

high in the eastern Sierra along a gravel and dirt road, about 25 miles southwest of Gardnerville and an equal distance southeast of Lake Tahoe.

The site is owned by California and managed by the Lahontan region of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Leviathan Creek, which flows through the site, is a sewer of toxic poisons, containing levels of arsenic, mercury, copper, lead, zinc and other heavy metals in excess of state and federal water quality standards.

It is a sight that saddens and concerns Washoe Indians.

"Primarily what we've been interested in is the fullest enforcement of the letter of the law," said Tribal Chairman Brian Wallace said. "We believe we're entitled

to no less. Not just the reservation population, but the entire community for that matter."

The creek runs through Indian lands and U.S. Forest Service property before it eventually feeds into the East Fork of the Carson River, a major water supply for Douglas County.

Though the Washoes are perhaps the most directly affected by the pollution, they were not consulted about the situation in years past, said tribal lawyers Evan Beavers and John Martin.

"The tribe was never made privy to any of the earlier discussions on how to treat it," Beavers said.

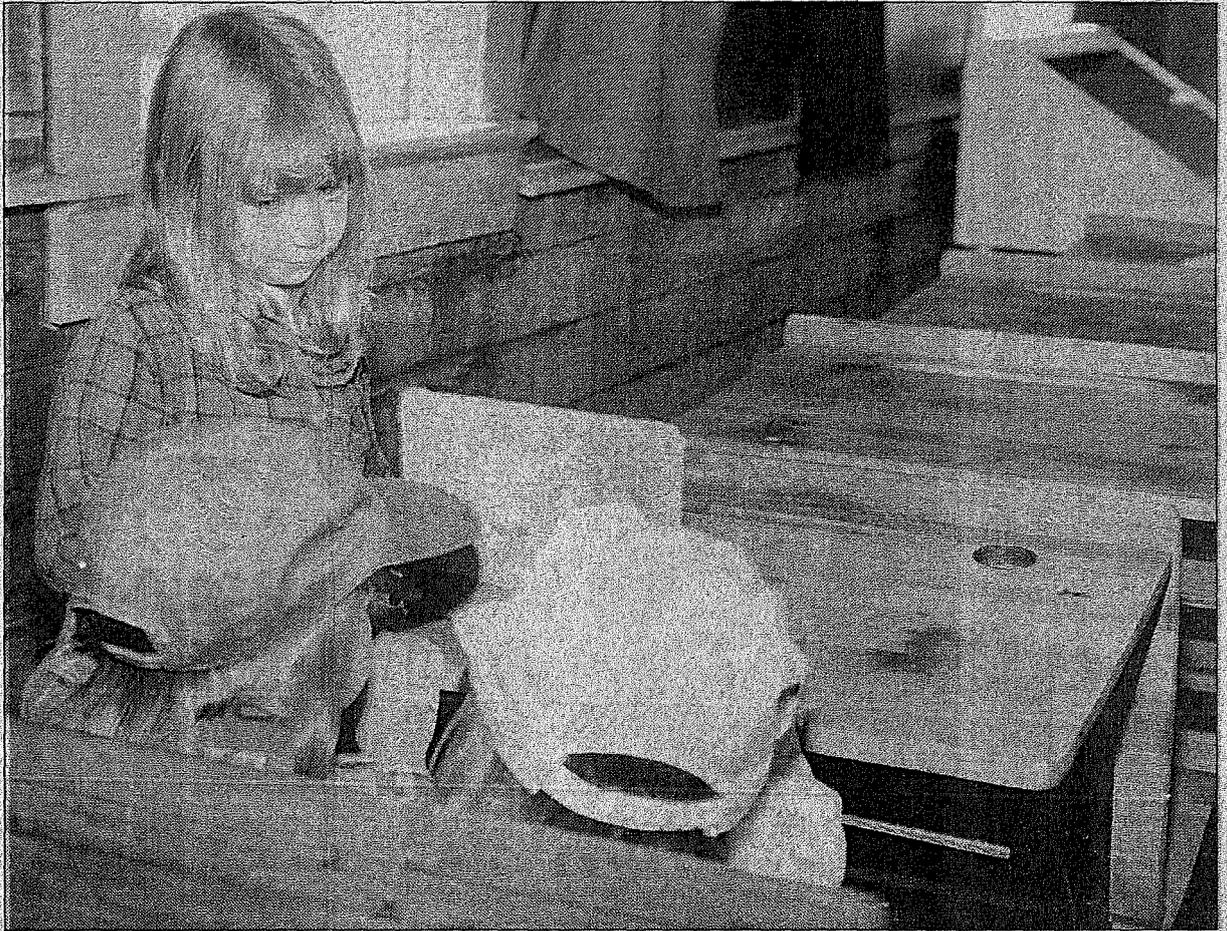
Tribal officials took their concerns to the federal and state environmental officials last year and initiated meetings about the ongoing

problem.

In September, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency declared the site an environmental emergency.

During spring runoff, huge ponds designed to hold 15 million gallons of acid drainage from the mine typically overflow, sending anywhere from an estimated 3 million to 7 million gallons of toxic water into Leviathan Creek, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press.

Though no contamination has been found in Douglas County's Carson Valley 20 miles downstream, an EPA memo warned that unless corrective action is taken, continued uncontrolled releases "may be expected to severely impact fisheries downstream and compromise drinking water sup-



MUSEUM: Heather and Brittney Lathrop and Kylie Flannigan tour the Old Webster School, part of the Alpine County Museum complex in

Markleeville over the weekend. The tour was part of the end-of-season festivities at the Alpine complex. R-C photo by Michael Okimoto

Record Courier 10/22/97

Leviathan Creek's foul sludge may be mak

by Sheila Gardner

I received a telephone call this week from a regular reader of The Record-Courier who was very unhappy with the story we published Oct. 15 regarding the environmental mess at the Leviathan Mine.

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usually try to defuse unhappy subscribers, but, so far, she has declined.

At the same time she was talking with me, though, I'm thinking, "Road trip."

In less time than it's taking me to write this, I planned an excursion to Leviathan Mine with Commissioner Bernie Curtis and his wife Linda.

We took off Wednesday morning, congratulating ourselves that we have obligations which occasionally mean driving through the Sierra on a glorious fall day.

It takes about 45 minutes to get to the Leviathan Mine, and that's in a late model Suburban. As we climbed higher and higher, I couldn't help but imagine how kidney-crunching the trip must have been 125 years ago. The Leviathan Mine Road, south of Gardnerville, winds up through

LETTER FROM THE

the mountains, overlooking spectacular scenery magnified by the brilliant fall foliage.

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At first, you suspect it might be aspen leaves, because, after all, it's late October. But this yellow sludge is not the product of the changing seasons. This stuff is nature's nightmare, making its way downstream.

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RC 10-25-97

Commission looks at Leviathan mess

by Christy Chalmers
R-C News Service

Douglas County officials were reminded recently of one of the eastern Sierra Nevada's dirtiest little secrets.

Now they're interested in meeting with one of the secret's other keepers, the Alpine County Board of Supervisors.

The secret is Leviathan Creek, a foul waterway that has been all but destroyed by the contaminants from Leviathan Mine that have leaked into it. The old sulfur mine, in the mountains about 25 miles southeast of Gardnerville, discharges a laundry list of toxins into the creek.

Leviathan Creek makes its way from Alpine County to Douglas County, where it empties into the East Fork of the Carson River. That connection inspired Douglas County commissioners to suggest Thursday the county should organize some sort of discussion on what can be done to clean up the creek.

"The creek has yellow water, there are no fish in it, it smells and all of the trees along it are dying," said Commissioner Bernie Curtis. "There may be an item that we need to step up to the plate (on) and address."

The mine site is now managed

by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, while the creek passes through Indian and U.S. Forest Service land before emptying into the Carson River's East Fork.

The Carson River is the source of much of the Carson Valley's water, and the commissioners said they're leery of what impacts Leviathan Creek could have on that.

"We could very well have full and complete control of a river that's unsafe to drink from," said Commissioner Kelly Kite.

"I find it interesting that there's talk of creating a wild and scenic river, but the water is unsafe to touch," added Commissioner Jacques Etchegoyhen.

The U.S. Forest Service is considering declaring the upper reach-

es of the Carson River's East Fork a wild and scenic stream.

Curtis suggested meeting with the Alpine County board of supervisors to discuss possible action on the creek.

"The bully pulpit can often get things done," agreed Etchegoyhen. "I think we can be effective with the Alpine board of supervisors."

The commissioners told Community Development Director Bob Nunes to take a field trip to the offensive stream, but didn't set a firm date for meeting with the Alpine supervisors.

The mine site is being considered for inclusion on the federal Superfund list. Officials are hoping to treat some of the water from it within the next few weeks to mitigate its effects if the ponds at the site overflow next spring.

REC. COURIER 10-22-97

10/25/07

Making its way to a faucet near you

THE EDITOR

was unlocked, however and there were trailers and heavy equipment in an area marked as an "Environmental Protection Agency command post."

The atmosphere seemed casual — no snarling German shepherds or G-men to confiscate Linda's camera or my notebook.

We met a friendly woman from San Francisco who is working at the site as an EPA consultant. All she could tell us, though, was that we had to leave because we were on a hazardous ground and weren't properly dressed (no hardhats or steel-toed boots,) nor had we completed the 40-hour safety course.

