March 2023 Volume 5 Issue 3

Colfax Connections

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City Council Approves Union Pacific Easement Agreement

By wstockwin@hughes.net

Ever since 2019, when the city council determined that paving Railroad Street all the way to Whitcomb Avenue was a key to improving downtown access, city staff has been working with Union Pacific (UP) to grant an easement for the project.

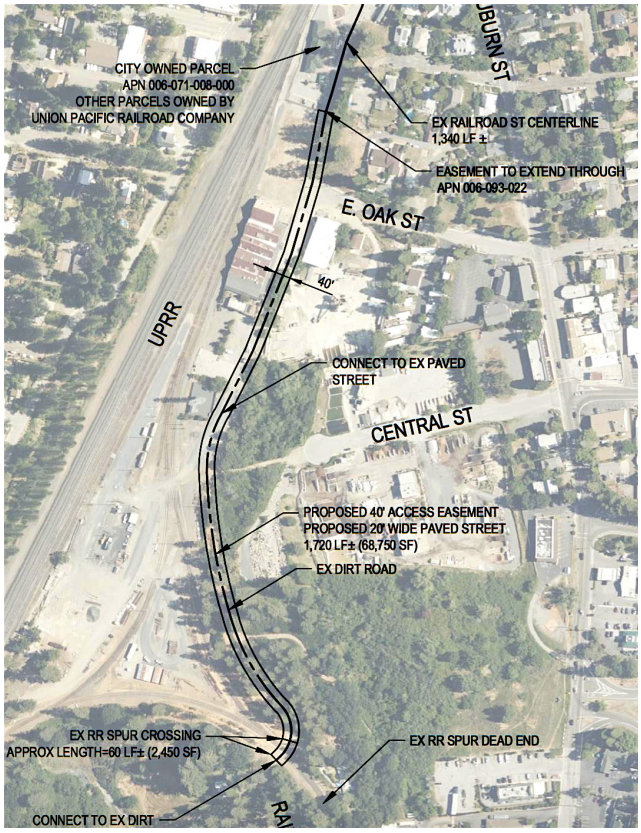
In late 2022 UP granted the easement, with a price tag of $412,500. City staff successfully whittled that down to $154,688 and at the February 8 city council meeting asked the council to approve purchasing the easement for that amount, which the council did with a unanimous vote.

The next step will be negotiating costs for improvements to the rail spur crossing that exists just before Railroad St. drops down to Whitcomb Ave. behind Mar-Val Sierra Market.

The item was passed on a 4-0 vote. Mayor Pro Tem Marnie Mendoza was absent from the February 8 meeting.

The second piece of council business dealt with the expiration of the Governor's (COVID) state of emergency on February 28 that has allowed the council to meet remotely for the last two years.

The council voted unanimously to resume in-person meetings in the city hall council chambers.



City map detail of the easement for Railroad St. improvement and connection to Whitcomb

Winter Storm, Low Snow Hit Colfax

After a nearly dry month of February with spring-like temperatures, a frigid winter storm blew into the Foothills on Thursday the 23rd and Friday the 24th bringing freezing temperatures and 13 inches of snow. The storm closed I-80 for most of the day Friday before re-opening on the weekend. More wet weather was forecast into the beginning of March.

Photo of Roy Toms Plaza by BJ Armando

Council Shows No Interest In Allowing Recreational Cannabis

By wstockwin@hughes.net

When Colfax voters were asked if the city should allow recreational cannabis sales on the 2016 election ballot (Measure H), the answer was a resounding "Yes," passing with nearly 64 percent of the 805 votes cast locally.

That same question returned to the city council February 22 agenda, and 19 of 22 people who went to the public podium to speak on the issue said "No." It was unclear if all of those opposed were city residents.

The three people who spoke in favor of allowing recreational cannabis sales were all connected to the Golden State Patient Care (GSPC) medical cannabis retail operation here in town.

Members of the Dion family that owns and operates GSPC have been appearing regularly at the public podium claiming that the city's cannabis ordinance was not in compliance with state law.

