

# POINT REYES LIGHT

Volume LXII No. 18/ Point Reyes Station, California

July 2, 2009



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City kids are learning about life on the farm in a camp at Devil's Gulch Ranch in Nicasio. The owners wish to expand the camp, but face opposition from neighbors who are concerned about safety. Photo by Rollo Scott.

## Jarvis warns feds may seize state parks

by Wes Venteicher

National Park Service Regional Director Jon Jarvis warned Governor Schwarzenegger that his proposal to close 220 state parks could result in federal repercussions—including, in some cases, reversion of state park lands to federal ownership. Sixty-seven of the parks Schwarzenegger proposes to close, including Mount Tamalpais, receive federal money and could suffer federal consequences for non-compliance if closed.

"The letter to the governor is intended

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## Historic dairy trades in cows

by Wes Venteicher

Nine cattle trucks crowded Joey Mendoza's historic dairy farm in Point Reyes last Sunday to transport 307 remaining milk cows to slaughter in Modesto. High production costs combined with the low market value of milk forced Mendoza to retire the milk cows last week and abandon the dairy business as he knows it.

"I'm the third generation here. I hate to be the one to give it up," he said. Mendoza's grandfather J.V. bought the B Ranch in 1919 and the family has operated it ever since. He sold the herd through Cooperatives Working Together (CWT), a program that buys and retires herds on the condition the seller stays out of the

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Despite *capos* captures, low level terror in Mexico

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Historic radio station's 10th annual celebration

### MUSIC / 18

Slap guitar from Iowa duo at Smiley's on the Fourth

## Nicasio grows Devil's Gulch

by Leighton Cosseboom

Brian King carries two arrows as he treks through a bramble of buckeye trees on Devil's Gulch Ranch. He hops a creek, picks a leaf of stinging nettle and pops it in his mouth, pointing out bobcat scratches on a small oak tree.

King leads a summer camp on the 75-acre Nicasio ranch, teaching children a plethora of skills ranging from spinning and weaving wool to butchering and castrating farm animals. Devil's Gulch Camp is now taking steps to gain accreditation from the American Camp Association.

At a hearing before the deputy zoning

administrator last Thursday, King and ranch owner Mark Pasternak proposed an expansion that would allow for 30 more children and an overnight program.

While several Nicasio residents expressed concerns about noise pollution and traffic congestion, King was optimistic about the project. "It is a dream of a community where young people get total immersion in agriculture, nature, rural recreation and the skills of our ancestral past. A community where it is safe for these young people to live outside their comfort zone," he said.

"I wanted to model the activities of this

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inBRIEF

Fight in Western ends in arrest

Thirty-year-old Daniel Deixler of Point Reyes Station is being charged with a misdemeanor after he was involved in a bar fight at the Old Western Saloon on Sunday, June 21. "He was arrested for being drunk in public," said Marin County Sheriff's Deputy Ron Fode. Deixler claims he was assaulted by bartender Tony Gant after Gant refused to give him change for \$20. "Tony said, 'Come back here,' and so I walked behind the bar and he punched me in the face and another guy sat on me," Deixler said over the phone on Wednesday. He was ar-

rested that night, and the following day asked deputies how he could file charges against Gant. According to Deixler, the sheriff's office failed to respond. "The way I was treated by the police was not equal to the way Tony was treated," he said. He will appear in court on July 9.

First Marin swine flu death

A 33-year-old woman died of the H1N1 influenza, also known as the swine flu, in an Alameda County hospital on Wednesday. She was transferred from a Marin County hospital when her condition worsened. "Our thoughts and sympathies go out to her family and friends," said Marin County deputy public health officer Anju Goel. There have been 25 confirmed cases of swine flu in Marin County, but yesterday's was the first death. "We anticipate that we will continue to see more cases over the next several weeks and months now that the H1N1 virus has become well established in California," Goel said. So far, 16 of the 125 swine flu deaths in the United States have been in California.

Radio station get funds for news

West Marin's local radio station was awarded a \$32,000 grant by the Corporation of Public Broadcasting (CPB) last week. KWMR won a local service award for its key role in communications during floods and other emergencies, and an efficiency award for a variety of reasons, including its 100 dedicated volunteer programs, ability to provide 24 hour programming, and online streaming capability. "This grant comes at a great time for us because of the economic situation," said KWMR

executive director Kay Clements. Some of the money will go toward hiring a news director, so volunteer news director George Clyde can go back to being a volunteer reporter.

