



Colfax Connections

This year Hasn't Been As Wet As 2017, But It's Getting There

By wstockwin@hughes.net

As drenching as the recent train of atmospheric rivers blowing through Northern California has been, we've seen worse.

Think back to 2017 when we finished January with 54.8 inches of rain recorded for the year to date. That was largely due to a wet November and December in 2016, and the 45 inches we ended January 2023 with also benefited from a wet Fall that started the New Year with 24.6 inches in the bucket.

It kept raining in 2017 right into April and we finished the year with an end-of-season total of 98 inches.

None of that really compares to the catastrophic state floods of 1861, following 43 days of rain beginning in December of that year. Vast regions of the central valley became inland seas for months, and thousands of human lives were lost.

The entire Sacramento Valley became a lake stretching from the Coastal Range in the west to the Sierra Foothills in the east. The state capitol in Sacramento was completely inundated. Before it was over an estimated 25% of California's economy was destroyed, forcing the state into bankruptcy.

More recently, 2021 ended with "Snowmageddon" dumping 16 inches of heavy, wet snow on Colfax the day after Christmas. We're still cleaning up from that one. A year later, 2022 ended with a torrential soaking of Colfax with 7.6 inches of rain on New Years Eve.

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Council Approves Clean Audit Report

By wstockwin@hughes.net

A report on the annual audit of city finances was the main item of business on the city council's January 25 meeting.

The audit is an annual exercise in opening the books to a professional auditor to provide the citizens of Colfax with examined and verified information on the city's finances. On July 8, 2020 City Council passed Resolution 38-2020, which approved an agreement with Richardson & Company, LLP to provide annual audit services for up to three years.

City finance director Laurie Vangronigen and administrative assistant Shanna Stahl were applauded by the auditor, Ingrid Sheipline, and city manager Wes Heathcock for producing what Sheipline called a "clean report." Sheipline is the Managing Partner with Richardson and Co.

She said "Colfax is in great financial shape" after listing several highlights from the 71-page final report showing that:

- General Fund revenues exceeded budget by \$358,000 from higher sales taxes and building permits, while expenses were less than budget

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Wet weather from page 1

We began January 2022 with 29.7 inches of rain, and finished the year with a final total of 41.6 inches. Despite the New Years deluge, we began 2023 with a lower total of 22.4 inches on the season.

Now we have 45 inches going into February, buckets ahead of where we were last year when January, February and March were virtually dry.

Those three months produced a rain total of 3.6 inches, and we didn't see appreciable precipitation until April when we picked up 6.9 inches. The season ended with a total 40.6 inches after a day of showers on April 13.

The onslaught of atmospheric rivers has been good for reservoir capacity. Lake Shasta (Sacramento River) is at 53%, Lake Oroville (Feather River) 59%, Bullards Bar (Yuba River) 80%, Folsom Lake (American River) 55%, and Don Pedro (Tuolumne River) 76%. And as of January 19, 2023 the statewide average snowpack was 245% of normal for this time of the year.



Lake Valley snow. Photos by Doug Thorley, CHS cross-country ski coach.



City council from page 1

by \$161,000 from lower capital outlay costs.

- At the end of fiscal year 2021-2022, the City had total long-term debts outstanding of \$7,366,250, as compared to a total of \$7,883,143 in the previous year. Most of that is the \$6.9 million still owed on the state loan that financed the wastewater treatment plant.
- The City invested \$1,610,826 in capital asset improvements and additions during the current fiscal year. The council approved the audit report with a unanimous 5-0 vote.

Prompted by interest from some residents in short-term rentals such as Vrbo and Airbnb, the council also directed staff to prepare a draft ordinance to allow short-term rentals in the city.

The ordinance would consider input from existing short-term rental operators and residents, and potential impacts on the community associated with: traffic, parking, noise, loss of housing stock and estimated TOT revenue.

After some discussion the council also agreed to put the question of allowing recreational cannabis retail sales in Colfax on the agenda for the February 22 meeting.

At its January 11 meeting the council unanimously approved amending city code to allow expediting the permit process for electric vehicle charging stations.

