

Helping hands do their part this weekend

With so many nonprofits out making a difference, it's difficult to choose just one or two organizations to support, especially in this economy. Like many, I know how tempting and appealing it is to keep rather than give, to save up for comfort and safety rather than use what we have to bless others. Yet we don't have to look far to find people and organizations worth supporting. There's usually a fundraiser or two to choose from, no matter the time of year, and when they're not holding events to raise money, organizations are still looking for support.

At least three fundraisers will occur in the Sonora area this week. Seven Sisters Restaurant hosts the Have a Heart for the Arts fundraiser on Monday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., with tickets priced at \$50 each and artwork on display for a silent auction. Funds from the event go toward arts programs at Summerville High School and the Connections Academy. For more information, call 928-4228 ext. 230.

Sonora Cat Rescue holds its fundraiser, "Party at Pam's Place," on Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. and the Crystal Falls/Sonora Meadows Women's Fire Auxiliary holds a breakfast fundraiser at Applebee's in

Women's Fire Auxiliary Breakfast

WHEN: 8 to 10 a.m. Saturday

WHERE: Applebee's, 851 Sanguinetti Road, Sonora

COST: \$5

MORE INFO: fireaux2011@gmail.com

Sonora on Saturday from 8 to 10 a.m. "Our auxiliary has supplied many items for the volunteers throughout our long history: jackets, computer, lawn mowers, etc. to name a few," auxiliary President Marge Jones said of what the auxiliary has done for firefighters. "Our latest donation was an Infrared Imaging Camera, which will not only save lives of humans and animals, but can reduce

the amount of damage to a structure by locating the source of the fire."

About 15 auxiliary volunteers raised \$4,000 to purchase the camera, which Jones said stripped most of the organization's savings. Saturday's breakfast will help refill the treasury. Tickets are \$5 for pancakes, bacon, juice and coffee, available at the restaurant.

"During this horrendous fire season, donations are gladly accepted and can be sent to P.O. Box 725, Soulsbyville, CA 95372," Jones added. "The auxiliary was founded in 1972 by women who wanted to help their husbands who were volunteer firefighters. Our purpose is to supply any needed materials for our firemen that the county doesn't supply. We are paying the monthly telephone bill for Station 57. We also give them checks, about \$600 yearly, to buy whatever they need."

Jones said her concern over heightened fire danger in the community has motivated her to do her part to help prevent disasters.

"Each person can help in his or her own way, and this is my choice," she said.

Judith Rodan, president of Sonora Cat Rescue, shared a similar concern about the homeless cats of the area. Rodan said the rescue receives 30 to 40 calls each week about abandoned cats and animal control put down nearly 900 cats last year. Rodan attributes the problem to a need for owners to fix their cats and an increasing amount of litters being born each year. In addition, most people don't realize that cats aren't as independent and able to live on their own as they seem.

"The present-day cat simply does not possess the skills to 'survive' on their own," Rodan said. "Without help from a kind person, only one in

Tuolumne Talk

Harmony Wheeler



10 will survive and their existence will be pretty harsh compared to their rightful place as a domestic animal."

According to Rodan, Sonora Cat Rescue members do their best to stop the problem in humane ways, performing between 150 and 200 fixes a month. But the rescue still needs financial support to continue housing abandoned cats and providing care for pregnant cats and those whose owners can no longer take care of them.

The cat rescue holds its fundraiser at the home of Pam and Steve Jones just above Twain Harte at a property Rodan said was voted the most beautiful in Tuolumne County. June Diggle will give a flute concert, guests will be able to stroll the rose gardens and vineyards of the property, the latest football game will play on the television in the bar, Chef David Ingram will provide food, Serenity Spa will give free massages and other activities and competitions will make for an eventful afternoon. Tickets are \$25 each at sonoracatrescue.org or Mountain Books in Sonora. Call 559-2406 to learn more.

"It is going to be a really fun afternoon and you will be making a huge difference for homeless kittens," Rodan said.

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

Sonora Cat Rescue Fundraiser

WHEN: 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday

WHERE: Private residence in Confidence

TICKETS: \$25 at 559-2406 or sonoracatrescue.org



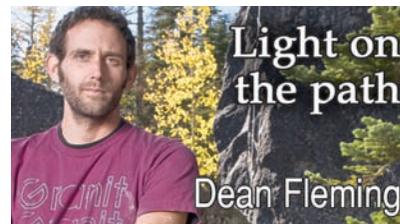
High-country lakes make for perfect basecamps

The Meiss Trailhead on Carson Pass up Highway 88 is one of the most versatile day hiking and short backpacking trails in California. Beginning on the Pacific Crest Trail and marching north toward the headwaters of the Upper Truckee River, this circuit is perfect for late summer overnight outings or somewhat strenuous day hikes. Although out-and-back-style hikes can be had by visiting various landmarks along the trail system, in order to reach the main attractions of this area – Round and Showers lakes – at least 10 miles of hiking become

the bare minimum. Showers Lake (10.2 miles out and back) is often regarded for hosting some of the best backpacking campsites between Highway 88 and U.S. Route 50. On the way to the lake, the trail passes through the Upper Truckee River drainage – a massive swath of tributaries that flow into Lake Tahoe. Along this scenic walk, wildflower-filled meadows and large volcanic formations accentuate the landscape. The trail starts out with a somewhat intimidating climb and then mellows out into pristine country and mild

meadows through easy terrain. Round Lake (10.4 miles out and back) is actually quite close to South Lake Tahoe. In fact, another (much easier) approach to Round Lake can be made from the Big Meadow Trailhead along the Tahoe Rim Trail. While the Tahoe Rim Trail option is quite popular, has relatively flat terrain and presents wonderful views, the approach from Highway 88, while longer, is well worth the extra distance.

Although many small lakes and tributaries feed Lake Tahoe from the



Upper Truckee River Basin, Round Lake is often considered the beginning of the Upper Truckee River. One of the most famous aspects of Round Lake is the fact that it contains a particularly special species of

Continued on next page

IRONSTONE
MURPHYS • CALIFORNIA
4th Generation Family Growers

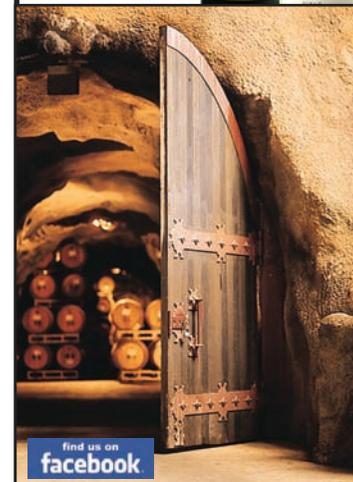
Jeff Foxworthy
September 8th • 7:30pm
Foxworthy Family Package \$45

Includes:
Two (2) General Admission Tickets (1 adult & 1 child 12 & under)
One (1) FREE Popcorn Voucher
One (1) FREE Novelty Ice Cream Voucher
...

Concours d' Elegance
September 22nd

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
Complimentary wine tours:
Mon. - Fri. at 1:30 pm
Sat. & Sun. at 11:30 am and 1:30 pm

September
Wine of the Month
Syrah



find us on **facebook**
1894 Six Mile Road • Murphys, CA
(209) 728-1251
www.ironstonevineyards.com