

Colfax Connections

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City Council Approves Donation To Sierra Soar On 3-1 Vote

By wstockwin2024@gmail.com

The issue of donating money to the Sierra Soar non-profit organization to refurbish the community center gym appeared

on the city council agenda for a fifth and final time at the **September 24 meeting**. As he has in the past, Sierra Soar spokesman Bob Morales made a brief introduction asking for

the remaining \$2,800 from the \$5,000 he originally asked for at the May 25 council meeting.

Council member Trinity Burruss was absent from the meeting.

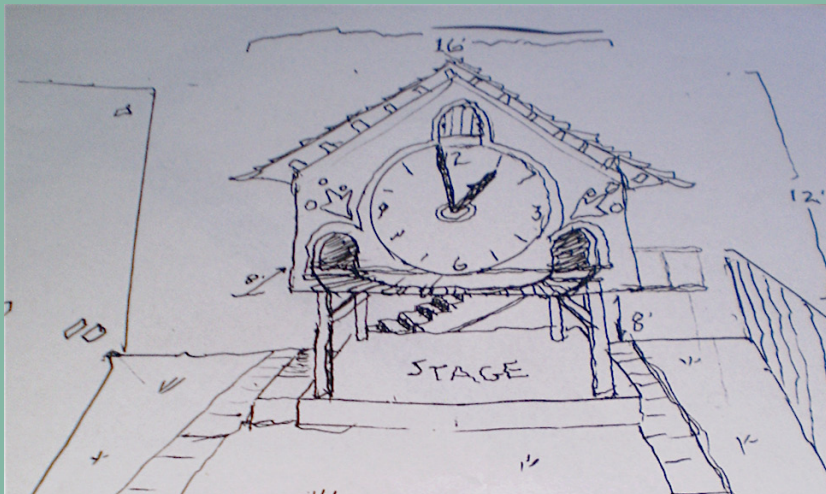
When Morales was done, council member Larry Hillberg moved to give him the money. Council member Caroline McCully objected, estimating that a gift of \$2,800 would leave less than \$4,000 in the city's non-profit donation fund for the rest of the current fiscal year. A brief discussion ensued, followed by a 3-1 vote in favor of giving Sierra Soar the \$2,800. McCully was the lone vote against it.

Prior to settling the Sierra Soar donation issue, the council discussed developing a new city policy for non-profit donations to assure accountability, fairness, and proper use of city funds. Included in a list of potential regulations were:

- Written agreements (MOUs or contracts)
- Use restrictions
- Transparency and reporting
- Audit and oversight
- Donation caps and limits
- Non-discrimination and public benefit clauses.

The council raised questions about the feasibility of auditing non-profit organizations,

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Jim Bowers' Latest Idea: A Choo Choo Clock

By wstockwin2024@gmail.com

Well-known local artist Jim Bowers, holder of the world's record for designing and building the largest, working clock, joined the ongoing conversation about bringing more tourists to Colfax at the September 24 city council meeting.

Staying with a clock motif, Bowers presented his idea for what he calls a "Choo Choo Clock" that he wants to build over the stage in the 'Lot of Arts' park on South Main St. in downtown Colfax.

Bowers made a short presentation during public comment and brought a concept sketch of his idea (see above). Basically, every hour on the hour a model train would come out of a tunnel and circle the horizontal clock face. During daylight hours the train would also blow its whistle.

The idea will appear on a future council agenda for an open discussion. The drawing isn't to scale, but gives a good idea for the size of the clock.

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whether potential donation recipients must be 501(c3) non-profits, whether to require some level of matching funds (40% and 50% were mentioned) from donation recipients, and how to deal with local artists needing funds for smaller projects. There was general agreement that donations must be used exclusively for the purpose approved by the city council.

The eventual city donation policy could also include having donation recipients enter into a memorandum of understanding with the city specifying the approved use of the donation, reporting and accountability requirements, a timeline for the use of the funds, and repayment provision, if the funds are misused.

