



Honey Run Covered Bridge ■ Colman Museum ■ Centerville Schoolhouse

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DECEMBER 2018

## CALENDAR

**December 5th**  
CRHA Board Meeting  
6:30 pm at the Schoolhouse  
>Anyone interested in serving on the  
CRHA Board, please attend this  
board meeting at 6:30. Fun folks!<

**December**  
HRCBA Board meeting  
The site & time for the December  
meeting will be announced later.

**December 15th**  
CRHA Potluck  
6:30 PM at the Schoolhouse  
(More info on this page)

**Colman Museum**  
Open Saturdays & Sundays 1-4 pm



## Potluck at the Schoolhouse

**Saturday, December 15th**  
**6:30**

**Time to share  
a dish, some care.**

**'Tis the season of comfort and joy.  
As we rebuild, let's renew our  
friendships and community.**

**And...we'll be voting  
on the 2019 CRHA board -  
You are welcomed  
and needed!**

## From John Westlund:

For the past 45 years, Ol' John Henry has given a Christmas gift to Canyon friends, and a supply of these gifts to sell at our lovely Museum. This year, it will be a booklet of interesting history: French Jo Dupre, an early goldminer prospector of Butte Creek Canyon. We normally supply this gift in the mailboxes, but this year it will be available at the Potluck. Or, interested persons can mail request with \$1 for shipping cost to:

Ol' John Henry Westlund  
c/o Julia Westlund  
P.O. Box 374  
Durham, CA 95938



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Museum Website: [CentervilleMuseum.com](http://CentervilleMuseum.com) Bridge Website: [hrccoveredbridge.org](http://hrccoveredbridge.org)

Facebook: @Centerville Schoolhouse @HRCBA



News from: Honey Run Covered Bridge Association

The **Honey Run Covered Bridge** is gone; efforts to re-build it are under way. As the Bridge united towns on the ridge with Butte Creek Canyon and Chico, so will the new Bridge which will rise from the ashes uniting those communities destroyed by the Camp Fire; a rallying symbol for those who stay and rebuild their homes and communities.

The Bridge was constructed on site in 1886 from three sections fabricated by the San Francisco Bridge Company and supervised by George Miller. It was opened in January 1887 to the public and served as the first all weather road from towns on the ridge to Chico. This cut several miles off the previous route from south Chico to Paradise via Pentz Road.



The Bridge was not covered until 1901. Butte County realized because of an abundance of inclement weather at the time that they would have to replace the boards on the Bridge frequently. It was deemed fiscally responsible to cover the bridge and protect the wood on the Bridge structure.

It was continuously open to vehicular traffic until 1965 when the parking brake of a panel truck disengaged, rolled down a hill and collapsed the easternmost span of the Bridge.

Butte County then built a new bridge upstream. Plans to tear down the Honey Run Covered Bridge were thwarted by community members, led by Harvey Johnson, who formed the Honey Run Covered Bridge Association (HRCBA).

The first Pancake Breakfast was held in 1965 in Paradise to raise funds to keep the Bridge intact. In 1969, the HRCBA purchased the Bridge Park land and the Breakfasts were held on-site afterwards.

Until the Camp Fire, the Bridge stood for almost 132 years; a symbol of the Butte Creek Canyon Community, and an icon recognized by everyone who lived and visited Butte County.

If you would like to donate to the rebuild effort, there are several ways to do so:

- \*Go to the HRCBA website, [hrcoveredbridge.org](http://hrcoveredbridge.org) and use the PayPal button;
- \*Mail donations to: HRCBA  
PO Box 5201, Chico, CA, 95927;
- \*Donate to the Honey Run Bridge Rebuild Fund at Rabo Bank on Forest Ave;
- \*Go to the Facebook Page 'Rebuild Honey Run Covered Bridge' which shows multiple ways to donate;
- \*Purchase items where the proceeds will go to the rebuild effort.



Robert Catalano, Pres. HRCBA  
(fire photos by Robert Catalano)

Renewal Efforts in the Canyon ... Accomplished and Ongoing



A motorist took down, but not out, our Colman Museum sign, Saturday Potluck Sign, and Stone Monument for the Honey Run Covered Bridge on October 21st.

But...by November 6th, thanks to Arnie Quevedo, Bruce Whitegiver and a worker, our Signs and Monument were resurrected!

(Photos by Pamela Posey & Bruce Whitegiver)



**Save the Salmon: Stop the Runoff Effort** - Wattle Placement , led by Friends of Butte Creek with over 40 volunteers, continues on properties offered by landowners/renters, to prevent runoff due to erosion, mudslides, siltation, and toxics that would kill the baby salmon and smother the creek bed.

