

SAC Bee
Date: 3-30-05

SNOW: 12-year-long battle is far from over

CONTINUED FROM F-1

At the moment, though, thanks to a federal judge in Sacramento, Waldear and fellow crusaders are down, and the snowmobilers are on top. But this battle has been seesawing for 12 years, and nobody expects it to end soon. If the big noise in Hope Valley has shown anything, it's that snowmobilers are from Mars and skiers are from Venus.

Twenty hours after Waldear slides past, Pliny Olivier, a tall, gregarious man in a black cowboy hat, stands at the trailhead, unloading his trailer and getting ready to race his 140-horsepower Polaris down the same snow-covered dirt road.

"I really don't understand cross-country skiers," says Olivier in his Louisiana drawl. "I can get to a place in half an hour on a snowmobile that they can't get to unless they pack food for a week!"

He hauls down his 485-pound machine, revs the two-stroke engine until he's seated in his own little emission cloud. Next he'll wrap his fingers around the heated handlebars and roar down the road, snowflakes stinging his cheeks.

"You know what?" he says. "This might be the most fun you'll ever have in your life."

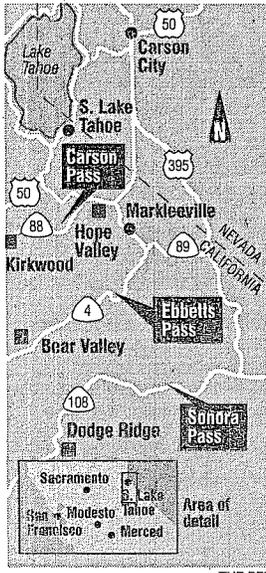
case study

The population of Alpine County is about 1,200. More than 90 percent of this enclave in the Sierra is state or federal land. Though the dispute means plenty to Sorensen's Resort, a historic haven for Nordic skiers on California Highway 88, there is no big money to be claimed here by either side.

Forestdale Creek Road, which apparently goes back to ranching days in the 19th century, is in the middle of the tug of war. About seven miles long and 7,500 feet above sea level, it rolls gently between trees for about three miles before crossing a creek and climbing toward a series of bowls and more-demanding territory.

Its early stretches are ideal for beginning skiers and snowmobilers alike. Because it usually gathers snow earlier and retains it longer than other routes, it's a prime shortcut if you're on a snowmobile and headed for the backcountry. In the last few years, young adventurers have taken to hitching rides into the Blue Lakes region on a buddy's snowmobile, then launching downhill on snowboards or setting off on telemark skis.

Yet there are still some winter days on the road when not a sin-



THE BEE

California State Sno-Parks welcome both snowmobilers and cross-country skiers — sort of. See Page F-2

the interests of nonmotorized users. But in a ruling in September, U.S. District Judge David Levi rebuffed the skiers.

A wiry 55-year-old who stands just under 5 feet tall, Waldear was not born to snow country. She grew up in the Bay Area. Within two years of taking up cross-country skiing at age 30, she was winning statewide competitions. Now she lives in Markleeville, the Alpine County seat, trains promising young skiers and manages the Kirkwood Cross-Country Ski Center, a few miles outside Hope Valley.

She thrives, she says, on the endurance the sport demands and the solitude it delivers. But she's not as alone as she used to be. Hence her other, nonpaying job as president of the Friends of Hope Valley. That group formed in the 1980s to keep a power-line project out of the area and later lobbied for government acquisition of land in the valley.

Now snowmobilers dominate the agenda. Her group claims about 300 members, most of whom, Waldear acknowledges, live in the Bay Area. For expertise in their court battles, the Friends rely on the nonprofit eco-law firm Earthjustice, formerly known as the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund.

'I own this land'

Olivier leans against one of his machines, gazing out at the woods. If he's not angry, he's certainly firm.

"I made a lot of money in this life, and I paid a lot of taxes," he says. "And I own this land."

He is no more native here than Waldear. He grew up poor, one of eight children with a game warden dad, in the swamps of Louisiana. He found his way to college, moved to Florida, succeeded in business, semi-retired in his 50s, and fell in love with the Sierra.

Now, at 59, he lives far from the crayfish and crepe myrtles in Zephyr Cove, Nev., along the southeast edge of Lake Tahoe. He is the president of the Lake Tahoe Snowmobile Association, which claims about 60 members, most from Tahoe's south shore.

Given good snow, Olivier will go riding three times a week. Given a chance to introduce a newcomer to the sport, he'll block off a day, pack sandwiches, load up his trailer and head for the countryside.

"It's the most awesome nature experience you can have. There's no deer out here, nor bear; there's nothing to disturb. You're just making tracks on snow," he says.

There is, however, the exhaust. Though pollution hasn't been part of the legal wrangling,



A cross-country skier skids over a path near

environmentalists point out the dirty little clouds that rise when someone yanks a starter cord and a snowmobile engine stirs to life. Olivier's favorite snowmobile, a Polaris, cost about \$9,500 and carries an 800cc engine. Like most snowmobiles, it gets a little under 10 miles per gallon. But technology is improving all the time, he notes, and these machines are getting steadily more efficient and quieter.

"They sound loud when you stand right next to them. But get 75 yards away and you can lose track of people," says Olivier.

Flag them down on the trail, and you find that many snowmobilers and skiers play together just fine. Larry Mainberger, a 70-year-old retiree from upstate New York, pauses on his skis along Blue Lakes Road. He used to snowmobile but isn't up to hauling the heavy machinery around anymore.

"Basically, it's the smell of the belts burning that bothers most skiers," says Mainberger.

Competing needs

Rob Levy, Alpine County's undersheriff and an avid snowmobiler in his off-hours, says snowmobiling has exploded in Alpine County. "It's a great sport for a lot of people. It's going to continue to expand, and we have to come up with a good plan to manage that."

As a start, Levy has proposed a 20 mph speed limit on the most popular stretch of the Forestdale Creek Road. (Right now, snowmobilers can go as fast as seems "reasonable and prudent," but are supposed to drop down to 15 mph when passing a skier.) But like so many past compromise pitches, that's not going to please everyone.

"I'm a snowmobiler and I hate cross-country skiers," says Jesse, a 23-year-old from State-

line, N last m They'r Skie "have 61-yea Jim D along. piece o the oil times.'

Handy

When roarin woods somew have a snowm chines Oliv biles t traugt view. " Susan skier v



DICK SCHMIDT/THE SACRAMENTO BEE

A cross-country skier skids over a path near Squaw Valley, alongside a fence intended to deter snowmobiles.

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line, Nev., who declines to give a last name. "They're dangerous. They're in the way."

Skiers and snowmobilers "have to be separated," suggests 61-year-old Markleeville skier Jim Donald. "We just don't get along. After they pass over a piece of ground, you can smell the oil and gas for hours sometimes."

Handy in emergencies

Whether or not you want them roaring through your favorite woods, when you need to get somewhere quickly — say you have a medical emergency — snowmobiles can be handy machines.

Olivier is lashing the snowmobiles to his trailer when a distraught skier straggles into view. "Can you help us?" hollers Susan Burgers, 43. "We have a skier with a broken leg."

Burgers and her friend live in Watsonville. Her friend is down about a mile back, she says. Snow is falling hard, there isn't another soul around and nobody can raise a cell phone signal.

Olivier yanks a snowmobile back off the trailer and zooms off into the woods. Minutes later, he's back with 45-year-old Diana Deering on board, one of her legs twisted like a pretzel in black snow pants.

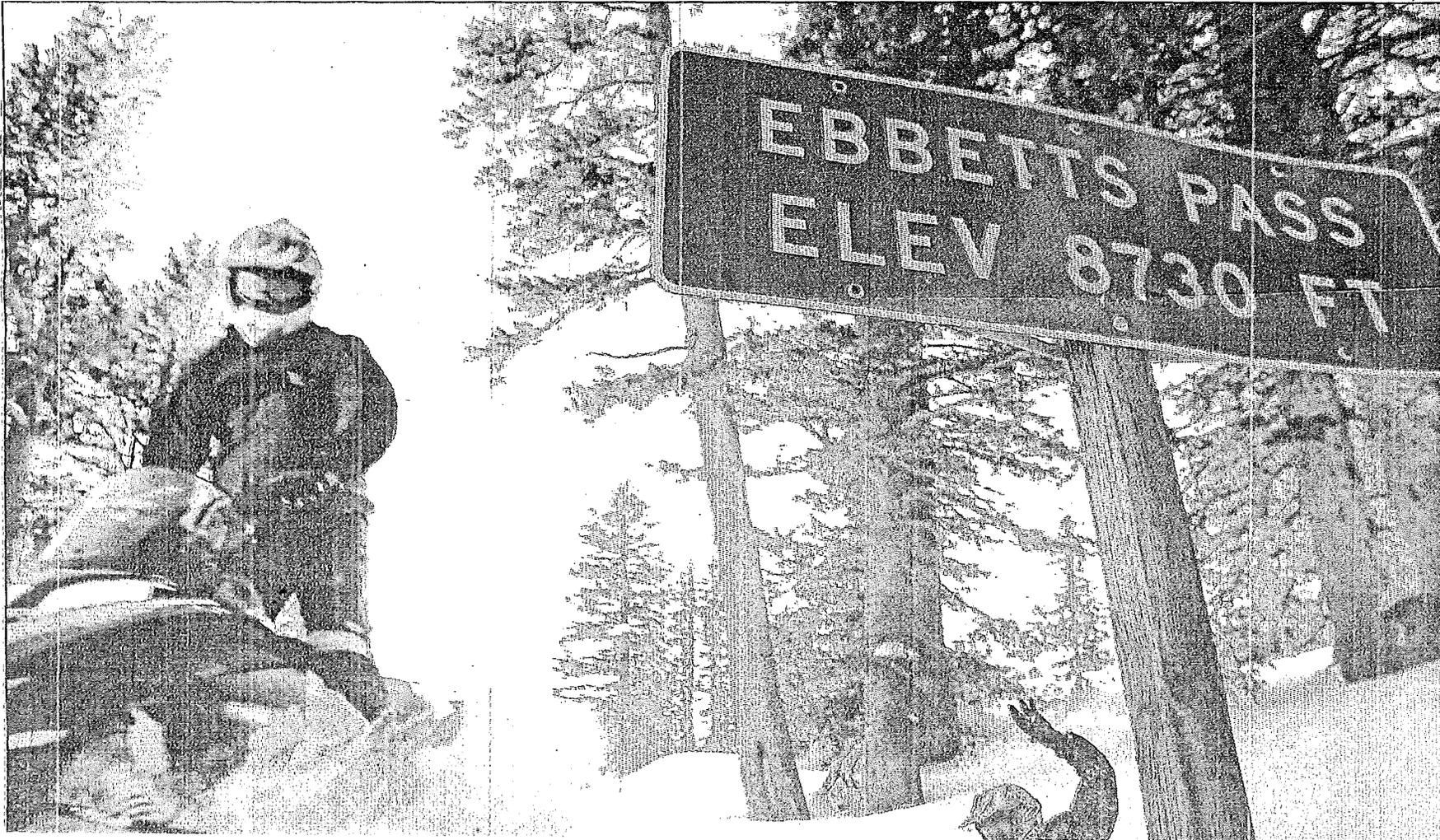
Olivier clears the front of his sport utility vehicle so he can haul her to the hospital. Deering eyes the snowmobile.

"I have no idea why people are attracted to it," she says quietly. "But they are, and we have to respect that."

Life Styles

READY, SET, GO

SECTION **F**



Collision Course

They've drawn a line in the snow in benign-sounding Hope Valley, where the frosty acrimony between snowmobilers and cross-country skiers frames the nation's ongoing muscle-vs.-machine snow battle.

By CHRISTOPHER REYNOLDS
LOS ANGELES TIMES

KIRKWOOD — In the snow fields of Hope Valley, hope springs eternal. The trees are flocked and stately. All along Forestdale Creek Road, about a dozen miles south of Lake Tahoe, the scenery is straight out of the Hallmark winter collection.

But don't be deceived. In the nationwide scuffle between snowmobilers and those who scorn them, this is contested territory.

"You can hear them for miles," says Debbi Waldear, a champion cross-country skier and longtime crusader against snowmobile traffic. Then she returns to her smooth stroke and long strides, a tiny, wiry figure gliding through pines on a lonely weekday afternoon. Her dog, Sage, bounds alongside.

Skiers complain about snowmobile noise and fumes. Snowmobilers claim skiers are a hazard and an impediment. A lawsuit seeking to ban snowmobiles was rebuffed; but the battle is far from over.

"To sit on something and go fast," says Waldear, "is not at all attractive to me."

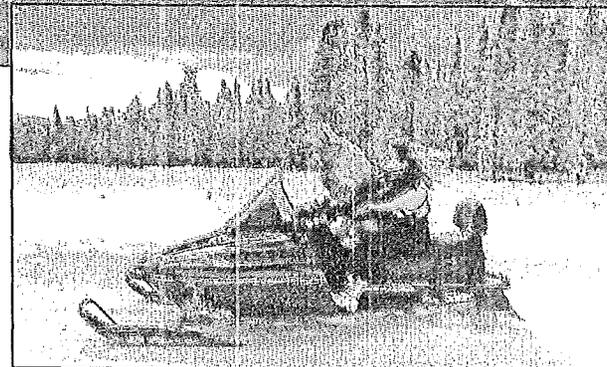
Still, there are signs of peaceful coexistence in the Great Hope Valley Feud: Snowmobiles and skiers have been seen sharing Blue Lakes Road.

SEE PAGE F-3, SNOW

In the public safety office scheme of things in isolated Alpine County, east of Angels Camp, Rick Stephens, above, doubles as a sheriff's sergeant and a fire chief. And, of necessity, both he and his son, Luke — a high-flying veteran of TV's X Games — are wizards on snowmobiles.

See Page F-4

ROBERT DURELL/LOS ANGELES TIMES
and AL GOLUB/THE MODESTO BEE



LEZLIE STERLING/THE SACRAMENTO BEE

Above: Cross-country skiers set out from Bear Valley on a blue-sky spring day.

Left: Joan Bretthauer takes her golden retriever, Mindy, for a snowmobile ride near Truckee.

Beat winter blues at Grover Hot Springs

By Don Quilici
R-C News Service

There is a California state park that offers a unique way to help beat the winter blues and sore muscles from winter sports.

If you're interested, Grover Hot Springs California State Park is only 40 minutes from Gardnerville and it makes for a perfect place to soothe muscles after a day spent skiing, snowboarding or snowshoeing.

You can reach the popular, natural hot water spa by driving on State Route 88 to Woodfords. Take a left onto State Route 89 to Markleeville.

In the middle of Markleeville, take the paved road west for about four miles to the park.

There are two pools at Grover's, one hot and the other cold.

The hot one is maintained at a constant temperature of 102-104 degrees.

On Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, pool hours are 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.

On Saturday and Sunday, pool hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. On Wednesday, the pools are closed.

The cost is \$5 per person or \$2 for anyone under the age of 16.

There is a maximum capacity



DAN THRIFT/R-C News Service

Springing: Steam rises from 11-year-old Edward Murillo's head as the South Lake Tahoe boy enjoys the natural springs.

of 75 persons allowed in the two-pools area.

Grover Hot Springs State Park is surrounded by mountains, with Hawkins Peak (10,023 feet) three miles northeast of the valley and Markleeville Peak (9,417 feet) four miles to the southwest.

At this time of the year, it is a

ton of fun for snow lovers to spend a day playing on their downhill skis, snowboards, cross country skis, snowshoes, inner tubes and snowmobiles. Then, following that playtime, many of those same snow lovers, plus others, head for Grover's to soak in the hot water pool.

That relaxing natural hot water is guaranteed to bring anyone's fun-filled day in the great outdoors to a perfect end.

For general information, call the park pool office at (530) 694-2248 or for pool information call (530) 694-2249, or visit their Web site at www.parks.ca.gov.

Alpine County library celebrates National Library Week

Staff Reports

National Library Week is April 10-16. This is the time designated to celebrate the contributions of libraries and librarians and to promote their use and support. To participate in this nationwide celebration, the Alpine County Library will host

the following events:

■ An Open House will take place Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to promote Week of the Young Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month. Raffle tickets will be distributed to all of the guests, and snacks and drinks will be provided courtesy of the Friends of the Library.

■ Children of all ages are invited to come and enjoy a variety of fun-filled activities at the Teddy Bear Parade on Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Don't forget to bring your favorite teddy.

The Friends of the Library will host their annual Potluck Luncheon on Tuesday from 12-1

p.m. Live music will be provided by Jim Dunn and Steve Hibbs. Their performance last year was well received, and Friends anticipate another treat this year.

For more information regarding these events, contact Alpine County Library at (530) 694-2120.

Show support for child abuse prevention, sexual assault awareness

Staff Reports

The Alpine County Board of Supervisors declared April Child Abuse Prevention and Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Alpine County.

Throughout the month, several activities take place to bring awareness to these issues that affect Alpine County communities.

Show your support for ending child abuse and sexual assault by attending some of these events and by wearing a teal and blue ribbon (teal for Sexual Assault Awareness and blue for Child Abuse Prevention). Ribbons will be available at the Alpine County Women's Center.

■ Saturday, an open house will take place at the Alpine County Library from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to promote the Week of the Young Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month. Raffle tickets will be distributed to all of the guests, and snacks and drinks will be provided, courtesy of Friends of the Library.

■ For information on a women's self-defense class, call the Alpine County Women's Center at (530) 694-1853.

■ On April 27, the Alpine

County Women's Center will host a community advisory committee 12-1 p.m. at 14810 Highway 89. Alpine residents are encouraged to come and discuss how to improve Alpine County Women's Center services, give input about providing outreach to the community and to suggest ideas for upcoming events.

The Alpine County Women's Center and Choices for Children hosted an open house and other local organizations will be sponsoring open houses to bring awareness to Child Abuse Prevention Month.

For more information about these other events, call Susan Lippmann at the Alpine County Family Support Council at (530) 694-9118.

If you or someone you know is a victim of child abuse or sexual assault, the Alpine County Women's Center can help.

