board members. We will have raffle prizes, silent auction items and a 50-50 raffle to help support the event. Ticket prices are \$30.00 for adults and \$15.00 for children under 12.

The Steve Menconi Band returns for your listening and dancing pleasure. We will have the no-host bars set up along with a wonderful mixed grill menu that we hope will live up to the past few years' rave reviews. PS: The pool will be closed the day of the event. Just a reminder that the tickets sell out rather quickly prior to the event so you might want to consider getting them as far in advance as you can.

See you at the BBQ!

We are in search of an instructor or two for swimming lessons and hope to have some good news by the 1st week in July. We will post all the information on the "All things 389" Facebook site once we know if we can provide them this year.

The Alta/Dutch flat School parents club is providing a well-stocked snack bar this year on the weekends in June and July. Give them some support if you can!

In closing we would like to remind all the parents to sign the liability waivers at the entries and keep an eye on the kiddos in the water in support of the lifeguards while enjoying a safe day @ the pool.



North Fork American River Alliance

By Jim Ricker



Iowa Hill Stevens Trail Hike

Saturday, June 3rd was the American Hiking Society's 30th annual National Trails Day. In celebration, NFARA organized a hike into the North Fork canyon on the Stevens Trail out of Iowa Hill. 9 hearty hikers participated. The trail, which has a gentle grade and is shaded, descends 1600 feet in 3.7 miles to the river. The group had lunch at the river but skipped the swim due to cold, high-water conditions. Since it was National Trails Day, the group did a little brush clearing and trail clean-up along the way. There were no other hikers on the trail that day.

Clean-up at Mineral Bar

NFARA organized a clean-up event on Earth Day, April 22 at Mineral Bar (Colfax Iowa Hill Bridge). 13 volunteers removed about 200 pounds of trash and recyclables from the campground area and along the Pennyweight Trail. This was followed by a hike and some clean-up on the Windy Point Trail. There were crowds of people on the trail, but that didn't detract from the beauty. The wildflowers were out in full bloom.

Placer County Prescribed Burn Assoc.

I attended the Bear River Community Celebration on April 15 at the day use area of the now-closed Bear River Campground. It was a wonderful event that reminded me of the old Confluence Festivals PARC (Protect American River Canyons) used to organize. Good turn out and lots of information.

I went on the walk in the River Fire scar led by retired Cal Fire battalion chief Chris Paulus where we learned about the impacts of the fire. Very informative hike. Chief Paulus is a firm believer in prescribed burns/cultural burning and the need to get fire back on the landscape as a forest management tool.

At the Celebration, I also met Cordi Craig, Prescribed Fire Program Manager with Placer Resource Conservation District. She informed me about the Placer Prescribed Burn Association and added me to their list. The Placer PBA holds classes, presentations, and prescribed burns. Prescribed Burns through Placer PBA are inclusive opportunities for training. You do not need to have certain certifications to participate. You are only asked to wear the appropriate PPE, come with a positive attitude, and a willingness to work.

This from their website <https://placerrcd.org/projects/placer-prescribed-burn-association/>

The Placer Prescribed Burn Association is dedicated to building wildfire resiliency one acre at a time. Placer PBA trains community members and private landowners to gain the capacity, skills, and knowledge to return fire to the landscape by establishing strong roots in education, collaboration, and action. Through establishing solid collaborative partnerships with Tribes, land stewards, and federal, state, and local agencies, we are building a foundation for the continued application of safe, legal, and ecologically beneficial prescribed burns.

Placer PBA is free to join! It is a listserv where you will be the first to find out about workshops and training opportunities offered through Placer RCD. It also serves as a platform to connect you with others in the community who may assist with burn prep, burning operations, or mop-up. To be added to this listserv, contact:

Cordi Craig, Prescribed Fire Program Mgr, cordi@placerrcd.org, (530) 390-6680



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Peggy Roberts, DVM



Invisible Gratitude

I do a lot of freelance writing and it just has its own cadence. So don't expect the "Great American Novel" or highly analyzed Press Releases on this gig. Long ago, someone accused me of "flying by the seat of my pants". I responded, "Heck they flew off miles ago, this is free flow and I don't expect a Pulitzer for it."

