

Colfax Connections

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New City Manager Takes Over, Another Clean City Audit

By wstockwin@hughes.net

The January 24 Colfax city council meeting opened with two city managers, but ended with one after interim city manager Mike Luken stepped aside, and new, full-time city manager Ron Walker took over.

The council gave Luken a plaque commemorating his time in office as thanks for stepping in after Wes Heathcock left for a new position

in Loomis.

The council received a glowing annual audit report, delivered by Ingrid Shepline, managing partner for Richardson & Company, LLP.

She said the audit was “very clean and required no changes or adjustments, with strong positions in all reserve accounts.”

She also applauded city finance director Laurie Van Groningen and Shanna Stahl, city administrative services officer, for their work and cooperation during the audit.

“There were no difficulties in obtaining documents and other materials required to complete the audit process.

The public workshop on the

Continued on page 2

Placer County Adopts Voter’s Choice Act Election Model

Approved by the Board of Supervisors in the summer of 2023, the Placer County Elections Office has adopted the California Voter’s Choice Act (VCA) election model to provide our eligible voters with more choice and control over their vote.

Moving to VCA means Placer County will have fewer machines in fewer locations, the ability to verify a voter’s eligibility and vote history in real time, and the capability to provide a paper ballot to every voter at their request.

The Placer County Elections Office believes this will not only increase voters’ access to in-person voting and ballot drop-off, but will also increase their overall confidence and trust in Placer County elections.

This decision to transition to the new election model was primarily due to the increasing difficulty of recruiting 1,500+ volunteers and securing 200+ sites willing to host a polling place during an election. Moreover, polling places are quite restrictive in both voting time and location—voters can only cast their ballots in person at their assigned polling place on Election Day.



A move to VCA addresses both these issues, as this election model employs regional vote centers that are open for several days preceding an election and unrestricted to voters of a particular precinct. All voters can vote in person at any vote center.

Placer County will have 29 vote centers for the

Continued on page 3



The downtown connectivity study area is shown outlined with dotted yellow line.

Connectivity from page 1

draft Colfax Downtown Connectivity/Main Street Improvement Plan (Plan) took up the greater part of the meeting.

Paid for with a \$211,030 Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant in 2021, the plan includes concepts and potential investments to improve the accessibility, visibility, safety and appeal of the historic downtown for residents, visitors, businesses and property owners.

CivicWell, formerly the Local Government Commission, was hired to prepare the grant application and then produce the Plan when funding was approved.

A non-profit company, CivicWell was hired for its experience in bringing the public into planning processes, transporta-

tion planning and community design.

GHD Inc. was hired in 2022 to provide planning and outreach services.

The public was brought in as part of a steering committee, including interested residents, businesses, the Colfax Area Chamber of Commerce, the Colfax Area Historical Society, local artists, and public safety representatives.

The committee was led by Councilmember Hillberg and Mayor Pro Tem Lomen.

The final draft report on the Plan was the centerpiece of the public workshop, and was previously reviewed by the steering committee, council ad hoc committee and staff.

The workshop was to solicit comments and concerns before

bringing the Plan back to the city council in February for final council consideration.

The Plan has its own Website where all of its aspects can be viewed at <http://www.main-streetcolfax.com/>

The council adjourned the open meeting and went into closed session at 8 p.m.



VCA from page 1

March 5, 2024 Presidential Primary Election. Depending on the location, each vote center will be open for either four or 11 days, and all locations will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day, except for Election Day, when hours will be 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

VCA also requires participating counties to provide at least one vote-by-mail ballot drop box for every 15,000 registered voters. Placer County has already met and exceeded this requirement each election since 2020.

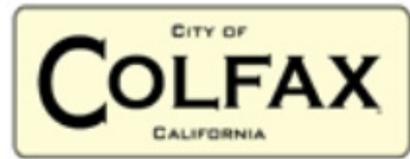
In the past, vote-by-mail ballots dropped off at polling places or drop boxes on Election Day could not be processed until rosters had been verified, meaning they may not have been counted for weeks following the election.

However, recently passed legislation now permits voters to bring their vote-by-mail ballot to any vote center and use the ballot scanner to have it counted on site, ensuring it will be included in the preliminary results released on Election Night.

A list of vote center and drop box locations will be included in your Placer County Voter Information Guide (look for it in the mail the last week of January), your vote-by-mail ballot packet (mailed Feb. 5) or on the Placer County Elections website (www.placercountyelections.gov).

For more information about the Voter's Choice Act, visit www.placercountyelections.gov/voters-choice-act/.

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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
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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

Have you found Snapdragon yet? Snap who?

Snapdragon Provisions is an organic, mostly vegan or at least vegetarian, cafe & shop at 38 N. Main St. with an entrance through **The Wrecking Crew** at 38 N. Main. Snapdragon also has a beautiful entrance from the alley in the back with a lovely sign on the glass doors. Kallie Moore, owner and chef, along with her Mom Leisa Moore manage the shop.

