

LOCAL NEWS

History comes alive at festival

On Thursday, March 11, the Mariposa Museum and History Center will host "History Alive!" an introductory event for the Mariposa County Arts Council's, 23rd Annual Mariposa Storytelling Festival, March 12 to 14. More than a dozen exhibits will come to life as museum volunteers adopt the roles of real Mariposa characters from days gone by; telling the stories which cemented their place in history.

Enjoy the company of Jessie Benton Fremont as she tells of life with her husband John, the "Pathfinder," and then meet Quartz Johnson as he returns from one of his many gold claims. Ask Lucy Hite about life during the Gold Rush from the perspective of a Miwok Indian woman, and let Miss Jenny Gagliardo show you the wares in her Hornitos store. Mrs. Counts will describe

early town life as she does housework in her original 1863-built home. Listen, as infamous deputy Punch Choisser, the "outlaw lawyer" relates his long and convoluted dealings with the law. Talk current events of the 1800s with James Lawrence, editor/proprietor of the Mariposa Free Press. Visit with many more of Mariposa County's historically significant citizens as they mill about the Museum and History Center grounds, during three separate performances at 6, 7, and 8 p.m.

To purchase "History Alive!" and Mariposa Storytelling Festival tickets, contact the Mariposa County Arts Council at 966-2555 or (800) 903-9936.

For more information or to download a brochure, visit: www.arts-mariposa.org or www.mariposamuseum.com.

AARP tax aide program begins

The 2009 tax filing season is upon all residents of California. The AARP Foundation continues to sponsor a free tax filing program through the IRS and California Franchise Tax Board and assistance with filing tax returns. This is the same program that has been conducted at the Mariposa Senior Center for the past 25 years. But this year it has moved to the Mariposa County Library.

Beginning this year, the program will be conducted by appointment only. This can be done by dropping by the library, adding a name to the roster list and picking up a blue

interview form. A volunteer from the program will then call to discuss any forms that the tax payer needs to bring, answer questions and schedule an appointment time. This should help to relieve the congestion and long wait that many experienced in the past several years.

The hours will be Mondays from noon to 3 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The first appointments will begin on Feb. 1 and the program ends on April 12. An additional site has been opened at the Red Cloud Library for North County. The program

will be open on Saturdays at that site.

Free assistance is given for seniors, the disabled, low and moderate income taxpayers which meet the criteria for filing. Volunteers can also answer questions about filing issues. They are trained to assist in filing tax forms and basic schedules, including the 1040, 1040 A and 1040 EZ. Taxpayers will complex tax returns are advised to seek paid tax assistance.

Those who have to file a schedule C (business profit and loss), a complicated or lengthy schedule D (capital gains and losses), schedule E (rental property, royalties, partnerships and trusts that involve depreciation) cannot use the service.

AARP tax aide volunteers must stay in the scope of the program and prepare those returns for which they have been trained.

MCS plans its annual Valentine's weekend

Mountain Crisis Services will be hosting a theatrical event over Valentine's Day weekend titled "Under Our Skin." Sometimes funny, sometimes poignant, "Under Our Skin" is a night of story and song, compiled from blogs, original pieces, and seminal works that both celebrate and question the idea of contemporary womanhood.

"Under Our Skin" is produced by community members and hosted by the Yosemite Bug Rustic Mountain Resort to benefit Mountain Crisis Services. Performances will be Feb. 12 and 13 at 8 p.m. Ticket cost is \$25, which includes a chocolate reception to follow the performance, and can be purchased through Mountain Crisis Services at 742-5865 or the Bug at 966-6666.

This event sold out last year,

so early ticket reservation is encouraged.

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