

THE MOUNTAIN VALLEY GAZETTE

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SUPERVISOR DEBBIE POOCHIGIAN TO VISIT SQUAW VALLEY

Supervisor Debbie Poochigian, who represents District 5 in Fresno County, will be in Squaw Valley on Thursday, May 12th.

Supervisor Poochigian is eager to meet local residents and listen to concerns and issues of importance to them and the mountain communities she serves. Mrs. Poochigian will be available for scheduled morning appointments. If interested in meeting with Supervisor Poochigian, please contact her office at (559) 600-5000 to obtain a scheduled appointment.

If unable to meet Supervisor Poochigian on Thursday, May 12th, future office hours will be scheduled and publicized. For additional information, please call Supervisor Poochigian's office at (559) 600-5000.



THE GENERAL GRANT TREE

The General Grant Tree is a living memorial to the men and women of the United States who have given their lives in service to their country. It was proclaimed a National Shrine on March 29, 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. The official dedication was made that year on Veterans Day, November 11, by the president's personal representative, Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz. Each year during the Christmas ceremony, park rangers place a large wreath at the base of the Grant Tree, remembering those who gave their lives.

It is fitting that a giant sequoia would be chosen as the only living national shrine. These trees (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) are wondrous in many respects. They are the largest living individual things on earth. Though not the tallest, nor the widest, nor the oldest, the trunks of these monarchs occupy more space than any other single organism.

Chemical elements in the wood, along with a very thick bark, make these trees resistant to the natural fires and diseases common to Sierran forests. Their wood is so impervious to decay that piles of sawdust remain in Grant Grove's Big Stump Basin where sequoias were cut for lumber over 100 years ago. This ability helps them to survive for centuries; the oldest known sequoia lived more than 3200 years. Since they continue to grow each year, they achieve impressive sizes. The General Grant Tree, third largest of the sequoias, is over 267' tall, 40' across its base and over 107' around. Estimates of its age range from 1500 to 2000 years old. Once it was thought to be 4000 years old due to its extreme width, but scientific studies have shown that its size is due to rapid growth in an ideal location.

Each year, in all seasons, visitors can return again and again to seek renewal of spirit and experience the wonder of the natural world in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.



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New Earth Fellowship (Seventh-Day Adventist)
(559) 336-0091
St. Rita's Indian Mission
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Sequoia Bible Fellowship
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Zion Mountain Christian Center
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Clubs & Organizations

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Bear Mountain Line Dancing - (559) 338-0475
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THE MOUNTAIN VALLEY GAZETTE

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Some of the...
**Best Things
 Ever Said**

- The trouble with the fast lane is that you get to the other end in an awful hurry
- The less things change, the more they remain the same.
- In San Francisco, Halloween is redundant.
- She got the gold mine, I got the shaft
- Illegal aliens have always been a problem in the United States, just ask any Indian.
- Few things are harder to put up with than a good example.

- Sometimes the art of living is more like wrestling than dancing.
- We must believe in luck. For how else can we explain the success of those we don't like.
- Even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there.
- There is something about a closet that makes a skeleton restless.
- Remember... A kick in the rear is a step forward.
- The income tax has made more liars out of more Americans than golf.
- The secret of staying young is to live honestly, eat slowly, and lie about your age.
- The trouble with eating Italian food is that five or six days later you are hungry again.



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Interesting Events in History

May 2

1863 - Confederate General Stonewall Jackson is accidentally shot by his own troops, and dies 8 days later

1939 - Lou Gehrig's streak of 2,130 consecutive games played came to an end after he took himself out of the lineup. He was diagnosed with ALS in July of that year.

May 4th

1970 - National Guardsmen kill 4 Kent State University students protesting the Vietnam War.

May 5th

1961 - Alan Shepard became the first American to travel into space.

May 6th

1939 - John Steinbeck wins the Pulitzer Prize for *The Grapes of Wrath*

1941 - Bob Hope performs his first show for US troops on a military base.

May 8th

1886 - The first Coca Cola was sold at Jacob's Pharmacy in Atlanta.

