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Council Sets May 1st For Public Workshop On Sewer Rates

By wstockwin@hughes.net

The city council took a step closer to making a decision on the city's sewer rates at its March 27 meeting. The city conducts a sewer rate study every five years to assure the rates will cover operational and capital costs in accordance with Prop 218 legal requirements.

The last rate study was done in 2018, and the city's customer base for sewer services has not

changed significantly since then. The current sewer rate is \$143.07 per EDU.

HEC recalculated the alternatives and presented three new options to the council on March 27 as requested. The rates were calculated to meet three financial criteria:

- general operating cash reserves of at least 75% of operating expenses are maintained,
- a minimum of \$950,000 will be kept in restricted reserves to

cover the existing annual state loan payment of \$439,000, plus another \$500,000 for capital projects.

Alternative 2: Rates are increased 3.00% each year to meet the revenue requirement and ensure the three financial criteria are met. As with alternative 1, no additional cash is generated over the next 5 years to fund system rehabilitation. The total cash balance is projected to remain about the same between the end of fiscal years 2023 and 2029.

Yearly Rate	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Alternative 1 (4.00%)	\$148.79	\$154.74	\$160.93	\$167.37	\$174.06
Alternative 2 (3.00%)	\$147.36	\$151.78	\$156.33	\$161.02	\$165.85
Alternative 3 (2.00%)	\$145.93	\$148.85	\$151.83	\$154.87	\$157.97

changed significantly since then.

At its February 28 meeting, the council was presented with three alternatives from the current sewer rate study for potentially raising city sewer rates. The alternatives offered options for 5.75%, 4% and 2% raises.

The council asked the consultant, Hansford Economic Consulting LLC, (HEC) to come back to its March 27 meeting with alternative options for a 2%, 3% or 4% rate increase.

Sewer rates are based on the Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU), which equals a domestic wastewater volume of 200 gal-

lons per day. After HEC's recalculation of the rates:

- Every year, net operating income will exceed debt service.

After HEC's recalculation of the rates:

Alternative 1: The revenue requirement, and three financial criteria, are met over the next 5 years by applying a 4.00% rate increase each year. The city stops collecting rates for system rehabilitation because sufficient cash reserves have been accumulated. The total cash balance is projected to increase \$400,000 to \$500,000 over the

next five years, depending on the number of customers added to the wastewater system. **Alternative 3:** The three financial criteria to remain fiscally healthy are met over the next 5 years by applying a 2.00% rate increase each year. The city does not fully fund the revenue requirement and draws on cash reserves to pay for a portion of capital project costs. Cash reserves of about \$155,000 are drawn down to pay for a portion of repairs needed in the next 5 years. Cash reserves will also be decreased to pay for a portion of repairs over the next five years.

Following a presentation by HEC and public comment, the council set May 1st for a public workshop to respond to public comments and concerns about a potential hike in city sewer rates. The three alternative rates will remain on the table until after the public workshop.

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Winning 5th Grade Essayists Celebrate Arbor Day With Tree Planting

Each Year, the Colfax Garden Club celebrates the upcoming arrival of spring by sponsoring an Arbor Day Essay Contest.

This year, 21 students from the fifth-grade classe of Mrs. Tabatt and Mrs. Wilson at Colfax Elementary School, submitted essays on "How Do Trees Help the Environment?"

The first-place winner is Sophia, second-place winner is Patrick, two third-place winners are August and Annika, three fourth-place winners are Lexxi, Indie, and Elizabeth.



Essay winners from left to right – Lexxii, Patrick, August, Elizabeth, Indie, Sophia and Annika.

Sunny Rose Children's Consignment Now Open



OPEN WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY 11AM-4PM

**Next to the Post Office
34 W Church Street Colfax Ca
95713**

The contest winners were recognized at a luncheon at the Colfax Pizza Factory on March 7, hosted by the Colfax Garden Club, honoring California's Arbor Day. After the winning students and their parents enjoyed the pizza lunch, students received their awards and read their essays to their parents and Garden Club members.

