

Colfax Connections

Published by the City of Colfax

County Supervisors Leaning Toward Closing Bear River Campground

By wstockwin@hughes.net

A crowd estimated at 75-80 people gathered at the Sierra Vista Center on September 12 for an evening meeting to give public input on the eventual fate of the Bear River Campground (BRC) where the devastating "River Fire" started last year.



Photo by Will Stockwin

Placer County District 5 Supervisor Cindy Gustafson called for the meeting after her announcement that the county would be abandoning its lease to manage the campground this November at the Weimar/Applegate/Colfax Municipal Advisory Committee meeting in July triggered an unanticipated amount of public concern.

Other officials in attendance included Steve Gayfield, Placer County Director of Parks and Open

Space, and Kevin Thomas and John Watkins representing the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the agency that owns the 260-acre campground.

Gustafson opened the meeting by saying that the full board of Placer Supervisors would make the final decision, adding that the board was currently leaning toward permanently closing the campground, which has been closed since last year's fire.

After she opened the public microphone 25 speakers came forward to give their opinions

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Council Urges PC Supes To Keep Bear River Campground Open

By wstockwin@hughes.net

Sept. 28 meeting

The city council took a stand in favor of keeping the Bear River Campground open when it directed staff to send a management-planning letter to Placer County Board of Supervisors chairperson Cindy Gustafson. The letter reads as follows:

The Honorable Cindy Gustafson
Placer County Board of Supervisors Chair
175 Fulweiler Avenue Auburn, CA 95603

RE: Bear River Campground Management/Planning

Dear Chair Gustafson: On behalf of the City of Colfax City Council, I am writing to inform you the City of Colfax City Council has discussed the recent Bear River Campground leasing situation and has the following collective opinion:

1. The City of Colfax City Council believes it is in the best interest of the region for Placer County

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Campground from page 1

and concerns about the campground's future, and some 30 more joined in via Zoom. None spoke in favor of closing the campground.

Topics and concerns raised included:

- Unmitigated hazardous vegetation is still causing fire danger.
- Nearly all speakers mentioned the lack of regular security patrols.
- Loss of income BRC provides local Colfax businesses over summer.
- Campsite fire rings have not been removed.
- Bathrooms – staying or leaving?
- Homeless campers not being monitored.
- A question of whether gold panning would continue to be allowed.
- The need for a season-long campground host.
- Threatened/endangered frog species needing to be monitored and protected.
- Funding BRC's maintenance needs with higher camping fees.
- Implementing a yearly BRC cleanup by local volunteers.

One speaker mentioned the

threat the proposed Centennial Dam poses to the BRC, and Gustafson said that NID has told her it is no longer pursuing that project. There also seemed to be a consensus among speakers that the BRC should not be run by the state.

Gustafson gave no timeline for when the board would reach a decision and Thomas said his agency would make no changes in the BRC's current status before the county makes that decision.

City letter from page 1

to continue to operate the Bear River Campground.

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2. There should be a 24/7 camp host onsite during operations regardless of who operates the site, and with access to a water system for fire suppression.

3. Continued efforts to mitigate vegetation fuels should occur to reduce the fire danger for the campground users, surrounding County residents, and the City of Colfax community.

The City of Colfax encourages the Board of Supervisors to renew the Bear River Campground lease given its value to the region. Furthermore, the City of Colfax requests the Board of Supervisors to consider adopting the Bear River Campground location in its Parks and Recreation Plan with potential improvements/expansion of the trail system in and around the area.

The letter will be signed by all members of the council.

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From previous page

Earlier in the meeting the council passed a resolution approving the historical design review, conditional use permit and variance application to restore and renovate the Colfax Hotel at 10 Grass Valley St.

Sept. 14 meeting

During its September 14 meeting the city council unanimously passed the second reading of a parking ordinance that will allow some parking restrictions on narrow city streets in order to accommodate access by emergency vehicles and solid waste haulers. The ordinance will take effect on October 14.

The council also unanimously passed a second amendment to the Best Western Improvement Agreement. Mayor Burruss did not attend the meeting.

