

## News & Notes ...

### 18th Annual Cribbage Event at Chicago Park School By Supt/Principal Dan Zeisler



Did you know that the longest running and best attended youth cribbage event in the U.S. takes place each year at Chicago Park School? Saturday, March 12, marked the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Sierra Youth Cribbage Tournament. 50 young players showed up to the event to compete in one of two age categories, 11 and under or 12-18. The youngest player to attend, eight year-old Alejandra Vides-Austin, came all the way from Maryland to participate in the festivities. The rest of the players were all from Northern California. Local winners included cribbage newcomer Keegan O'Sullivan (10), a fourth grader at Chicago Park School who took home the championship trophy. She had only been taught how to play this past December. Another Chicago Park student, 6<sup>th</sup> grader Sam Miller (11) finished fourth in the competition.

In the 12 and over division, Nevada County winners included Nevada Union student Alex Guzman (14) of Chicago Park, who took second place, and 8<sup>th</sup> grader Pheylan House (14) from Grass Valley, who placed fourth.

Dan Zeisler, Superintendent/Principal of Chicago Park School, a master rated professional cribbage player, has been teaching youngsters this card game since 1991 as a 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. When he saw the remarkable effect the game had on enhancing student math and critical thinking skills, he wrote a manual for teachers on how to teach large groups of kids cribbage. His manual has been endorsed by the American Cribbage Congress, and since, Zeisler has been appointed as Director of Youth Cribbage for the national organization. To date, he has sent over 600 manuals out upon request throughout the U.S. and the world. If you are interested in a teaching manual please contact Zeisler at [danthefan@yahoo.com](mailto:danthefan@yahoo.com) or by phone at 263-7468. He also has start-up kits (boards and cards) available to interested teachers upon request.

### The School Bully in Cyberspace

By Sharyn Ward Turner  
SS/HS Curriculum Coordinator

Nevada County students live highly digital and media-rich lives with more communications choices than ever before. The media explosion is influencing our youths in ways never imagined.

According to the 2007 PEW Internet project report *Teens and Social Media* states most teens spend time online, and about 50 percent of those who use the Internet have at least one profile on at least one social networking website. 28% of teens using the Internet maintain a blog to write about their lives, ideas, goals and dreams; to post photos; and to create and share videos. 80% of teens own at least one form of what is defined as "new" media technology – a cell phone, or a computer with Internet access.

The explosion of technology provides a way for young people to communicate regularly with family and friends and may result in teens feeling more connected to others. The recent wave of youth social activism underscores the power and opportunities that exist when youths are engaged in meaningful ways through these media.

However, along with these benefits, new risks continue to emerge as the technology advances. One disturbing trend is the increasing number of youths who report being victims of cyber bullying, a form of electronic aggression. The *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* uses the term electronic aggression to describe violence that occurs electronically. While definitions vary, most experts consider cyber bullying as the use of cell phones, computers, or other electronic devices to humiliate or harass someone, and possibly even threaten physical violence. Like traditional bullying, cyber bullying includes a wide range of behaviors.

***Recent California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) results reveal around 35% of our youth in grades 9-11 at Nevada Joint Union High School District report being targeted by Internet harassment at least once in the past school year.***

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In what ways does cyber bullying outside of school affect students' behavior and academic performance in school? Although most cyber bullying does take place outside of school, students and educators know that it can “bleed” into the school day in any number of ways. A student who is cyber bullied often does not know the identity of his or her tormentor. In such cases, he or she may be extremely anxious and distracted at school- wondering whether the perpetrator is in their homeroom, on their bus, or in P.E. In other cases, anxiety may be caused by wondering or worrying about embarrassing messages being spread throughout a student body. Even those who are not targets of cyber bullying may come to school “buzzing” about cyber bullying that they have witnessed or heard about. All this can be extremely distracting to the entire student body. Because of just such a local cyber bullying circumstance, a parent believed she had no alternative than to remove her child from traditional school.