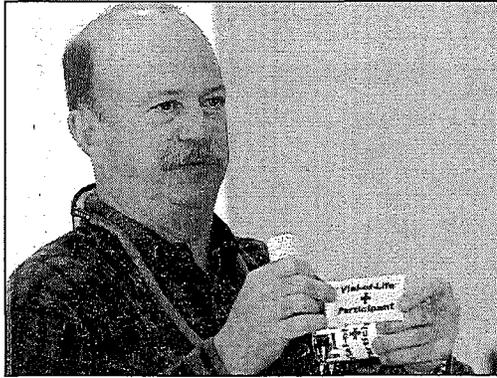
It offers crisis counseling, advocacy and accompaniment through the medical and legal process, individual counseling, resource and referral and a 24-hour toll-free crisis line (888) 750-6444. For information call (530) 694-1853 or stop by the office located at 14810 Highway 89 in Markleeville.

Burn pile set for this weekend

Subject to weather and fire restrictions, a burn pile is expected to run the next three consecutive weekends. A tentative time has been set for 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. starting this Saturday and Sunday through May 1. Additional weekends

may be added in May depending on funding, weather and fire restrictions. Call Public Works at (530) 694-2140 option 4 for recorded information prior to the weekend start date. Alpine County residents only may participate.

SENIOR EVENTS



Prepared: EMT Lynn Doyal and Dr. Richard Harvey spoke at the 50+ Club lunch on Thursday in Alpine County. Doyal is showing the "Vial of Life" container that holds important medical information that EMT's know to look for when responding to a medical call. Alpine County has planned senior bus trips for April 20 to South Lake Tahoe and lunch and a movie at Ironwood Center on April 27. For more information, call Sherri Dennis at (530) 694-2235.

SHANNON LITZ/The R-C

Library kicks up its heels

Staff Reports

National Library Week was April 10-16, and several events at the Alpine County Library are taking place this month to commemorate it.

Approximately 35 people, parents and children, attended an open house and teddy bear parade on April 9.

"We had Smokey the Bear from the Forest Service in the parking lot," said county librarian Bessie Platten.

The open house also promoted Week of the Young Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month.

They had storytime and activities such as seed planting and making macaroni necklaces. Friends of the Library also gave away books at the event.

■ On April 12 the Friends of the Library hosted its annual potluck luncheon.

Again, about 35 people attended, but this time they were adults, including the Alpine



Submitted to the R-C

Parade: Many children brought their parents to the teddy bear parade at the Alpine County Library in Markleeville on April 9. National Library Week was April 10-16.

County supervisors, according to Platten.

Attendees listened and danced to the music provided by Jim Dunn and Steve Hibbs.

"It was great," said Platten.

■ The community of Markleeville is celebrating Earth Day 2005, April 23. The event will take place 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Markleeville Library and Park located at 270 Laramie St., Markleeville, Calif.

Following an opening ceremony, participants will enjoy gardening activities, children's activities, a poster contest,

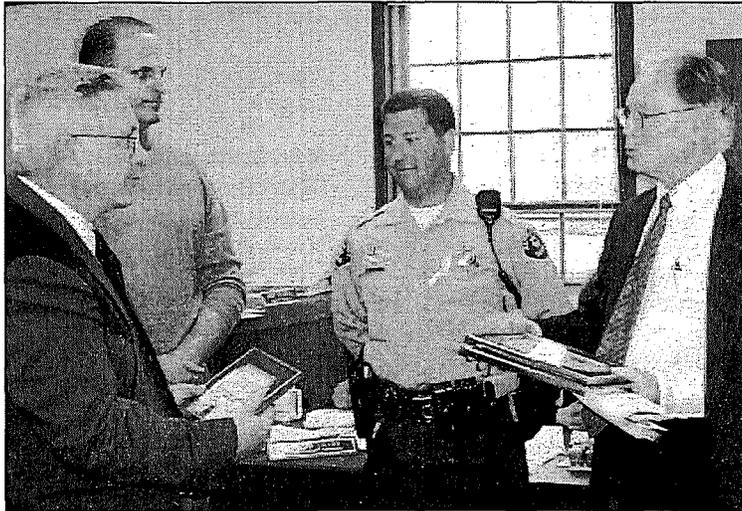
snacks and an afternoon hike. Everyone will receive an Earth Day pledge certificate.

An optional guided hike will be from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in Alpine County.

Sponsors of this event include: Markleeville Friends of the Library, the Alpine Watershed Group, Sorenson's Resort, Wolf Creek Restaurant & Bar, Markleeville General Store and Richard Harvey.

For more information on the event, call Alpine Watershed Coordinator Laura Lueders at (530) 694-2327.

April 15, 2005



Awarded: From left: Deputies Don Skinner, Spencer Case and Ron Michitarian are handed their awards by District Attorney Will Richmond, on April 5.

Submitted to the R-C

Deputies are honored

Staff Reports

Three Alpine County sheriff's deputies were awarded for their participation in a rape case that resulted in the convicted rapist sentenced to six years in prison.

Spencer Case, Ron Michitarian and Don Skinner received certificates of appreciation from the Alpine County Victim-Witness Assistance Program on April 5.

The three deputies were all

smiles as they left the Administrative Building board room with their awards in hand.

They said they were happy with the outcome of the case. The sentencing had taken place March 7, without requiring the victim to testify.

"The victim didn't have to appear in court," said Case.

In December, Samuel Jesus Carter, 25, went to a party at a Kirkwood Mountain Resort residence where the 21-year-old victim was staying. He returned

through unlocked doors when she was alone and sleeping on Dec. 20.

Carter was a new hire for the housecleaning crew at the ski resort.

His last known residence was Woodfords.

The victim was visiting her brother, an employee at Kirkwood, according to Alpine County District Attorney Will Richmond.

Carter pleaded guilty to the charge on Jan. 31.

Leslie reports on lawmakers

by **Tim Leslie**
Special to The R-C

I have nothing new to report this week on workers' compensation.

Yes, negotiations are still taking place, but what that portends depends on who is talking at any given moment.

But we don't need to point to legislative inaction on workers' compensation. We can instead point to action the Legislature wants to take that will further make it difficult to run a business here in California.

As an example, take AB 2932 (Lieber, D-San Jose), which would set the minimum wage at \$7.25 as of January 1, 2005, and \$7.75 as of January 1, 2006. This bill would make California home of the highest minimum wage in the country and would therefore put additional pressure on our already struggling economy. Wages should be just. But this is not just because it freezes out entry-level workers, the very ones it is intended to benefit.

Thus, this measure - like many offered by the left - is well intentioned, but ultimately counterproductive.

Then there is SB 74 (Torklaksen,

D-Walnut Creek), which would restrict the sale of vending machine-dispensed soft drinks in

state owned buildings. It would mandate 50 percent offerings of water, sport drinks, and fruit juices (no less than 50 percent concentrate with no added sweeteners). What about the market helping companies decide what to offer? A year ago, vending machines only offered junk food. Now they have beef jerky, peanuts, trail mix, and other relatively low carb alternatives. The market did this, not legislation.

Finally, AB 83 (Corbett, D-San Leandro), which would require bottled water companies put disclaimers and label all ingredients on bottled water. It's H2O, for goodness sake.

I could give a dozen other examples, but the point is that where business is concerned, it is business as usual with this Legislature.



Tim Leslie

Breast Cancer fund gets \$27,000

by **Jan Reed**
Special to The R-C

On Saturday, April 10, preceding the Pond Skimming Event at 3 p.m., the Kirkwood Cookbook Committee presented a check in the amount of \$27,000 to Julie Homan, events associate for The Breast Cancer Fund.

The check represents the profits to date from the sale of the Kirkwood Community Cookbook, the Kick-Off Dinner and Auctions held on Thanksgiving Weekend.

The Cookbook Committee consists of Susan Conner, Phyllis Jones, Lisa Clarey-Lawler, Trisha Mount, Jeanne Reuter, Jan Reed, Cheryl Stern and Kathy Walters. The cookbook has approximately 200 recipes donated by members of the community, surrounding resorts and several wineries. It also includes history of the Kirkwood area and information on events/attractions. The photos are spectacular and add a very interesting element to the book.

The cookbooks are still available at the Kirkwood General Store for \$25 each. Visit www.kirkwood.com if interested in purchasing a cookbook.

Sheriff's log

April 6

■ A 57 year old Woodfords man was booked into jail for public intoxication. A deputy observed him staggering down a road. Upon contact, obvious signs of intoxication led to his arrest.

April 9

■ A 38 year old man from Haiku, Hawaii was killed while snowboarding at Kirkwood. The

cause of death was a head injury. He was not wearing a helmet.

April 13

■ Deputies responded to a rollover vehicle accident. They were unable to locate any occupants at the scene. Witnesses reported seeing people walking near the scene of the accident who appeared to be injured. Deputies later contacted occupants of the vehicle who stated they were not injured and could not say who was driving.

Children enjoy egg hunt

by Al Pettit
Special to The R-C

At the ready line, are toddlers to teens from East Alpine County preparing for the annual Easter Egg Hunt which begins alongside Rudden's General Store in Markleeville. After detailed no nonsense instructions from Leonard Turnbeaugh, who has been in command of this overt operation for the last 16 years, assisted by Judy Molnar, Charlie Dobson, Barbara Howard, and Jennie Lear, the special forces who laboriously prepare and hide the coveted eggs and protect the adult onlookers from excessive trampling, bumping and pushing from their respective offspring, he shouts the order of battle by ascending age and the hunt begins. The eggs are donated



AL PETTIT/Submitted photo

Ready, set, hunt: Many children from Alpine County enjoyed a Easter egg hunt last weekend.

from the South Lake Tahoe Optimists Club every year. All smiling winners here, no acci-

dents to report, and the Easter festivities are adjourned homeward.

Teddy Bear Parade on April 24

The annual potluck luncheon sponsored by the Alpine County Friends of the Library will be held on Tuesday, April 20, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Markleeville library.

All Alpine county residents and employees are invited to bring their favorite dishes to share with friends and neighbors as the community celebrates National Library Week. A special feature this year is live music by local residents Jim Dunn and Steve Hibbs.

Whether you are young or just young at heart, the Teddy Bear Parade is for you. On Saturday, April 24 from 10:00 a.m. to noon, the third annual Teddy Bear Parade will be held in the Community Park adja-

DETAILS

What: Friends of the Library potluck
Where: Markleeville Library
When: 10 a.m. Saturday, April 24
Info: (530) 694-2120

cent to the Alpine County Library. The program starts with a story time in the library, followed by various educational activities for children. Children are expected to bring their own teddy bears for the parade. They learn to make a beaded necklace for their teddy bear, plant a seed in paper cups, meet new friends and neighbors and

make their own healthy snacks. All materials will be provided by the Friends of the Library. A highlight for this year's parade is a visit from Smokey Bear, courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service, South Lake Tahoe Office. Smokey Bear will be around to lead the parade and play with the children. All parade participants will also receive a free book. This event is co-sponsored by the Alpine County Elders.

Parents or grandparents are requested to pre-register the children to ensure that enough food and materials will be available. Call the Alpine County Library at (530) 694-2120. Walk-ins welcome.

Alpine County stream poisoning planned to aid cutthroat trout

Silver King Creek stretch to be affected

Associated Press

RENO — A plan to poison part of a remote stream in the Sierra Nevada to aid the recovery of a rare trout is scheduled for this fall, California and federal wildlife biologists said.

An 11-mile stretch of Silver King Creek south of Markleeville in California's Alpine County will be treated with Rotenone in an effort to kill off nonnative species.

A tributary of the Carson River, Silver King Creek in the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness is the historic waters of Paiute cutthroats, a threatened species.

"We intend to go forward this year," said Patrick Foy, spokesman for California Department of Fish and Game. "There's a very short window but we expect to get a permit this time.

"This project is absolutely essential to preserving a species," he said.

The poisoning is designed to eliminate all fish living in that part of the stream.

Eventually, the stream will be restocked with genetically pure Paiute cutthroat trout, with the aim of reopening it to catch-and-release angling, officials said.

The species had been declared endangered in 1967, but was upgraded in 1975 to a threatened species.

Officials hope to take the fish off the threatened list by 2013.

An estimated 1,000 Paiute cutthroats are in the Silver King Creek drainage, according to a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service report.

Some genetically pure Paiutes are in four other creeks

in the Sierra.

Plans to poison the stretch below Llewellyn Falls were in place for last September after Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth rejected an appeal to block the project.

But that plan was scuttled when the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board tabled the measure without issuing a permit.

The recovery program also raised concerns among wildlife specialists and area residents.

Foy said about 500 non-native trout were removed from the creek and transplanted elsewhere in 2003. He said it's unknown how many fish are in the stretch of creek to be poisoned.

After the poison is applied, officials said another chemical will be used to neutralize it so other watershed areas aren't damaged.

Dave Zellmer, chair of the Alpine County Fish and Game Commission and vice president of the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce, said meetings arranged by state and federal agency officials have answered questions.

"Still, a lot of people don't like this plan. They remember Lake Davis and they're worried," Zellmer said.

A state plan failed to rid the lake near Portola of invasive northern pike by poisoning fish.

Alpine County Supervisor Gunter Kaiser said residents remain worried about the creek but are learning more.

"Many people here feel they've been ignored and their input wasn't welcome. And some are opposed to the idea of killing other fish.

"But it looks like this is inevitable so we're trying to work with all the agencies involved," Kaiser said.

Catch the cold

It's wet suit season as whitewater fans get to ride
the spring runoff



By David Barton
BEE STAFF WRITER

First, it was the skiers' and boarders' turn to enjoy the abundance of precipitation this winter. Then came the wildflower enthusiasts, who traveled from all over the world to see the most colorful desert blooms in recent memory.

Next up: whitewater rafters and kayakers. They hope a snowpack estimated at 125 percent to 150 percent of normal throughout the Sierra Nevada will turn into one of the biggest whitewater seasons in years.

Area water managers say the spring flow will be "about average," due to the ways dams regulate many Northern California

rafters. But that hasn't dampened the spirits of whitewater enthusiasts.

"It's going to be major kinetic this year," says Nate

Rangel, who operates whitewater tours out of Coloma with his company, Adventure Connection. "We've already been taking people out for a month, and it's going to be a great year."

Rangel has reason to be optimistic. He is also president of California Outdoors, a statewide trade association for the rafting industry with nearly 50 members. Those members, 35 of whom operate on the American
▶ WATER, page E7



Sacramento Bee file, 2001/Jay Mather

Boaters — that's rafting and kayaking talk for whitewater fun-seekers — run the American River's south fork.

Northern California whitewater

NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN SIERRA RIVERS

For boating purposes, rivers are rated Class I-VI, a scale of increasing difficulty. Ratings are based on volume of flow, steepness and obstacles. Wear a life jacket and helmet. Consider a wet suit.

Class I — Easy for anyone. Flat water.

Class II — Beginner paddlers, guides and kayakers. Little current or drop, few obstacles. For those who want an easygoing run.

Class III — The level most people run. These are fun, bouncy rivers; suitable for children 12 and up. For beginning paddlers, intermediate guides and kayakers.

Class IV — These rivers have challenging rapids and runs with more technical difficulty. For brave-hearted paddlers, advanced guides and kayakers.

Class V — White-knuckle boating. Big waves, strong currents, obstacles and violent drops. Requires almost constant, intense concentration.

Class VI — Considered unrunnable. For stuntmen only.

NORTH YUBA
Class: IV-V

When: Now to July
Details: Crowned by rapids like the roller-coaster "Maytag," the Yuba is gorgeous. Unbelievable, sea-foam green water, pouring over exciting rapids, offset by calm pools, forests and granite walls. Run this river to expand your river worthiness and escape crowds. For real heart-stopping fun, run the upper, "Rossosco's Ravine." Nonstop Class IV and V white-knuckle rapids. Both runs top the list of great river runs.

NORTH FORK AMERICAN
Class: IV-V on upper stretch, Class II from there

When: Now to June
Details: A challenging run. Lots of large technical rapids through this narrow granite gorge. Rapids such as "Slaughterer's Sluice" and "Bogus Thunder," with maddening, twisting drops. Beautiful wilderness, crystal waters and wildflowers. Gorgeous side hikes to waterfalls and hidden pools. Usually done as one-day trip. Class II section begins below Shirttail Canyon.



MIDDLE FORK AMERICAN, LOWER STRETCH
Class: II

When: May to September
Details: Mellow run. Perfect for the family. Enchanting wilderness, great fishing and relaxation. Suitable for younger children. Beware: There's a mandatory portage just beyond the Mammoth Bar takeout.



