

The BEAR FACTS

A Publication of Mountain C.A.R.E. (<https://www.mtnicare.net>)

Winter 2024 Volume 18 Issue 4



Top of Pine

Happy Halloween/Fall! Enjoy these photos from Forest Falls and Mountain Home Village!

Stop by and borrow a free book to read during the upcoming seasonally frigid days from the Clock Library. Or pick up a free warm and cozy jacket from the Forest Falls Welcome Center.



Valley of the Falls



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Check out current community news at: www.mtnicare.net

Our Community Calendars Are Available!

We are thrilled to share a special fundraising project to support the Gail Cox Community Center—a 2025 calendar that captures the spirit and beauty of our beloved communities! This calendar represents the heart of our beautiful surroundings—our STUNNING sceneries, local stories, and the community members who make this labor of love possible. The proceeds raised from your purchases will directly benefit our community center and help support the events and services the center offers. Together we can continue to build a strong and connected community, one page at a time.

Available at the Elkhorn Store, Gillmore Real Estate or from Dee Konczal for \$20. They will make gorgeous Christmas gifts.



Do You Know Where Your STAR Site Is?

by Debi Welch, FFFSTA#99 Aux. Chairman

What does STAR stand for, you ask? Short Term Area of Refuge (STAR). STAR sites are designated in the Forest Falls Community for emergency use during a natural disaster such as fire or flood. It's important to have a plan in place in the event of a natural disaster, and the STAR sites are designed to assist you in such an event.

Please come to Forest Falls Fire Station #99 on Saturday December 14, 2024, at 10:00 am. At this meeting, attendees will receive maps that show the location of the STAR in relationship to your property, their purpose, and how they were implemented. There are 9 sites within our community.

If you cannot make it to this meeting, don't worry. The STAR maps can be found online at www.mtnicare.net. While this may be old news, it's always good to have a refresher course, **and if you're a new owner or renter in town, please come to this brief but important meeting!**

See you there!



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Bear Facts: Both current & prior issues are online with color pictures and live links at: <http://www.mtnicare.net>

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**Mountain C.A.R.E.
President's Message**

by Debi Welch

Hello, Friends and Neighbors!

As we move into the holiday season, I find myself asking where the year went. Wasn't it holiday time just yesterday?

Looking back, I am thankful that we made it through yet another year with two fires and a presidential election.

Now that the election is over, I'm hoping we can move past it and love our neighbor no matter their political affiliation. Republican, Democrat, Independent or whatever you choose to call yourself, we should be able to rise above the dissension, with respect for each other. It's the holiday season where we need each other.

Let your heart find forgiveness for that neighbor who voted differently than you. While I use Facebook, Instagram, and other social media platforms, sometimes they make it easy for a rift and anger to occur. Here on the mountain your neighbor is your first resource in a natural disaster. Let's all use this holiday season to overcome all the noise, be kind, and respect each other. **Hopping off my soap box!**

The month of December is a fabulous one with so much going on in the sky! **Santa is not the only thing to be looking up for!**

The Geminids are active from December 2-21. The Ursids are the final celestial activity of the year from December 16-26, peaking on the 21st and 22nd. It takes just a little time to bundle up and go outside to see the spectacular sites. Living in the mountains, we are so lucky, that we lack light pollution and have this opportunity to view the stars.

While you're out there, listen, hopefully you will hear one of the three Great Horned Owls that live in our Canyon. Throughout the summer, we heard them hooting to each other throughout our canyon. What a spectacular place we are so lucky to call home!

Here's wishing that you get to spend time with loved ones or if you prefer solitude, that you love the time you get to spend alone.

As always, keep your eyes on the webcams at mtncare.net. They are extremely helpful as winter weather approaches. If you are new to town and would like a hard copy of the Mountain C.A.R.E. Welcome Packet, swing by Gillmore Real Estate, and we will provide one.

Happy Holidays from our home to yours! Debi

Check out the town & road conditions on the

**Mountain C.A.R.E.
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Mountain Living: Editor's Message

by Marianne Bellettini

It's with great enjoyment that I say I have lived in the mountains of California for over 20 years. I never thought that buying a home in the mountains would bring me so much peace, comfort, and enjoyment.

Did you also know that living in the mountains and owning a home comes with work? Yes! At the very least we need to clean the dead and dying debris from the yard on a yearly basis. Once it is all clean, Mother Nature just loves to cover all the arduous work with a good breeze!

