

The Hitchin' Post

December 2005

Patsy Ward, Editor



A Community Oriented Newsletter for Weed and Surrounding Communities
"If You're Lucky Enough to Live in the Mountains, You're Lucky Enough"

A Thanksgiving Feast was a most gracious gift and thank you to the community from Noel and Shirley Akers and the Weed Café the evening of November 19. Friends from miles around enjoyed good food and visiting with each other, and catching up on what's been going on in each other's life. Equally good music was provided by Gary & Debbie Stone, Noel & Shirley, and Red Stanbrough.

Food, fun, fellowship, and football were enjoyed by all at the Newell's Thanksgiving -- even with the Cowboys' loss. We all agreed it is wonderful to live in the mountains with friends to share our bounty. We are blessed! Guests included Pat Scott; Doug and Evelyn Miller; Terri and Judy Morrow; Dub and Barbara Schuessler; Bonnie Nunn; John, Carol and Josh Bailey, children of the Newells from Texas. We're all 5 lbs heavier and looking forward to next year.

Area Advent-Christmas Community Worship Service and Supper

The First Baptist Church, the Weed House of Prayer, and the Sacramento Mountain United Methodist Church are hosting this event on Wednesday, December 14, beginning at 5:30 p.m. with worship in the Smith Chapel of the Sacramento Methodist Assembly (SMA). Lots of singing and a brief message and the Lord's Supper (following the liturgy of the Emmaus Walk) will be featured at the worship service. It will be followed at 6:15 p.m. with a supper, by reservation, in the small dining room of the SMA dining hall. All are welcome.

The cost for the meal is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children, with a limit of \$25 per family. Please call the SMA at 687-3414 or 1-800-667-3414 by the December 8 to make your reservation.

Santa to Visit Christmas Party in Piñon

All are invited to come to the annual Piñon Extension Club Christmas Party at the Piñon Clubhouse, Thursday, December 8, 6 p.m. The Clubhouse is on Hwy 24 in the middle of town, across the street from the Piñon Store. It is always a great time for all, with festive decorations, good spirits and lots of fabulous food.

There will be a "Night Before Christmas Left and Right" gift exchange, which promises to be hilarious fun. Everyone who attends is asked bring a gift worth less than \$10 and appropriate for either men or women. Children are welcome. If you have children in your party, please bring gifts with their names on them for Santa to pass out.

For dinner, brisket, turkey, ham and drinks will be provided. Bring a covered dish to pass.

If you have questions, call Lavona Bell at 687-3390 or Alvaree Stewart at 687-3397.

Annual Christmas Cookie Party, at Barb Schuessler's December 5 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Please bring 5 dozen homemade cookies or a tray of fresh fruit or a tray of cheese and crackers, or just come and visit. No children please.

Christmas Cantada

On December 11 at 4 p.m., the Community Chorus will present a 45-minute Christmas Cantada, "Shine On Us," at the Cloudcroft Methodist Church. The Chorus is made up of men and women from our mountain community churches. Refreshments will be served after the performance. We hope to see you there!

Christmas at the Flickinger

The Alamogordo Grace United Methodist Church will present *I'll be Home for Christmas*, a musical drama, with a choir and orchestra, about family and hope in the golden days of radio set in the week between Thanksgiving and December 8, 1941. The place is a brownstone apartment in San Francisco, surrounded by a radio studio from which the choir is broadcast live.

Program dates and times are December 9-10 at 7:30 p.m. and December 11 at 2 p.m.

There is no charge, but donations for Hurricane Katrina victims are welcome.

Christmas in Weed

A tentative date of December 17 has been agreed upon for the annual Weed Christmas Party to be held in the old Weed School. The Community Center will provide ham, drinks, and paper goods, with everyone else bringing "pot luck." Santa will be arriving for the children, and there will be dancing. Also, if you can do a Christmas-centered skit, sing, dance, etc., BE READY! Tom Ward and Dub Schuessler will provide the tree. Come join us for a joyful Christmas celebration in our wonderful mountains.

More information will be forthcoming at the Post Office via poster.

The Weed Christmas Corner

Plans are to trim the tree and put out decorations in the Christmas Corner at the Weed bridge this coming Thursday, December 1, at 1 p.m. Come join in the fun and make the Christmas Corner even more beautiful than it was last year. The decorations are enjoyed by so many people.

