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welcomes visitors to the historic heart of the community while the Saddle Creek Garden Tour invites guests to amble through some spectacular plots in the upscale subdivision.

Homecoming is staged mostly on Main Street, where a pancake breakfast awakens revelers at the Armory – be sure to take time to wander through this special place to glean historic tidbits about Copper’s colorful past – and folks gather at Copper Fire Station No. 1 across the way for some frivolity. Games for the kids are promised and at 11 a.m., the “Locally World Famous” Parade brings young and old together. A barbecue lunch is offered and the event closes with a street dance later in the day at Copperopolis Town Square. Don’t forget the quilt displays and vendors, or that the Balladeers and Singin’ Steve Johnson are set to entertain during the first meal of the day. Sure it’s small-town fun; and you bet it’s a good time.

From 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, the Saddle Creek Garden Club presents its second annual Garden Tour. I met many of the green-thumbed club members when they were at work with students at Copperopolis Elementary School and I have to say

## Saddle Creek Garden Tour

**WHEN:** 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday

**WHERE:** Five Saddle Creek gardens

**TICKETS:** \$10 from Betty Saylor at 785-5651

that it’s heartening to see retired people supporting the next couple of generations. Club members have kind of adopted the school and have rolled up their sleeves many times to help beautify the campus. Their latest project involves dressing up a particularly steep slope between the school site and the place where buses collect and deposit youngsters. The club has an impressive design calculated for the space, but it needs some donations to get the irrigation system and plants into the ground.

But that’s the work part. Saturday provides some fun with the chance to visit five Saddle Creek gardens to see how those in the know have landscaped their homesteads. Club members provide wine, lemonade, cheese, crackers and cookies for sipping and nibbling as you wander through the spaces and a 50/50 drawing might provide someone

with a nice garden nest egg. Artworks by area creative sorts will be at the sites, too, available for viewing and purchase.

Tickets for the drawing are \$5 each or five for \$20 and tickets for the tour are just \$10 apiece. You may reserve tour tickets by calling Betty Saylor at 785-5651, or pick them up Saturday at the corner of Rock Ridge and Quail Meadow lanes.

I cannot express my support of the Saddle Creek Garden Club enough; I feel the membership’s decision to assist with sprucing up the local school is a fantastic thing and watching members work with students as they tended their classroom plots was special. Children once played in the mud as an expected part of playtime, now it’s rare that they know how plants become produce. Having a group of people anxious to educate and help to get some dirt under those



## Kites Over Calaveras

**WHEN:** 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday

**WHERE:** San Andreas Ballpark, off Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas

**COST:** Free

**MORE INFO:** 754-1027

young fingernails, I think, is a lofty, worthwhile endeavor.

Not to be forgotten, Sunday promises some high-flying fun as Kites Over Calaveras swoops into the San Andreas Ballpark from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. You can build your own kite on Saturday between 1 and 4 p.m. at the San Andreas Town Hall, where expert kite builders will be on hand to help you craft a masterpiece. Saturday’s workshop costs \$25 (call 754-1027 right now to reserve) and Sunday’s kite fest is free to attend.

The event features kite flying demonstrations throughout the day, a “Mystery Ballet,” a Mass Ascension (in tribute to the red, white and blue) and activities for the

children. Don’t miss the very popular Kite Demolition Derby; high-flying kites of prey duke it out in the air to the thrill of the crowd.

On Saturday, you’ll probably need your sunscreen and perhaps a bottle or two of water; for Sunday, add your kites and string to that list. Regardless of where you find yourself this weekend, make sure to bring your sense of wonder. I think it’s a wonder that our communities come together so well and for so many good reasons. You might find me snoozing in the shade – watching a kite soar overhead – reveling in the history in the making.

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

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## The buds are blooming in Columbia

Remember that old rhyme from your youth? If April showers bring May flowers, then what do May flowers bring? I guess the answer that has more to it than pilgrims. If Rosemary’s Roses has anything to say about it, May flowers just bring more flowers.

The flowers are blooming, the pollen is in the air and those of us with allergies are sneezing. But minor allergies have never kept me away from exploring gardens both large and small: San Francisco and New York botanical gardens, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Butchart Gardens, Filoli Gardens, the Los Angeles Arboretum, and now, Rosemary’s Roses.

The Columbia garden recently reopened and will remain so through Oct. 21. Visits require an appointment (except between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. through June 17 and Oct. 2 to Oct. 21). Call 536-9415 to make reservations. Children under 12 are free while adults may visit for a small \$5 fee. Visitors can bring lunches or snacks to enjoy in one of the garden’s sitting areas.

### Tuolumne Talk

Harmony Wheeler



Owner Rosemary Sawyer – a Master Rosarian – and her husband, Ron, moved the garden from Modesto in 1998 and began with about 320 roses. The couple decided to begin giving tours in 2005. The rose garden has grown since then; there are more than 1,300 plants.

The retired Sawyers manage their property, which includes California poppies, hybrid teas, floribundas, old garden roses, polyanthas, grandifloras, miniatures and shrubs. Sawyer said some roses are interspersed in these beds to make them interesting. In the spring, blooms also include irises, dame’s rockets, love-in-the-mist and columbines. The calendulas and geums bloom most of the year. Roses are available

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Rosemary's Roses in Columbia is open for tours through June 17.

Courtesy photos



Rosemary Sawyer is at home amid her rose bushes.

## Rosemary's Roses

**WHEN:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through June 17, then by appointment

**WHERE:** 12600 Yankee Hill Road, Columbia

**COST:** \$5 for adults and free for ages 12 and under

**MORE INFO:** 536-9415 or [rosemarysroses.com](http://rosemarysroses.com)

Garden in Oregon and Filoli Gardens in Woodside.

"Of course, (it's) not on such a large scale, but they sense a spirit here," Sawyer said. "There is a definite peacefulness in the garden, one that lifts a person's soul by just strolling along the paths. We love talking to everyone who comes out

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for purchase and photographers are welcome. "Our garden covers over an acre of roses, which can be viewed from meandering paths," Sawyer said. "The paths meander throughout the garden, which is slightly hilly, but people can stop and rest at the gazebo and gaze over a great many roses, or rest under the shade of the big oak at the bottom of the garden."

Sawyer said visitors have compared Rosemary's Roses to the Portland Rose

to see our roses, it really enriches our lives and people are very appreciative."

Sawyer said she considers the garden a labor of love that she shares with her husband.

"We love to share the beauty of the roses in the garden," she said. "After all, why grow so many to keep them to ourselves?"

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

## Take a bumpy ride to terrific views

Although the Eastern Sierra is absolutely stunning during the winter months, with the price of gas these days, traveling over Carson Pass to Highway 395 can seem to produce a huge dent in a weekend adventurer's budget. But now that all of the high-elevation passes are open for the season, Eastern Sierra trips become a much more reasonable endeavor. Visiting places like Bridgeport, the East Fork of the Carson River or even wandering south to Mammoth and Bishop can be perfect summertime getaways. And that's not to mention the fantastic sights at the crests of the passes!

If you're fond of Calaveras County, then there's no doubt you've made your way over the impressive switchbacks on Highway 4 and been down to the East Fork of the Carson River. Although river access can be found at



Light on the path

Dean Fleming

a junction just below the eastern foot of Ebbetts Pass, some of the best sights in this area are found off of Wolf Creek Road, a dirt road that leads south from Highway 4 toward the High Trail and Carson River trailheads. There are some of the Sierra's most pristine meadows alongside a plethora of very nice informal campsites in this area. Be careful while visiting this eastern hot spot, as many of the dirt forks off the main road can only be passed with high-clearance vehicles.

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