On August 31 the city council convened a midday special meeting to approve a Subdivision Improvement Agreement (Agreement) that would allow staff to issue a temporary certificate of occupancy for the Maidu ARCO project before all project improvements are completed.

Four members of the council voted to approve the Agreement. Mayor Pro Tem Mendoza was absent.

The Agreement requires all project improvements to be completed within 60 days after Council approval, and requires the developer to deposit a check for \$36,500.00 as security for timely completion of the improvements. The Best Western Hotel project received a similar accommodation.

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Colfax Connections is a monthly city publication edited by Will Stockwin, who can be contacted via e-mail at wstockwin@hughes.net. All submissions are welcome, the earlier the better.

Submissions deadline is the 20th of the previous month.

STAFF
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Assistant To Editor – LindaLou Haines

Hard Copies of Colfax Connections can be found at City Hall, the Colfax Library, Colfax Area Chamber of Commerce, Colfax Heritage Museum.

Digital copies can also be found on the Chamber's Website at (www.ColfaxChamber.com) and on the City's Website at (www.colfax-ca.gov).



Business Briefs

with LindaLou Haines

Foodies: This month's for you!

The theme this month is food: Two restaurants and a natural food shop. And, one restaurant has a connection to TJ's Roadhouse (520 S. Auburn).

Let's start with "family-oriented" **Dine n Dash Restaurant + Bar** at 1516 S. Canyon Way, which has been under new ownership for several months now. Co-managers are Sharon Davis and Amar Singh. Regulars at Dine n Dash know Sharon, since she's been a familiar face there for five years.

A new offering at Dine n Dash is the Happy Hour, 3-6, featuring high-end liquors for cocktails, everyday Wednesday to Monday. Regular days and hours are Wednesday to Sunday, 7 am to 9 pm with dinner served from 5 pm to closing. And, Monday 7 am to 9 pm with no dinner service. Plus, the bar has a special cocktail menu for Happy Hour and dinner. The expanded Breakfast and Lunch and the Dinner menus will see some changes and additions in the coming weeks and months.

Recently a friend and I had dinner at Dine n Dash. I enjoyed the Whiskey Glazed Salmon and my friend loved the Black & Bleu Burger. We were quite



happy with our food and drinks.

Follow Dine n Dash on facebook, DineDashRestaurant+Bar. And, you can call 530-346-1000 for more info.

Next, we are going to check out the new **Madi's MexiCali Stop** Authentic Mexican Food, "Taste the difference" at 212 N. Canyon Way, MadisMexiCaliStop.com, 512-5069.

So, who is Madi? She is Madi Espindola, also owner of **TJ's Roadhouse**, TJ'sColfax.com. Madi's expansive menu includes items in these categories: Tacos, Soups, Burritos, Enchiladas, Fajitas, Kids' Menu, Dessert and more.

Our next stop is the "natural

market," **Snapdragon Provisions** at 228 S. Auburn, which is a faith-based non-profit, private membership (\$1) association. They carry seasonal, mostly organic produce; in house, freshly squeezed juices, and a wide variety of prepackaged items.

Snapdragon is open weekdays 7 am to 6 pm, weekends 8 to 4 and closed Wednesday and Thursday. You can get more info at 512-5043 and on facebook: SnapdragonProvisions.

Finally, an update on the **Wandering Wardrobe**. It is no longer a consignment shop. However, donations are welcome. And, a bonus for ladies making donations: They get 50% off purchases made the day of their donation. For more info, contact owner Richelle Clark at 916-716-3604.

Remember, Shop Colfax first, then Shop Placer. "Show love for local."

Have Colfax business news? Contact me at lindalouhouse14@gmail.com



Photos by Alan Shuttleworth



Spaghetti Dinner

**American Legion Post 192
second annual appreciation
dinner to honor all of our
great 1st responders.**

**Spaghetti dinner October 20,
2022 from 5 to 7pm**

**Colfax Veterans Memorial Hall
22 Sunset circle.**

**Free admittance with reservations
in advance (donations are always
welcome).**

**For reservations please call Lor-
rie at 916 202-2851 or Hank at
916 216-8254 email [commander@
post192colfaxca.com](mailto:commander@post192colfaxca.com)**