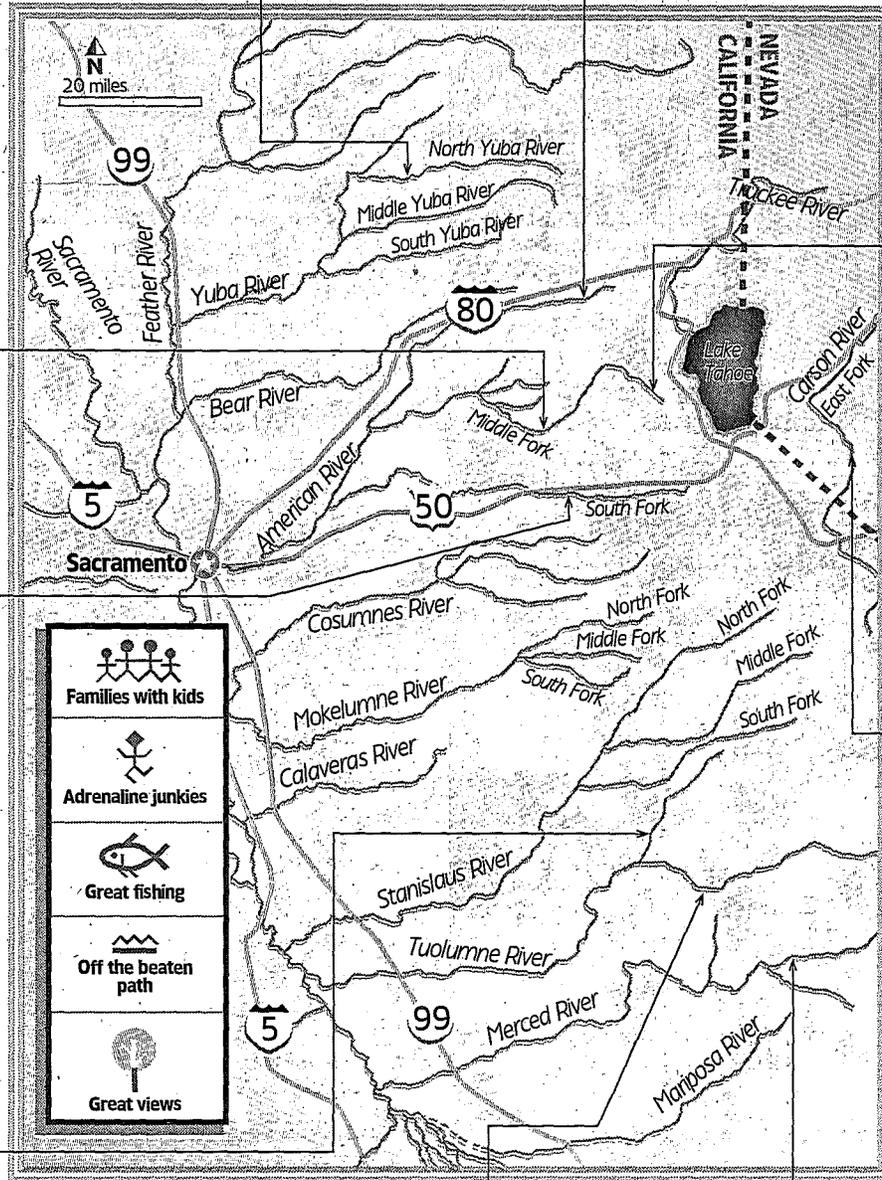
SOUTH FORK AMERICAN
Class: III

When: Now to October
Details: One of the top rafting rivers in the West. From midsummer on, an ideal introductory river for beginners and kids 7 and up. The river flows right by the site where gold was first discovered in California in 1848. The full 21 miles can be done in a one-day or overnight trip, or split up for a half-day trip. Beautiful wilderness full of granite walls and fields of wildflowers.



UPPER TUOLUMNE, CHERRY CREEK RUN
Class: V

When: July to October
Skill level: Expert paddlers and guides only.
Details: One of the most difficult runs in the West. Intense, nonstop Class V rapids such as "Jawbone" and "Catapult." Paddlers and guides must be in excellent physical shape with strong swimming skills - unplanned swims often are taken here! Cut your teeth on smaller runs before attempting this run. An unforgettable trip.



MIDDLE FORK AMERICAN, UPPER STRETCH
Class: IV

When: May to September
Details: This 26-mile wilderness run offers a little of everything: small Class II and III rapids, punctuated by hair-raising Class IV+ rapids, such as "Tunnel Chute," a man-made rapid created long ago by gold miners who dynamited a hole through the mountain. The "Chute" rages for more than 100 yards, then ends in the surrealistically calm and safe tunnel. Superb scenery, side hikes. Wildlife sighted often, including blue herons. Run in one-, two- or three-day trips. One portage near run's end.



EAST FORK CARSON
Class: II

When: May to June
Details: Awesome high-desert river blessed with natural hot springs. Twenty-two-mile wilderness run is best done as an overnighter. Perfect river for children and families, or for those who want to relax while being rowed down this meandering jewel. Put-in is near historic Markleeville, site of Grover State Hot Springs. From an idyllic alpine setting, the river winds down between orange and red cliffs and rock formations. Unique river experience. Lots of solitude. A must-see canyon.



LOWER TUOLUMNE, MERAL'S POOL TO WARD'S FERRY
Class: V

When: Now to September
Details: The "T" is considered California's premier whitewater run. A river for the brave-hearted. Fierce whitewater will leave you breathless and full of adrenaline. Paddlers, be prepared to work. Exciting and demanding run, coupled with gorgeous wilderness beauty. Exhilarating drops followed by deep, green pools for swimming and fishing. If that's not enough, another "T" feature: long, technical, slalom-type rapids. Take a break and do side hikes to natural swimming pools. See old powerhouse site. A must-do river for the adventurous. Run in one- or two-day trips.



MERCED
Class: Upper is Class IV with a seven-mile Class II stretch; lower is Class II

When: Now to July
Details: West of Yosemite Valley, the Merced River remains a California favorite. Put-in is outside the national park where the river picks up into a beautiful adventure. Nonstop rapids start you off with a bang. Full of wild and fun crests and holes. Demanding paddling. Unparalleled scenery. Fishing later in season. This river has a relatively short peak season. Do it in May or June for the best water and wildflowers. Combine it with some time in Yosemite National Park.

Water: Utilities, paddlers differ on flows

Sac. Bee
4-21-05

► FROM PAGE E1
River, are looking forward to a long, profitable season.

"We'll have extended seasons on the north fork of the American and the Yuba, where we don't have dams," he says. "And on rivers with dams, like the south and middle American and the Tuolumne, we'll be in great shape into September and October."

The anticipation among potential "boaters" — the industry word for rafters and kayakers — is high. Rangel says that in the course of a recent weekday, he booked nearly 40 spots on his tours. His company takes 5,000 to 6,000 customers down various area rivers.

This year, perhaps more. "We're up a lot this year already," he says. "And many of my members can say the same thing."

A management matter

The snowpack in the central Sierra is roughly 125 percent of normal, and parts of the southern Sierra are at 150 percent of normal, which means a huge amount of water will be dripping, flowing and then raging down from high elevations into the Central Valley.

On its way down from the mountains, that water has myriad uses, only one of which is recreation:

- Reservoirs and river flows need to be kept at certain levels for fish and other species' needs.
- The water must be managed by utilities, including the Sacramento Municipal Utility District and Pacific Gas and Electric Co., for hydroelectric needs. There are 17 dams in the American River watershed alone.

- When it gets to the Valley, water is crucial for farming, household and industrial needs.

Thus, water management is a defining feature of California's natural and political landscape, with dozens of local, state and federal agencies involved in making sure everyone gets a bit of it.

Anticipation of a bigger-than-average whitewater year may be overblown, according to SMUD. While there is a surplus of snow this year, spring flows are much less a matter of nature than a matter of management.

Dace Udris is a spokeswoman for SMUD, which runs most of the dams in the American River watershed. She says that despite the large snowpack, "we expect close to an average year."

The reason, she says, is most of this winter's precipitation came in the form of snow, not rain, which means there was less immediate runoff from the winter's storms. That in turn means reservoirs are at lower levels than usual to start the spring, so a lot of runoff will be held in those reservoirs rather than being released downriver.

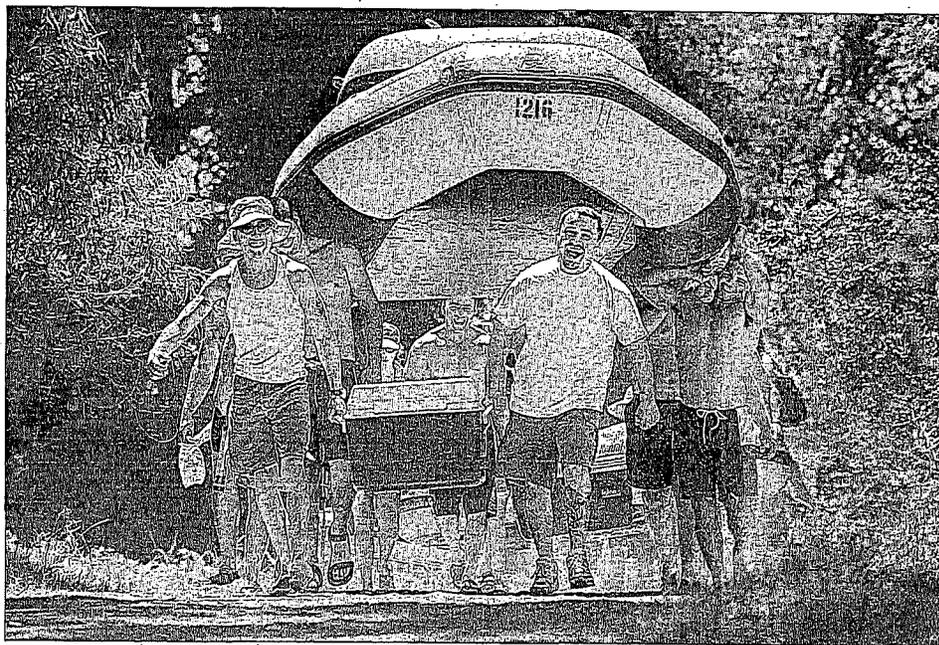
"We normally get together with the rafting community and PG&E and discuss what the release will be," Udris says.

"And this year, it will be about normal. Which means we'll have a typical season, between Memorial Day and Labor Day, Tuesday through Sunday. Mondays are a bit lower, since we don't release as much water on Sunday, because there's lower electricity demand."

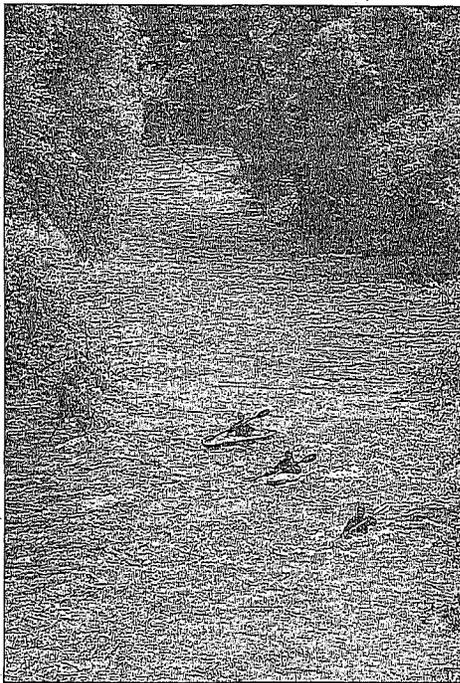
Just this side of ice

The spring water will be high, but rather than a constant downstream deluge, water watchers say, this year will be memorable for boaters in another way: The water that comes down will be cold.

Danny Bolster is El Dorado County's river recreation supervisor; it is his job to manage whitewater recreation on the south fork of the American



A group from San Jose carries an inflatable raft to a put-in spot for a leisurely float down the American River near Sunrise Boulevard. Sacramento Bee file, 1999/Randy Pench



A more individually challenging way to enjoy a river run is in a kayak, as with this trio paddling hard-shell boats on the Mokelumne. Sacramento Bee file, 2003/Anne Chadwick Williams

to have a wet or dry suit and adequate flotation," Bolster says. Bill Center agrees. A veteran outfitter who owns Camp Lotus, an area favorite of boaters, he says, "You could spend some time in the water. And 60-degree water is very, very cold." Beyond that, particularly in the spring, Bolster says, flows will be higher than many people who ride the rivers in mid-summer are accustomed to.

"Most people see the river in summer, when it's 1,300 cfs (cubic feet per second)," Bolster says. "And the river at 4,000 cfs is a different river. It's important to have a life jacket designed for whitewater use, so if you go for a swim (fall overboard), you will stay above water."

Steve Evans is the conservation director for Friends of the River, a conservation group started by guides. He says his organization is offering refresher

extra precautions to be taken in high, cold water.

"We may be requiring people to wear cold-water gear into the summer instead of T-shirts and shorts," he says. "I think people will have to be wearing wet suits much later in the year."

"I don't want to scare anyone," he adds, "but the water's going to be bigger and colder later, because there will be more snowmelt later in the year."

Economic impact

Some advanced boaters are so eager for big water that they will watch dam releases on the Internet — www.dreamflows.com is a popular site — and time their visits to get to a spot just when the high water does, much as landlocked surfers do when they have to make the most of their trips to the ocean.

Says Center, "Someone can be in Sacramento, and by watching



A guide rows through an American River rapid. In this type of raft — an "oar boat" — the passengers' main job is to hold on and have fun. Sacramento Bee file, 1998/Chris Crewell

river at the same time that the water does, because of the time lag. They're serious."

Regardless of the size and temperature of the water, 2005 is shaping up to be a very good year in the areas where white-water rafting has become big business.

Plentiful water is particularly good news in Coloma, where much of the local economy is based on visitors lured to the area by American River boating opportunities.

Val Jensen is owner of the Coloma Club, a local coffee shop and bar.

"It's great news," she says of the high water. "When the water doesn't run, our business goes down quite a bit. When it's good water, we all do well, so we're feeling lucky. I can't complain."

But if it doesn't pan out quite that way, Jensen says, she's not worried.

"If the weather's nice, we get people," she says. "We get a lot of bikers in. And it helps to be the only bar in town. With a bar and a

band, if there's no water, people just say, 'Let's go get a beer.'"

□ □ □
The Bee's David Barton can be reached at (916) 321-1075 or at dbarton@sacbee.com.

April 22, 2005

SUPPORTING CHILDREN**SHANNON LITZ/The R-C**

Open House: Monte Rice holds four-month-old Cora Rice while he tries to complete a quiz at the Alpine County Early Learning Center open house Thursday. The event was held in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month and Week of the Young Child. An open house at the Woodford's Indian Education Center from 12-4 p.m. Monday will offer information on Temporary Assistance to Needy Families. For information, call (530) 694-2964.

April 22, 2005

Firefighter presents awards

Staff Reports

Three awards were presented by Alpine County volunteer firefighter Clint Celio at Tuesday's board of supervisors meeting.

Former fire chief Jason Lyons, who had served 10 years and had logged in more than 1,000 hours, received a framed award for his contributions.

"I think a lot of the success of the volunteer fire department in Woodfords was due to Jason's efforts," said Celio.

Former captain of the Woodfords Fire Station Josh Kelly, who wasn't present, received a plaque for five years of service and responding to hundreds of calls.

"He's someone who always put training first," said Celio.

Woodfords Auto Shop also received recognition and a plaque for allowing vehicle extrication classes to take place in its parking lot, towing assistance at accidents and giving employees the time to do volunteer firefighting work.

Earth Day Celebration

An Earth Day 2005 Celebration will take place 10:30 a.m. to noon Saturday at the Markleeville Library and Park located at 270 Laramie St. in Markleeville, Calif. Everyone will receive an Earth Day pledge certificate. Activities will include an opening ceremony, a song by Amber Neaves, tree planting and dedication, flower bulb planting, children's activities, a poster contest, snacks and an afternoon hike. For information, call Laura at (530) 694-2327.

Resource Advisory Committee to meet

The Alpine County Resource Advisory Committee will meet at 6 p.m. Monday at the Diamond Valley School near Woodfords. The committee will discuss issues relevant to natural resources in Alpine County. The committee has the challenging task of ranking and voting on nearly \$800,000 of incoming projects with only \$134,000 remaining to spend this year. The public is invited to attend.

BRIEFS

Paiute cutthroat trout workshop Friday

Following an Alpine County 2005 Fishery Program Review Meeting on April 29, county supervisors, residents and California Department of Fish and Game staff will present an update on the Paiute cutthroat trout restoration project. From 10 a.m. to noon representatives of Alpine County Watershed Group, local and state Fish and Game and the U.S. Forest Service will speak. A workshop on Fish and Game's plan to rid Silver King Creek of rainbow trout in order to reintroduce the native Paiute cutthroat trout through poisoning of the creek will take place after the meeting. RSVP no later than Monday to Teresa Burkhauser, Alpine County Chamber of Commerce, (530) 694-2475.

Planning Commission to meet Thursday

Alpine County Planning

Commission will meet Thursday at 6 p.m. in Turtle Rock Park, 17300 Highway 89 in Markleeville. A workshop on West Fork Estates, a proposed continuation of the West Fork Terrace Subdivision, will take place. The subdivision would consist of nine lots of three to four acres each. For information, call the Planning Commission at (530) 694-1878.

Villa Gigli offers Tuscan Pizzeria

Villa Gigli Trattoria at 145 Hot Springs Road in Markleeville will begin offering Tuscan Pizzeria on Friday nights only, beginning April 29. Country bread, salad, half a 14-inch pizza and coffee is \$15 per person. A 14-inch takeout pizza is \$20. All pizzas are handmade with fresh ingredients by owner-chef Ruggero Gigli, who was once head baker at a restaurant in Florence, Italy. The Trattoria restaurant will reopen for the season on May 1, with reservations required. For a menu or more information, call Gina or Ruggero Gigli at (530) 694-2253.

In the line of fire

Clint Celio: 'It's my turn'

by Jo Rafferty
Staff Writer

Clint Celio's house almost burned down in the Acorn Fire of 1987, but he said that's not what pushed him to sign up to be an Alpine County volunteer firefighter.

It is also not what convinced the 30-year-old to be the coordinator for the Alpine County Fire Safe Council.

"In a small community like this, you have to have somebody," said Celio. "That's what it takes to get things done. I guess it's my turn."

Celio was 13 when the devastating wildfire swallowed up 24 county homes.

"It started at 10 in the morning," said Celio, thinking back to the day of the fire. "It was just wispy smoke coming up the canyon. At 1 p.m. the sky was black and day turned into evening. Here comes all the fire trucks up the hill, saying, 'Get out of the way.'"

Celio has been a volunteer firefighter at the Woodfords station for seven years, and has been the Fire Safe Council coordinator for the two years the council has been in existence. The position was approved for another year by the Alpine County Resource Advisory Committee and Celio plans to bid for the contract again.

Approximately \$140,000 is provided to the Resource Advisory Committee each year to benefit the forests within the county, and committee members decide what projects to support. Many times the committee provides funding for Fire Safe Council projects.

The committee will meet at 6 p.m. Monday at Diamond Valley School to vote on nearly \$800,000 of incoming projects with \$134,000 left to spend this year.

Celio's duties as coordinator include organizing and facilitating community meetings, writing grants for projects, hiring contractors and completing jobs, supporting agencies with information and educating private land owners about defensible space issues.

But, his biggest accomplishment is creating an annual Alpine County community wildfire protection plan.

"That's the most important thing," said Carson Ranger District spokesman Franklin Pemberton. "Clint has done a lot of work with this Fire Safe Council. It's real good, important work."

Celio has also written fire plans for six other fire districts in the Tahoe Basin and worked on the Nevada State Wildfire



CLINT CELIO/Submitted to the R-C



SHANNON LITZ/R-C photos

Fire: Clint Celio is a volunteer for the Alpine County Woodfords Fire Station. At top, Woodfords Fire Station volunteer firefighters are trained in using hand tools for wildland firefighting. Shown from left: Fallen Leaf Fire Department Chief Chris Sauer instructs Woodfords volunteer firefighters David Gard, Jim Haen, Rob Levy, Buck McClelland and Mike Gard. Below, Celio talks about his job and his life.



