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Friday Memo for 2/17/2017

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Community Response to the Oroville Dam Evacuation

The recent crisis at the Oroville Dam, and the resulting evacuation order, forced 200,000 people to flee their homes with little advance warning. In the subsequent hours and days, many evacuees made their way to Nevada County, where they were met with warmth and compassion by the community. We are very proud of the way our community responded, and want to extend thanks to all who participated.

During the crisis, Nevada County OES operated three shelters to support evacuees and their animals. The Shelters included the Nevada County Fairgrounds, First Baptist Church and Calvary Bible Church. In total, these shelters housed 860 people, 50 dogs, 20 cats and 1 rabbit.

To feed the evacuees, the County provided 285 meals. The Salvation Army activated 100 local volunteers and served 3,290 meals, 5,070 refreshments and 3,450 snacks. Additionally, many individual community members donated food and meals on their own initiative.

We estimate that around 2,000 pounds of items were donated to assist evacuees. Many generous community members provided support and assistance, from clothes and blankets to games and crafts for kids. Additionally, the effective response was made possible by the support, donations and coordination of many local businesses, non-profits and government agencies. Our thanks go out to all individuals and organizations who participated, including those below and many more.

- Grass Valley Police Department
- Nevada County Fairgrounds
- Salvation Army
- First Baptist Church
- Calvary Bible Church
- Karing Closet
- Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Nevada County Consolidated Fire District
- Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office
- Pat Ehlers and the Animal Disaster Support Team
- California Highway Patrol
- California Office of Emergency Services

- Tahoe Forest Hospital
- Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital
- Tahoe Truckee Airport
- American Red Cross
- SaveMart
- Raley's
- Starbucks
- Lighthouse Pizza
- Panda Express
- Simply Country
- Apria Healthcare
- Western Sierra Medical Clinic
- The Nevada County Sheriff's Office
- Nevada County Health and Human Services Agency
- Nevada County Community Development Agency
- Nevada County Information and General Services Agency

It is heartening to see the pride this community took in responding to this crisis. From the beginning of the ordeal, instead of arguing over who's footing the bill, people were going online and showing up at shelters to find out how to help. Our community showed its true colors by embracing our neighbors in their time of need. Whether you helped run a shelter, prepared meals, donated items, or simply showed compassion to someone in need, thank you to all who helped respond to this crisis.

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County Crews Busy Repairing Damaged Roads

The recent series of storms that hit western Nevada County damaged numerous county roads. Road crews focused activities on portions of both Maybert Road in the town of Washington and Cooper Road in Nevada City, as both these roads were closed earlier this week due to impassable road conditions. In addition, a significant slide on the southbound side of Brunswick Road south of East Bennett / Greenhorn continued to drop over the weekend. The southbound lane is now approximately 18 inches lower than the northbound lane. Fortunately no movement was seen in the northbound lane, where road crews have established two-lane traffic controls on the northbound lane and shoulder. Road crews are currently working to stabilize the area and remove excess groundwater in anticipation of scheduling repairs when weather conditions are favorable.

Road crews have also responded to numerous other localized storm damage and emergencies, including locations on Willow Valley Road, Banner Mountain Trail, South Ponderosa Way, North Bloomfield Road, Grizzly Hill Road, and Purdon Road. Road crews also continue to be bombarded with local service requests. Over the past 30 days, staff has received 131 service requests relating to flooding and other storm damage. Road crews continue to monitor and respond to these and other concerns while prioritizing critical safety and accessibility issues.

For more information on this or other County road maintenance activity, please contact the County's Department of Public Works at (530) 265-1411 or visit our [Facebook page](#).

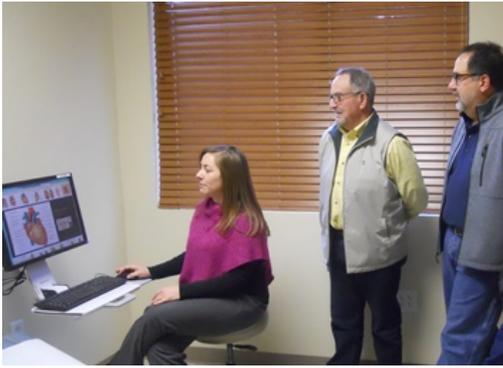
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Western Sierra Medical Clinic Opening in Penn Valley

Western Sierra Medical Clinic will open its first health center in Penn Valley on February 21, 2017, helping meet the increasing demand for health care in the foothill community.

The new health center, located in the center of the community at Penn Valley Drive and Spenceville Road, will offer medical and dental services. The health center will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Wednesday.