What can school personnel do to intervene in cyber bullying? The Safe Schools Healthy Schools Initiative is working on educating staff on implementation prevention “best practices” that will help reduce the occurrence of cyber bullying among students. Here are some suggested best practices for educators to respond appropriately and effectively if you are aware or suspect cyber bullying.

1. Notify parents of all involved children
2. Share your concerns about cyber bullying with other educators at school
3. Provide information on various response options such as how to report offensive social networking sites, appropriate responses to avoid escalation and know your school policy on when to contact the police or other legal-related resources.
4. Know your school's discipline policies involving cyber bullying. Effective January 1st, a controversial new law in California makes the creation of a fake Facebook account for the purposes of bullying a crime. The law targets criminal “e-personators” and addresses the original impersonation law which was written in 1872. Now, individuals who create fake profiles and email addresses to “harm, intimidate, threaten or defraud” someone online will be charged with a misdemeanor, fined up to \$1,000, and may also serve jail time up to one year.

The Safe Schools Healthy Students Initiative is addressing cyber bullying in the classroom. The Olweus Anti-bullying Program is supplementing resources and providing a prevention curriculum for Grades 5 and 7 that deals with attitudes and behaviors associated with cyber bullying. It consists of an eight-session curriculum for grade 7 and a five-session curriculum for grade 5. It includes resources on a CD ROM that includes:

- Reproducible parent resources
- Program posters and student handouts
- Resources to address cyber bullying school-wide
- Peer leader training materials for grade 7
- A training presentation for facilitators

If your district agrees to implement the cyber bullying component of the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, please contact Sharyn Turner, SS/HS Curriculum Coordinator

to schedule training at [sharyn@nevco.k12.ca.us](mailto:sharyn@nevco.k12.ca.us) or 478-6400 ext. 245. The cyber bullying component can be taught by your tech teacher, in classroom meetings, or by a classroom teacher/librarian or after school coordinator. Resources are available to all high school teachers as well.

### **Third Annual Classified School Employees of the Year (CSEY) Honored**

**By Judy Nielsen, Asst. to the Assoc. Supt.**

The CSEY Program, sponsored by the CDE, highlights the contributions of classified school employees who support the education of California's public school's preschool thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. The program seeks to identify classified school employees working in the areas of: Child Nutrition; Maintenance, Operations & Facilities; Office & Technical; Para-Educator & Instructional Assistance; Support Services & Security; and, Transportation.

Locally the program is coordinated by the NCSOS office. Each district is invited to select and honor a CSEY. County Supt. Holly Hermansen says, ‘Although we celebrate each of these individuals for their exemplary contributions, it is really an opportunity to bring attention to all of our wonderful classified employees, who make Nevada County schools operate smoothly and shine with pride.’ This year we have seven participating districts. In the category of Para-Educator & Instructional Assistant, honored are: Kerri Strosnider – Chicago Park; Elaine Gallo – Pleasant Valley; Kathy Caldeira – Ready Springs; and Janet Romero – Twin Ridges. In the category of Maintenance, Operations & facilities, honored are: Bob Dehart – Clear Creek; Mick Janeway – Grass Valley; and Eric Nielsen – NCSOS.

Kathy Caldeira and Eric Nielsen were further selected by a panel of judges as the county-wide CSEY and will now go on to the State level, where one employee in each category will be honored State-wide.

When you cross paths with any of our 2011 CSEY congratulations are in order!