Golden Wedding Anniversary

The family of Robert and Lavona Bell invites you to join them in celebrating the Bell's 50th Wedding Anniversary Sunday, December 18, at the Sacramento Methodist Assembly. There will be a potluck at noon in the Dining Hall followed by a reception at 2 p.m. at Skipper's Hall. Please write a note of your favorite memory of them at the ranch and/or bring pictures. These will be compiled into a scrapbook after the event. Please join us in this celebration of love.

Bookmobile

Tuesday, December 6, 1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., Weed Post Office.

Weed Treasure Box Christmas sale through December 16, Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 12 Noon.

Water Matters

South Sacramento Water Group meeting, December 8, 6 p.m., Mayhill Community Center.

Weed Community Meeting

At the November 29 meeting, it was decided that there will be a contest next year for the design of the T-shirt for the Blue Grass Festival. There will be a prize for the selected design and a stamp from the Post Office will be ordered. Entries must be forwarded to the Community Center no later than February 28, 2006.

Paul Comino suggested that the community place an aluminum can receptacle near the dumpsters for recyclable cans, with the proceeds going to the Weed Community. Tom Ward will look into finding a suitable container (any container suggestions anyone?).

Also discussed was how to best get the community interested in community affairs and attend the meetings. You're missing out if you aren't part of this group. Come join us and see what we're about! We welcome ideas and suggestions.

Election of officers will be held at the January meeting (date to be announced).

Anniversaries, Birthdays, Congratulations, Get Well, Thank You, Welcome, Etc.

Happy Anniversary to:

...Ernest & Helen Stone on their 46th anniversary
...Sergio & Mary Murillo, December 18
...Bob & Sonia Pfaffenberger, December 29

Happy Birthday to:

...Chris Mydock, December 5
...Jim Davidson, December 8
...Karen Braziel, December 10
...Michael Jenkins, December 13
...Kathy Elkins, December 14
...Jennifer Stone, Terry Rodgers, December 20
...Birgit Davidson, Cindy Livers, December 22
...Jane Collins, December 23
...Joshua Comino, December 24
...Bro. Don Brown, December 25
...Marie Rodgers, December 26
...Cathy Jordan, December 27
...Robin Bagwell, December 28
...Debbie Stone, December 29

Congratulations to::

...Rita Stone, Sacramento Post Mistress

...Debbie Stone, Weed Post Mistress

...Jeanette Coupland, Piñon Post Mistress

These special women were three of only six recipients of the Special Achievement Award for Exceptional Performance Service.

The awards were given by the United States Postal Service, Tuesday, November 22, at the End of the Fiscal Year 2005 Annual Meeting. (882-883 Zip Codes Post Offices). Be sure to go by and let your Post Mistress know how much you appreciate her and that you're very proud of her.

Get Well to:

...Pat Hammett who had surgery last month. She's home now and doing better.

...Obie Manning who is out of the hospital but still not home. He and Pat can receive mail at: c/o Palisades, P. O. Box 359, 1831 Murchison Drive, El Paso, TX 79902

Comings and Goings:

...Jeff Perry, son of Barb & Dub Schuessler, visited the weekend of November 11. Jeff is a chef in Albuquerque and prepared a meal fit for a king for the Schuesslers and the Wards.

...Jim & Claudine Walls traveled to San Antonio for a 15-day visit, including Thanksgiving, with family.

...Russ & Elaine Wright spent the Thanksgiving holiday with their son and his family in Michigan.

...Patsy & Tom Ward's daughter, Bambi, and grandchildren, Taylor and Eric, from San Angelo, TX, spent Thanksgiving with them. A wonderful time was had by all!

Thank You to:

...Bro. Don & Anna Rae Brown for letting us use their property by the Weed bridge for the 2nd Annual Weed Christmas Corner.

...Jim & Karen Rodgers for letting us tap into their power source for the Christmas Corner. The Nativity scene, cross, lighted tree, and other decorations are sure to delight all passers-by.

...Jim & Claudine Walls for the lighted cross for the Christmas Corner.

Welcome to:

...Tommy & Sheila Fry

...Gary & Loraine Gardner (sorry about the mountain lion and your loss)

...Mike & Karen Schuhen and daughters Abigail & Amanda

...Sergio and Mary Murillo

Our Sympathies are extended to:

...the family of Joy Carter who died as the result of an automobile accident in Alamogordo. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Your Library Corner

- Joyce Komraus

Every once in a while people ask me "What book list do you subscribe to?" The questioner always looks surprised when I respond, "I don't. YOU are my book list." So with that in mind, I want to respond to that question.

