

GBU Mountain News

independent - unbiased – professional

November 28, 2013 XXXV



Harvey – A Thanksgiving Story

By Sara Woerter

I have a story to share that pulls at my heartstrings...this is Harvey. We first met Harvey when we moved into our home. He was the friendly neighbor dog that was always running loose to say hello. Once in a while my boyfriend Dujeau would catch him and take him back home or we watched over him while our neighbor was away. Once in a while I would toss him a bone or two over the fence and watched as he enjoyed each treat. Last month our



neighbor moved away to Bakersfield with Harvey and Dujeau and I said goodbye.

Today was a day like no other. We started off shopping and I finally convinced Dujeau to stop at Petsmart for some doggie toys. As we walked the store, I noticed the Shafter Animal Shelter had a few doggies up for adoption. After much consideration, Dujeau and I decided that another rescue in our family was a grand idea

and left to discuss a new pitbull boy named Buddy. But upon arriving back to the store a few hours later, we were privileged to see Buddy leaving for his new forever home with a nice older couple. It was a wonderful delight.

The gal at the Shafter Animal Shelter table tried to talk us into another pup but we declined. She did suggest we try the new Kern County Animal shelter and look around for the perfect fit. It was a decision that saved Harvey.

Walking around the large caged area sent my heart into darkness. Dogs of all shapes and sizes were huddled together trying to stay warm upon a concreted floor while a few loners wagged their tails in anticipation as I walked by. Three of them were sickly looking and merely looked sadly upon me. I walked all around the pens while Dujeau stopped to admire many of the sad faces. And then I saw the last cage.

At first all I noticed was the little black and white dog huddled in front of a large brown mix. As I went by the kennel I quietly said hello and Harvey looked at me. Harvey. Except it wasn't Harvey- there was no more wagging tail or doggie kisses. Sadness overwhelmed his eyes while his body stank of waste and filth. It couldn't be the Harvey I once knew! I was in awe. I sullenly looked at the paper above his kennel.

NAME: HARVEY. 2 YR 0 MO. INTAKE DATE: 11/15/13. INTAKE TYPE: OWNER/SURRENDER. COMMENTS: NO LONGER ABLE TO CARE FOR.

I won't lie. I began weeping as the sadness overwhelmed my soul. As I backed up away from his kennel, Dujeau stopped me and wondered what was wrong. In between sobs, I tried to explain that the rugged dog behind the bars was Harvey. It took him a few moments to realize what was happening. Everything was a race after that. All I can recall is sobbing to Dujeau "Get Harvey" as we went up front for adoption.

He is home now. Bathed and warm. I hope if you are reading this you get to meet him soon. He is our official wonder dog. He is under my name and now latched to my heart. We may not be the best people around but Harvey doesn't care. All he wants is a warm bed, a couple dog treats and some love. It must be hard living next door to a warm home he once knew. He must wonder what happened to his previous owner and her kids. Why he was thrown away after loving them unconditionally. But I guarantee he will never step foot into another shelter again...this is a forever home... now and forever.

Contents:

- Harvey – A Thanksgiving Story *by Sara Woerter*
- GBU Mountain News – Clarification
- Serving Others in the Mountain Communities
 - A combined effort of the Family Resource Center, the local Rotary Club, Supervisor Couch, and PMC
 - Sweet Galley & Sky Motors Company fed 80+ People
 - Mitch Wood’s Winter Coat Drive
- News from the El Tejon Unified School District
 - Frazier Mountain High School
 - Sports
 - Frazier Park School
- “Bullying is a real Threat” – The Fruitvale School Bus Incident
- All Things Local
 - SoCal Forests Release Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Land Management Plan Amendment
 - U.S. Forest Service Offers New Digital Maps for Mobile Devices
 - News from the Lebec County Water District
 - Your Help is Needed: Preserve California’s First Mountain Highway *by Harrison I. Scott*
 - Estate Planning Seminar at the Family Resource Center *by Miki Knutson*
 - Lockwood Animal Rescue Center (LARC) receives a 10-Year Conditional Use Permit
 - People
- Law Enforcement Corner
 - Kern County Sheriff’s Office
 - Incidents Nov 19 – 24
 - Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department
 - California Highway Patrol
 - CHP joins Law Enforcement around the Country for Lifesaving Challenges during the Holiday Weekend
- Animals Matter
- Our Library
- Incidents & Accidents in our Region
- Business Affairs
 - Forum to help small businesses with contracts offered by government agencies on Dec 6th
 - Changes to California Law will affect Employers and Employees in 2014
- Teens
- Kern County

- Board of Supervisors Meetings
- November 2013 Legislative Update by the Office of *David Couch*
- Frazier Park Weather Forecast
- Upcoming Events
- Safety & Disaster Preparedness
 - Is your child attending a college in other parts of the U.S.?
 - Earthquake Preparedness
 - Why Drop, Cover, and Hold On?
- Business Directory

GBU Mountain News – Clarification

Due to some tales that float throughout the community, allow me to clarify:

The GBU Mountain News is an independent electronic newsmedia published by Gunnar J Kuepper. This electronic paper is in no way associated or affiliated with any other local paper, neither the MountainEnterprise nor the Bakersfield Californian.

I do not, and have not worked for the MountainEnterprise. I have in the past provided the editor of that paper with photos on a complimentary (meaning unpaid) basis.

As a photographer, I continue to offer / provide newsworthy or story-telling photos to Media outlets “off the hill” for compensation, including the Bakersfield Californian and the LA Times.

However, there is no relationship whatsoever with the MountainEnterprise, its publishers, or editors.

Gunnar J Kuepper

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Serving Others in the Mountain Communities

Turkey Feast: a combined effort of the Family Resource Center, the local Rotary Club, Supervisor Couch, and PMC



Seen here Supervisor *David Couch* with *Anne Burnaugh* from the Family Resource Center (FRC), members of the local Rotary Club including *Mitch Wood*, and *Rory Worster* from the PMC Association, as well as staff from Couch's Office (*Alan Christensen, Mark Salvaggio, Ryan Shultz*) and from the FRC (*Amy Crippen, Sherilyn Stitt*)

On Thursday (Nov 21) a variety of local organizations provided turkeys and fixings as well as food bags to the Family Resource Center (FRC). Under the leadership of *Anne Burnaugh* the FRC will make those food donations available to 89 families in need.

