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the ready for surreptitious sips!)

But the food and the vino are only part of the magic that is Music in the Parks. We all arrive with the week's weights and worries around our necks and, by golly, by the time the sun has set and the music stops we're all in better moods. We have laughed together, listened together and perhaps even danced together. Those weights were lifted somehow during those brief sonorous respites and we're ready to meet Thursday with rekindled verve. It's the music that brings us together, even when a particular band might not strike our collective fancy.

You've heard me extoll the virtues of the arts council before and I'll do it again. As the whacky hats pass through the crowd, drop several dollars into the kitty so that these shows continue. The staff at the council pores over CDs and YouTube videos through the late fall and dead of winter carefully selecting the acts they want to have appear in our little corner of the world. Tried-and-true favorites are combined with new and unique acts to swirl up a sweet summer season. This work cannot go unrewarded; after all, it's your reward in the long run because your donation keeps the music playing.

I can't wait to finally get to hear Descendants of Prospectors live – I know

## Coyote Hill show

**WHEN:** 6:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 13

**WHERE:** Copperopolis Town Square, off Little John Road and Highway 4, Copperopolis

**COST:** Free

**MORE INFO:** calaverasarts.org or 754-1774

the trio has appeared all over the area; I just haven't been at the right place at the right time. The band performs June 20 at Utica Park. Patrice Pike returns for another show July 11 in San Andreas. Groovy! I'll be in Arnold on July 18, basking in the hot-as-a-pistol blues of Wingnut Adams. And darned if Sourdough Slim and Robert Armstrong don't charm the pants off of folks when they appear at Murphys Community Park on Aug. 22. OK, we'll keep our britches on, Sourdough, we promise!

These are just a few of the groups that will get us through the summer. I can't wait to hear what all of these musicians bring to our parks.

The late comic Lenny Bruce missed the



Photos by Mike Taylor

Wingnut Adams

mark when he said, "I hate small towns because once you've seen the cannon in the park, there's nothing else to do." He didn't hang out long enough for the show to get started, because once it does, the reality of that grass with picnic tables and trees, or a babbling brook, or a ball diamond just makes the heart sing.

Happy cows might come from California,



Patrice Pike

but I think happy feet come courtesy of the Calaveras Arts Council – and all of the other entities that throw events like Music in the Parks all summer long in the Mother Lode. Long may we shuffle!

Reach Mike Taylor at [mtaylor@sieralodestar.com](mailto:mtaylor@sieralodestar.com).

**Sierra Nevada Adventure Co's**  
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## Town's history tied to the trees

Carnivals called my name in my youth. I'd see the Ferris wheel and bright lights camped out at some random spot off the freeway or in town and beg my mom to stop and take me. I'm afraid that, had I known about the Tuolumne Lumber Jubilee, I might have made

her drag me up to the foothills for the event, which includes much more than carnival rides.

From Thursday through Sunday, the 63rd annual Tuolumne Lumber Jubilee includes carnival rides, craft vendors, a queen competition, live music, a parade (10 a.m. Saturday), a hot dog-eating contest at 3 p.m. Saturday, arm wrestling (3:30 p.m. Saturday), tug of war competitions on Saturday and Sunday, a church service in the park at 9 a.m. Sunday, a soap box derby race on Sunday and, of course, logging contests. Events also include the competition known as "Bull of the Woods," in which two contestants struggle to stay on a log while boxing. Jubilee souvenirs will be available for purchase. All events are free to attend, but carnival rides require tickets

### Tuolumne Talk

Harmony Wheeler



and there are registration fees for the logging events.

"The logging events draw loggers from out of state, Northern California, as well as locals, men and women," said Ginny Van Bolt, who is in charge of carnival ticket sales and who formerly served as the treasurer for the event. "One of the events which draws women is the axe throwing, and some two-man saw events. There is not a bad seat in the park for the events and you can bring your own chairs if you want."

"This event is held yearly and has been a favorite since it is family friendly," Van Bolt said. "People come back to this event year after year and meet up with friends they

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met before when they attended the event or perhaps when they lived in Sonora or Tuolumne in years past. This year there will also be baseball games being played on the baseball field next to the carnival area so they can also take that in."

Cindy Rhorer, Lumber Jubilee secretary and board member, said she believes the festivities make a great community event. She also said the Jubilee offers an important opportunity for the town of Tuolumne to show visitors and locals the history of the area.

According to tuolumnelumberjubilee.com, Tuolumne has a long history intertwined with the lumber industry and gold. The log train doesn't rumble into town any longer, the lumber mill and the logging camps are long gone, the noon whistle doesn't blow as before, but the heritage is revived and recalled in the annual Tuolumne Lumber Jubilee.

"Tuolumne County is still the heart of the timber industry," the website states. "Logging trucks still rumble along our highways and hundreds are still employed in the lumber industry. The Tuolumne Lumber Jubilee embraces this colorful history, but also salutes the still-viable local lumber industry."

