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15 YEARS

MARCH 1995 - MARCH 2010

THE Kaweah Commonwealth

A JOURNAL FOR THOSE WHO LABOR AND WHO THINK

50¢

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
THREE RIVERS, CA
PERMIT NO. 20

Volume 19, No. 15

www.kaweahcommonwealth.com

April 9 - 15, 2010

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THREE RIVERS AND SEQUOIA~KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

JAZZAFFAIR: Its time is now

by JOHN ELLIOTT

Incredible as it may seem, a decade ago Jazzaffair was teetering on the brink of extinction. After 25 years, all the forces combined to lay an egg in 1999.

Longtime members of the Sierra Traditional Jazz Club board of directors were even battling around notions that maybe there shouldn't even be a Jazzaffair. A storybook romance with the local jazz revival might be coming to a not-so-happy ending.

"That's [when the festival lays an egg] bound to happen once in awhile," said Bill Tidwell, who in the late 1990s was responsible for booking the bands. "It really only rained one day but it snowed on the Grapevine."

The threatening weather was just enough to keep some of the regulars from the Los Angeles area from making the four-hour trip to Three Rivers. It hurt badge



HIGH SIERRA JAZZ BAND, Jazzaffair's host band —RIC FRASER PHOTO

sales. Compounding matters for Jazzaffair '99 was another festival in Redding that was competing for jazz bands and fans on the same weekend.

But Jazzaffair weathered the storm that year and literally lots

of other years too. In fact, when it comes to the weather, locals like to kid each other, but not Rusty Crain, High Sierra Jazz Band's current manager and Jazzaffair director, that Jazzaffair is the only weekend of the year

—see JAZZ, page 10

Town Meeting tackles local issues

by BRIAN ROTHAMMER

The regular monthly Town Hall meeting, sponsored by the Three Rivers Village Foundation, was held Monday, April 5, at the Three Rivers Memorial Building.

The first speaker was Julie Doctor, recently appointed general manager of the Three Rivers Community Services District. Doctor identified her number-one project as the replacement of water lines in Alta Acres. Contracts have been awarded and approval is expected within two weeks. The work should begin in about one month.

Tulare County Supervisor Allen Ishida began his presentation with an overview of water supply and usage throughout California, urging the audience to "look at

the total picture."

"I've always stated that if you want a solid water usage plan in California you must consider [the areas] east of the dams," Ishida stated.

Regarding a proposed \$11.2 billion water bond issue Ishida remains skeptical.

"There's just not enough information that has been made public to form an opinion," Supervisor Ishida said.

"If there is no net water gain for Tulare County, I'm going to have a very difficult time endorsing this bond. If we clean up the [San Joaquin] Delta with money from cities that dump effluent into it, I might support that pro-

—see MEETING, page 11

Gallery displays 3R art history

by JOHN ELLIOTT

An exhibit of art like no other opened this month at Discoveries West Gallery and Archives in Three Rivers. It features more than two dozen artists past and present from Three Rivers, which has always been an artists' enclave.

There's a poem, the exhibit's oldest item, written in 1872 entitled "To My Wife" by a Three Rivers settler who wanted to



A SIGN CREATED by Adrian Green of Three Rivers for the location of a riverside restaurant that was Jazzaffair's first venue.

pay tribute to his spouse on her 32nd birthday. The exhibit also includes the works of contemporary artists like Kevin Yee, who recently completed an oil portraying the Texas Rangers in the 19th century.

The ambitious new art exhibit opened April 3 and runs through

—see ART, page 10



A MYTHICAL SCENE painted by Ron Stivers, ca.1970.



FLOWER POWER

Redbud blooms are currently the main attraction in Kaweah Country. See redbuds and more on pages 6-7.

FOR THE RECORD

Re: "Village Market upgrades security systems," April 2, 2010— A sentence stated that the Village Market "is the longest continuously operating family-owned business in Three Rivers." The sentence should have said "retail business." Britten Construction actually holds the distinction of the longest continuously operating family-owned business.

Gary Whitney writes: "Richard Britten started Britten Construction shortly after his return from a German POW camp after World War II. It officially became a business in 1947. Sixty years for the Village Market is, however, very commendable!"

• KAWEAH COUNTRY OUTLOOK: three rivers • lemon cove • woodlake •

Saturday, April 10	Sunday, April 11	Monday, April 12	Tuesday, April 13	Wednesday, April 14	Thursday, April 15	Friday, April 16
Partly cloudy Hi 71 • Lo 47	Showers forming Hi 61 • Lo 44	Chance of showers Hi 59 • Lo 43	Clouds and sun Hi 63 • Lo 44	Clouds and sun Hi 66 • Lo 44	Clouds and sun Hi 67 • Lo 46	Sunny Hi 70 • Lo 47

WEATHER WATCH

With more than 22 inches of rainfall in Three Rivers thus far in the season, the Kaweah River drainage is looking at its best precipitation numbers since 2004 and could reach back even farther with more snow and rain in April. The snowpack at 8,000 feet remains above six feet with an impressive water content of 40 inches. All that snow is staying put for now with more precipitation on the way for the start of the workweek. April showers mean more May flowers.