There was no vote taken, as this was a non-action item for providing direction to staff. It will likely reappear on the council agenda for more discussion and a potential vote at a future meeting.

The Sierra Soar/Colfax Boys Basketball Program was back on the city council agenda for a fourth time at the **September 10 meeting**, as the only piece of official business.

Council member Trinity Burruss was absent from the meeting, which was conducted without a sound system or broadcast capability due to technical difficulties.

At the June 11, 2025 meeting council member Larry Hillberg moved to donate \$5,000.00 to the non-profit organization Sierra Soar in support of the Colfax

Boys Basketball Program. The Council could only approve a donation of \$2,200, however, because that's all there was left in the city's donation fund at the time.

The funds were designated specifically for program use and not for upgrades to the community center basketball facilities that Sierra Soar planned to make. Those upgrades included new backboards, school logos on the gym walls and a refurbished gym floor, all for an estimated cost of \$14,000.

The Colfax Boys Basketball Program has been teaching local boys to play basketball for 62 years, fielding school teams that have won 17 league championships and 5 section titles.

At that same meeting, the council also appointed an ad hoc Committee to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the community center for the city's right

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Karaoke Night
with DJ A-Game

Saturday, October 11
6-9pm

Donations will
support Sammie's Friends

Snapdragon
PROVISIONS

38 North Main St, Colfax

City council from page 2

of access before any of the city donation could be used for improvements to the facility. Hillberg and Burruss, the ad hoc committee members, reported that the MOU was not ready at the council's August 13 meeting.

After mayor Sean Lomen opened the item, Hillberg immediately stated that he was in favor of giving Sierra Soar the \$2,800 it was asking for. Referring to the community center, council member Caroline McCully expressed her reluctance to donate city funding to benefit an organization "that has lied and misrepresents itself" without explaining what she meant.

The discussion went downhill from there and was eventually tabled on a motion from council member Kim Douglass, to be brought back at the September 24 meeting when a full council might be present.

Earlier in the meeting, via the Consent Calendar, the council approved an MOU with the International Union of Operating Engineers that gave city union members a 2% equity increase, reduced the salary structure from an 11-step model to a six-step model, and increased stand-by pay from \$3.00 to \$4.00 dollars per hour on a 4-0 vote. The agreement will be retroactive to July 1, 2025.



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Colfax Connections is a monthly city publication edited by Will Stockwin, who can be contacted via e-mail at **wstockwin2024@gmail.com**. 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 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).



Lindalou Haines' Business Briefs column will return in November.

Photos by Alan Shuttleworth



COLFAX TRUNK OR TREAT



Friday Oct 31st 5-8pm

Bring your car, decorate it up, add some games/treats and share the fun with our community

**REGISTER YOUR CAR AT THE
WRECKING CREW BAKERY & CAFE
OR VIA EMAIL TO
COLFAX3RDOFJULY@GMAIL.COM**

Candy and/or cash donations for Candy are much appreciated!

Hosted by Colfax 3rd of July & Colfax Railroad Days





3rd Annual Colfax
CHILI COOK-OFF
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26TH
12-2PM
NORTH MAIN ST
HISTORIC DOWNTOWN
COLFAX

 **Free to Sign Up**

Why join?
Delicious Chili
Fun for All Ages
Competitions & Prizes
People's Choice

 **\$10 to Taste & Vote for People's Choice**

SIGN UP AS A CHEF AT
The Wrecking Crew Bakery & Cafe
30 N Main St Colfax Ca

Sponsored by
Colfax 3rd of July & Colfax Railroad Days

Wildfires, floods, winter storms. Are you ready to evacuate?