'At 1 p.m. the sky was black and day turned into evening. Here comes all the fire trucks up the hill, saying, Get out of the way.'

Clint Celio
Alpine County firefighter recalls the Acorn Fire

More Alpine County: Page 8

Assessment Project that spans 246 communities in all the state's counties.

Celio has lived in Woodfords all his life. He attended Diamond Valley School, where his 5-year-old daughter is now enrolled, and graduated from Douglas High School in 1992.

Celio also owns his own business, C.G. Celio & Sons Co., the same name his great-great grandfather called his ranching and logging operation in about 1900.

"I resurrected the name of the business. I'm one of the sons," said Celio.

His great-great-grandfather also ran the Meyers Hotel. The Celio family owned about 2,800 acres in South Lake Tahoe and Meyers. Now it owns about 100 acres. The original C.G. & Sons Co. lasted until the 1950s.

After earning a master's degree in forestry and geographic information services from Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Celio returned to his hometown and started a geographic information services consulting business.

"I work with local counties, utility districts and the National Guard in a variety of states to implement facility information systems," said Celio.

"With the geographic information services program, Celio tracks various agencies' assets across the country, laying out site plans and maps.

Even though Celio didn't choose firefighting to be his main line of work, he said he gets satisfaction from it.

"You really get to help folks out," he said.

Future challenges are coming with the changing demographics in the county, which is becoming more of a retirement community, he said.

"It could change — like Kirkwood — if it becomes more of a transient, tourist population," said Celio. "At Kirkwood, one month you may have 30 volunteers and the next month you may have none."

Markleeville and Woodfords, he said, need to develop a vision of where they want to be in five or 10 years so that any new developments aren't approved haphazardly.

When volunteering as a firefighter or attending fire council meetings, Celio gets to work alongside people he grew up with when he lived in the little green house next to Woodfords Station on Highway 88.

"I absolutely loved living up here, particularly growing up here," said Celio. "After traveling, I always came back to ... you just can't beat this place. It looks like this is where I'm going to bring up my family."

Alpine, employees at odds over insurance

R-C
April 22, 2005

Doubled insurance rates may force Alpine County employees to pay up

by Jo Rafferty
Staff Writer

For the second consecutive month Alpine County supervisors elected to offset rising costs of county employee and retiree health insurance premiums with money taken from a county health trust fund.

Doubled insurance premiums and an additional 12 percent increase in January 2006, coupled with a county deficit of \$1.2 million, are being blamed for the shortfall, according to Judy Molnar, assistant to the board.

Contracts ran out Jan. 1 for miscellaneous county employees and July 1 for Alpine County Sheriff's Department deputies. Negotiations have been on and off since those dates.

"Both contracts are expired," said Molnar. "What we're experiencing is a 100 percent increase in premiums. Our pre-

miums went from \$663 to \$1,250 per month per employee and retiree."

Up until now, the county employees, both active and retired, have had no insurance premiums to pay and negotiations are over a proposal to begin charging premiums, according to Molnar.

"Our employees and retirees are fully funded at present," said Molnar. "They have received 100 percent benefits since the benefit program was offered."

Approximately \$26,100 more is needed each month to cover the difference between the increase and what was budgeted. The county has \$252,000 set aside in a trust fund to cover the cost of increased premiums each year.

The trust fund was established by the board of supervisors in 2001 when the county employees became unionized. Since then they have been covered by the union, Operating Engineers Local No. 3's insurance policy.

See **Insurance** on page 10

Insurance: Doubled costs

Continued from page 1

Union officials are questioning whether the county really has such a large deficit, and said they will schedule an audit of county finances.

"We have asked for a county audit," said Deputy Sheriff's Association President Edward Braz, following Tuesday's Alpine County Board of Supervisors meeting. "We hear conflicting numbers. The union felt this was the only way to get the true numbers."

"They're saying there's a \$1.2 million deficit this fiscal year. We feel this is not entirely true."

The union has been trying to negotiate salary increases in addition to health insurance costs.

"The county is proposing to

cut positions and offer a 2 percent increase," said Braz. "We already only have 12 deputies, we're down three. To take two more off would be a definite problem."

Molnar said that salary proposals are in negotiation and are confidential.

Braz said the union was never given a chance to negotiate until about two months ago.

Negotiations were held until March 2003 because the union representative was diagnosed with lung cancer last fall, said Molnar.

"Supervisors have met with union representatives three times and should be commended," she said. "Unfortunately they still haven't hammered out a solution."

"We initially expected nego-

tiations were going to be completed in 45 days. We've already been at it a month. It's not likely we'll meet the goal."

Of the 116 county employees, 51 percent are covered by specific state funds or grants, according to Molnar. The insurance premium increase only affects about 50 percent of the employees, and doesn't affect elective officials or administrative management.

Of the 116 employees, 42 are retirees.

Until 2001, the county was self-insured. When that was no longer financially feasible, the county looked into private insurance companies, but none would bid with such a large percentage of retirees. That's when employees voted to join the union.



As many of you know, a community rejuvenation project is underway in Markleeville. Envisioned and guided by Markleeville USA, the Mahalee Lodge, cabins, and Village at Markleeville are being developed to enhance community well-being and vitality; in turn, creating jobs and stimulating the local economy. At the heart of this vision lies the desire for community restoration, improved safety, and cultural preservation to make Markleeville a more thriving community.

...for the better.

community safety

Alpine County

Chamber of Commerce & Interagency Visitors Center

Monday, April 25, 2005

To Alpine County Residents:

At the April 21, 2005 Alpine County Chamber of Commerce Board meeting, the Board of Directors again maintained their support for the development proposed by Tom Abdo and Markleeville USA.

Our policy is simple, and that is to promote the community, assist in a strong local economy and advance the general welfare and prosperity of Alpine County.

We as a Chamber Board of Directors, encourage all residents to review the information provided in this newsletter and it is our hope that your questions and concerns are addressed and answered.

Mr. Abdo continues to negotiate and submit changes on this project to better serve the communities needs and enhance Markleeville's growth for the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Alpine County Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors

Community & Cultural Restoration

✿ Venture efforts are shouldering the costs for the design and engineering to place utilities underground on Webster and Montgomery Streets.

✿ Residents and visitors will benefit from the construction of new sidewalks and lighting enhancements throughout downtown.

✿ Downtown revitalization will emphasize 1850-1900 mining architecture - preserving Markleeville's historical record.

✿ Community landscaping will compliment the area's native vegetation.

✿ Community wetlands will be protected and remain untouched.

✿ In partnership with the Washoe Tribe, Native American artifacts will be displayed in the Mahalee Lodge.

Improved Community Safety

✿ \$25,000 will be gifted to the Alpine County Sheriff's department, Markleeville Volunteer Fire Department, and Emergency Medical Service for each cabin sold.

✿ A fire truck will be gifted to the Markleeville Volunteer Fire Department and new fire hydrants will be added to better protect the community.

✿ An engineered water system will dramatically improve water volume, access, and pressure. Furthermore, all new construction will exceed fire safety requirements - greatly improving community safety.

What Others are Saying

"Markleeville, with its wonderful historic buildings and services such as the library, Courthouse and museum can only be enhanced being side by side with a project such as this. What a wonderful fit."

Herman Zellmer
25 years Education Administrator and 8 years Alpine County Supervisor

"I am very confident the Mahalee Lodge project will be a tremendous asset to Alpine Country."

Gerry Bing
Prominent businessman, named Nevada Small Business Champion for 2005

"It is a great project and desperately needed for Markleeville and Alpine County."

Chris and Faye Gansberg
One of the oldest ranching families in Alpine County; Chris served 16 years on both the Alpine County Board of Supervisors and the Alpine County Planning Commission.

"Kirkwood Mountain Resort looks forward to having the Mahalee Lodge join this country's list of world class attractions."

Tim Cohee
President - Kirkwood Mountain Resort

By offering our kids a reason to stay in Markleeville and creating jobs for those who prefer to work in our quaint setting - it's hard to imagine anyone opposing these efforts, for this project is a viable solution to the County's financial challenges.

** More information can be obtained by emailing us at: info@markleevilleusa.com*

Taste of old Italy in Alpine

Markleeville restaurant Villa Gigli Trattoria expands its menu with Friday night pizzeria

by Jo Rafferty
Staff Writer

Ruggero and Gina Gigli went to Italy for two months this winter and decided to go one step further with their Markleeville home-based Italian restaurant, transforming it into a Tuscan pizzeria on Friday nights.

Villa Gigli Trattoria, at 145 Hot Springs Road, will begin serving pizza dinners this Friday through the end of the summer.

Ruggero said, while visiting family and friends in Tuscany he noticed, "Most country restaurants now double as pizzerias, and I think it makes absolute sense."

Villa Gigli Trattoria offers fine homemade Italian cuisine on weekends starting May 1 through the end of October. In a building off of their house, looking much like a European country villa perched on a hillside overlooking the small California mountain town, visitors can now sample pizzas made much like the old country, according to Ruggero.

"It's even better," said Ruggero, who was a head baker in Florence, Italy, until 1959 when he immigrated to New York. Ruggero explained that he combines fresh herbs from their own garden with his original pizza sauce and dough recipes. He cooks the crust lightly first. He uses Villa Sonoma dry Jack cheese rather than mozzarella, because he does not like the texture of the American-made substitute.

"Mozzarella in Italy is made from buffalo milk," said Ruggero. "It's not stringy like in this country."

"We use local, seasonal, natural handcrafted foods," said Gina.

Customers are offered a choice of two toppings: pepperoni and fresh tomatoes or basil and tomatoes. The cost is \$15 per person for a half 14-inch



Yum: Ruggero Gigli offers some pizza he made in one of his two kitchens at Villa Gigli Trattoria in Markleeville, Calif. The restaurant expanded, and will begin serving pizza Friday night.

SHANNON LITZ/The R-C

pizza, salad and homemade country bread and coffee, tax included. On Friday nights drinks are \$3, and include a glass of red or white house wine from Pedroncelli cellars in Sonoma, lemonade or Sierra Nevada Pale Ale. A 14-inch take-out pizza can be purchased for \$20.

"Our usual fixed-price four-course pasta dinners

will be served on Saturday and Sunday evenings, with reservations recommended, said Gina, who is the hostess, "but on pizza night we'll have a first-come, first-served policy."

Customers will sit at the same four long wooden

See **Taste** on page 2

The Business Record

R - e

April 27,

2005



SHANNON LITZ/The R-C

Art: Ruggero and Gina Gigli in the gallery at the restaurant where Gina's artwork is displayed.

Taste: Pizza in Markleeville

Continued from page 1

tables, surrounded by Gina's artwork — collages, etchings and mythological masks — that they do when dining at the Trattoria. In the summer they are seated outside if desired. Ruggero cooks all the food in front of the diners in two adjoining kitchens.

"It's kind of like eating in an art gallery in the cold weather. Once it's warm, we seat people outside," said Gina.

For as long as Gina can remember she has been creating artwork, and has been a professional artist her entire adult life. Besides selling original artwork, the couple has prints, posters and stationary made from Gina's etchings. The couple, who have been married for 36 years, also bottle their own olive oil and red wine vinegar, available for sale.

Gina has written two books, "Poco Pane, Poco Vino" and "What's Eating America." Her

books and artwork are available online at villagigli.com.

The Giglis love to tell the story about how they met at a party when she was asked to be Ruggero's interpreter since they both knew Spanish. They didn't get together again for seven years.

The Giglis said that people come from as far away as Maine, Wisconsin and Florida to eat at their restaurant and stay at Sorenson's Mountain Resort or Lake Tahoe. They have also had visitors from other countries, such as Japan and Germany.

"They want to come to some place where a little more peaceful," said Gina.

Gina had visited Markleeville on vacations since she was a young child, and was ecstatic when they decided to make it their home 31 years ago when their daughter was four years old. Prior to that the couple raised three boys.

"It's my spiritual home," said

Gina.

At Villa Gigli Trattoria's reopening on Sunday, George Hanepen will strum original jazz renditions on his guitar. Dinners at the Trattoria change each weekend, and are offered at \$25 all-inclusive. Dinners are listed in both English and Italian on a chalkboard, and include hors d'oeuvres, salad, a main course and a vegetarian alternative, bread, dessert and caffè.

Gina said the restaurant is "known as being the least expensive three-star restaurant in the Sierras." Villa Gigli Trattoria was listed in Rebecca Poole Force's book "Best Places Northern California."

For more information or reservations call the Villa Gigli at (530) 694-2253. Also, call ahead for special orders due to preferences or allergies.

Jo Rafferty can be reached at jrafferty@recordcourier.com or 782-5121, ext. 213.

Markleeville says, 'Pizza, pizza'

by Jo Rafferty
Staff Writer

Ruggero and Gina Gigli went to Italy for two months this winter and decided to go one step further with their Markleeville home-based Italian restaurant, transforming it into a Tuscan pizzeria on Friday nights.

Villa Gigli Trattoria, at 145 Hot Springs Road, will begin serving pizza dinners on Fridays, beginning today through the end of the summer.

Ruggero said, while visiting family and friends in Tuscany he noticed, "Most country restaurants now double as pizzerias, and I think it makes absolute sense."

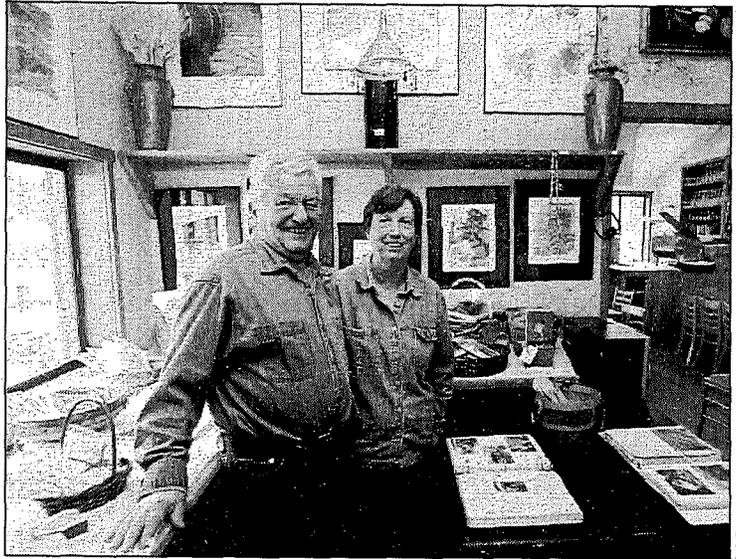
Villa Gigli Trattoria offers fine homemade Italian cuisine on weekends starting this Sunday through the end of October. In a building off of their house, looking much like a European country villa perched on a hillside overlooking the small California mountain town, visitors can now sample pizzas made much like the old country, according to Ruggero.

"It's even better," said Ruggero, who was a head baker in Florence, Italy, until 1959 when he immigrated to New York. Ruggero explained that he combines fresh herbs from their own garden with his original pizza sauce and dough recipes. He cooks the crust lightly first. He uses Villa Sonoma dry Jack cheese rather than mozzarella, because he does not like the texture of the American-made substitute.

"Mozzarella in Italy is made from buffalo milk," said Ruggero. "It's not stringy like in this country."

"We use local, seasonal, natural handcrafted foods," said Gina.

Customers are offered a choice of two toppings: pepperoni and fresh tomatoes or basil and tomatoes. The cost is \$15



Art: Ruggiero and Gina Gigli in the gallery at the restaurant where Gina's artwork is displayed.

DETAILS

What: Villa Gigli's Tuscan pizzeria and Trattoria

When: The Tuscan pizzeria is open Friday nights beginning today, the Trattoria is open Saturday and Sunday evenings beginning this Sunday

Where: 145 Hot Springs Road, Markleeville, Calif.

Info: (530) 694-2253

per person for a half 14-inch pizza, salad and homemade country bread and coffee, tax included. On Friday nights drinks are \$3, and include a glass of red or white house wine from Pedroncelli cellars in Sonoma, lemonade or Sierra Nevada Pale Ale. A 14-inch take-out pizza can be purchased for \$20.

"Our usual fixed-price four-course pasta dinners will be served on Saturday and Sunday evenings, with reservations recommended, said Gina, who is the hostess, "but on pizza night we'll have a first-come, first-served policy."

Customers will sit at the same four long wooden tables, surrounded by Gina's artwork — collages, etchings and mythological masks — that

they do when dining at the Trattoria. In the summer they are seated outside if desired. Ruggero cooks all the food in front of the diners in two adjoining kitchens.

"It's kind of like eating in an art gallery in the cold weather. Once it's warm, we seat people outside," said Gina.

For as long as Gina can remember she has been creating artwork, and has been a professional artist her entire adult life. Besides selling original artwork, the couple has prints, posters and stationary made from Gina's etchings. The couple, who have been married for 36 years, also bottle their own olive oil and red wine vinegar, available for sale.

Gina has written two books, "Poco Pane, Poco Vino" and



SHANNON LITZ/R-C photos

Yum: Ruggero Gigli offers some pizza he made in one of his two kitchens at Villa Gigli Trattoria in Markleeville, Calif. The restaurant expanded, and will begin serving pizza tonight.

“What’s Eating America.” Her books and artwork are available online at villagigli.com.

The Giglis love to tell the story about how they met at a party when she was asked to be Ruggero’s interpreter since they both knew Spanish. They didn’t get together again for seven years.

The Giglis said that people come from as far away as Maine, Wisconsin and Florida to eat at their restaurant and stay at Sorenson’s Mountain Resort or Lake Tahoe. They have also had visitors from other countries, such as Japan and Germany.

“They want to come to somewhere a little more peaceful,” said Gina.

Gina had visited Markleeville on vacations since she was a young child, and was ecstatic when they decided to make it their home 31 years ago when their daughter was four years old. Prior to that the couple raised three boys.

“It’s my spiritual home,” said Gina.

