Colfax Connections

CAL FIRE: Burn Permits Will Be Required Starting May 1

As of May 1st 2021, Residential Door Yard Burn Permits will be required for all outside burning in the CAL FIRE Nevada/Yuba/Placer Unit which includes the City of Colfax.

Burn permits can be obtained for free at:

- The CAL FIRE public website at https://burnpermit.fire.ca.gov/ or
- The CAL FIRE/ Placer County Fire Department Colfax Station 30 at 24020 Fowler Ave, Colfax.

Residential door yard burning is a valuable tool for homeowners to use annually in maintaining their property and providing the necessary defensible space for their homes. It is not without risk, however.

In 2020, 17 of 47 vegetation fires in the Colfax/ Alta Battalion area were related to residential door yard burning. This spring alone with the dryer than normal weather, we have responded to over a dozen escaped control burns burning several acres in total.

Homeowners and residents must be aware that if their fire escapes their control, or if they are not following the rules of the Residential Door Yard Burning permit, they may be found liable for any damages that occur or suppression costs resulting from a Fire Department response.

Outlined below are the rules for safely conducting a door yard burn:

1. You must have in your possession a valid Residential Door Yard Burn Permit.
2. You may only burn on permissive burn days and between the permissive hours.
3. You must call the number listed on the burn permit to insure it is a permissive burn day, just prior to burning.
4. You can only burn dry natural material found on your property.
5. You may

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Council Debates Implementing A Technical Device Policy

By wstockwin@hughes.net

The April 28 meeting of the Colfax City Council, which was held in person with a Zoom option for the stay-at-home audience, needed just 50 minutes to go from gavel to gavel.

CalFire Chief/Colfax, Alta Battalion Brian Eagan led things off with a warning that the permitted burn season could be cut short due to extreme dryness. He also cautioned citizens about their cleanup fires, saying that half of the escaped fires his crew have responded to so far this season were left burning and unattended when they got away.

From there the meeting moved quickly to Item 9A, the night's one piece of Council business.

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Drought-Like Weather Continues

Honeybees pollinating the area's pear trees were never bothered by spring rain in April simply because less than an inch fell all month. The five-year average (2016–2020) for April rain is 5.2 inches, and the five-year average for total rainfall at the beginning of April is 52.7 inches. This year we started April with 23.05 inches and finished the month with exactly 24 inches.

Looking ahead to May, the five-year average for the month is barely 2.5 inches because two of those years received less than an inch in May, and one other year (2017) had no rain at all.

In 2020 we ended the wet season with 36.04 inches total. As we start this month we are 12.04 inches off last year's pace, and based on the five-year averages the odds are exceedingly long that we will finish the season anywhere near 30 inches, let alone 36.

The five-year average for June rainfall is .02 inches, so there's probably no help there either.

Photo by Will Stockwin

City Council from page 1

The item was prompted by recent requests from Council Members asking for the city to provide technology devices for their City business use. City staff brought the issue to the council in an open meeting asking for direction regarding the creation of a "technical device policy."

To shape the discussion the item offered five questions for the council to consider:

• Does the Council want to provide Council Members with any type of technology devices at City expense for use in conducting City business? If the answer is "No", the discussion can end here.

• If "yes", what type of technology devices does Council want to authorize the City to issue its members?

• How much funding for such devices is the Council willing to authorize, and from what funding source?

• Will this be a one-time authorization, an annual funding allocation, or an as-needed funding allocation?

• What guidelines and restrictions will be established on the use of the technology devices?

• How will the selection of devices be handled? For example, will each Council Member be able to choose his/her own device, or will each Council Member be limited to the same

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type of device?

Before throwing the discussion to the council, City Manager Wes Heathcock said, "If the answer to the first question is 'No' then the discussion can stop there."

Council members Burruss, Mendoza and Ackerman initially came out against spending city money on IT devices for the council. Council member Fatula was in favor, saying it would allow council members to separate official use from personal use in the event that council devices were subpoenaed and searched.

