

The Hitchin' Post

February 2006

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"

Our Heartfelt Sympathies to:

Phil and Lois Fuller on the loss of their son, Bryan Austin Fuller, 43, who passed away December 30 in Roswell, NM. A memorial service was held January 4 at Calvary Baptist Church in Roswell.

Cyndy and Dean Nesbit on the loss of Cyndy's father, Beryl Durham, who passed away January 5 in Lubbock, TX. He was buried in Spur, TX January 8. A memorial service was held January 10 in Carlsbad.

Tammy Mobley on the loss of her mother, Geraldine Bundy, on January 23. Funeral services were held January 27 at the Mayhill Church of Christ.

James and Karen Rodgers on the loss of James' father and an aunt.

Yvonne Oliver on the loss of her mother, Bessie Walker. Funeral services were held in Alamogordo January 28.

A Heartfelt "Thank You"

We wish to thank everyone who helped and are still helping us since Obie's accident. God is so gracious and merciful. We are so blessed to live in the mountains and to have friends like all of you. Thank you for the love you have shown us, the cards and food. To Francis and H.B. Newell for taking such good care of "Buck" and looking after our home. Thanks to the men who built our fence and those who donated material. For Jerry Miller and his crew who built Obie the ramp. Thanks to Debbie, or special postmaster, who took care of our mail. Thanks to all of you, your kindness is very much appreciated. God Bless each of you.

- In Christian Love, Obie & Patricia Manning

U. S. Postal Service

The Post Office will be closed February 20 in observance of Presidents' Day (Abraham Lincoln, 12th); and George Washington, 22nd).

Stamp News

Remember that special sweetheart or loved one on February 14. The USPS has the Love: True Blue stamp to send your special message to your special someone. The colorful non-denominated stamp depicts two birds perched on a branch sharing a devoted gaze, with the space between them forming a heart.

The USPS also recognizes the 300th anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) with the January release of four first-class commemorative stamps and a 39-cent stamped envelope. On July 26, 1775, the Congress appointed Benjamin Franklin the first Postmaster General of the organization now known as the

United States Postal Service. The marble bust on the stamped envelope is part of the collection of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, which acquired it in 1996. Dated to 1779, it was created while Franklin was serving as minister to France.

"Journey Towards Healing" Workshop

- Russ Wright

Sessions are held at RavenWind, 3 p.m., the 3rd Sunday of each month, with the exception of February. This session will be held on the 26th due to a scheduling conflict. All are welcome.

Discussion topics will include pain control, stretching exercise, guided imagery, kinesiology, aromatherapy, energy healing, and diet. The workshop will begin with a presentation on a specific topic and include demonstrations where appropriate. There will be plenty of time for questions and discussion. The setting will be comfortable and informal, healthy refreshments will be served, and there is no charge.

I have found that many medical problems are messages our bodies are sending to us, asking us to pay attention, and change the way we are doing things. For example, a painful medical problem might be founded in an old injury or trauma we suffered years ago, which is now surfacing in a surprising way. We can learn to listen to our bodies, tune in to those messages, and find ways to help our bodies heal themselves. Of course, there is always a place for medical doctors in our lives, especially when dealing with serious medical problems. But are there alternative and complementary means to better health that you have yet to explore? Having studied a number of these alternative paths over the years, I would like to introduce some of them to anyone who is interested. Please reserve your space by calling 687-3073.

Bookmobile

The bookmobile will be at the Weed Post Office Tuesday, February 7, 1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Come Join the Fun

Make your own cards, valentines, as well as other cards needed throughout the year. We'll use rubber stamps, lace, and anything else that gets in our way. Come for a short time and one or two projects or join us the full time. Bring, scissors, glue, and anything else you can think of! Monday, February 6, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Patsy Ward's house. Call 687-3486 or 687-3104 for more info.