They saw a short program on Famous Trees, and then departed for the downtown Depot park in Colfax, where they all helped plant a Red Oak tree.

This is the 40th year that the Colfax Garden Club has sponsored the contest, initiated by former President Gertrude Paul. Many of the beautiful trees in downtown Colfax and at the elementary school were planted by fifth-graders.

Sewer Rates from page 1

The city will also be sending out a Prop 218 notice in April, advising property owners of their right to protest a new sewer rate as follows:

- one protest per parcel,
- the protest must be mailed or physically submitted – no electronic submittals are allowed,
- all protests must include the date, customer’s name, address or parcel number, statement of the rates being protested, and the signature of the property owner of record.

At the close of the public hearing protests will be counted and if 50% of property owners plus one (a majority) of record protest the new rate hike the city cannot proceed.

Absent a majority protest, however, the city can adopt the new rate. The law also gives ratepayers an additional 120 days to challenge the new rate.

At the meeting the council also hired Amanda Ahre to be the new Colfax City Clerk, and amended the contract with Clear Path Land Evolvement (I&I Mitigation Project contractor) with an additional \$25,000.

At its **March 13 meeting** the council approved a \$3,000 donation to the 2024 Railroad Days event, and approved the Downtown Connectivity Study/ Main Street Improvement Plan on a 4-0 vote. Councilmember Trinity Burruss was absent from the meeting.

April council meetings on the 10th and 24th

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April 2024**



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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 and Snapdragon

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

I've got the scoop!

Here's the scoop on **Snapdragon Provisions'** plans for 38 N Main St. Snapdragon is taking over the whole first floor of that building that until recently housed **The Wrecking Crew** in the front half. (The Wrecking Crew is moving to 30 N Main where the Railhead Saloon was until recently. You may feel you need a scorecard to keep track of all these changes.)

Owner and chef, Kallie Moore, who heads up the crew in Snapdragon, plans to keep the back room, where she started with Snapdragon, the way it is now.

It is where you order your vegetarian and vegan goodies, where the goodies are prepared, and where you can enjoy the atmosphere in chairs and tables, plus the sofas and soft chairs. This will continue to be the chatty area, as it is now, for friends getting together and small meetings being held, that sort of thing.

The front room of Snapdragon that opens to Main St. will develop into the more quiet room of Snapdragon. A place to work on computers and tablets, listen to music using headphones, or read books, when the weather

is not conducive to sitting outside in the corral area. You can find out more on their website, SnapdragonProvisions@protonmail.com or on Facebook and Instagram or call 530-920-0804.

Now for a complete change of pace: **AR-17 Land & Tree Inc.** Owner, Anthony Russell's services include tree removal, defensible space, hauling leaves & pine needles, brush & tree clearing, chipping, fire prevention, and mastication.

Their website states: "We specialize in reducing critical fire fuels in highly hazardous areas around infrastructure and areas of importance." His web address is AR-17LandandTreeInc.com. For more information,

you can also try him at 530-588-8711.

Finally, a reminder that we promote **SHOP LOCAL** that includes **Shop Colfax** first and **Shop Placer** second. That means think of Colfax first when you need to purchase an item.

If it isn't here in town, then go down to the south Placer area of big box stores and speciality stores. As residents of Colfax, we need to support our unique businesses just as they support Colfax events and activities and the local sports teams. So, **SHOP COLFAX FIRST!**

To contact me with your Colfax business news, please send an email to LindaLouHaines14@gmail.com.

Shop Local



Invest in your community this holiday season.

Shopping locally...

- 

Preserves jobs in your community.
- 

Helps keep businesses open.
- 

Keeps your tax dollars invested where you live.

#ShopPlacer is a collaborative initiative with Placer County cities, chambers, and communities.
ShopPlacer.com

COLFAX GARDEN CLUB

SPRING PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 11th, 2024
8am to Noon
Roy Toms Plaza

Join us in downtown Colfax for
our annual spring plant sale to
shop a variety of plants and
garden-related items!