Several suggestions were made to deal with that eventuality, including increasing the council monthly stipend to cover IT costs for new council devices, setting up a council workstation in city hall that would be available to all council members, and having the city purchase and manage IT devices for Council Members, which would be official city property.

The item closed when Mayor Lomen directed staff to investigate costs for those potential solutions, and bring the item back at a future meeting.

The next meeting of the Colfax City Council will held on Wednesday, May 26.

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Colfax Connections is a monthly city publication edited by Will Stockwin, who can be contacted via e-mail at **wstockwin@hughes.net.** All submissions are welcome, the earlier the better.

Deadline is the 20th of the previous month.

Photo by Alan Shuttleworth

STAFF
Photography – Alan Shuttleworth
Proofreading – LindaLou Haines

Hard Copies of Colfax Connections can be found at City Hall, the Colfax Library and Lumenaris.

The Colfax Pharmacy is now giving COVID-19 vaccinations by appointment only, Monday through Friday, starting at 1:00 p.m. Call 346-1004 to make your appointment.

Opening May 26, 2021

Sierra Vista Center

- **Certified Farmers' Market at 55 School St. in Colfax.**
- **Every Wednesday, 4-7 p.m. May 26 – October 13, 2021**
- **Prepared food vendors welcome**

- **Contact Market Manager Will Stockwin at 530-210-4291 or wstockwin@hughes.net for vendor applications and market rules.**
- **Preference will be given to Placer and Nevada County Growers.**

PCTPA Meeting In Colfax On May 17

Placer County Transportation Planning Agency (PCTPA) is hosting online community meetings to discuss how we can build a better transportation network in Placer County. These meetings are a great opportunity to let your voice be heard when it comes to planning the way you travel.

Learn more about current transportation priorities in Placer, such as:

- Interstate 80/Highway 65 Interchange and Highway 65 Widening from Roseville to Lincoln
- Projects to increase local, commuter and senior public transit
- Increasing service for the Capitol Corridor Trains from Placer to San Jose
- Projects to increase bike/pedestrian trails in Placer County like the Dry Creek Greenway
- Highway 49 Widening
- Colfax Roundabout

Meeting Host: Colfax Mayor Pro Tem Trinity Burruss

After registering for this meeting at **https://www.keepplacermoving.com/register**, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Questions about the Virtual Community Meeting?
Contact Danielle Wood at dwood@aimconsultingco.com

Meeting Date & Time
May 17, 2021 4:30-6:30 P.M.

Colfax Lions Club Supports Literacy at Chicago Park School

The Chicago Park School has conducted a Reading Incentive Program for many years. In more recent times, the school's PTA organization has stepped up the pace and has supported a "Readathon" with a series of student awards as well as sponsoring a concurrent fundraising effort.

For the 2020-21 academic year, students in grades K-8 read over 48,000 minutes. Donations raised along with minutes read totaled over $8000 and contributed to "Readathon" Awards and other student services and learning materials.

Students who participated in the "Readathon," earned a coupon, which was placed in a drawing for PTA sponsored awards, as well as Kindle Electronic Readers from the Colfax Lions Club.

Recognized by the Colfax Lions for their reading achievement were Kodi Mayfield-grade 1, Brooklyn Johnson-grade 3, Claire DePew-grade 4, Lyla Deacon-grade 5 and Mason Nies-grade 7.

PTA President, Michelle Strand, said, "I am so proud of our school. Throughout these tough times, we are still able to help our students enjoy reading."

Back row (left to right): Katie Kohler, Superintendent/Principal Chicago Park School and Alan Shuttleworth, Literacy Project Chair-Colfax Lions Club.

Front Row (left to right): Kodi Mayfeld, grade 1; Brooklynn Johnson, grade 3; Claire DePew, grade 4; Lyla Deacon, grade 5. Mason Niles, grade 7 was absent.

