Weeland Redevelopment Underway

In 1973 my mother opened our little farm to the public with the hope that teachers would bring their classes out to experience a farm. Picking a pumpkin from the field would be the centerpiece of the experience but Mom wanted kids to meet some animals. She happened to have a good friend with an extra goat. Mom’s friend gave us that large brown friendly nanny on one condition: the goat had to be named Sandy after my Mom. My mother hesitated but Dad went straightaway to pick up that goat. Each day in October 1973, Sandy would be led out and tethered to a cork oak tree right in front of our present-day gift shop. This is Sandy the goat we are talking about here – not Sandy Bishop. So that was our petting zoo in 1973. The few hundred people who visited that year got a chance to meet and pet Sandy… the goat.

Sandy was with us for many years and would be joined by many other animals. The petting zoo was constructed and reconstructed several times before the current Weeland was built in the late 90’s. We called it Weeland because we were not getting along well with the neighboring city of Wheatland just then and it was a chance for some political satire – we happened to have a Billy goat who looked, sounded, and acted just like the then mayor of Wheatland after all.

Fast forward now to 2017. Demand for housing is strong in the area again and Weeland is no exception. Additional acreage to the northeast has been annexed and subdivided, new residents have moved in, and a lighting and continued on page 2

From Your Editor
WAYNE BISHOP

Once a year I put this newsletter together and send it out to homes within an hour or so of our farm. I hope that it reaches folks who have been to the farm before, so they can catch up on what we are doing; and I hope it reaches other families who have not been to our farm before. For the first group, this might be a review, but we think we should tell our story now and then.

My mother, Sandy Bishop, was a teacher many years ago and she noticed that most children didn’t have a chance to visit a farm. In 1973, she talked my dad Bill into letting her plant an acre or so of pumpkins in a small field he hadn’t planted that spring. She sent letters to local schools inviting the teachers to bring kids out on a field trip to pick pumpkins. A few teachers did bring their classes out and a few families came out on their own. It was not a spectacular success by any measure and Dad thought she would probably not want to do it again. But she did, and Dad took time away from his other farming to help her all he could. He convinced her to make pies from the pumpkins we grew and she would bake them in the farmhouse kitchen to sell. He hooked an old farm wagon to a tractor and my brother and I would give hayrides around the pumpkin field. We had a couple of ponies and we would saddle them and let people lead their kids around.

We grew slowly but steadily and after about ten years, Dad decided to focus all his attention on the pumpkin farm. We built a real bakery for Mom at that continued on page 4

Notable Residents of Weeland

After the goat named Sandy, many unique and personable animals have resided on our farm. Many of you remember Maisie the donkey, who delighted guests on the farm over three decades. Another favorite was Prince John Spot. He ended up with three names because my daughter was his second and my nephew his third owner. We liked to call him by all three names. He was exceptionally friendly but had a bit of a weight problem, as many of us do in middle age. Because of his rotund body type, he was often reported (once by an ag teacher), to be with child. Many times, I received the call to go evaluate a “goat in labor,” only to find Prince John Spot with perhaps a gas problem and his feelings a little hurt about being mistaken for a pregnant nanny.

There are some current citizens of Weeland who also provide us with entertainment. Maria the Holstein Cow loves to photo bomb. It’s true, I swear. Night Fury is a tall shiny black goat that I very publicly and sincerely gave to my son-in-law as a dowry. For continued on page 2
We Miss These Two People

When young people are hired to work on our farm, we consider them part of our extended family. We tell them that. We want them to think of our farm as their own. We want them to consider a guest visiting our farm to be guest in their own family home. It is rewarding for us to see them dive into their jobs and grow from nervous kids to confident young adults. We hope we are playing a small role in that maturation.

In the months following our last harvest, two of those vibrant young adults lost their lives in car accidents. The extended Bishop family is grieving. We wanted to let their families know that we miss them.

Robert Thomas Wilson was a 2016 graduate of Wheatland High and worked for us for three years in several different positions around the farm. Most recently he operated the carousel and zip line. Robert often told us that he loved seeing families creating memories on our farm. He would come in at a moment’s notice when we needed extra help. It really seemed like he was just hoping we would call. He was always smiling and laughing, never seeming to have a bad day. Robert was truly one of the most loved of our big extended family.

