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better place to catch so much automotive beauty in one place in the Mother Lode, and while several of the cars at the show live better than I do – cushy covered trailers make for fine highway driving, I'm sure – the owners of these luxurious wheels aren't snobby or snooty; they love sharing their cars with us.

I talked one year to a gentleman who had an original Jaguar from the 1950s, complete with his journal tracing trips taken in the beautiful red convertible. He thrilled at sharing his life's – and the car's – adventures over the highways and

byways of this country.

Look for a nitroglycerine-injected opening night dinner at the winery Friday (5 p.m., tickets are \$50 each at 728-1251) and all the wheels you can handle on Saturday. Admission is \$25 apiece at the gate, or visit ironstonefoundation.org for a discount coupon. Couples and families pay \$35 and children 14 and under get in free. The luncheon staged on the amphitheater concrete is a treat and you'll want to be there for the Parade of Winners at 3 p.m. Line the driveways with the rest of the revelers and see if your favorite Bugatti or MG was also on the judges' minds. (Oh, and the head judge from

Pebble Beach manages the adjudication here, too, so you're sure to find nothing but beauties rolling across the stage.)

I'll be there with a camera around my neck (it's one of my favorite events to photograph, too), spying fancy wheels, motorcycles and adorable camp trailers and trucks. I'll speak with the kids, gawk under several hoods and try to capture those freewheeling lines of steel in photos.

Maybe I can talk one of the car owners into letting me camp in their car's trailer ...

Reach Mike Taylor at mtaylor@sierralodestar.com.



File photo

The Parade of Winners is a highlight of the show that supports 4-H and Future Farmers of America students.



Tuolumne Talk

Harmony Wheeler

Apple bounty supports folks in need

Round. Red. Ripe. Refreshing. Delicious apples appeal to almost any a heart: the child who loves those sticky, candy or caramel apples; the adult who takes a bite of a fresh, hot apple pie before it has had the chance to cool off. Both would surely enjoy a trip to Apple Hill up north or, closer to home, Cover's Apple Ranch. On Saturday, however, the suitable fruit helps benefit a cause that deals with something not-so-appealing: mental illness.

Saturday marks the seventh-annu-

al Sierra Apple Festival, a fundraiser for the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Tuolumne County.

"Just come and have some fun," said festival chairman Robert Roberson. "It's a family-oriented event with lots of activities for kids."

Roberson, who has also previously served as a president of NAMI here in Tuolumne County, has two sons who deal with depression and bi-polar personalities. His perspective on family may differ slightly from what most people experience, but his passion for helping his sons and others with mental illness shows. Roberson became involved with NAMI years ago and has progressively become more involved with the Sierra Apple Festival over

the past five years.

"The issue is that mental health funding has been decreasing over the years," Roberson said.

NAMI helps fill in the gaps, providing various services that the government doesn't fully fund.

"We pay utilities, medication, help them live a more normal life, give them transportation to the grocery store, doctors, whatever else they need," Roberson said.

According to Roberson, funding is often only available to people on Medical. NAMI members hope to eventually provide more medical help for their clients. The organization tries to help encourage behavioral health.

"There's so much need for help," Roberson said. "Depression, mental illness just affects people so



horrendously. It totally takes over their lives."

He says Saturday's apple fest hopes to raise \$4,500. Anyone can attend the event for free; NAMI will raise money through silent auctions, cake walks and from selling food at the event. Attendees may purchase a Mexican food lunch for \$10 (\$5 for children). The festival is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Mother Lode Fairgrounds in Sonora.

Krinklies the Clown will be at the festival, as will various vendors selling items such as scarves, hand crafts and homemade kitchen items. Organizers will hold craft-making opportunities, games and various activities for children, including a paper airplane-making contest and face painting, and a special cakewalk is conducted just for kids.

Thanks to Cover's Apple Farm, apple pies, apple crisps, applesauce and other apple treats will be on sale, including those sticky caramel apples. Throughout the day, Martha Patterson and friends will provide easy-listening music.

"Tuolumne County has always been generous in the past,"

Sierra Apple Festival

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday

WHERE: Mother Lode Fairgrounds, 220 Southgate Drive (off Highway 49), Sonora

COST: Free to attend

MORE INFO: sierraapplefestival.com

Roberson said. "They've been good at supporting different causes around the area."

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

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