At the January 25, 2023, regular meeting, the council directed city staff to review the city's Commercial Cannabis Activity ordinance (Colfax Municipal Code ["CMC"] Chapter 5.32) for legal compliance.

Staff retained SCI, the author of the city's ordinance, to conduct a review.

SCI's analysis confirmed that the ordinance complies with state law and regulations, with no changes required. City attorney Mick Cabral said because of that determination, any changes to the ordinance would have to be based on policy direction from council.

Cabral said the council had three options to consider:

• Take no action and allow CMC Chapter 5.32 to remain intact.

• Direct staff to present proposed changes to the ordinance based on Council policy direction.

• Direct staff to present an amendment that will

continued on next page

PCMS-3812 Trailer-Mounted Message Sign to be purchased by the city.

Continued from page 2

repeal Chapter 5.32 and outlaw all cannabis sales in Colfax. There were no questions from the council regarding the analysis.

Mayor Trinity Burruss opened the public discussion by announcing that the public comment period would by open for 30 minutes, with speakers having one minute to express their opinions.

She explained that she wanted people to be able to speak, but was concerned about the large winter storm moving into the area and getting people home and off the roads before it arrived.

When the comment period was closed, and the following council discussion produced no new ideas regarding changes to the existing ordinance, Burruss declared the item closed.

She adjourned the meeting at 7:00pm.

Earlier in the meeting the council voted 4-0 to purchase a pair of Portable Changeable Message Signs for use during emergency situations.

Mayor Pro Tem Mendoza did not attend the meeting.

Purchasing the signs came out of the after-action-strategy session that followed the post-Christmas blizzard of 2021 that temporarily paralyzed Colfax with 16 inches of heavy wet snow.

The city will spend $35,920 for the two signs, which includes tax and freight charges.

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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
Photography – Alan Shuttleworth
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

Hansen Bros. Enterprises on Central Avenue near S. Auburn St. may still be running its Fire Sale of landscaping materials when you read this. So, quick, call 346-2432 and get over to the office and find out what is left.

Hansen Bros. is not leaving Colfax, but it is closing its landscape supply yard and its HBE Rentals division in Colfax. What is continuing in Colfax is the Ready Mix Concrete batch plant.

Hansen Bros. established its Colfax location in 2006, when it purchased the assets of MBI Ready-Mix. It continues to operate at its original location in Grass Valley, founded in 1953.

The history of the company is a story of win/win for the three brothers who founded the company and for the local creeks and rivers where gravel extraction by Hansen Bros. gives them the gravel they need. In addition, Hansen's work helps NID (Nevada Irrigation District) by preventing an abundance of gravel from washing down into the local reservoirs like Rollins Lake.

Hansen Bros. continues to be family owned and operated. Current owner is Jeff Hansen. He has a commitment to keep Hansen products USA made.

Hansen says the guiding principle for the whole company is the "desire to provide quality products and services to our customers in a courteous, timely and professional manner, while at the same time providing safe, productive jobs for our employees."

Pictured below is Zack Stroh, who was borrowed from the Quality Control and Dispatch office on La Barr Meadows Rd., Grass Valley, for the Colfax Fire Sale. He can be contacted at 346-2432, 7-3:30 Monday to Friday. You can also check the company website, GoHBE.com.

What else is going on? Sunny Ricks, owner of **Colfax Community Gift and Thrift** is opening an additional shop in town at 34 W. Church St. It will be called **Sunny Rose**. More details next month.

Do you have business news to share? A new business? An existing business with new hours, a new service or product? Please contact me at **LindaLouHaines14@gmail.com.**

Photo by Alan Shuttleworth

Colfax Lions Club Annual Student Speakers Contest

Seen from left to right – Contest winner Ryder Vernon, Colfax Lions Club President Rose Craighead, runner up Jeff Kindice, contest organizer and copy writer Alan Shuttleworth.

Photo by Dale Shuttleworth

The 86th Annual Lions Club Speakers Contest was celebrated, by the Colfax Lions, with energetic and knowledgeable speakers from Colfax High School.