May 9th

1754 - Benjamin Franklin's *Pennsylvania Gazette* publishes America's first political cartoon.

May 10th

1869 - The Transcontinental Railroad is completed in Promontory Point Utah.

May 18th

1980 - Mount St. Helens erupted leaving 57 people dead or missing.

May 20th

1927 - Charles Lindbergh takes off on his historic transatlantic flight. He was only 25 years old.

May 23rd

1934 - Bonnie & Clyde are killed by police in Louisiana.

May 24th

1830 - The B&O Railroad, the first passenger railroad in the US begins service.

May 25th

1935 - Babe Ruth hits his last home run.

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Four Seasons Garden Club

prior to our sale. The large and varied selection was a big hit. We wish all the gardeners who bought plants success in their gardens!

The resounding success of the Garden Club's plant sale on 4/16 was a wonderful surprise. The event was heralded by the buzzing of string trimmers, growling of tractors and the shouts of joy at the arrival (at last) of spring. Members contributed carloads and truckloads of herbs, succulents, flowers, bushes and trees. Additionally, Mountain Valley Growers had donated a very large number of herbs, lavenders, sages, roses and drought-tolerant plants, tended and nourished along by Carley Metcalf for weeks

In fact, we wish all gardeners success, and if you would like to share your successes or get advice, information, support and/or friendship from garden club members, please join us at one of our monthly meetings at the Bear Mountain Library. Visitors are welcome. If you decide to join us, annual dues are \$10.00. Our May meeting will be held on the 19th at 5:00 p.m.

The Four Seasons Garden Tour will be held June 4th, 2011 between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. There are four lovely gardens on this year's tour. Local artists and crafts people will offer selections, plants will be available for purchase, and refreshments will be served along with inspiration! Tickets will be available from garden club members for a \$10.00 donation.

I'm sure many of you have visited the Garden Club Nature Trail behind the Bear Mountain Library and have seen the large concrete pad which has been put to use during community events. The garden club has been working and saving toward providing a covered structure over this pad. (An example of the proposed structure is shown in a photograph on page four of the garden tour brochure; be sure to check it out!) This will be a welcome asset to the community - a place for events, special occasions, maybe even a wedding. Although this has been a long-range plan, realization may be on the not-too-distant horizon.

Garden Tasks for May in the Central Valley:

- Apply mulch in preparation for the hot season.
- Prune spring-blooming plants as they finish blooming.
- Take cuttings for new plants from azaleas, carnations chrysanthemums, geraniums, and succulents.
- Fertilize roses and all flowering plants about to bloom.
- Plant summer bulbs such as callas, cannas, dahlias, gladiolus and lilies.
- Set out summer-flowering plants.
- Plant your vegetable garden!



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Tickets will be for sale at the Bear Mountain Library, Buttonwillow Nursery in Reedley, Belmont Nursery and by Four Seasons Garden Club members. For more information, call 338-0335.

The Four Seasons Garden Club's garden tour will be exhibiting four gardens in the Squaw Valley area. The featured gardens will be on display at the following homes: Boone's, Bushard's, Furr's and Leoncavallo's. Refreshments will be served at each location location #2 will have plant sale and the arts and crafts sale will be at several locations

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4/2/2011	VANDAL - VANDALISM	Partridge Ln
4/9/2011	CKWEL - CHECK WELFARE OF IND	LAVENDER LN
4/5/2011	MENTALLY UNSTABLE PE	ENNIS RD
4/7/2011	WARRANT ARREST	SUNDEW LANE
4/11/2011	WAR- Warrant Arrest	E Trimmer Springs Rd
4/12/2011	DOMVIO - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	Chuckwagon Rd Squaw Valley
4/17/2011	DISTURBANCE WITH DEA	BADGER LN
4/21/2011	WANTED FELON	BEAR MOUNTAIN RD&E KINGS CANYON RD
4/22/2011	RESCUE/MISSING PERSON	HWY 180



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We are a group of spinners/weavers/knitters, etc. Some of us raise our own fiber animals. Sandy Risley started the group in January of 2006 to fill a need for those that wanted the kinship of other fiber people or wanted to learn to spin or knit, etc. The group has steadily grown since then. Novice to professional, we come together to share and learn. The group meets at the Bear Mt. library four times a month. The first and second Thursday evenings from 6 to 9 PM and the last two Sundays of the month from 10 AM to 4 PM. Teas are provided and someone usually brings a snack. Sunday meetings are potluck. There is also music. If you want to meet some fun fiber folk, come join us.