Top row: Bob Dehart, Eric Nielsen, Mick Janeway  
 Bottom row: Elaine Gallo, Kathy Caldeira, Kerri Strosnider  
 Not pictured: Janet Romero

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## 2011 Tech Trek at UC, Davis

By Martha Rees

Sponsored by American Association of University Women (AAUW)-CA

This year 7<sup>th</sup>-grade science and math teachers at 13 different Nevada County schools nominated 34 girls to be considered for the 2011 Tech Trek camp at UC-Davis. Based on teacher recommendations and the nominees' applications and essays, the AAUW Nevada County Branch Tech Trek committee selected 16 semi-finalists to be interviewed, and from that group selected eight 2011 Tech Trekkers and three alternates. The selection was especially difficult because the caliber of the nominees was outstanding, and the committee members were impressed with their enthusiasm, intelligence, creativity, and innovative vision of what the future might hold. AAUW appreciates the support of the Nevada County Superintendent

of Schools, Anna McMillen, and the participating schools, principals, and teachers whose efforts are critical to the success of Tech Trek.

Congratulations to all 34 girls that were nominated this year. Following is a list of finalists, alternates, and semi-finalists.

### 2011 Nevada County Branch Tech Trek Finalists:

Jessica Dent, Viviana Gamino, Sarah Hunter, Alex Junge, Lily Karim, Lacey Krutiak-Brown, Casey Richards, and Jenna Segel

### 2011 Nevada County Branch Tech Trek Alternates:

Megan Gallagher, Emma Lauterbach, Emily Stellhorn

### 2011 Nevada County Branch Tech Trek Semi-finalists:

Joy Castro-Wehr, Violet Daniels, Rhianna Grady-Roush, Quinn Heppe, Maria Kish

# Trainings • Field Trips • Opportunities for All

## Trainings & Collaboration Meetings

### **Art Docent Luncheon Takes Place May 24 at the Stonehouse Hospitality Academy**

The Art Docent Program thanks classroom-volunteer art educators with a luncheon each year. The program includes yet one last hands-on art project, with master art teacher Margie Miller, before the buffet lunch and program. This year festivities take place on Tuesday, May 24, at the Stone House, from 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Although an invitation will be sent to all participating schools, please have your volunteer save-the-date. For further information about the program or the luncheon contact Judy (530) 478-6400 ext. 208 or [judy@nevco.k12.ca.us](mailto:judy@nevco.k12.ca.us).

### **National Gallery of Art Grant Received Locally**

NCTV has been awarded a three-year grant from the National Gallery of Art, to utilize a multitude of excellent videos and DVDs for arts education.

Teachers are invited to a forum to discuss the potential of the National Gallery of Art's collection of educational videos. The forum will take

place at NCTV on Wednesday, April 27, 4:30 p.m. NCTV is seeking valuable input from all fine-art teachers to align the programs with art curriculum and to help program these videos in the classroom for the best possible benefit of our students.

For more information call 798-5955 or write [penelcurtis@gmail.com](mailto:penelcurtis@gmail.com).

### **Countywide 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Collaboration**



Due to weather conditions, the fourth in a series of four 4<sup>th</sup> grade math collaboration sessions is now scheduled for Thursday, April 14, 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. The topic is 'Additional Strategies, Pacing, & Benchmark Assessments' and will be an appropriate wrap-up to the series. One-half day substitute expenditures may be billed to NCSOS. To pre-register or for more information contact Judy at (530) 478-6400 ext. 208 or [judy@nevco.k12.ca.us](mailto:judy@nevco.k12.ca.us).

### **Emergency Medical Services Authority Training/CPR & First Aid Training**

A complete list of classes and additional information can be found at [www.nevco.org](http://www.nevco.org). For reservations contact Anna McMillen at [amcmillen@nevco.k12.ca.us](mailto:amcmillen@nevco.k12.ca.us) or phone (530)478-6400 x 201. Upcoming classes are:

CPR Sat., April 23, 9 a.m. -1 p.m.

CPR Thurs., May 5, 3 p.m. -7 p.m.  
EMSA Sat., May 7, 9 a.m. -5 p.m.

## Field Trips

### **'The Belle of Amherst' at Center for the Arts**

This one-woman show, featuring Marion Jeffery and directed by Sheila O'Connor, will appear at Off Center Stage April 8<sup>th</sup> thru May 1<sup>st</sup>. 'The Belle of Amherst' reflects the life of Emily Dickenson with sweet vulnerability. It raises questions about the cost of remaining true to oneself, with humor and charm. Playwright William Luce based his portrait of Dickenson on her work, diaries, and letters. Student matinees can be scheduled by calling Julie Baker at the Center for the Arts at 274-8384 ext. 13.