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Getting the heave-ho is one of the occupational hazards of my job. People tell me I'm trespassing, it's none of my damn business, or they promise to call me right back. But it's very disconcerting to be standing in the brilliant Sierra sunshine, in the middle of the what's arguably the most beautiful scenery on earth, and be told I might be in peril.

My "X-Files"-inspired imagination noticed right away that there were no birds singing in the lovely autumn afternoon, or any other obvious signs of wildlife.

We made a few stops on the way out, looking down at the huge

cavity and snapping photographs of the giant retention ponds which hold 15 million gallons of acid drainage from the mine. During spring runoff, the ponds overflow, sending anywhere from an estimated 3 million to 7 million gallons of toxin-laced water into Leviathan Creek.

It doesn't take a 40-hour safety course or a journalism degree, however, to figure out where that water's headed. With all due respect to my telephone caller, this stuff is evil and is making its way downstream.

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The Record-Journal

GARDNERVILLE • NEVADA

DOUGLAS COUNTY'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1880

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W Oct. 25, 1997 EEEKEN D

EPA leaving Leviathan site

Toxic water: Colder temperatures force end to treatment project; team will return to Alpine County mine site in spring

by **Sheila Gardner**
Staff Writer

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is abandoning the cleanup site at the Leviathan Mine for the winter as

colder temperatures bring an end to an experimental water treatment system.

"We thought we'd be here for a month or so with this treatment system, but the solids are too much for our centrifuge. We're getting a little ice on the ponds and

the clean water is starting to freeze," said Daniel B. Suter, on-scene coordinator for the EPA.

"The water we're producing is not good enough to discharge back into Leviathan Creek."

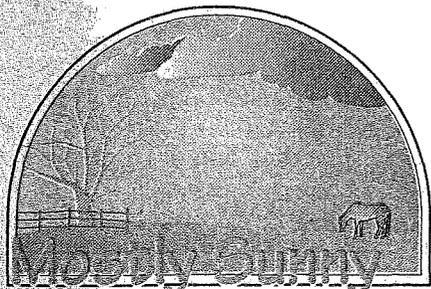
Suter said Friday the system developed by engineers in Los Angeles didn't take into account the colder weather. He esti-

mated temperatures at the mine site at just above freezing.

"We're cutting our losses now and demobilizing even as we speak," Suter said.

The EPA crew has been at the site since Oct. 6 and should be gone by Monday, he said.

See **Leviathan** page 6



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

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Record Courier 10/25/97

Leviathan: EPA leaves water treatment project at abandoned Alpine mine until spring

Continued from page 1

"We're building up the berm around the lower pond for some additional physical containment to avoid the excess run-off in the spring. Other than that, it's back to the drawing board," he said.

The Leviathan Mine is located in Alpine County near the Nevada state line, approximately 25 miles southeast of Gardnerville. The site is owned by the state of California and managed by the Lahontan region of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board.

The mine opened in 1863 to provide copper sulfate used in processing silver ore in Virginia City. Off-and-on mining operations ceased at the Leviathan in 1962.

Leviathan Creek which flows through the site contains levels of arsenic, mercury, copper, lead, zinc and other heavy metals in excess of state and federal water quality standards.

Suter said EPA officials met Wednesday with Washoe Tribal officials who were concerned



Water in the Leviathan Creek is a bright yellow. Linda Curtis photo

about the creek which passes through Indian lands and U.S. Forest Service property before feeding into the East Fork of the Carson River.

"We explained what procedures we feel should be followed and laid down some options," Suter said. "I think the Tribe has been

shunted in the past. We're trying to get the state and the Tribe back together. We need to really work closely with the Tribe as a partner."

Suter said the Leviathan Mine cleanup could be placed on the EPA's national priority list. He explained that companies some-

times take it upon themselves to assist in the cleanup rather than be placed on the government's list.

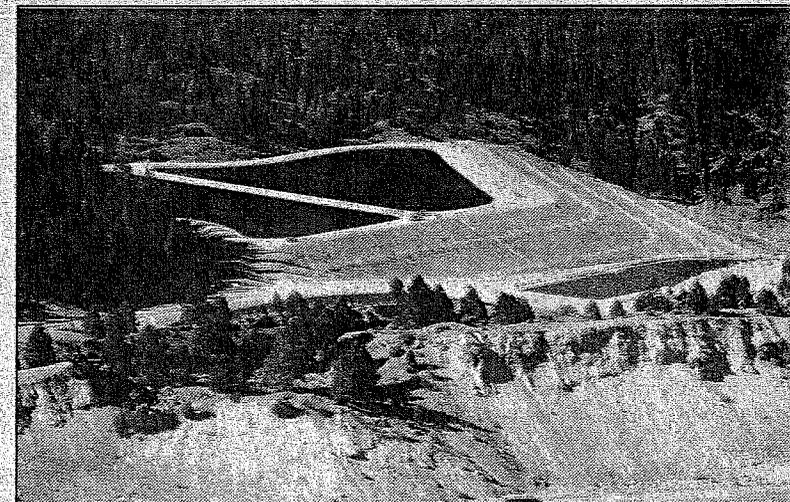
"Then it becomes a very large Superfund site which opens a lot of resources for cleanup," Suter said. "Companies don't like to be on the hook for being on the NPL. They may get quicker or more complete cleanup as a result."

Suter said when the EPA returns in the spring, the government agency will be working toward treating the water rather than containment. He said until late September, the EPA had not been called onto the site.

"The state's got boxes and boxes of files we've hardly looked at," he said.

"If I had my druthers, I'd much rather be treating the water," he said.

"I think a permanent treatment system here would look at the site as a complete entity. The work that's been done here in the past has been good, but we need to look at the entire site."



Retention ponds at Leviathan Mine. Bernie Curtis photo

So far, approximately \$4.7 million has been spent on the cleanup, Suter estimated. The EPA team had a budget of \$1.5 million, but he said only about \$100,000 has been spent.

"We're trying to get more 'responsible party' involvement," Suter said. "That would include the state of California and possibly ARCO."

At one point, Anaconda Co. — an ARCO subsidiary — owned the mine. ARCO negotiated a \$2.3 million settlement with the water quality board after the state threatened to sue.

"It's definitely an environmental problem," he said. "You've got nasty water flowing down that creek and there are heavy metals still in it."

10 YEARS AGO
The Record-Courier
October 29, 1987

LOCAL ACTOR HAPPENS TO BE 12.

For 12-year-old Tommy Kerley of Gardnerville, "High Mountain Rangers" may signal a film debut. The new TV series, scheduled to be shown on either Monday or Wednesday nights beginning in January, has been in production for a month around the eastern Sierra.

Shooting last week was in Alpine County, where local merchants were generally happy about the increased business brought by the actors and film crew.

At the Shady Lady Restaurant in Markleeville, a waiter remarked that the filmmakers were extraordinary pleasant people.

Tommy thinks so, too. For his role, shot at Lake Tahoe, he was coached offscreen by one of the series regulars. He was handed a script with a half dozen lines, told what to do and when to speak, and, like the trouper he is, he did it.

BAND TAKES FIRST. The Douglas High School Fighting Tiger Marching Band took first place in its division at last weekend's University Nevada-Reno Homecoming parade. The goal is to sweep the season with firsts, according to DHS band director Bill Zabelsky.

11/29/97

Leviathan is a mess — but is not harming East Fork

by Nancy Thornburg

Well, okay, you got my attention with your column about the Leviathan (R-C, Oct. 25).

My objection to Chereb's article (Oct. 15) and to your editorial (Oct. 25), the latter of which sort of made my case for my objection to the former, has to do with the use of "hype" words in what I consider to be inappropriate context. For example, the title of your editorial: "Leviathan Creek's foul sludge may be making its way to a faucet near you." Now, in reality, you know, or additional research would inform you, that this simply is not so. Nor is anyone expecting that you, or anyone else, should

"drink it, bathe in it, launder with it, give it to (your) dog or even serve it to people (you) don't like very much."

I have the same reaction to Chereb's headline that "Leviathan Creek is sewer of toxic poisons which threatens Carson River."

Those are Chicken Little, "the sky is falling" scare tactics and it drives me nuts when the media uses this approach to get their readers' attention.

Leviathan Creek is a mess, no question about that. But it is not harming the East Fork of the Carson River and I feel that it is irresponsible to lead the public to believe that their drinking/bathing/laundrying/dog watering

or fishing water in the East Fork is being contaminated and to give them undue cause for concern. According to Chris Stetler, project manager for the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board staff, "The negative (acid mine drainage) impacts are traceable to Bryant Creek but by the time it gets into the East Fork, it is diluted so that we don't see any measurable impacts."

That was the reason I called and talked to the editor about it. But as long as I'm writing this, there are a couple of things I might as well add.

GUEST OPINION

This was a big problem to begin with and there's no such thing as a "quick fix." They started seriously addressing the problem in the early 1980s and have put about \$7 million into corrective action. It hasn't worked as well as they hoped it would, but, of course, it wasn't built exactly as designed, either. Nevertheless, I think the documentation is there that the situation is much improved over what it was in the 1950s and 1960s. And they are still seeking solutions, both short and long term, to minimize the impact throughout the drainage.

Maybe there should be a "refund" on the \$7 million, but according to your quote of Daniel Suler of the Environmental Protection Agency, the EPA spent \$100,000 this month at the site and didn't accomplish what they hoped either because "the system developed by engineers in Los Angeles didn't take into account the colder weather. He estimated temperatures at the mine site at just above freezing."