Asked for help, the Office of Supervisor *David Couch* facilitated the donations of 10 turkeys from Walmart in Delano and National Cement each, *Rory Worster* from the Pine Mountain Club Property Owners Association provided 5 turkeys. Additional turkeys and vouchers came from other donors. The members of the local Rotary Club provided, as they have in past years, the fixings and put together the dozens and dozens of food bags.

Local Shopping Opportunity:
Computer & Games will be opened on Black Friday from 8am to noon.
For this -limited- time they will offer 30% off any one item sale.
Computer & Games is located at 633 San Gabriel Trail in Frazier Park (next to the La Sierra Restaurant)

Sweet Galley & Sky Motors Company fed 80+ people



On Wednesday (Nov 27) the Sweet Galley Candy Store and Sky Motors Company provided a free Thanksgiving lunch. More than 80 people came to enjoy turkey, ham, and all the fixings served by the owners and some volunteers at the Candy Store located next to the Sheriff Substation.

Mitch Wood's Winter Coat Drive



Sherri Dumin with Antelope Valley Bank is donating bags of winter clothing to *Mitch Wood's* Coat Drive

As she has done in past years, *Mitch Wood*, Owner of a State Farm Insurance agency, is conducting -successfully- a Winter Coat Drive. Bags and bags of winter clothing have already been brought to her office at 3015 Mount Pinos Way, next to the Family Resource Center in Frazier Park. In early December these coats and winter clothing will be made available to people in need, free of charge.

If you have something to give, a coat or other winter clothing you do need anymore, put those in bag and drop it off at *Mitch's* office. You have until Saturday to do so. Your donation makes sure that everyone in the Mountain Communities can stay warm this winter.



Rebecca L. Gipson, Office Representative Lic. #0E83255
Mitch Wood, Agent Lic. #0792048

3015 Mt Pinos Way, #202, PO Box 1687
 Frazier Park, CA 93225-1687
 Bus 661 245 3728 Fax 661 245 3720
 rebecca.l.gipson.sjhg@statefarm.com
 mitch@mitchwoodinsurance.com
 Hours: Tues-Fri 9-5 and Sat 10-1

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News from our El Tejon Unified School District

The August 22, 2013 School Board meeting can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zgfk4tRnn64>
 The September 12, 2013 School Board meeting can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mCsI0WICv7Q>
 The September 26, 2013 School Board meeting can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ErTw1mBqsT4>
 The October 9, 2013 School Board meeting can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOilyTv9jDc>
 The October 23, 2013 School Board meeting can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aFZ2nYv7s3I>

Photos from the 2013 FMHS Homecoming can be seen on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.635176606505317.1073741838.109453262410990&type=3>



Frazier Mountain High School

Sports



Frazier Park School

“Bullying is a real Threat” – The Fruitvale School Bus Incident

The Fruitvale School District is located in northwest Bakersfield. The district was founded in 1895, and, according to its Website, enrollment has grown exponentially in the last 15 years to currently 3,200 students. The District encompasses four Elementary Schools and one Junior High School.



On October 22, a 13-year-old student was bullied / assaulted on a District’s School Bus. According to her parents the attack, allegedly committed by at least three boys, lasted for 17 minutes. The girl’s parents saw recently parts of a video that captured

the attack via a School Bus camera. According to them, four boys surrounded their daughter and began pulling on the hood of her sweatshirt choking her. They also put their hands around her throat and choked her. The 13-year-old girl was groped on her breasts and had her head forced into the crotch of another boy. The boys are also accused of verbally assaulting the girl with a long list of sexual references.

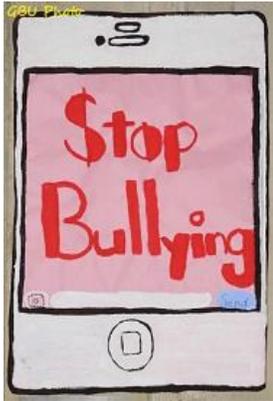
Obviously neither the bus driver nor any of the other students intervened. According an attorney that now represents the attacked girl “the assault was only the beginning, as students learned of the incident some took to social media to ridicule the girl.”

On Wednesday (Nov 20) morning GBU Mountain News submitted a number of questions about the incident and its aftermath to the Fruitvale School District. Within two

hours Dr. Mary Westendorf, the Superintendent responded with a message that was also sent to Fruitvale parents and other Media in Kern County. Superintendent Westendorf stated:

“As of today, we are still awaiting a report from law enforcement; however recent stories in e safety of our students. Early in the morning after the incident, school administration met with parents and law enforcement. Immediate and permanent action was taken against the offending students.” Two of the three boys were expelled from the district and one was suspended. “Action was

also taken with the bus driver. The driver of the bus was a substitute and is no longer being used on district routes. We have hired a new driver.” However, it is not clear whether the bus driver was aware of the assault situation. The Superintendent indicated the driver did not follow policies and procedures, but it is not known what the relevant policies and procedures were, and whether the substitute



driver was thoroughly trained in the use of those policies and procedures.

“Once law enforcement was involved, the district was advised not to comment until the investigation was complete.” Other statements were very generic, such as “The prevention and correction of such misconduct, when it occurs, are a high priority. Instruction directed at education and prevention is a regular part of each school’s curriculum. Staff members receive training in identifying, stopping and reporting such incidents“(reads like being copied from a template book); or a little bit vague, such as “the regular monthly driver in-services will be supplemented with additional management strategies and techniques” (what does that entail?).

The Kern County Sheriff’s Office has investigated the attack and has turned the case over to the District Attorney’s office for a decision on whether to file criminal charges.