Kids work in Giacomini Wetlands

The Point Reyes National Seashore hired a pilot group of high schoolers from Oakland and San Francisco to participate in a new marine science education program at the Giacomini Wetlands. The students are living at the Historic Lifeboat Station from June 21 to July 6. While monitoring the wetlands, the young crew is learning about its plant communities, water quality and bird populations. They are also removing invasive plants that have colonized the wetlands.

Money for oil spill training

The California Department of Fish and Game awarded a \$25,000 grant for oil spill response equipment and training to the Marin County Open Space District. The grant will help to provide a cargo trailer, 1,000 feet of containment material and tools, as well as decontamination and absorbent supplies. By September of this year, the district, along with several fire departments, will be trained with the new equipment. "Even in perfect conditions, it's hard to contain oil. We want to do everything we can," said district superintendent Brian Sanford. This grant comes after the infamous Cosco Busan oil spill, which pushed bunker oil as far north as Drakes Estero and Bolinas Lagoon in November of 2007.

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Volunteers needed to teach English to adult students in West Marin.

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Tutor Training Saturday, July 18th



For information or to register for training, call: 663-1849

TOBY'S



In the gallery July 2-31

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Kids make good use of Mark Pasternak's barns at Devil's Gulch in Nicasio. Brian King (above left) founded the camp in 2003. Photos by Rollo Scott.

## >> Devil's

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camp after the things that I did when I was young," he said. King, who is commonly called "King Wog" at the camp, has been teaching since 1980. He has been guiding campers ages six to 17 at Devil's Gulch since he founded the camp in 2003.

"Over the past six years, I have been watching this dream come to fruition, working with approximately 150 kids each year," said King, who modeled his

program after his own childhood growing up on his aunt's ranch. "There are a lot of camps that are nature based, that really don't have this agricultural component, and there's other camps that are pretty much just summer camp with a petting zoo."

Four years ago, Devil's Gulch campers built the first energy generating wind turbine in Marin County. It sits on a hill just beyond Pasternak's pinot grapes. "We did it in several weeks," King said. "Each blade is 24 feet long, and the kids painted it."

The campers tend to the gardens and maintenance equipment, and also help Pasternak and staff with the care of all of the farm animals—pigs, sheep, cows

and chickens. "It's not unusual to have a ten-year-old boy doing an ultrasound on a mare," King said. King and Pasternak's camp also offers other fun activities, such as rock climbing and rappelling. Twelve-year-old Andy Gardener recalls rappelling off of Pasternak's famous turbine. "It's kind of scary at the top because it's really windy and it seems a lot higher than it looks from the ground," he said.

At Thursday's meeting, attorney Brian Rohan, who said he represented more than one anonymous Nicasio resident, highlighted insurance issues involved with the transport of children to Devil's Gulch.

Others reiterated the concern. "It's

clear to us that the children's safety is not being addressed," said Greg Lee of the Nicasio Valley Home Owner's Association. "The road seems too windy to have that many children in the back of a truck."

Pasternak addressed many of the issues raised. His transport trucks are inspected and approved by the Public Utilities Commission, he said, adding that he would welcome any inspection of his equipment. "It is not something I take lightly," he said.

The meeting concluded with the deputy zoning administrator assigning the Environmental Action Committee to help the ranch install a septic system.

# Artists teach kids about food, water and farming



Frances Lefkowitz, Madeline Hope and Gwen Meyer are teaching kids skills and principles through the Artists in the Schools program. Photos by Rollo Scott.

by Leighton Cosseboom

Madeline Hope, Gwen Meyer and Frances Lefkowitz stood in the gallery of Toby's Feed Barn, surrounded by children's art and poetry. On the opposing wall a projector played a slide show of photographs. On a piece of butcher paper taped to the wall a message read: "I love to play pranks on people." Another declared: "Not embarrassed to dance in public."

Hope and Meyer are the directors of Gallery Route One's Artists in Schools (AIS) program. The goal of the program is to synthesize artistic expression and tangible learning for children in West Marin schools. This year's focus was food, water and agriculture.

"It's kind of a nice way to finish the school year and the kids are very attached," Hope said. "This year we were studying water, food and farming." This year, Nicasio, West Marin, Inverness, Tomales High and Lagunitas Middle schools participated, as well as Papermill Creek Children's Corner. AIS gives children unique opportunities to explore their creativity while developing a better understanding of the world they live in through environmental arts and education.