At Villa Gigli Trattoria’s



Restaurant: Gina and Ruggero Gigli stand in front of Villa Gigli in Markleeville.

reopening on Sunday; George Hanepen will strum original jazz renditions on his guitar. Dinners at the Trattoria change each weekend, and are offered at \$25 all-inclusive. Dinners are listed in both English and Italian on a chalkboard, and include hors d’oeuvres, salad, a main course and a vegetarian alternative, bread, dessert and café.

Gina said the restaurant is “known as being the least expensive three-star restaurant in the Sierras.” Villa Gigli Trattoria was listed in Rebecca Poole Foree’s book “Best Places Northern California.”

For more information or reservations call the Villa Gigli at (530) 694-2253. Also, call ahead for special orders due to preferences or allergies.

Sheriff's log

■ On April 3, deputies responded to a disturbance in the Kirkwood area. A 21-year-old Berkeley man was arrested for public intoxication and trespassing.

■ On April 4, in Markleeville, a 57-year-old Placerville woman was assisted with some gas for her vehicle. She was instructed on where to proceed to find the services she needed. Instead, the woman drove to a residential street in Woodfords and rolled her vehicle over in a private driveway. The use of a crane was required to remove the vehicle.

■ On April 10, in the Kirkwood area, a 20-year-old Lodi man and a 20-year-old Sacramento man were arrested for possession of marijuana.

■ On April 14, in the Kirkwood area, deputies responded to a disturbance. A 29-year-old man with no permanent address was arrested for being under the influence of narcotics.

■ On April 14 and 15, deputies conducted an investigation in Bear Valley. A 30-year-old Bear Valley man and a 20-year-old Dorrington man were arrested for burglary and vehicle theft. A juvenile male from Carmel Valley was arrested for conspiracy.

DOWN TO EARTH



SHANNON LITZ/The R-C

Planting: Sarah Voss helps 3½-year-old Patrick Voss plant herbs at the Markleeville Library Earth Day, Saturday April 23.

Earth Day is a success

By Laura Leuders

Alpine Watershed Coordinator

The Markleeville Earth Day event on April 23 at the Alpine County Library was a great success with over 45 in attendance.

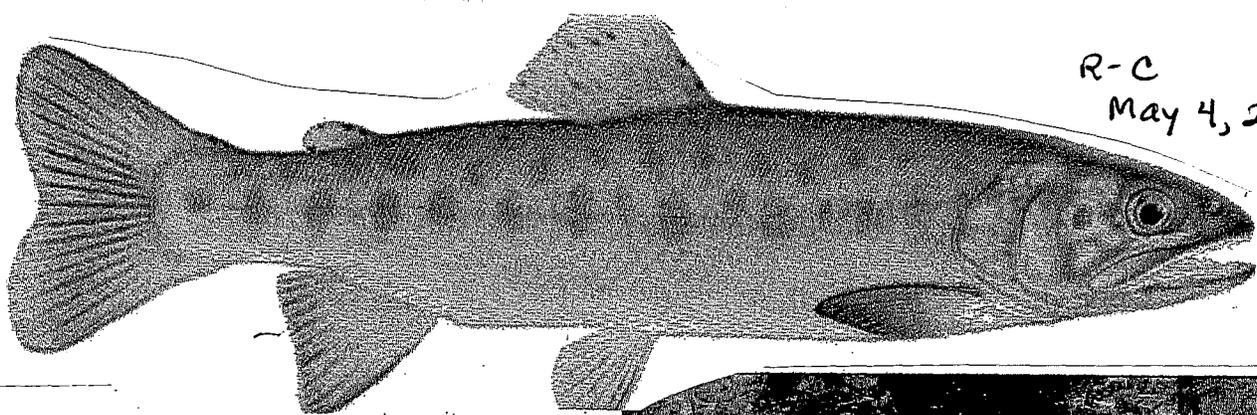
The event kicked off with an introduction and welcome from Alpine County Board of Supervisor Don Jardine and Alpine Watershed Coordinator Laura Leuders.

Markleeville residents Dave and Amber Neaves sang a song in honor of Earth Day.

Following the opening ceremony, participants planted a community herb garden, created crafts, and indulged in healthy snacks. The children were given lady bugs to take home to place in their own gardens. They were taught that lady bugs are a healthy and environmentally safe alternative to spraying pesticides because they feed on aphids.



Submitted to the R-C
Leo gets down and dirty on Earth Day at the Markleeville Library.



R-C
May 4, 2005

Fish fry

Alpine County closes in on approving poisoning of stream

by Jo Rafferty
Staff Writer

California Fish and Game officials hope to reach a mutual understanding with Alpine County that will lift the barriers to the application of poison in an Alpine County creek to restore the native Paiute cutthroat trout.

Alpine County supervisors decided Tuesday to work with Fish and Game and return at the next board meeting May 17 with their final votes on the 40-year-old project.

"We want to make it a good project. Something that is the least harmful to the environment and Alpine County," said supervisor Skip Veatch.

The issue will also be addressed in June at a State Water Resources Control Board workshop.

Bill Somer of Fish and Game said he is afraid all the department's efforts up until now will be moot if they are not allowed to treat Silver King Creek in Upper Fish Valley with the aquatic pesticide rotenone. The Paiute has already been isolated in the stream above the falls.

"One of the biggest fears is that an angler can move a hybrid fish to above Llewellyn falls and undo 40 years of effort to establish the Paiute trout," he said.

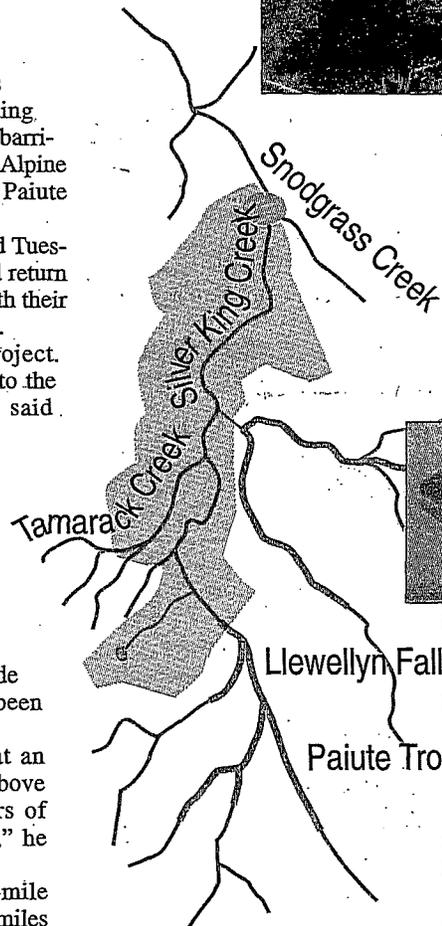
Treatments are planned for a 6-mile stretch of Silver King Creek and 5 miles of its tributaries from Llewellyn Falls down to Silver King Gorge, according to Brian Finlayson of Fish and Game.

At the annual fishery meeting Friday at Turtle Rock Park in Markleeville, Calif., Finlayson and Somer outlined the benefits of using rotenone in Silver King Creek in Upper Fish Valley. It not only will save the threatened species, but create a one-of-a-kind fishing area, Finlayson said to a group of about 40 people representing Alpine County Watershed Group, local Fish and

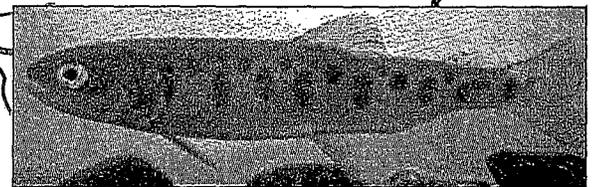


At top, Llewellyn Falls where a habitat for Paiute cutthroat trout has been prepared. Below, a young cutthroat. At left, the area planned for the fish kill near Silver King Creek. The green spot is the location of a filter which will take the poison out of the stream.

Drawing by Joseph Tomelleri
Photos courtesy California Department of Fish and Game.



DETAILS



■ To neutralize rotenone, potassium permanganate is applied to the water. This causes the rotenone to oxidate in about 15-30 minutes. Finlayson said he has seen no long-term complications related to any of the chemicals used.

■ Rotenone is colorless and odorless, insoluble in water, rapidly dissolves in light and water, has low toxicity to birds and mammals and minimal effects on invertebrates.

■ Rotenone comes from the roots of plants in the bean family. It has been used as an insecticide on crops, allowing the produce to keep the designation "organic."

Game and the U.S. Forest Service, as well as residents and area anglers..

"It will eventually create a very unique fishery," Finlayson said.

Rotenone would eradicate other species of fish, such as rainbow trout, that are destroying the native Paiute cutthroat trout through hybridization, he explained.

Once the fish were killed, Paiute cut-

throat trout would be planted.

"The most recent attempt to remove the historic Paiute cutthroat trout from the federal threatened species list began in 2003 when about 500 fish were planted in East Carson River and Poison Lake.

Plans to finish the job with rotenone were thwarted by a lawsuit brought by the

Fish: Kill moves forward

Continued from page 1

Center for Biological Diversity.

In Spring 2004, Intermountain Regional Forester Jack Troyer issued a finding of no significant impact, clearing the way for poisoning.

California Department of Fish and Game officials had hoped for a permit from the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board allowing them to commence with treatments by late September.

On Sept. 8, 2004, the Lahontan Water Board failed to issue the permit after members said they could not vote until they had more information regarding the environmental effects of the project, according to a State Water Board report.

Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and a non-profit organization Trout Unlimited petitioned to appeal the board's decision and will be heard during a workshop on June 1 at 10 a.m. in the Sierra Hearing Room, second floor of the Cal/EPA Building, 1001 I St. in Sacramento, Calif. No decisions will be made during the meeting.

According to a State Water Resources Control Board draft petition dated April 26, the Lahontan Board wouldn't permit the project because, "A number of interested parties, some with scientific credentials, testified against the project (on Sept. 8).

"Without adopting a motion, various members of the Lahontan Water Board indicated that they would not approve the permit because they were not satisfied with the amount of

MORE FACTS ABOUT ROTENONE

- Rotenone has to be mixed with a solvent, which dilutes it.
- About 30 chemicals have been used since 1930 to eradicate fish, said Finlayson. Currently there are only four being used. Of these, one is rotenone.
- Although rotenone first came to North America in the 1930s, it has been used for centuries in Asia, Australia and South America.
- Rotenone was first registered for fish control use in 1947.
- Rotenone is currently used in 37 states and five Canadian provinces.
- Rotenone interferes with cellular respiration.
- The use of pesticides or dewatering are the only ways to totally get rid of fish in a body of water. Dewatering only works in isolated water, and not in moving water, such as a stream or creek.
- An Emory University in Atlanta, Ga., study done in 2000 showed that rats exposed to five weeks of intravenous rotenone developed Parkinson's-like symptoms. However, Brian Finlayson said that was an "unrealistic exposure," and a 1988 Fish and Wildlife Service study showed that rats that had rotenone mixed into their diet for two years showed no response.

information made available to them regarding threatened and endangered species."

Nonnative trout were introduced in Upper Fish Valley in 1949, said Finlayson.

Rotenone applications occurred there historically in 1964, 1976 and 1991-93, each followed by a spike in the Paiute's population several years later.

Now there are approximately 800 Paiute cutthroat trout, including 400 adults, left in Upper Fish Valley, according to Finlayson, who said that about 2,500 trout are necessary to establish a long-term population.

Studies following past applications of rotenone have shown that the population of the fish has more than doubled, Finlayson said.

A spokesman for Sen. Dave Cox, R-Fair Oaks, Dana Jorgensen, who attended Friday's meeting, said, "The senator has taken no position, but he has put a lot of weight in what the citizens of the county want to do. We're representing them."

"We don't like to see fish killed," said retired fish biologist Russ Wickwire. "But once its open to fishing there would be a lot of benefits to the county. There's certainly a market for it once it's there."

Ad campaign misleading

R-C
5-6-05

EDITOR:

Markleeville residents and property owners are currently being besieged by a misleading advertising campaign to promote the proposed development that will double the size of our community.

Markleeville USA and developer Tom Abdoo, under the cover of the Alpine Chamber of Commerce, recently mailed local owners and residents a slick brochure promoting the virtues of their huge project. They promise new underground utilities, new sidewalks and street lighting, monies for county services, a restored historic district, an improved water system, and even a donated fire truck.

Promises are cheap. The problem is that few or none of these promises exist in any written agreement with Alpine County or the community. For the most part, these are pie-in-the-sky

See Letters on page 5

Letters: Markleeville brochure

Continued from page 4

exaggerations with no real guarantees.

—Meanwhile, Abdoo and company continue to ignore the community's key request for an environmental impact review.

More than 75 percent of Markleeville residents and owners requested such review to no avail. Instead we get suspect promises to enhance community well-being and vitality without tangible commitments to deliver anything. Markleeville doesn't want glitzy promotional junk mail in their mailboxes. It also doesn't want a mediocre resort with poorly studied impacts dumped in its backyard. It wants and deserves true involvement in the planning of its future.

Phil Bellman
Betsy Yost
Markleeville

R-C
May 6, 2005

Sunday is Mother's Day

Staff Reports

Alpine County residents and visitors will have a few options on Sunday, Mother's Day.

Both Wolf Creek Restaurant in Markleeville and Sorensen's Resort in Hope Valley are offering a Mother's Day brunch.

■ Wolf Creek will serve a special breakfast from 7 a.m. to noon, including pancakes with strawberries and ham, plus their regular menu.

For more information, call (530) 694-2150.

■ Sorensen's offers a Mother's Day brunch from 7:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. Shrimp and crab quiche, eggs benedict and a frittata with applewood-smoked sausage are just some of the items on the menu.

For more information, call (800) 423-9949.

■ Alpine County Friends of the Library is presenting a Mother's Serenade at the Alpine County Library in Markleeville, 270 Laramie St., Sunday at 7 p.m.

Award-winning classical guitarist Peter Fletcher will honor all the mothers in the community with his solo guitar performance that culminates with an intensely powerful rendition of Italian guitarist and composer Carlo Domeniconi's Koyunbaba.

A native of Atlanta, Georgia, Fletcher began classical guitar study at the age of 7 and had his first concert at 15. He received a master's degree from the Eastman School of Music and was awarded a prize by the Music Teacher's National Association in 1990.

He has played at the Chicago Cultural Center and was an instructor at Emory University before he began traveling the country to perform. Fletcher's tour includes going to libraries, churches and colleges.

Each year Fletcher performs a different program and tries to put out at least one CD. His most recent compilation is entitled "The Art of Classical Guitar" (of which he donated a copy to the Alpine County Library). More information about the music of Peter Fletcher can be found at peterfletcher.com

There is no charge for the concert, but donations to the Alpine County Friends of the Library will be accepted.

Sorensen's offers star-gazing

Join astronomers Adrienne Cool and Ron Marzke for an evening of star-gazing Saturday at Sorensen's Resort. A slide show and a discussion of recent images from the Hubble space telescope will follow. All ages are welcome.

the slide show to follow in Sorensen's Norway House. The cost is \$10, \$5 for kids. Proceeds benefit the Alpine County schools Science Program. Proceeds are matched by Sorensen's.

For more information, call (800) 423-9949.

Small high school seeks accreditation

by Jo Rafferty
Staff Writer

A small high school is hoping for big news.

Last week, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges examined Woodfords High School and in two or three weeks the association will let school officials know if it will be approved for accreditation.

Approval validates the school's integrity, according to the organization's Web site.

"It's designed to provide credibility of the school," said Alpine County Superintendent Jim Parsons. "They look at everything at the school."

The association looks at whether Woodfords High is meeting expected schoolwide learning results, which assures college recognition of the high school.

The accreditation process began two years ago, and since then Woodfords High School has made changes to meet the association's recommendations.

Eight teenage boys and one girl occupy seats this year at Woodfords High School, an alternative public school offered to residents of Alpine County.

Three students, who have attended the small high school since their freshman year, will graduate in June.

"I've been going here all four years," said Vito Neaves, 19, a senior at Woodfords High. "It's a lot better than a big school for me. You know everyone in the school."

Neaves said he is considering joining the Navy after graduation, and is interested in video animation.

He worked on a Grovers Hot Springs State Park mapping project last year that won an award at the Western Regional Environmental and Spacial Technology Conference. In California, 26 schools are involved in the environmental and spacial technology program and nationwide there are more than 200.

This year the school earned a superior environmental and spacial technology award.

Woodfords High School is located on the edge of a softball field off Hawkside Drive in Woodfords, Calif., down a dirt road and around the bend from Diamond Valley School.

'I'm not too fond of big schools. It's just too crowded.'

Caleb Knapp
10th-grade student
at Woodfords High School

"I would say the school has been absolutely successful," said Joe Voss, one of two teachers at the school. Voss teaches social studies, language arts and electives to the ninth- through 12th-graders.

Voss said every student who has attended the school has graduated, except those who have moved away.

In its sixth year, Woodfords High School has had an average of 10 students each year.

The school was first created to accommodate homeschooled children who live in the rural area, according to Parsons.

"We get kids from special circumstances," said Parsons. "This school originally started because we had homeschooled students. They go down to a larger school and some personalities get lost."

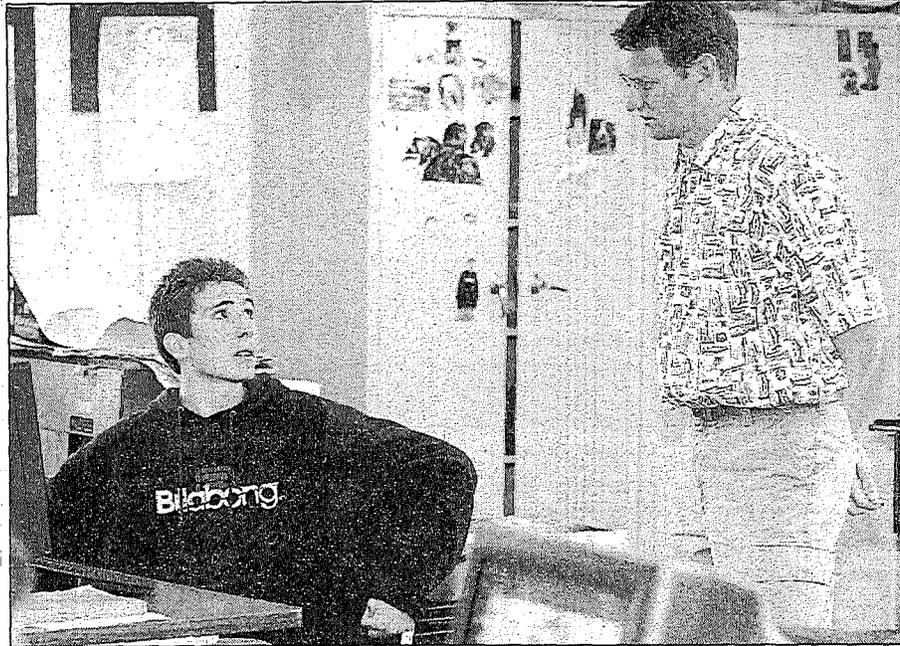
Woodfords High School was originally funded with a grant for \$250,000 provided by the Environmental and Spacial Technology Initiative, according to Voss.