Veggies, flowers, shrubs, trees,
garden art, floral arrangements
and so much more!

Just in time for
Mother's Day & Spring Planting



Colfax Lions Club Honors Readers At Colfax Elementary



Front row, L-R are ...

John Sanquinetti, grade 5
Stella Piper, grade 6
Niya Butler, grade 4
Madilynn Taylor, grade 3
Lilah Day, grade 2

Back row, L-R are ...

Annette Udall, Principal,
Taylor Bryant, grade 8,
John Willis, grade 7 as the
Bulldog Mascot,
Andrew Nevarez, grade 7

Alan Shuttleworth,
**Literacy Chair-Colfax
 Lions**

Lions International is committed to improving literacy rates around the world. The Reading Action Program, launched in 2012, encourages local clubs to partner with neighboring schools and select projects aimed at Reading improvement.

Colfax Elementary School has chosen student improvement

in Reading as measured by standardized testing to make a student eligible for awards. Students who demonstrate a yearly 10% growth in Reading are entered into a drawing.

The Colfax Lions Club has donated Kindle Electronic Readers to honor the students who have met the growth objective and

were lucky enough to be selected for recognition.

The 2024 Kindle awards went to Lilah Day in grade 2, Madeline Taylor in grade 3, Niya Butler in grade 4, John Sanquinetti in grade 5, Stella Piper in grade 6, Andrew Nevarez in grade 7 and Taylor Bryant in grade 8.



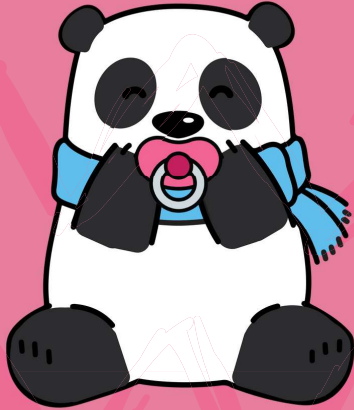
At left – 4th grader, Niya Butler receiving her Kindle Reader

At right – Bulldog mascot, 7th grader John Willis with Alan Shuttleworth

Story by
 Alan Shuttleworth
 Photos by
 Dale Shuttleworth



JOIN US FOR STORYTIME!



BABY LAPSIT

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

Auburn

Wednesdays 9:30am

Colfax

Wednesdays 10:30am

Granite Bay

Wednesdays 10:30am

Rocklin

Thursdays 10:30am

Kings Beach

Wednesdays 10:30am

Tahoe City

Fridays 10:30am



TODDLER TIME

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

Auburn

Thursdays 9:30am

Colfax

Thursdays 10:30am

Granite Bay

Thursdays 10:30am

Rocklin

Wednesdays 10:30am

&

Fridays 9:30am



PRESCHOOL STORYTIME

Stories, songs, and activities for children ages 3-5 years old.

Auburn

Fridays 9:30am

Colfax

Fridays 9:30am

Foresthill

Thursdays 10:30am

Granite Bay

Fridays 9:30am

Rocklin

Wednesdays 9:30am

Kings Beach

Tuesdays 10:30am

Tahoe City

Thursdays 10:30am



Scan the QR code to visit our Storytimes page!

Chamber of Commerce Notes and Events

*"April hath put a spirit
of youth in everything."*
– William Shakespeare

There is something magical about the beginning of spring that gives us hope and offers small windows into the summer to come. While we've had another wet winter I think we are all pleasantly surprised that it wasn't a reprise of the last couple of years! Let us use this time to plan our gardens, calendar our summer events and look forward to the renewal that spring brings every year.



This month we will be highlighting our member and newest Board Member (Secretary): Kat Albright.

Kat moved up here from Southern California with her husband in 2022 to purchase their dream home. Her husband is a third generation Colfaxian and has deep roots in the community. Kat loves the area and is looking forward to being a part of this amazing community in Placer County and is passionate about serving those around her.