Lefkowitz compiled prose and poetry from the seventh grade class at West Marin School. She called the anthology "Coho Loco."

The culmination of the students' work for the year was a show at Toby's Gallery in Point Reyes Station. Photographs of various natural environments and a large

mural illustrating the rural ecosystem filled the room for the month of June. "We ran two photography electives, one at Lagunitas School and one at West Marin School, for middle schoolers," Hope said. Short messages from the children were also integrated into the grid of photos.

"It just so happened that I was doing a six-word memoir project with the high school students," said Lefkowitz. "Gwen and Madeline had the brilliant idea of fitting them into the grid because they were so compact."

"I ran three photo classes, two at Lagunitas and one at West Marin School," Meyer said. "Basically I gave them the parameters of water and food to work around, and some of them are incredibly creative." Meyer said her goal was to get her students to explore the principles of

photography, but also have a general direction in which they were to take the photos. The program had a photography elective in Lagunitas and West Marin. Meyer also taught the children how to use the latest computer video and photo editing software.

Hope explained that there will be a few more opportunities for people to see the work from the exhibit during the course of the year. "We will also show the work at The Geography of Hope Literary Conference," she added.

This year's exhibit beamed with creativity and learning. Hope was enthusiastic about this year's theme of food, water and farming. "Next year we want the focus to be on watershed issues," she said. "We want to give the kids the skills and knowledge to apply to these issues."

## Finger picking good

LIVE MUSIC by Leighton Cosseboom

Joe and Vicki Price met 25 years ago at the Gin Mill in Waukon, Iowa where Vicki was bartending and Joe was performing. "It was our love for the guitar that drew us together, not just a style of music," Joe said. "We are both in love with the instrument."

The couple hit it off and has been playing the blues ever since. They will perform their finger-style guitar at Smiley's Saloon this Saturday, July 4 as part of a summer tour. The pair's dynamic act features songs such as "Hornet Nest" and "La Crosse Fever Blues," and is sure to draw an electric dancing crowd. Their song "Put Your Arms around Me"

moves with a slow and conventional blues progression, its lyrics describing Joe and Vicki's love for each other.

Signed to independent label Blue Acres Records and endorsed by the National Reso-Phonic Guitar Company, Joe and Vicki are influenced by artists such as Elmore James and Muddy Waters. Joe describes their style as "country blues, a style where one or two guitarists played danceable music in the juke joints." Joe's subtle guitar improvisations add creative depth to the duo's traditional blues riffs.

If dancing to the blues and celebrating independence sounds like your idea of a good time, come see them on Saturday, July 4 in downtown Bolinas.

*Joe and Vicki Price play from 6 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, July 4 at Smiley's Schooner Saloon in Bolinas.*

## >> Inbrief

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### Apply for district elections

The candidate nomination period for the November district election will open on July 13. There are 24 school, district and municipal positions up for election in West Marin. Candidates for school and district positions can pick up nomination forms at the Marin County Registrar of Voters office at the Marin County Civic Center on that day. The deadline for candidates to file their nomination papers is Friday, August 7. There are three community services vacancies in Muir Beach, three community services vacancies in Tomales, two fire protection vacancies in Stinson Beach, three public utility vacancies in Bolinas, two public utility vacancies in Inverness, three school vacancies in Lagunitas, two school vacancies in Nicasio, two school vacancies in the Shoreline Unified Area No. 1, one school vacancy in the Shoreline Unified Area No.2, and three town vacancies in Fairfax. For more information, call the Registrar at 499.6442.

### Guard against mosquitoes

Recent hot weather has spawned a fear of increased mosquito breeding. The Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District urged residents last week to check for favorable breeding conditions. "What concerns us is what residents have in their backyard," said Nizza Sequeira of the control district. "It takes three days for mosquito eggs to hatch," said Bolinas resident Mary Beth Brangan. "People should make sure there is no standing water on their property." If you have a mosquito problem, the district would like to hear from you at (800) 231.3236.

