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Tasting of the Year. This fundraiser for the community center – the 25th edition, no less – is just what it says it is: the first wine tasting of a New Year in Calaveras County. You can mix and mingle with everyone from the area as you sip fine wines from souvenir wine-glasses and snack on succulent hors d'oeuvres. The kitchen was added to the Armory later, so rest assured the tempting treats were crafted in current conditions!

At \$15 per person – of drinking age, thank you very much – this is an affordable way to decide just which wines you'll want to buy in 2012, but it's also a great way to support the tender loving care the Armory receives each year. Look around as you mingle and read the notes on the walls; the history of Copperopolis will call to you. For advance tickets, call 785-4081 or 785-1849; if you don't have tickets beforehand, you might not get in.

If you just can't wait till Saturday, you might taste something spectacular at the Calaveras Winegrape Alliance's Wines of the

Wines of the World

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WHEN: 5:30 p.m.
 Thursday

.....
WHERE: Murphys Hotel, 457 Main St., Murphys

.....
COST: \$15 for CWA members and \$25 for non-members

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MORE INFO: calaveraswines.org or 728-9467

World Thursday at the Murphys Hotel. These fun evenings pair thirsty vinophiles with wine experts for nights of samples and knowledge. Sierra Lodestar readers will know they'll learn something this month since Tom Bender is set to present wines from Italy.

First Tasting of the Year

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WHEN: 4 to 6:30 p.m.
 Saturday

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WHERE: The Armory, 659 Main St. (O'Byrne's Ferry Road), Copperopolis

.....
TICKETS: \$15 at 785-4081, 785-1849 or at the door

The sampling begins at 5:30 p.m. and costs \$25 for those who aren't members of the alliance.

Since winter still seems to be shy and there haven't been storm clouds just yet, these chilled weekend afternoons are wonderful times to visit our area wineries to get a sense of what's on the market right now. I've hopped into cars with friends – one of whom suggests themselves as our



Kathy Milliaire pours a glass of Black Sheep wine for Copperopolis resident Sue Russ at the 2010 event.

chauffer for the day – and visited tasting rooms all over the place. These tours always land us someplace where great wines are hiding. Well, they're not exactly hiding from us; we just weren't in the know yet! I've stumbled – no, not literally! – onto some very good vino on these spur-of-the-

moment treks and I still have some of the wines waiting for those perfect occasions.

Find out where your favorites hang out on Thursday and Saturday. History never tasted so good.

Reach Mike Taylor at mtaylor@sierralodestar.com.

Get your fill with the Soroptimists

If you're not full enough from the holiday delicatessen and specialty foods you ate, there's still plenty to be eaten this weekend in Tuolumne. Soroptimist International of Twain Harte offers clam chowder, pasta, salad, bread and all-you-can-eat crab for \$35 per person at the

club's annual Crab Feed Saturday.

According to Crab Feed Co-chairwoman Patt Koral, funds from the dinner go toward scholarships for Summerville High School students in addition to various activities and nonprofits like a self-esteem workshop for eighth-grade girls to help them adjust to high school, Habitat for Humanity, the Center for Nonviolent Community, the Watch Program, breast health causes and backpacks for area schoolchildren.

"It's extremely important to help some children who don't have the financial resources available," Koral said. "It's not a handout, just a hand up. It's a way to help kids who may need an extra little push."

Koral said that in the past, the scholarships have helped students attend anything from four-year universities to two-year community col-

leges and vocational schools. Students will also help out with the event. The Bears Service Club at Summerville High has partnered with the Soroptimists, the Lions Club, and the Rotary Club and members will serve at the Crab Feed.

Koral said she joined Soroptimist International – a women's organization dedicated to improving the lives of females internationally and locally – when she moved to the Twain Harte area in 1999. She has spent two terms as president and currently serves as co-chairwoman for the feed alongside Stephanie McCaffrey and Diane Dunigan, who owns The Rock in Twain Harte, the restaurant that will provide most of the food for the event.

"I just really love being with these women," Koral said. "They're a wonderful bunch of

women. I loved the idea of being able to get involved."

Koral said the Crab Feed sells out every year. The Twain Harte Rotary Club started the event several years ago and ran it for four years before members decided to back out; Soroptimist International of Twain Harte picked up the event four years ago.

"It's been profitable for our organizations," Koral said. "We've been able to give more scholarships and help out the community, give out more money."

The doors to the Tuolumne Veterans Memorial Hall open at 4:30 p.m. and dinner is served from 5:30 to 7 p.m. No outside beverages

Tuolumne Talk

Harmony Wheeler



are allowed inside, but soda, water, beer and wine will be available for purchase. Tickets are \$35 and can be bought at El Dorado Savings (near the Arch) or at Umpqua Bank in Twain Harte. Call Koral at 928-1616 for more information.

Send your Tuolumne County events to [Harmony Wheeler at hwheeler@sierralodestar.com](mailto:hwheeler@sierralodestar.com) and mtaylor@sierralodestar.com.

Soroptimist of Twain Harte Crab Feed

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WHEN: 4:30 p.m. Saturday

.....
WHERE: Tuolumne Veterans Memorial Hall, 18375 Fir Ave., Tuolumne

.....
TICKETS: \$35 at 928-1616



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