School Superintendent-Principal, Kathie Kohler, commented, "I am a big believer in child literacy and encouraging all kids to read a lot."

When asked for a quote, Faculty Readathon Advisor, Ashley Price quoted Vera Nazavian, an award winning writer: "Whenever you read a good book, somewhere in the world a door opens to allow in more light."

Business Briefs . . .

. . . with LindaLou Haines

What's new at ...

Grandma C's Kitchen bakery & espresso at 38 North Main. Cyndee Schwartz has yummy lunch options and breakfast treats that are easy to take and eat on your way into your day. And, Cyndee is always growing her menu, so what I will share here is just the beginning.

Right now Cyndee's Lunch menus include French Dip, The Lewie sandwich, Buffalo Chicken, Turkey-Cheese-Avocado-Bacon on her own sourdough rolls. I've had the Turkey, and it is scrumptious.

Today breakfast offerings include oh-so-good scones, Bagel Bombs and two choices of quiches. And, don't let the secret out (!), but on Saturdays she has luscious sticky buns that sell out really fast.

Of course, all the time is the right time for Cyndee's freshly baked cookies, pastries, breads and desserts.

But, here is the big news: Cyndee plans to stay open till 7 p.m. several days a week starting May 1st. Stay tuned for details. As of right now (at the end of April), the Kitchen is open Tuesday through Saturday, 7 to 3.

For more details, go to Grandmacskitchen.com, Facebook.com/GrandmaCKitchen or call 512-5047.

Sierra Storage at 160 Sherwood Ct. now has 5 gallon propane cylinders. And, they are a propane exchange location for JS West Propane. This service is available during regular business office hours.

Plus, they still have boxes of all shapes and sizes for moving and storage. And, what you need in the way of packing and storing supplies, like tape and marking pens.

Just a reminder: Sierra Storage is a U Haul dealer with all sizes and shapes of trucks and trailers available to rent. If it is not available at their site, they will get it for you.

Another reminder: Sierra Storage continues to be a drop off location for E-Waste during office business hours. That effort supports local non-profits.

Office business hours are Monday through Thursday, 10 to 4. And, Friday and Saturday 9 to 5. For more information, check out sierrastorage.com. Or, call 346-7256 and Manager Pam Bristow and her staff will answer your questions.

Have you been wondering when the construction of the new hotel is going to be done? And, when is **Best Western Colfax** (BW) at 801 South Auburn going to open? In a word, August 1st. Mark your calendars now, so you will be ready to book one or two of the 69 guest rooms around that time for your visiting family and friends.

It is exciting to have a Best Western coming to Colfax. Among other things, it means 20 new jobs with hiring starting in June.

The hotel will have a POOL in the back, a Fitness Center on the first floor. And, well-mannered pets are welcome.

Of the 69 guest rooms, 33 will have two queen size beds and 36 will have one king size bed. Four of those rooms will be ADA accessible. Each room will have a microwave, a coffee maker and a mini refrigerator. Guest rooms will be moderately priced at $100 to $150 per night.

The owner of the Colfax BW is first-time owner, Raj Singh. Let's wish him the best in his new project in Colfax, as it charges ahead to completion on August 1.

LindaLou Haines,
lindalouhaines14@gmail.com

Best Western ColfaxTo Open On August 1

At right, the design concept for what the reception/registration area will look like.

Workers painting and tiling what will become the reception/registration area for the new Best Western Colfax hotel. Photos by Alan Shuttleworth

At left, the design concept of what a finished room will look like.

Both design concept photos courtesy of Best Western Colfax.

Chamber of Commerce Notes and Events

By Sally Laughlin

We've turned the corner on the longest year of our lives. After months of implementing the Placer County Collaborative Grant, we delivered $120,000 in grants to 59 small businesses last month, from Meadow Vista up to Cisco Grove.

