



File photo

Costumes highlight some of the heats as Stompers and Swabbers work their magic in Murphys.

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perform live music. Yes, there's a lot to see and do.

The day winds down with a social and dance at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post at 7 p.m. Whew!

The parade steps off at 11 a.m. Make sure you have a good seat and enjoy the show as lawn chairs dance about, marching bands are rumored to be making their way down the route (hello, Calaveras High!) and Randy Carlin, owner of Sandy Gulch Sign Co., surely has another

humdinger of a float ready to roll down the street. Sutter Creek's Bill Byrd – who has exceed the parade for at least 30 years, Loreen says – is back again. I can't wait.

In Murphys, the Gold Rush Street Faire welcomes shoppers to peruse a street filled with foods and drinks, crafts and artworks all day long. It's open as the revelers are cheering over in the park. If

stomp teams can still enter, step up to the table at the park and sign up early in the day; the list was nearly full last I heard.

Tasting Calaveras County's best wines is a pleasant way to kill time between heats and something tasty to eat is never very far away.

Take your vitamins, drink lots of water and enjoy these fun family events. Everyone will have a great time and you can rest on Sunday!

Contact Mike Taylor at mtaylor@sierralodestar.com.

Oktoberfest means we come together, too

I first tasted the joys of special events in the area two or three years ago. I had come home to work on a school project and I ended up using the Twain Harte Oktoberfest as the subject of a photo and video project, which I still watch every so often on my YouTube channel; you've got to appreciate the memories. OK, so I didn't take advantage of the event's well-known beer and wine tastings; I've never been much of a drinker. But given the nature of my assignment, and the many other delights the

Tuolumne Talk

Harmony Wheeler



annual celebration has to offer, I made sure to take in the colors, sights and sounds.

And after writing this column for almost a full year now, I realize how often those colors embrace the Mother Lode. As Kathleen Harrington, an organizer for the Tuolumne Museum's Oktoberfest, said, "There are so many things going on in this small community. Whenever someone says, 'I couldn't live there because it's so boring,' I think there's more to do than you can do."

Those words ring true as two different



Harmony Wheeler

Grab a brew and revel in the season on Saturday in Twain harte.

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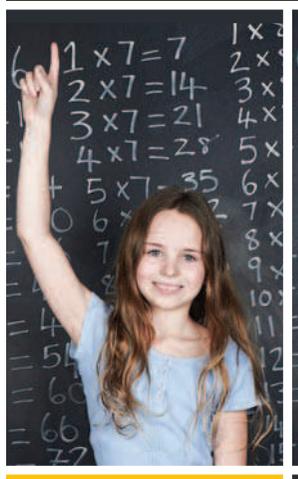




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Oktoberfests take place over the next two weekends. Twain Harte has its eighth annual Oktoberfest from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at Eproson Park. On Saturday, Oct. 13, Tuolumne City Memorial Museum hosts its third Oktoberfest at Veterans Memorial Hall in Tuolumne from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., coinciding with the day's soap-box derby activities. Both events are largely concerned with bringing business and attention to their town's histories and economies.

"It brings people into town," Harrington said. "This year we have a wide selection of (vendors) coming. Some have booths and want to provide information for the community. Another woman is selling her knitting. Some of it is like a yard sale. Last year we had artists who brought artwork and painted while we were open. There are all kinds of vendors that offer something different."

The museum will sell beer and bratwurst as a fundraiser, but the event is free to attend.

"It's a chance for the museum to do things out in the community, to remind people that the museum is there, that it's their museum," Harrington said. "There are a lot of artifacts and history of the town that would be lost if someone didn't gather them. It's just a really fun little museum that serves the community as a repository for their history and things precious to the town."

According to Rebecca Halzorsen, the community also plays a motivating factor in Twain Harte's Oktoberfest. Halzorsen has helped organize the event for seven years now, and said the majority of the proceeds from the wine, beer and

Twain Harte Oktoberfest

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

WHERE: Eproson Park, 22919 Meadow Drive, Twain Harte

COST: Free to attend; tasting is \$25 or \$15

MORE INFO: twain-hartecc.com or 586-1104

food tastings go toward the scholarships the Twain Harte Area Chamber of Commerce gives out each year.

"The scholarships we're offering are not for A students," Halzorsen said. "They're for students that will go to college, learn business and come back and open a business or teach in Tuolumne County. We're trying to generate interest for the younger families to come back, the younger population to stimulate Tuolumne County."

The Oktoberfest brings many new and familiar friends and families to the quaint town. About 200 people from the event end up shopping at area businesses or dining at area restaurants because of the festivities, according to Halzorsen. Of course, the Oktoberfest itself offers plenty to eat and drink. Aside from face painting, music, crafts and vendors and other activities, the fest offers beer tasting on Saturday and beer and wine tasting on Sunday. Food



Harmony Wheeler

Oktoberfest in Twain Harte means enjoying a beer and a brat at Eproson Park.

tasting from area restaurants and a beer booth for those who wish to skip on the tastings and drink it straight are also on tap. The tastings cost \$25 and \$15 and come with collectible mugs or wineglasses.

Last year, the Twain Harte Oktoberfest had 40 arts and crafts vendors and Halzorsen said about the same number are expected this year. New on Saturday, several microbrewers will give demonstrations on how to make your own beer.

"It's people from our county offering what they do," Halzorsen said. "The arts and crafts are wonderful, especially before the holidays. There's a car show men can come and enjoy. It's a weekend getaway having fun shopping, drinking, listening to music and just having a wonderful time."

"You never know what you're going to find," Harrington said of the museum's Oktoberfest. "One thing you will find is a big smile and delicious bratwurst."

Tuolumne City Museum Oktoberfest

WHEN: 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Oct. 13

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

COST: Free to attend

MORE INFO: 694-8564

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



Oakdale Roundup

Melinda Owen

This week we travel to our neighboring city, Riverbank, to preview the happenings of its 36th annual Riverbank Cheese & Wine Exposition, which takes place on Oct. 13 and 14.

Though it wasn't referred to in this way when I grew up there, the city motto for many years has been "The City of Action." This slogan has definitely described the city every second weekend of October for many years as downtown Riverbank is transformed into a gigantic street fes-

Wine and cheese get the fall moving

tival, a cheese and wine tasting event that attracts thousands of people from all over the Central Valley and the Bay Area.

Now 36 years is a long time to keep an event going, especially one that is primarily facilitated by volunteers. And do you ever wonder how such an event would get started?

Well, I know a bit of the history of the event as I was in the area, but unfortunately, with history, a lot of it is unrecorded and goes away when people die or the memories of those originally involved become a bit fuzzy over the years.

Everything starts with an idea, and two of the things that most idea proponents usually want are money and attention. Such was the case of



Courtesy photo

Fall busts out all over Riverbank during the Cheese and Wine Expo Oct. 13 and 14.

the forward-thinking citizens of Riverbank when they proposed the cheese and wine festival.

The Riverbank Chamber of Commerce was looking for ways to *Continued on next page*

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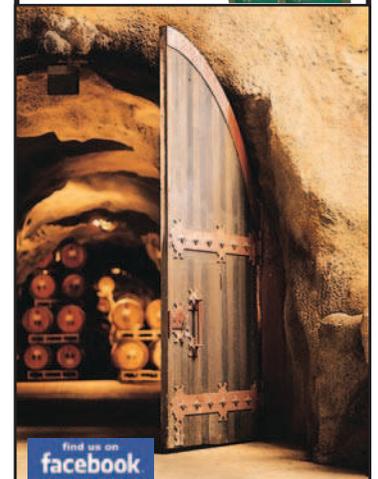
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