Tommie Miller was a student at Marysville High School. She told us she loved animals when she joined our family so we put her to work in Weeland petting zoo. Tommie’s bubbly and outgoing nature made her a great choice to accompany our Clydesdale horse Clementine as she traveled around the farm. Her diminutive stature made Clementine seem even larger and the two of them delighted children who were having their first face to face meeting with a horse. Tommie was a kind and beautiful girl and loved by us all.

Weeland Redevelopment, continued from cover

The landscape district has been formed. Code enforcement was used where needed to force some of the residents to spruce up their properties. We think you will enjoy visiting.

Now for the serious part. The improvements in our petting zoo have been driven by a need to improve safety in that area; for the animals and for our guests. Farm animals can carry dangerous bacteria in their digestive tracts. If ingested by humans, these bacteria can cause very serious illness. The risk of bacterial infection through contact with animals can never be completely eliminated but we believe we have taken steps to make Weeland as safe as it can possibly be.

Last, but not least. The new construction and the execution of an operational plan to ensure safety has been an expensive undertaking. As a result, there will be an admission fee for guests of Weeland Petting Zoo starting this fall. This was an agonizing decision for my family. We wanted to continue the 44 year tradition of a free petting zoo but just couldn’t do it. Admission to Weeland is two FunTix, which will cost you between $1.38 and $1.98 depending on when and how you buy them. Please come, check out the new Weeland, and let us know what you think.

Almond Harvest

We have a great almond crop this year and a new partner roasting them for us. Come and have a taste — they make a great gift!

Notable Residents, cont’d from cover

some reason, he hasn’t gotten around to taking the goat home yet. Leche, or Milky translated to English, is a pure white goat who was orphaned at birth but nursed by our foreman until he was old enough to fend for himself. King the Llama has been around for years and I still can’t figure out what goes through his head. He will run all the way across the pasture when I go out there and I can’t read his intentions. Sometimes I think he wants to run me over but he always stops just short and then sniffs around my ears, apparently just his way of saying Hi. Clementine the Clydesdale horse is a beautiful and gentle soul. Will and Kate are a pair of Baby Doll sheep with British heritage and names befitting of royalty. Unfortunately, they have been unable to produce an heir. It is possible that Kate has privately broken things off with Will. He seems to have a wandering eye, if that can be proven by some of the other young sheep around who bear his resemblance.

We hope you will come and meet them all. Ask one of the human citizens of Weeland if you would like us to point out one of the residents mentioned above.

Independent Agribusiness Professionals

Bear River Supply, Inc

218 Pleasant Grove Road • Rio Oso, CA 95674 bearriversupply.com
Movies and Campfires at the Farm

We tried a couple of new things on the farm last year. Both were hits and the combination is magical. Twelve group campfire sites were created and available by reservation on Friday and Saturday nights in October. On Friday nights, the sites are ideal for viewing our fireworks show. One Saturday night we showed a movie on a huge screen in the adjacent field.

This year, fireworks will be back on October Fridays. And the movie night was such a success, we will be showing movies each Saturday night from September 30th through the last weekend in October. Check the schedule in this publication for your favorite movie.

We didn’t realize exactly how popular this would be until we announced the movies online in early August and the Saturday campfires immediately sold out. Do not despair, you don’t have to have a campfire site to see the movies. Just bring a comfy chair and stake out a spot in the field. I can’t tell you how much it warms my heart to see families enjoying a cool autumn evening in this way.

We have also decided to open the firepits on Thursday and Sunday nights, and the reservation fee is substantially lower those evenings. If you have a very large group, we might even consider hosting you on another night around the fires. Get the details on our website, bishopspumpkinfarm.com or give us a call.

Sutter Health Presents:
Run Your Gourd Off at Bishop’s Pumpkin Farm

By Austin Bishop

Join us Sunday September 24th for the 6th annual Run Your Gourd Off. We are raising money for the Child Abuse Prevention Center of Sacramento. This is a worthy cause to come out and get your shoes a bit dirty and we have a ton of sponsors who agree with us on that! (See them below)

Race Schedule:
8:30 AM 10k Start
8:35 AM 5k Start
9:30 AM ½ Mile Kids Pumpkin Dash
9:45 AM Awards Ceremony

www.runyourgourdoff.com
A Basketball Team?

On March 4th of this year, I added a fifth granddaughter to my collection. My daughter Meghan and her husband Ryan welcomed Elizabeth Ruth Sanderson into the world. She goes by Ellie and is a beautiful, healthy and happy baby. I don’t have any grandsons yet but I wouldn’t trade any of these girls for one. Meghan works full time on the farm and the other four girls belong to my son Austin who also works on the farm. I know how lucky I am to have them all close where I can see them often.