The contest, which has been running since 1937, strives to provide an opportunity for young people to explore some of society's many social issues. This year's topic is, "Social Media: Connects us or Divides Us."

The contest also provides a venue for community members to see today's best and brightest young people in action and be assured that our future societal challenges will be met with thoughtfulness and courage.

Local Lions Club winners from Auburn, Foresthill and Meadow Vista will meet at the Zone competition level on March 14 at 6pm in the Beecher Room of the Auburn Library.

February 2023 ended with an Artic blast and low snow. **Photo by BJ Armando**

COLFAX VFW ST PATRICK'S DAY ANNUAL CORN BEEF DINNER

MARCH 18, 2023

Colfax VFW Hall

22 Sunset Circle, Colfax

SOCIAL HOUR 5PM

(NO HOST BAR)

DINNER 6PM

$25.00

Advance purchase tickets only

Proceeds support our local Youth Programs

To purchase tickets contact one of our members

Sharon 530-305-6936 • Carole 530-346-9573 • Val 530-346-8443

Tickets also available at the Colfax Chamber and Colfax VFW Breakfast

FACT SHEET

INTERSTATE 80 BLUE CANYON PAVEMENT REHABILITATION

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Caltrans proposes to improve the safety, reliability, and freight mobility of Interstate 80 (I-80) in Placer County at three locations from east of Crother Road to Nayak Road. Proposed improvements include a truck-climbing lane and pavement rehabilitation on eastbound I-80. To accommodate the truck-climbing lanes, the roadway will be widened and two structures, the Blue Canyon undercrossing (UC) (Br.#19-0115R) and Weimar overcrossing (OC) (Br#19-0082), will be replaced with wider structures. The project also will improve drainage systems, address inadequate roadside lighting, upgrade the median barrier, improve Traffic Management System (TMS) elements in the eastbound direction, and construct a wildlife crossing box culvert.

PROJECT BENEFITS

- Truck climbing lane for freight
- Improved safety and traffic flow
- Smoother rehabilitated pavement
- Improved lighting and drainage
- Reduced wildlife conflicts
- Upgraded median barrier and guardrails
- Provide additional travel communication

TOTAL PROJECT COST

$134 million

SCHEDULE:

Project Approval & Environmental Document
Winter 2023

Design Complete:
Summer 2024

Advertise Project:
Summer 2024

Begin Construction:
Fall 2024

Complete Construction:
Fall 2027

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the project is to preserve and extend the useful life of the existing pavement and drainage systems, improve safety, reliability, and freight mobility of this mountainous segment of I-80. The additional pavement width will improve safety and operations by facilitating movement around slow-moving vehicles and trucks whose speeds drop due to sustained grade. Safety will also be improved by upgrading signs and TMS systems to the latest standards, by replacing outdated barrier and metal beam guardrail, and by addressing wildlife crossing conflicts.

NEED:

The existing pavement is exhibiting signs of distress and will continue to deteriorate without action. Culverts within the project limits have also been in a steady deteriorating condition requiring rehabilitation and/or replacement to prevent further damage to the existing roadbed. Signs, lighting, and TMS elements are in poor condition along this segment of the roadway. Numerous collisions resulting from wildlife crossings were also reported along the roadway. Traffic within the project limits is subject to substantial delays from heavy truck traffic on the mainline, resulting in rear-end collisions, loss in level of service, and decreased operational efficiency of this corridor.

PROJECT CONTACTS:

Mohan Bonala, Project Manager, (530) 788-3259 | *Mohan.Bonala@dot.ca.gov*
Steve Nelson, Chief Public Information Officer, (530) 632-0080 | *Steve.Nelson@dot.ca.gov*

COLFAX AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Volunteers Wanted

We need volunteers for a variety of beautiful projects with passionate and committed people involved to provide the best for our community.

We Need Help With

- Events
- Business Outreach
- Marketing/Advertising
- Community Representation

Join Us!

www.ColfaxChamber.com
ColfaxAreaChamber@gmail.com
(530)346-8888

Join Us For STORYTIMES at the Colfax Library

BABY LAPSIT

Wednesdays
10:30am

Starting January!

