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Supervisor, district attorney hold Town Hall

Residents of Clear Creek, Westwood and Pinetown took advantage of the opportunity to ask questions on a variety of governmental issues during a Town Hall meeting Thursday, April 11, sponsored by Mountain Meadows Community Watch.

Chris Gallagher, District 1 supervisor for Lassen County, and Susan Rios, Lassen County district attorney, were available to answer questions. Lassen County Sheriff's Deputies were also available including John Bohl, a captain with the Sheriff's Office.

The Town Hall also provided an opportunity for residents to learn more about Neighborhood Watch programs and how crimes are prosecuted.

Marty Growdon read questions presented by the audience and Larry Bradshaw assisted with moderation, both are members of the executive board for Mountain Meadows Community Watch.

The audience was told crimes need to be reported in a timely manner. According to Rios, the sooner the crimes are reported the easier it is to track down evidence and witnesses in order to prosecute. Bohl said reporting unusual or suspicious activity is important. For example, a car speeding down the road could be leaving the scene of a crime.

Responding to a comment

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Stash food, trash: California black bears are back in action

California's black bears are waking up hungry from their winter downtime.

To help minimize unwanted bear foraging behavior, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife is reminding those living in or visiting bear country to store food and dispose of garbage properly.

Black bears typically prefer remote mountainous areas. However, as more people frequent or live in natural bear habitat, the abundance of food and garbage associated with human activities is a temptation hungry bears find hard to resist.

"Over the years, we have seen bear behavior change significantly in areas where more people live and recreate in bear habitat," said Vicky Monroe, CDFW's Conflict Programs Coordinator. "Beginning with spring and into late fall, we receive a steady stream of calls from the public reporting anything from bears breaking into cabins and tents to bears stealing food off picnic tables."

Black bears, like other bear species, have a highly specialized sense of smell, which can sometimes lead them to towns and recreation areas where they may quickly find an

overflowing garbage can or someone's leftover hamburger and French fries.

The public can help bears stay out of human settlements and stick to their natural diet by properly disposing of leftover food and garbage. Additional suggestions include:

Residents and vacationers should remove any food attractants from around their home or rental.

Pet food, barbecue grills and bird feeders are also attractants. Store trash in bear-resistant storage sheds until trash pickup day.

Use sensory deterrents (such as ammonia), electric mats and bear-resistant fencing to exclude hungry and curious bears from gaining access to attractants.

Visitors to towns and tourist areas should not pile trash in a trash can or bin that is already overflowing - take trash to a proper receptacle or another location if necessary.

Keep campsites and other recreation areas clean. Use bear-resistant coolers and store all food in bear lockers.

Never feed wildlife.

Clear Creek to restore siren tower for emergency warning system



The siren at the Clear Creek Fire Station may soon alert residents in the event of an emergency. Photo by Cathy Hunter

Susan Cort Johnson
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The Clear Creek Firefighter's Association has plans to put the siren at the fire station to good use. It will alert residents of the need for an emergency evacuation.

Many mountain communities see the value for such an early warning system following the Camp Fire in Paradise last fall when residents had little time to escape the flames.

To complete the project, the Clear Creek Firefighter's Association is raising funds to reconstruct the wooden structure for the siren, address any electrical issues for the operation of the siren and test it to determine if repairs are needed. A bid from a licensed contractor to rebuild the tower was \$8,500, but does not account for any unknown costs. Therefore members of the Firefighter's Association have set a fundraising goal of \$12,000. To date, \$1,422.00 has been raised for the project.

The biggest fundraising effort will take place this summer during the Clear Creek Craft Fair July 13-14. That weekend the Clear Creek Firefighter's Association will operate the food booth selling a variety of items, such as hamburgers and hot dogs. They are looking for volunteers to help with the booth. Both Saturday and Sunday morning members of the association will serve a pancake breakfast beginning at 7 a.m. Tickets for the breakfast will be available to purchase in advance. Also tickets for a

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Westwood Unified to purchase Peaceful Playgrounds resources

By Susan Cort Johnson
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Westwood Unified School District will be working on the playground at Fletcher Walker Elementary over the summer with resources from Peaceful Playgrounds Inc.