From Your Editor, continued from cover

time and other improvements started to happen more quickly. Twenty-two years ago, my wife Ann and I joined the business. Mom and Dad are retired now and live a few miles away but still watch over us.

No one in 1973 would have predicted much of anything for the future of Bishop’s Pumpkin Farm. We didn’t know anything about marketing so we just never did it. We just tried to create a place for families to harvest memories each fall and hoped they would come back again. We expect about 180,000 folks to visit this harvest season and they will have over ninety acres of pumpkins to choose from. We still make pumpkin pies from pumpkins we grow; and walnut pies from our own walnuts and apple pies from local apples. In fact, we use over a hundred tons of those local apples in pies, dipped in caramel, and pressed into cider. We still give hayrides and pony rides but also have a train, a carousel, and a zip line.

We have changed a lot in forty-four years, but our values are the same. We are a family with a small farm and we make a living by inviting other families to come out each fall. My son Austin and my daughter Meghan work on the farm now and it won’t be many years before their children might join us. We are grateful to all of you who make this possible by bringing your families out to spend a day on the farm. For those of you who haven’t heard of us, that’s because we are still terrible at marketing. This newsletter is probably all you will hear from us this fall. We hope to see you soon.
Parking is FREE in September — plus other ways to save a buck and avoid crowds

In this era of social media, I feel very fortunate that we have always made it our habit to listen to our guests. Since Mom and Dad opened up our little farm to the public in 1973, we have gradually come to realize that the folks who visit us each fall are the true owners of this farm. By making it your family tradition to travel to Wheatland to harvest pumpkins and memories, you have provided my family with the opportunity to continue working on the land. Few people have that opportunity these days and we do not take it for granted. We will always listen to you in person, on the phone, through email or regular mail. And anytime we are curious about how you think we are doing as caretakers of your farm, we can easily find out with a few clicks online.

If we are looking among all of the feedback for things that make our guests unhappy, and we do look for that; two comments come up fairly often: “The farm can get overcrowded at times” and “It can be expensive to bring my family out to enjoy all that is offered.” While we will always strive to be sure our facilities can handle the crowds and we will do our best to offer a good value for your dollar; you can avoid the crowds and save some money with a little planning.

First, check the calendar in this newsletter for the parking fee on days you are considering for your visit. You will note we are open fifteen days in September this year and parking is free each day. Parking is also free Monday through Thursday all through October. You will notice that on four days in October, parking is $15. These are the days we expect the farm to be very busy, so plan to come a different time if you possibly can. If possible, you should also choose to visit on a day when Value Day FunTix are accepted. FunTix are necessary for the train, corn maze, carousel, zip line, coyote mountain, Weeland petting zoo, and sunflower labyrinth. They can be purchased at a savings on Value Days.

Please remember there is never an admission fee charged at the farm and there are free things to do such as the hay ride, puppet show, pig races, coyote bend play town and more. It is possible to visit our farm, do some fun things for a couple of hours and spend nothing at all.

For some of you reading this, I am sure there are reasons you would like to come out on one of those busy October days. We understand. So please follow these tips for avoiding the crowds and you will have a great time:

- On any weekend, get out early in the day. We open at 9am but usually don’t get too crowded until around noon. Or you could come after five in the evening, when parking is reduced by $5. On weekdays, the mornings can be busy with school visitors — so think about an afternoon visit.

- Buy your FunTix for the attractions on our website or at any of the five ticket booths when you first arrive, then get your train, zip line, and carousel rides in before the lines get long.

- Have lunch a little early or better yet, have dessert first. Lines for lunch at Pigadeli Square are longest from about 12:00 to 1:30. Bakery lines don’t get long until mid-afternoon. Think about having a family bucket of cookies, a slice of pie, a cider slushy or my favorite, Apple Cake around lunch time. That will hold you over nicely until that Tri Tip, Pulled Pork, or Corndog lunch mid-afternoon.

- Get on the free hayride to the pumpkin fields early. It is the prettiest out there in the morning light and most people put off their trip to the field until right before going home. Early in the day, you will be able to walk right on to a wagon. You can always stash your pumpkins in the car and come back in to continue the fun.