Well, there's a no-brainer: temperatures just above freezing at 7,000 foot elevation in the Sierra at the end of October. Aren't engineers supposed to know these sorts of things? Maybe, then, there ought to be a refund here as well.

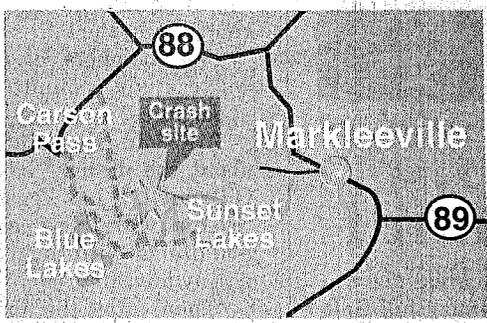
And one other parting thought. The State of California has put up a significant amount of money to solve this problem. Anaconda put up a significant amount of money. Now the EPA is planning to put up a significant amount of money. It was Nevada and Lyon County (together with Anaconda) who reaped the economic benefits through the use of the sulfur at the copper mine and plant at Weed Heights.

But so far as I have been able to determine, the State of Nevada hasn't put up a dime.

Editor's note: Nancy Thornburg is a resident of Markleeville, Calif. Record Corner 11/1/97

Nevada Appeal 11-7-97

Search ends in tragedy



KURT HILDEBRAND/Nevada Appeal



RICK GUNN/Nevada Appeal

Alpine County Sheriff's deputies and search and rescue team members comb through the wreckage of a Cessna 206 Thursday. The wreckage was found near Sunset Lakes.

Searchers retrieve bodies from site

BY JODY RICE
Appeal Staff Writer

Authorities confirmed Thursday that the charred wreckage found in the Sierra Wednesday was that of a missing Cessna 206.

But positive identification of the four bodies removed from the crash site won't be made until autopsies can be performed and dental records examined, said Cynthia Ryan, spokeswoman for the Nevada Wing of the Civil Air Patrol.

For 10 days, the families functioned on hope their loved ones would be found alive in the rugged Sierra terrain. On the 11th day, the missing aircraft was discovered near Sunset Lakes.

"The waiting is too much," said Terry Lukas, mother of Ron Lukas, 36, the pilot, before hearing the confirmation. "I would feel better if we would just hear something."

Nita Montgomery said she met Ron

Please see **RETRIEVE, BACK PAGE**

Retrieve

Continued from Page A1

and Lisa Lukas a year and a half ago through mutual friends. She had plans to celebrate Lisa Lukas' birthday with the couple the first night the plane was missing.

She recalls the caring way Lisa would handle business at the couple's store, Nevada Jewelers and Loan in Carson City. Often, customers who were on a fixed income would come in to pawn family treasures to cover expenses until a check was due. Then they would buy the items back.

"They would do it to make ends meet," Montgomery said. "They had a lot of repeat customers because they were so fair."

Lisa Lukas would routinely give the customers a better deal than maybe she should have — just because, Montgomery said.

"They are just extremely caring people," she said. "It is a real tribute to them how many people have called and offered to help. They are people, people. They were in tune with people. They had to be because of the business they're in."

Once the bodies are officially identified, Ron and 38-year-old Lisa Lukas will likely be buried in Pennsylvania, where Lisa's family is, said Terry Lukas.

A memorial would also take place in Carson City, she said.

Roommates Eric Schleier, 32, and Steve Schantz, 34, were on the red and white Cessna 206 that

took off from the Minden-Tahoe Airport Oct. 26. For Lisa's birthday, the four were headed to Clements, Calif. to visit Ron's dad and Steve's mom, who live and own a restaurant together.

An Alpine County search and rescue crew went out to the wreckage site, about a half a mile north of lower Sunset Lake, again Thursday morning. A cursory search was done Wednesday but darkness halted the investigation.

R.J. Lukas, Ron's father, made the identification of the plane about 2:15 p.m. Thursday.

The charred plane was found in a canyon. Officials of the National Traffic Safety Board and the Federal Aviation Administration visited the site.

Charred wreckage in Sierra

Record Courier 11/8/97



Search and rescue team members comb through the wreckage Thursday. R-C News Service photo by Rick Gunn

Plane crash victims found

by Jody Rice
R-C News Service

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See **Crash** on page 6

Record Courier 11/8/97

Plane crash: Wreckage discovered

Continued from page 1.
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Record Courier Nov. 12, 1997



CANS AND BOXES. Douglas High School students collected more than 800 non-perishable food items for the Carson Valley Community Food Closet. The Associated Student Body is grateful to the community for helping to make

the "trick-or-treating for cans" a success. Featured above are, left to right, Brady Ovard, Casey Condron, Brieanna Cross, Molly Greenberg (top) and Jeanne Corbit. DHS photo

Thanks, Carson Valley, for food

EDITOR:

The Douglas High School Associated Student Body would like to thank the community for its participation and donations during last week's "trick-or-treating for cans" food drive.

The community helped us raise more than 800 cans and boxes of non-perishable food items for the Carson Valley Community Food Closet.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who so generously donated.

**Casey Condron, Molly Greenberg,
Brady Ovard, Brieanna Cross
and Jeanne Corbit**

Douglas High School
Associated Business Council
Nov. 6

Douglas, Alpine boards may hold joint meeting

by Christy Chalmers
R-C News Service

Douglas County Commissioners may meet with Alpine County Supervisors in December to discuss issues such as Leviathan Mine and law enforcement.

The Douglas commissioners said in October they'd like to meet with the Alpine board, and agreement to such a meeting was returned Nov. 5. Items up for discussion include Leviathan Mine, a mutual aid agreement for law enforcement, and Alpine County's interest in renting space in the juvenile hall Douglas County is creating.

Leviathan Mine has drawn attention lately because of efforts to clean it up. The old sulfur mine is located in Alpine County, but polluted water

from it flows into Douglas County through Leviathan Creek, which empties into the East Fork of the Carson River.

Alpine officials also indicated an interest in discussing potential challenges by the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe to the Alpine Decree and Carson River usage.

Douglas County Manager Dan Holler said Monday that a tentative date of Dec. 2 is being looked at for a meeting. He said the meeting will probably take place in Douglas County, though it hasn't been confirmed.

Douglas commissioners are also being polled for discussion topics. The board agreed Thursday Holler should set up a meeting, and also said they would submit possible topics for it.

NOV 12, 1997 Record Courier

Sandra Jim

Visitation will be held today from 6 to 8 p.m. at Walton's Chapel of the Valley in Carson City for Sandra Jim. A funeral service will be tomorrow, Nov. 13 at 11 a.m.

Sandra Jim died on Nov. 8 in Woodfords at the age of 54. Interment will be at the Stewart Indian Cemetery in Carson City.

She was born on June 21, 1943 to Greeley and Velma Jim. She had been a student at the Stewart Indian School and lived in Carson City all her life.

She enjoyed dancing, music and spending time with her family.

Survivors include her mother Velma Jim of Carson City; son Eugene Aaron Sampson, Reno; daughters Roxanne McCormick, Carson City, Marcie Frank, Yerington, and Lorinda Wyatt, Reno; sister Mary Harrison, Gardnerville; brothers Rocky Jim and Vernon Jim, both of Carson City, and Glen Jim, Dresslerville; four grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Walton's Douglas County Mortuary in Minden is in charge of arrangements.

Record Courier 11/12/97

Record Courier

11/15/97

Elly Andrews

A memorial service for Elly E. Andrews, 71, who died Nov. 10 in Dayton, was held yesterday at Walton's Chapel of the Valley in Carson City.

She was born Oct. 27, 1926 in Ensberg, Germany, to Joseph and Anna Weiss Aberle, and married Robert Andrews in Chicago, Ill., on Dec. 9, 1944.

Mrs. Andrews had lived in Gardnerville for the last six years, previously residing in Carson City and Markleeville, Calif.

She was a retired dental office receptionist and had been a member of the Lutheran Church.

Mrs. Andrews is survived by her husband Robert of Carson City; daughters Carol Pacesas of Phoenix, Ariz., and Susan Andrews of Sparks; brother Frederick Aberle, who lives in Washington; and three grandchildren.

Arrangements were handled by Walton's Chapel of the Valley and Walton's Carson Sierra Crematory in Carson City.

Record Courier 11/19/97

Special events to raise funds for Alpine Kids

Alpine Children's Center will benefit from two special events coming up soon.

Turkey Bingo and a raffle will be held Friday, Nov. 21, 7-10 p.m., at Turtle Rock Park.

Cost is 25 cents a game or five cards for \$1. Desserts and beverages will be available. Free child care will be offered at the chil-

dren's center.

Bingo prizes are Thanksgiving turkeys, and numerous raffle prizes will be given away. For information, call (916) 694-2466 or 694-2390.

At Guest Chef Night Dec. 8, diners will be able to partake of Edie Veatch's pork tenderloin with stuffing, mashed potatoes,

gravy and applesauce, plus salad, beverage and dessert for \$7.95.

Alpine Children's Center will receive \$5 from every dinner sold. The Guest Chef Night will be offered starting at 5 p.m. at the Alpine Restaurant in Markleeville, Calif.

For information, call Veatch at 694-2934 or 694-2390.

Record Courier 11/19/97

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Wreath-making at Sorensen's

11/19/97
Record Courier

One of the favorite holiday traditions at Sorensen's Resort is gathering items for and then making fall and winter decorations.

This year, Sorensen's is offering two weekends of classes on Nov. 22-23 (Thanksgiving theme) and Dec. 6-7 (Christmas/Winter theme). Cost is \$40 per person.

