

IN THE PARKS – *Oroville Mercury Register*

“How I Spent My Summer Vacation”

With the Labor Day weekend now behind us, it hit me the other day that summer will soon be coming to a close. Like the last refreshing sip from a delicious glass of ice-cold lemonade, this three-day reprieve serves as a benchmark for change. As children everywhere trade in bathing suits and flip-flops for a new back-to-school wardrobe in preparation for the start of a new school year, I started to think back to what it was like for me growing up as a kid.

The first thing the teacher always seemed to ask that exhilarating first day of school was, “How did you spend your summer vacation?”

This would usually elicit a groan, as I’d start to think “Oh, gosh, I’ve already got to write an essay!”

But caught up in the air of excitement that surrounds the first day of school, with my newly sharpened pencil poised over a crisp white pad of lined paper, I’d start to write about my summer adventures. These essays usually consisted of memories made while hanging out at the local park. It was great because my community had a wonderful recreation program. There was a park, complete with swings, teeter totters and even a pool. My friends and I went to the pool every day. Though I was shy and bashful, I had fun with my friends teasing the girls at the pool. They would often retaliate with water balloons, which we never really minded because it helped keep us cool on those hot summer days. One of our favorite things to do, though, was to watch the park maintenance guy when he watered the grass. We’d watch intently from some hidden location as he meticulously placed a large oscillating sprinkler on the grass. As soon as he left, we’d adjust the sprinkler so we could run through it, until his eventual return at which point he would chase us out of the field. But it was all in good fun.

When you think of childhood memories, you realize what was important to you as you were growing up. My memories bring back recollections of the great programs provided by the parks and recreation staff. At Feather River Recreation and Park District, we provided a lot of programs and activities throughout this summer. If we were to think about our essay for “how we spent our summer vacation,” we would have to include fun community events such as the free Thursday night concerts in the

park at Riverbend. We also spent our summer at Nelson and Palermo pools, teaching area youth how to swim. We held a Summer Day Camp that provided more than ## kids with fun activities and adventure filled days for two full weeks. **(LIST MORE SUMMER PROGRAMMING/ACTIVITIES HERE)**

One of the things I remember that I really enjoyed about the start of the new school year was seeing old friends. Along with the old comforts, the new school year also brought with it lots of changes. There was always a nervous excitement that accompanied finding your new classroom, meeting your new teacher, and getting to know your new classmates.

FRRPD is pleased to be offering some new activities this coming fall, such as **(LIST NEW ACTIVITIES/CLASSES HERE)** Be sure to look for our Winter/Fall Recreation Guide, and Activity Guide for lots more information.

We here at FRRPD hope we were a part of some of your memories this summer, and look forward to bringing you exciting changes and opportunities this Fall.

See you *in the parks!*