SMA "Former Staff Reunion and Retreat"

This year, the Sacramento Methodist Assembly is celebrating its 75th year of life in our mountains. The Assembly is having a "Former Staff Reunion

Retreat" the weekend of March 31-April 2. There are many of us in the mountains who have worked at one time or other at the Assembly, and Camp Director Jim Hengstenberg is getting out the word about the retreat to all former SMA staff. Call the SMA at 687-3414 to get information and to register. He is also requesting we get out the word to friends and family who live elsewhere but who may be interested in a weekend of music, relaxation, and reconnecting ... while seeing the paved roads and new Forrest Lodge at SMA.

Let's Support The Mapping of the Sacramento Mountains - Russ Wright

To all of those who wrote or phoned your legislator last year, thank you for helping to get the Sacramento Mountain Hydro-geological Map project partially funded. It is time again to press our legislators to approve the continued funding of this project. The legislature is in session now. **Please take a moment and write, email or fax your legislator in Santa Fe. Do it today!** Decisions are being made every day that impact our watershed. These decisions can potentially affect all of us. Yet there is little known and written about this mountain water supply. We must build a database that must be used to make decisions in a way that sustains our and their water supply. You do have a voice if you decide to use it.

Sample Letter

Dear _____,

As you are aware, the Sacramento Mountains watershed is threatened by continuing drought, growth, lack of thinning, and water decisions made without scientific data and analysis. These actions are causing the loss of available water for both domestic and agriculture use for all the communities in and around the mountains.

During this legislative session, we ask that you take the leadership in trying to obtain continuing funding for the mapping project by the New Mexico Technical Institute in Socorro. Please consider obligating a portion of your Capitol Outlay funds toward the study and /or support a bill that would assist in funding the study. This project will provide a better understanding of underground water flow. It will help ensure short- and long-term stability of the watershed.

We sincerely appreciate all efforts you have put forth in trying to fund the study to this point. In 2005, funds were allocated by the New Mexico Legislature to begin a complete hydro-geological mapping project of the Southern Sacramento Mountains. The funding received is just a starting point toward completion of the long-range goal of clear understanding of our and your water resource.

Fax your letter to 505-986-4610 while the Legislature is in session or write to your Senators and/or your Representative at the following address(es):

Senate

The Honorable _____
New Mexico Senate
State Capital, Room 411
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Senator _____:

Asbill, Vernon D.
vernon@asbillforsenate.com
(R-Eddy & Otero-34)

Duran, Dianna J.
dianna.duran@nmlegis.gov
(R-Dona Ana & Otero-40)

Jennings, Timothy Z.
(D-Chaves, Eddy, Lincoln & Otero-32)

House of Representatives

The Honorable _____
New Mexico House of Representatives
State Capital, Room 411
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Mr. Or Ms. _____:

Foley, Daniel R.
daniel.foley@nmlegis.gov
(R-Chaves, Lincoln & Otero-57)

Marquardt, Terry T.
terry.marquardt@nmlegis.gov
(R-Dona Ana & Otero-53)

Stell, Joe M
(D-Eddy & Otero-54)

Vaughn, Gloria C.
(R-Otero-51)

Williams, W. C. "Dub"
(R-Lincoln & Otero-56)

Wilson, Avon W.
Avon.Wilson@roswell.enmu.edu
(R-Chaves, Lincoln & Otero-59)

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

Happy Anniversary to:

...John & Karen Braziel, 14th
...Billy and Jean Weddle, 17th
...Paul and Kim Comino, 20th

Happy Birthday to:

...Jeff Winkle, 2nd
...Lisa Crawford, 3rd
...Glen Adams & Shannon Walker, 6th
...James Otts, 7th
...Russ Wright, 9th
...Arita Cady, 11th
...David Williams, 13th
...Patsy Ward, 22nd
...Dallas Coder, 27th

Happy Belated Birthday to:

...Judy Wagner, January 24

Comings and Goings

...We enjoyed having our part-timers, Michael and Cynthia, spend New Years with us. Michael's daughter and her children were also here. They all love it here and look forward to coming back soon. ...We were also pleased to have Barb Schuessler's son, Jeff Perry, and his wife, Marty, and daughter, Christina, visit the weekend of January 6.