Railroad Days

Photos by Alan Shuttleworth



Top - Vendors on S. Main St. and Railroad St.
 Center - Arshay and Karl Fischer
 Center Right -
Fred Abbott, Railroad Days ringmaster
 Above - Catching the train on Main St.
 Lower left - High kicking Can-Can Dancers

Measure B On November Ballot To Raise Transient Occupancy Tax

The Colfax City Council voted unanimously to place Measure B related to the City's Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) on the November 8, 2022 ballot. If approved by voters, this would increase the City's current TOT rate from 8% to 10% and expand the definition of "operator" to include on-line room sellers, resellers, and brokers who contract with a hotel to arrange for rental of its rooms.

The City's Transient Occupancy Tax is a "pass-through" tax in that it is collected by the hotel operators from their customers and passed along to the City.

The TOT is not a tax on Colfax residents or hotel operators themselves, although hotel operators are responsible for collecting the tax from their customers and transmitting the tax collected to the City. It is a tax paid only by visitors and tourists to our City. Visitors pay this tax when they stay at a Colfax hotel, motel, or other short-term lodging, and is used to help fund local services that visitors use when staying in the City.

Measure B is a general tax, which means that the proceeds of TOT collection can be used for general City expenditures, including but not limited to police, fire, road and pothole repair, and parks and recreation. Revenue generated from this measure cannot be taken by the State and would provide locally controlled funding to help maintain and protect vital city services.

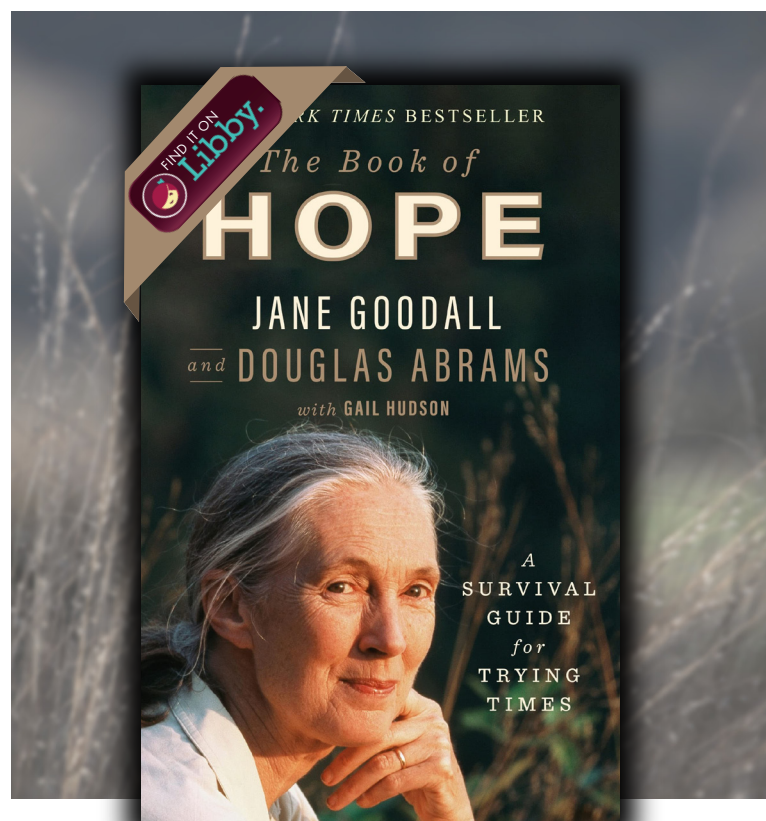
The TOT tax rate in Colfax (8%) is currently the second lowest hotel tax rate in the County

and has never been increased since it was originally enacted by voters in 1975. The modest increase to 10%, will bring the City's tax rate in line with the surrounding cities of Lincoln, Placerville, Grass Valley, Nevada City, and Truckee, whose rates are currently at 10%. In addition, the Cities of Rocklin and Roseville have similar proposed measures on the November 2022 ballot to increase their rates to 10% as well. The 2% increase is estimated to produce \$29,000 additional revenue every year and will remain in effect unless and until it is ended by the voters.