## Tuolumne Lumber Jubilee

**WHEN:** Thursday through Sunday

**WHERE:** Downtown Tuolumne; parking is off Cherry Valley Boulevard and around town

**COST:** Carnival wristbands are \$15 at area businesses (call 928-4374 for locations); \$20 after June 6

**MORE INFO:** 928-3638 or tuolumnelumberjubilee.com

"I feel all of our past history needs to be shown to the community so that it can be carried on to future generations," Rhorer said.

The excitement happens in downtown Tuolumne Thursday through Sunday. For more, call 928-3638 or visit tuolumnelumberjubilee.com.



Send your Tuolumne County events to Harmony Wheeler at hwheeler@sierralodestar.com and mtaylor@sierralodestar.com.

## IRONSTONE

MURPHYS • CALIFORNIA  
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June 17th • 11-3pm  
**Fathers Day**  
"Cabs for Dad's"  
Open Barrel Tasting of  
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BBQ on the patio

June 30th  
**Hank Williams Jr**  
Concert  
Opened by Elvin Bishop

July 1st- Sept. 23rd  
**Antique Fishing**  
Gear Exhibit

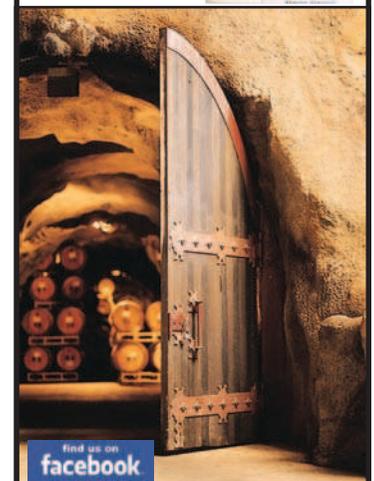
July 1st  
**Free Appraisal of Your**  
Old Fishing Gear

July 7th  
**Independence Day**  
Celebration

**Jewelry Shoppe and Museum Hours:**  
11:00 am to 5:00 pm ~ 7 Days a week

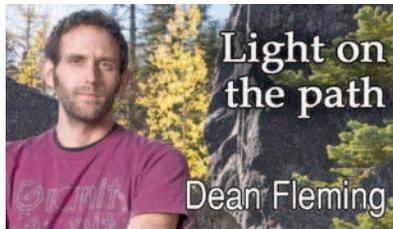
**Tasting Room Hours:**  
10:00 am to 5:00 pm ~ 7 Days a week  
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Mon. - Fri. at 1:30 pm  
Sat. & Sun. at 11:30 am and 1:30 pm.

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# Communities rallied and some parks are safe



About six months ago I investigated the status of some popular Mother Lode state parks, specifically parks that had been put on closure notice after the signing of Assembly Bill 95. The aftermath of this bill – a measure that provided statutory changes in order to enact the 2011 Budget Act – put 70 California state parks on the closure list. All of the parks on this list were expected to lose state funding on June 1 in an effort to achieve an estimated \$11 million budget reduction in 2012 and a \$22 million reduction in 2013.

While a significant number of our state parks have already closed, some of the parks that were notified of closure on May 13 have been taken off the list. In remarkable community efforts, groups of volunteers and community activists rallied to keep their local parks open. Through the help of businesses, fundraising events, signed petitions and, in some cases, large private donations, community groups have raised a significant amount support for many threatened parks.

Of the 70 state parks put on the closure list, Mono Lake Tufa State

Natural Reserve just east of the Highway 120-U.S. Route 395 junction is one of the most frequently referenced cases of a community putting forth great effort to keep its park open. The Mono Lake Committee, a non-profit group of 16,000 members formed in 1973, played a huge role in removing the Tufa Reserve from the closure list.

Thousands of letters and petitions were hand-delivered to key decision makers in Sacramento by members of the committee. In December the park was taken off the list.

Some argued that if Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve would have "closed," the natural wonders of the area would have still been accessible to the public; after all, parking is available nearby and the site of the amazing Mono tufas is accessed through public land.

While some state parks require a huge amount of volunteer work and maintenance, many consist of nothing more than small parking lots and restroom facilities – some even forgo the latter amenities and offer nothing more than a spot to park the car. In such instances, the closure of a state park might only signify the termination of parking lot, restroom or campground maintenance activities.

When nearby parking can be found at a shuttered state park, access to wilderness destinations or historical landmarks often remains available to visitors. But many of the signs at recently closed parks

don't indicate that visitors can step beyond the closures and continue to visit the attractions within the boundaries. Additionally, this infor-

mation is not yet posted anywhere on parks.ca.gov. As one might expect, visitors often yield to

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Dean Fleming

Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve offers many splendid views.