With artist and naturalist Diane Campbell, students will learn to use the bounty of the season's harvest

in home decorations for the Thanksgiving season. In the December workshop, they will learn how to create their own holiday wreath, swag or centerpiece, using fresh and naturally preserved materials from nature. Participants can also employ items brought from the garden of the instructor, a long-time resident of Carson Valley.

To make lodging and/or class reservations, call (800) 423-9949.

Alpine, Douglas boards will meet

by Christy Chalmers
R-C News Service

Douglas and Alpine counties have a lot more in common than just a few miles of the California-Nevada state line.

They've got enough to justify a joint meeting between their governing bodies that will take place Tuesday morning in Douglas County.

The meeting was first suggested in October, when Douglas County Commissioners were lamenting Leviathan Mine and the pollutants it sends into Leviathan Creek, which empties into the Carson River.

The mine is in Alpine County, about 25 miles southwest of Gardnerville, but Douglas commissioners say it could be just as much Douglas County's problem because it's part of the Carson River's watershed.

Discussions on dealing with the federal government and Leviathan Mine cleanup are planned.

Other topics up for discussion include mutual aid agreements and contracts for emergency services

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like law enforcement, fire, paramedic and 911 service.

Alpine County supervisors also want to discuss the possibility of leasing space in the juvenile detention hall Douglas County is creating at its Stateline jail. Dou-

glas plans to convert one wing of the jail into a 14-cell facility that will hold boys and girls.

County commissioners have agreed to look at leasing space to surrounding counties. The hall should be ready in July 1998.

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Sorensen's sets Muir portrayal

Imagine sitting by a crackling fire, a glass of wine and a fine meal at hand, watching the fire light play across the face of one of the country's premier conservationists and writers, John Muir.

Sorensen's Resort welcomes back actor and playwright Lee Stetson on Saturday, Dec. 13 at two dinner (only) seatings. Stetson will perform his entertaining reenactment of this legendary man at both the 6 p.m and 8 p.m. seatings at Sorensen's Cafe. Reservations are required.

Sorensen's Resort is a historic settlement of cabins located just east of the Highways 88 and 89 junction, approximately 20 miles south of Lake Tahoe. Donations are accepted and matched by Sorensen's and contributed to Friends of Hope Valley.

For lodging and/or dinner reservations, call 1-800-423-9949.

Alpine Women Artists offer Show and Sell

Alpine Women Artists, a newly-formed group of artists and artisans, extends an invitation to area residents and visitors to view a collection of original work at the Mountain and Garden Bed and Breakfast (Merrill House), 250 Pony Express Road in Woodfords, Saturday, Dec. 6, from 1 to 5 p.m.

"Enthusiasm among the mountain crafts women has reached a high level, as their fingers wield scissors, pins, needles; pens, pencils, paintbrushes, awls, scrapers, and burnishers upon fabric, paper, clay, feathers, beads, wood, leather, willows, and pine needles to evoke lasting impressions of the Alpine aura," said Gina Gigli,



Woodfords Hotel owned by Merrill family, c. 1925. Dangberg collection

group spokesperson.

At this inaugural Show and Sell exhibit at the historic Merrill House, recently remodeled by Linda Merrill and Cathy Merrill, light holiday refreshments will be served hearth-side as guests enjoy

the warm fire and hospitality offered by the artists.

For additional information about Show and Sell, call Gigli at 530-2253; Ellen Martin, (530) 694-2360; or Linda Merrill, (530) 694-0012.

Kirkwood Scrubs Up For Company

Big on deep snow and steeps, Kirkwood has drawn skiing purists for 25 years. Now, constructive surgery is turning Tahoe's best-kept secret into a prime vacation destination. **By Ken Castle**



What will be: The \$11.5 million Lodge at Kirkwood, opening this season, is the nexus of the Mountain Village to be completed by 2000.

It was snowing hard one day last April when Barry Sgarrella and his family were at Kirkwood for their annual Easter ski fling. Rather than hibernate during the storm, they decided to look at investment property. They found that the resort was selling parcels for condominiums around its planned Mountain Village. Before the storm had lifted, Sgarrella had a handshake on a deal to build an upscale 38-unit residential and commercial project in what was then the core of the village.

Sgarrella, a real-estate developer, is a

long-time skier from Marin County in the San Francisco Bay Area and is among a growing cadre of people who are making things happen at Kirkwood. They are part of the turn-around team at Lake Tahoe's most underrated mountain, and they are hoping that the resort will soon be something more than a remote corner of the northern Sierra Nevada.

For 25 years, skiers at Kirkwood have been considered the daredevils of Tahoe—people with nerve enough to negotiate hair-raising mountain trails, sneer at radical dropoffs and spit in the eye of swirling blizzards that dropped

4 feet of snow in 24 hours. And those were just the motorists.

Skiing the mountain—well, that was almost an afterthought. If you could drive over Carson Pass from Tahoe or over Carson Spur from the Central Valley (two of the most avalanche-prone sections of highway in California), you'd be content to hunker down, appreciate the virtue of seclusion and savor every moment of tripping through flour-like powder. If you weren't a skiing purist, there wasn't much else. Apres-ski? How about a Lowenbrau in the bar. Dining? There were burgers and steaks at the

Kirkwood Inn. Shopping? Well, you could buy an extra pair of goggles, but that was about it. And for entertainment you could read a few chapters of that five-pound Stephen King novel.

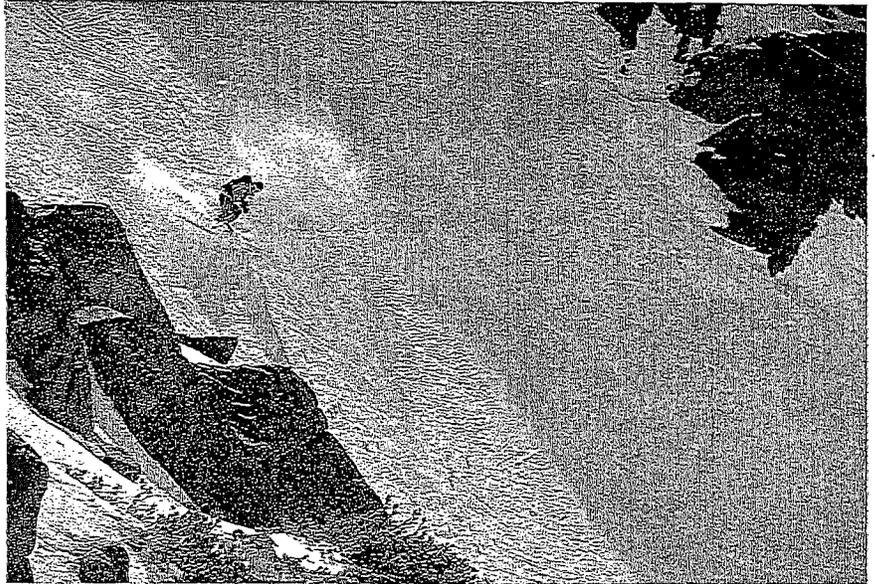
Of course, Kirkwood has always had its loyalists, mostly the locals and cornice-jumpers from South Lake Tahoe who treat it like their private country club. On a typical Kirkwood day, there are no lines, no hassles and lots of ungroomed bowls. And the early season cognoscenti know that Kirkwood's 7,800-foot base is a hedge against droughts and paltry November or December storms.

But with little to offer except incredible skiing and a bunch of condominiums, Kirkwood has been hanging on by a thread. The resort's remote location—two hours from the nearest commercial airport and 45 minutes from the lake—went against every notion of what it takes for a modern ski resort to thrive. Starting in 1994, a few things happened to change what was sounding like Kirkwood's losing playbook.



The new million-dollar Children's Center in Timber Creek Lodge opens this season.

First, the access problem on the roads was largely eliminated when CalTrans installed some new technology called the Gaz-Ex avalanche control system. No, it's not a laxative, it's a row of cannons or tubes



Loyalists know that at Kirkwood there are no lines, no hassles and loads of ungroomed terrain.

located along major avalanche chutes that trigger blasts of oxygen and propane to create controlled slides. Remotely, CalTrans crews can fire these charges frequently to clear buildups along Highway 88. Gaz-Ex is faster and easier than tossing hand charges or shooting projectiles, and comes in handy during those record years when Kirkwood gets up to 900 inches of snow.

In 1995, the real estate market suddenly took off, and Kirkwood's isolation went from being a liability to an asset. Seventeen of the first 19 new condo units in the village were pre-sold by lottery within an hour. Most of the buyers were Silicon Valley millionaires looking for more privacy than the shores of Lake Tahoe could offer. Kirkwood, once languishing from buyer indifference, became the hideaway of choice. The management and the resort's new investors from the Telluride Company thought that they had turned the corner.

But as late as last spring, with the Mountain Village under construction, trouble cropped up on the first building. The condohotel that was to house the new skier's day lodge was beset with huge cost overruns, design problems and lengthy work delays, making resort president Tim Cohee wonder if any game plan could salvage the thing. Cohee, a marathon runner, is a youthful, in-

domitable spirit who thinks of winning over adversity in the same vein as catching his second wind. But enough is enough. "It was a multi-million-dollar lesson," he sighs.

Happily, the tide turned again. During the summer, the robust demand for mountain property brought three new developers to Kirkwood, including Sgarrella's Great Sierra Group. As this edition went to press, plans were being drawn for three additional condominium projects, two of them in the village. One of these, another Kirkwood-financed effort, will offer quartershares, similar to what ski developer Les Otten has done at Sunday River, Maine. These and the future full-share units are expected to go on sale around Christmas.