The City continues to work closely with its local hotel operators to demonstrate they are vital members of the Colfax community who contribute to

the City's overall success. The City will be hosting two informational community meetings to hear from members of the public about this proposed measure and to discuss what it means for our City. **To learn more about Measure B, please attend our informational community meetings to be held on October 3rd & 20th, 6:00-7:30pm in the City Council Chambers at 33 S. Main St. in Colfax.**

If you have questions about Measure B but are unable to attend either of the community meetings, you can contact us at city.clerk@colfax-ca.gov. For additional information on this measure and to learn about the type of City services it could help maintain, please visit <https://localinput.net/>.



COLFAX LIBRARY BOOK CLUB

WEDNESDAY OCT 12 | 2PM



Chamber of Commerce Notes and Events

Welcome from your Colfax Area Chamber of Commerce. Thank you Fred and Renee Abbott for this year's "Railroad Days" event and celebration. Your dedication to our community is greatly appreciated. Our Colfax Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to have you both as members.



Railroad Days, along with 3rd of July and Winterfest, are the largest events and celebrations each year. Preparation for each event begins the day after the event ends, including:

- setting a new date for the following year.
- advertising and marketing with radio/ TV stations and other social media organizations.
- reaching out to existing vendors and contacting new and potential vendors.
- planning fundraising events and contacting others to help support and promote for the following year.
- lining up music, food vendors, performers, lights, and preparing for parades and car shows are just all a part of organizing an event this size.
- working with the city and county, sheriff and fire departments, emergency services are all necessary when dealing with road closures, detours getting in and out of the area, parking, safety for all participants and spectators, licensing and permits.

And then there are the unexpected situations and weather to prepare for and deal with. Mother nature can create havoc for the event with high heat, excessive winds, rain and the possibility of snow.

Throw in a fire or two, have a freight train break down in the middle of town, or even the possibility of a new and serious virus affecting our area. And then have a call a week or a day before the event and have someone cancel.

So you ask, why do we do these events? The smiles, laughter, and gratitude from spectators

and participants. Everyone comes together to have a fun and exciting time.

So what did Fred and Renee say to me when they were getting ready to head home? (They now live in Arizona and come out with their trailer for a month before finalizing the event). "We are already planning for next year and it will be even better." They both have such great attitudes with positive thoughts. You just can't keep a good man/woman down. Thank you Fred and Renee again for Railroad Days.

With the addition of many new business and associate members recently, your Colfax Area Chamber of Commerce has been very busy with Grand Openings, Ribbon Cuttings, and Mixers.

Our latest business members are: Madi's Mexi-Cali Stop, Amanda Palmquist of EXP Realty of California, Mar Aballa of Precision Home Loans, Mi Ranchito Mexican Food, Donnelley Properties, Best Western, Life Tribute Celebrant, DC Solar, Workman Auto Glass and The Potty Shack.

In addition we have two new associate members: Liz Ainsworth and Suzanne Roberts. We thank you all and look forward to supporting, promoting, and recommending your businesses throughout our area and beyond.

Please visit our website, www.Colfaxchamber.com for all our business listings, upcoming events and more information. We welcome you to stop by our Chamber office/Visitor Center and The Colfax Heritage Museum, 99 South Railroad Street in Colfax Ca.



Tim Ryan, CACC President
Colfax Area

Chamber of Commerce
colfaxchamber.com

(530) 346-8888

colfaxareachamber@gmail.com



94 Years Of Service

The Colfax Lions Club members recently gathered at the Roy Toms Plaza to celebrate a club that has served Colfax for 94 years. Starting in 1928, the Colfax Lions have promoted local schools, vision services and the community at large. Lions President, Rose Craighead commented, "We are proud of our talented and diverse group of men and women."

Photo by Alan Shuttleworth

Mary Horton Headlines Garden Club Meeting Friday, October 13

The next membership meeting for the Colfax Garden Club will be on Friday, October 13, 2022. It will be held at 9:30 a.m. at the Sierra Vista Community Center, 55 N. School Street in Colfax.

Mary Horton of Horton Iris Farm will be the featured speaker at the meeting. She will tell us some of the secrets of growing beautiful bearded irises. Are you interested in learning more about the Colfax Garden Club? The meeting is open to the public and you are invited to join us.

