

# Historic buildings worth saving

Among the distinguishing features of our foothills are the great historic buildings in each community. They are an architectural and visual link to our heritage. For many long-time residents, these buildings hold fond memories.

The recently-painted West Point Odd Fellows Hall and Rebekah Lodge has, at one time or another, served as a movie theatre, dance hall, roller-skating rink, funeral parlor, theatrical stage and community meeting place.

Railroad Flat, Moke Hill, and Mountain Ranch all boast venerable old build-

## Keeping in Touch

By STEVE WILENSKY



District 2 Supervisor

ings, most of which have been maintained over the years by small bands of volunteers. We owe them a debt of gratitude for their dedication which might best be paid by giving our buildings some serious TLC.

Our county seat, San Andreas, has a signature historic building in the old county courthouse, jail and

government offices on Main Street. The lovingly restored large brick structure serves as the historical society's museum and office space. I highly recommend it as a family visit. But more needs to be done.

Invited by historical society president Wally Matloch, I paid a visit and found the building and its contents in great jeopardy. Among the problems: a roof that leaks, severe water damage in seven rooms and barely operable heating and air conditioning, all of which have contributed to the damage of priceless artifacts.

*Turn to HELP, page 16.*

# Help save history, supervisor asks

*Continued from page 4.*

In the 1800's, a bad batch of mortar used on 6 or 7 courses of bricks near the bottom of the building. These are now coming loose, placing the entire structure in peril.

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Almost as bad, Wally informed me that, as a member of the board of supervisors, I was something of a landlord of this county-owned building. As such, I am determined to try to find a solution for this situation, short of losing this grand old place.

I hope the community will rally to the support of all our heritage buildings. But we need to patch the roof of this site before the rains begin. If there are any contractors, roofers, or other skilled folks out there with a yen to make a great contribution in the spirit of an old-fashioned barn raising, I'd sure like to hear from you.

Meanwhile, between the county and concerned citizens, we need to raise some revenue to get the job done. Send ideas to [sph@volcano.net](mailto:sph@volcano.net). Let's not let the rich history of our region slip away on our watch.