When you hear wood cutting, you know it's early fall. Everyone is getting ready for the frosty winter ahead. When you see smoke coming out of chimneys, you know it's fall and the beginning of winter when the weather is crisp!

Propane trucks begin their annual parade to the mountains to fill up tanks. Propane and wood comprise the two major sources of home heating with electricity a close third. Most do not rely on electricity for heating due to cost and frequent power outages in the mountains.

Our mountain communities have been on the better side of forest fires for the past 20+ years, but that could end at any time. So just like being prepared for the big one (earthquake), if you live in the mountains, prepare for the other big one (forest fire) to hit as well. Check out the STAR information in this Bear Facts Winter edition.

We must be prepared because losing everything in a fire can be devastating. I know firsthand how devastating and traumatic it is because my family lost everything in a home fire when I was 8 years old. We even lost the family dog.

If you love the mountains and own a home, you also own the property that comes with it! What you do inside of your home is your business. However, if you do not conduct abatement of weeds, flammable vegetation, and other combustible material on your property, you are putting your neighbors at risk for a fire.

Living in the mountains comes with its risks, and a well-maintained property is key to preventing widespread destruction from fires. So, if you hate yard work it may be best to buy a condominium or rent an apartment, where you do not have to take care of the property yourself.

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Worship Service 11:30 a.m.

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Taking a Walk on the Winter Side

by Deby Anderson

Have you gotten everything ready for winter—chimney cleaning, wood or pellets, propane, pine needle removal from the roof? It always seems like there is something to do to get ready for the winter months.

Hiking in the forest during winter months takes a little preparation, too. Just because it's cold doesn't mean you can't enjoy our canyon. As I've written about in the past, wearing Yak Trak's or similar shoes is extremely important. I have two distinct types depending on weather conditions. In addition, I wisely choose to layer my outer garments. A base layer is important. It has a specific use—to keep your body temperature warm without allowing sweat to make you cold. A couple of layers over the base allows you to be comfortable.

These are great reasons to give winter hiking a try: no crowds, no bugs, no wildfire smoke (and we sure have had enough of that), and the quiet calming serenity of the winter landscape. With just a dusting of snow, trails you've hiked a million times before can be transformed into a magical winter wonderland.

Suggestions to keep you safe and comfortable:

- Everything takes longer than you'd expect, so don't try to bite off too many miles.

- Always check the weather forecast and trail conditions (which may mean canceling).
- Learn how to layer properly.
- Stay hydrated & snack frequently. These both play a key factor in body temperature regulation. Winter hiking takes more effort than summer hiking, so you'll want to keep up on calories and stay ahead of the dehydration curve. Do you need to reread that? Yes, winter hiking burns more calories! Winter hiking can help burn off those extra calories from the holidays.

While instructions given here are about planning for that winter hike, let's not lose site of one of our main winter activities—**Faceplants!**



Keep watching for my usual challenges on Facebook.

In addition, let's get a snowman competition going. In other words, **incorporate fun into our sometimes never-ending shoveling!**



“Pursue some path, however narrow and crooked, in which you can walk with love and reverence.” --Thoreau

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Picture Stories: A Mountain Home Village Picture

by Marianne Bellettini



Have you ever taken a picture and then wondered if there was a story behind the subject? I did just that six months ago. I took a picture of this unique bench and then found out the story behind it. What you can't read are the inscriptions on the bench: "LOVE" is written at an angle on the left-

hand side of the backrest, as you look at the bench. "Fred B. Richardson" is written across the top of the backrest, and "1904-2013 STRENGTH" is stacked and written below the name. "WISDOM" is written at an angle on the right-hand side of the backrest.

This bench, with the loving inscriptions carved into the backrest, is a memorial to the late Fred B. Richardson or "Little Freddy," as his loving family referred to him. They used to call out, "Freddy Spaghetti, the meatballs are ready!" whenever they saw Fred.

Speaking with Fred's niece, I found out that a man known to the locals as "Concrete John" built the memorial bench for his departed friend. The story behind Fred's untimely demise is a sad one. You may remember a 2013 bus accident on Highway 38 (near to Bryant St.) that killed 9 bus goers and the driver of a pickup truck that the out-of-control bus hit head-on. Well, the driver of the pickup was Fred, who died because of his injuries.