Kat has more than 25 years of experience working in Title and Escrow and has transitioned into a full-time mobile Notary Public. She is also getting certified to turn her love of videography and photography into a career using her drone for photo shoots as well as marketing for businesses and real estate.

She joined the board earlier this year and is looking forward to becoming more involved in the community and adding value to the businesses that we serve.

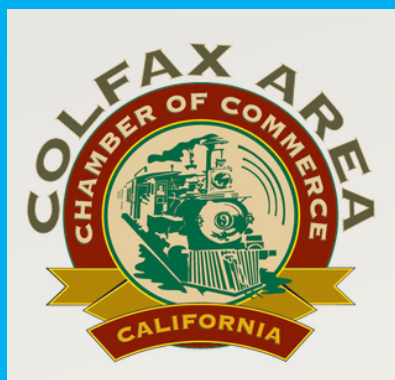
For more information about Notary and Drone services, please contact Kat by email at kat@colfaxareachamber.com or by telephone at 949-304-8498.

Coffee and Conversations is on the first Thursday of every month from 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. at 99 Railroad Street, and we would love to see all of you there! We have a variety of speakers lined up including, but not limited to, Placer County DA, an Attorney specializing in Real Property and Business law, Placer County Sheriff Department, an Investment Broker, and much more.

Our next speaker is Mark Pruner, Attorney at Law. He has been an attorney for more than 40 years. He practices Real Property, Civil Litigation, Business Development and Probate. Kat will be donating an hour of her time notarizing documents after Coffee and Conversations.

As always, thank you from all of us at The Colfax Area Chamber of Commerce!

Amanda Palmquist
CACC President



Colfax Area
Chamber of Commerce
colfaxchamber.com

colfaxareachamber@gmail.com

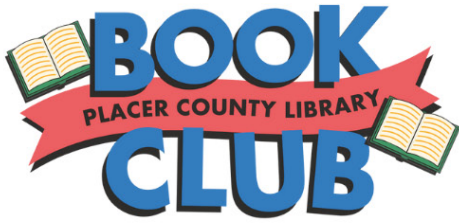
(530) 346-8888

Paloma Yoga Classes

Monday 10am: Tai Chi
 Tuesday 10am: Vinyasa Yoga
 Wednesday 10am: Yin Yoga
 Wednesday 6:30pm: Vinyasa Yoga
 Thursday 10am: Vinyasa Yoga
 Friday 6:30pm: Restorative Yoga
 Saturday 9am: Vinyasa Yoga