All Things Local

SoCal Forests Release Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Land Management Plan Amendment

By Los Padres National Forest

Forest Service officials announced on Monday (Nov 25) the release of the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for a Proposed Amendment to the Land Management Plans for the four Southern California national forests (the Angeles, Cleveland, Los Padres, and San Bernardino).

The Final SEIS incorporates the changes made in response to comments on the Draft SEIS, and includes an additional land use zone alternative. The Final SEIS includes an evaluation of four land use zone alternatives, and three monitoring alternatives. The Final SEIS can be found on the project webpage at:

http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=35130



This Proposed Amendment to the Land Management Plan is part of the Settlement Agreement approved January 3, 2011, in the case of California Resources Agency, et al vs. United States Department of Agriculture, and Center for Biological Diversity, et al vs. United States Department of Agriculture.

The Final SEIS is not a decision document, and is not subject to public comment. Although the document identifies an agency preferred alternative, the Forest Supervisors may select any of the alternatives considered in the analysis.

The next step for the proposed plan amendments is the pre-decisional objection process. The objection process gives an individual or entity an opportunity for an independent Forest Service review and resolution of issues before the approval of the plan, plan amendment,

or plan revision. The objection period will open in early 2014.

The objection process starts with the release of a Draft Record of Decision (ROD) for each forest plan, and the 60-day objection period begins when a legal notice informing the public of the availability of the Draft ROD is published in the newspaper of record for each national forest. The relevant documents will also be made available on the project website, and a notice will be sent to any individual or entity that is eligible to file an objection. Objections must be filed within 60 days of the publication of the legal notice.

Because the objection process will begin early next year, objections received prior to the publication of the legal notice for the Draft ROD will not be accepted, acknowledged, or reviewed. For more information on the objection process, please visit the Forest Service National Objection webpage and select the link to the planning objections rules at 36 CFR 219:

http://www.fs.fed.is/objections/objections_related.php#app_work

For additional information, contact Project Manager Bob Hawkins via email at socal_nf_lmp_amendment@fs.fed.us.

U.S. Forest Service Offers New Digital Maps for Mobile Devices

By Los Padres National Forest

Forest Service officials recently announced that a variety of digital visitor maps are now accessible for people using Android and iOS devices.

The PDF Maps Mobile App, developed by Avenza Systems Inc., is available as a free download from iTunes and the Android Play Store. The app provides access to Forest Service maps, including maps of Los Padres National Forest. Some maps are free to download, such as motor-vehicle-use maps, while others range in price from 99 cents to \$7.99.

"This mobile app makes it easier for visitors to plan ahead and have comprehensive maps at their fingertips," said Los Padres Assistant Recreation Officer Jeff Bensen. "Our customers have expressed interest in having access to more digital information and this helps move us in that direction."

The maps are geo-referenced with the user's location appearing as a blue dot. The app works on iPhones (3GS or newer) and iPads with WiFi+3G. It also works with Android 4 or newer operating systems on devices with at least 1 gigabyte of memory.

Through the app, users can purchase and download professionally created maps that are stored on their devices. They can use the maps based on their location when GPS is available. The maps also will allow users to measure distance and area, find coordinates, open a current view in Google maps, plot place marks, add notes, enter their own data and add photos as attributes. Almost 700 Forest Service maps are available through the app.

In areas of national forests and grasslands where Internet connections are unavailable, the app and static maps work well if users download the maps prior to their visit. The apps and maps also will be useful for wildland firefighters. In geographic areas with Internet availability users will be able to use the products with live data. The interactive map is expected to be available on a limited basis starting in March 2014.

Paper maps are still available for purchase online at the National Forest Store, or at any U.S. Forest Service visitor center.

News from the Lebec County Water District

During the Oct 12 meeting Treasurer *Millie Karr* announced her resignation from the Board. Board President *Julie McWhorter* attended the meeting via telephone. She will finish her current term of office ending December 5. On December 6 the three remaining board members (*Bill Hopper, Tony Venegas, Thomas Kermode*) will form a new Board and continue leading the district.

At Thursday's (Nov 21) special meeting the Board acknowledged two letters of intent from residents to fill the vacancy created by Julie McWhorter's departure. The board also approved the purchase of a new truck for the district for under \$20,000.

Your Help is Needed: Preserve California's First Mountain Highway

by *Harrison I. Scott*, President, Ridge Route Preservation Organization

The Ridge Route Preservation Organization (RRPO) is a California 501-C3 Public Benefit Non-profit Corporation. Our objective is to restore and preserve California's first mountain highway, the highway that prevented California from splitting into two separate states by building a road over the majestic San Gabriel and Tehachapi mountains in 1915. We were successful in 1997 to get the road listed onto the National Register. The 1915 Ridge Route and the Redwood highway in

northern California are the only two highways in the state to have National Register distinction. As a result of severe damage from the 100 year rain storm of 2005 the road remains closed to the public. Currently one oil company that has a “right-of-way” near the road is spending ten million dollars to shore-up a hillside that threatens to disrupt their petroleum line.



Courtesy of the Harrison I. Scott photo collection

The RRPO is asking Angeles National Forest to support our organizations effort to designate the road as a “National Forest Scenic By-way.” This local designation is a requirement before the RRPO can process the paperwork for a “National Scenic By-way” designation which may in the future provide federal assistance that would benefit our preserving this important piece of California’s history.

The RRPO received letters of support for this designation from Congressman “Buck” McKeon of Santa Clarita and Congressman Kevin McCarthy of Bakersfield. By accessing the NEWS icon on our web site: www.RidgeRoute.com

you can forward your letter of support too for this designation simply by entering your name and home address then clicking the (submit) button. The more letters the ranger receives will aid him in helping us with this important designation. Additionally, the forest service is currently exploring a funding source in an attempt to bring the road up to an acceptable level of safety. If the funding and the designation become a reality the road could possibly open as soon as late 2014.