## Opportunities for All

### **Wanted: Book Reviews from your 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students**

Carol Guild, editor of the Learning Page for the Union newspaper, will be

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highlighting book reviews by students as a regular feature. To submit student reviews send to [cguild@theunion.com](mailto:cguild@theunion.com) along with the student's photo and a photo of the cover of the book. This is a great class project or summer project for students that love to read and write.

## 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Playwrights Project

Playwrights Project is a non-profit organization advancing literacy, creativity and communication by empowering California students under the age of 19 to voice their stories through playwriting programs and theatre productions. Every entrant may request an individualized script critique. Winning scripts, up to eight winners, will be produced at a professional theatre in San Diego. Deadline to submit a script is June 1, 2011. Scripts will be judged in two age groups: under 15 and 15-18. Postcards can be requested by teachers to distribute to their students. For information, entry form, or writing tips: (619)239-8222, [www.playwrightsproject.org](http://www.playwrightsproject.org) [write@playwrightsproject.org](mailto:write@playwrightsproject.org)

## History of Astro-Photography: Presentation May 4

Tony Hallas, contributing editor of Astronomy Magazine and Primo Astronomical Photographer, will be the speaker for the Nevada County Astronomers meeting on Wednesday, May 5, 7:00 p.m. at the Madelyn Helling Library community room. He will share the history of Astro-photography and what he loves about the genre. For more information contact Rod Fivelstad at [Fivelstad@comcast.net](mailto:Fivelstad@comcast.net) or call 265-2707.



## Swing Into Summer with Jazz Camp

Sierra Jazz

Society offers Jazz Camp again this summer, Wed. July 20 – Sunday July 24, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. and is held at the Nevada City School of the Arts.

Jazz Camp is for all ages, all instruments and voice. Learn how to improvise or improve your skills from professional staff. Bill Douglass and

Nora Nausbaum are the directors of Sierra Jazz Society's Jazz Camp. The faculty of nine are kind, patient, and great teachers. The public concert on Sunday July 24 will feature both students and faculty.

A limited number of work-study scholarships are available. For more info. go to [www.sierrajazzsociety.com/jazzcamp.html](http://www.sierrajazzsociety.com/jazzcamp.html) or contact registrar Julia Glasse: phone 273-0568 or email [Julia@sierrajazzsociety.com](mailto:Julia@sierrajazzsociety.com).

## 2011 Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registrations across Western Nevada County take place on specific dates, now through June. To view a full list of registration dates visit the NCSOS website: [www.nevco.org](http://www.nevco.org) and click on 'Parents & Families'.

## Correction to the Nugget

Last month's issue of the *Nugget* included 'New Faces at NCSOS'. One was inadvertently excluded: Samie White, located at NCSOS, in the position of Assistant to the Superintendent. Welcome Samie!

## MUSIC in the MOUNTAINS presents...

### Peers Performing for Peers: Space Still Available

The *Young Musicians* program performs in Nevada County K-6 classrooms, now thru May. To schedule call Mark Vance at 265-6173.

*All MIM educational events are free of charge.*

## Finding Funding: Tip of the Month

**#1:** Chicago Park Supt./Principal has Cribbage teaching manuals and start-up kits (boards and cards) available to interested teachers upon request. See full article under *News & Notes...18th Annual Cribbage Event at Chicago Park School*. Contact Zeisler at [danthefan@yahoo.com](mailto:danthefan@yahoo.com) or by phone at 263-7468.

**#2:** [nevadacountyfundernetwork.org](http://nevadacountyfundernetwork.org) provides a single point of access for information from local funding organizations in support of the non-profit and charitable sector of Nevada County. School programs have been awarded grant opportunities and/or provided collaboration

opportunities from these sources in the past. The web-site is updated on a regular basis.