### New home in Stinson Beach

Design Review clearance to construct a new home in Seadrift has been requested by Michael Mitchell on behalf of the owner, Barbara Hancock. The 1,996-square foot single-family residence at 145 Seadrift Road (Assessor's Parcel 195-041-30) will have cedar lap siding, copper flashings and downs spouts and cedar fascia and trim. There will also be a new septic system, changes to an existing fence, a deck removed, and a floating dock relocated. No formal public hearing will be had, but interested persons can call Brian Crawford, Marin Community Development Agency director, or planner Veronica Corella-Pearson, at 499.6269 for more information. Challenges to the agency's decision, which will be made no earlier than July 16, can be made within ten days of the decision. Appeals should be made in writing to the agency, along with a \$600 filing fee.

## Ask Missy

by Missy Patterson

### Love and life

Not being computer savvy, I don't get all of the Internet that everyone else does—except when a friend like my friend Gayle passes on to me something she received on the computer that she knew I'd be interested in that her friend (and mine) Margaret sent her. It was a priceless list written by a 90-year-old woman from Ohio, entitled "Lesson's Life Taught Me." Don't worry, I won't repeat all 45, but she was a wise woman.

**1) Life isn't fair.** Never has been, never will be. Only kindergartners expect it to be. But it is good!

**2) Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.** The only thing hatred does is make your own life miserable, and guess what! The hated one doesn't know or doesn't care!

**3) It's never too late to have a Happy Childhood, but the second one is up to you and no one else.** But even if you had a wonderful childhood as I did, I'm finding that I really enjoy growing older. In fact I feel younger than I did when the kids were growing up. I love aging. The body doesn't always agree, but you can't have everything!

**4) Frame every so-called disaster with these words, "In five years will this matter?"** Well, when I was young, like in my 40s and 50s, I used to say: "If it won't make a difference in 100 years it won't matter." A little extreme, but I have learned that adversity is often a blessing. It takes you down to ground zero and you know who else really cares for you, making your expectations more realistic and bearable.

**5) Forgive everyone for everything. I've found that if you don't forgive people who may abuse you, verbally or physically, it acts as a cancer in your mind and emotions and pretty soon you're back to Number Two—Hatred.** Ninety percent of the time, they either don't know they need to be forgiven or could care less. So forgiveness is mostly for yourself! (But if you or I does something that seek forgiveness from someone else, we, I, need to wake up, be humble and repent in order to be forgiven.)

**6) What other people think of you is none of your business.** If they don't like you or respect you, well that's their problem, not yours.

**And some of my own...**

1) When someone insults you or accuses you of something you're innocent of, toss it back at them with the statement, "I'm Sorry You Feel That Way!" It never fails to stun.

2) Always, always look on the bright side of things. Be positive. And when something bothersome or bad happens, put one foot in front of the other and eventually it works itself out.

3) Last but not least, and the one that matters most—All that Truly Matters in the End is that you Loved. Many years ago I made an appointment with a respected Friend to talk about love. I didn't think I knew what it was. He told me I already knew. Not really believing him, I continued my quest. As time went on I learned that essential elements of Love are Respect, Honesty and Really Caring. To know the thrill of Joy when two good friends, obviously (even though they're in late middle age) totally smitten with each other get married and conversely to know real sorrow when a Best Friend's mate dies – that's Love. And the burst of Pride when your Grandchildren drop by. And to know hope in all of them, that's Love, what life is really all about. And with it, Life is Good.

## >> Parks

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to open conversation about maintaining the public recreation estate in California," said Holly Bundock of the Pacific West office of the National Park Service.

Schwarzenegger proclaimed a fiscal emergency on Wednesday, calling for a special legislative session to find a solution to California's \$24 billion deficit.

The Federal Lands to Parks Program (FLP), formed in 1949, gave federal land

to states on the condition that they remain open for public use in perpetuity. Jarvis' letter warns that if land becomes unavailable to the public it may revert to federal ownership. He identified six parks likely to revert if closed.

Bundock emphasized the land would not be assumed by the park service, but would go to general service administration or the military, depending on who owned the property before it was transferred to the state. Further, the letter says California state parks have received approximately \$268 million from the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund since 1965, affecting 67 of the 220 parks on the list.

"The Land and Water Conservation Act is a grant program that serves as a book-end to the Wilderness Act," Bundock said. The act provides open space for things like playgrounds and ball fields, and funding depends upon upkeep of those spaces. Closure would reduce quality of the lands, inhibiting their ability to receive funding.

Jarvis offered to work with Schwarzenegger to consider options short of full closure, such as limiting state park hours of operation and closing parks on given days of the week.

Bundock said Schwarzenegger has not responded to Jarvis's letter, which was sent June 8.