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Colfax Connections

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Mosquito Fire Was Largest In Placer County's History

By wstockwin@hughes.net

The meeting opened with a consent calendar listing nine items, including rental charges, city equipment repair, sewer plant improvements and monitoring, an increase in city employee life insurance benefits, and the cash summary and quarterly sales tax analysis. All council members were present and approved the consent calendar with a unanimous vote.

Following agency reports the council heard a Mosquito Fire Incident Overview presentation from Placer County Fire Department/CALFIRE Chief Brian Estes. He opened his presentation saying, "The Mosquito Fire was the largest wildfire in Placer County history." He added that before the fire was finally extinguished, it had burned 76,788 acres, 22 structures, and had run suppression costs up to $160 million.

Asked about the cause of the fire Estes would only say that the fire started "in and around" a structure at Oxbow Dam, and that the exact cause was still under investigation. He said the fire that started in Dutch Flat at roughly the same time had been held to 50 acres by an aggressive air attack, and had been started by burning truck brakes on I-80.

There were three items of council business:

Items 9A and 9B, resolutions respectively authorizing the city manager to execute a lease agreement with Astound Broadband for the northwest corner of 33 W. Church St., and expanding the Pioneer Energy Joint Power Authority to include the cities of Grass Valley and Nevada City as voting members both passed unanimously with little discussion.

The last item of business, 9C, was a pavement management plan update that offered two options involving contracting with Coastland Engineering for $25,240 or $15,800 depending on which option the council preferred.

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CHP Officer Chris Nave is Retiring

Chris Nave (at left) and officer Jason Lyman, his replacement as Gold Run CHP Community Information Officer

Photo and Story by Alan Shuttleworth

Chris Nave has had the life experiences that many of us envy. Star athlete in high school, sports scholarship/academic student at Cal State and 26 years of exemplary community service as a California Highway Patrol (CHP) officer equals a special individual who cares a great deal about his community.

As an avid high school sports fan, I have known

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Chris since he was an underclassman at Colfax High School. It is fun to see a young person excel in any sport. It is truly enjoyable to see that person take on leadership positions so that their teammates can celebrate their own athletic accomplishments.

As quarterback on the football team, Chris' leadership and prowess led to awards of All-League and All-Metro. As an All-League point guard and team captain, Chris led the Falcon's basketball team to many victories. As a pitcher and first baseman for the baseball team, Chris received All-Metro recognitions and a sports/ academic scholarship to CSUS where he received his BA and MA in criminal justice.

The selection of criminal justice as an ultimate career was no off-the-cuff decision. Family history certainly leaned heavily on Chris' next steps. Grandfather Nave served as an officer with the Los Angeles Police Department and the Placer County Sheriff Department. Grandfather Libolt served as a military policeman in the U.S. Army. Colfax High coaches, Dick Adams and Buck Wheat, who were also CHP officers at the Gold Run Office, certainly gave Chris many a pep talk on the reasons why CHP would be a great career choice.

After completing his college studies, Chris became an officer serving at the Sacramento County Probation Department. Then came the acceptance to be an officer in the CHP. After his appointment and training period, Chris served 10 years in the offices of Redwood City, Dublin and Vallejo. While the Gold Run office is small and the number of officer vacancies there are also small, Chris was successful in receiving a transfer to that office. To say that he was more than happy to return to his native Placer County is an understatement.

Chris served as a regular patrol officer at Gold Run until 2013. At that point, he was seeking more regular hours in order to spend more time with his growing children and their many activities. Having coached many different sports before his CHP appointment, Chris also wished to get back into coaching.

Enter a new title of CHP Community Information Officer. If there was a need for a Gold Run CHP press liaison, Chris was your contact. I recall seeing Chris many times on Sacramento television news stations giving information on weather, road closures, accidents or

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CHS Cross-Country Ski Team Hosts First Annual Bike Ride

Cross Country Ski Team coach Doug Thorley and his wife Beth.

Saturday, October 22nd saw 42 cyclists gather in Colfax to ride either of two routes, 25 or 50 miles, as part of a fundraiser for the CHS Nordic Ski Team. Both routes offered excellent scenery and some stretches of moderate-to-challenging climbing. Lunch at Mi Ranchito awaited the riders upon their arrival at the finish line at Goob Cyclery in the Fruit Exchange building.