February council meetings are scheduled for the 8th and 22nd.

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The Unseen Body

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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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 Linda Lou Haines

Need your chain saw sharpened? Decking material? How about wild bird seed? Don't go down the hill. Shop right here in Colfax.

Hills Flat Lumber Co., in Colfax, "your local home center since 1921," can help you with all those things and 70,000 more online and in the store at 1000 S. Canyon Way. Their business philosophy is to "provide superior service and the highest quality building materials available."

Customers include professional contractors, remodeling contractors and do-it-yourselfers. They could be looking for hardware supplies, building materials, composite decking, Redwood decking, doors and windows, and siding.

There's also plumbing, electrical, paint, rentals, lawn and garden supplies, cabinets and hard surface flooring, millwork and more. And, don't forget the Generac and Westinghouse emergency generators. (Recently they were nearly sold out for now, so don't delay before the next storm hits.)

Hills Flat Lumber Co. was founded in 1921 as a lumber mill in Grass Valley to supply the mining industry and the building boom at that time. The third generation of the Pardini family is keeping it running strong today. In the 1950's, the family

diversified beyond wholesale lumber sales.

The original store in Grass Valley is still a valuable asset to the Grass Valley business community. Though the Colfax store is huge, the Grass Valley store at its new location is even bigger. That means if something you want in Colfax is out of stock at this store, if it is available in Grass Valley, it can be trucked over to Colfax.

My many experiences in visiting the Colfax store have been very positive. Customer service was always top notch. Questions have always been treated with respect, whether I was asking where some item was or I was asking for advice.

Hills Flat is open 7 days a week, 8 to 6 weekdays and 8 to 5 on weekends, 360 days a year. Delivery is possible each day. Contact the store at 530-346-8685 and www.HillsFlat.com.

Heard at a recent City Council meeting: Lief Lowry, the owner of the old **Colfax Hotel** has submitted construction plans to the Building Department, and they are under review. Could this mean that the renovation of that building is going to be completed... finally?

Also, **Hansen Bros.** is closing the materials department at its Colfax location, while keeping its concrete plant operating here.

Finally, **NID (Nevada Irrigation District)** is opening an office on Whitcomb Ave.

Contact me at
LindalouHaines14@gmail.com.



Your Local Home Center Since 1921SM

VALENTINES FOR VETS

**JOIN THE COLFAX VFW AUXILIARY POST 2003
IN MAKING "VALENTINES FOR VETS"**

These Valentines will go to Veterans at:

- **RENO VA HOSPITAL**
- **MATHER VA HOSPITAL**
- **AUBURN VA CLINIC**

YOUNTVILLE VETERANS HOME

Cards no larger than 8X10 • Deadline February 8th
(no individual envelopes needed)

Include givers name (or group name)

& mailing address, for thank you card to you.

Drop cards off at: Colfax Library • Auburn Journal

Colfax Chamber of Commerce

Contact : 530-637-4893





**3rd annual Tom
Passanisi
Cioppino dinner
\$65.00 per
person.**

**Social hour at
5PM, dinner
served at 6PM**

***Cioppino
dinner with
Antipasto
salad, bread
and for
dessert
Tiramisu.***

**Please call ahead
for reservations**

**Commander's cell
916 216-8254
(commander@post192colfaxca.com)**

Lorrie 916-202-2851

02-18-2023
AMERICAN
LEGION POST
192 COLFAX

Annual fundraiser:

Cioppino dinner.



**VETERAN MEMORIAL
HALL
22 Sunset Circle, Colfax
95713**

Chamber of Commerce Notes and Events

Your local Chamber of Commerce is gearing up for an amazing year. As we look ahead, we want to thank our business and community members who continually support our mission.

The Mission of the Colfax Area Chamber of Commerce is to be involved in the production of local community events, support the cooperation of community business services, promote resources such as recreation, tourism, historical and local locomotive past, as well as promote local businesses and organizations by encouraging good business and civil ethics.