Fred a kindhearted, caring man who found immense joy in his kids and grandchildren. He raised his family in the Village. Shaped by becoming an Eagle Scout as a teenager, he valued his community and service to others. After high school, he did his duty to country and joined the army. In his later years Fred was heavily involved in his church, taking on leadership roles.

He loved to fish at his secret fishing spots; for him, there was nothing better than coming home to the mountains and going fishing.

As you read this story about the picture, I hope this gives you an understanding of how Fred loved and was loved. This bench built in his honor by a friend is for anyone to use. If you are incredibly quiet, you may see him sitting beside you, dreaming of going fishing!

Fallsvale School Events The Grizzly Report

The Fallsvale Booster Club is pleased to host **Breakfast with Santa**. 8:00 am on December 7 at the Oaks Restaurant. **Santa, Mrs. Claus, and his elf will be**



there! The Oaks will have a special menu to order from, and 15% of the proceeds will benefit the school.

On December 17th Fallsvale will be hosting our annual

Holiday store for the students to do their shopping for family and friends. We are requesting donations from the community for this event. We would love gift items for women, men, and siblings such as (but not limited to) picture frames, bath bombs, soaps, socks of any kind, jewelry (new or slightly used), tools, flashlights, robes, and ties. **Please drop off any donations at the Fallsvale School Office.**

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Halloween on the Mountain, 2024

By Gillmore Real Estate

It was a fun and spooky October in Forest Falls. We always enjoy seeing all the Canyon kids and their parents downtown dressed up in so many different and creative costumes. So many of them were themed this year! The creativity thrills and inspires me!



This year we had a great turn out of both Trick or treaters and Folks giving out candy. Every year we host the trick or treaters in downtown and provide the trick or treat trail map while sipping on hot apple cider and enjoying the costumes. Including a T-Rex photo op which provided much joy for many!

Did you know Forest Falls has a haunted house? Every year Dennis and Lynda Green spend days and lots of time and energy setting up the haunted house and graveyard to thrill all are welcome to walkthrough at no cost. When my kids were little, this was a must do! The Prospect Canyon loop is worth the drive down, unlike in the old days when I was a kid and we did it on foot, right about Torrey pines we'd wonder why the heck did we think this was a good idea... talk about spooky!

Are you tired of only one or two trick or treaters? If so, then please plan next year to come downtown and sit with us on Halloween night. Set up always begins at 5pm and all our welcome. Many folks told us they had no idea they could do this, so we want to invite you know to please mark your calendar! Bring a chair, blanket and a bowl and come sip cider and have fun with your neighbors!

Fire, Wind and the beginning of Fall?

By: Marianne Bellettini

The line fire started Thursday, 9/5/2024 behind homes in the East Highland Foothills. Falls, Ca. no. On Sunday 9/8/024, evacuation warnings changed to orders for MHV, FF, AO, and RS. The fire had jumped a ravine and was headed towards a lookout tower located on Mortan Peak. The towns of Mountain Home Village and Forest Falls were put under the Order for evacuation on late Sunday. Having evacuated 3 fires prior since moving to Forest Falls in 2000, we decided to stay but packed up to leave in a hurry if needed. As of September 14th morning, all orders still in place per the INCIWEB update viewed. It is hard to be away from home and hard to be at home during an evacuation event.

We check the webcams in our area, SoCal Mountains, Redlands Buzz Live, INCI web, Daily Fire Briefings, any other site to identify the fire and any new fire updates:

Thoughts from the fire:

1. Will work be done to improve the already implemented fire lines? It would be great to receive updates from our local fire agencies on how the mitigation is

going/performed to keep the mountain communities safe. **From the photo to the left, widening and implementing of a current fire line has been completed you can observe it on the 38 as you drive up on the left-hand side of Mountain Home Village.**

2. Clearance around homes does it really matter? I heard about the Bridge fire and how clearance around homes made a difference in the communities affected where homes burned. **Would it not be better to fine those living in the mountain communities for non-compliance of home abatement?**

Angelus Oaks residents are very resilient they went through two evacuations for the Line Fire. The fire did not want to lay down peacefully the end of September. It got a little closer to Angelus Oaks, but our fearless firefighters kept it at bay. For now, the Line fire has been put to bed and is behind us all.

However, the wind events and the PSPS (Public Safety Power Shutoff) on October 18 through the 19th was quite the surprise.

I would be untruthful, by not mentioning how lovely the quiet was with neighbors away!