Photos by Alan Shuttleworth

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whatever a reporter was searching for at the time. I also recall Chris as a fine teacher, as I attended his class sessions on vehicle safety that were specifically designed to help seniors. I learned a lot.

Chris has been married to his wife Kristin for 27 years, and the couple has two children. Daughter Aubrey is a student at Arizona State and son Bradley is a junior at Colfax High. Asked about his next steps, Chris replied "I enjoy serving the community. I see coaching and any related teaching as an immediate goal that is very different from law enforcement. I am always up for a new adventure and excited for what comes next. I have no regrets and love how my career has progressed over the years."

Lt. Frank Newman, Commander at the Gold Run CHP Office had high praise for Nave: "I met Chris almost 25 years ago when we were both CHP officers assigned to the Redwood City Area. I've always known him to be an officer of extremely high work ethic and integrity.

"Throughout his career, he has been a friend and mentor to all. He always remained firm and fair in his enforcement of the law while showing great compassion to the citizens we serve. He has taken a great interest in our local community as a coach and mentor to our youth. In his 25 years of dedicated service, he has received multiple awards and commendations. In short, he is one of the most dedicated and professional officers I have had the pleasure to work with."

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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.

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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

Who has the lowest gas prices in town?

The new **ARCO AMPM Mini Mart** has the best gas prices in town, as of this date in late October. Of course, I am assuming our readers might find gas prices of interest. Just maybe!

Manager Narinder Singh and staff are keeping the sparkling new Colfax business humming even with occasional lines waiting for the pumps. (The word must be out about their lower prices.)

The Roundabout location for the ARCO means it is extremely easy for locals to access and for westbound traffic on I80 to zip off and back on the highway, as well.

So, with lower prices and convenience going for it, you've got to check out our new Colfax business, the ARCO AMPM at the Roundabout.

By the way, the 24/7 ARCO has a need for a "graveyard" shift cashier. Call 820-3096.

A number of other businesses in town are hiring also and are offering competitive wages. Two of those are the **Best Western Colfax** and the **Colfax Farm & Country Store**. You'll need to call them directly for details.

However, I can tell you that the Best Western, 801 S. Auburn, needs Front Desk/ Receptionists and housekeepers. Of the 69 rooms available, our Best Western averages 55% occupancy across the almost one year since it opened. That is especially good for the first year of a new hotel being open. Bravo to BW Colfax! Local phone, (530)206-8787; reservation number is 800-780-7234. The Farm & Country Store at 140 N. Main is looking to hire a Hay & Feed Loader. Call for details, 346-2600 or check the website, Colfax-FarmStore.com.

If you haven't been in the Farm Store recently, here is a tiny inventory to tempt you. Carol & Ron Dotto and son Mason stock: Their biggest seller, livestock feed.

Plus, propane; U-Haul trucks; garden supplies; Hummingbird feeders; local honey; feed, treats and supplies for dogs, cats, fish, reptiles, domestic birds and wild birds. They also have toys for household pets, like cats and dogs, and dog leashes and rhinestone collars.

My Chiweenie, Miss Bella, insists on getting her favorite Kong toys and rhinestone collars at the Farm Store! Hours are 9 to 6 everyday except Sunday, which is 10 to 2.

Contact me at lindalouhaines14@gmail.com

Photo by Alan Shuttleworth

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF COLFAX
33RD
Old Fashioned
SOUP
KITCHEN
SATURDAY
December 10th
4:00 - 6:30 P.M.
Sierra Vista
Community Center
TICKETS AT THE DOOR:
Adults - $10 • Children: 6-17- $8 • 5 & under Free
[SALES TAX INCLUDED]
For more information please call (530) 637-4878
PROCEEDS BENEFIT PROJECTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Council meeting from page 1

But after public works director Martin Jones explained the two alternatives further, Mayor Trinity Burruss kicked off the council discussion saying she'd prefer having the next street survey done initially by city staff rather than spending money for a consultant.

Councilmember Fatula joined the mayor saying that a street survey "wasn't rocket science" and that he could put together a survey based on Internet research. He and the mayor even volunteered to walk the streets taking pictures of needed repairs.

Eventually the council decided to kick the item back to staff to come up with a third, 'in-house' street repair option, and asked that it be brought back at the council's December 14 meeting.

The council meeting scheduled for October 12 was cancelled.