What skiers will see this season is the opening of the \$11.5 million Lodge at Kirkwood. The four-story, steel-reinforced building houses condo units on its upper floors. On the ground floor is an array of skier services that includes a spacious lobby with fireplace, a store called Kirkwood Trading Company and a bar called Off the Wall, named after the hairball slope framed in its windows. There is also a check-in center for all of the resort's properties. Cohee describes the architectural style as contemporary Rocky Mountain, with warm woods, log detail and rock accents.



With a base elevation of 7,800 feet and 2,000 feet of vertical, Kirkwood will always be a prime Tahoe destination for skiers who place an emphasis on snow quality and terrain.

The Lodge is the nexus of the Mountain Village, and all other buildings will have a similar mix of lodging and commercial space. The 35-unit quartershare project is designed to offer all the trappings of a first-class hotel, including a spa, fitness club, saunas, ski check and concierge service, which are expected to be in operation for the 1998-99 season. By the year 2000, says Cohee, skiers will be able to enjoy a full pedestrian village with a plaza, several stores, at least one new restaurant, an ice-skating rink, a recreation center with an indoor swimming pool and 111 new condominium units, many of which will be on a rental program for public use. Adding these units to the existing bed-base will increase total lodging capacity to 1,500.

Skiers who stay at the Mountain Village won't have to walk far for a

chairlift. Six lifts, including new ones and replacements, will originate from the village, literally within steps of the condos. "We think that this will be the most uphill access from any mountain ski village in North America," says Cohee.

It's no secret that Kirkwood's mountain facilities are still retro, with fixed-grip, double and triple chairlifts that have long been surpassed by modern high-speed quads at other Tahoe resorts. But with money from its real estate sales, the ski area can now afford to remake its mountain. High on the list, maybe for next summer, is the replacement of Chair 4, the double in Sunrise Bowl, with a high-speed quad. The update will increase access and shorten liftlines at this popular intermediates' playground. Following that Kirkwood will install another quad lift—or possi-

bly something called a "chondola" (one gondola cabin for every nine chairs)—from the base of Chair 1 (in front of the main lodge) to the top of Chair 2. That lift will turn what is now a 30-minute journey on two chairs into a quick six-minute ride to the trail that accesses Sunrise Bowl. And to sweeten this project, Kirkwood intends to build a mountaintop restaurant on Caples' Crest that will have a 360-degree view of the peaks surrounding Kirkwood.

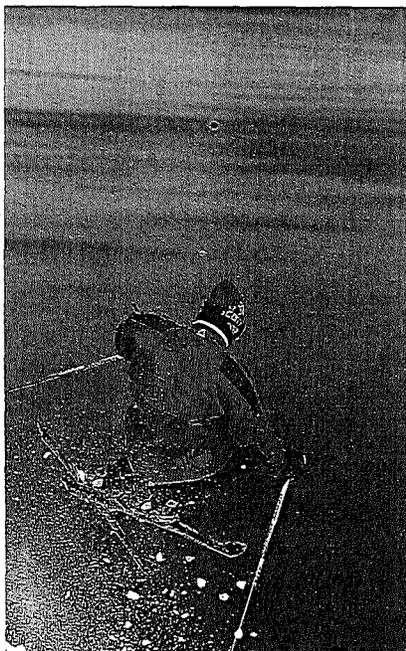
Beyond that, maybe around the new millennium, Cohee has his sights set on what would be the largest terrain expansion in the resort's history—a 500-acre advanced intermediate area called Martin Point, which extends along a ridge above homes in the West Meadows north of the existing ski boundaries.

While there was a flurry of hammering and sawing at the Village last summer, other projects also were under construction. This season Kirkwood takes the wraps off its new million-dollar, state-of-the-art Children's Center at Timber Creek Lodge. Parents will now be able to offload their tykes at a convenient drive-up, and let the staff take over. And to enhance Timber Creek (a learning center separated from the more difficult trails), there will be two new surface lifts and a series of new terrain parks specifically designed for children.

Cohee is aware that a dozen buildings may not seem like a village that is on the order of Whistler or Vail, but they will be sufficient to give Kirkwood's dedicated clientele more amenities to enjoy a weekend stay without getting bored and without having to eat at the same restaurants every night. "For people who want to stay at the base of a great mountain and walk to the lifts, we will have an excellent combination of lodging, dining and shopping," he says.

Kirkwood's rejuvenation was long in coming, and it has been overshadowed by ambitious villages that are in the works at Squaw Valley and Mammoth Mountain. But buyers who are snapping up condos and homesites at Kirkwood know that the best-kept secret at Tahoe is about to get a whole lot better. ♦

SKI PACIFIC



The gift of giving: On Dec. 19, bring a \$10 toy to Homewood, and ski for just \$5.

Ski Homewood, Calif.

The 8th Annual Ho-Ho-Homewood Toy Drive is Dec. 19. Bring a toy worth \$10 or more, and you can ski or ride all day for \$5. Toys go to families in the Lake Tahoe and Reno area. Santa skis at Homewood Dec. 20-Jan. 4.

Squaw Valley, Calif.

On Dec. 28, look for the U.C. Berkeley marching band to play in full dress on the slopes. The band starts playing at the bottom of the Cable Car, then goes up to High Camp, over to Gold Coast and down the mountain to the base for an afternoon session.

Whistler/Blackcomb, B.C.

At Blackcomb on Christmas day, snowboarders can celebrate by riding high in the Christmas Day Pipe Jam. Those not quite up to halfpipe riding can partake in one of many snowboard camps and

clinics happening in the days following Christmas: A Women's All-Star Camp hits Whistler Dec. 26-27, and the Snowboarding Camp of Champions hits the same hill Dec. 27-28. Ski competition fans have a slew of pro events from which to choose: Men's Downhill and Super G Dec. 11-14 and the World Cup of Extreme Freeskiing Jan. 4-7. On New Year's Eve, a torchlight parade is followed by First Night in Whistler Village, an outdoor, nonalcoholic family event with entertainment on two stages. Or, ring in the New Year on top of the mountain at Pika's with a gourmet dinner, followed by dancing.

Lake Louise, Alberta

Lake Louise will host the World Ice-Sculpting Competition Jan. 16-18, which draws competitors from around the world. Not a week later, from Jan. 23 through Feb. 1, the 81st Annual

PHOTOGRAPHS (LEFT) JOE McBRIDE (RIGHT) TIM HANCOCK

Holiday Calendar and News

Get away from muzac in the mall, grab your cookie cutters, and head to the mountains for some authentic holiday cheer. What follows are a few ideas:

Heavenly, Calif.

The highlight of the holiday season at Heavenly is the ESQ Ski With The Greats event on Jan. 3 and 4. Demo ski and snowboard equipment, partake in

instructional clinics and watch the celebrity pro-am race featuring such greats as Phil Mahre, Bill Johnson and Kiki Cutter. On Jan. 9 and 10, the competition gets serious when the Wendy's Downhill Relays hit the slopes. Teams of former Olympic and World Cup champions compete in relay-style events for more than \$300,000 in prizes and money.

Alpine Meadows, Calif.

Alpine Meadows knows that nobody loves the holidays more than children. That's why it has scheduled a Children's Christmas Race for Dec. 24. Santa will be at the obstacle-course finish line, handing out candy canes. Then, on Dec. 31, the mountain hosts its third annual Ski the Eve. The first 100 people to buy tickets receive a free T-shirt. From 3-5:30 pm, there's music at the base area on the deck, and once night falls, a fireworks display and torchlight parades (one led by children, another by mountain employees) round out the on-mountain New Year's celebration.



While kids may prefer a run through the obstacle-course relay, adults choose Alpine Meadows' natural obstacles.

Bear Mountain, Calif.

Throughout the weeks preceding and following Christmas, check out the carolling sounds of The Electric Youth Group, which will be making eight appearances on the day-lodge deck. Those with a competitive streak can partake in Bear's Boardercross Series, which kicks off on Dec. 21. Separate events for skiers, snowboarders and skiboarders will be held, with three heats in each category. Cash and merchandise prizes will be awarded, and follow-up events will be held in February and March.

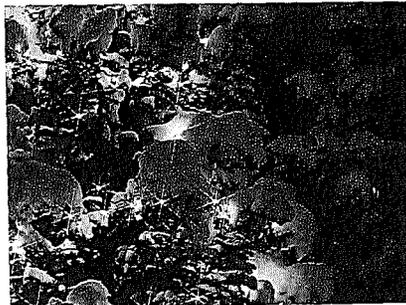
PHOTOGRAPH BY LARRY PROSOR



Throughout ski country, resorts work hard to get skiers into the holiday spirit.

Northstar-At-Tahoe, Calif.

On Dec. 13, take part in the Full-moon BBQ and Cross-Country Ski Tour. Head into the woods on Northstar's Nordic trails, and the reward is a blazing bonfire. The more ambitious can snowshoe, cross-country and telemark ski in the XC triathlon on Dec. 20.



Nothing like a white Christmas to keep skiers—and resort managers—happy.

Mammoth Mountain, Calif.

The town of Mammoth hosts a tree-lighting ceremony Dec. 5. Check out Mammoth's new terrain park, the Unbound, at the Boardercross vs. Motocross event Dec 13-14. The Unbound features music, a mid-park cafe and lights for night skiing and boarding.