If you would like to see this issue's photos in color, visit www.mtncare.net



Gail D. Cox
Community Center
Big Falls Lodge
41303 Valley of the Falls Drive
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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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DECEMBER 7th, 2024

5:00-7:30pm

Big Falls Lodge

Gail D. Cox Community Center

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To all the children living in the mountain communities, this is Mrs. Claus! I would be delighted to spend some time with you decorating cookies and writing letters to Santa. Santa will be busy spreading Christmas cheer on the fire truck with Station 99. I have been told he will make a quick stop to collect all the letters. We might even be able to sneak in a cookie or 2.

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A Freeway's Concrete Certainty

by Juan Delgado

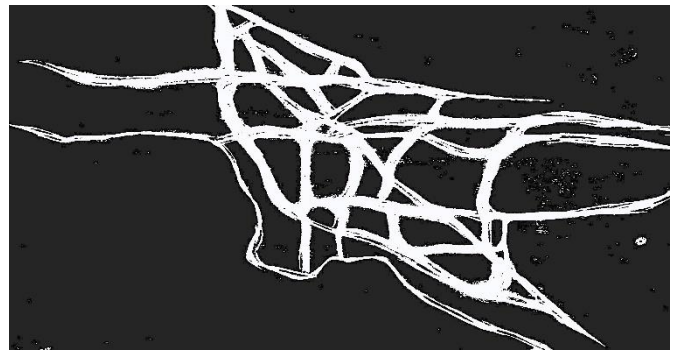
I surge with the flashes of metal and glass,
with the durable rubber squeaking below.
Overtaking slower cars, I create a safety buffer
gliding by and sunbathing half of me.

Inwardly, am I unlike others? Yet,
are we interchangeable in motion?

At the busiest interchange leading home,
a bridge's shade cuts off my vista.
Unabashed horns, squinting windshields,
the shadows of cars hitching and unhitching,
we focus on the space between bumpers.

Someone can hit the brakes at any time.

The limbs of brutal collisions are the skid marks
that crisscross and reveal their road's end.
Whatever has us emerging also has us exiting.
We are a spirited flesh at a commercial scale.

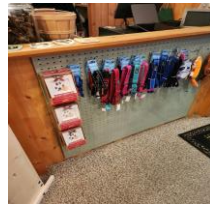


Note: The poem is part of a larger poem and artwork that will be displayed at The LMF Gallery and Darkroom, located at 55 Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, CA. Our art show, *A Freeway's Concrete Certainty*, will open on December 14. For more info go to: <https://thelmfla.org/>

Welcome, Fallsvale Gift Company

A new shop recently opened adjacent to the Elkhorn General Store. Check out all the fantastic items—you may want to get your Christmas shopping started! Get 10% off items when you bring in this article from the Bear Facts.

Hours: Thursday through Sunday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm



Seasons

by Paul Read, Lead Pastor, Valley of the Falls Community Church

Temperatures are dropping, the color of the leaves are changing, and you can smell the warming fires from fireplaces and wood burning stoves. All these changes indicate that Autumn has once again come to the Valley of the Falls Canyon. This time of year, always reminds me of the words of Solomon from the Book of Ecclesiastes Chapter three: "There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every matter under heaven..." As we look around in this season, we especially think about harvest, family and Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving is a time to gather together with family and friends, as the holiday name says, give thanks for the blessings we have received. Food, shelter, fellowship and love, all blessings that come from above. So, with the passing of another. This past Thanksgiving I pray you enjoyed your family time and reached out to those who are not with to fill your hearts with memories past and present.



If you would like to see this issue's photos in color, visit www.mtnicare.net

Remember Me



1941 — *Merry-Jo* — 2024

Merry Jo Norwood, née Merry Jo Priester, passed away on Saturday, July 6, 2024, at the home of her sister Rama Priester, after several months of Hospice care. She was born in Keithville LA, the daughter of May Chiles Priester of Vivian, LA.

Merry Jo was an avid reader and advocate of children and education, highly respected by her peers, friends, and students. She loved cats and made sure to neuter as many neighborhood strays as she could.

A graduate of Westminster College in Salt Lake City, Utah, with a bachelor's degree in education, Merry Jo met her future husband, Robert Norwood of Spur Texas, while attending college. After graduation, they moved to Southern California moving first to Redlands, where Merry Jo taught elementary school for 54 years until retiring in 2019. Robert passed in 1994, leaving Merry Jo a widow for the last thirty years of her life. They moved to Forest Falls soon after settling in Redlands, and Merry Jo continued living in Forest Falls until her retirement in 2019, when she moved back to Redlands to be closer to her sister.

