News from the top....

Another newsletter, another trip for me. Mistakes were made. I had an opportunity to attend a week long training for my work in children's mental health in Norwalk, in Los Angeles County. Some colleagues thought I was odd to drive rather than fly, but I saw as a chance to have a peaceful day rather than dealing with flying and rental cars. So off I went in a county car down the I-5. The real story was what happened here in Whitmore, and across California. The power companies decided to shut down power in a significant portion of the state to manage fire weather dangers. My wife set up a generator, but I had not refilled our gas cans. She went and refilled them, and weathered the power outage. On Thursday, during the training, the 8 story building fire alarms went off, so myself and hundreds of people went down the stairs. I thought back to 9/11, and how scary this would be with smoke and fire. It took a long time to clear out the building. Then, early Friday morning, I checked the news, saw a wildfire breaking out. By the time I got to the Grapevine, the fire had shut down the freeways. 3 hours later, thru numerous detour routes in stop and go traffic, I escaped LA. By the time I got home, the power was restored.

The point of all this is be prepared, take action to keep yourself and others safe, and be familiar with escape routes, especially in unfamiliar territory. I had failed to be ready to reroute my trip until I was stuck in heavy, smoky traffic. I hadn't kept my home as ready for a power outage. I didn't know where the emergency stairs were in my hotel or training site. When I got home I ensured my generators were in good running condition, centralized all the gear needed, and topped off my fuel cans. This is a good time of year to check/clean your chimney flues, smoke detector batteries, carbon monoxide detectors batteries, fire extinguishers, and outdoor hoses. If you are looking for a way to be a bigger part of the Whitmore community, check into being a volunteer firefighter. It's a great way to help others.

Brian Abbott WVFC
530-604-9933
**Whitmore School news**

Dear Community Members,

Our student population has increase once again. We have two students in our Child Care Program and 22 students in K-8th. We are always looking for more students, so please let newcomers know about our, well actually, your, school. Ms. Gonzalez took her class to Wyntour Gardens for a tour of the nursery. They purchased some plants for their garden and have gotten them all planted. The students are looking forward to adding their lettuce to the salads that are served daily. Our new cook, Randy Johnson, is busy learning all the regulations necessary to run the National Lunch Program. He will be very busy reading and reading and then reading some more. It seems just when you think you have learned it all, some new regulations appear. Everyone is learning new songs and instruments and will be putting all this new found talent into practice, December 19th, the date of our Winter Festival Play and Music Revue. We hope that you will be able to join us for this hour of merriment. Mrs. German’s class is working on a short play…drama, comedy, that is a question you’ll have to attend to find out. We are attempting to revive our School Site Council. We are inviting members of the community to help make this an active part of our school. Of course, parents are included in this group, which is made up of at least one teacher, one staff member, parents and community members. If you would like to volunteer for this council, please call the school. Our old Bus #83 has gone south, and we have obtained a 9-passenger van-bus to replace it. School personnel with at least a “C” license will be able to drive this vehicle. You will see it going up and down the hill doing all sorts of chores. Now it is white, so you won’t miss it. Kristin Crotley has joined our school. Kristin will be working with Ms. Gonzalez and as a previous preschool aide, she has fit right in with our Child Care students and the kindergarteners. Please stop in and visit our school, we do have an open-door policy and we would like to share our programs with you.

Dr. Larry F. Robins
Superintendent

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**Whitmore Fire Safe Council update**

In 2018, California had one the deadliest and most destructive fire seasons ever with over 1.8 million acres burned. We are working now to better prepare our communities for wildfires and disasters. One focus has been to increase the access to safety information that gives our residents what they need to plan and prepare. Whitmore Fire Safe Council is working with Pacific Gas & Electric Company on this, and we hope it makes all of the difference in keeping everyone safe.

People are being asked to prepare a Five Minute Plan to evacuate their homes immediately and watch for Red Flag Warnings. Evacuation orders means you have to leave right away to avoid getting stuck. Preparing a Five Minute Plan gets your family ready to go quickly once you are ordered to leave.

There are steps that must be taken in order to be able to leave in 5 minutes.

- Mark evacuation routes on map
- Plan where to go if you can’t come home
- Put together an emergency supply kit
- Explain plan to children
- Practice leaving your home in 5 minutes

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**WVFC Firecracker update**

Join us on Saturday, December 7, 2019, at the Community Center to enjoy Christmas in Whitmore, formerly the Christmas Bazaar! We’ve made some changes this year and hope you enjoy them.

We are opening a little later, 10:00 a.m., and staying a little later too. We thought changing the time might make it easier to get the kids up and ready to have their picture taken with Santa and his elves. Santa and company will be arriving from the North Pole just before the doors open.

Enjoy a spin on the brand new Whitmore Express hayride, a perfect way to get into the holiday spirit. End your search for the ultimate tree at our Christmas Tree lot. We have the best prices around, and you don’t even have to cut it yourself.

There will be great vendors, making it a cinch to find the perfect gift. Satisfy your sweet tooth with tasty treats from the Sweet Shop Bake Sale and goodies from the popcone and cotton candy booth. Don’t forget to check out our raffle and silent auction items; there is always something special to bid on. No one will know if you keep it or give it away! The Whitmore Café will be open for hungry shoppers, selling Bob’s Famous Cinnamon Rolls (while they last!) and other delicious items. Be sure to come back on Sunday for the monthly breakfast. Those hard working Community Center volunteers will be right back at it the very next day!