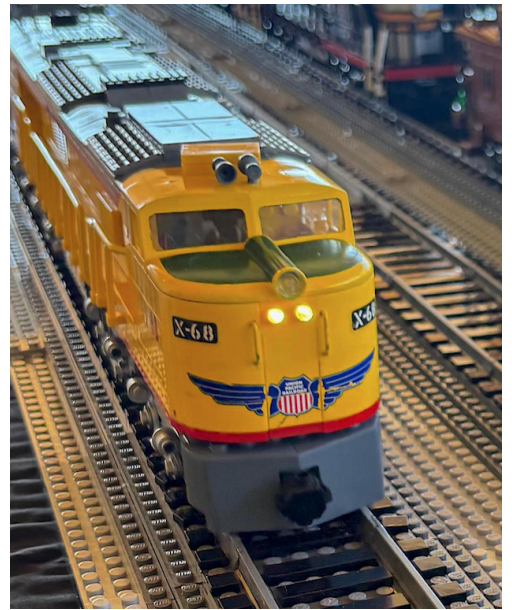


»» **We need your input!**



PLACER COUNTY
EVACUATION AND
TRANSPORTATION
RESILIENCY STUDY

Share your input at: www.dks-engage.com/placerco-evacplan



Railroad Days, 2025

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Top left – Western Pacific #1983

Top right – Diablo Pacific model train exhibit.

Bottom left – The kids train was the best way to see the whole show.

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Top right – Josh Alpine slings burgers at the Lions booth.

Bottom left – Three-year-old Savannah Barrett and her dad, Dylan, with fire hose.

Bottom right – Scott Atherly demonstrates an historic loom for making rope.

All photos by
Alan Shuttleworth



Chamber of Commerce Notes and Events

*Listen! The wind is rising,
and the air is wild with
leaves. We have had our
summer evenings, now
for October eves! - Hum-
bert Wolfe*



After a long hot summer, with more local events than most of us could attend, we are finally looking at some long-awaited cooler weather. It's time to break out the cozy sweaters, dust off our boots and enjoy a warm beverage on a fall day.

This month's member highlight is known to most of the town and needs little introduction. She won our hearts when she took over TJs in 2008, and saved the day when she kept the taco tradition by opening Madi's Mexicali in 2022. Yes, you guessed it! This month we are honored to highlight Maddie Espindola.

Maddie is passionate about serving good food and enjoys knowing her customers enjoy the food and the atmosphere at her restaurants. She has a long history of working at various food establishments.

When the opportunity arose to take over TJ's Roadhouse, she leapt at the chance to run a business for herself. She has kept a lot on the menu that Colfax had come to love and has since developed her own recipes that have become staples on the menu.

Maddie is not shy about rolling up her sleeves and jumping in to help in the kitchen, whether on the line, the grill or staying late to prepare desserts.

As we move from summer to fall, be sure to stop in TJ's Roadhouse for some good food and good company! Maddie will be hosting a mixer through the Chamber, so be on the lookout for more information in the next month. She will be offering a discount to chamber members, and we will have music, raffles, drinks and more!

As always, look for ways to get involved in the community. The City Council holds meetings on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month starting at 6:00 p.m. The Chamber hosts a Coffee & Conversations on the first Friday of the month at the train depot from 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

TJ's Roadhouse is now offering takeout and delivery through the website at <https://www.tjscolfax.com> or by phone at (530) 346-1040. TJ's Roadhouse is located at 520 S Auburn Street, Colfax CA 95713. As always, thank you from all of us at the Colfax Area Chamber of Commerce.

Amanda Palmquist, CACC President



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

JOIN US FOR STORYTIME!



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

- Auburn: Tuesdays 9:30
- Colfax: Wednesdays 10:30am
- Granite Bay: Wednesdays 10:30am
- Rocklin: Thursdays 10:30am
- Kings Beach: Wednesdays 10:30am
- Tahoe City: Fridays 10:30am

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

- Auburn: Wednesdays 9:30
- Colfax: Thursdays 10:30am
- Granite Bay: Thursdays 10:30am
- Rocklin: Wednesdays 10:30am & Fridays 9:30am



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

- Auburn: Mondays 9:30
- Colfax: Fridays 10:30am
- Foresthill: Thursdays 10:30am
- Granite Bay: Fridays 10:30am
- Rocklin: Wednesdays 10:30am
- Kings Beach: Tuesdays 10:30am
- Tahoe City: Thursdays 10:30am



SCAN ME!

for more details about storytime, scan the QR code.





SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
OF COLFAX

35th

Old Fashioned **SOUP KITCHEN**



SATURDAY

December 13, 2025

SAVE THE DATE

Sierra Vista Community Center,
55 School Street, Colfax, CA

TICKETS AT THE DOOR:

For more information please call (530) 648-6455

PRESIDENT SONJA KELLER

PROCEEDS BENEFIT SCHOLARSHIPS & PROJECTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Churches



Colfax Assembly of
God Community
Fellowship
252 Culver St., Colfax,
CA 95713
Email: colfaxesagca@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.colfaxesagca.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.colfaxesumc.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.colfaxesdachurch.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>

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

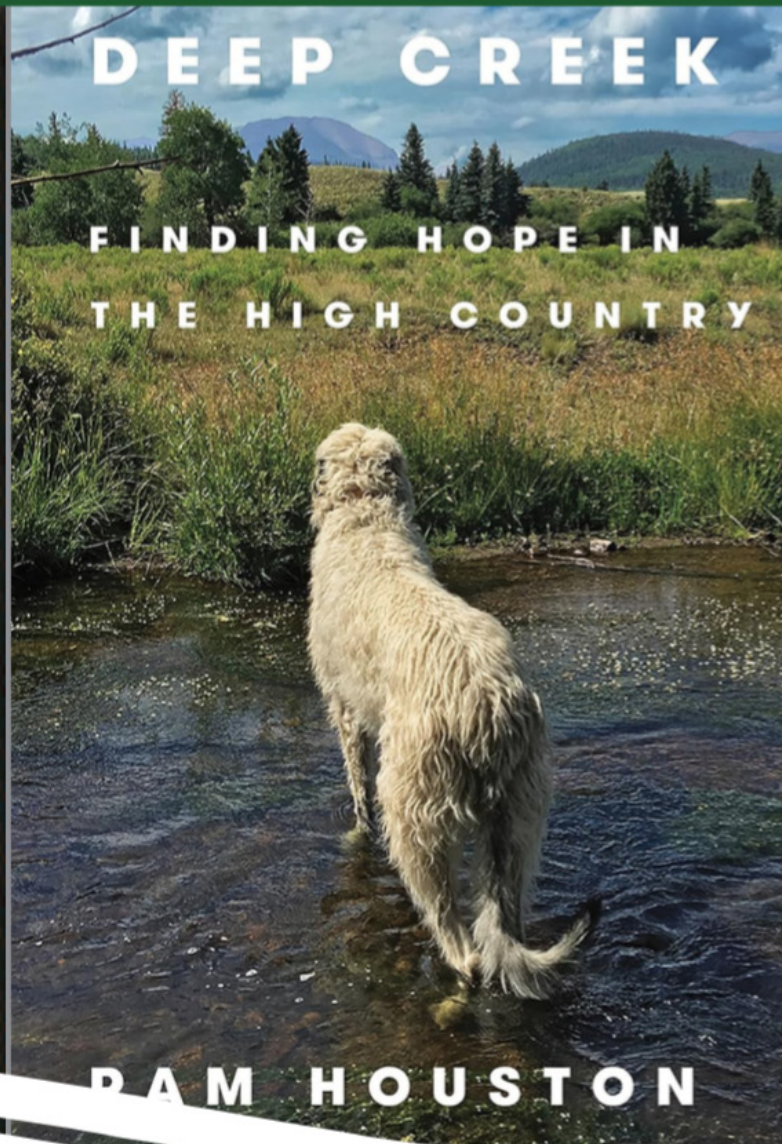
Sierra Vista Community Center
55 School St., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-8726 Website:
<https://sierravistacolfax.wordpress.com>

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 VFW Auxillary 2003
22 Sunset Dr, Colfax, CA 95713
530-305-6936
VFW Auxiliary 2003@gmail.com
Website: <https://www.auxiliary.org>

Find it on our catalog: placer.ca.gov



COLFAX LIBRARY BOOK CLUB

WEDNESDAY NOV 12 | 2PM