As I slithered out of warm covers well before sunrise, I suddenly was aware that to give thanks IN ADVANCE for whatever came this day, was not only good insurance, but it was taking my paws off the control.

The day proceeded and oddly, the prime directive remained. Just give gratitude.

In the end, I determined that I would be anonymous in this exercise. So here goes.

1. Thanks for the splendid sunrise from "YOU KNOW WHO"
2. Thanks for electricity that heats the water for the steaming coffee.
3. Thanks for the blanket to warm my chilly toes.
4. Thanks for chickens and eggs and all that cool process that lead to poaching, scrambling et al.
5. I proceeded up the hill thanking all the trees and asking the dogwoods PLEASE, more blooms before you are done.
6. I came to the Food bank and realized that these folk, just show up and volunteer to help others out. Thanks ALL OF YOU.
7. Thanks for the comradery and hugs from loving, kind individuals.
8. Thanks for the Alta Mall, which is the finest thrift store I've ever experienced. And thanks for the precious women who man or shall I say woman their posts?
9. Thanks for the music man who shows up and plays sixties-plus songs and sings on. Thanks for a lady banjo player who reminds me of "when", the 60's? the hippies? The MUSIC.
10. Thanks for the joy of their efforts at hanging and pressing and whatever magic they do to keep all things organized and wonderful. Wow, this includes the upstairs magic of shoes, awesome kitchen appliances and kids goodies.

11. Thanks for the ladies in post offices that just keep keepin' on. Downed trees, shut off power, and all the rest, and just keep keepin' on.
12. Thanks for a store owner who saves ALL of our backsides in bad weather, gets grumpy and then still finds the energy to be perky and helpful and thanks for a gorgeous and huge pussy cat who not only is a spectacular mouser, but allows pets of his fluffy fur.
13. Thanks for pancakes and the darling entourage who monthly serve breakfast down in the village.
14. Thanks for the fundraisers up the hill to cover Indian outreach projects and broken-hearted family members who lost a dad and father. None of us will ever forget and thank you all for this.

Thank you!

WOW, I'm not done, but you get the drift. I could go on to thank the firemen and firewomen and those who watch the borders of this wee set of communities. Thanks FOREVER to the clan Gold Run who welcomed me as one of their own during rough and tumble times. Thanks to those who showed up to help in any way they could. Thanks to a dame with a sore knee who throws magnificent joyful gigs to help people remember, yep, the JOY of gathering.

Oh, and last but not least, thanks for a precious woman who volunteers to publish this newspaper, and still take care of a husband who is miraculously on the mend.

WOW!!!! So many people show up in very invisible ways, so I'm keeping this also invisible or anonymous.

It doesn't take more than five seconds to lightly touch a heart and hug or just smile and yes, give gratitude... Just sayin'.....

So, thank you one and all for 34 years of lessons, hugs, mirth and prayer. You know who you are.

Heritage Trail Day in Dutch Flat July 15

By Sarah Fugate



Photo by Sarah Fugate

Debby McClatchy's cemetery tour

On July 15, from 10 am – 4 pm, the Golden Drift Historical Society and Museum will host its annual Heritage Trail Day. View exhibits on nearby towns, hydraulic mining, the railroad, Towle Lumber Company, Maidu Indians, and Chinese Pioneers. A large collection of historic photographs helps you to experience Dutch Flat in its heyday. A walking tour of Dutch Flat, led by Jim Ricker, will begin at 10:00am (1 hour), followed by a Cemetery Tour, led by Debby McClatchy, at 11:30am (1.5 hrs.). Wear comfortable shoes, bring a hat and water. The historic United Methodist Church, Dutch Flat Hotel, and Oddfellows Hall will be open with docents from 1:00-3:00pm. Complimentary refreshments, provided by volunteers, will be available on the Museum grounds.

