

Don't be afraid – we're really quite friendly here

There are so many folks coming into Calaveras County from more urban settings than ours, I thought it might be of some help to share a list of the top 10 things not to do when they first get here. To wit:

Don't be surprised if strangers wave as you go by. They're not trying to car-jack you. They're just being friendly.

Don't light up that burn pile on a hot, windy August afternoon. It's considered rude to burn down the neighborhood.

Keeping in Touch

By STEVE WILENSKY



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Don't let your Chihuahua out for a romp in an open field, especially when large birds of prey are circling overhead.

Don't assume the first deer crossing the road in front of you is the last, unless you need a new radia-

tor and front end anyway.

Don't tell anyone, "this is how we did things in the valley." It would be better to just go back there.

Don't honk the car horn unless you're using it to greet folks.

Don't fail to allow extra time for socializing when you take your trash to the transfer station (but try not to back up the flow of traffic too much).

Don't assume that non-operational vehicle isn't someone's primary means of transportation or domicile or

both. Think of this before you call code compliance to have it hauled.

Don't forget to take your half out of the middle of the road. Those center lines are pretty important to observe, especially around blind curves with a loaded logging truck coming from the opposite direction.

Don't try to capture that stray emu by yourself or without protective equipment (talk to the animal con-

trol crew that returned to base battered and bruised without the bird).

Finally, welcome to one of the greatest places on Earth. Respect it, treasure it, enjoy it and revel in it.

The rewards are nearly infinite if we sustain what's special about this place.

A few good manners and some common courtesies will go a long way toward your successful entry into country life.

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