- Seek out the tranquil places. Wander past the big green barn and the entrance to Porko Arena. There is a big grassy picnic area back there to enjoy. Under the walnut trees along the train tracks is another great spot.

If you don’t have to travel too far, think about breaking your visit into multiple trips. I met a family from Yuba City last year who told me they come out three or four times on weekday evenings during the season. On this particular trip, it was all about the hayride to the field and picking pumpkins. I think they had also refilled their cookie bucket as well but why not? Refills are half price!

Come join us for our 5th Annual

DOG DAYZ
Sunday, November 5th

Bring your dog out for a dog-gone good day on the farm!

Due to unfortunate past events, we no longer allow pets on the farm during our regular season.

But we have dedicated our last Sunday of the season to the dogs!
Adopt a Pet Corn Maze

Each Winter our family sits down and starts talking over ideas for the next season’s corn maze design. A local charity is always featured and this year we decided to support the Yuba and Sutter County animal shelters with an adorable cat and dog “Adopt a Pet” design.

The selected charity receives a portion of our corn maze ticket sales on the second weekend of our season. This year we’ve decided to step it up a notch! Come by the farm on September 23rd from 10:00 to 3:30 pm and meet some adoptable pets from the Yuba and Sutter County animal shelters along with some pets from ResQpaws, a non-profit rescue organization out of Yuba City. Take your family through the corn maze to get the opportunity to adopt one of these pets on us! The first 100 adoptions will be sponsored by the Bishop family.

2017 Scholarship Recipients

The 2016 season gave us another group of 450 great employees. About half of those employees are typically teenagers from as many as ten different high schools in our area. We have the great privilege of awarding scholarships to some of those students going off to a 4-year college or technical school. This year we awarded a total of 5 scholarships:

- Leslie Gonzalez a graduate of Wheatland High School, who has begun studying Social Work at Humboldt State University
- Kayleigh Wick graduated from River Valley High School and is attending the University of Maine to study nursing
- A graduate of East Nicolaus high school, Madalyn Burnsed will be attending San Diego State University to study Criminal Justice
- Kylie Slocum graduated from Marysville High School and will be studying Nursing at Sonoma State University.
- Savannah Hamilton is a Sutter High School graduate now attending Sonoma State to study Business Administration with a concentration in accounting.

We wish the best of luck to all of these students as they begin their college careers. We are looking forward to working with perhaps 500 employees for the 2017 season!
Coyote Bend is Booming

By Austin Bishop

For the last several years our guests have known Coyote Bend to be a quaint little mining village sitting in the shadows of the majestic Coyote Mountain. In years past you could indulge in Dip n’ Dots, Boot Leggin’ Lee’s Lemonade, or some Cotton Candy from the Watering Hole. Now you can do all those things and much more.

A whole town has sprung up to serve all the miners arriving to find their fortunes in marbles at Coyote Mountain. New this year is Coyote Bend Bank, Coyote Bend Mercantile, and a school house for all of the miners’ little ones. Come in and explore the boom town of Coyote Bend, but be mindful, because Sheriff Clementine doesn’t put up with any marble thieving!

OPEN the 1st week in November!

A couple of times in recent years we have tried extending our season a day or two into November. It has been rainy each time so we didn’t get a true measure of what the demand is. We do know that we get quite a few calls from people around that time who weren’t ready for the season to end. So we are trying it again this year. Even though pumpkins are much less in demand after October 31st, we will be open this fall through November 5th. Pets, normally not allowed on the farm, will be welcome on that final day. Also, we will likely put squash, gourds, and other thanksgiving décor on sale – so watch our facebook page or give us a call for announcements around that time.

Golden Autumn Wine Festival

Sunday, September 24 11-4 pm

Come join Bishop’s Pumpkin Farm as we celebrate our regional wine industry.

Featuring up to 20 wineries from our valley and foothill counties with wines for tastings, accompanied by a variety of cheeses and crackers. Host Mike Wreyford, AKA “The Wine Guy” will conduct hourly demonstrations about wines and foods. Plus, enjoy musical entertainment. You can also indulge in samples from local vendors, or have a Bishop’s BBQ lunch (sold separately).

Many of the wineries will also have bottles and cases of their wines for purchase.

This year, the event is being held in Bishop’s shady apple orchard.

Tickets can be purchased on our website www.bishopspumpkinfarm.com or through the Yuba-Sutter United Way office

$25 ticket to taste all of the wineries of your choice
$30 ticket includes tasting PLUS one glass of wine of your choice
Parking will be free on the day of the event!