Two events to remember and honor Mary Jo were held: A Graveside service on Monday July 15, 2024, at Mt. Gilead Cemetery in Vivian, Louisiana. Memorial service on August 9, 2024, at Emerson-Bartlett Memorial Chapel in Redlands.



Barbara Griffith was born in 1940 and left us this year in March.

Barbara dedicated herself to family life while actively participating in her community. She was a Team Mom, a foster parent, and even helped run a PTA. Her home became a vibrant hub for not just her kids but also their friends, fostering a sense of belonging and support. Barbara's nurturing spirit and commitment to education extended to her entire family, creating a rich environment where everyone felt encouraged to grow and pursue their dreams. Her love for education shone brightly throughout her career. Barbara worked as teacher and an academic counselor and later

as the Director of International Student Programs at Pasadena City College. She believed education could break down barriers and bring people together. She dedicated her life to helping others reach their dreams.



Barbara became deeply involved in the Forest Falls community and shared special friendships with many residents. To strengthen bonds within the town she loved, Barbara often attended events with her daughter, Bernie, and was a familiar face at gatherings, always encouraging others to engage and connect.

Even in her later years, Barbara continued to bloom and grow. She never stopped seeking out new experiences, whether it was taking classes with her daughter or attending cultural events. Her passion for learning remained strong, and she inspired many in the community to pursue their own educational journeys. Those who knew her during the last decades of her life saw her embody resilience and a zest for life, fostering a spirit of collaboration and encouragement among her peers.

The Barbara Griffith Lifelong Learner Award scholarship was created to honor her legacy and support adult students in our community. Funds help finance projects that foster community, promote a love for learning, and assist individuals in pursuing their educational goals. At Yucaipa Adult School, where the Barbara Griffith Life-Long Learner Award scholarship is given, adult learners are on a journey to earn their high school diploma. They are guided by the principles of dreams, resilience, and a lifetime of learning. The students, who come from nearby neighborhoods and as far as San Bernardino and Big Bear, bring their unique stories and aspirations, enriching the vibrant learning environment.

We invite you to join us for the Bloom and Grow: Barbara Griffith Lifelong Learner Award Luncheon at the Forest Falls Community Center in April 2025 (date and time TBA). This event will honor the incredible legacy of Barbara Griffith, a passionate educator, mother, and friend who truly embodied the themes of dreams, resilience, and community. You'll hear inspiring stories from adult high school diploma recipients, view their artwork, and help raise funds for the scholarship that keeps her spirit alive. It's a chance to come together, reflect, and support one another.

We honor Barbara Griffith and her dedication to our community, inspiring others to bloom and grow. Together, we will keep her memory alive by empowering future learners to pursue their dreams, grow through resilience, and bloom through our communities.

Community Events & Activities Calendar

Angelus Oaks – Forest Falls – Mountain Home Village, Winter 2024

Special Events

What	When	Where	Info
Fire Truck Christmas Parade	Thursday, December 7th 6:00 pm	The village of Forest Falls	Decorated local and guest Fire Trucks will be lit up and driving through town spreading joy and happiness.
Meet Mrs. Claus and Cookie Making	Thursday December 7th 5:00 pm-7:30 pm	Big Falls Lodge	Meet with Mrs. Claus. Decorate cookies and write letter to Santa, who will stop by to pick up the letters during the Christmas Parade.
Moving Through Grief Workshop	Thursday December 7th 9:00 am-11:00 am	Big Falls Lodge	Led by Heart and Goal at the Big Falls Lodge/VFCCI (\$35) register at: heartandgoal@gmail.com
Breakfast with Santa	December 8th 8:00 am	Oak Restaurant Angelus Oaks	All proceeds benefit Fallsvale Elementary School
STAR (Short Term Area of Refuge)	December 14th 10:00 am	Forest Falls Fires Fire Station (99)	Pick up your STAR Location Map and listen to valuable information regarding STAR.
Fallsvale School Christmas Store	December 17th During School hours	Fallsvale School	Donated items for students to purchase to give to their family member.