The health center will provide medical and dental services for the 1,500 Penn Valley-area residents who already receive care at Western Sierra's primary health center in Grass Valley, about 10 miles



away, and be available to serve about 10,000 area residents.

“We’re excited to fulfill our long-term plan to bring health care to Penn Valley,” said Western Sierra CEO Scott McFarland. “The health center allows us to provide many of the community’s health care needs closer to home, a critical issue since many of our patients in Penn Valley are seniors.”

“The health center is in the heart of the community, and we want to be the choice for Penn Valley residents who are looking for

quality care,” said Dr. Heather Lucas-Ross, Chief Medical Officer of Western Sierra. “The health center will open with medical and dental, but we are always assessing needs and exploring how to expand services in the future.”

Western Sierra emphasizes preventive care and educational programs that help empower patients to make better and more informed health decisions.

“We greatly appreciate the efforts of Nevada County Supervisor Hank Weston who has worked tirelessly to make sure the health center became a reality,” McFarland said.

Supervisor Weston believes the new health center will help meet the need for health care in the community. “Health care is vital to the well-being of the community,” said Supervisor Weston. “Many people, especially seniors, don’t have transportation and have a difficult time getting to their medical and dental appointments. We appreciate and welcome our new partners, Western Sierra Medical Clinic.”

You can learn more about [Western Sierra Medical Clinic on their website](#) and [on Facebook](#).

Pictured above from left to right: Chief Medical Officer Dr. Heather Lucas-Ross, Supervisor Hank Weston and Chamber of Commerce President Mike Mastrodonato.

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Interfaith Food Ministry’s 30th Anniversary of Feeding Families and Fueling Hope



This week on February 14, 2017, the Board of Supervisors honored the invaluable work of the Interfaith Food Ministry in Grass Valley by proclaiming 2017 as Interfaith Food Ministry’s 30th Anniversary; Feeding Families and Fueling Hope. The impetus for Interfaith Food Ministries (IFM) began with Mary Chan after a trip to Hong Kong, China and the Philippines in 1981. Mary returned home with the notion that “charity begins at home.” She went on to found Operation Blessings that collected food at local grocery stores, Lucky and Safeway, and distributed donated food out of a small house through the fiscal support of the Saint Patrick’s

Church and Calvary Bible Church. The operation eventually grew to feed 3,500 families annually and in 1987 resulted in the formation of the IFM, a nonprofit public benefit organization 501(C)(3), through the collaboration between fifteen community churches.

In 2013, the IFM purchased a new building on Henderson Street in Grass Valley through the hard work of their Executive Director Sue Van Son and Board President Bob Thurman. The breadth of work that the IFM accomplishes each year is a core service that many community members have come to rely upon. In 2016, IFM provided 92,534 bags of groceries to 7,621 clients including holiday meals to 476 families at Easter, 909 families at Thanksgiving and 726 families at Christmas. They also provide cooking classes, nutrition education, and information on public resources, such as CalFresh. Most recently IFM has collaborated with Nevada County Public Health Department to develop and implement a Nutrition Policy to assist in alleviating the chronic health issues created by food insecurity.

IFM has more than 450 volunteers, including Marian Jones who has been serving since 1987. Volunteers assist as drivers, distributors, interviewers, packers, supervisors, and receptionists that serve over 5,710 registered families. Seventeen IFM volunteers and workers attended the meeting including Marian Jones.

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State Water Board New Initiative- Lead Sampling for Schools

In an effort to further safeguard California's water quality, K-12 schools in California can now receive free testing for lead under a new initiative announced by the State Water Resources Control Board.

The State Water Resources Control Board is requiring all community water systems to test school drinking water upon request by school officials. The written request to the public water system has to be submitted by the superintendent or designee of a school, governing board or designee of a charter school, or administrator or designee of a private school. Under this new requirement, testing is voluntary for schools, but if the school makes a written request, the community water systems must collect the samples within three months and report the results back to the school within 10 business days after receiving the results from the laboratory, or two business days if a result exceeds 15 parts per billion.

This is one-time program and K-12 schools have until November 1, 2019, to request this testing. Protecting children from lead exposure is important for their development and health.

For more information on the lead sampling for schools program, see the [State Water Resources Control Boards lead sampling website](#). or contact the State Water Resources Control Board directly at (916) 449-5646 or by email at DDW-PLU@waterboards.ca.gov

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Human Right to Water (HR2W) - (AB) 685 Update

On September 12, 2012, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. signed Assembly Bill (AB) 685, making California the first state in the nation to legislatively recognize the human right to water.