As our area continues to see new businesses and development, we are continually focusing on meeting our members' needs. We encourage you to join our newsletter or email us at ColfaxAreaChamber@gmail.com with any suggestions or questions.

What's Happening:

VFW Auxiliary Post 2003

Valentines for Veterans

Valentines will go to veterans at: Reno VA Hospital, Mather VA Hospital, Auburn VA Clinic & Yountville Veterans Home. Drop cards off at: Colfax Library, Auburn Journal or the Colfax Area Chamber
(530) 637-4893

Colfax Lions Club

Speech Contest
Tuesday, February 7th, 7PM
Meeting room of the Colfax Baptist Church
24850 Ben Taylor Rd., Colfax, CA 95713
mdivine@phusd.k12.ca.us

CACC

Valentine's Pop-up craft market:
Saturday, February 11th
10-4PM
99 Railroad Street, Colfax, CA 95713
ColfaxAreaChamber@gmail.com

American Legion Post 192 Colfax:

3rd Annual Tom Passanisi Cioppino Dinner
Saturday, February 18th
5PM Social Hour
6PM Dinner
22 Sunset Circle, Colfax, CA 95713
\$65
(916)216-8254
commander@post192colfaxca.com

facebook
instagram
Lauriana Cecchi
Executive Director

Colfax Area Chamber of Commerce

(530) 346-8888



ColfaxAreaChamber@gmail.com

www.ColfaxChamber.com
99 Railroad St. (Physical),
PO Box 86 (Mailing),
Colfax, Ca 95713
(530) 346-8888

BOOK

B I N G O

Winter Reading Challenge for Adults

The New Year is the perfect time to try something new at the library. Adults and Young Adults (ages 17+) are invited to try new genres and formats, discover new interests, and share book reviews with fellow readers!

JANUARY 1
-
FEBRUARY 28

Join the challenge online at PLACER.BEANSTACK.ORG or pick up a BINGO card at your nearest Placer County Library!

WINTER BOOK BINGO

Write the titles of the books in their corresponding boxes. Only include books you read between January 1-February 28.
* Complete BINGO vertically, horizontally, or diagonally.

Read a biography or memoir	Try a fantasy book	Read a book set in California	Try a mystery or thriller	Try a graphic novel
Try a book on Hoopla	Checkout a cookbook and try one of the recipes	Read a classic	Try a book from the 2022 NYT Bestseller List	Read a nonfiction book
Reread an old favorite	Read a book by a local author	FREE SPACE	Read a book set in winter	Read a book made into a movie or tv show
Checkout a hobby or home-improvement book and try one project	Try a book found on display at the Library	Try a short story	Read a book with a one-word title	Read a book with a blue cover
Listen to an audiobook	Try a sci-fi	Try a historical fiction	Read a "fast food fiction" book (quick, easy, and maybe even spicy!)	Follow the Library on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter

PLACER COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICES

Join the challenge online at placer.beanstack.org

PLACER COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICES

LIBRARY SERVICES




Successful Colfax Lions Club Crab Feed Fundraiser



The Colfax Community Center recently was home to 175 local diners. All were treated

to salad, shrimp cocktail, clam chowder, French bread and fresh crab.

Colfax High School's Leo Service Club provided table service and kitchen staffing. To keep things moving after dinner, over 75 donated gifts were raffled off by DJ, Joe Barker. A good time was had by all.

Funds raised by the feed will be used for school scholarships, vision services and literacy services.

Leo's providing table service were Tyler Hansen, Alyssa Hansen, Gavin Lewis, Livia Litchfield, Charis Cleek, Sophie Sunding, Lilly Stofleth, Paige Edlund, Anna Piper, Ruby Mussell, Megan Toner, Aubree Dieter and Chloe Slack



Leos table servers

Story and photos by Alan Shuttleworth

Churches

Colfax Assembly of
God Community
Fellowship
252 Culver St., Col-
fax, CA 95713
Email: colfaxesag@
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)