The asphalt will be redone and stenciled play areas added, such as a map of the United States and four squares, for a greater variety of organized activities. Also the entire staff will be educated on the Peaceful Playgrounds curriculum with a one-hour live webinar on April 24 and three-hour training on August 19. Staff will learn how to successfully monitor the playground and resolve conflicts between students.

The goal is to have a playground that allows students to play and be active and reduce the number of conflicts and collisions, according to Courtney Russell, the chief business official for the school district. This type of playground design and monitoring has also been known to reduce bullying as well.

The Peaceful Playgrounds stencils and curriculum are being purchased with a portion of the \$166,000 in Comprehensive Support and Improvement funds the district received under the Every Student Succeeds Act. About \$10,000 will be spent on Peaceful Playgrounds.

Peaceful Playgrounds consists of five main components that make up its creed. This creed stands for the following:

Conflict resolution, which provides a strategy for students to problem solve and resolve their own disputes rather than taking them to the playground supervisor. This makes for a safer playground because the supervisor is not distracted.

Rules help maintain an orderly playground environment. The Peaceful Playgrounds program emphasizes two types of rules, those for safe play and those that pertain to how a game is played. Consistent rules reduce conflicts and also establish the criteria for ending the game so other children can play.

Expectations are that the Peaceful Playgrounds program will be understood and followed school-wide with all staff members trained.

Equipment for the playground is adequate for the number of children



Students at Fletcher Walker Elementary hold the certificates they received at an awards assembly Friday, April 12 for academic achievements, perfect attendance, citizenship and most improved. Photo by Cathy Hunter

Fletcher Walker students receive awards

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Students at Fletcher Walker Elementary were honored for their achievements during an assembly Friday, April 12. Awards were given for those making the Superintendent's Honor Roll (a grade point average of 3.5 and higher),

Principal's Honor Roll (a grade point average of 3.0 and higher), for citizenship, 100 percent attendance and most improved.

The following students received awards:

•Superintendent's Honor Roll — Second-grade/Sophia Lemaster, Raelynn Berg; Third-grade/Nolan Gunnee, Hayden Nugent; Fourth-

grade/Payge Martin, Bryson Hart, Aiden Bennett; Fifth-grade/Ayden Aitken, Blaze Walker.

•Principal's Honor Roll — Kindergarten/Grace Nelson, Rylan Rogers, Taylea Compton, Carly Haines, Irelynn Luna, Zina Laborin, Ali Torres and Weston Duerksen; First-grade/Logan Owens, Emily Cox, Kylie

Stelzriede, Tillie Waite, Jaiden Martinez; Second-grade/Kimberlee Saylor, Emma Nelson, Elaina Strand, Conner Foy. Third-grade/Jaxon Robinson, Aaden Prewitt, Ethan Nelson, Anaya Tollefson; Fourth-grade/Trinity Kellogg;

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AWARDS, from page 1A

Fifth-grade-Ryan Nelson, Cadence Stevens.
 •One-hundred-percent attendance — Quinten Bagby/Second-grade; Raelynn Berg/Second-grade; Gabriel Hammitt/Second-grade; Emma Nelson/Second-grade; Landon Aitken/Third-grade; Jaxon Robinson/Third-grade; DeAndre Walker/Third-grade; Trinity Kellogg/Fourth-grade; Ryan Nelson/Fifth-grade; Blaze Walker/Fifth-grade; Jalyne Halcrow/Fifth-grade; Connor Bagby/Fifth-grade; Mayzee Robinson/Fifth-grade.
 •Citizenship — Taylea Compton/K; Kyla Stelzriede/First-grade; Riet Graves/Second-grade; Annzlee Barke/Fourth-grade; Trinity Kellogg/Fourth-grade; Cadence Stevens/Fifth-grade; Reece Gibbs/Fifth-grade; Shayla Sharp/Fifth-grade.
 •Most improved — Gabby Johnson/K; John Sheehy/First-grade; DeAndre Walker/Third-grade; Aiden Bennett/Fourth-grade; Tristan Stockton/Fourth-grade; James Preston/Fourth-grade.