Estate Planning Seminar at the Family Resource Center

By Miki Knutson, Adult Advocate at MCFRC

The Mountain Communities Family Resource Center (MCFRC) would like to announce that it will be hosting

an Estate Planning Seminar featuring speaker, Stephen Walsh on **Monday, December 2, 2013 from 1pm to 4pm at the Frazier Park Library**, Frazier Park, CA. Mr. Walsh is a Certified Financial Planner and will be discussing guidelines for preparation of a Simple Will, Estate Planning, Living Trusts and what is included, Veteran and Widow Benefits, Reverse Mortgages, and Savings and Investments.

Organizing your assets now protects you and your family, both while you are alive and after you are gone. Learn how to prepare a Simple Will or complete an entire Living Trust Package that includes a Power of Attorney, Will, and Healthcare Directive. Learn how to keep your family from the lengthy Probate process and Estate Taxation.

There is limited seating availability so please RSVP by Friday, November 29, 2013 at 661-245-4303. For reservations and questions you can contact Miki Knutson, the Adult Advocate at the Mountain Communities Family Resource Center (MCFRC), a position sponsored by the South West Healthcare District. The MCFRC is located at 3015 Mount Pinos Way, Suite 201, and I am available Monday through Wednesday 8:30am – 3:15pm.

Lockwood Animal Rescue Center (LARC) receives a 10-Year Conditional Use Permit

On Thursday (Nov 14) the Ventura County Planning Commission granted a 10-year conditional use permit to the Lockwood Valley Animal Center (LARC) located on Curtis Trail about two miles west of Lockwood Valley Road. The 20 acre wolf dog sanctuary is maintained by its founders Lorin Lindner and Matthew Simmons and is supported by private donations and grants. After an all-day hearing the four Commissioners decided unanimously to grant the permit and subsequently cleared the animal rescue center of two outstanding violations. The approval came with the condition that one year from now LARC and the County of Ventura will review the conditions, including the building and inspection of a perimeter fence. Fences are to be approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the California Department of Fish & Wildlife, and the County of Ventura. LARC is also required to work with the Ventura Sheriff’s Department to implement a reverse 911 system that alerts neighbors in case of an emergency at or coming from the facility.

People

Lebec Resident and retired aerospace photographer *Charles Noble* published recently an article "Wildlife photography on RV trip to Grand Teton, Yellowstone". See his article and amazing images at <http://exclusive.multibriefs.com/content/rv-trip-provides-great-opportunity-for-wildlife-photography>

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Law Enforcement Corner



Kern County Sheriff's Office

Sergeant Mark Brown from the Kern County Sheriff's Substation in Frazier Park released the following information about law enforcement related incidents and activities between **Nov 19th and Nov 24th**: *

- 1) On November 19, 2013, at about 11:20 PM, a deputy saw an unoccupied, parked vehicle bearing a false registration tab on the 500 block of Wainwright Court in Lebec. The vehicle was towed.
- 2) On November 20, 2013, at about 10:30 AM, a deputy was dispatched to a home on the 1300 block of Linden Drive in PMC to assist the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office investigate a vandalism. Unknown person(s) gutted a fifth wheel RV being stored at a facility in Santa Clarita.
- 3) On November 20, 2013, at about 11:25 AM, a Frazier Park resident came to the Frazier Park Substation and reported that her U.S. passport was either lost or stolen.
- 4) On November 21, 2013, at about 3:45 PM, deputies were dispatched to the area of Mt. Pinos Way and Laguna Trail in Frazier Park to check the welfare of a man stumbling in and out of traffic on Mt. Pinos Way. DC was arrested for public intoxication.
- 5) On November 22, 2013, at about 10:35 PM, a deputy stopped a vehicle for a lighting violation on San Carlos Trail, north of Mt. Pinos Way, in Frazier Park. The driver, RK, was found to be in possession of three balloons containing approximately 1.9 total grams of suspected heroin, a metal container containing approximately .4 grams of suspected heroin, used hypodermic syringes containing suspected heroin residue, and suspected heroin paraphernalia. He was arrested for possession and transportation of narcotics.
- 6) On November 24, 2013, at about 5:30 PM, a deputy stopped a vehicle with an expired registration tab on San Carlos Trail, north of Mt. Pinos Way, in Frazier Park. The driver, North Hills, CA. resident JD, was arrested for driving under the influence of a controlled substance. During the arrest, he was found to be in possession of two narcotic pills without a prescription. A criminal complaint requesting a



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possession of narcotics charge was filed against him with the District Attorney's Office.

Anyone having information about any of the above incidents is asked to contact the Kern County Sheriff's Office at (661) 861-3110, contact Secret Witness at (661) 322-4040 or send an anonymous text to TIP411 (847411). Type the key word, "KCSO," prior to the message.

** You will notice that the names of arrestees and suspects are not published here. The presumption of innocence means that one is to be considered innocent until proven guilty in a fair and open court of law. Individuals that have been arrested, but not convicted and that do not pose a risk for others should not be subject to public humiliation. That's what I believe in, and this publication will act accordingly.*

Article on Phone Scams

If you would like to receive the information compiled by Sergeant Mark Brown, Frazier Park Sheriff's Substation as a .pdf file, please send an e-mail to GBUmountainNews@gmail.com.

Los Angeles County Sheriff



California Highway Patrol (CHP)

CHP joins Law Enforcement around the Country for Lifesaving Challenges during the Holiday Weekend

Provided by Aadrian Garcia, CHP

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) is joining several other state highway patrol agencies across the nation to participate in two separate traffic safety challenges during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. Keeping in line with the CHP's mission of saving lives, both campaigns have set a goal of zero fatalities during the five-day period.

The first of two campaigns beginning Wednesday, November 27, is the "Interstate 5 Challenge." The five-day lifesaving traffic safety effort is a joint endeavor between the CHP, Oregon State Police, and the Washington State Patrol. The focus throughout the "Arrive Alive on I-5" campaign will be on seat belt usage, driving under the influence, speed, and aggressive driving.