Congratulations to:

...Evelyn Miller who is now a great grandma. Christopher Clyde Alvarez was born January 16, in Amarillo, TX to Evelyn's granddaughter, Brandy, and her husband, Clyde. Christopher weighed 7 lb. 11 oz. and was 21 inches long. Baby and parents are doing great!

Get Well Wishes to:

...Dub Schussler who is in the hospital to receive treatment for an injury as the result of a fall. Get better soon, Dub!

Good News for:

...Julie Burris who received her miracle through prayer. She learned her sister is now cancer free.

...Jim Walls who learned he has a cyst instead of a tumor on his kidney. His eye surgery went well, also. He's home and feeling well enough to attend our weekly community breakfasts and Book Club meetings.

Thank You to:

...Noel & Shirley Akers and the entire staff of the Weed Café for the wonderful New Year's Eve party!!! Everything - food, entertainment, and fellowship - was fantastic. The bright spot of the evening was when Obie & Pat Manning walked in. Obie is recovering well and looks wonderful. We're so glad to have you home!

...Dub & Barb Schuessler, Doug & Evelyn Miller, and Jim & Claudine Walls for the computer paper. The Walls donated enough to keep the Hitchin' Post in print for at least another year!

Sympathy to:

...the family of Marvin "Rip" Van Winkle who passed away recently.

Weed Café

In addition to dinner and music on the first and third Saturdays of each month, the Café now offers a special dinner every Saturday evening from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Come join us for some good, down-home cooking!

Weed Community Meeting

New officers elected at the January 30 meeting are Slim Stewart, President; Tom Ward, Vice President; Francis Newell, Sec/Treas; and Frances Goss, Community Coordinator. The Board of Directors are Noel Akers, outgoing president; Pansy Northrip, outgoing Sec/Treas; and Jimmy Goss.

The next meeting will be held at the Weed Café, 11 a.m., March 4. Everyone is invited to attend and to bring their ideas on how to get more people involved in community affairs. We also welcome ideas on activities that we all would enjoy.

Weed Bluegrass Festival T-Shirt - 2006

The deadline for Bluegrass tee shirt design entries has been extended to March 31. First prize, \$50. Contest open to everyone.

Bible Study

Every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at the Weed House of Prayer Fellowship Hall, Dub Schuessler will present a Bible Study class. Everyone is welcome.

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. Pastor Barrett will be preaching a series of sermons in the upcoming weeks dealing with the various aspects of grace.

The Clovis District Superintendent, The Rev. Ms Martha (Marty) Singleterry, will conduct a special congregational meeting (potluck supper) in the small dining hall of the SMA on February 16 at 5:30 p.m. The meeting is to discuss the future of the Sacramento Mountain United Methodist Church. All members and friends are welcome.

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.

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.; sermon begins at 11 a.m. Prayer service is held each Wednesday at 10 a.m. A potluck luncheon is held on the first Sunday of the month.

Farmer's Almanac February Gardening Tips

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

1 Extra good for cucumbers, peas, cantaloupes and other vine crops. Set strawberry plants.

2-3 Seeds planted now will grow poorly and yield little.

4-6 Fine for planting beans, peppers, cucumbers, melons and other aboveground crops where climate is suitable.

7-8 Any seed planted now will tend to rot.

9-10 Fine for planting beans, tomatoes, corn, cotton, cucumbers, peppers, melons and other aboveground crops where climate allows. Plant seed beds and flower gardens.

11-15 Clear ground, turn sod, kill plant pests.

16-18 Favorable days for planting root crops. Fine for sowing grains, hay and forage crops. Plant flowers.

19-20 Plant carrots, turnips, onions, beets, Irish potatoes and other root crops in the South. Lettuce, cabbage, collards and other leafy vegetables will do well. Start seed beds.