Book lists are really nothing more than what SOMEONE else says what OTHER people in OTHER areas are reading; what books are selling in other areas; and what some columnist recommends we should read (like Oprah Book Club). And that is OK. I read them too, just like you do. But it doesn't tell me what YOU are reading or want to read.

I listen to what you are reading - you may not think so, even if I am eating some delicious dessert or having a cup of coffee, but I am. I

listen to what you say you are reading and what your opinions are.

To me, a Professional Librarian, a book list is a tool, an aid, to help me read about books. But who I listen to is YOU.

Yes, I can look down a New York's Book List and say, "Yes, we have that book, and that book, and that one - no not that one." Because, let me tell you, there are some books on that list I know you won't read. How do I know that? Because I have/had it on the book shelf and it has not been taken out ONE time. What does that tell me? That someone somewhere didn't listen to you or made a mistake in judgment in books. And we (purchasers of books) have made judgment errors.

I love it when someone comes and asks for a specific book, and I can say, "Yes, we have that book." And can hand it to them. But it really makes my day when I can say, "Yes, we have that book, but it is out. Can I put it on "hold" for you and call you when it comes in?" That tells me that you were not as quick than the other person in asking about it and they have it now.

I have a dream ---- I win the lottery (mega millions) and I build a library here in the mountains and stock it with all the books anyone can ever want and ask for. That is a nice dream but a fantasy because I can guarantee you that there will be some books that people will not ask for even though they are on Someone's Best Seller List. However, this is the real world, where I have to deal with budgets (\$\$\$\$), unavailable books/backorder, lack of shelf space, down computer, and unreturned books. But that dream is nice- right up there with owning all the horses I want, sunshine every day, and gentle rain showers every night.

So, keep telling me what you are reading, what you want to read, and write your own Best Seller List. Your opinion is just as good and even better than a columnist at some New York Paper.

EMT Training

The Sacramento/Weed Fire Department plans to hold EMT training at the Weed Fire Station. We need volunteers to take the classes and join the Department. Everyone in the area is welcome to join. Call Evelyn Miller at 687-2170 or Elaine Wright at 687-3073 for more information.

Area Churches

Mayhill Baptist Church - Norman Green, Pastor. Sunday School for all ages begins at 10 a.m., with worship services beginning at 11 a.m. Children and youth Bible drill and adult and youth Discipleship training, 5 p.m. Evening worship service begins at 6 p.m. Children and youth Bible study and adult Bible study and prayer meeting, Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Men's breakfast and devotional, Thursday, 7 a.m.

Mayhill Church of Christ - Marlon McWilliams, Pastor. Sunday Bible class begins at 9:30 a.m.; worship service begins at 10:30 a.m. Evening worship is at 6 p.m., and Wednesday Bible Study is at 7 p.m.

Piñon Baptist Church - J. B. Craft, Pastor. Sunday School for all ages begins at 10 a.m., with worship service beginning at 11 a.m.

Piñon Church of Christ - Ralph Skelton, Pastor. Sunday worship service begins at 10:30

a.m. Wednesday evening Bible Study begins at 7 p.m.

Sacramento Mountain United Methodist Church - Dulaney Barrett, Pastor. Regular Sunday worship service begins at 10 a.m., with Sunday School beginning at 11 a.m.

Weed Baptist Church - Tom Dusak, Pastor. Sunday School begins at 10 a.m., with the worship service beginning at 11 a.m. A potluck luncheon is held after church on the third Sunday of the month. Bible Study class is held each Wednesday at 2 p.m.

On December 18, the program will begin at 10:30 a.m., with lunch at 12 Noon. The Mayhill Baptist Church will present its Christmas Cantata at 2 p.m.

Weed Church of Christ - Ralph Skelton, Pastor. Bible study is taught from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. every Sunday; worship service begins at 10 a.m. Sunday evening services are from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Weed House of Prayer - Dub Schuessler, Pastor. Services are held every Sunday in the home of Jimmy and Frances Goss. Prayer and singing begin at 10 a.m.; a sermon and children's classes begin at 11 a.m.

Wednesday prayer service is held at 10 a.m. A potluck luncheon is held on the first Sunday of the month.

People of Otero County - Evelyn Miller

The People of Otero County organization met November 22 at the Weed Community Center. This organization lets us know what is going on in the local, state, and federal government that pertains to us. The next meeting will be held January 17, possibly in Alamogordo. Call Evelyn Miller at 687-2170 for more information.