Books, songs, rhymes, bounces, and playtime for babies 0-24 months.

TODDLER TIME

Thursdays
10:30am

Movement, songs, and books to develop First 5 skills for children ages 18-36 months.

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME

Fridays
9:30am

Stories, songs, and activities for children ages 3-5

County of Placer Library Services

STAY UP-TO-DATE ABOUT THE LATEST LIBRARY NEWS AND PROGRAMS AT PLACER.CA.GOV/LIBRARY

PLACER FOOD BANK
Nourishing Communities

2023 PLACER COUNTY Food Distribution Schedule

PLACER FOOD BANK pantry to go

January	6	Roseville	8 -10 am
	13	Sheridan	10 - Noon
	17	Colfax	10 - Noon
	20	Lincoln	8 -10 am
	26	Foresthill	10 - Noon
	27	Rocklin	8 -10 am
February	3	Roseville	8 -10 am
	10	Sheridan	10 - Noon
	14	Colfax	10 - Noon
	17	Lincoln	8 -10 am
	23	Foresthill	10 - Noon
	24	Rocklin	8 -10 am
March	3	Roseville	8 -10 am
	10	Sheridan	10 - Noon
	17	Lincoln	8 -10 am
	21	Colfax	10 - Noon
	30	Foresthill	10 - Noon
	31	Rocklin	8 -10 am
April	7	Roseville	8 -10 am
	14	Sheridan	10 - Noon
	18	Colfax	10 - Noon
	21	Lincoln	8 -10 am
	27	Foresthill	10 - Noon
	28	Rocklin	8 -10 am
May	5	Roseville	8 -10 am
	12	Sheridan	10 - Noon
	16	Colfax	10 - Noon
	19	Lincoln	8 -10 am
	25	Foresthill	10 - Noon
	26	Rocklin	8 -10 am
June	2	Roseville	8 -10 am
	9	Sheridan	10 - Noon
	16	Lincoln	8 -10 am
	20	Colfax	10 - Noon
	29	Foresthill	10 - Noon
	30	Rocklin	8 -10 am
July	7	Roseville	8 -10 am
	14	Sheridan	10 - Noon
	18	Colfax	10 - Noon
	21	Lincoln	8 -10 am
	27	Foresthill	10 - Noon
	28	Rocklin	8 -10 am
August	4	Roseville	8 -10 am
	11	Sheridan	10 - Noon
	15	Colfax	10 - Noon
	18	Lincoln	8 -10 am
	25	Rocklin	8 -10 am
	31	Foresthill	10 - Noon
September	1	Roseville	8 -10 am
	8	Sheridan	10 - Noon
	15	Lincoln	8 -10 am
	19	Colfax	10 - Noon
	28	Foresthill	10 - Noon
	29	Rocklin	8 -10 am
October	6	Roseville	8 -10 am
	13	Sheridan	10 - Noon
	17	Colfax	10 - Noon
	20	Lincoln	8 -10 am
	26	Foresthill	10 - Noon
	27	Rocklin	8 -10 am
November	3	Roseville	8 -10 am
	10	Sheridan	10 - Noon
	14	Colfax	10 - Noon
	17	Lincoln	8 -10 am
	22	Rocklin	8 -10 am
	30	Foresthill	10 - Noon
December	1	Roseville	8 -10 am
	8	Sheridan	10 - Noon
	19	Colfax	10 - Noon
	21	Lincoln	8 -10 am
	28	Foresthill	10 - Noon
	29	Rocklin	8 -10 am

Sheridan	Celebration Family Worship	5721 10th Street
Colfax	Sierra Vista Comm Center	55 School Street
Lincoln	McBean Park	65 McBean Park Drive
Foresthill	Fire Dept. Office	24320 Main St.
Rocklin	Johnson-Springview Park	5480 5th Street
Roseville	Denio's Farmers Market	1401 Church Street

