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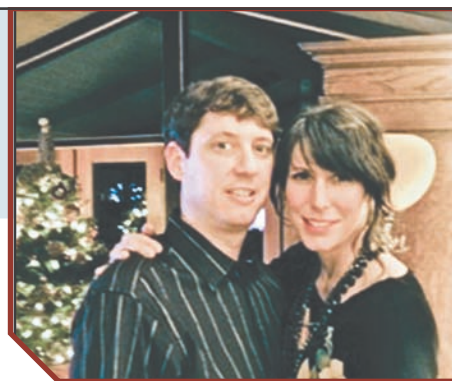
Years in
Business

Clinton & Nicole

Owners, Earl's Plumbing

"Plumbers are late (if they even show up at all!) It seems they charge you whatever they feel like, and if there is an issue with the work performed, good luck getting them back out!" This was the image that the Earls set out to change when they opened in the fall of 1998.

The Earls believe that by looking at how they conduct business from their customer's point of view, they can provide the absolute best plumbing experience. A live operator answers the phone 24/7 and appointments are scheduled in a two hour window, 92% of their customers receive same day service, all their technicians wear booties to protect your home, and a complete written quote is given before any work begins.



"We are proud of our commitment to the environment and offer products and services geared toward energy efficiency." With goals of complete customer satisfaction, and the health and well-being of their North State Community, the Earls are on the road to success.



530.343.0330 | www.earlspumbing.net

Locally
Made

19

Years in
Business

Kevin Riley Michael Wear Nick Andrew Michael Hall

Owners

Locally owned and operated 5th Street Steakhouse opened in August 2000, featuring U.S.D.A. prime cuts of beef, fresh seafood, a full service bar, and an extensive wine list. The owners and staff pride themselves in providing consistent and excellent personal service along with the finest quality food.

This passion for quality food, top-notch service and a lively atmosphere has made 5th Street Steakhouse a memorable and cherished landmark of the Chico community as well as a Best of Chico Living Legend 14 years running.

5th Street Steakhouse also offers a banquet room which is attached to the main dining room area, but provides a private section for any special event. This beautiful facility is perfect for birthdays, wedding rehearsal dinners, anniversaries, religious celebrations, graduations,



fundraisers, holiday parties, and private meetings.

With an array of menu options and an extensive wine list, you are sure to find 5th Street Steakhouse to be the ideal fit for your event.

Everyone at 5th Street Steakhouse looks forward to serving you soon!

345 West 5th Street | Chico | 530.891.6328 | www.5thstreetsteakhouse.com

COMMUNITY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

Gonzales commended the city of Chico for fast-tracking a response that lets the private sector help address the crisis. That came by way of an emergency ordinance that—among other things—allows for permitted temporary dwellings on both developed and undeveloped residential, commercial and industrially zoned property.

During an interview a few weeks after the City Council moved forward with that policy, City Manager Mark Orme reiterated the city's commitment to taking steps to support the displaced, an effort that subsequently buoys the economy.

"We can't afford to lose the professionals that we have here," he said. "If someone was detrimentally impacted, and they don't have a place to stay, that is a real concern, because we don't want them fleeing somewhere else and losing the amazing talent we have here."

That was a concern for Gonzales as well—17 of his employees lost their homes. Thus, the hundreds of thousands of dollars of infrastructure spent to make the RV park viable.

Some who live there already had their own rigs, and are simply renting the space. Others are paying for the space and renting a trailer, many of which Grossman purchased. The fees will help the companies recoup the investment. The businessmen will absorb any remaining costs.

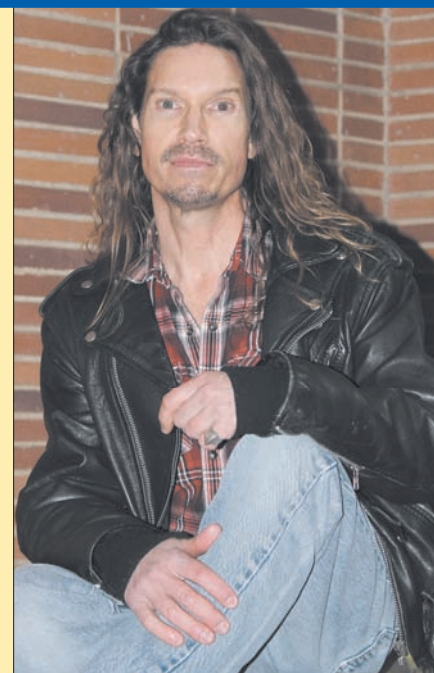
"We have a responsibility to our employees, and we also are in a position to be able to make a difference, so to me, it's a great feeling to be able to work with other companies, to collaborate, and to see a community come together and show empathy and be able to do something like that," said Gonzales, who also launched a T-shirt fundraiser shortly after

the fire. "I mean, everybody tries to help do what they can do—if that's sheltering somebody, or giving them food or working on a Saturday."

Gonzales said the facility will be a year-plus-long housing solution. Multifamily units are slated for construction at Meriam Park in the coming months, followed by single-family homes. Both should help relieve the housing shortage.

For McAndrew's part, he was pretty stunned by the overture. He recalled going to the RV park one evening a few weeks after the fire with the company's human resources personnel. There, he found Gonzales personally handing out keys to the brand-new units.

"The fact that he's out there in the dark, in the cold, helping get us into these trail-



Sean McAndrew spent months living in the RV park in what he described as a "beautiful one-bedroom trailer." PHOTO BY MELISSA DAUGHERTY

ers, I was really touched by this," he said.

McAndrew, who's worked at Fifth Sun for four years, said the trailer provided a safe place of respite for him and his miniature fox terrier/chihuahua mix. He described heading there after work and drawing the blinds—a coping mechanism of sorts, since he could imagine the RV was parked anywhere.

"It was kind of just like a cozy retreat, like a little hideaway," he said. "And it was so quiet."

McAndrew handed those keys back last Friday (Feb. 8) after having found another place to stay. He's already seen the first draft of architectural plans for a rebuild of his home and is looking forward to new beginnings in the canyon.

That outlook now is a far cry from the first weeks after the blaze, a time during which he felt numb. What kept him going were the tasks he needed to get done—things like getting a P.O. box and dealing with insurance paperwork—and the kind words and gestures from friends, family and the folks at work.

Early on, Fifth Sun provided donations of new clothing and bedding. A short time later, after taking two weeks off to take care of the related complexities, McAndrew learned his fellow employees had donated vacation hours to him and other displaced co-workers. He's been heartened by all of the efforts to make life easier during this hardship.

"Having that support from Fifth Sun meant a lot, it really, really did," he said.

—MELISSA DAUGHERTY
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MORE BUSINESS CONTINUED ON PAGE 28