The Weed Post Office & Café - Debbie Stone

The first Post Office in Weed was founded in 1885. Niles J Shanquist was appointed postmaster December 2, 1885. The Post Office has been an important asset to the Community it serves. Not only did it bring jobs to the community but met the needs of it's customers. We are proud today to have some of our past employees who have served their community:

Shirley Akers who worked in the Weed Post Office for 33 years.

Linda Parker who served 29 years working in Piñon and Sacramento NM.

Lillian Bates who has been an employee of the USPS for 29 years. She worked at the Mayhill Post Office for 26 years and the Cloudcroft Post Office for 3 years.

Clara Menefee who worked on the mail route for 13 years traveling between Artesia, Mayhill, and Flying H.

Now the Weed Post Office adjoins the Weed Café. Come by and sample Mom's home cooking. Thank you to Faye & Shannon Walker for their special art work.

A Glimpse Back in Time - Claudine Walls

In late 1970 or early 1980, Shirley Stone hired my dad, Claude (Papa) Arrington, to build a new Post Office and the front part of the existing café. When it was about ready, Papa, Jim Walls, and our son-in-law, Brad Dugas, picked up the mail box unit, which was made of cast iron and brass, and marched it up the hill to the new Post Office.

The old Post Office was where Shirley's "Treasure Box" is now. These guys said they had never picked up anything so heavy in all their lives.

Now there was a place for folks to get a bite to eat, visit friends and neighbors, and meet new people. Just try going in the Post Office now without the biggest smile and "How are you guys?" This sweet lady (Debbie Stone) who oozes sugar will try to help you solve all your problems. She truly cares.

Jim and I are on the evening side of our journey now, and it is so neat to see how situations have blended into beautiful memories. How blessed these mountain people are.

A Cowboy's Christmas - Julie Burris

Gather round buckaroos and I'll tell you a tale
How Santa herded cattle on the Santa Fe Trail.
It was Christmas Eve and wouldn't you know
A norther blew in with a mountain of snow.
Would have buried them cows with their tails to
the wind
If a sleigh and eight reindeer hadn't rounded the
bend.
I was workin' right hard a-proddin' that herd
Toward a little box canyon they call Snowbird.
These cows weren't movin' too fast don't you know
And that norther kept dumpin' that mountain of
snow.
And oh how those cows did beller and lunge
Through those drifts of white snow as soft as a
sponge.
My nerves were all ragged, I was chilled to the
bone,
A terrible night to be out all alone.
Then off to my left movin' faster than sound
Came those reindeer a-pullin' a buckboard around.
"Oh no, this can't be!", I said to myself.
"That ain't no old buckboard, that's Santa
himself!"
On closer inspection as best I could tell
Them reindeer's red harness was fitted with bell.
Them broncs were sure wild ones, I want you to
know,
As they stood there a-snortin' and stompin' the
snow.
My herd was beginnin' to scatter about.
As to holdin' them in, I sure had my doubt.
While Dasher and Dancer were pawin' the snow,
My little cow pony put on a good show.
He bucked and he pitched in time with them bells,
And Santa was no help at all with his yells.
That jolly old elf was havin' some fun
A-watchin' this show until it was done.
My herd, in the meantime, was scattered around
Like tumbleweeds boundin' across the white
ground.
Then Santa pulls up where we stood in the snow,
A huffin' and puffin' and blowin' so.
"Now that was some ridin'," he said with a grin;
"Tie your horse to my sleigh, come on and hop in."
"We'll gather those critters and put them away
In that old box canyon, so none of them stray."
He reaches around and pulls from his pack
A lariat meant for someone named Jack.
Unwindin' the coil and feedin' the loop,
To his team gave a whistle, a holler and whoop.
I couldn't believe what was happenin' just then;
He roped that whole herd and said with a grin,
"We'll move 'em right in and settle 'em down,
Build up a camp fire, than I'll head into town."
My mouth is stuck open, I still can't believe

That I'm sittin' in Santa's sleigh Christmas Eve.
"There's young ones a-waitin' for me and my pack.
I'll see you next year. Merry Christmas, Jack."
Next mornin' I looked all around for some sign
Of hoof prints or sleigh prints, I'm loosin' my mind!
But there on my saddle horn, tied with a bow
Was the same new lariat I'd seen him throw.
Now the boys in the bunkhouse will never believe
That Santa drove cattle on Christmas Eve.