Normal hours of operation at the Museum: Memorial Day- through the end of September: Friday – Sunday 12:00-4:00 pm, plus summer holidays.



Bob Hampshire



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Our Community Pulls Together

By Debby McClatchy

Part One - A Building is Saved

The building that now houses the Dutch Flat Community Center was an elementary school until 1962. Sometime, probably in the 1940s or 1950s, the second floor had been condemned by the county. The auditorium floor was separating from the staircase; the foundation was slipping, extra weight worrisome; there was guano from hundreds of resident bats; the windows were broken and stuck; the paint was peeling; heat ducts were blocked. It was a dirty, dusty, and dangerous mess.

While still a school, the building was closed in the summer, except for pot-lucks and meetings. Ignoring the danger, we local kids would sneak upstairs to play. We felt, with the smugness of youth, that we would live forever, and rebellion was fun and empowering. Very foolish!

But, it was a magical space. Dust motes would dance in the sunbeams coming through the broken windows. The minute mews of bats were unrecognized, thought to be mice or rats or squirrels in the walls. The creaking floorboards scared us into silence, and we always walked gingerly. As this was forbidden territory, it was all that more sweet.

In the mid-1990s many area residents sought to make the space usable. As the building would be one hundred years old in 1998, a celebration was planned. Volunteers started to work years beforehand. There were too many to name here, but most of the town took on a project. Engineers figured how to tie the structure together; carpenters worked in the muddy dank basement, shoring up the foundation; a full velvet curtain, with gold tassels and fringe, was sewn for the stage; money was raised for a sound system; people painted on their lunch hours; the bats were shooed away and the guano collected by gardeners; the back of the stage was turned from a chaotic dump of stuff to an organized, useful room; teens and kids cleaned and played and supervised; the windows were fixed.

By the winter of 1998 the upstairs was no longer under condemnation and the town rejoiced. Ten musicians, local and from out of town, put together a concert of gold-rush sing-alongs; cooks planned a magnificent spread of food; wine and whiskey were readied; and tickets went on sale for a grand centennial re-opening gala.

That evening Dutch Flat was blanketed by a massive snowstorm. People came anyway. Originally about 150 tickets had been sold. Half of those didn't make it, but people kept showing up and eventually two hundred people sat upstairs, now a refuge and oasis from the storm. Accounting later showed about 240 tickets had been sold. (Later the fire department set an occupancy rate of 180. Oops!) The audience sang and shouted and clapped, danced and stamped their feet. We were quietly afraid the floor would give way,

but the evening passed with no structural damage. The atmosphere was so charged and electric; most of the audience said it was one of the best events ever attended locally.

Starting in 1998 there were nine more well-attended concerts, all to raise money to replace the aged linoleum, full of asbestos, downstairs. As incredible as each concert proved to be, whether Irish, Americana folk, gold-rush ditties, classic country, Appalachian, or Humor in Folk Music, that first concert, to celebrate our grand re-opening, will go down as a highlight of Dutch Flat history.

And people down the hill keep asking me, "What could there possibly be to do in Dutch Flat?"

Part Two - Our Ladies Aid Society

Before our Community Center took over guardianship of Dutch Flat, local women thought about forming a group to help residents with medical, financial, and social needs. On October 18th, 1933 Pearl Quinn called a meeting to discuss doing just that. All there agreed it was a good idea and the Colfax chapter of The Ladies Aid Society was contacted for advice. This was readily given, including how to draw up a constitution. As the holidays were approaching the matter was tabled until after the new year.

(It is interesting to note that sales of alcohol had resumed in Dutch Flat in 1933. Perhaps this was creating more of a need for help?)

The Dutch Flat Ladies Aid Society was officially organized on January 3, 1934. Meetings would be the first and third Wednesdays of the month, with the latter date a "Silver Tea". (I looked everywhere for a description of this lovely sounding event in vain; I assume a nice tea service with silver pots.) Officers were Letha Richards as President, Ruby Hughs as Vice President, and Emma Williams as Secretary.