Now in the Water Code as Section 106.3, the state statutorily recognizes that "every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes." The human right to water extends to all Californians, including disadvantaged individuals and groups and communities in rural and urban areas.

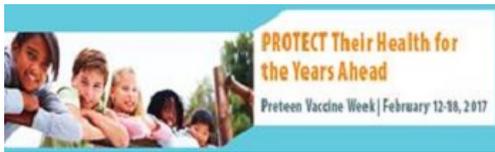
Subsequently, on February 16, 2016, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted a resolution identifying the human right to water as a top priority and core value of the State Water Board and Regional Water Quality Control Boards (collectively the Water Boards). The resolution stated the Water Boards will work "to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses, and to ensure proper water resource allocation and efficient use, for the benefit of present and future generations."

Once the State Water Board puts the finishing touches on the public data portal, this will allow the public to see which communities and non-associated schools do not have, or are at risk of not having, water that is safe, clean, affordable, and accessible.

For more information on (AB) 685 - HR2W [please go to the Water Issues website](#).

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Immunizations Encouraged During Preteen Vaccine Week



To help protect adolescents against dangerous diseases, Nevada County Public Health Department is joining with the California Department of Public Health in recognizing February 12 – 18 as Preteen Vaccine Week.

Vaccines offer safe and effective protection from infectious diseases. By staying up-to-date on the recommended vaccinations, people can protect themselves, their families, and their communities from serious, life-threatening illnesses.

Preteens need vaccines against whooping cough (Tdap), meningitis (MenACWY), and HPV when they are 11-12 years old. Incoming 7th graders must also provide proof of having received the whooping cough shot before starting school. A booster dose of MenACWY is recommended when teens are 16 years old. In addition, flu vaccine is recommended for everyone 6 months or older – not just preteens and teens.

If a child missed these vaccines at age 11 or 12, it's not too late. Parents are encouraged to talk with their child's doctor about getting caught up. To learn more about adolescent vaccines, please visit [CDC's Vaccines for Preteens and Teens website](#). You may also visit the [Shots For Schools website](#) to learn more about school immunization requirements.

Under the Affordable Care Act, all new health plans are required to cover the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommended vaccines at all ages without charging a deductible or copayment. If a child does not have such coverage, contact your health care provider or Nevada County Public Health Department for information about the Vaccines for Children Program (VFC), which provides no- or low-cost vaccines.

For more information regarding Nevada County Public Health Department's Immunization Program, parents can go to the [My Nevada County website](#) or call (530) 265-7265.

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Work Continues on Penn Valley Pipeline Project

With the break in weather this week, work has continued on the Penn Valley Pipeline Project primarily on Pleasant Valley Road between State Route 20 and Lake Wildwood Drive. The project involves the construction of two new, four-plus mile force mains and a new lift station to serve the Penn Valley area and will remedy constraints associated with lack of wastewater treatment capacity in the Penn Valley service area.

Through early summer, pipeline construction will be completed on Penn Valley Road and underneath State Route 20 and along Pleasant Valley Road to the Lake Wildwood Wastewater Treatment Plant. Paving will occur once temperatures allow meanwhile the contractor is monitoring the trenches and making repairs when needed.

For the duration of the project, there will be inconvenience to the travelling public in the form of traffic control in the area of the pipeline work. Although the inconvenience will be limited as much as possible, traffic will occasionally be restricted to one lane and, on other occasions, a lane shift will be in place to accommodate two lanes of traffic. This is dependent on the area of work and existing paved roadway width. The dedicated exit for the park-n-ride at the intersection with Highway 20 will be closed for approximately three months to facilitate construction of the force main below the highway.

The District asks for patience and understanding of the travelling public for the duration of the project. Should you have any questions or concerns about this project, please feel free to contact Sanitation District Staff at (530) 265-1411.

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Public Input Needed on Library Locations and Facilities

In order to plan for enhanced library services after the passage of Measure A, the Nevada County Community Library needs feedback from the public on a variety of subjects. The Library begun releasing a series of mini-surveys, each focused on a different aspect of the library. This second mini-survey will concern library locations and facilities. Links to the surveys will be found on the [Library website](#), the Union website, and Yubanet. Paper copies of the surveys will be available in Library branches.

Survey responses will be incorporated into a five-year strategic plan for the County library system, completion of which is targeted for May 2017.

For more information, please contact Laura Pappani, County Librarian, at (530) 265-7078.

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