Now we're getting back to business, and with a host of new Chamber members. We're holding weekly Ribbon Cuttings, and we plan on hosting our first Mixer on June 18, 5:30 p.m. at the Railhead Saloon, 34 N. Main St.

Some of our new members include Tin Lantern Restaurant (Meadow Vista), Colfax Gifts and Thrift and NR Vogt Art Studio.

Spring is election time for our Chamber, and last month we opened up three new director positions to nominations. We had a flood of new applicants, and after completing interviews, we were able to narrow it down to three very qualified new directors: Tracy Brown, Lauren Lange and Lauriana Cecchi.

All three have lived in other small train towns and have a passion for supporting their communities. Welcome aboard and Congratulations to all of you!

Our Colfax Visitors Center and Colfax Heritage Museum will be opening soon! Our volunteers are currently working on a plan to open sometime after June 15.

Above – Left to right, new Colfax Area Chamber of Commerce Directors Lauriana Cecchi, Lauren Lange and Tracy Brown. Photo courtesy of the Colfax Area Chamber of Commerce.

Sally Laughlin, CACC President
Colfax Area
Chamber of Commerce
colfaxareachamber@gmail.com
colfaxchamber.com
(530) 346-8888

Burn Permits from page 1

not burn any trash, lumber or household waste.
6. You can only burn in a pile no larger than 4 feet in diameter.
7. You must have 10 feet of clearance around the entire pile to bare dirt.
8. You must have in your possession water and a hand tool while you are burning.
9. You must be in attendance at all times while your pile is still burning.

Based on weather and fuel conditions residents should expect that sometime between June 1st and July 1st 2021 all outside burning will be suspended. After that date and until the suspension is lifted sometime in late fall 2021 no residential door yard burning can occur.

As an alternative to residential door yard burning, residents in Placer County, including the City of Colfax, may take advantage of the Placer Resource Conservation District Chipper Program to dispose of their annual natural material.

Information about this chipping program can be found at: http://placerrcd.org/landowner-assistance/forestry/healthy-forests/ or you can request the service at, (530) 889-0111 ext. 3.