If you would like some more information about the Colfax Garden Club or about the meeting, please contact us at ingridelsel@hotmail.com.



Endangered Monarch butterfly caterpillar chews on local milkweed at Downtown Farm.

Photo by Will Stockwin

How do Trees Help the Environment?

*(Editor's note: In our April 2022 issue we featured the seven winners of the Colfax Garden Club's annual 5th Grade Arbor Day Essay Contest planting a tree. Starting with its May issue, Colfax Connections is sharing those essays with its readers. **Mad-dox Randon** was one of three fourth place winners.)*

Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Every green tree is far more glorious than if it were made of gold and silver." Dr. King is correct again with yet another inspirational quote.

This is because trees are more

valuable in different ways like giving us fresh air, food to eat, and much more. The things that trees give us are gifts from Mother Nature. These gifts help us live and grow.

Trees give us fruit to eat and my favorite fruit is a pear. According to Cornell University a mature pear tree can produce anywhere from 45 pounds to 150 pounds of fruit in one season. I don't know what I would do without pears.

It's proven by science that trees give us fresh oxygen to breathe and without trees we would probably not be here right now. Trees are like air fresheners.

Trees are calming from the rustling of the leaves to many other aspects. If you are in a hospital and you see a tree, these trees reduce stress levels and are said to allow you to heal faster.

The calming aspect of trees also help children with attention deficit disorders to focus better. Scientists say that being around trees every day helps with mental health. I am so glad we live here in the foothills near so many beautiful trees.

In conclusion, our world would be a gray dystopia without trees. This Arbor Day, if you find a dollar in your pocket go to [teamtrees.org](https://www.teamtrees.org) and donate a dollar to plant a tree.



Churches

Colfax Assembly of
God Community
Fellowship
252 Culver St., Col-
fax, CA 95713
Email: colfaxesaog@
gmail.com
Website: <http://www.colfaxagca.org/>



Colfax Baptist Church
24850 Ben Taylor Rd., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-8110
Email: pastorgaryhoward@yahoo.com
Website: <http://colfaxbaptist.com/>

Colfax United Methodist Church
59 W. Church St., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-2267
Website: <https://www.colfaxumc.org/>

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah Witnesses
944 Canyon Way, Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-2525
Website: <https://www.jw.org/en/>

St. Dominic's Catholic Church
589 E. Oak St., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-2286
Website: [https://www.scd.org/parish/
st-dominic-parish-colfax](https://www.scd.org/parish/st-dominic-parish-colfax)

Seventh Day Adventist
454 Scholtz Ave., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-8844
Website: <https://www.colfaxsdachurch.com>

The Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter-Day Saints
1875 S. Auburn St., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-7702
Website: <https://www.lds.org/>

Social Organizations

American Legion Post 192
22 Sunset Dr., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-9433
Website: <http://norwellpost192.org>

Colfax Area Chamber of Commerce
99 S. Railroad St., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-8888
Website: <http://colfaxchamber.com>

Colfax Area Historical Society
Archives: PO Box 185, Colfax, CA 95713
Museum 99 Railroad St., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-8599
Website: <https://colfaxhistory.org>

Colfax Garden Club
PO Box 1801, Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-7474
Website: [http://californiagardenclubs.com/
content/colfax-garden-club](http://californiagardenclubs.com/content/colfax-garden-club)

Colfax Lions Club
PO Box 664, Colfax, CA 95713
530-477-2533
Website: [https://www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/
colfaxca](https://www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/colfaxca)

Sierra Vista Artists
55 School St., Rm. C-4, Colfax, CA 95713
530-320-0433

Sierra Vista Community Center
55 School St., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-8726 Website:
<https://sierravistacolfax.wordpress.com>

Soroptimist International of Colfax
PO Box 475, Colfax, CA 95713
530-637-4878

VFW Post 2003
22 Sunset Dr., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-7768
<https://www.colfaxveterans.org/vfw.html>



SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF COLFAX

33RD

Old Fashioned
**SOUP
KITCHEN**



SATURDAY
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**Sierra Vista
Community Center**

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