Interstate 5 (I-5) is the main Interstate Highway on the West Coast. Beginning in San Diego County, I-5 links several major California cities and stretches through 17

of the state's counties. More than 1,300 miles in length, I-5 continues into Oregon and Washington and connects all three state's Capital cities. According to data from the CHP's Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System (SWTRS), I-5 averages more than 14,000 collisions annually. Preliminary SWTRS data from 2012 indicates at least 92 people were killed in collisions on I-5 in California.

The second campaign, the "I-40 Challenge," is a two-day campaign involving law enforcement agencies serving Interstate 40 (I-40) from California to North Carolina. In California 155 miles of I-40 stretches from Needles to Barstow. This stretch of highway through California averages more than 200 collisions annually. Preliminary SWTRS data from 2012 indicates at least 10 people were killed in collisions on I-40 in California.

"Partnering with our colleagues throughout the nation in previous challenge campaigns was successful in increasing awareness of our focus on traffic safety," said CHP Commissioner Joe Farrow. "We are determined to achieve our goals on I-5 and I-40 by continuing to educate motorists about the primary causes of traffic collisions and encouraging safe driving behaviors."

Each of the law enforcement agencies involved in the challenges is working to ensure motorists experience the safest possible Thanksgiving travel period. Both education and enforcement campaigns conclude on Sunday, December 1, 2013, and coincide with the CHP's Thanksgiving Maximum Enforcement Period.

"A majority of collisions and roadway deaths are preventable if motorists follow basic traffic safety rules," added Commissioner Farrow. "Enjoy the holidays but remember: always wear a seat belt, drive at a speed safe for roadway conditions, eliminate distractions while driving, and always designate a sober driver."

The mission of the California Highway Patrol is to provide the highest level of Safety, Service, and Security to the people of California.



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Our Library (bibliotekë)

Calendar

- Tuesday: 11:30 am **Family Storytime** with *Christine Kearns-Brown*
- Wednesday: 3:30 pm **Chess** Everyone is welcome. Chess Coach, *Bill Hopper* available to teach beginners.
- Thursday: 11:30 am **Personal Computer Coach**. Call to make an appointment: 245-1267
3:30 pm **Barks & Books**
Children read to a listening therapy dog to better their reading skills
- Saturday: 9-9:30 am **Free Beginning Piano** by *Karen Anthony*. Call to sign up 661-245-1267
10-2:00 pm **Quilt & Chat**: Everyone is welcome!
3:30 -5:00 pm **Reading of the Classics** by local actors and community; all are welcome.

➤ Saturday, December 7th, from 10am -12pm:

The Frazier Park Library will have a **Photography Exhibit and Meeting with Photographer Gerald K. Smith** entitled "Before Paparazzi". Gerald K. Smith was an NBC Staff Photographer from the 1950s through 1967. He traveled with Bob Hope's USO Tour and shot behind-the-scenes photos of many television shows. He photographed included Hope, John Wayne, Jayne Mansfield, Dean Martin, Jerry Lewis, Frank Sinatra, Marilyn Monroe, "The Rat Pack". Refreshments will be available.



What is an Electronic Newspaper?

An electronic Newspaper is a self-contained, reusable, and refreshable version of a traditional newspaper that acquires and holds information electronically. (The electronic newspaper should not be confused with newspapers that offer an online version at a Web site.)

What is the difference between a Newsletter and a Newspaper?

A newspaper publishes stories and information for and about a city/region/state/country and covers a variety of topics, events, and developments.

A Newsletter is published by a specific organization (school, club, business) and informs mainly about the organization's activities.

Animals Matter

Thursday, December 12th, at 3:30pm:

Create a T-shirt for the Holidays

Teens & adults can bring two T-shirts to create an ideal holiday gift.

Friday, December 13th, at 3:30pm:

Holiday Gift Guide Preview – **Basic Tips, Tricks & Features for Tablets**, etc.: Nook, Kindle Fire, iPad, & Samsung

New Library Hours!!
Every Friday 9am – 5pm

Incidents & Accidents

Art - Music - Theater

Business Affairs

Forum to help small businesses with contracts offered by government agencies on Dec 6th

Assemblywoman *Shannon Grove* (R-Bakersfield) is hosting a forum to help small businesses connect with contracts offered by government agencies on **Friday, December 6th**. The event will feature panels on the government contracting and procurement process and an accreditation workshop so businesses can sign up to bid on contracts with the state government. There is no charge for attendance.

WHEN: 7:30 am Friday, December 6, 2013
7:45 am – Breakfast/Registration
8:30am -11:30 am: Contracting Agencies Panel, Accreditation Workshop and Exhibitor Booths

FEATURING:

- California Department of General Services
- California Department of Corrections
- Kern Community College District
- County of Kern
- CSUB, as well as other government agencies

WHERE: Hodel's, Kern Room
5917 Knudsen Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93308

TO RSVP: (661) 395-2995 or
Assemblymember.Grove@assembly.ca.gov

Changes to California Law will affect Employers and Employees in 2014

The following laws affecting employers and employees in California will take effect in 2014:

AB 10 - Minimum Wage Increase

The California minimum wage will be increased in two one-dollar increments.

Effective July 1, 2014, the minimum wage will increase from the current \$8.00 per hour rate to \$9.00 per hour.

The rate will increase to \$10.00 per hour on January 1, 2016.

SB 666 - Prohibited Retaliation Based on Immigration/Citizenship Status

Employers are prohibited from preventing, or retaliating against, an employee based on the employee's citizenship or immigration status if that individual:

- Provides information to, or testifies before, any public body conducting a hearing, investigation, or inquiry, or
- Has engaged in protected conduct (including a written or oral complaint that the employee is owed unpaid wages).

Any violation by the employer could be fined up to \$10,000.

AB 241 - Domestic Worker Bill of Rights- AB 241

Until January 1, 2017, the Domestic Worker Bill of rights will regulate the hours of certain domestic work employees and provide an overtime compensation rate of 1.5 times the regular rate of pay to those employees who work more than 9 hours in a work day or 45 hours in any work week. The bill defines "domestic work employee" and its specific exclusions.

AB 442 - Liquidated Damages Liability for Unpaid Wages

Employers that fail to pay minimum wages become subjects to not only to criminal and civil penalties, and the payment of restitution to employees, but ABB 442 adds liquidated damages.