Colfax Fire Dept.
CAL FIRE/Placer County Fire

PLACER FOOD BANK
Nourishing Communities
A Member of FEEDING AMERICA

FREE FARMERS MARKETS
MERCADO DE VEGETALES GRATIS

50 YEARS PLACER FOOD BANK 1970-2020

2021 Schedule – Placer County

JANUARY	8	Sheridan	8:30 - 10:30 am
	11	Colfax	10:00 am - noon
	22	Lincoln	8:00 - 10:00 am
	25	Foresthill	10:00 am - noon
	29	Rocklin	8:00 - 10:00 am
FEBRUARY	8	Colfax	10:00 am - noon
	12	Sheridan	8:30 - 10:30 am
	19	Lincoln	8:00 - 10:00 am
	22	Foresthill	10:00 am - noon
	26	Rocklin	8:00 - 10:00 am
MARCH	8	Colfax	10:00 am - noon
	12	Sheridan	8:30 - 10:30 am
	19	Lincoln	8:00 - 10:00 am
	26	Rocklin	8:00 - 10:00 am
	29	Foresthill	10:00 am - noon
APRIL	9	Sheridan	8:30 - 10:30 am
	12	Colfax	10:00 am - noon
	23	Lincoln	8:00 - 10:00 am
	26	Foresthill	10:00 am - noon
	30	Rocklin	8:00 - 10:00 am
MAY	10	Colfax	10:00 am - noon
	14	Sheridan	8:30 - 10:30 am
	21	Lincoln	8:00 - 10:00 am
	24	Foresthill	10:00 am - noon
	28	Rocklin	8:00 – 10:00 am
JUNE	11	Sheridan	8:30 - 10:30 am
	14	Colfax	10:00 am - noon
	18	Lincoln	8:00 - 10:00 am
	25	Rocklin	8:00 - 10:00 am
	28	Foresthill	10:00 am - noon
JULY	9	Sheridan	8:30 - 10:30 am
	12	Colfax	10:00 am - noon
	23	Lincoln	8:00 - 10:00 am
	26	Foresthill	10:00 am - noon
	30	Rocklin	8:00 - 10:00 am
AUGUST	9	Colfax	10:00 am - noon
	13	Sheridan	8:30 - 10:30 am
	20	Lincoln	8:00 - 10:00 am
	27	Rocklin	8:00 - 10:00 am
	30	Foresthill	10:00 am - noon
SEPTEMBER	10	Sheridan	8:30 - 10:30 am
	13	Colfax	10:00 am - noon
	17	Lincoln	8:00 - 10:00 am
	24	Rocklin	8:00 - 10:00 am
	27	Foresthill	10:00 am - noon
OCTOBER	8	Sheridan	8:30 - 10:30 am
	11	Colfax	10:00 am - noon
	22	Lincoln	8:00 - 10:00 am
	25	Foresthill	10:00 am - noon
	29	Rocklin	8:00 - 10:00 am
NOVEMBER	8	Colfax	10:00 am - noon
	12	Sheridan	8:30 - 10:30 am
	19	Lincoln	8:00 - 10:00 am
	24	Rocklin	8:00 - 10:00 am
	29	Foresthill	10:00 am - noon
DECEMBER	10	Sheridan	8:30 - 10:30 am
	13	Colfax	10:00 am - noon
	23	Lincoln	8:00 - 10:00 am
	20	Foresthill	10:00 am - noon
	30	Rocklin	8:00 - 10:00 am

Sheridan	Celebration Family Worship	5721 10 Street	**Colfax**	Sierra Vista Comm Center	55 School Street
Lincoln	McBean Park	65 McBean Park Drive	**Foresthill**	Harrison Street Yard	24625 Harrison Street
Rocklin	Johnson-Springview Park	5480 5th Street			

Placerfoodbank.org **916.783.0481**

Nevada County Planning To Replace One-Lane Dog Bar Bridge

By wstockwin@hughes.net

Nevada County has replaced or rehabilitated seven bridges in western Nevada County since 2017. The County expects to replace four more bridges by 2022, including the Dog Bar Road Bridge over the Bear River near Colfax.

The Dog Bar Road Bridge carries two-way traffic on a one-lane bridge connecting Nevada and Placer Counties. The narrow, 13′ 8″ wide bridge was built in 1934 and does not meet modern standards for bridge cross sections.

Based on a feasibility study conducted in April 2020, the removal of the existing bridge and replacement with a new, broadened curve radius was found to be the best solution. The plan is to remove the existing bridge and replace it with a two-lane, cast-in-place, pre-stressed concrete U-shaped bridge, approximately 235 feet long, directly upstream from the current bridge site.

As designed the new bridge will be approximately 32′ wide with two lanes each 11′ wide, with a 135′ curve radius that will accommodate larger trucks. Traffic will be relatively undisturbed on the existing bridge during construction, with the existing bridge being removed after traffic is moved onto the new bridge.

Friends of the Bear River has expressed a "resounding Yes!" in support of replacing the bridge. It is tempered with the concern that the current plan does "not accommodate the area's growing recreational economy and rural lifestyle, and reduces existing recreational amenities to a commuter corridor that is unsafe for humans on foot, bike, horse or boat."