*The Nugget hopes to provide a monthly suggestion for funding opportunities. If you have an opportunity to share, contact Nugget Editor Judy Nielsen at 478-6400 x208 or e-mail [judy@nevco.k12.ca.us](mailto:judy@nevco.k12.ca.us).*



## AL JENNINGS NEVADA COUNTY SCIENCE FAIR DATES TO REMEMBER:

April 8: Deadline to submit 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade entry forms

April 11: Project set-up and judging

April 12: Judging

April 13: Open to public and class field trips; public viewing; dinner for sale by Lady Elks; awards ceremony; project removal

April 14: project removal by noon

## 'Imaginarium' Sky Shows Continue in 2011

Due to the dedication of Amateur Astronomer, AKA the Astro Guy - Wayne Watson, Imaginarium Sky Shows will continue this year at the baseball playing field above the Madelyn Helling Library. See full schedule on page 5. October and November dates are always pending weather.

Star parties can be specifically arranged for school family nights and school science nights, too. For more information call the Astro-phone at 263-4586.

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# Imaginarium 2011

## Astronomy Sky Show Schedule



Date*	Start Time	Cosmic Chat (featuring talk by Wayne Watson)	Comments
April 22	8:30 pm to 10:30	Call 263-4586 for info on any chats, or latest info one week prior to sky show.	Saturn, Orion Nebula, Milky Way, Clusters. Variable star--Algol, Lyrid meteor shower. Minor planet Juno. M65, 58--Elliptical galaxies.
May 20	8:30 pm to 10:30	"	Saturn, Minor planet Juno. M105 elliptical galaxy. M83,89, 104 spiral galaxies.
June		"	No sky show in June. Saturn. Mercury low after sunset
July 22	9:00 pm to 11:00	"	Saturn, Mercury. Milky Way. Minor planets Juno, Pallas. Ring nebula, Hercules cluster, M98 spiral galaxy.
August 19	8:30 pm to 10:30	"	Last week of Perseid meteor shower. Milky Way, globular clusters, "double-double", galaxies, nebulae, summer triangle. Saturn, Neptune, Uranus. Minor planets Juno, Pallas, Vesta. Dumbell and Omega nebula.
September 16	8:00 pm to 11:00	"	Andromeda Galaxy. Milky Way. Saturn, Neptune, Uranus. Minor planets Juno, Pallas, Vesta. Triffid nebula.
October 21	7:30 pm to 10:00	"	Milky Way, Andromeda. Jupiter, Uranus, Neptune. Minor planets Ceres, Pallas, Vesta. Lagoon nebula. Spindle galaxy. Andromeda. Pleadies.
November 18	7:00 pm to 9:30	"	Leonid meteors, Andromeda Galaxy. Pleadies. M77 spiral galaxy. Minor planets Ceres, Pallas, Vesta.

### Comments:

\* These events are all on a Friday night. If some special astronomical event appears like a bright comet or eclipse, then we may have additional sky shows, or combine the event with an existing show. It may be necessary to reschedule a show for unforeseen circumstances, so always check: 1. The Astro phone 263-4586 one week before a sky show. 2. the Thursday Union Prospector section on the Thursday prior to the scheduled date. The shows begin about one hour after sun set, and it generally takes 90 minutes for total darkness after it sets.

We generally view double stars, globular clusters, near star clusters, galaxies, planets, and nebula.

The 'Imaginarium' owns several scopes for the shows: 6" computerized refractor, 5" Schmidt-Cass (SCT), 6" computerized SCT, AstroScan, and a solar telescope. The solar telescope is used for day time viewing of the sun for special functions.

The sky shows are held at Tobiassen Park near the Madelyn Helling Library. The library is near the County Rood Center facility off of highway 49. It's about two miles northwest of downtown Nevada City. Park in the library lot and walk up the road about 100 yards to the ball field, which will be on your left.