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GAS STILL CLIMBING AS SUMMER APPROACHES

Even in the face of eroding demand for gasoline nationwide, all of the metro areas tracked by AAA Northern California have climbed past the \$4 per gallon mark for regular, unleaded. California now has the second highest state average gas price among all 50 states.

According to AAA, which tracks gas prices as a service to consumers, every Northern California metro area tracked by the organization saw an increase of at least 24 cents at the pump over the past month. The Golden State's average for a gallon of regular, unleaded gasoline is \$4.17, up 26 cents since last month's report on March 8. For perspective, that's \$1.06 higher than California's average price on this date last year.

Northern California gas prices are now averaging \$4.17, up 27 cents from last month. In the San Francisco Bay Area, motorists can expect to pay an average price of \$4.22, which is a 26-cent increase. The national average price of \$3.79 is up by 27 cents, which is 93 cents more than the national price on this date last year, when it was \$2.86.

"Investors continue to be the largest force driving the market price for oil. Instability in the Middle East and North Africa still has them concerned about the world's supply of crude, which has helped to keep oil prices on the rise," explained AAA Northern California spokesperson Matt Skryja. "Domestically, weakness in the U.S. dollar has also contributed to rising crude prices. When the dollar weakens, investors, including those holding foreign currencies, are more likely to invest in U.S. commodities, including crude, which pressures the prices upward."

For the second week in a row, demand for gasoline has dropped across the United States. However, this has not had a huge impact on prices at the pump, given the global nature of the crude oil market. With violence continuing in Libya, as well as concern about unrest in Syria and Yemen, crude oil prices saw sustained upward momentum throughout last week because of investors' concern over impacts to the world's supply. Investors are currently betting that oil prices will move higher. This was reflected by a huge jump recently in the amount of money going into crude oil futures. The current rate is about ten times the amount of speculative dollars that were in crude products on exchanges in 2003. This illustrates that speculation is currently one of the primary drivers of crude oil prices.

The least expensive average price in Northern California can be found in Marysville, where regular is \$4.09. Of all the metro areas in Northern California where gas prices are tracked by AAA, Eureka's average price of \$4.34 is the highest. It's also the highest price reported by AAA in the lower 48 states. The least expensive gasoline in the country is found in Casper, Wyoming, where for the second consecutive month the average price of gas is \$3.37. Wailuku, Hawaii, holds the dubious crown for the highest average price in the nation, at \$4.76 per gallon.

AAA Monthly Gas Price Averages: April 12, 2010



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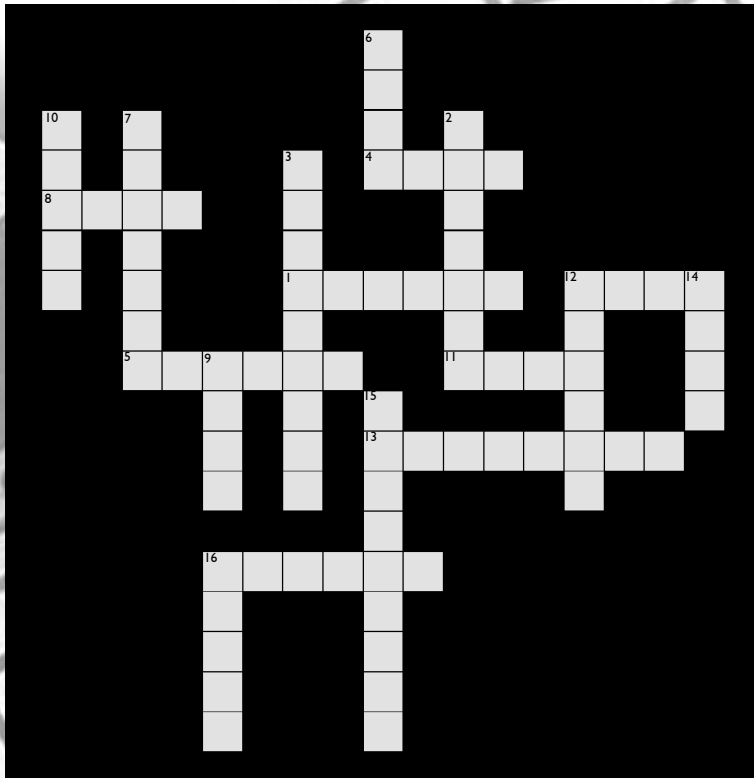
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May crossword