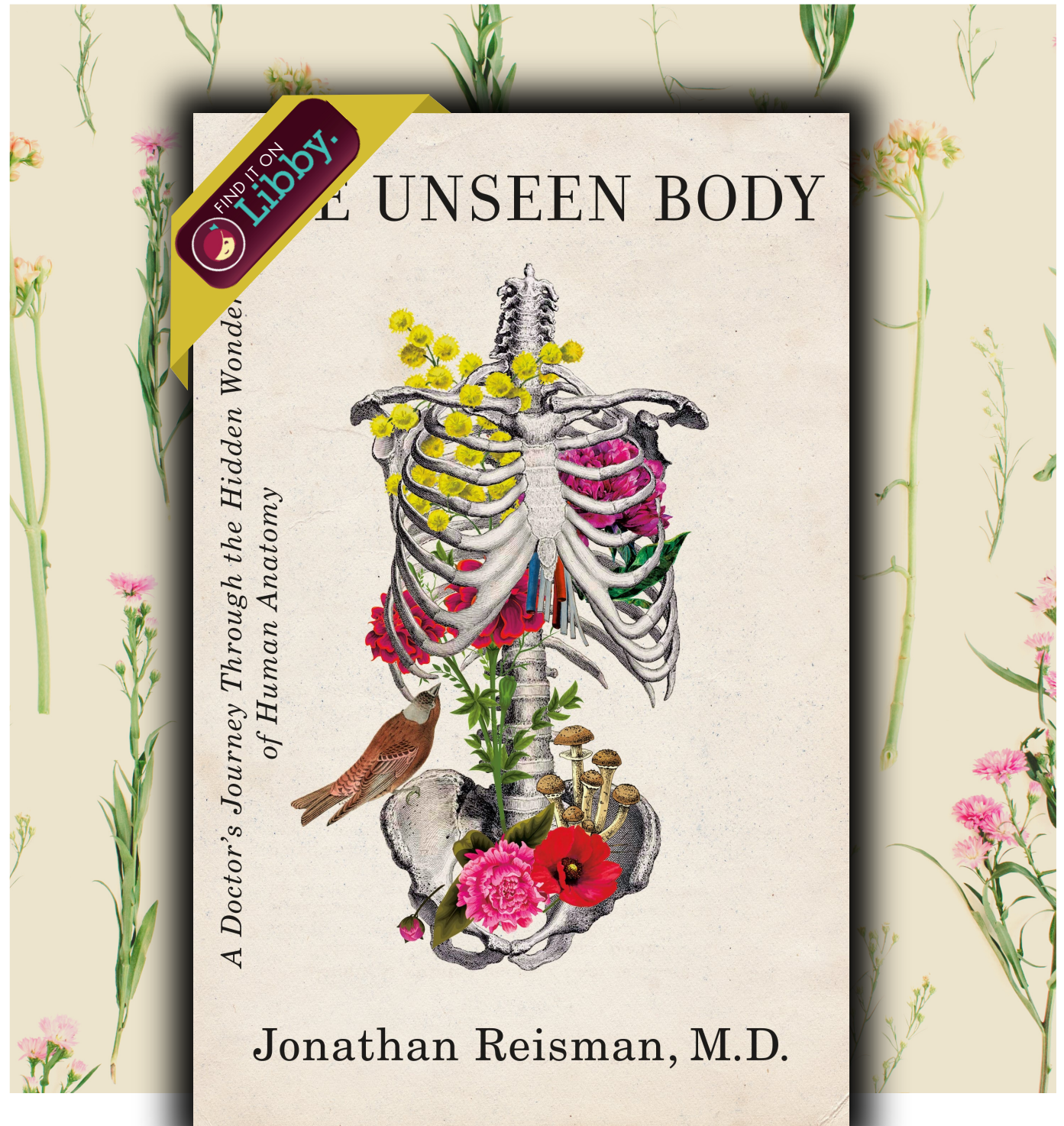
Sierra Vista Artists
55 School St., Rm. C-4, Colfax, CA 95713
530-320-0433

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>





COLFAX LIBRARY BOOK CLUB

WEDNESDAY FEB 8 | 2PM