Sierra-At-Tahoe, Calif.

WinterFaire, held Dec. 14, has prize drawings, food and a snow-calling contest. On Dec. 20, join in the Holiday Snowboard Workshop to step up your technique.

PHOTOGRAPHS (TOP) DOUG BERRY
(BOTTOM) NATHAN BILOW

Banff/Lake Louise Winter Festival gets underway. Parades, horse-drawn sleigh rides, dog-sled races and various other winter-sport competitions and festivities guarantee 10 days of fun.

Diamond Peak, Nev.

As part of the Northern Lights Festival, skiers staying in local lodging can ski free at Diamond Peak Dec. 21-23. Skiers staying elsewhere can ski for \$10 on those days. The festival, which runs Dec. 21-31, includes a variety of events throughout the community, starting with the free skiing and ending with a New Year's Gala. Call (800) GO-TAHOE for information on all ticket pricing.

Mount Bachelor, Ore.

Bright and early on Jan. 1, start your year off right by torturing yourself at Bachelor's New Year's Relays at the Nordic Center. Teams of three to four

people take turns panting and sweating the 12-mile race. Winners take pride in knowing they got a head-start on their New Year's resolutions.

Mt. Hood Meadows, Ore.

The highlight of the Holly Fest Family Celebration Dec. 12-14 is the Slopestyle Snowboard Competition on Dec. 13. But other family-oriented events—such as “The Great Snowdeer Search”—round out the weekend festivities.

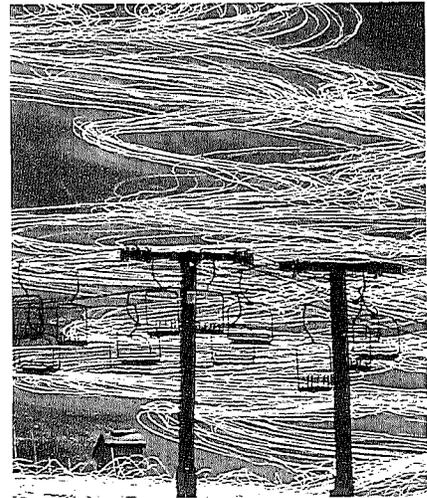
Snoqualmie Pass, Wash.

On Dec. 20, to properly greet the first day of winter, Snoqualmie is hosting Kickin' into Winter. This all-day celebration features ski and snowboard demos and various live bands, plus entertainment for kids and families.

Here, There & Everywhere

There's nothing like a good torchlight

parade to put you in the mood. Look for blazers at Kirkwood, Mt. Hood Meadows, Whistler, Squaw Valley, Northstar-At-Tahoe and Snow Summit.



Ski instructors weave figure-8s down the hill bearing sparklers on steroids. Everyone who falls, buys a round.

The Buck Stops Here

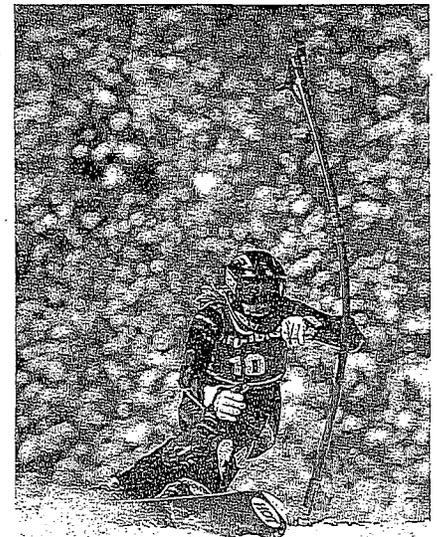
Starbuck's high-octane expansion is not being greeted enthusiastically in Tahoe City, Calif. The Seattle coffee chain is rumored to be taking over a building that now houses the Tahoe City Pharmacy in the center of town. In response, some local coffee and sandwich shops circulated a petition and gathered more than 1,000 signatures from people who don't want Starbuck's. But the anti-bucks have little chance of decaffeinating the giant because the county cannot tell a corporation that their business is not welcome. “Eating and drinking establishments are an allowed use,” said Bill Coombs, a senior planner for Placer County, “but the petition might send a message to Starbucks.”

Hot Hotel

Chateau Whistler resort was rated the number one hotel in Canada by *Travel and Leisure* and *Condé Nast Traveler* in each of the magazine's annual Top 100 issues. The hotel, which is driven by convention-type business, recently finished a \$45 million expansion and now boasts 555 rooms and spa facilities that woo even the most pampered guest.

Next Stop Nagano

The first U.S. Olympic Snowboard team will be selected following the third and final U.S. Snowboard Grand Prix event in Mammoth, Calif. Following the competition on Saturday Jan. 26-31, the top finishers will travel to Reno and fly from there straight to Nagano.



U.S. Snowboard Team member, Sondra Van Ert.

PHOTOGRAPH BY TIM HANCOCK

AG Ruling Borders On the Surreal

There's big trouble brewing in California's smallest district attorney's office.

The one-and-only prosecutor in tiny Alpine County (population 1,200 people, one superior court judge) lives 25 miles away in neighboring Nevada. And Alpine County DA Colleen Hemingway doesn't want to move.

But last week Attorney General Dan Lungren delivered some ill tidings.

"A county board of supervisors ... may not waive the requirement that the appointed officer be a citizen of the State of California," reads an opinion issued by the AG.

In a telephone interview from her Markleeville office, Hemingway said, "This is distressing. It's my career at stake."

The 32-year-old Western State University of Law graduate went to work as Alpine County's only deputy district attorney in 1994.

In April 1996 Hemingway's boss, the newly elected Timothy Pemberton, resigned after only 13 months in office. The Alpine County Board of Supervisors appointed Hemingway to the \$54,000-a-year post.

But, prompted by a citizen complaint, the county's outside counsel Thomas Jeffrey Jr. of Stockton's Neumiller & Beardslee queried Lungren.

Last week, Deputy Attorney General Gregory Gonot delivered the bad news: a district attorney in California has to be a resident of the state.

Now, nobody is sure what the next move is.

Pemberton points out that Lungren's opinion is non-binding and suggests the county could prevail if it challenged the finding.

Hemingway, however, said fighting "might not be in the best interest of Alpine County."

Meanwhile, anybody appointed in Hemingway's stead would have to stand for election next November — a prospect that could scare some from the 300-case-a-year job.

Also complicating matters, at least according to Pemberton, are the "nasty, small-town politics" of Alpine County.

Pemberton, who defeated a 14-year incumbent in November 1994, said he decided almost from the first day he assumed office in January 1995 that he wanted to leave. He stayed on only long enough to ensure that the Alpine board of supervisors found money to hire an outside county counsel.

Up until Pemberton assumed office, the Alpine County DA also served as the county counsel. Once he accomplished the split, he quit.

"This is a mean-spirited little place and it is running the most qualified person out of town," said Pemberton, who is now a full-time civil litigator. "It is simply going to allow the good old boys to get one of their own in."

— Paul Elias

R-C 12-3-97
Community Organization
of the Month

**Alpine
Kids**

Program cares
about children
and families

by **Joyce Hollister**
Staff Writer

Kids need to spend time with their families. Parents need to spend time with their kids.

One good way for this to happen is for the whole family to go to a movie, or in the summertime, perhaps take a trip to Wild Waters in Sparks.

But not all families can afford it.

For the past 16 years, Edie Veatch, director of Alpine Kids in Woodfords-Markleeville in Alpine County, Calif., has made sure that kids and adults are able to do a wide variety of wholesome activities together.

On Saturday, 107 people ranging in age from babies to a woman over 60 saw a special showing of "Flubber" at the Meadowdale Cinema in Gardnerville. Alpine Kids paid for the admission and one food item and one drink per person.

"Everybody enjoyed it," Veatch said. "It was nice for them to have the opportunity, because if you have very many kids, you can't afford to go."

For low-income or even middle-income families, taking mom and dad and two or more children to the movies is too costly.

The same is true for such fun stuff as going to Wild Waters or even the Carson Valley Swim Center — the more kids a family has, the less likely they can do things together.

Then there are the single-parent families, who, by their very nature, don't usually have the disposable income needed for trips and recreation.

Alpine Kids is doing more than offering inexpensive fun once or twice a month, according to Veatch, and the outings and other Alpine Kids events provide safe and wholesome family activities.

"Low-income families and middle-income families come together to share in family time," Veatch said, "Because the same benefits are offered to everyone, there is never a feeling of someone getting more than someone else."

Outings include parents, grandparents, babies, youths, teens and single adults in a mixed-cultural group: those of Native American, Hispanic, black or white origin. Foster children are included with their foster parents, occasionally with their estranged parents along.

At the movies last Saturday, for instance, among the folks to see "Flubber" were a bartender, a teacher, a waitress, secretaries, a contractor, a minister, an auto mechanic, a court clerk, Indian education aides, cooks, foster parents, single moms, homemakers, unemployed people and a carwash attendant, and of course, kids.

Veatch estimates that Alpine Kids spends about \$1,000 a month of family outings.