Council meetings for November are scheduled for the 9th and 23rd

Garden Club Favors Native Plants To Beautify Downtown Colfax

By Ingrid Elsel
Colfax Garden Club president

If you have been in downtown Colfax recently, you probably noticed that the Colfax Garden Club planted flowerbeds at the corner of Main Street and Grass Valley Street and at the corner of Main Street and Church Street are in full bloom.

What you may not have noticed is that the plants growing in the flowerbeds are mostly California native plants. The currently profusely blooming red, pink and orange plants are California fuchsias (Epilobium canum) that really love the full sun they receive almost all day long.

The lemon-yellow flowers growing are moonshine yarrow (Achillea moonshine), and the plants with small white blossoms are Santa Barbara daisies (Erigeron karvinskianus). Other plants are also well suited for our area, although not native California, are a variety of lavender, like French lavender (Lavandula dentata}, Spanish (Lavandula stoechas), English lavender (Lavandula angustifolia), and a variety of sedums.

Photos by Will Stockwin

Chamber of Commerce Notes and Events

Our planning for this year has increased considerably over what we've done over the past years, with more ribbon cuttings, grand openings, mixers, fundraisers, and event participations. Our business members are expanding and growing and that means filling our vacant buildings in our area.

With the growth of our area, your Colfax Area Chamber of Commerce needs to continue to grow with more personnel to help promote, support, and recommend our businesses, non-profit organizations, and associate members.

Your Chamber consists of Officers: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. We then have additional Directors, Directors at Large, an Executive Director and a fantastic group of Ambassadors. We all work together distributing assignments and tasks keeping your Chamber moving forward, improving daily, and accepting more responsibilities.

Our area consists of Applegate to Cisco Grove, and Chicago Park to Iowa Hill. We have also begun to expand to the Auburn and Grass Valley areas.

We are continuing to accept new help from those who would like to share their time, knowledge, and experience for the betterment of our communities through the Colfax Area Chamber of Commerce.

We encourage you to check out our website and see all the activities, events, and celebrations we promote and participate in. Our calendar will keep you updated on events happening each month with dates, times, and contact information.

We had a successful "Trunk or Treat" event on Halloween, Oct. 31 in downtown Historic Colfax presented by Green Machine. We also hosted a Scarecrow contest.

On October 13 we had a "Meet and Greet" event for the candidates running for our Colfax City Council. Trinity Burruss, Sean Lomen, Joe Fatula, Kim Douglass, Larry Hillberg, and Rocky Orozco were all in attendance. We had a fine turnout with many questions, concerns, and ideas discussed between candidates and concerned citizens.

Mi Ranchito provided appetizers for the event, which was greatly appreciated. They followed up with a ribbon cutting event on Oct. 20.

Please check our website for more information and contacts. www.colfaxchamber.com
Also please send us an email at colfaxareachamber@gmail.com, or call us at 530-346-8888.

We are open Monday through Saturday, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. We also welcome you to stop by our Chamber/Visitor Center and the Colfax Heritage Museum, as we share the depot building at 99 South Railroad Street.

Tim Ryan, CACC President
Colfax Area
Chamber of Commerce
colfaxchamber.com
(530) 346-8888
colfaxareachamber@gmail.com

COAT DRIVE

*SWEATERS
*BLANKETS
*GLOVES
*SOCKS
*COATS
*HATS

ADULTS
CHILDREN'S
NEW OR
GENTLY USED

Drive during October and November 2022

Colfax Lions Annual Coat Drive

For Families In Need In Our Community

Please Contact Lion Sharon Conners
at 530-305-6936 to arrange for pickup

COLFAX LIBRARY BOOK CLUB

WEDNESDAY NOV 9 | 2PM

County of Placer Library Services

Churches

Colfax Assembly of God Community Fellowship
252 Culver St., Colfax, CA 95713
Email: colfaxaog@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

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

Colfax Lions Club
PO Box 664, Colfax, CA 95713
530-477-2533
Website: 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

VENDORS WANTED!
Winterfest 2022
HISTORIC DOWNTOWN COLFAX
Saturday
December 10th
12:00pm - 8:00pm
Photos with Santa -Light Parade
Blitzen's Tavern - Live Music - Food Vendors
Craft Vendors - Fireworks & More!
The BASEMENT
LUMENARIS
COLFAX AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CALIFORNIA
Email: ColfaxWinterfest@gmail.com
(530) 346-8888