Melissa at The Way Station will be hosting a spectacular Tree Lighting with hot chocolate, snacks, Christmas cards and lots of Christmas in Whitmore spirit. Let’s show those Whos in Whoville who’s who! No Grinch’s, please.

All proceeds from the craft faire benefit the Whitmore Volunteer Fire Co., Inc., our courageous first responders.

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**Important Times**

Christmas in Whitmore craft faire – 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Santa Pictures - 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (adults welcome) Pictures will be available for pick up same day

Hayrides – 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Whitmore Café – 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Tree Lighting – 5:30 p.m.

Have a very merry Christmas!

Sincerely,

Terri Morales
472-3133
WVF TRAILRIDE

GREAT DAY on the THE HORSIN’ AROUND IN Whitmore Trail Ride on October 6th. Over 40 riders spent the morning following a well-marked trail (THANK YOU ED AND LINDA MCCOSKEY) through the woods and behind the Whitmore Community Center. We had winners of raffles and 3 winners for prizes.

The youngest rider was:  KATIE BUMGARNER (7)
The oldest rider was:  MARY CHANDLER from Millville.
The furthest rider: URIEL HERRERA from Hamilton City, CA

The Whitmore Community Center turned out a great TRI TIP lunch.

The fire company made over $1400 on the event and with your generous outpouring of donations of goods and services for both the raffles and Silent Auction the event was a huge success. Thank you to all the volunteers that MADE IT HAPPEN in Whitmore and we can not forget our donors: Whitmore Community Center, Whitmore General Store, Aamigo Supply, Mary Chandler, Hawes Ranch and Supply, Bella Vista Feed, SNAP Thrift Store, Redding Irrigation, Tread Tech, Maria Burnham, Bobbi Haskell, Nicora Construction, Margie Voytek, Liberty V Ranch, Pat Mello, Shasta Farm and Equipment, Back in Balance, Blendz, Holiday Market, Millville Veterinary, and Palo Cedro Feed Boot Barn Tractor Supply NorCal pet services.
What’s Your Five-Minute Plan?

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There are steps that must be taken in order to be able to leave in five minutes.

- Mark evacuation routes on a map.
- Plan where to go if you can’t go back home.
- Put together an emergency supply kit.
- Explain the plan to children in your home.
- Practice leaving your home in just 5 minutes.

More Information @ www.WHITMOREFIRESAFE.org
Dear Vendor:
The Whitmore Volunteer Fire Company Firecrackers will be holding their annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, December 7, 2019, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. It will be held indoors at the Community Center on Whitmore Road.
Space is available for crafters and product vendors for the modest fee of $15 per table (tables provided by WCC). There is space for 35 tables, so get your reservation in early. Each vendor may reserve up to two tables.
You are welcome to set up your space between 2 and 6 p.m. on December 6 or the morning of the event. The Center will open for early set up at 6:30 a.m. All set up must be complete by the time the doors open at 8:00 a.m. Further details will be provided in your confirmation letter.
The Whitmore Cafe will be open through out the day. The Whitmore Volunteer Fire Company will have a separate bake sale offering delicious homemade holiday treats. Fresh-cut Christmas trees will also be available at extremely reasonable prices. All proceeds of table rentals, bake sale items and Christmas tree sales will benefit the Whitmore Volunteer Fire Company.
If you have any questions, feel free to call me at (530) 472-3133 or email terrifirecracker@gmail.com and mark the subject line VENDOR.
Sincerely,

Terri Morales
Vendor Coordinator
The Whitmore Fire Safe Council has been hard at work developing new ways to communicate and network with your friends and neighbors in Whitmore, as we all work towards the goal of making our community fire-safe. As part of our FIREWISE program, we have divided the Whitmore area of nearly 155 square miles into 9 individual neighborhoods, then set up a Facebook group page for each of the 9 FIREWISE neighborhoods. (This was part of the beginning stages of the phone tree program.) Please take a moment to review the list below and share it with your friends, family and neighbors here in Whitmore. If you are unsure which neighborhood group to join, or who your Resident Leader is, please contact us and we can provide you with that information.

**Main List of ALL Groups:**
[https://www.facebook.com/pg/WHITMORECAG/groups](https://www.facebook.com/pg/WHITMORECAG/groups)

**Individual Groups & Resident Leaders:**
- Whitmore Rd West - Art Tilles & David Roth
- South Cow Creek & Hufford - Joe & Deb Pulcini, Chris Withey
- Blue Mountain Rd - Vicki Sands
- Whitmore Rd East - Melissa Brehmer & Holly Ellis
- Fern Rd East - Margie Voytek, R.V. Scheide & Rick Novack
- Fern Rd North - Neal Sternberg & P.J. Tillman
- Fern Rd West - Neal Sternberg & P.J. Tillman
- Bateman & Tamarack - Ron & Patty Plumb
- Ponderosa Way - Ron & Patty Plumb

Find more info at: [www.WHITMOREFIRESAFE.org](http://www.WHITMOREFIRESAFE.org)
Would you like your business featured here? Contact Chris at 530.945.2130
Support our NEW Bi-Monthly Newsletter with a donation and get an ad in the next issue!

WVFC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Your donations are tax deductible to the extent of the law.