21-22 Neither plant nor sow on these barren days.

23-24 Any root crops that can be planted now will do well.

25-26 Barren days. Fine for clearing, plowing, fertilizing and killing plant pests.

27-28 Extra good for cucumbers, peas, cantaloupes and other vine crops. Set strawberry plants.

Laus Deo: A Little History Lesson You May Enjoy

One detail not mentioned in D.C. is that there can never be a building of greater height than the Washington Monument. With all the uproar about removing the Ten Commandments, etc., this is worth a moment or two of your time

When you fly out of Reagan National Airport, you can see this inscription, Laus Deo, atop the Washington monument. Most of us studied these things in history; but, sadly, our young folks are not being taught the actual history of Laus Deo.

On the aluminum cap atop the Washington Monument in Washington, DC, are displayed two words: Laus Deo. Most visitors to the monument are totally unaware they are even there and, for that matter, probably couldn't care less. These words have been there for many years; they are 555 feet, 5.125 inches high, perched atop the monument, facing skyward to the Father of our nation, overlooking the 69 square miles which comprise the District of Columbia, capital of the United States of America. Two seemingly insignificant, unnoticed words. Out of sight and, one might think, out of mind, but very meaningfully placed at the highest point over what is the most powerful city in the most successful nation in the world.

So, what do those two words, in Latin, composed of just four syllables and only seven letters, mean? Very simply, they say "Praise be to God!" Though construction of this giant obelisk began in 1848, when James Polk was President of the United States, it was not until 1888 that the monument was inaugurated and opened to the public. It took 25 years to finally cap the memorial with a tribute to the Father of our nation, Laus Deo. From atop this magnificent granite and marble structure, visitors may take in the beautiful panoramic view of the city with its division into four major segments. From that vantage point, one can also easily see the original plan of the designer, Pierre Charles L'Enfant... a perfect cross imposed upon the landscape, with the White House to the north. The Jefferson Memorial is to the south, the Capitol to the east and the Lincoln Memorial to the west. A cross you ask? Why a cross? What about separation of church and state? Yes, a cross. Separation of church and state was not, is not, in the Constitution. How interesting; and, no doubt, intended to carry a profound meaning for those who bother to notice.

Within the monument itself are 898 steps and 50 landings. As one climbs the steps and pauses at the landings, the memorial stones share a message. On the 12th Landing is a prayer offered by the City of Baltimore; on the 20th is a memorial

presented by some Chinese Christians; on the 24th a presentation made by Sunday School children from New York and Philadelphia quoting Proverbs 10:7, Luke 18:16 and Proverbs 22:6.

When the cornerstone of the Washington Monument was laid on July 4, 1848, deposited within it were many items, including the Holy Bible presented by the Bible Society. Such was the discipline, the moral direction, and the spiritual mood given by the founder and first President of our unique democracy .."One Nation, Under God."

Have you ever read George Washington's prayer for America?

"Almighty God; We make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large. And finally that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

When one stops to observe the inscriptions found in public places all over our nation's capitol, he or she will easily find the signature of God, as it is unmistakably inscribed everywhere you look. You may forget the width and height of "Laus Deo," its location, or the architects; but no one who reads this will be able to forget its meaning, or these words: "Unless the Lord builds the house its builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain." (Psalm 127: 1)

It is hoped you will send this to every child you know; to every sister, brother, father, mother or friend. You will have given them a lesson in history they probably never learned in school.

Poker Night

Every Saturday night, 283 Perk Canyon, at the hunting lodge barn. Penny/ante, small-change games just for adults to gather and socialize. For more info, call John Henry Foster at 687-3060. The fun begins between 6 and 6:30 p.m.

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 have information you want included in the newsletter, call Joy Garrett, 687-3862; Evelyn Miller, 687-2170; Barb Schuessler, 687-2513; or Elaine Wright, 687-3073, with your news. If you prefer not to have your personal information included, please let us know.