Their first project was to patch two quilts, the sale to benefit locals needing help. Next a bazaar was planned at the end of July, plus a benefit dinner, to raise funds for the local Methodist/Episcopal Church. They netted \$185, which included donations from the more wealthy families in town, the George Towles Jrs, William Nicholls Jrs, Dr. and Mrs. Newton, Albert Trath, and Mrs. Barbour.

Bazaars were held on a regular basis. These produced the most funds, but money was also raised from theatrical productions and cash donations.

During the Great Depression of the 1930s many homeless families camped out along the Bear River, even in winter. The LAS regularly supplied them with food, clothing, and holiday dinners.

In town they provided clean clothing and shoes to the poorer children, thus enabling them to attend school. A son of the Reasoner family had injured his eye, and the LAS paid his medical bills, and then for a glass



Dutch Flat
Ladies Aid Society,
March 1964

replacement.

In the early 1940s, Busters, the only bar in town, burned down. Town lore, not documented, has the LAS holding multiple bake sales and bazaars to raise the money to rebuild. Asked why they were so generous to support an establishment that sold alcohol, they supposedly replied it was so they would always know the location of their husbands and sons!

In the 1950s they helped keep the Church afloat by paying its insurance, the pastor's salary, and wood for the heating. In 1853 the building needed many repairs; these were done by townsfolk, but the LAS paid for the materials. The concrete steps were built then; the piano and chandeliers were donated. Other organizations that they benefited over the years included the DF Volunteer Fire Department, the Boy Scouts of America, the DF School, the DF Community Club, the Red Cross, the March of Dimes, the Easter Seals, the Cancer Fund, and the Gold Run Church. There is no mention of any Alta groups; probably due to the unfortunate rivalry then between the two towns.

In 1961 the LAS moved into a new clubhouse, a small ex-residential across from the site of the old Placer Hotel. They were guests of the owners, the Holmes family. The LAS incorporated in 1963 as a non-profit.

By 1965 there were over forty members. In 1971 they purchased the building from the Holmes. The cottage was affectionately known as the "cracker box".

By the 1980s most members were aging and less active. It was difficult to recruit new people, and membership was down to seven. It was decided to disband. In 1987 the building was turned over to the Golden Drift Historic Society, which opened a museum on the premises on May 2, 1987. They planned to be open every weekend in the summer. The president was Mathew Bailey. The building was officially "sold" by quick claim to the GDHS on June 4, 1988. Any left-over handmade items from the LAS were sold by the DF Trading Post, Runnymede Antique Shop, Halderson's Hobby Shop, and at the Museum.

On June 21, 1988 the LAS held a farewell luncheon party at Headquarters House in Bowman. All members and generous patrons were invited. The president, Evelyn Johnson, gave a heartwarming speech; benefactors were acknowledged, and all agreed it had been a worthwhile endeavor. There is a wonderful photo in the museum's picture gallery of the LAS in a meeting, resplendent in cotton frocks and permed hair. Dutch Flat certainly should thank them for starting a giving tradition that continues today.

Become a Member of the Dutch Flat Community Center!

Dutch Flat Community Center Membership Form

A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization (Tax ID# 68-0484699)

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

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E-mail: _____

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Spring into Wonder!

By Mia Monroe

Wonder what will arise now snow melted and we finally have lots of water? A trip to Windy Point was awesome and was thrilled by abundant purple milkweed in bud, awaiting the arrival of monarch butterflies for a late spring generation! Ditto Drum Powerhouse! Have heard the good news that dippers (John Muir's favorite bird!) are setting up housekeeping on the Bear River!

Spring is in full song and here's an idea to help you join the dance:

Doug Tallamy's Homegrown National Park! Especially apropos for those of us in the country: tend your home gardens and grounds as wildlife environs! This will expand the feeding, nesting, and your viewing fun for all those myriad critters who share this amazing place in the Sierra foothills.