AB 465 - Criminal Background Checks for Youth Sports

Employers or Human Resource Agencies of Community youth athletic programs may now request state and federal level criminal history information from the Department of Justice when selecting a volunteer coach or hired coach.

In order to comply with the new laws, employers are required to update their minimum wage posters and to ensure that the changes have been made by their payroll department and/or vendor.

Existing contracts with employees and independent contractors should be reviewed before the end of the year, as should the Employee Handbook.

Kern County

Board of Supervisors Meetings

The Kern County Board of Supervisors meets every Tuesday (i.e., Nov 5, 12, 19, and 26) at 9:00 am and 2:00 pm in the County Administrative Building at 1115 Truxtun Ave. in Bakersfield.

At each meeting Members of the Public can address the Board on any matter even if it is not on this agenda but under the jurisdiction of the Board. Board members may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed by the public. They may ask a question for clarification, make a referral to staff for factual information or request staff to report back to the Board at a later meeting. Also, the Board may take action to direct the staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda. Speakers are limited to two minutes and asked to state and spell their names (for the record) before making a presentation.

If you are interested to receive the agenda(s) for upcoming or the minutes for previous Board meetings, please send an e-mail to GBUmountainNews@gmail.com



November 2013 Legislative Update

By the Office of *David Couch*, Kern County Supervisor

State Fire Prevention Fee Going Up

California's fire prevention fee, which was opposed by Kern and many other counties, increases next year. State law requires the fee to automatically adjust upward for inflation — even though about \$26 million already collected remains unspent. The increase amounts to

\$2.33, netting the state an additional \$1.7 million on top of the \$72 million in current fees expected from mostly rural residents. That will push the price to \$117.33 or \$152.33, depending on the property location. The base \$150 fee has been in place for two years, approved by the Legislature and Gov. Brown. Unable to gain GOP support for a 2/3 vote tax for broad fire protection purposes, Democrats passed a fee on a simple majority vote, arguing there is a direct nexus between prevention and cost. The fire fee is being challenged in court.

Legislative Analyst Paints Positive Budget Outlook - also Warns State is Too Dependent on Capital Gains

The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) has released a fiscal outlook that projects a \$5.6 billion State Budget reserve by the end of the next fiscal year as well as budget surpluses through 2019-20. The LAO said projected revenues in the current fiscal year will likely total \$6.4 billion more than the State Budget assumed. While increased spending on schools and community colleges required by Proposition 98 will eat up \$5 billion of the extra money, the LAO predicts that an FY 2014-15 operating surplus of \$3.2 billion and a healthy carry-over this year will push next year's reserve well Hazard blinker: The LAO warned that although the structural deficit is eliminated, the State's fiscal health depends on continued economic growth and steady growth in stock prices. Since the budget depends so heavily on income taxes and especially on volatile capital gains taxes, an economic downturn could again plunge the State into operating deficits.

The LAO forecast also assumes that the State repays liabilities with payment schedules set in current law. Other liabilities, including some items on the Governor's "wall of debt" and the State's huge retirement liabilities (particularly in the California State Teachers' Retirement System), remain unpaid. If additional payments are made in the future to repay these liabilities or to provide inflation adjustments to universities, the courts, State employees, and other programs, projected operating surpluses would fall significantly below LAO projections. You may view the full outlook at: <http://www.lao.ca.gov/reports/2013/bud/fiscal-outlook/fiscal-outlook-112013.pdf>

Payment-in-Lieu of Taxes (PILT) is on Congressional Budget Conference Table

The federal Payment in-Lieu of Taxes program, which now sends nearly \$2.5 million annually to Kern County to help pay for essential services such as law enforcement and infrastructure that the County provides

on property tax exempt federal lands, reverted to a discretionary program when its mandatory program status expired on September 30. Since Congress made it a mandatory program in 2008, PILT has received full funding, so reverting to discretionary status could mean less funding in the future. The County Administrative Office will ask Kern County's congressional delegation to support a one-year extension of full funding at \$410 million as the House Appropriations Committee is recommending in the FY14 Interior bill.

High Speed Rail Authority Has Some 'S plaining to Do'

A Sacramento Superior Court judge has put the brakes on the High Speed Rail Authority's plans to spend State bond money to build the bullet train. Judge Michael P. Kinney ordered the Authority to rescind and rewrite its original funding plan and refused to validate the Authority's issuance of \$8 billion in State bonds, agreeing with high-speed rail opponents who argued in their lawsuit that the train system the Authority wants to build is not the same plan voters approved in 2008. Judge Kinney did not block the Authority from spending the \$3.4 billion in federal money it has already obtained to build an initial rail segment in Fresno, which may have the nation's speediest commuter train if nothing more is built.

Prison Realignment \$\$ Redux

The County Administrative Office (CAO) has been almost continuously engaged with fellow counties, lawmakers, and Administration officials in AB 109 funding allocation formulas. As you know, the County will receive nearly \$9 million in FY 2012-13 unallocated growth money as a result of the efforts of the CAO, Probation, Sheriff, and District Attorney officials in concert with the County's legislative consultant to educate the Administration on Kern County's AB 109 experience and our funding needs.

As helpful as this extra money will be in expanding the County's treatment and supervision of AB 109 offenders, it is a one-time allocation. A new clash now looms as counties again grapple with the base formula for allocating prison realignment funds to counties in the FY 2014-15 State Budget.

While the Administration, the Legislative Analyst, and the California State Association of Counties have repeatedly stressed the notion that the base formula can and must remain flexible in order to respond to the greatest areas of need as new data on offenders is gathered, the dialogue among CAOs at CSAC's annual

meeting last week struck the same discordant notes as in the past:

- Counties who received a lot of money to spend on each offender under the existing formula expect any "new" formula to allow them to hang onto that money whether their offender populations warrant it or not.

- Kern County should content itself with whatever we are given because we prosecuted and incarcerated while others treated and rehabilitated.