Wattles placed



Mask on



(Photos by Pamela Posey & Volunteers)



Volunteers loading  
Wattles in pickup

If you own land in Butte Creek Canyon, please consider [giving permission](#) to crews to install straw wattles, straw mulch and emergency erosion control measures -- **at no cost to you.** Please tell us your name, address, parcel number, contact info, and any access information you need crews to have (locked gate combos, etc.) [Send us an email at \[bercd@carcd.org\]\(mailto:bercd@carcd.org\).](#)

Stakes for  
holding wattles



Coordination is ongoing with Butte County Resource Conservation District to gather permission from landowners and locate properties. This is accomplished via online, word of mouth, and personal contact. As information comes in, the database has been assembled. Individual maps have been prepared and updated immediately as information arrives depicting: debris flow/erosion sites, dozer lines, and property owners that have given permission.

Work days are being conducted by upwards of 40 volunteers between rain sessions. Storage of the wattles as well as onsite training has been conducted at a property provided by landowners who have lost their property. US Fish & Wildlife Service was instrumental in the initial training. As of this date, 40 properties have been protected, 7 more are readied, 15 are in need, and 8 determined to be clear of runoff into the creek, for a total of 70 properties of concerned landowners.

Other help has been provided by Payless Building Supply to offload the 782 wattles initially that arrived. Massa Organic Rice Farm has offered 2,500 rice bales to continue the efforts. So grateful for all the support received from so many entities. **To volunteer, contact: [allen@buttecreek.org](mailto:allen@buttecreek.org)**



Message from Dan Breedon Butte County Planning Department: Fire information & clean up

The County is working to secure assistance from State agencies that will ensure proper handling and disposal of debris and ash from the fire. At this time property owners are not authorized to do any clean-up, remove any ash or debris without authorization from Butte County Environmental Health.

A website has been set-up at:

<https://buttecountyrecovers.org/>

Message from Butte County Resource Conservation District:(RCD): Advice about Re-Seeding

Current best practices can be summed up like this: Do as little as possible; "say yes to no," i.e. let the land heal on its own; let leaves and branches fall and let nature be messy; place wattles at the lip (point where slope changes) just above steep slopes, not across steepest parts; don't remove dead trees unless they pose a clear hazard to life and property or unless they block culverts (fallen logs can and will be as good as wattles); seeding should be confined to areas where the ash is white ("if it's black, it will grow back") and maybe not even there .

More information at: <https://www.bcrcd.org/fire-recovery-for-landowners>

From Julia Westlund: The story as reported is “fake news” I will give the real story at the next potluck...

**Firefighter Does Sweetest Thing For Two Terrified Donkeys Fleeing Wildfires**

They were so relieved to be safe ♥□□

By Lily Feinn

Published On 11/12/2018

Firefighter Chris Harvey and Sacramento Fire Chief Gary Loesch were driving down Honey Run Road in Paradise, California, on Saturday when they came across something entirely unexpected. Just days before, the deadly Camp Fire had ripped through the Sierra Nevada foothill community of Paradise, leaving behind the charred remains of homes and husks of cars. The fast-moving blaze had claimed both human and animal lives, transforming a town of retirees and young families into something eerily deserted.

Or so they thought.



While en route to investigate an accident caused by a falling tree, Harvey and Loesch spotted two weary animals emerging from the smoke. The donkeys were slowly hobbling down the center of the road in the opposite direction, and it was clear to Harvey that they were very lost.

“We pulled over to let them pass, and saw that they looked very tired, worn out and thirsty,” Harvey said. “I tried to give them some water in my hand from a water bottle, but it kept spilling out.”

(Photos by Sacramento Fire Department)



Harvey knew that after what the donkeys had been through the animals needed more than a few sips of water, so he grabbed the apples out of his and Loesch’s sack lunches and fed them to the donkeys.

Immediately, Harvey could see the difference that his little act of kindness made to the survivors. “They ate the apples quickly and seemed grateful for the snack,” Harvey said. “We called base camp and had them dispatch animal control officers to get the donkeys.” Harvey and Loesch waited with the donkeys until they were safely in the care of animal control. Though it is unknown whether the donkeys will be able to reunite with their family, their rescue is a ray of hope when people need it most.



“Use your voice for kindness,  
your ears for compassion,  
your hands for charity, your  
mind for truth, and your heart  
for love.”

From Pamela Kather (and this is a sentiment echoed by so many):  
I just want to put this out there: how overwhelmed I am with gratitude and love for all the compassionate and empathetic people there are in this world. That have helped me and others lately during this crazy time of loss and confusion. Whether it's a hug, a shoulder to cry on, a free place to stay, a free meal or drink, or in some cases money, and gifts. Just the kindness and care is so amazing and precious. Love is where it's at. Love is all there is. Thank you from the bottom of my ♥