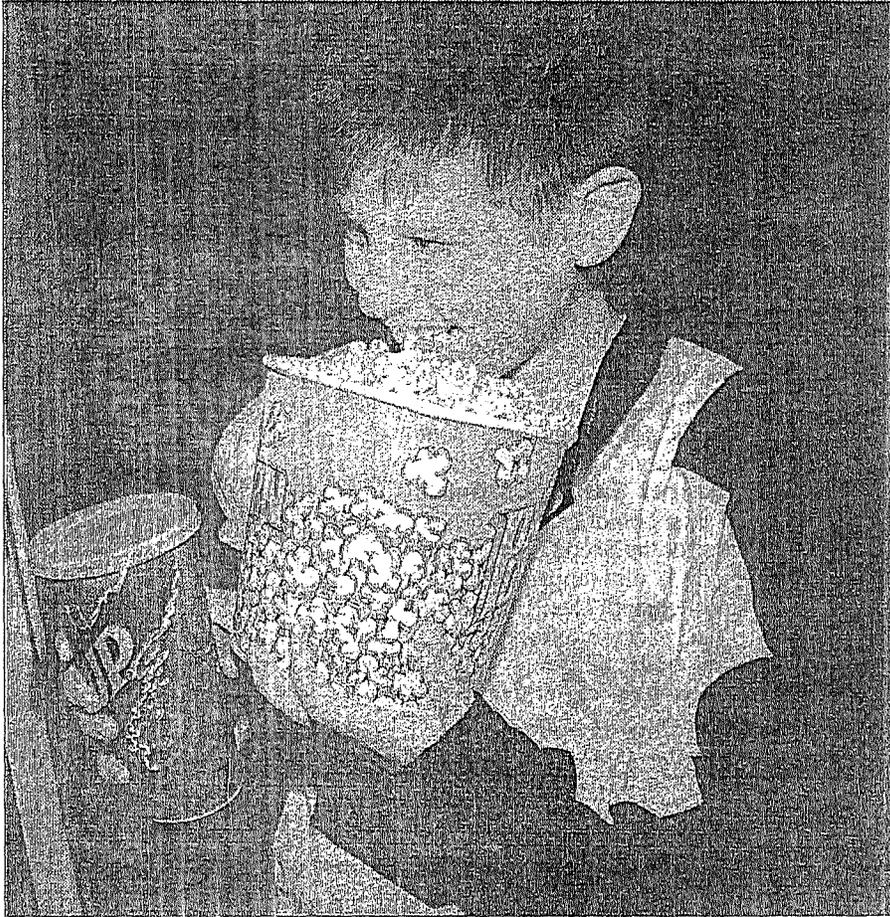
Role models

Volunteer leaders act as role models for families who are "at-risk" — which can range from families suffering from extreme isolation in rural Alpine County to parents struggling with drug and alcohol abuse, mental illness or trouble with the law.

"One of the biggest things we do," Veatch said, "is stop abuse by helping relieve financial stress. People who are financially strapped seem to abuse their kids. We offer them support and places to go."

Sometimes, parents are too busy or just don't

See **Alpine Kids** on page 2



.....
Cody McGeein juggles his popcorn and drink at the special showing of "Flubber" for Alpine Kids on Saturday. Below, the McGeein family waits for the movie to start. R-C photos by Michael Okimoto



Alpine Kids: Cares for and supports families

Continued from page 1

know how to plan a family outing.

"If somebody preplans an outing for you, and all you have to do is say you're going, there's no reason you can't come," Veatch said.

"Or if you've never been trained to do that — adults from alcoholic homes have always been promised something and it never happens. This way, it always happens. Our promises are always kept. Children in alcoholic homes are not used to that."

■ It's OK to be a kid

Alcohol and drugs are banned. Kids and adults on the trips learn that they don't have to drink to have fun.

"You can get out there and throw a bowling ball," Veatch said.

"You don't need a drink. Teen-agers especially — they need to see that they can get out there, throw a gutter ball or rollerskate and fall down, and it's OK. It's OK to be a little kid."

Besides one or two family outings a month, Alpine Kids plans a big trip once a year. Every two years, the group goes to Marine World-Africa USA. It has taken up to 125 or so kids and adults to an Oakland As game.

The group went to see "Brigadoon" produced by Western Nevada Community College's musical theater in November and will attend a Reno Rage ice hockey game this month.

Next year, family outings include swimming at Carson Valley Swim Center (two hours all alone after the pool closes to the public, with pizza afterwards), skating at Skate Trak in Carson City, a trip to see the Shrine Circus and Reno Rodeo in Reno in the spring and a trip to Sand Harbor for a barbecue and Wild Waters in Sparks during the summer.

All outings include food or a meal of some sort.

"Of course, when you're work-

ing with teen-agers, you have to feed them. Men and teen-agers won't come if we don't have plenty of food," Veatch added, with her characteristic chuckle.

■ Other activities

Some of the additional activities are peer group meetings (by grade level) once a month for youths, offering crafts, sports, outdoor hikes or whatever leaders have in mind, and teen and adult volleyball games in the winter.

Alpine Kids also sponsors workshops for teens and families which feature frank discussions about health, drug, alcohol or child abuse, parenting, teen pregnancy, AIDS, suicide and other family issues.

Youths and their parents attend and have dinner together. Younger children are given free care at Alpine Children's Center, which is the umbrella, non-profit organization for Alpine Kids.

In addition, the group sponsors two blood drives a year, in the spring and in the fall.

■ But it's not free

Belonging to Alpine Kids is not entirely free. There is a charge of \$10 per person or \$25 per family. The monthly family outings are open to a member and all of his or her family members, but they have to make advance arrangements. Members must live or work in Alpine County.

"They have to come up with something," Veatch said of the fees. "I have a lady on welfare who pays her family fee. I've talked to her about enrolling only one of her kids, but she says it's important that all her children belong. She's got five kids."

The grade level peer groups meet once a month with their leaders. Leaders include Vanessa Cruz and Derinda Caldera, who operate the kindergarten-1st grade group; Regina Watson, Pam Ledbetter and Teresa Horse, grades 2-3; Jeanne Lear and Barbara Howard (who have been volunteer leaders

for 10 years), grade 4-6 girls: Joe Voss, Dale Bennett and Adelina Osario, grade 4-6 boys: Edie Veatch and Jo Daugherty, grades 7-8; and Dave Roberts and Chuck Daugherty, grades 9-12.

Alpine Kids also has cross-country skis, camping and other recreational equipment available for families to check out. One program gives car seats or seat belts to families who need them.

■ All volunteers

Alpine Kids receives its operating money from a couple of fundraisers held during the year, donations from private individuals or businesses and state and federal grants which are administered by Alpine County.

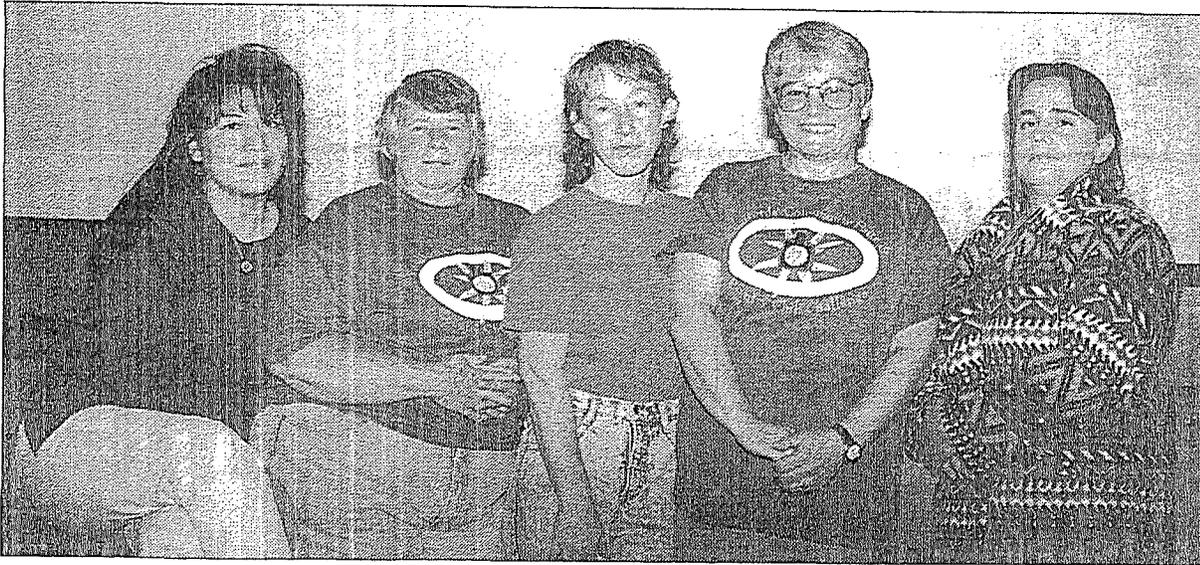
Veatch and all her leaders are strictly volunteers. She estimates she puts in about 500 hours a year and the leaders, from 100 to 150 or more each. County agencies help her with referrals and give her plenty of support.

Alpine Kids works closely with a variety of social services agencies and is a program of Alpine Children's Center, which is operated by a non-profit board. Veatch is the center's executive director.

"That's my paid job," she says with a laugh.

Alpine Kids' mission statement is "To make life better for children in Alpine County."

"When a child can be with his or her parents," Veatch said, "doing things that make both child and adult laugh, that child's life has to be better."



LEADERS. A few of the volunteers who work with Alpine Kids posed for a photo recently. From left are Vanessa Cruz, Jo Daugherty, Jeanne Lear, Edie Veatch and Regina Watson. Photo courtesy Tom Nagel

Agencies and parents lend their support

Alpine Kids has received glowing letters of support from agencies which refer families to its program and parents whose children have benefited from it.

Among them are:

“Alpine Kids ... was created because there are no group functions in Alpine County for children or families. Because of Alpine Kids, the activities have little or no cost to the participants, and they emphasize ‘families first.’”