Evidently, these counties are willing to extend rehabilitation opportunities to their AB 109 offenders but not to Kern or other counties who are developing treatment plans with little money or staff.

The CAO has provided the Administration with the County's plan for spending the AB 109 growth money, which focuses heavily on evidence-based practices as the law requires.

We also furnished the Administration with updated statistics on split sentencing (the use of both jail time and evidence-based alternatives to incarceration) in Kern County to refute badly outdated information presented in the recent Stanford Criminal Justice Center report, Voices From the Field. The Stanford report stitched together anecdotal evidence from scattered interviews with old data that was not compiled through its own research to classify counties as "high-incarceration" or "low-incarceration" in their approaches to AB 109 offenders.

We will report further on this issue and will seek your Board's engagement with State and other county officials as needed.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Teens

6

Gas Prices in our Region

As of Thursday, November 22:

cash price for regular (many gas stations charge a higher price for credit cards!)

USA Average: 3.251

California Average: 3.541

Bakersfield Average: 0.000

0.00 9/10 Fastrip, Lamont 10301 Main
St & Gail Marie Dr

3.89 9/10 Chevron I-5 at Laval Road

4.26 9/10 Valero at I-5, Grapevine

4.29 9/10 Shell at I-5, Grapevine Road

3.89 9/10 Chevron, Gorman

3.87 9/10 Shell, Gorman

0.00 9/10 76, Lebec

3.59 9/10 Shell, Lebec

3.65 9/10 Chevron, Lebec

3.59 9/10 Flying J

3.59 9/10 Midway Gas, Lake of the Woods

3.58 9/10 Don's Liquor, Frazier Park



GBU Mountain News is an electronic newspaper that currently reaches out to **2,376** residents, businesses, and organizations throughout the Mountain Communities as well as public and elected officials in the Kern-Los Angeles-Ventura Counties area. The *GBU Mountain News* is published and distributed twice to four times a week.

Publisher & Editor: Gunnar J Kuepper

Tel: 661-402-2717 (always dial area code)

The electronic format allows the readership to be always informed in a timely fashion.

If you are interested in receiving *GBU Mountain News* regularly, just send an e-mail to GBUmountainNews@gmail.com

Previous issues of the *GBU Mountain News* can be downloaded free of charge:

XXXV – Nov 28, 2013:

XXXIV – Nov 22, 2013:

<http://www.pdf-archive.com/2013/11/23/gbu-mountain-news-xxxiv-nov-23-2013/>

XXXIII – Nov 14, 2013:

<http://www.pdf-archive.com/2013/11/14/gbu-mountain-news-xxxiii-nov-14-2013/>

XXXII – Nov 10, 2013:

<http://www.pdf-archive.com/2013/11/13/gbu-mountain-news-xxxii-nov-10-2013/>

XXXI – Nov 6, 2013:

<http://www.pdf-archive.com/2013/11/13/gbu-mountain-news-xxx-i-nov-6-2013/>

<http://www.pdfhost.net/index.php?Action=Download&File=0689343fb6b43ae03b637f0fce290bb2>

XXX – Nov 1, 2013:

<http://www.pdf-archive.com/2013/11/13/gbu-mountain-news-xxx-nov-1-2013/>

XXIX – Oct 24, 2013:

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XXVIII – Oct 16, 2013:

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XXVII – Oct 12, 2013:

<http://www.pdfhost.net/index.php?Action=Download&File=70688be4d8fd65c31852bb5e1f26453>

XXVI – Oct 9, 2013:

<http://www.pdfhost.net/index.php?Action=Download&File=1634eb0f9c47f71371f53ec077a73d8f>

XXV – Oct 2, 2013:

<http://www.pdfhost.net/index.php?Action=Download&File=dd98d8bec0ca3ff378e52ea2f0e7aed>

XXIV – Sep 25, 2013:

<http://www.pdfhost.net/index.php?Action=Download&File=839da0afacc95a7a3bc42b5e1e565a4e>

XXIII – Sep 19, 2013:

<http://www.pdfhost.net/index.php?Action=Download&File=896979c0c06c3189cf861a116d76b7a>

XXII – Sep 16, 2013:

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XXI – Sep 10, 2013:



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XX – Sep 5, 2013:
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XVIII – Aug 28, 2013:
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XVII – Aug 23, 2013:
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XV – Aug 14, 2013:
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XIV – Aug 9, 2013:
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XIII – July 31, 2013:
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XII – July 25, 2013:
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XI – July 19, 2013:
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X – July 16, 2013:
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VIII – July 10, 2013:
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IV – July 1, 2013:
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III – June 29, 2013:
<http://www.pdfhost.net/index.php?Action=Download&File=1e19e3f7f4c3af9b36cebbe6f6c4910c>
II – June 28, 2013:
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I – June 26, 2013:
<http://www.pdfhost.net/index.php?Action=Download&File=11e4331666da75c354a4ec5815f22b38>
S3 – 2013 Fiesta Days from Aug 6, 2013:
<http://www.pdf-archive.com/2013/11/13/gbu-mountain-news-s3-on-fiesta-days-aug-6-2013/>
S2 – Rancho Fire from July 22, 2013:
<http://www.pdf-archive.com/2013/11/13/gbu-mountain-news-s2-on-rancho-fire-july-22-2013/>

S1 – Lebec Fire from July 7, 2013:
<http://www.pdf-archive.com/2013/11/13/gbu-mountain-news-s1-on-lebec-fire-july-7-2013/>

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Frazier Park Weather Forecast:

Friday, Nov 29:	high 54°F	low 34°F
Saturday, Nov 30:	high 58°F	low 33°F
Sunday, Dec 1:	high 63°F	low 35°F
Monday, Dec 2:	high 62°F	low 30°F
Tuesday, Dec 3:	high 47°F	low 24°F
Wednesday, Dec 4:	high 42°F	low 24°F
Thursday, Dec 5:	high 42°F	low 20°F

97 Jeep Grand Cherokee (2WD)
Only 129,000 miles – 60,000 on motor (with 8 month of warranty) – **new radiator** – **new water pump** – **new tires** - \$3,750 - Please call 661-472-2474 (cell) or 661-245-3866 (shop); can be seen in Frazier Park, Mt Pinos Way at *Dunn Right*
Tell them Gunnar send you and you will receive a \$400 discount!!!



