

Thanks to Francis & HB Newell who sponsored this month's issue of the Hitchin' Post.

Thank You

- Russ Wright

As we begin 2007, we want to thank all of those in our community who made 2006 special. We are so lucky to live in a community where so many volunteer to do so much to help others and make our lives safer and more enjoyable. So, a big THANK YOU to all of you. And for those who may be looking to get involved, there are plenty of places that can use your help. Don't be shy or worried about what others may think, just pick up the phone and call.

Beautiful Downtown Weed

We are so much in awe of all the Christmas decorations in Weed this year. Thanks to all who participated. A special thanks to James & Karen Rodgers who provided power for the corner lights.

I wonder how about Christmas on the Agua Chiquita? After all, Carlsbad has Christmas on the Pecos and Albuquerque has River of Lights.

Community Candlelight Service

For a number of years we have had a Community Christmas Candlelight Service at the Sacramento Methodist Assembly Chapel. This year for the first time in many years, it was held on Christmas Eve. Great singing, two beautiful solos..."O Holy Night" delivered by Marie Rogers, and "Born To Die" by Cari Barrett- and three meaningful devotions offered by Bro. Don Brown, Bro Wade Maberry, and Joy Garrett were enjoyed by approximately 35 people. The service culminated in the traditional candle lighting after which most everyone adjourned to the dining hall and enjoyed a delicious meal and fellowship. Even tho the wind was a bit on the brisk side...the luminarias did not catch fire! Oh, thank you God! Plans are afoot for next year! Y'all Come!

Weed Community Association News

- H.B. Newell & Evelyn Miller

The Community Association sponsored a "Christ"mas Party December 22. Over a hundred folks came. The committee, led by president Slim Stewart, did an outstanding job. Thanks to Frances Goss & HB Newell, co-chairs; Tom Ward for buying the ham and making the beautiful tree that graced Weed Road; Spike Goss who furnished the tree that graced the Weed Gym; Anna Rae Brown, Evelyn Miller, Patsy Ward, & HB Newell for the Happy Birthday Jesus bags for the children; Francis Newell for the turkey; Frances Goss for Santa; Shirley Akers & Gary Stone Band; Tom & Patsy Ward, Noel & Shirley Akers, Slim &

Alveere Stewart, Don & Ana Rae Brown, Doug Miller, Joy Garrett, Frances Goss, Francis Newell, and Tanya & Wade Maberry who helped with cleanup and decoration.

The Community Association will meet the last Tuesday of each month, with the next meeting being January 30. We encourage all community folks to come and be apart of the community activities. The election of officers for 2007 will be an item on the agenda, as well as the planning for the Bluegrass Festival in July. New ideas and suggestions are needed!

Game night will be resumed in February. Watch for a date and time in "The Hitching Post," your best source of local information.

A special thanks to Tom & Patsy Ward for heading up "Light Up Weed." The town absolutely glowed!

Trash Compactor and Dumpster

The Weed trash compactor is now available for use. Please use it for ALL household trash. The dumpster is for appliances, furniture, and all other items not included in the category of household trash. Items not to be placed in either receptacle include oil and tires. Those items are accepted at the landfill in La Luz.

To use the compactor, open the door by pulling the green lever to the right or left (depending on which side you're on), deposit your trash, and close the door. The compactor will do the rest. Directions are on both sides of the unit. The gauge to the right of the compactor indicates the capacity it has left.

We are so fortunate to have this service. Please, let's not continue to "trash" the area. Tom



Ward spent 30 minutes cleaning up around this filled-to-overflowing dumpster - trash that should have been in the compactor which will hold the same amount as several dumpsters.

Volunteer Fire Department

The Sacramento-Weed Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department is always in need of volunteers. Young and old are welcome. You can train to be an EMT or a firefighter, and the department will pay tuition and expenses of the training, plus provide you with the equipment you need once you have completed your training.

That's not for everybody though; and, if it's not for you, there are plenty of other ways to help out. There are lots of administrative tasks, simple or complex, that need to be done, since the

department is a county agency and with that comes lots of paperwork. If you are handy with mechanical things, there are trucks to be maintained and inspected on a regular basis. Or maybe you're a cook! The department's Auxiliary has a system all set up and ready to go to feed folks on the fire line, or even to provide snacks and lunches for folks in training classes.