Regularly Scheduled Events

What	When	Where	Info
AO Fire Safe Council, Community Meeting	4th Thursday in February	Angelus Oaks Fire Station (98)	Meeting starts at 6 :00 pm
Angelus Oaks Fire Department	2nd & 4th Tuesdays each month	Angelus Oaks Fire Station (98)	Meeting starts at 6:00 pm
Forest Falls Fire Department	Tuesdays at 6:30 pm	Forest Falls Fire Station (99)	Contact 909-794-4413 for info
Karate Class	Tuesdays & Thursdays 6:45 - 7:15 pm	Big Falls Lodge	1st 45 minutes is for kids. 2nd 45 minutes for adults. Any questions, contact Jose Esparza
Angelus Oaks GCERT	3rd Thursday of each month	Angelus Oaks Fire Station (98)	Meeting starts at 6:00 pm
The Needlers Knitting Group	Tuesday Mornings	7th Day Adventist Church	9:30 am to 11:30 am. Contact Denis Reid at 909-794-5130.
Frozen Green Thumb Garden Club Meeting	3rd Monday of each month	Big Falls Lodge	11:30 am to 1:30 pm. All are welcome.
YOGA with Angela Andiorio	Mondays 4:30-5:30 pm	Fallsvale School	1 st Class FREE, then \$11.00 per class
Music Night and Morning Cup Social Events	Will return in April 2025	Big Falls Lodge	The February (Spring Edition) of the Bear Facts will post the date/times for these events.

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Winter Gardening by the Frozen Green Thumb Garden Club

by Jan Horton

Our mountain communities are entering into their winter rest. Mountain gardeners are an intrepid bunch! Despite snow, rain, floods, wind, and wild critters, they continue to plan their gardens in joyful anticipation of beautiful spring and summer blooms!

Before the winter snows come, FGTGC will plant bulbs at the Forest Falls Post office, make plans to upgrade irrigation and additional plantings at Pacific Pines in Angeles Oaks, and discuss plantings at the AO post office.

We would love to have residents from Mountain Home Village join us so we could truly represent the three mountain communities.

For more information, contact us via Facebook (Frozen Green Thumb Garden Club) or contact our VP of Membership, **Julie Saunders, via email at jmrn217@gmail.com**. Meetings are the 3rd Monday of each month. Please bring a sack lunch and enjoy conversation before our noon meeting.

I have been searching internet sites on how to prepare a garden for a cold, snowy winter. I found an extremely helpful article by Catherine Boeckmann, "How to Winterize and Protect Your Garden." It answered some of my questions, so I thought it may help other Bear Facts Readers who are looking for the same. This easily accessible article provides well-organized, clear, concise tips that cover topics that concern those of us in the mountain communities. The article is divided into 10 short sections, and embedded in each section are additional useful links that you can click on for more detailed info.

1. **Harvesting and Storing Vegetables** (includes info on tender, hardy, and semi-hardy vegetables)
2. **Preparing Herbs for Winter** (sage, rosemary, thyme, parsley, chives, basil, and oregano)
3. **Covering up the Garden Beds**
4. **Preparing Berry Patches for Winter**
5. **Preparing Perennials for Winter**
6. **Winterizing Roses**
7. **Preparing Trees and Shrubs for Winter**
8. **Turning off Watering System**
9. **Helping your Garden Helpers (Birds)**
10. **Doing General Garden Maintenance**

At the end of the article, the author provides another helpful link especially for beginning gardeners.

For the entire article, please go to <https://www.almanac.com/10-tips-preparing-your-garden-winter>



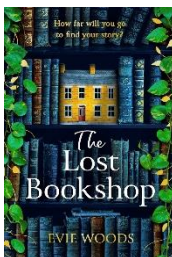
Considering Books

by Katherine Bird

Hello from Indiana, my fellow Forest Falls, Angelus Oaks, and Mountain Home Book Lovers! We are getting ready for winter and snow, as are you. So, it's time to think about books for cozying up with near a fireplace! This one is an incredible read.

The Lost Book Shop by Evie Woods

How do you lose a bookshop? This book is truly an amazing read for anyone who loves magical realism, fantasy, and historical fiction: "In a place called lost, strange things are found."



The story, set in England, France and Dublin, begins with a prologue that shares the thoughts of a little boy looking in the window of Opaline's Bookshop, a magical place. He walks in and meets enchanting Opaline herself, who begins telling him the story of her bookshop. At the end of the prologue, he asks, "Is that story true?" and the story begins.