So I won't say of word of what happened that
night
When a sleigh and eight reindeer flew in like a kite.
And the bow that he tied on my saddle horn,
I tied to the canyon wall Christmas morn.
So bright and so red hangin' there on the wall,
It seemed to be sayin' **Merry Christmas to All!**

Dumpster Etiquette

If you have items other than household
garbage (**batteries, motor oil**), items that take up
a lot a space (**appliances, furniture, mattresses,**
building materials, tires, tree trimmings, etc.)
or items you can't get in the dumpsters because
the items are too heavy or too large for you to
handle, arrange to take them or have them taken
to the Otero County landfill. **If they're usable
items, take them to the Weed Thrift Shop in
the north end of the old Weed School.** Please
don't dump trash on the ground or overfill the
dumpsters. It's an eyesore in addition to being
unhealthy. Be considerate of your neighbors living
in that area and also of Randy, the dumpster truck
driver.

It also helps if you break down all boxes
so they don't take up as much room in the
dumpster.

The landfill is located off Highway 54 on
Gravel Pit Road just north of the traffic light
going into La Luz. It is open Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday from 7:30 a.m.
to 4:30 p.m. and **accepts metal, tree trimmings,**
tires (5 per month per household), batteries,
oil, appliances, hot water heaters, mattresses,
etc. It does not accept dead animals, paint,
hazardous waste, or burn barrels. No scavenging is
allowed; no fires; no smoking. Children and pets
must remain in vehicles at all times.

Please take pride in yourself and in our
beautiful area.

Farmer's Almanac December Gardening Tips

*(This Bulletin is determined by the Almanac's age-
old formula and applies generally to regions where
the climate is favorable.)*

- 1-2 Do no planting.
- 3-4 Plant sweet corn, beans, peppers and other
above-ground crops where climate is suitable.
- 5-7 Good days for killing weeds, briars and other
plant pests. Poor for planting.
- 8-9 Plant cucumbers, peas, cantaloupes and other
vine crops.
- 10-11 A poor time to plant.
- 12-13 Fine for planting beans, peppers,
cucumbers, melons and other aboveground crops
where climate is suitable.
- 14-16 Seeds planted now tend to rot in ground.
- 17-18 Most favorable days for planting beets,
turnips and other root crops where climate allows.
Plant seed beds and flower gardens.
- 19-23 A most barren period. Kill plant pests and
do general farm work.

24-25 Favorable days for planting root crops. Fine for sowing grains, hay and forage crops. Plant flowers.

26-28 Plant carrots, beets, onions, turnips, Irish potatoes and other root crops in the South. Lettuce, cabbage, collards and other leafy vegetable will do well. Start seed beds.

29-30 Do no planting.

31 Plant sweet corn, beans, peppers and other aboveground crops where climate is suitable.

Christmas Pledge

Halt The Holiday Hustle

Believing in the beauty and simplicity of Christmas, I commit myself to the following:

1. To remember those people who truly need my gifts.
2. To express my LOVE for family and friends in more direct ways than presents.
3. To rededicate myself to the spiritual growth of my family.
4. To examine my holiday activities in light of the true spirit of Christmas.
5. To initiate one act of peacemaking within my circle of family and friends.

Helpful Resources For Simpler Holidays

Books:

Simplify Your Christmas: 100 Ways To Reduce The Stress & Recapture The Joy Of The Holidays, by Elaine St. James

Hundred Dollar Holiday: The Case for a More Joyful Christmas, by Bill McKibben

Use Less Stuff: Environmental Solutions For Who We Really Are, by Robert M. Lilienfeld and William L. Rathje

Unplug the Christmas Machine: A Complete Guide to Putting Love and Joy Back into the Season, by Jo Robinson and Jean Coppock Staeheli (William Morrow, 1991)

Christmas On Jane Street: A True Story, by Billy Romp with Wanda Urbanska

We tend to underestimate the value of thoughtful homemade gifts (a photo album all about a child), or experiential gifts (taking a hike in the woods). And we forget that the holidays should also be about helping others. Many families donate a night to help out at a food bank or a shelter. Those shared experiences will be fondly recalled at family dinners years in the future. More fun, less stuff—isn't that the kind of holiday you really want? The Grinch had it right: Christmas doesn't come in a store.

Winter

The first day of winter is December 21 even though we had our first snowfall November 27. Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!

From the Editor

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this month's newsletter which was especially delightful to put together! News for the *Hitchin' Post* may be mailed to Patsy Ward, Editor, P.O. Box 565 or sent via e-mail to patrice@cavemen.net anytime during the month, or one of our reporters may be calling you. Deadline for submissions is the 25th of each month.

If you prefer not to have personal information included, please let us know that, also.

The *Hitchin' Post* is YOUR newsletter, and it wouldn't be possible without YOU!

Jesus is the Reason for the Season



*Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!*