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

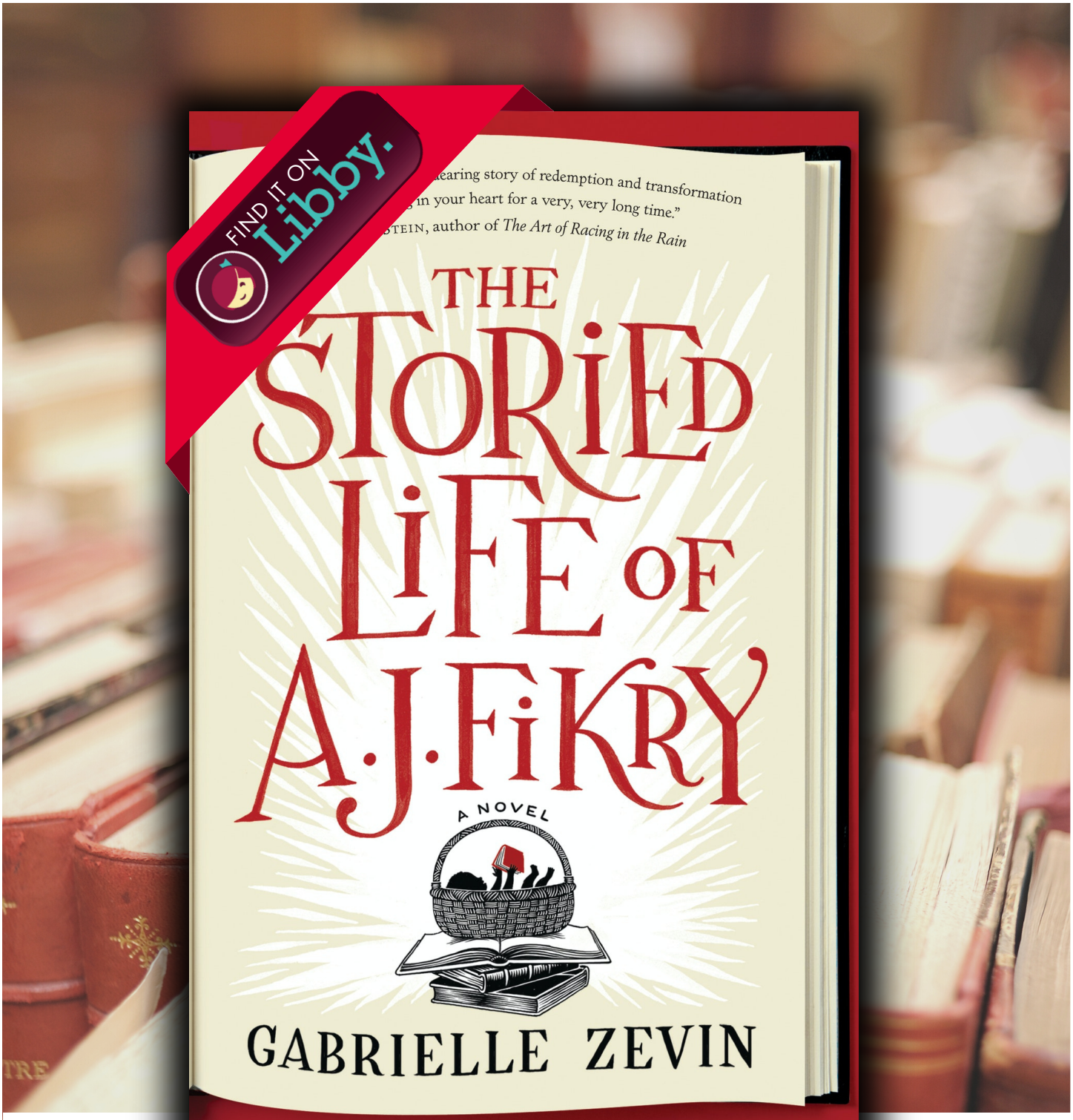
Colfax Lions Club
PO Box 664, Colfax, CA 95713
530-477-2533
Website: https://www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/colfaxca

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



COLFAX LIBRARY BOOK CLUB

WEDNESDAY MAR 8 | 2PM

County of Placer Library Services