Students at the school now are able to work on sophisticated hard and software purchased with those funds, such as geographic information systems, computer animation, imaging and computer-assisted drafting programs.

"It's more of an educational philosophy," said Voss. "It's community-based, project-oriented learning. Students go out into the community to find problems to solve.

"The focus is real-life experience. Students meet with members of the community and accomplish deadlines while working with professionals. Essentially they're responsible for developing a project. We're responsible for helping them with it."

Some students are working with agen-



BELINDA GRANT/The R-C

In Class: Satori Ivy, an 11th grader at Woodfords High School, talks with his teacher Joe Voss.

cies such as the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, the Alpine Watershed group, the California State Parks system and the Washoe Tribe, said Joel Tabor, math, science and electives teacher.

The school lacks a sports program and band, although it does require physical education, according to Tabor.

"We have the same content standards as at a regular school," said Tabor. "We don't have band and football, but we've got a lot."

Grading at Woodfords High is more individual than at conventional schools.

"We grade on how well their personal growth is developing, which is difficult to do," said Tabor.

There are other benefits to attending a small school, including last year's field trip to Bodie, Calif. This year they are planning a trip to the Monterey Bay Aquarium and Yosemite.

"I think one of the things we talk about a lot is the individual attention the students get here is second to none," said Voss. "We understand them as people, teach them what fits their interests. It's almost impossible to fall through the cracks here."

Josh Horse, 14, a ninth-grader, said he requested to transfer to Woodfords High

this semester from Pau Wa Lu Middle School.

Carey Galvez, 16, an 11th-grader, moved from Douglas High School this year. He said he has mixed feelings about being at such a small school.

"I like it because I can pass and graduate, but I don't like it because there are no new people to meet," he said.

Galvez has been creating maps for Kirkwood Resort's ski patrol for two or three months.

Caleb Knapp, 15, is in 10th grade at Woodfords High School. He said he enjoys working with a computer designing program.

"I'm not too fond of big schools. It's just too crowded," Knapp said.

Satori Ivy, 17, an 11th-grader, is in his third year at Woodfords High after transferring from Douglas High School.

He said after working with the animation software at school, he is considering going to film school or an art college for graphic arts.

"I love technology. I used to be bad at computer stuff. Now it's my favorite," said Ivy. "I wouldn't mind going to a larger high school.

"I don't know if I'd do as well. Everyone here is friends with everyone else."

Advisory committee spotlights 9 projects

by Jo Rafferty
Staff Writer

The Alpine County Resource Advisory Committee met April 25 and chose nine projects for the coming fiscal year.

Approximately \$140,000 is provided to the committee each year to go toward work that helps the ecosystem or watershed of the forest. This year extra funding was available, leaving a total of \$174,000.

Members had to choose from more than \$800,000 worth of submissions. The forest supervisor reviewed and signed the projects on April 26.

"This year's list of projects reflect the important role the Resource Advisory Committee plays in improving the health of Alpine County's forests and watersheds," said Robert Vaught, forest supervisor Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

Project list:

■ Approval of a fire safe council coordinator for another fiscal year, \$40,000.

■ Alpine County winter recreation plan: To conduct on-the-ground surveys and verification of data on proposed activities for recreation management in Alpine County, \$25,000.

■ Alpine County fuels project: Up to 100 acres of fuels reduction work on the National

'The projects have important fire and fuels issues in the county in ways that would not be available with traditional funding.'

Robert Vaught
Forest supervisor

Forest Systems Land around Grovers Hot Spring State Park. This project may result in some personal fuel wood opportunities, \$50,000.

■ A feasibility study for Mesa Vista water source for fire suppression, including, developing a cost estimate and implementation plan for a static water supply system for fire suppression in Mesa Vista. This project will take into account suitability for U.S. Forest Service, California Department of Forestry and other local fire apparatus when being developed, \$10,000.

■ A Faye-Luther Trail system study, including, completion of the environmental studies on the proposed design for the expansion of the trail system from Faye-Luther trail head for the construction of a new trail and rehabilitation of the eroding portions, \$13,000.

■ Community biomass pile (burn pile) for expansion of the biomass pile in eastern Alpine County. This would provide an alternative method of disposal for residence clearing fuels around their homes other than burning, \$9,000.

■ Combined Bear Valley fuels reduction and chipping project for roadside mulching of hazardous fuels along Bear Valley Road and Quaking Aspen Road and treatment of private lots adjacent to National Forest System lands, \$25,000.

■ Lake Alpine temporary toilets: Provide two potable toilets for four months in the Bee Gulch area of Lake Alpine, \$1,250.

■ Markleeville water tank phase two: To complete planning and construction of a water tank at the top of Pleasant Valley Road, Markleeville, Calif. This tank would be compatible with USFS, CDF and local fire fighting apparatus, \$49,500.

Funding is made available through the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, according to Franklin Pemberton of Carson Ranger District.

"The projects help address important fire and fuels issues in the county in ways that would not be available with traditional funding," said Vaught.

BRIEFS

Bear Valley Lodge hires general manager

Mark Phillips has been named the new general manager of the Bear Valley Lodge and Village Center effective May 1.

Phillips brings over 30 years resort operations, marketing and event production experience to his new position.

Prior to joining the Bear Valley team, Phillips did some consulting work, owned a Mexican restaurant in Bear Valley and most recently worked for Bear Valley Real Estate.

Grover Hot Springs — Midnight Madness

Midnight Madness is lots of fun at Grover Hot Springs. The event takes place 9 p.m. to midnight on Saturdays through Aug. 27. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. For more information call (530) 694-2249.

Visitor center opens

The Alpine County Visitor Center is open seven days a week beginning May 21 through Dec. 24. Staffing is provided by the U.S. Forest Service, California State Parks and Chamber of Commerce from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For additional information call (530) 694-2475.

Kids' Bike-a-thon

Everyone is invited to the Alpine County Kids' Bike-a-thon 2:30 p.m. on June 3 at Diamond Valley School. The event features exhibit booths, a barbecue, a raffle and other activities for the entire family. For more information call (530) 694-2146.

Watershed Work Day in Hope Valley

Help the Friends of Hope Valley restore and protect habitat and clean-up scenic Hope Valley from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. June 4 and receive a free lunch. Meet at Picket's Junction (junction of highways 88 and 89).

The event is sponsored by the Alpine Watershed Group and the Sierra Nevada Alliance. Bring gloves, wire cutters, pruning shears, hats and sunglasses. Projects include stream bank stabilization, spring clean-up and fence repair.

For information call Alpine Watershed Coordinator Laura Lueders at (530) 694-2327.

Plaintiffs object to developer's comments

by Jo Raftery
Staff Writer

20 5-1 15

Last week's filing of a lawsuit against Alpine County over its decision to allow a timeshare project without requiring a full environmental impact report prompted objectional comments from the developer, plaintiffs said.

Some of the statements Tom Abdoo of Markleeville U.S.A. made were offensive or untrue, said members of Friends of Markleeville.

"The fact that he said this about the people shows me that he doesn't care about the people," said Alpine County Museum Director Dick Edwards, speaking as a resident.

"We have a petition we gave to the Board of Supervisors with 184 signatures, asking them to require an EIR," said Nancy Thornburg, a Markleeville resident since 1958. "There are 40 to 50 active contributing members in Friends of Markleeville." Throughout the meeting process she said residents and members of Friends have attended the meetings.

The two were responding to last week's Record-Courier article where Abdoo said he would "kick their rears" and "there's a small percentage, only 10 or 12 of them, who are fighting this."

The proposed project consists of 49 fractionally-owned cabins, a 25-room lodge, a spa, outdoor swimming pool and 14 commercial spaces.

Prior to filing of the lawsuit last week, Abdoo signed an indemnity agreement with the county saying he'll pay for any litigation fees.

Edwards wondered why Abdoo won't have an environmental impact report prepared for the project.

"I realize it can be expensive, but, there's got to be some money for an EIR," he said.

Whit Manley, environmental attorney for the project, said the decision to go forward without an impact report wasn't up to the developer. The Planning Commission had voted in favor of an environmental impact report a couple of months ago, but the Board of Supervisors decided to vote against it, stating a less

comprehensive negative declaration would be sufficient.

"The decision on whether to do an EIR or a negative declaration is the county's decision," said Manley. "They looked at the evidence presented to them and concluded the project wouldn't have any environmental impacts. (The county) would be doing the wrong thing if it went ahead and asked for an EIR."

Of the Friends of Markleeville, Manley said, "I suspect they just hope the whole project dries up and blows away. They don't like it. They're going to be disappointed that the Board of Supervisors doesn't share their opinion."

"I think it's very sad that the former Board of Supervisors have put us in this position by refusing to understand and follow California and environmental law," said Thornburg.

Reasons for wanting an environmental impact report include its requirement to provide alternatives, according to Thornburg.

One area of controversy has been the safety of the town ditch, which runs directly through the property.

"An EIR would bring up other possibilities, like culverting the entire ditch," said Thornburg.

Reasons for not wanting the project, according to Thornburg and Edwards, include, the effect new businesses may have on existing small businesses and the amount and type of people the resort would bring to Markleeville, which has a current population of 237 people.

"People come up here and bring their problems and leave their inhibitions at home," said Edwards.

Gina Gigli, a 30-year resident, along with her husband Ruggero Gigli, owns a restaurant that faces the land where the resort is proposed to be. Villa Gigli is open only on weekends five months out of the year.

Gigli is a member of Friends of Markleeville, but said she is speaking as a resident.

"We love it the way it is," said Gigli. "I'm afraid they're going to destroy why people come here."

"But, the point is that they bought the land and they are entitled to do what they want to do with it. I just feel that they should file an environmental impact report. The decision to go forward without it was done very hurriedly by the old board. People are very worried about it."

Another comment by Abdoo

in the March 4 issue of The Record-Courier stated that people waiting for jobs at the proposed resort are disappointed in the delays.

"Most of the jobs will be low-income service jobs. What this community needs are some better paying jobs," said Thornburg.

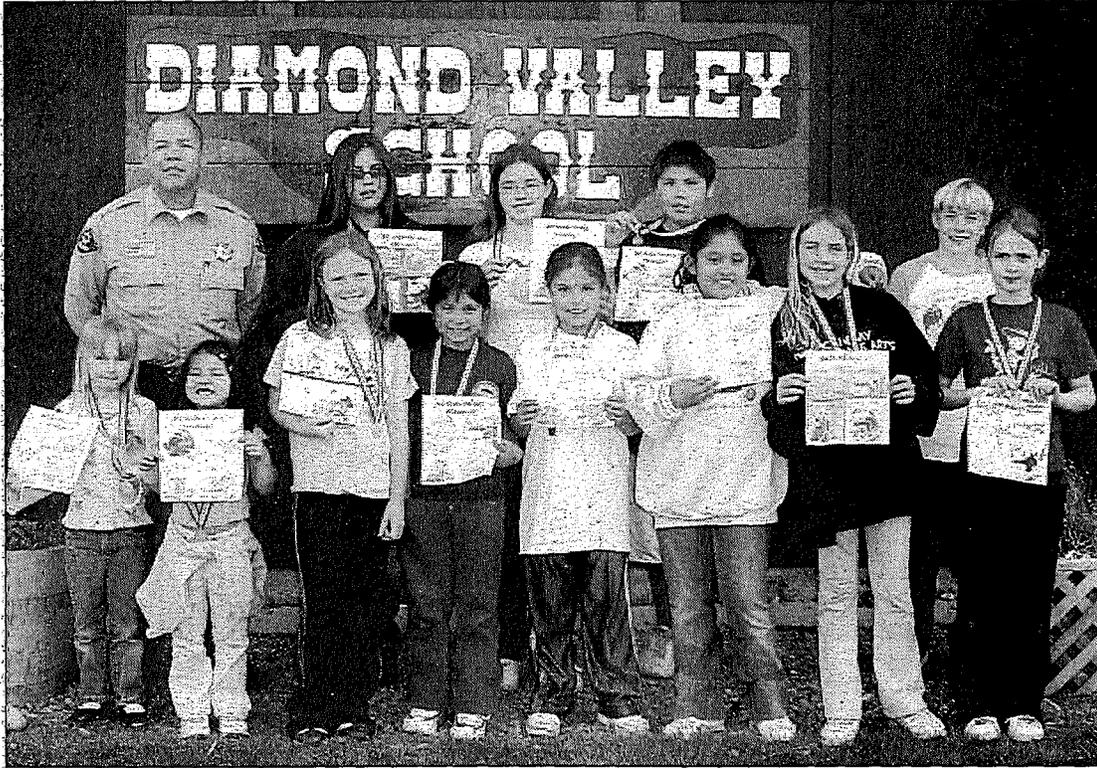
As a Parks and Recreation employee for 36 years, Edwards said he has seen what tourism can do to a town.

In the '60s he visited the town of Julian, Calif., which then looked much like Markleeville. In November 2004 he went back to visit and was surprised at what he saw.

"The sad part is cars are everywhere. I had to park four blocks away and people were parked in front of driveways," he said. "There are four public restrooms in that town. They charge 25 cents a piece."

"It's hard to be small anymore."

"It was inevitable that somebody would notice the potential here," said Thornburg.



CHRISTINE BRANSCOMBE/Submitted to the R-C

Awarded: Left to right, back row, Sheriff John Crawford, Minneah Holdridge, Katy Branscombe, Mikie Skenandore, Riley Curry, front row, Hunter Celio, Vashley McCully, Andi-Jo Embry, Korin Jones, Julia Gomez, Chelsee Guerrero, Phoebe Hamilton and Deanna Doyal. Not pictured is Jenna Fairman of Bear Valley School.

Students receive awards

Staff Reports

The American Humane Association proclaimed May 1-7 as Be Kind To Animals Week.

Alpine County Animal Control hosted a Be Kind To Animals Week coloring contest. The contest was judged by Beth Nunes of Alpine County Administration, Alpine Watershed Coordinator Laura Lueders and local business owner Tom Abdo.

The winners were: kindergarten and preschool, first place Hunter Celio, second place Vashley McCully and third place Jenna Fairman; first-

through third-grade, first place Andi Jo Embry, second place Korin Jones and third place Julia Gomez; fourth- through sixth-grade category, first place Chelsee Guerrero, second place Phoebe Hamilton and third place Deanna Doyal. Riley Curry earned an honorable mention award.

In the seventh grade and above category, Minneah Holdridge took first place, Katy Branscombe second place and Mikie Skenandore third place.

Winners received engraved medals on Tuesday. The judges said they thought all the entrants did an outstanding job, according to parent Christine Branscombe.

May 13, 2005

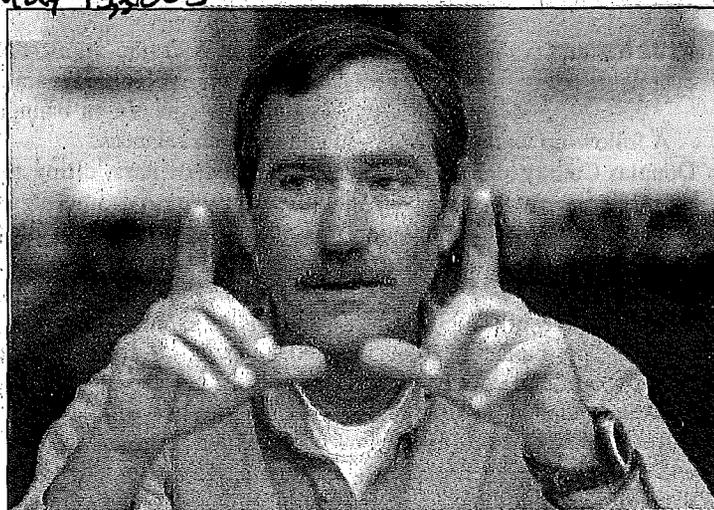
Alpine fish kill annoys anglers

by Jo Rafferty
Staff Writer

Opponents of California Department of Fish and Game's plan to recover a threatened native trout through poisoning of an Alpine County creek say they haven't gotten a fair shot at commenting on it.

They don't think the county realizes the full implications of the estimated \$558,450 project, including depositing of the fish poison rotenone and a neutralizer potassium permanganate in Silver King Creek in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, they said.

See **Anglers** on page 9



BELINDA GRANT/The R-C

Little fish: Don Weirauch talks about how small some of the fish are that are in Alpine streams.

Anglers: Protest fish kill

Continued from page 1

"In an era when both states and feds have financial difficulties, they're taking a self-sustaining rainbow fishing area and closing it off," said Peter Bauer, a member of High Sierra Fly Casters.

The project is to extend from downstream of Llewellyn Falls to the Silver Creek Canyon, according to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports.

The project involves closing off the area for a period of two to three years during treatments.

Concerns include the fact that the area just above the falls has been closed off for 40 years due to the Paiute cutthroat trout restoration project. The area was closed to fishing to keep out other species of trout, especially rainbow trout.

"They're going to have a bigger problem keeping rainbows out of the lower part," said Don Weirauch.

Members of High Sierra Fly Casters who assembled at the Angler's Edge in Gardnerville Tuesday said they don't believe Fish and Game officials when they said they are creating a "unique fishery" in their presentation at a workshop in April.

"There is an ever-increasing number of anglers, both men and women," said Bauer. "They close this stream and they'll move to another stream. It defeats the purpose."

Another barrier to the fishery, according to Fly Casters members, is inaccessibility to the upper portion of the stream, which requires a 15-mile round

trip of extreme hiking.