One thing you may be wondering about as you see new bird arrivals, note a bat at dusk, the hammering of a woodpecker or blur of a hummingbird, a butterfly on your flowers or the frog chorus starts up: are these residents, too? Are they migrating through and need a place to eat and snack, take a nap? Will they set up a seasonal home here to breed? Am sure you, too, wish to offer all the other critters a helping hand especially when the news of no salmon in ocean, the monarch butterfly decline, the loss of whales and sometimes it is as easy as keeping your kitty inside or offering a feeder but other times it is in your garden practices: native plants best, no pesticides (no-brainer), lots of hiding and roosting spots. Other times, to go back to Doug Tallamy it is time to rethink the trees...

Maybe you, too, wonder what our Dutch Flat landscape once looked like but there are clues to the awesome forest in our specimen sugar pine, ponderosa, and awesome dogwood plus we have several landmark oak trees, too: right here in town! Not just one species of oak but two, the prized black oak and stately live oak!

I write this column on Arbor Day and live my life in celebration of trees (especially redwoods!). If nature's storm has opened a space in your yard for a tree, consider a native coast oak and watch it quickly grow, offer critters something every single month... Check out Doug Tallamy's book, *The Nature of the Oak* (or newly released for young people, "Nature's Best Hope: How You Can Save the World in Your Own Yard" (Timber Press), is aimed at middle schoolers (and, he hopes, their parents) in time for Earth Day, or watch his video, or look up more at this page: The Doug Tallamy Page - Pollinator Conservation Association.

Alta-Dutch Flat School News

By Shana Brown

With another successful school year in the books, summer is officially here! Our last day was Friday, June 2 and celebrated with a schoolwide play day and pizza lunch. This year, we found, began to feel like normal again. We have much to be grateful for at our little school. We are grateful that Scott Leaman was willing to serve as our Superintendent-Principal for this year. He is a retired superintendent from Western Placer School District in Lincoln but was able to serve as our part time administrator from April of 2022 through the end of this year. His kindness and knowledge steered us through the end of the challenging days of Covid and helped us begin to feel like ourselves again. Our Parents' Club, led by Brandy March, was also active on campus again and planned many fun activities for our students and staff. Our current school board, made up of President Lori Warwick, Kathy Mutto, Delicia Lumpkins, Kirstin Bivins, and Daria Snyder has done an outstanding job making sound decisions on behalf of our community. Finally, our staff: Mary Bridges, Shana Brown, Kristine Bye, Christa Field, Tara DiPietro, Jordan Eldridge, Kellie Ellison, Christina Fejes, Brieann Lizardo, Dawn Sibley, Pamela Solomon, Jera Starnes, Kacee Stetler, and Sandie Weir have put in countless hours of work and love to make this school the very special place that it is. Thank you.

We held graduation on June 1 and our parents and school staff, as well as many community organizations came to support and celebrate our students' achievements. Congratulations to our graduates:

Bailey Dubinsky, class valedictorian, Rebekah's Lodge Golden Rule Award presented by Heidi Suter, American Legion Award recipient, Presidential Award for Academic Excellence recipient.

Kylie Myers, class salutatorian, Faculty Award recipient, Presidential Award for Academic Excellence recipient.

Isabella Best, Friends of the Dutch Flat Pool Award for Student Athlete presented by Mike Mutto and Parents' Club Award recipient presented by Brandy March.

Wesley Ellison, Dutch Flat Community Center Award presented by Karen Charles.

Cadon Harris, VFW Award recipient and Oddfellows Lodge Award recipient presented by Troy Kannenberg.

Joseph Cook.

They then celebrated at a party and dance hosted by the seventh-grade parents at the Dutch Flat Community Center.

There are big changes in store for our little school in the upcoming school year. We will have two new teachers in fifth through eighth grades. We send our best wishes and gratitude to Dawn Sibley for her twenty-five years of service to our district and wish her the very best in her new adventures. I am so excited for the next school year as I step into the position of Superintendent-Principal. I am a proud local and live here in Dutch Flat with my husband, Dave. I've taught English and Social Studies here for nine years, and both of my sons went to school here. I love this community and this school and can't wait to do more of the things that make us great. We will see everyone back in school on August 15! Have a wonderful summer!



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