One of the highlights of the shop is the Grab 'n Go fridge, where I found the one item for sale that is organic but not vegetarian or vegan, Tuna salad. It was so good that I ate the whole 8 oz. container in one sitting. The addition of Dijon mustard to the recipe gave it a wonderful flavor boost.

Also, in the Grab 'n Go are these items: Vegan Waldorf Salad, Beet & Feta Salad, Vegan Curry Salad, Vegan Tofu Salad, Vegan Greek Salad, freshly pressed veggie & fruit juices and bottled juices, plus more. This is just a sampling of the goodies in the self-serve fridge.

Ask Kallie about her smoothies. They are so healthy and yummy. They are made to order. Also, her soups—ah! I had a Carrot &



Snapdragon owner Kallie Moore serves customers.

All photos by Alan Shuttleworth

Ginger Soup recently that was heavenly. It comes with optional pepitas and crostinis. And, don't forget to try the organic espresso and Boba tea. Snapdragon is a welcoming, friendly space with small tables and couches to hang out and enjoy

the items you just bought. Snapdragon can be reached by calling (530) 920-0804 and online on Facebook and Instagram @snapdragonprovisions. Store hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 7a.m. to 3p.m.



Above left – Shop entrance from North Main St. Alley.

Above right – Display of organic items such as honey, maple syrup, teas, spices and other organic items.



Winter Book Bingo

A COZY READING CHALLENGE FOR ADULTS

Cozy up with a book this New Year at the library! Adults and Young Adults (ages 17+) are invited to expand their reading habits and discover new interests for a chance to win cozy prizes!

JANUARY 1 - FEBRUARY 28

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



Gustafson Works Hard For Placer County District 5



By Cindy Gustafson
District 5 Supervisor, Placer County

Living in Placer County is a true blessing, with its exceptional quality of life, remarkable people, and distinct communities. Reflecting on the accomplishments of 2023 and gearing up for the new year, here's a concise overview of key initiatives supported throughout the year and set to continue in 2024:

Emergency Preparedness | OES Reorganization

- Championed an innovative model integrating the Sheriff's Office and Placer County Fire Department into the Office of Emergency Services. This facilitates more efficient planning, communication, and response during emergencies.

Public Safety Prioritization | DSA Agreement, Fentanyl Convictions, Body-Worn Cameras, Airplane Hangar

- Supported a new labor agreement with the Deputy Sheriffs' Association, boosting salaries for recruitment and retention.
- Supported the DA's pursuit and prosecution of fentanyl dealers – first murder conviction in the State.

- Approved the acquisition and implementation of body-worn cameras, and a larger hangar for PCSO's fixed wing aircraft.

Investment in Forest Health | LandTender

- Continued support for forest health projects and a contract with LandTender for complete mapping of forest lands to inventory and prioritize forest health projects.

Transportation | Rail Service

- Convened meetings with local, state, and agency representatives resulting in grant funding to study increased passenger rail service from Roseville to Reno.

Fire Safety | Insurance, Defensible Space, I-80 Fuel Reduction

- Continued efforts with the State addressing the high costs, unacceptable delays, and numerous errors experienced by constituents and brokers in California FAIR Plan.
- Supported funding to assist with defensible space for individuals that may be disabled, seniors and low income.
- Supported Caltrans' fuel reduction project that aims to minimize the impacts of truck fires along I-80 by creating shaded fuel breaks.

I'm honored to represent District 5 and look forward to making continued progress on these issues and so many more in 2024!





02-17-2024
AMERICAN
LEGION POST
192 COLFAX

Annual fundraiser:

Cioppino dinner.



**4th 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**

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

Chamber of Commerce Notes and Events

“Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.” – Winston S. Churchill



January is often a month of setting goals, changing goals and oftentimes redefining the original goal that was set. As we move into the month of February it's important to remember, as Churchill stated above, it is the courage to continue that counts.

This month we will be highlighting our member: **Paloma Yoga.**

Fernanda Ruiz, owner of Paloma, started her journey for personal growth in her early 20s, propelled by the peace felt through yoga music and longing to explore the freedom she found in the practice of yoga. Fernanda has been a Yoga Alliance Certified Instructor since 2012. She started teaching outdoors in the Botanical Gardens in Florida and knew she found her calling.

Fernanda opened Paloma Yoga within the walls of the Sierra Vista Community Center almost three years ago and has since moved to her current location on Main Street, 7 North Main, Ste 1.

Paloma's doors are open for all who wish to come, both novices and skilled yogis alike, who are looking for a place of wellness and community. The classes are a mixture of restorative Hatha, Vinyasa and Power Flow.

Fernanda feels that success in yoga looks different for everyone and is not about filling a room. Success is watching her clients understand their bodies at a deeper level and improve flexibility and having an amazing class where everyone is present.

Some less known facts about Paloma's owner are that she crochets, is a white-water kayaker, avid outdoors woman, and she secretly loves Oreos!

If you want to find out more about Paloma Yoga and the classes, you can receive information through her website: <https://palomayoga.org>.

On a separate note, the Chamber has restarted its Coffee and Conversations 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.