"The upper part is not really accessible to the average person," said Bauer. "The lower section is going to require an overnighiter for people in good physical condition."

"You might see a dozen anglers all year," said Leigh Miller. "All this money is being spent on something that very few people could enjoy."

Dick Padgett had a 33-year career with Fish and Game that began in the 1960s.

"Historically they go in and poison off (fish)," he said. "Everything's great for a few years, then they have to do it again."

Members said they have not been impressed with Lahontan cutthroat trout restored in Slinkerd Creek above Topaz, Calif.

"The fish in there are pretty scrawny fish," said Bauer.

Bauer said anglers traditionally have not felt welcomed at Fish and Game meetings.

"We're not considered experts because we're not biologists," said Bauer. "But, we collectively spend more time out there than the biologists."

"At the meetings we carry very little weight. But, if the fish all look like ball-point pens with fins on them, we know something's wrong."

The Paiute cutthroat trout has been listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act since 1975. Through application of rotenone, other breeds are removed so the species can exist without hybridization. Delisting of the trout could take

eight years if criteria is met, according to a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service report.

Self-sustaining populations of Paiute trout have already been established in 10 California creeks.

Members of Fly Casters said they wonder with all these populations established, if Fish and Game has reached the minimum of 2,500 trout it said is required to establish a long-term population.

Members also said they dislike that money from fishing licenses helps pay for trout restoration projects.

Funds for native trout restoration projects come from a variety of sources, according to William Somer, senior fisheries biologist for Fish and Game, including fishing license sales, sales of "vanity" license plates, state general funds, federal funds used by the state from the sport fish restoration grants, special grants or mitigation funds, cooperation and direct funding by other involved state/federal agencies.

"They've got a beautiful fishery you can get to with a little effort," Liz Weirauch said. "Now they're destroying it."

Don tried to put it in non-fishing terms.

"It's like your favorite restaurant going out of business," he said.

"For the fishing public, I think this is truly a waste of money that probably won't succeed. Other than that, I think they should go forward," said Bauer.

Alpine school board meeting heats up

by Jo Rafferty
Staff Writer

An Alpine County principal, teacher, librarian and education specialist lost their jobs and a superintendent was accused of nepotism at a school board meeting last week.

In the end, the consensus is that the school staff and school board need to begin working together.

"There seems to be an inordinate amount of mistrust and miscommunication going on here between two groups of people who really need to work together," said Rich Williams, a parent of two children at Diamond Valley School, a K-8 school in Woodfords. "Maybe you need to reconcile that so you won't have these types of problems anymore."

More than 60 people attended the Alpine County Unified School District board meeting, mostly dealing with issues regarding Diamond Valley School, which has an enrollment of about 90 children.

Many had received anonymous letters urging them to come. The district responded with its own letter at the meeting.

Hours of testimony was taken, mostly heated, with allegations of retaliation and nepotism directed toward the district and county office of education superintendent Jim Parsons, regarding his wife's prior employment as a reading specialist there.

Parsons' wife was hired in 2002 at a higher salary rate than normal and without the school site council's approval, according to Andy Lovell, site council vice chairman for eight years. His wife is a library specialist who is being laid off.

"We didn't have a say on the salary or the person," said Lovell.

Complaints regarding the quality of the reading program began to come in almost immediately, he said, and after one year all the teachers had filed

'There seems to be an inordinate amount of mistrust and miscommunication going on here between two groups of people who really need to work together.'

Rich Williams

Parent of Diamond Valley School students

complaints. Since the majority of the council are either teachers or married to teachers or staff, council members were afraid they'd lose their jobs if they complained.

"Seven out of eight on the site council depend on Dr. Parsons for their salaries," said Lovell.

Problems began when Parsons was asked for the students' reading test scores, Lovell said.

"From this time on Dr. Parsons attended every meeting having to do with it, then layoffs started being mentioned," said Lovell. "We lived in fear. We still do."

Litigation proceedings were in the works and the salary was ordered to be reduced. Parson's wife eventually resigned.

"To prevent the kinds of things we're going through right now, she resigned," said Parsons.

"Mrs. Parsons was totally ostracized by every teacher on this campus."

"Not true," yelled members of the audience.

Principal Katy Hadley also said problems existed because of Parsons' wife's employment.

"When there were problems because of the unusual situation, we couldn't go through the normal chain of command," she said.

Hadley, who was principal while the school earned two school distinguished school awards, said she is taking antidepressants and her husband is looking for a job outside of Alpine County.

"This is total and complete retaliation," she said. "Every bad thing (Parsons) has told you

isn't true," she said to the board, leaving the room in tears.

In an interview Friday, although he said he can't discuss personnel issues, Parsons said, "I'm sorry that it's become so personal because people get hurt."

Board member Mary Wood said they advertised for two years before hiring Parsons' wife.

"We thought it was a trusting enough arrangement, that it would work," she said.

The school board was accused of not listening to the public. All resolutions were passed unanimously.

"My concern is that you guys are just blanket stamping things," said resident Jennifer Celio.

The board approved layoffs of Diamond Valley's principal Katy Hadley, teacher Robin McCully, librarian Rita Lovell and American Indian Early Childhood Education specialist Dierdre Wallace. McCully will take another teacher's place while she's on leave for a year as a temp. Lovell will be kept on three to four hours a week in a technology position.

Public and board members asked if things could change following budget hearings in June.

"At the budget sessions we'll take a deep look at these things and see if there's a possibility we can afford it," said board member Earl O'Neal.

Parsons will take the place of the principal position and the board voted to hire a full-time

student services coordinator.

"You're getting rid of the principal and you're getting an aide?" asked teacher Cheryl Vanos-Embry.

Parsons said the district is saving \$62,000 by getting rid of the position.

Other positions may not be dropped if funding becomes available, such as that of Wallace, the American Indian Early Childhood Education specialist. Parsons said Wallace would be first on the list for rehiring.

"It is our intention to rehire Dierdre for her position," he said.

Alpine County Teachers Association member Joe Voss asked if McCully could keep her permanent status until next year.

"Essentially, you're eliminating her rehire status for 12 months," said Voss.

Parsons said the board couldn't reconsider the layoffs because they were due in two days.

"This whole process has cost us tens of thousands of dollars. If we don't lay off Robin, next year it's going to cost us tens of thousands of dollars again," he said.

"If you think I have slept in months, don't believe I have," said Wood, before voting for the layoffs.

The school district was spending reserve funding for two or three years and didn't want to do that anymore, according to Parsons.

"As a board, we have seen other districts that have tapped into one-time funds and they're going bankrupt," said Wood.

A \$360,000 deficit and state funding cuts were cited by Parsons as reasons for down-sizing.

Budget hearings will take place 7 p.m. June 16 at the Early Learning Center, 100 Foothill Road, Woodfords.

Jo Rafferty can be reached at jrafferty@recordcourier.com or 782-5121, ext. 213.

Borer battle zeroes in on beetle's home

R-C
May 20, 2005

by Susie Vasquez
Staff Writer

A handful of Douglas County residents met on a pine-covered slope south of Gardnerville recently to learn about ips beetles, a borer that's infesting and killing stands of piñon in Douglas County.

Bob Stampf, a Topaz Ranch Estates resident, said he's lost about seven trees on his 2.5-acres.

"I've lost them over the last few years and after they become infected, they died quickly," he said. "They were gone in about a month from the time they started turning yellow."

Also known as the piñon engraver beetle, the tiny bug lives in the tree for several seasons, laying its eggs under the bark where the larvae thrive on the tree's inner lining.

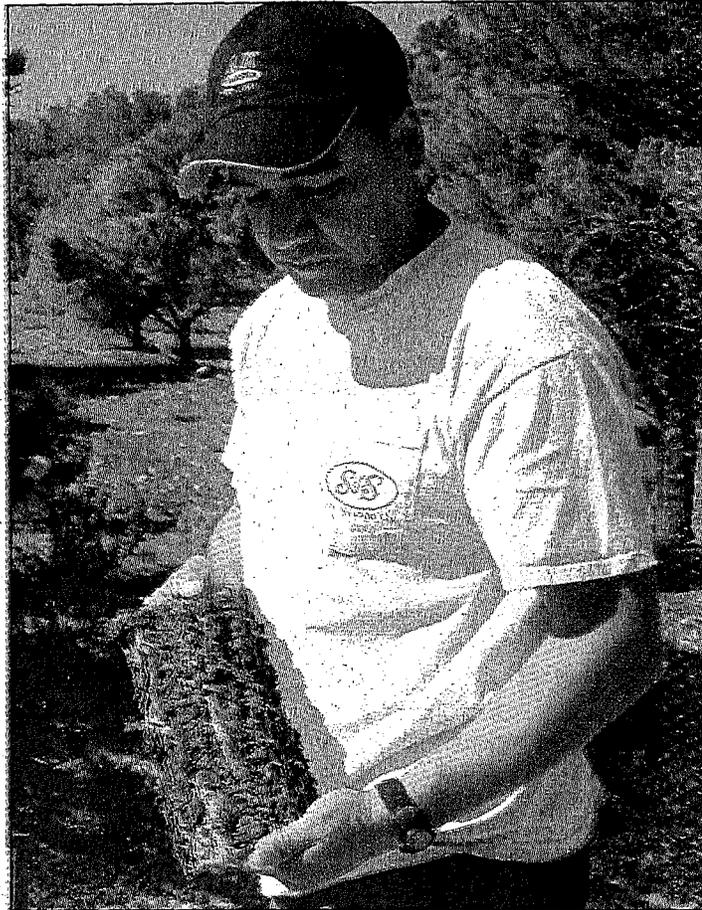
The beetles carry a fungus that clogs the tree's water-conducting tissues. The combination of larval feeding in the inner bark and the fungus can be fatal for the tree.

Telltale signs of infestation include sawdust, called frass, in the bark crevices and at the base of the tree and holes in the bark. Trees will exude pine sap to resist the invader, leaving lumps of pine sap known as pitch tubes on the bark.

These beetles travel, so infected wood needs to be removed.

Cutting down the affected trees and running them through a wood chipper will reduce surface areas so the beetles can no longer use the material. Piles of wood chips up to 4 feet high and 10 feet wide can then be covered with a tarp, creating a solar heater that will smother and kill the beetles and their larvae.

Burning the trees is also effective, but must be conducted during the winter months when fire danger is low, according to information provided by the Washoe Tribe.



SUSIE VASQUEZ/The R-C

Bark: Darrel Kruz of the Washoe Tribe displays bark infested with ips beetles that live between bark and the tree's lining.

The infestation, which has seriously impacted stands of piñon throughout Douglas County, is encouraged by overcrowding and drought.

To stop the spread of the disease, the Tribe has thinned the piñon on a limited portion of the acreage, said Darrel Kruz of the Tribe's Environmental Department.

Right now, each acre has between 350 and 400 trees, far too many for a healthy stand.

Fire can limit growth and promote healthier stands of trees but lacking that, thinning is expensive and there is no market for the wood from piñon, Kruz said.

He pointed to miles of mountainous land covered with piñon and juniper beyond the small patch where the trees have been thinned.

Dead trees punctuate the otherwise soft green carpet.

"None of these trees are getting what they need," he said.

The beetles emerge in spring and can travel several miles, but natural forces have come into play that could curb the spread, Kruz said.

"Entomologists in Utah have been setting traps for the beetles," he said.

"At first, all the entomologists caught were the piñon engraver," Kruz said. "Later, they found a predator beetle, one that feeds on the engraver. It's part of the natural process that will keep these invaders in check."

Native to the area, the piñons provide nuts that were once a staple for American Indians, who came from all over the West at harvest time, said JoAnne Skelly, educator for the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension.

Board of supervisors approves fish poisoning

by Jo Rafferty
Staff Writer

The Alpine County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday approved the poisoning of Silver King Creek with rotenone to preserve a rare trout, with one supervisor opposed.

Chairman Don Jardine, the sole no vote, said he has concerns regarding California Department of Fish and Game's plan to apply rotenone and a neutralizer potassium permanganate to 6 miles of Silver King Creek beneath Llewellyn Falls.

"I basically have a philosophical opposition," said Jardine.

Jardine said he thinks that past poisonings above the falls and subsequent plantings of Paiute cutthroat trout have been sufficient, and he doesn't see the need for more poisoning in the area. The entire process would keep the stream closed to fishing for at least three years.

Paiute cutthroats are currently listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act, and killing other types of trout prevents hybridization of the species.

Supervisor Terry Woodrow, who last year had voted against the project, voted for it Tuesday.

"Woodrow had concerns but felt this is going to go anyway," said Jardine.

Woodrow didn't return a phone call by press time, but at an April 5 board meeting she said, "This is going to happen anyway, but we need to inform the public."

Supervisors Skip Veatch and Gunter Kaiser voted in support of the project.

At the April 5 meeting Kaiser also suggested a need to better inform the public at a workshop, which was held April 29.

At the May 4 board meeting, Veatch said, "We want to make it a good project. Something that is the least harmful to the environment and Alpine County."

Jardine cited articles written by two University of California, Davis, professors, Nancy and Don Erman, stating that the population of Paiute cutthroats has recovered. The original recovery plan, written by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said a successful recovery would be "overwintering populations of 500 or more adult fish," according to the Ermans.

The revised recovery plan said Fish and Wildlife recommends establishing 2,500 fish for an "effective population."

Fish and Game representative Brian Finlayson said at the workshop that there are currently about 800 established Paiute cutthroat trout in Silver King Creek.

The Ermans also said there had been proof that in a 1992 poisoning of Silver King Creek "approximately 1,000 fish were killed downstream of the project area from the application of potassium permanganate," and "rotenone was detected in sediment during a CDFG project in Silver Creek, Sept. 20, 1995."

In fall 2004, the board had unanimously voted not to support the project, according to Jardine.

Jardine asked Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board in September 2004 to not allow another rotenone application and the board tabled the item.

Some of the complaints were that Fish and Game had not provided enough details to the board. Since then Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials have appeared

before Alpine County supervisors three times as well as holding the workshop.

On Dec. 6, 2004, the board of supervisors wrote a letter in opposition to the project.

The letter, written by Woodrow who was then chairman of the board stated, "Alpine County supports the Lahontan Regional Board's decision not to approve a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit for the highly questionable rotenone project in a portion of Silver King Creek in Alpine County."

Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and a non-profit organization Trout Unlimited petitioned to appeal the Lahontan Regional Board's decision and will be heard during a workshop on June 1 at 10 a.m. in the Sierra Hearing Room, second floor of the Cal/EPA Building, 1001 I St., Sacramento, Calif. No decisions will be made during the meeting.

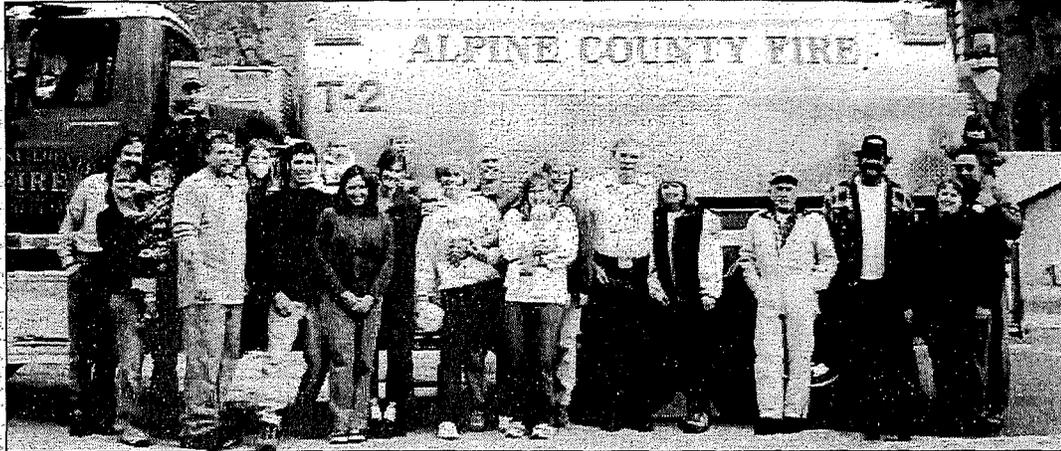
Jardine said one of his biggest fears is the loss of invertebrates. Information he took from the Ermans' column raised his concerns.

"The great majority of aquatic invertebrates have one-year life cycles," said the Ermans. "A three-year project eliminates many invertebrates from the stream and riparian area for as long as four years or longer.

"Many terrestrial animals are dependent on the food source of emerging stream insects and fish and are put at risk from these projects because a major part of their food supply is eliminated for several years. This cascading effect in food webs is a major ecological disturbance."

The estimated \$558,450 project is expected to begin in September.

TENDING TO BUSINESS



LISA WILSON/Submitted to the R-C

Fire safety: Markleeville Volunteer Fire Department recently celebrated the arrival of a new water tender. The 3,000 gallon water tender, built by West-Mark, carries a deck gun and a 500-gallon-per-minute pump. These features allow it to function as a "tactical tender" as well as a water hauler.

Alcatraz film shown at library

Many may remember or have heard about the Native American occupation of Alcatraz from 1969-1971.

Briefs

The hour-long documentary film "Alcatraz Is Not An Island," recounts the event and its significance in the struggle of the Indian people to be recognized as cultural and political entities.

Local residents Kevin Jones, Bruce Jones and Maureen Dressler, who were in their youth then and participated in the occupation, will share their personal experiences and answer questions from the audience.

The public is invited to attend this program in the Alpine County Public Library on May 20 at 5 p.m. For more information call (530) 694-2120.

Hope Valley watershed work day

Join Friends of Hope Valley for its annual habitat restoration and clean-up projects day in Hope Valley on June 4 at 9 a.m. Participants should meet at Picketts Junction (the junction of Highway 88 and 89).

Projects include, willow planting in the Carson River, clean up of old fencing material and stringing up some fence as well as general spring cleaning throughout the valley. Work till 12:30 p.m. and receive a free lunch provided by the Sierra Nevada Alliance and Sorenson's Resort.

Bring gloves, wire cutters, pruning shears, hats, sunglasses and enthusiasm.

Contact Laura Lueders, Alpine Watershed Coordinator, at (530) 694-2327 for more information.

On April 21, a commercial burglary was reported in the Kirkwood area. Liquor, beer and other items valued at over \$7,000 were taken.