Sandy King and Linda Pullen of Alpine County Department of Social Services

“Alpine Kids has been one of the few resources this department has to refer juveniles, status offenders and adult probations over the past several years ... Their program truly offers community events which our clients would not otherwise have the opportunity or means to participate in ... It is equally important for them to realize that other people care about them and are concerned for their futures. Alpine Kids has a proven track record of showing care and concern...”

Robert A. Bowman, Chief Probation Officer for Alpine County Probation Department

“As the mental health clinician for Alpine County, I have observed the positive impact of Alpine Kids on the community as a whole and in particular with the individuals and families I serve.

“The isolation and rural atmosphere of our

county contributes to numerous psychosocial concerns, such as the potential for depression, cultural division and juvenile delinquency/gang activity.

“Alpine Kids has without question benefited individuals and families by providing much needed healthy activity, stimulation and intercultural communication...”

Frank Jacobelli, Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug Services for Alpine County

“When Alpine Kids has family outings and group outings, the children would go places where they haven’t been before. In my children, I can see they feel good about themselves afterwards ... Also, there is a sense of being part of Alpine County as a whole, not as one culture.

Yvonne Christensen

“When my son was first introduced to Alpine Kids, he was 2 years old. I was on my way to prison for a felony DUI conviction ... While I was away, my son participated in Alpine Kids activities like swimming, bowling, skating, things he would never have been able to do if left up to me. He received from them social and emotional reinforcement in his life. I could not be there for him, but they were. He is now 6 years old. He’s well-rounded, competitive and academically normal. He would not be this way without the care and nurturing of Alpine Kids ... They never gave up hope for me, either. They have shown me a better way of living and raising my son...”

Janice Generilli

Ski report - Thursday p.m.

ALPINE (downhill)	Phone report	Lift ad/kid/sr	Half day ad/kid/sr	Lessons new adult/kid	snow	type of terrain	base (inches)	trails open	lifts going	open terrain	time open
Alpine Meadows	530-581-8374	42/10/23	30/12/32	\$49/\$39	Falling	MG, VC	48-72	100	12	100 %	9 - 4
Boreal	916-426-1114	28/10/14	none	\$40/\$39	Falling	MG, PP	52-60	38	six	---	9 - 9
Diamond Peak	702-831-3211	35/14/14	27/11/11	\$32/\$32	Falling	MG, PP	12-36	n/a	four	---	Call
Donner Ski Ranch	916-426-3635	23/10/10	17/10/10	\$39/\$30	Falling	PP	30-50	n/a	four	80 %	9 - 4
Heavenly	916-541-1330	47/22/22	33/12/12	\$ varies	Falling	PP	22-56	n/a	13	50 %	9 - 4
Kirkwood	209-258-3000	43/33/21	32/24/15	\$43/\$43	Falling	PP	64-90	55	nine	85 %	9 - 4
Mammoth Mtn.	760-934-6166	47/34/23	33/17/17	\$54/\$38	Falling	PP	60-84	n/a	18	95 %	8 - 9
Mount Rose	702-849-0704	38/14/19	26/18/13	\$35/\$35	Falling	MT, SP	24-42	n/a	five	---	Call
Northstar-Tahoe	916-562-1330	46/10/23	31/10/23	\$50/\$39	Falling	MG, PP	24-42	61	eight	99 %	9 - 4
Sierra-at-Tahoe	916-659-7475	43/5/22	29/5/15	\$43/\$65	Falling	MG, PP	36-55	39	seven	84 %	9 - 4
Ski Homewood	916-525-2900	35/11/12	26/9/10	\$39/\$55	Falling	MG, PP	20-45	48	six	84 %	9 - 4
Soda Springs	916-426-3666	\$15 all	none	\$35/\$35	Falling	PP	32-39	16	three	---	9 - 4
Squaw Valley	530-583-6955	48/15/25	32/24/24	\$59/\$59	Falling	MG, PP	24-60	n/a	16	100 %	9 - 4
Sugar Bowl	916-426-3847	42/10/17	25/10/10	\$45/\$45	Falling	SP	60-96	78	eight	---	Call
Tahoe-Donner	916-587-9494	26/12/12	16/6/6	\$29/\$29	Falling	WS	24-48	n/a	two	---	9 - 4
LV Ski & board		No updated report		No new	PP	14-26	10	three	90 %	9 - 4	

Keys: MG - machine groomed; MT - machine tilled; PP - packed powder; SP - skier packed surface; WS - wet snow; n/a not available

NORDIC (cross country)	Phone report/center	Trail fee adult/kid	Half day adult/kid	Package adult/kid	Lessons adult/kid	type of terrain	base (inches)	trails open
Camp Richardson	916-542-6584	\$5/\$5	same	\$30/\$20	\$15/\$9	---	---	Closed
Diamond Peak	702-831-3211	\$10/\$8	same	\$29 all	\$15/\$7	---	24-36	15 km
Eagle Mtn.	800-391-2254	\$16/\$10	\$13/\$10	\$36 all	\$16/\$13	---	---	Closed
Kirkwood	209-258-3000	\$14/\$5	\$11/\$3	\$30/\$20	\$14/\$8	---	60-96	70 km
Lakeview	916-583-9353	\$15/\$12	\$11/\$5	\$35/\$20	\$16/\$9	MG, SL	18-48	47 km
Northstar-Tahoe	916-562-2475	\$16/\$8	\$12/\$6	\$44/\$25	\$16/\$9	MG, DS	24-48	55 km
Royal Gorge	916-426-3871	\$20/\$9	\$15	\$39/\$25	\$17/\$10	---	24-36	221 km
Spooner Lake	702-749-5349	\$15/\$3	\$11/\$3	\$34/\$25	\$15/\$4	MT, SL	24-36	38 km
Tahoe-Donner	916-587-9484	\$15/\$9	\$12/\$7	\$34/\$25	\$15/\$9	---	24-48	58 km

Keys: MG - machine groomed; DS - double set; SL - skating lane

Cross country race

The Lakeview Cross Country Ski Center will host the area's first race of the season Sunday, the 10k Hurry-Up.

The event starts at 10 a.m. and is open to all skiers. The entry fee is \$15 on race day. For more information, call 530-583-9353.

Dec 20 1997

Reed
Cooper

Ski programs at Kirkwood

The Douglas County Parks and Recreation Department is now taking sign-ups for its Ski Program to Kirkwood.

The program is open to kids in grades first through eighth and welcomes everyone, from beginners to advanced skiers. Trips are every Sunday from Jan. 4 to March 29.

A mid-week ski program for off-track students will be held on Thursdays beginning Jan. 8.

Cost for each program is \$30 per day and includes transportation, supervision, ski lessons, ski rentals, lift tickets and time on the slopes. Trips depart the recreation division at 8 a.m. and return approximately 4:30 p.m.

Participants can pre-register by going to the department's office, located at 1327 Waterloo Lane in Gardnerville, or by calling the department at 782-9828.

The DCPRD is also offering a "tot" skiing program for kids ages 4-6. Trips are on Wednesdays beginning Jan. 14 and last from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Cost is \$30 per day and includes transportation, supervision, snack, ski rentals and a two-hour lesson.

For more information on the "tot" program or any other, call the rec division.

Record Courier Dec 27, 1997



BELINDA GRANT/Nevada Appeal News Service

Flood waters jumped the banks of the Carson River during the New Year's flood last January. Here is an aerial view of the west side of the Carson Valley.

New Year's was flood of century

Staff reports

According to the latest reports from the U.S. Geological Survey, the New Year's flood was a record breaker along the Carson and Walker Rivers.

Gauges along the two rivers showed that the New Year's flood was indeed the flood of the century.

"The peak flow was greater ... at five gauging stations on the Carson River and at six stations on the Walker River," said Steve Hammond, spokesman.

Gauges along the Carson River's West Fork indicated that the river flows exceeded forecasts for the 100-year flood by nearly 25 percent and broke a 34-year-old record.

At Woodfords, the monitor recorded a peak of 8,100 cubic feet per second where forecasts were for 6,270 cfs. The highest recorded flow before that was in 1963 when 4,890 cfs passed the monitor.

A 100-year flood has a 1 percent chance of occurring in any given year.

In late December 1996, storms built up a large snowpack in the higher altitudes, and in January it unleashed unprecedented flows on the Walker and Carson rivers.

At the Fort Churchill monitoring sta-

For more specific information, contact USGS at 333 W. Nye Lane, Carson City, 89706.

tion, 22,300 cubic feet per second of water flowed past the gauge. The predicted flows for the 100-year flood was 16,800 cfs. The highest recorded was 16,600 cfs in 1986.

Flows from Vicee Canyon Creek near Carson City's Sagebrush Ranch, were measured at 4,000 cfs, with predicted 100-year flow at 370 cfs. The highest recorded flow was in 1982 with flows of 200 cfs.

At the West Walker River below Little Walker River near Coleville, Calif., monitors recorded 12,300 cfs where normal flows were forecast for 8,680 cfs. The highest recorded was 6,220 cfs in 1950.

At Buckeye Creek near Bridgeport, Calif., flows of 2,750 cfs were recorded, with the 100-year prediction at 1,160 cfs. The highest recorded was 947 cfs in 1963.

"The January 1997 peak charge was larger than recorded for previous floods at many stations on the Walker River," Hammond said.

The USGS operates more than 30 streamflow monitors on the Carson River and more than 20 on the Walker River.

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