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

Amanda Palmquist, CACC President

Paloma Yoga Classes

	<p>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</p> <p style="text-align: right;">7 N. Main St., Suite 1 Colfax, CA 95713</p> <p style="text-align: right;">\$15 per class</p>
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**Colfax Area
Chamber of Commerce**
colfaxchamber.com

colfaxareachamber@gmail.com
(530) 346-8888



Photo by Alan Shuttleworth

The annual Soroptimist Soup Kitchen event always runs smoothly due in large part to the dining room crew of Colfax High School volunteers. Last year's crew, from left to right, were Ethan Freedman, Seth Arcand, Claire Anderson, Sabrina Williams and Kaylssa Carter.

Young Colfax Artist Shines In Lions Peace Poster Contest

Lions clubs around the world are participating in a youth Peace Poster Contest. It is open to 11-13 year olds and gives an opportunity for young people to share their personal vision of peace. The goal is for others to be inspired through the student's creativity and sensitivity.

The contest has been held annually for over three decades and the message of the contest could not be more important given today's headlines.

This year's Colfax Lions Club winner is 7th grader Abbigail Cave. She recently received a written commendation from Club Contest Chair, Foxey McCleary and as well as congratulations from Principal Annette Udall and Visual Arts Teacher, Jessica Foley-Sanchez.

Principal Udall stated, "We are grateful to the Colfax Lions for giving our students the opportunity to express themselves artistically and be inspired to share their vision of peace. Thank you to Ms. Foley-Sanchez for coaching our students. To our winner, Abbigail, I extend my congratula-

tions. Her artistic creation and vision is inspiring." Foxey McCleary, local artist and Colfax Lions Club contest chair, said, "Abbigail has a future in Art. Her composition is really good."



Colfax Elementary School 7th grader Abbigail Cave is the 2023 winner of the Colfax Lions Club Peace Poster Contest. Wishing her well is Principal Annette Udall (L) and Visual Arts Teacher Jessica Foley-Sanchez (R)

Photo by Alan Shuttleworth



FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM FOR COLFAX AREA

The Auburn Interfaith Food Closet invites you to join our program that distributes bags of nutritious food in Colfax once a month.

2024

Tue. JAN. 2nd	Tue. FEB. 6th
Wed. MAR. 6th	Tue APR. 2nd
Tue. MAY 7th	Tue. JUNE 4th

12:00 to 3:00 PM

Sierra Vista Community Center
55 School Street, Colfax



In addition, you may come to AIFC to receive a **larger amount of food once every 30 days.**

To learn more about our programs, visit us at:
www.auburnfoodcloset.org, or call us at: **530-885-1921.**

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Churches



Colfax Assembly of
God Community
Fellowship
252 Culver St., Colfax,
CA 95713
Email: colfaxesagca@
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
530-346-7474
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)

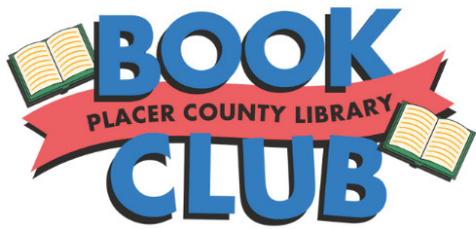
Sierra Vista Artists
55 School St., Rm. C-4, Colfax, CA 95713
530-320-0433

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>

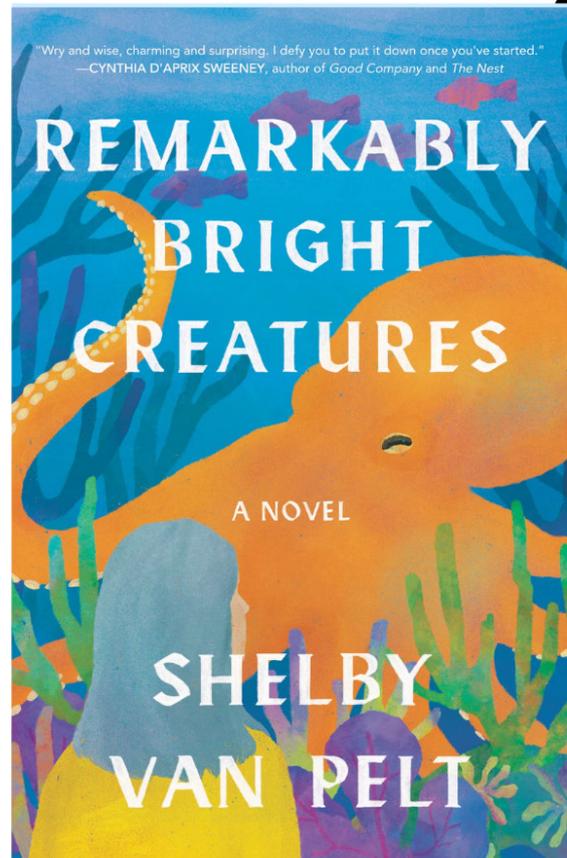




Colfax Library

**REMARKABLY
BRIGHT
CREATURES**

**WEDNESDAY
February 14
2:00-3:00pm**



**OUR MISSING
HEARTS**

**WEDNESDAY
MARCH 13
2:00-3:00pm**