7 N. Main St., Suite 1
 Colfax, CA 95713

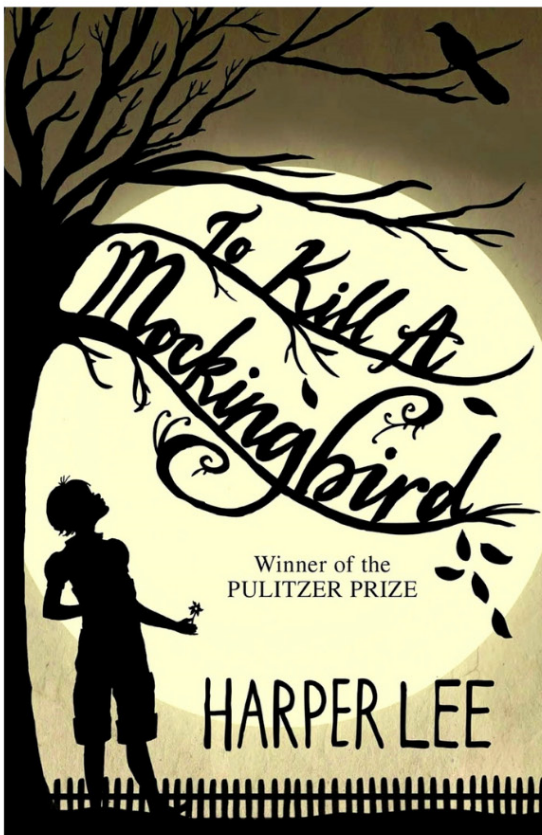
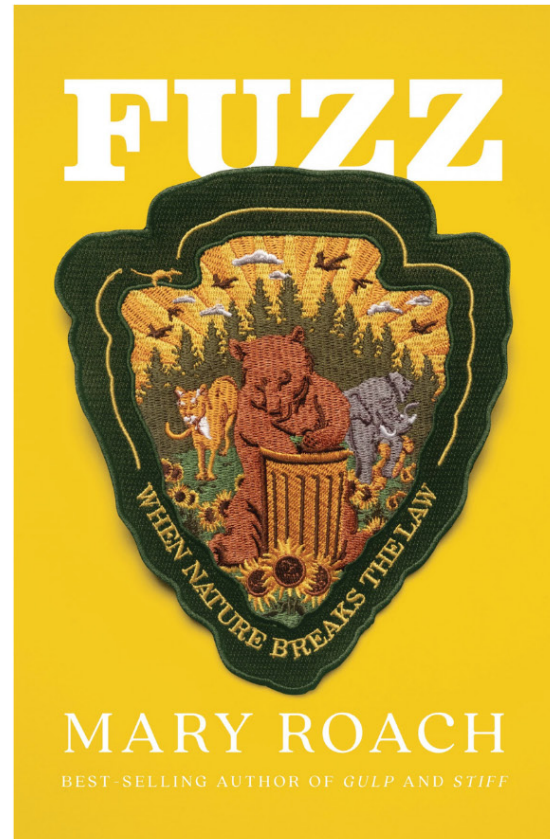
\$15 per class



Colfax Library

FUZZ

**WEDNESDAY
APRIL 10
2:00-3:00pm**



TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

**WEDNESDAY
MAY 8
2:00-3:00pm**



Maynard Wins Her Second Lions Club Speakers Contest

Colfax High School Freshman, Alexa Maynard, took first place at the Foothill Zone Level of the annual Lions Club Speakers Contest.



Contest chairman Dave Johnson with winner Alexa Maynard.

The contest was held recently at the Beecher Room of the Placer County Library. Maynard's response to: "For a Better World, What Would You Change?" was universal education for all people worldwide.

Maynard stated, "Access to education is a critical resource to enable people to develop as individuals and to contribute to society."

Maynard won the club level contest in Colfax on February 7, 2024.

Foothill Zone Contest Chair, Dave Johnson, noted that: "The Zone competition is always very interesting in that it showcases exceptional local speakers. Maynard certainly did a

fine job."

The Lions Foothill Zone includes two clubs from Auburn and one from Foresthill, Meadow Vista and Colfax. The next level of competition is regional and will include the Foothill and Sierra Zones...which adds

seven more clubs from Nevada and Sierra Counties.

Contest date is April 3rd and will be held at the Higgins Diggins Lions facility in Lake of the Pines. Doors open at 6:00 pm and contest begins at 6:30pm.

Story and Photo by Alan Shuttleworth

Colfax Girls Finish Season With 34-3 Record



For the second year in a row the Colfax Falcons Girls Basketball Team, a Division IV team, made it to the state Division II championship game, but lost to a much larger Southern California school (Harvard-Westlake) 60-45. The loss doesn't diminish the Falcons 34-3 overall record that led the state in total victories, and, like last year, the Colfax team was the only Sacramento-area high school program still playing on the State Championship weekend. Congratulations on another great season.

Photo by Alan Shuttleworth

Churches



Colfax Assembly of
God Community
Fellowship
252 Culver St., Colfax,
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
530-305-7526
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
530-269-9467
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>



LOCAL FARMER'S MARKET



EVERY THURSDAY
DOWNTOWN COLFAX

3 PM - 7PM
STARTING MAY 23,
2024

ACCEPTING
NEW VENDORS!!

CONTACT JENNIFER @
COLFAXFARMERSMARKE
T@GMAIL.COM
916-903-6037

SIERRA VISTA COMMUNITY
CENTER