Everyone has something to offer; and, if you want to pitch in and help your community, this is a fine way to do it. If you're at all interested, call Chief Randy Adams at 6897-2434, Assistant Chief Larry Crawford at 687-3345, or any member of the department to talk it over. Or just come to one of the meetings on the first Tuesday of every month at the Weed station at 7 pm. The next meeting is January 2. We think you'll find the meetings to be informal and fun, with some nice people there who enjoy each others' company. If you decide you want to join, just let someone know.

Post Office

The Post Office will be closed January 15 in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Anniversaries, Birthdays, Comings & Goings, Get Well Wishes

Happy Anniversary to:

...Noel and Shirley Akers, 15th

Happy Birthday to:

...Jesse Mateer, 2nd

...Jean Weddle, Pat Foster, Bill Lee Parker, 4th

...Anna Rae Brown, 6th

...Hannah Toth, 7th

...Teri Smith, 8th

...Gary Stone, 11th

...Elaine Wright, 15th

...Bryan Green, Joshua Livers, Earl Burton, Evelyn Miller, 21st

...Kara Goss, 23rd

...Louise Winkle, Judy (Wagner) Raymond, 24th

...Felicity Braziel, 25th

...Kristina Williams (in Iraq) 26th

...Kirk Hall 28th

...James Livers, Bonnie Nunn, 29th

Get Well to:

...the Winkels' clan

...Evelyn & Doug Miller

...Marie Rodgers

...Anna Rae Brown

...Margaret Merritt

the flu bug seems to have bitten them all!

Good-bye to:

...Frank & Virginia Urey who moved to El Paso.

Welcome to:

...Joe & Vickie Wilmeth who bought the Urey's house.

...John & Sylvia Bell (son & daughter-in-law of Dalton & Happy Bell) who bought the house that Craig & Pat Foster lived in on Hwy. 24. Craig & Pat now live just behind the little yellow house at the end of Weed Road.

Tom & Patsy Ward received two blessings in December. Brent & Bernadette (Tom's son and daughter-in-law) came in from New Jersey to spend some holiday time, the first in many years. Bambi (Pat's daughter) and her two children, Taylor

& Eric, came in from San Angelo to spend Christmas. Both visits were much too short!

Paul & Kim Comino and family spent the Christmas holiday with family in California.

Our prayers are with Arta Cady (Shirley Aker's mother) and Eileen Winkel (Jeff Winkel's mother) and their families during this time of life-threatening illness.

Local Arts & Crafts

H.B. Newell and Barb Schuessler would love to have anyone who is interested in making crafts join them on a weekly basis. You can bring projects you want to work on or share a craft to make with the rest of us. Call Barb at 687-2513 or H.B. at 687-4388.

Encounter of a Third Kind

Both Barb Schuessler and Marie Rodgers had an unfortunate encounter with a deer within the last few weeks. We're glad to report that Barb and Marie are okay. Can't say the same for the deer or the cars, however.

Piñon News

- Margaret Merritt

Piñon has a changing face. When hunters are in residence, the lights shine early and late. Good food smells waft almost continually from Sam Henerson's Cook Shack. Pickups and campers of all sizes, colors, and makes are on the road days and most nights. Good natured folks mostly, except when the "Big One" keeps getting away. Stories abound around the table whether the table be a game table converted to coffee or a meal for early gone hunters back for a bountiful lunch. One group was treated to one of Mike Joy's cowboy poems. Heard about it but missed out on that one.

Between seasons, Piñon straightens up the scene and catches up on laundry. Even some shopping and some quiet sleep.

Some of our hunting is non-seasonal. All over the mountains feral pigs are becoming common. Question what do they eat? Don't know. Do know what they do - multiply fast and destroy vegetation and fences and foul water sources. Will eat creatures available to them. Big Sow was walking up right-of-way as if she owned it!

Fences hereabouts are coming along - repairs and building. Heard one rancher wryly say, "Maybe get done by June." Interesting, of course, that he hoped to get it done before he hoped for Springs rains arrival. Expectation - that's what agricultural people deal in.

Our Christmas party was a bushel of fun, I hear. I had the flu so I sent goodies and kept my flu to myself. The Chinese gift exchange was lively as usual. Forty-two people attended.

Buster's Christmas lights were nice, as were those across the street. Last year's were not all going this year. Imminent heart stents and medical care replaced those efforts. Better 2007 to come.

Something about coming home to the mountains for Christmas brings expectations all around again this season.

Wishing a good New Year to all, adios. Margaret.

P.S. Recently, I turned on and used my computer for one hour and then successfully turned it off - properly! I do have a Completion

Certificate for a course signed by the instructor, "Most Determined Student."