All proceeds from ticket sales benefit the Yuba-Sutter- Colusa United Way
**Entertainment Spotlights**

**Rock Ridge**
A band of 4 singing bluegrass folks, you will find yourself tapping and clapping along!

**Something Ridiculous**
A high-energy juggling acrobatic act performed by slapstick stuntmen Mark Wilder and VonJon. Their action-packed show is fun for all ages and guaranteed to make you laugh!

**Sourdough Slim**
The last of the Vaudeville Cowboys, Sourdough Slim is a hoot to say the least. Come enjoy this yodeling cowboy.

**Fables of the West**
Enjoy these two strolling comedy cowboys. Be careful, you may become part of their show!

**The College Fund Street Band**
A band formed by five siblings raising money for college. Come join the Fong family for a variety of instruments and covers you are sure to recognize.

**Rock Bottom Boys**
You'll love watching these three do their good ole' fashioned boot-stomping music!

**Washboard Willy**
A one-man walk-around band! Washboard Willy guides Rocko, his custom music truck, around while singing and playing his washboard.

**The Fargo Brothers**
These four deliver a brand of Blues and roots of Rock & Roll with fire that only a band that's been together for 3-decades can provide!

**Music Matt**
A rock star for the children, come learn the A, B, C's of music with Music Matt!

**The Heiffer Bells**
AKA Cow Girls, you are sure to enjoy this group of ladies and their original Back Porch Americana music.

**Thunderfoot Cloggers**
A high energy clogging dance group, they'll be sure to get you dancing along with them!

**The Magic of Frank Thurston**
Frank Thurston is an interactive fun-filled family comedy magic show for all to enjoy! He is known as the magician of Family-Fun!
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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>POND</th>
<th>CIDER</th>
<th>HOUSE</th>
<th>WALK AROUND</th>
<th>PUPPET SHOW</th>
<th>PORKO ARENA</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 10/01</td>
<td>Sourdough Slim</td>
<td>Thunderfoot Cloggers</td>
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<td>12:12, 2:15 &amp; 4:15</td>
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<td>Friday 10/06</td>
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<td>Something Ridiculous</td>
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<td>Fargo Brothers</td>
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<td>Something Ridiculous</td>
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<td>10:15, 12:15,2:15 &amp; 4:15</td>
<td>NASPIG Every hour on the half hour First at 10:30, Last at 5:30</td>
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<td>Music Matt</td>
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<td>College Fund Band</td>
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<td>Saturday 10/21</td>
<td>OCD</td>
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<td>Frank Thurston</td>
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<td>Rock Bottom Boys</td>
<td>Frank Thurston</td>
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<td>Rock Bottom Boys</td>
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<td>NASPIG Every hour on the half hour First at 10:30, Last at 5:30</td>
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### PARKING & FEE SCHEDULE

**Value Day FunTix Accepted on YELLOW DAYS only**

See inside this page for our Entertainment Schedule!

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<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>Movie Night at dusk - Sing</td>
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<td>Movie Night at dusk - Minions</td>
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**Fireworks Fridays in October!**

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**Value Days FunTix Information**

These tickets will be **GREEN** and can be used during any visit at the farm:
- $0.99/Ticket
- $47.99 for 80 Tickets
- $89.99 for 100 Tickets

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**Anytime FunTix**

These tickets will be **YELLOW** and cannot be used on Saturdays & Sundays in October:
- $0.89/Ticket
- $39.99 for 80 Tickets
- $69.99 for 100 Tickets

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**Tickets Required for Each Attraction**

- Petting Zoo - 2 Tickets
- Corn Maze - 6 Tickets
- Coyote Mountain - 5 Tickets
- BPF Train - 4 Tickets
- Carousel - 4 Tickets
- Zip Line - 12 Tickets
- Sunflower Labyrinth - 2 Tickets

FunTix are subject to the 5% Wheatland Admission Fee.

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**From the North:** Drive south on Hwy 65 to Wheatland. Turn right on 1st Street and follow the signs to the farm.

**From Interate 80 East of Roseville:** Take Hwy 65 turnoff. Wheatland is approximately 21 miles north. Turn left on Main Street and follow the signs to the farm.

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**Bishop's Pumpkin Farm**

1415 Pumpkin Lane
Wheatland, CA 95692
650-633-2868

bishoppumpkinfarm.com