The narrative travels back and forth in time but keeps the reader in contact with the characters wherever they are, surprisingly reconnecting later.

Opaline is an unconventional woman for her time, running away from a brutal brother who is arranging a marriage for her to save the family. She is incredible and strong, even stronger than the asylum her brother finds for her in the 1920s. Martha is escaping from an abusive husband and ends up in a magical place in Dublin. Henry is looking for a previously unknown manuscript written by Emily Bronte.

Martha and Henry find the Upside-Down Staircase and the Lost Book Shop. How they trudge through this story at the end is surprising and magical! This book is a delight to read--I finished it in just one week!

You book lovers will find references to many favorites: Shakespeare, Emily Dickinson, the Book of Kells, and more! There must have been so much involved in the writing of this book, and you can feel that it's a labor of love. The books, the characters and how they challenge, inspire, and heal each other is the real magic in this story, but don't tell Madame I said that.

I forgot to tell you readers about Madame Bowden.... might she be a ghost? Get the book and escape for a while. You will not regret it!

Did You See It?

by Sharon Cady

To start with, despite trying to see more movies than most of the people we know, I have to say that Steve and I (as of this writing) have not seen ANY movies at the theaters that we would recommend to a general audience. Since we switched to Spectrum TV and the ability to stream, I am offering my suggestions for three series we have enjoyed, each of which centers on Native Americans in contemporary and historical settings.

The first is the series *Longmire* (2017; 6 seasons).

Based on the Walt Longmire mystery novels by Craig Johnson, this contemporary crime drama takes place in a small Wyoming town adjacent to a Cheyenne reservation.



We were enthralled by the multi-layered plotting that keeps episodes intertwined with plot and conflicts, even though each episode is self-sustaining with a central plot theme. You don't want to miss the great performances by Native American actors including Graham Greene, Lou Diamond Phillips, and Zahn McClarnon, all in unique, multidimensional roles.

The second series is *Dark Winds*

(2022; 2 seasons so far). Based on the Tony Hillerman mystery novels set in the 1970s, these stories focus on contemporary portrayals of Navajo life and culture while also having detective work, personal drama, and spiritual overtones. The excellent cast includes Jessica Matten, Zahn McClarnon, Kiowa Gordon, and A. Martinez.



The third series is *Frontier* (2016; 3 seasons).

This show was poorly rated and ended unresolved after three seasons. Nevertheless, its perspective of the rugged

independence of our emerging New Canadian/American histories, focusing on the various groups of fur traders competing with the British-sanctioned Hudson Bay Company, was fascinating if risqué and very violent. The series stars Jason Momoa, Jessica Matten, Zoe Boyle, and Landon Liboiron.

"We must find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives." —John F. Kennedy



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The regular schedule for the Bear Facts submissions and issue "in mailbox" dates are as follows:

	Submission Deadline	MtnCARE.com post Date	In the Mail Issue Date
Issue 1 Spring	Feb 1st	Feb 20th	Mar 1st
Issue 2 Summer	May 1st	May 20th	Jun 1st
Issue 3 Autumn	Aug 1st	Aug 20th	Sep 1st
Issue 4 Winter	Nov 1st	Nov 20th	Dec 1st

Please make sure any ad artwork, articles, calendar updates, and photos are sent to bfeditor2023@gmail.com on or before the submission deadline (all submissions digital and layout ready please). For questions call the editor, send an email to bfeditor2023@gmail.com



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Mountain C.A.R.E.
 Mountain C.A.R.E. is a non-profit community based organization located in Forest Falls California. We are a group of volunteers that came together in early 1990 to arrange an Earth Day activity. Our articles state that "We are to educate the general public about environmental concerns and the need to restore and preserve the environment for future generations".

Our vision is to:
 Encourage the community to recycle, reduce, and re-use;
 enhance knowledge and love of the area;
 and show we care by keeping personal property and
 community areas clean and beautiful.

Your Subscription, Contribution, or Participation with Mountain C.A.R.E. helps to support the education and environmental work we do in the communities of Forest Falls, Angelus Oaks, and Mountain Home Village. It helps to create this Bear Facts newsletter which keeps our communities up to date on local events and important issues. We are a non-profit organization working with volunteers. All donations are tax-deductible as permitted by law and gratefully appreciated. Your donations keep this publication and all Mountain C.A.R.E. activities going strong. Thank you for all your support!

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