Water Matters

The South Sacramento Water Group held its meeting on December 14. The meeting began with a report from Stephen Cook, who represented the group at a recent meeting of the Water and Natural Resources Committee of the New Mexico Legislature. His report discussed a proposed three year project in which the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission, aided by researchers from the U.S. Geological Survey and Sandia National Labs, would study the hydrogeology of the Salt Basin before any development of the groundwater resource there. The evening's featured presentations followed: talks by Tom Springer of the Pecos Valley Water Users Organization and Geoff Rawlings of New Mexico Tech.

Tom Springer spoke on the effect of ground vegetation on the water table in the region. His ongoing study uses the computer-based Terrestrial Ecosystem Simulation Model (TerreSIM) and employs data derived from satellite imagery, aerial photographs, U.S. Forest Service field data and water data going back to the 1940's. Geoff Rawlings had an update on the hydrogeological mapping project being done in the Sacramento Mountains. He reported that 52 area wells are currently being monitored bimonthly, and that seven wells are fitted with computerized monitoring systems that take readings every 15 minutes. He expressed the hope that the geological maps and understanding of the mountain hydrogeology that come out of this study will eventually aid decision-making associated with watershed management / tree thinning.

The next meeting of the group will be held on Thursday, January 11, at 6 p.m. at Chimney Spring Camp and Retreat Center. Frank Martinez from the U.S. Forest Service is scheduled to speak on the current thinning projects being done. All meetings are open to the public.

Area Churches

Mayhill Baptist Church - Norman Green, Pastor. Sunday School at 10 a.m., worship services at 11 a.m. Children and youth Bible drill and adult and youth Discipleship training, 5 p.m. Evening worship service, 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, 9:30 a.m.; worship service, 10:30 a.m. Evening worship, 6 p.m., and Wednesday Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Piñon Baptist Church - J. B. Craft, Pastor. Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.; Worship service, 11:30 a.m.; 12:30 potluck.

Piñon Church of Christ - Bible Study, 10:30 a.m., Worship Service, 11:30 a.m.; potluck 12:30 p.m.; Wednesday Bible study, 7 p.m.

Sacramento Mountain United Methodist Church - Joy Garrett, Lay Minister. Sunday worship service at 10 a.m., Sunday School at 11 a.m.

Weed Baptist Church - Wade Maberry, Pastor. Sunday School begins at 10 a.m., with Worship Service at 11. Bible Study/Prayer, Wednesdays at 2p.m. A potluck luncheon is held on the third Sunday of the month.

Weed House of Prayer - Don Brown, 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. Wednesday Bible study class, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. A potluck luncheon is held the first Sunday of the month.

Farmers' Almanac January Gardening Tips

- 1-2** Poor days for planting, seeds tend to rot in ground.
- 3-5** Most fruitful time for planting beets, carrots, onions and other hardy root crops in the Deep South. Good for starting seedbeds and flowers.
- 6-10** A barren time. Best for killing weeds, briars, poison ivy and other plant pests. Clear woodlots and fencerows.
- 11-12** Favorable days for planting root crops, fine for sowing grains, hay, forage crops. Plant flowers.
- 13-15** 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 seedbeds.
- 16-17** Seeds planted now will do poorly and yield little.
- 18-19** Good days for planting aboveground crops such as sweet corn, beans, peppers in southern Florida, Texas and California.
- 20-21** A good time to kill plant pests or do plowing. Poor for planting.
- 22-23** Fine for planting any aboveground crop where the climate permits. Extra good for peppers, tomatoes, peas and other vine crops.
- 24-25** Barren days, Do no planting.
- 26-27** Fine for planting beans, peppers, cucumbers, melons and other aboveground crops where climate is suitable.
- 28-30** Poor days for planting. Seeds tend to rot in ground.

For Sale

...Like new corrugated, heavy duty, plastic solid pipe. 12"x20" culverts (3)

...Used (no rust) galvanized steel, corrugated, 12"x20" culvert. Call 505-687-3073

"Karr Kaddy" - 2-wheel car dolly for towing. \$150. 505-687-3104

Deadline for news for the Hitchin' Post is the 25th of each month. - Ed.

*From Our House to Yours
We Wish You
a
Happy New Year!*

*And may we live in a world at peace
and with the awareness of God's love
in every sunset, every flower's
unfolding petals, every baby's smile,
every lover's kiss, and every
wonderful, astonishing, miraculous
beat of our heart.*