"major events of the 60's"



Answers on page 15, but NO peeking.

Across:

1. A person whose job it is to plant crops
4. Ice and snow _____
5. Open the _____ and let fresh air into the house
8. Water falling from the sky
11. Plant a _____ and wait for a flower to grow
13. Hold this to stay dry when it rains
12. Children go to the _____ and play
16. A place to plant flowers or plants

Down:

2. April showers bring May _____
3. A yellow flower that faces the sun
6. Temperature that is not too cold and not too hot
7. Colorful arc in the sky after the rain
9. Birds make a _____ to lay eggs
10. Spring starts during this month
12. Rain gathers in one spot on the ground and makes a _____
14. Fly a _____ on a windy day
15. A caterpillar turns into a _____
16. Grass grows and turns the color _____

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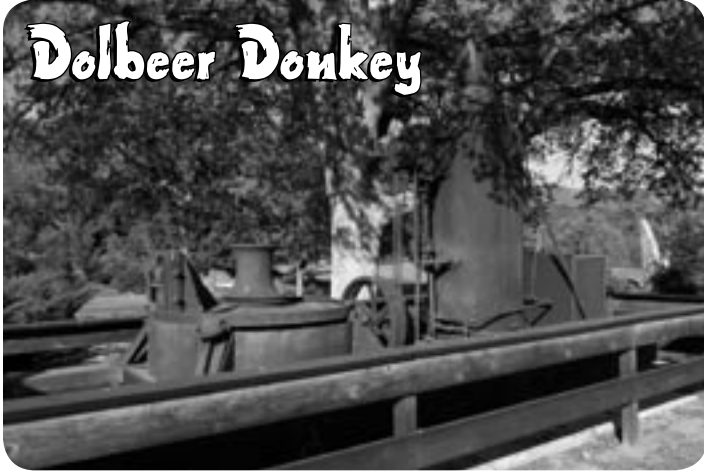
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Dolbeer Donkey



On display outside the Hume Lake Ranger District Office is a restored Dolbeer Donkey. Dolbeer Donkeys were used to skid (move) logs from where the trees were felled to the railroad cars. This donkey was used by the Hume-Bennett Lumber Co. around Hume Lake from the early 1900s until 1927 when it was abandoned on the job site.

Dolbeer Donkeys were the work horse of the logging industry until the diesel engine and trucks took over. No where else were the abilities of the Donkey tested more than when the loggers began cutting Giant Sequoias in the southern Sierra Nevada. In their Historical Overview of Railroad Logging Resources within the Hume Lake Ranger District, Brown and Elling explain,

“The logging of these trees [Giant Sequoias] had small beginnings, to be sure, but it finished with a devastating and destructive force that left a void within Converse Basin which may still be seen and felt today. Because no other attempts were made in the Sierra Nevada to log the Sierra redwood on a scale comparable to the operations in this district, the history and remains of the industry within the Hume Lake Ranger District represent a unique chapter in the development of the timber industry in California, as well as within the nation as a whole (Brown and Elling 1981:140).”

The display is located at the office for the Hume Lake Ranger District, Giant Sequoia National Monument, Sequoia National Forest. The office has visitor information and small gift shop.

Hours Open: Display 24hrs; Office 8:00am to 4:30pm Monday through Friday

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