Specifically those concerns include:

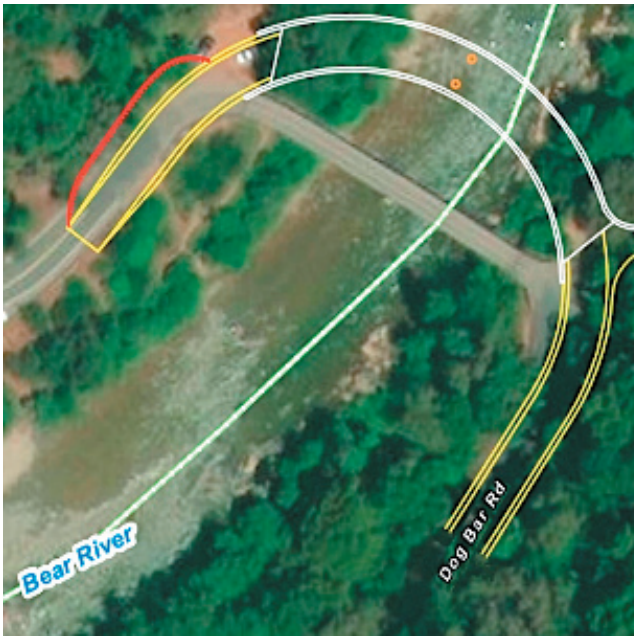
- Safe parking off the road for river access
- Safe pedestrian and bicycle crossing over the new bridge, or retaining the old bridge for pedestrian/bicycle/horse crossing
- Trailhead access on both sides of the river, with safe pedestrian access
- A safe loading zone at trailheads for beach and picnic gear, boating and mining gear
- A staging area for boater take-out

For more information contact: **Jessica.Hankins@co.nevada.ca.us, or friendsofbearriver@gmail.com**

At Right – Proposed horseshoe design for the new bridge

Below – the existing 87-year-old Dog Bar Bridge

Photos courtesy of Friends of the Bear River



Churches

Colfax Assembly of God Community Fellowship
252 Culver St.,
Colfax, CA 95713
Email: colfaxaog@gmail.com
Website: http://www.colfaxagca.org/

Colfax Baptist Church
24850 Ben Taylor Rd., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-8110
Email: pastorgaryhoward@yahoo.com
Website: http://colfaxbaptist.com/

Colfax United Methodist Church
59 W. Church St., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-2267
Website: https://www.colfaxumc.org/

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah Witnesses
944 Canyon Way, Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-2525
Website: https://www.jw.org/en/

St. Dominic's Catholic Church
589 E. Oak St., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-2286
Website: https://www.scd.org/parish/st-dominic-parish-colfax

Seventh Day Adventist
454 Scholtz Ave., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-8844
Website: https://www.colfaxsdachurch.com

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
1875 S. Auburn St., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-7702
Website: https://www.lds.org/

Social Organizations

American Legion Post 192
22 Sunset Dr., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-9433
Website: http://norwellpost192.org

Colfax Area Chamber of Commerce
99 S. Railroad St., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-8888
Website: http://colfaxchamber.com

Colfax Area Historical Society
Archives: PO Box 185, Colfax, CA 95713
Museum 99 Railroad St., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-8599
Website: https://colfaxhistory.org

Colfax Garden Club
PO Box 1801, Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-7474
Website: http://californiagardenclubs.com/content/colfax-garden-club

Colfax Lions Club
PO Box 664, Colfax, CA 95713
530-477-2533
Website: https://www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/colfaxca

Gold Country Lionesses
PO Box 1852, Colfax, CA 95713

Illinoistown Clay-Mason Lodge #51 of Colfax
14 N. Main St., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-6627
Website: http://lodge51.freemason.org

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

Sierra Vista Center
55 School St., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-8726
Website: https://sierravistacolfax.wordpress.com

Soroptimist International of Colfax
PO Box 475, Colfax, CA 95713
530-637-4878

VFW Post 2003
22 Sunset Dr., Colfax, CA 95713
530-346-7768
https://www.colfaxveterans.org/vfw.html

Story projects

APRIL-MAY 2021

Story Projects

Stop by your local

Placer County Library

to grab a new

***Take Home Activity Bag* every week**

to enjoy together at home

(while supplies last).

County of Placer Library Services

Find a matching
Story of the Week
on our website!
Visit bit.ly/pclprogramming
or scan this QR code!