

# THE MYERS FLAT NEWS

With occasional news also from Miranda, Weott, Phillipsville, and Redcrest  
The motto of Myers Flat (Humboldt Co, CA) is: "Myers Flat Is Where It's At"

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## MYERS FLAT PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST TRADITION CONTINUES

Tykes in pink ballet outfits, ghosts and goblins, an occasional witch, a raft of pumpkins and of course Howard Baker in an outrageous hat – what could it be but the annual Myers Flat Pumpkin Carving Contest? In the parking area just outside Carol Morrison's super deli and market on the weekend before Halloween, a gaggle of costumed kids and their parents paraded around, displayed their pumpkin carvings both traditional and weird, and picked up prizes. Carol presided. The sun shone brightly. Cameras clicked. Candy was consumed in vast quantities. Good times? Had by all.<>

## M.F. FIRE DEPARTMENT DISCOURAGED

It was enough to make a strong man cry, in fact a whole bunch of strong men, all of them members of the Volunteer Fire Department

of Myers Flat.

As Fire Chief Tom Mulder and his Department were preparing for a training mission in front of the stores on The Avenue of the Giants in Myers Flat, there was a huge whooshing noise as the main pump on the main fire truck just blew out.

And that was a ten thousand dollar whoosh, according to Mike Cuddihy, one of the firemen, being the approximate cost of replacing or fixing the pump. That is ten thousand dollars which the Myers Flat Volunteer Fire Department does NOT have.

This problem comes at a time when the Department has just got a grant for purchase of turn-out coats and radios. But that money cannot be used for the truck, and without the truck, all of the other equipment is useless. "We're going to have

to raise the money in the community," commented Mike, as he was bending his elbow that evening in the Myers Flat Trading Post Saloon.

An immediate response from Bill Meagher, proprietor of the Saloon, was an offer to let the Volunteer Fire Department use the Saloon for a fundraiser. "We need to stand behind our Volunteer Fire Department," said Bill, who until well into his seventies responded to every fire along with the rest of the volunteers in the Department. <>

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## IRAQ?

Is there a local angle to the great national and international debate about whether or not the United States should attack Saddam Hussein to bring about changes in Iraq? Only that the young men of this town will have to fight it, that's all, and some will lose all that they have to lose, their lives, while others will lose only their health and all, for sure, their innocence.

So who should we believe? Here's someone who seems to have better credentials than any one else making pronouncements on the subject: Kanan Makiya, a native of Iraq, scholar-in-

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## **IRAQ?**

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residence at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University, where he runs the Iraq Research and Documentation Project. He also is the author of a recent book, "Republic of Fear: the Politics of Modern Iraq."

He says, in a recent column: "Iraqis outside and inside the country want this war. You could compare them to, say, citizens of the former Soviet Union just before the fall of the Berlin Wall. They've lived under a totalitarian system and are sick and tired of ideologies. They want to have lives. They want to have business."

"In the beginning, they didn't take the talk of 'regime change' very seriously. They thought it was another public relations ploy. Their experience of the United States has been a bitter one. They felt let down after what happened after the last Gulf War, when coalition forces stopped short of Baghdad and let Saddam Hussein crush the rebellion – a rebellion, by the way, in which far more Iraqis died than during the Gulf War."

"The Europeans are convinced, and many Arabs seem convinced, that the whole Arab world will rise up in fury and anger at a U.S.-led military campaign in Iraq. But when you see Iraqis welcome American troops, that's going to change overnight. Compared to the way Afghans welcomed the Americans, it would be magnified 100-fold because at least the Taliban had a genuine social base and loyalty in their own ranks. The only thing that holds the Iraqi regime together is fear of alternatives, the police apparatus and so on. I think it's going to be an extremely welcome liberation. How long it lasts is the real political question."<>

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## **WHO'S KILLING CATS?**

About 20 cats,  
household pets as well as  
wild ones, have  
disappeared in the last six  
to eight months. Most likely  
culprit, according to the old  
timers, is a bobcat or  
mountain lion, of which  
there are still a goodly  
number in these parts. Be  
careful.<>

## **WHAT'S KILLING DOGS?**

According to the  
Humboldt Department of Health,  
the green stuff in the Eel River,  
which looks natural and innocent  
enough, is a poisonous growth  
called blue-green algae. The  
river has been posted: keep your  
dogs & kids out. Some dogs  
have died already. Others,  
however, have drunk and gone  
swimming, to no ill effect.<>

## **GRAPE HARVEST DONE**

All the grapes in Myers Flat  
have been harvested and  
delivered to the crushers.  
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Restaurant

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