Isabel's Clothing



3608(B) Arroyo Tr., Frazier Park. Located next to the Sheriff Station

Open M-Sa 10am – 5pm

We carry Halloween costumes, helium balloons, piñatas, all types of clothing, shoes, rugs, gifts and much, much more!!

30% off all summer clothing

Important Phone Numbers

Fire	911
Ambulance	911
Sheriff or CHP	911
Frazier Park Sheriff Station	661-245-3440
Frazier Park Public Utility/Water District	661-245-3734
Lebec County Water District	661-248-6872
Southern California Edison	800-655-4555
Southern California Gas	800-427-2200
Pacific Gas & Electric (PGE)	800-743-5000
El Tejon Unified School District	661-248-6247
Frazier Mountain High School	661-248-0310
Frazier Park Library	661-245-1267
Pine Mountain Club Patrol	661-242-3857
Supervisor David Couch	661-868-3680
Fire Station 56 (Lebec)	661-248-6426
The Photographer (fires, accidents, weddings, & all other disasters)	661-402-2717

Safety & Disaster Preparedness

Is your child attending a college in other parts of the U.S.?

Do you have a child at a college or university somewhere in the Midwest? It is highly possible that your teenage child had to take shelter at her College, as many facilities lost power and Tornadoes touched down all around in numerous states. After one of the quietest U.S. tornado seasons in 40 years, last Sunday was nature's comeback, with a total of 81 tornado reports in Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, Indiana and Ohio. Illinois was the hardest hit, with 43 tornadoes, followed by 23 in Indiana, 13 in Kentucky, one in Missouri and one in Ohio.

Does your child know the difference between "Watch" and "Warning", does he/she receive reverse notifications from the City and the University? Does your child have personal emergency supplies and knew where those are? Is your child at or going to college soon ready for and informed about the new environment and local hazards? Does your child know how to prepare and act in hurricanes, tornadoes, blizzards, flash floods, etc?

Earthquake Preparedness



Why Drop, Cover, and Hold On?

Why is it important to do a Drop, Cover, and Hold On drill? To react quickly you must practice often. You may only have seconds to protect yourself in an earthquake, before strong shaking knocks you down--or drops something on you. Practicing helps you be ready to respond.

If you are inside a building, move no more than a few steps, then Drop, Cover and Hold On:

- **DROP** to the ground (before the earthquake drops you!),
- Take **COVER** by getting under a sturdy desk or table, and
- **HOLD ON** to it until the shaking stops.

Stay indoors till the shaking stops and you are sure it is safe to exit. In most buildings you are safer if you stay where you are until the shaking stops.

If you are outdoors when the shaking starts, you should find a clear spot away from buildings, trees, streetlights, and power lines, then Drop, Cover and Hold On. Stay there until the shaking stops.

If you are driving, pull over to a clear location, stop and stay there with your seatbelt fastened until the shaking stops. Once the shaking stops, proceed with caution and avoid bridges or ramps that might have been damaged.

Ground shaking during an earthquake is seldom the cause of injury. Most earthquake-related injuries and deaths are caused by collapsing walls and roofs, flying glass and falling objects. It is extremely important for a person to move as little as possible to reach the place of safety he or she has identified because most injuries occur when people try to move more than a short distance during the shaking.

Look around you now, before an earthquake. Identify safe places such as under a sturdy piece of furniture or against an interior wall in your home, office or school so that when the shaking starts you can respond quickly. An immediate response to move to the safe place can save lives. And that safe place should be within a few steps to avoid injury from flying debris.

Business Directory

Automobile Dealer

- Sky Motors Company, Frazier Park, Tel 661-245-2769

Automobile Repair & Service

- DunnRight, 3811 Mount Pinos, Frazier Park, Tel 661-245-3866

Candy Shop

- Sweet Galley, 3604 Arroyo Trail, Frazier Park

Clothing

- Isabel's Clothing, next to the Sheriff's Station, Frazier Park

Grocery Stores

- Trader Joe's Bakersfield, 8200 Stockdale Highway, Tel 661-837-8863
- Trader Joe's Santa Clarita, 26517 Bouquet Canyon Rd, Santa Clarita, Tel 661-263-3796

Hair Salon

- Get a Haircut at Flying J, Lebec, Tel 661-248-2888

Insurance

- State Farm, Mitch Wood, 3015 Mt Pinos Way, Frazier Park, Tel 661-245-3728

Pet Food & Supplies

- Petco Animal Supplies, 26501 Bouquet Canyon Road, Saugus Tel 661-297-6936

Pharmacy

- Walgreens Castaic, 27983 Sloan Canyon Road, Tel 661-775-0840
- Rite Aid Castaic, 31910 Castaic Road, Tel 661-295-0966

Photographer

- GBU Photography, Frazier Park, Tel 661-402-2717, see https://www.facebook.com/pages/GBU-Photography/109453262410990?sk=photos_albums

Travel Agent

- Teri Pierce, Protravel Inc., Lake of the Woods, Tel 661-245-4798

Veterinarian

- Valencia Veterinary Center, open 24/7, 23928 Summerhill Lane, Santa Clarita, CA 91354 Tel 661-263-4770

**We will give our Coats
for those in Need!!
Will You??**



**Winter Coat Drive (gently-used, clean coats, hats, gloves, blankets)
from Nov 1st to Dec 3rd.**

Drop off Locations

Frazier Park:

Mitch Wood
State Farm Office
3015 Mt. Pinos Way
(Family Resource Center Building)
Phone: 661-245-3728

Pine Mountain Club:

Pam McCain
Realty Office
16206 Pine Valley Lane



GBU Photography by Gunnar J Kuepper
phone: 661-402-2717
Email: gbuphotography@gmail.com