Larry Bradshaw, a member of the executive board for Mountain Meadows Community Watch, introduces Chris Gallagher, District 1 supervisor for Lassen County, and Susan Rios, Lassen County district attorney, to the audience attending a Town Hall meeting Thursday, April 11. Photo by Susan Cort Johnson

MEETING, from page 1A

that people are hesitant to make a report for fear of retribution, Bohl said the sheriff's office tries to keep such information confidential by developing independent reasons for interacting with an offender. Code enforcement is still an issue even though Westwood was the focus of code enforcement officers for most of a year. Gallagher

said during that period many abandoned cars were removed from the alleys. Thirty-five properties have been completed with about 70 code enforcement cases in Westwood still open. He told residents to continue to fill out forms on violations so problems are not forgotten. When several Pinetown residents complained of commercial activity in their neighborhood, which is zoned residential, he told them to submit the forms until the problem is

addressed. Bohl said squatters and burglars target vacation homes. He added that if people are moving into a house at night they are usually squatting. Community Watch programs are a good way of addressing this problem.

With more snow falling this winter, residents had questions about snow removal. One concern was the amount of unregistered vehicles blocking plows so roads were not properly cleared. Rios said if a vehicle is blocking clearance during snow removal a call to the California Highway Patrol will result in it being towed. A second concern was the way the plowing was done. Gallagher said that most of the road maintenance crew in Westwood was new this winter and inexperienced at clearing snow. Also a piece of equipment broke down. He reported that Lassen County has purchased a new snowplow for Westwood. One resident said her property had been damaged and Gallagher advised she

submit a claim with the county. Drug use and the resulting problems were also discussed. Rios said certain laws make addressing the issue more difficult. Unless a person is selling drugs, possession is a misdemeanor rather than a felony. No matter the amount a person possesses when arrested it is difficult to prove he or she is

selling the drug. Gallagher said some of the major drug houses in Westwood had been cleaned up. Bohl emphasized the role of neighborhood watch groups in eradicating crime. He said these groups were able to meet with representatives of the sheriff's office to go over crimes in the area and exchange ideas.

TOWER, from page 1A

50/50 drawing will be on sale. Members of the Clear Creek Firefighter's Association are researching grants and additional fundraising ideas. They hope to receive donations as well. Checks for the project can be mailed to the Clear Creek Community Services District at P.O. Box 833, Westwood, CA 96137. Once the siren is installed there will be a public education campaign on the

warning system after all the details have been worked out, said Cathy Hunter, president of the Clear Creek Firefighter's Association. The siren might be triggered remotely by emergency services agencies. For more information or to get involved with the association and work on the project, attend the meeting of the Clear Creek Firefighter's Association scheduled for 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 1 at the fire station located on State Route 147 at Clear Creek Park. Everyone is welcome.

PEACEFUL, from page 1A

taking part and consists of items such as balls and bean bags for stenciled play areas and solid structures such as slides. The equipment is properly maintained for safety. Design consists of age

appropriate activities that account for the developmental levels of the children taking part. Once the asphalt is redone this summer, the school district will solicit the help of the community to paint the stencils on the playground at Fletcher Walker Elementary.

BREAKING NEWS
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Senate District 1 Special Election Notice
NOTICE OF IMPORTANT DATES
 A Special Run-Off Election to fill the vacancy in Senate District 1 will be held on June 4, 2019. Plumas County votes by mail.
 Vote by Mail ballots, with postage pre-paid return envelopes, will be mailed to each registered voter beginning May 6, 2019. Call if you haven't received your ballot by May 17, 2019. **Your signature and residence address must be on the ballot return identification envelope for your ballot to be counted.** The deadline to register to vote in this election is May 20, 2019.
 Logic and Accuracy testing of election equipment will be on April 25, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. at the Election Department in the Plumas County Courthouse, 520 Main Street, Quincy, CA.
 Ballot processing begins May 31, 2019 at the central counting location at the Plumas County Courthouse, 520 Main Street, Room 102, Quincy, CA.
ALL VOTED BALLOTS MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN June 4, 2019, AND RECEIVED BY THE ELECTIONS OFFICIAL BY June 7, 2019, TO BE ELIGIBLE TO BE COUNTED.
 The Official Canvass will begin on June 13 at 10:00 a.m. at 520 Main Street, Room 102, Quincy, CA. Additional information may be obtained at: (530) 283-6256 or (844) 676-VOTE or at www.plumascounty.us on the County Clerk-Recorder Elections page.
 KATHY WILLIAMS, PLUMAS COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER, REGISTRAR OF VOTERS
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