Deputies were able to develop a suspect and on May 9 a 21-year-old Woodfords man was arrested and charged with the crimes.

Much of the stolen property was recovered with the assistance of Douglas County deputies and was later returned to the owner.

On April 20, deputies

Sheriff's log

responded to a Woodfords area motel. An indecent exposure incident was reported. Deputies were unable to locate the suspect or vehicle described by witnesses.

On April 20, a 26-year-old Las Vegas man was arrested in the Woodfords area for public intoxication and disorderly conduct.

On April 26, a 28-year-old

Woodfords man was arrested for domestic violence.

On April 26, deputies responded to a business in the Woodfords area for a reported break in. The glass door had been shattered. The crime is currently under investigation.

On April 27, a resident reported that a 14-year-old male neighbor entered her home uninvited and was reluctant to leave. A report was forwarded to the juvenile probation officer.

BLM burning near Turtle Rock Park

Staff Reports

The Bureau of Land Management will be conducting a low-intensity burning immediately north of Alpine County's Turtle Rock County Park, north of Markleeville on State Route 89, today.

Burning began on Tuesday and should continue.

Residents can anticipate seeing smoke from the 40-acre

burn on BLM lands for several hours after ignition.

The prescribed fire is part of an ongoing fuels treatment effort on BLM administered lands in Alpine County that will reduce the long-term threat of wildfire damage to homes, private property, developed recreation sites and a variety of natural resources.

Burning of this type also helps create a safer zone for

fire fighters to conduct future wildfire suppression operations, improves timber stand health and vigor, and reduces impacts to tree species from insects and disease.

Questions regarding this project should be referred to Tim Roise, BLM Prescribed Fire and Fuels Specialist, (775) 885-6185 or Mike McQueen, BLM Fire Ecologist, 885-6120.

R-C 5-25-05

Rock is extinct, but park lives on

by Jo Rafferty
Staff Writer

Turtle Rock Park in Alpine County houses campgrounds, picnic areas, a seasonal creek and a reception hall with a kitchen, but there's no turtle.

At least, not anymore.

A new plaque at the park commemorates a fateful night about 35 years ago when its namesake, a turtle-shaped rock, was presumably blown up.

"Somebody blew it to smithereens the night before it was going to be moved," said Alpine County Historical Society member and 47-year Markleeville resident Nancy Thornburg, who showed the photographs to back it up.

Thornburg explained that the large reptilian-looking stone had always sat on the side of Highway 89 until plans to realign the highway called for getting rid of the rock.

Residents took up the quest to save it by asking the state for funding to move it, said Thornburg.

"Three women up here in Alpine

County convinced the Department of Transportation that this was sacred to the people," said Thornburg. "The state allocated \$10,000 to drill holes in it, pop it off its base and move it up here to the entrance of the park."

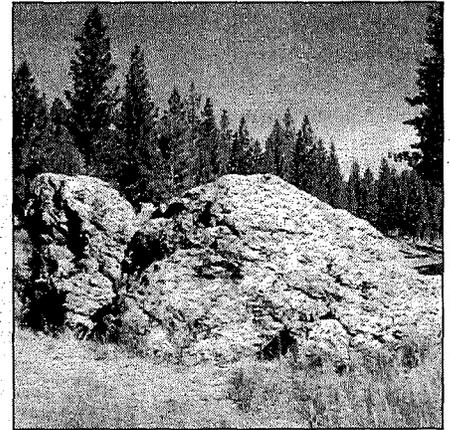
An Alpine Beacon article dated Oct. 15, 1970 said the decision to move the rock came up against opposition.

"The decision followed controversy over the wisdom of moving the turtle rock to the entrance of Turtle Rock Park," said the article. "It was resolved by a saboteur who destroyed the local landmark."

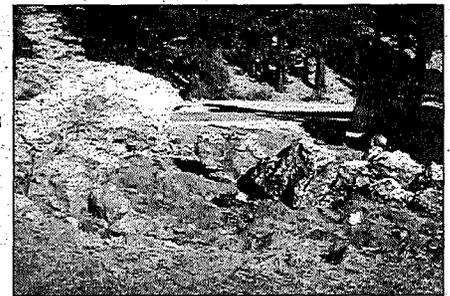
A Sonora contractor, James Coburn, was hired to move the turtle rock.

He had received an \$8,400 contract to complete the job, and with some difficulty had already finished \$7,300 of work drilling holes across the bottom to loosen the turtle-shaped top.

"Due to the erratic nature of the fractures in the rock and a variation in the hardness of the rock, it is impossible to keep the holes on true lines," said a Sept. 11, 1970 Mountain News article. "The bit has a tendency to crawl, which



LEONARD TURNBEAUGH/Submitted to the R-C
Turtle rock as it looked prior to its alleged blasting.



NANCY THORNBURG/Submitted to the R-C
This photo was taken the day after the turtle-shaped rock was allegedly blown up in September 1970.

in many cases causes a hole to be abandoned."

Even with this disturbance to the rock, residents say they are sure that's not what caused it to fall apart.

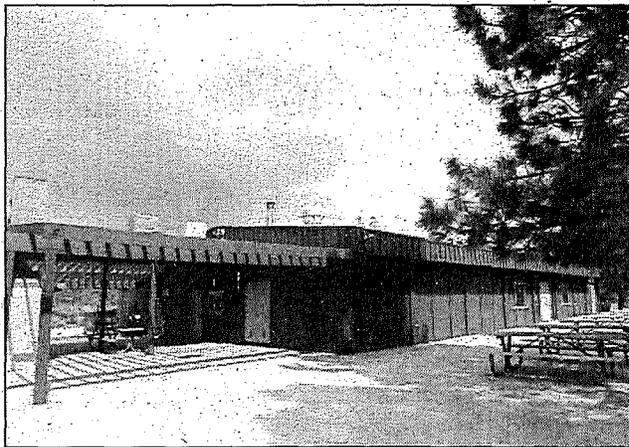
Director of Public Works Leonard Turnbeaugh came upon it early in the morning on the day the rock was to be moved.

"Somebody had blown it up ... vandals," said Turnbeaugh. "It's one of those mysteries in Alpine County — the who-dun-its."

Two black and white photographs on a new display board at the park taken the day of the incident show a depression where the rock once was, with almost no signs of its crumbled pieces.

"Sheriff Stuart Merrill said someone

SHANNON LITZ/The R-C
The community building at Turtle Rock Park is available for rent for events. It includes a full kitchen with tables and chairs as well as a barbecue and restrooms. There are tables outside and two tennis courts and a racquetball practice area near the building.





SHANNON LITZ/The R-C

The campground at Turtle Rock Park opened April 29 for the season.

placed an explosive charge under the head-like portion of the turtle-shaped rock last week, blasting the rock into several dozen pieces," reported the Alpine Beacon article.

Despite the loss of its namesake, Turtle Rock Park continues on, provid-

ing its visitors with a slower pace to escape to, much like that of the animal that the extinct rock once resembled.

■ Jo Rafferty can be reached at jrafferty@recordcourier.com or 782-5121 ext. 213.

R-C
May 27, 2005

Highway 4 could open

Highway 4 could reopen today after its winter closure

BRIEFS

from the east end of Lake Alpine to 7.2 miles west of the junction of Highway 89 and Ebbets Pass, according to the California Department of Transportation on Thursday morning. For information visit www.dot.ca.gov/cgi-bin/roads.cgi or within California call (800)

427-ROAD. Outside of California call (916) 445-7623.

Last weekend for burn

For the final weekend until next fall a burn pile will be conducted by Alpine County Public Works Department at Turtle Rock Park. Burning will take place Saturday through Monday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Available for Alpine County residents only at no charge. For information, (530) 694-2140, ext. 22.

Campgrounds, reception hall available

Staff Reports

Turtle Rock Park is available for events of all types. In the past it has been used for christenings, wakes, weddings, senior class parties and bike and medical groups, according to the Director of Public Works Leonard Turnbeaugh.

Turnbeaugh said only a few

people know what the area has to offer.

"It's an area you can come to for peace and quiet," he said. "People come to enjoy the forest. You have a beautiful view of Hawkins Peak. It's a little cooler than Carson Valley."

The reception hall holds up to 319 people and there are outdoor tables and a barbecue

for good weather days. A large commercial kitchen is available with a refrigerator, tables and chairs and plates and utensils if requested.

At the campgrounds there are picnic tables and 28 spaces available, with no reservations needed. Daily and senior rates are offered. Call the Public Works Department at (530)

694-2140 for reception hall reservations or information.

Turtle Rock Park is halfway between Markleeville and Woodfords on Highway 89, about 3 miles from Indian Creek Reservoir and 18 miles from Minden. The east and west Carson rivers are within 3 miles and Grovers Hot Springs is within 6 miles.

Save Diamond Valley School

EDITOR:

Our school, Diamond Valley in Markleeville, is losing some key positions.

We have been informed that we are in poor financial shape. Our principal, one regular classroom teacher, and our librarian/technology coordinator must be eliminated. Many questions have been raised over this move, as our district has not implemented plans to cut-back on expenditures. As a staff, we are very concerned with these cuts and feel our award-winning, high-quality program will greatly suffer from the loss of these positions.

The community, too, has expressed concerns during recent school board meetings. There has been a high level of frustration brought about by the feelings of helplessness to change the situation (through brainstorming and pooling of efforts) in order to maintain funding for these positions.

Community members, staff, and students have attended the board meetings and have suggested numerous ideas for potential solutions. The board politely listens, expresses regret, but has not taken any concrete actions towards finding a way to fund these positions which, in fact, have been officially eliminated.

A husband and wife team (who are fairly new to our community and who have two small children whom they hope will attend Diamond Valley School) came forward with a letter offering assistance. Their offer consisted of time, considerable talents, and \$5,000. This was followed by another parent who asked for assistance in organizing fund-raiser(s) and opening an account for ongoing fund-raising efforts. This parent already has a child attending our school, and has spent a great deal of time volunteering here at Diamond Valley School.

She told us she was determined to do all she could to preserve the great education her child was receiving.

See **Letters** on page 5

Letters: Raising

Continued from page 1

These positive thinking, proactive individuals have started the ball rolling. We plan to raise as much money as we can through fund-raising events and donations. We will go to the board with more than ideas for a solution. We will bring the money needed to keep our staff intact.

Our first effort is a car show and craft festival to be held at the Diamond Valley Campus on June 18. Please see the calendar page and plan to attend this fun, family oriented event. One thing that makes our school great is the team spirit that binds our community members, staff, and students together. We have determined to make a difference through positive actions.

We would appreciate support from the community at large through participation in our fund-raising efforts.

Jackie Blaha
Gardnerville

Fund-raiser tries to save school jobs

501-9

by **Jo Rafferty**
Staff Writer

A parent of a student at an Alpine County school is taking the lead in organizing a fund-raiser to save lost school positions, despite warnings by school district officials that any money raised cannot directly help the situation.



Parsons

Superintendent Jim Parsons said that a car show, silent auction and raffle planned for June 18 by about 14 parents could never earn enough money to bring back eliminated positions at Diamond Valley School, mainly because the state says money earned at fund-raisers can't be used for salaries.

"You can't fund staff with fund-raisers," said Parsons. "What are you going to do a few

See **Jobs** on page 8

Jobs: Trying to save school

Continued from page 1
months down the road?"

Robin Butler says she will not allow herself to be negative. She has organized a group, the Diamond Valley School Alliance, which will be hosting the Alpine County Summer Sizzler Car and Craft Show at Diamond Valley School. She hopes the funds will pay for salaries until a parcel tax can be put on the ballot.

"I feel we could save the principal's job," said Butler. "We're really trying. All the kids are so upset and they want to help, too."

She has received several donations, including meals at Jimmy G's Restaurant in Minden, rooms and dinners at Lake Side Inn in South Lake Tahoe, a bouquet of flowers or a basket from Aladdin Flowers & Gifts in Gardnerville, \$5,000 from Alpine resident Walter Bell and other monetary and non-monetary promises of help from Raley's in Gardnerville, Woodfords Pony Express Station and developer Tom Abdo.

Over the next few days Butler will look for larger donations from businesses such as Carson Valley Inn, David Wally's Resort and area car dealerships. She is opening a savings account at U.S. Bank in Gardnerville where people can donate funds to the Save Diamond Valley School account.

At the May school board meeting, due to declining enrollment and lack of funds, school board members voted to eliminate principal Katy Hadley's position and that of one teacher, the librarian and an American Indian early childhood education specialist.

Even with the cuts, next year the board is looking at a \$45,000 deficit that is still rising, said Floyd Hampton, district and board of education business manager.

Hampton and Parsons will visit Bear Valley High School on Thursday to determine the amount necessary to build a science lab at the school. These expenditures would have to be

DETAILS

What: Alpine County Summer Sizzler Car and Craft Show

When: 8-9:30 a.m. June 18, \$5 pancake breakfast and set-up, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. craft fair and show

Where: Diamond Valley School, 35 Hawkside Drive, Markleeville

Entry fees: \$50 per car (car show participants get a free breakfast), \$30 per booth or \$15 per booth for Alpine County residents

Contacts: For car entry, call Cheryl at (530) 577-4823, for a booth, call Lee Ann at (530) 694-2217.

(Butler), "How much money are you going to raise? A garage sale like this is not going to save declining enrollment."

Hampton said there are other options such as a parcel tax like the one that Tahoe-Truckee Unified School District has adopted.

"It adds on money specifically for schools," said Hampton, "but it takes special legislation to do so. The school district would have to hold an election."

A property tax increase would be achieved more easily if a bill in the senate passes, allowing initiatives to be approved with a 55 percent vote. Currently a two-thirds vote is needed.

"It's so difficult to get a two-thirds vote from the whole populace," said Hampton.

Parsons said even though money raised couldn't go toward saving the positions, it could still benefit the school in a different way.

"It would be great for a field trip or something for the school," he said.

He is waiting to receive a grant and will hear about it this

the principal if she chooses to be an instructor rather than in an administrative position.

This is in addition to another teacher who was temporarily retained after assuming the position of a teacher on a one-year leave.

Parsons was accused by some parents, teachers and Hadley at the May board meeting of letting staff go as retribution for his wife losing her job as reading specialist last year.

"The reading specialist was the least of the problems," said Parsons. "There have been other issues that have nothing to do with the layoffs. That stuff has all been financial."

For the last few years the district has been using one-time funds to supplement teachers' salaries, and Hampton said state officials have said they are visiting the school to look into the situation next year.

After 24 years as the district and board of education business manager, looking at the fifth year of deficit, Hampton said he is going to leave after next year.

"I'm going to give them one more year and I'm out of here," said Hampton.

"The situation is not good totally," he said. "I told (Jim Parsons) this should have been started years ago."

Butler said it would have been easier if the public and staff had known about the budget problems.

"If they knew this before, why did they wait to tell us, so that now we won't have time to do something about it?" she asked.

"We want (Katy Hadley) as our principal. The kids need a principal. They don't need somebody who's going to come in once a week and not know anybody's name.

"We think that with everybody's help and God's help we can do this."

enrollment and lack of funds, school board members voted to eliminate principal Katy Hadley's position and that of one teacher, the librarian and an American Indian early childhood education specialist.

Even with the cuts, next year the board is looking at a \$45,000 deficit that is still rising, said Floyd Hampton, district and board of education business manager.

Hampton and Parsons will visit Bear Valley High School on Thursday to determine the amount necessary to build a science lab at the school. These expenditures would have to be added to the 2005-06 budget, Hampton said.

Hampton also says he thinks a local fund-raising effort will not help.

"I don't mind them using the facility for the fund-raiser," said Hampton, "but, I asked

would be achieved more easily if a bill in the senate passes, allowing initiatives to be approved with a 55 percent vote. Currently a two-thirds vote is needed.

"It's so difficult to get a two-thirds vote from the whole populace," said Hampton.

Parsons said even though money raised couldn't go toward saving the positions, it could still benefit the school in a different way.

"It would be great for a field trip or something for the school," he said.

He is waiting to receive a grant and will hear about it this month.

"This would help with one position," said Parsons.

Also, a teacher has announced she will probably take a leave of absence, according to Parsons, who said this would leave a position open for

why did they wait to tell us, so that now we won't have time to do something about it?" she asked.

"We want (Katy Hadley) as our principal. The kids need a principal. They don't need somebody who's going to come in once a week and not know anybody's name.

"We think that with everybody's help and God's help we can do this."

Pre-kindergarteners visit Diamond Valley School

by Jo Rafferty
Staff Writer

A dozen preschool children arrived at Diamond Valley School Friday morning to get an introduction to kindergarten.

Eight came by Douglas Area Rural Transit bus from the Alpine County Early Learning Center in Woodfords and four were brought by their parents.

"They've been excited all week about coming to the big school," said Bernie Combs, Diamond Valley's school readiness coordinator.

"It's just a wonderful place to be. They'll have a good time."

Every year new students come to the kindergarten class to learn what being in a public kindergarten-through-eighth-grade school is all about, said Combs. They are shown where the lunch room and the bathrooms are and are taught hygiene by the school nurse, Shelly Taplin. They go to recess out on the playground.

"They're coming to see the room and go through the procedures," she said. "They actually come here so they won't be anxious about the first day of school."

Children who aren't enrolled at the Early Learning Center received a backpack full of school supplies from First 5 at the end of the morning.

Children who attend the Early Learning Center will get their backpacks on their last day of school, June 24, during a graduation event, including a presentation by the Spirit Dancers from Fallon.

Kindergarten instructor Robin McCully asked the new children to join in with the class as she read them a book.

"Are you guys excited about kindergarten?" she asked.

"Uh-huh," said several kids.

"What are these?" asked Wyatt White, 5, pointing to colored tape on the carpet where the children were sitting.

"They're for sitting quiet and sitting still," McCully said softly.

The preschoolers were paired with veteran kindergarteners to draw pictures of their families.

Ethan Craik, 6, said he will like having his 5-year-old sister Mackenzie at the same school.

"Then we'll be able to ride the bus together," Ethan said.

Jon Paul, 6, helped 5-year-old Andrew



Preschooler Andrew Voss gets help with his crayons from Jon Paul Embry, a kindergartner at Diamond Valley School.

SHANNON
LITZ/The R-C

Voss draw his picture.

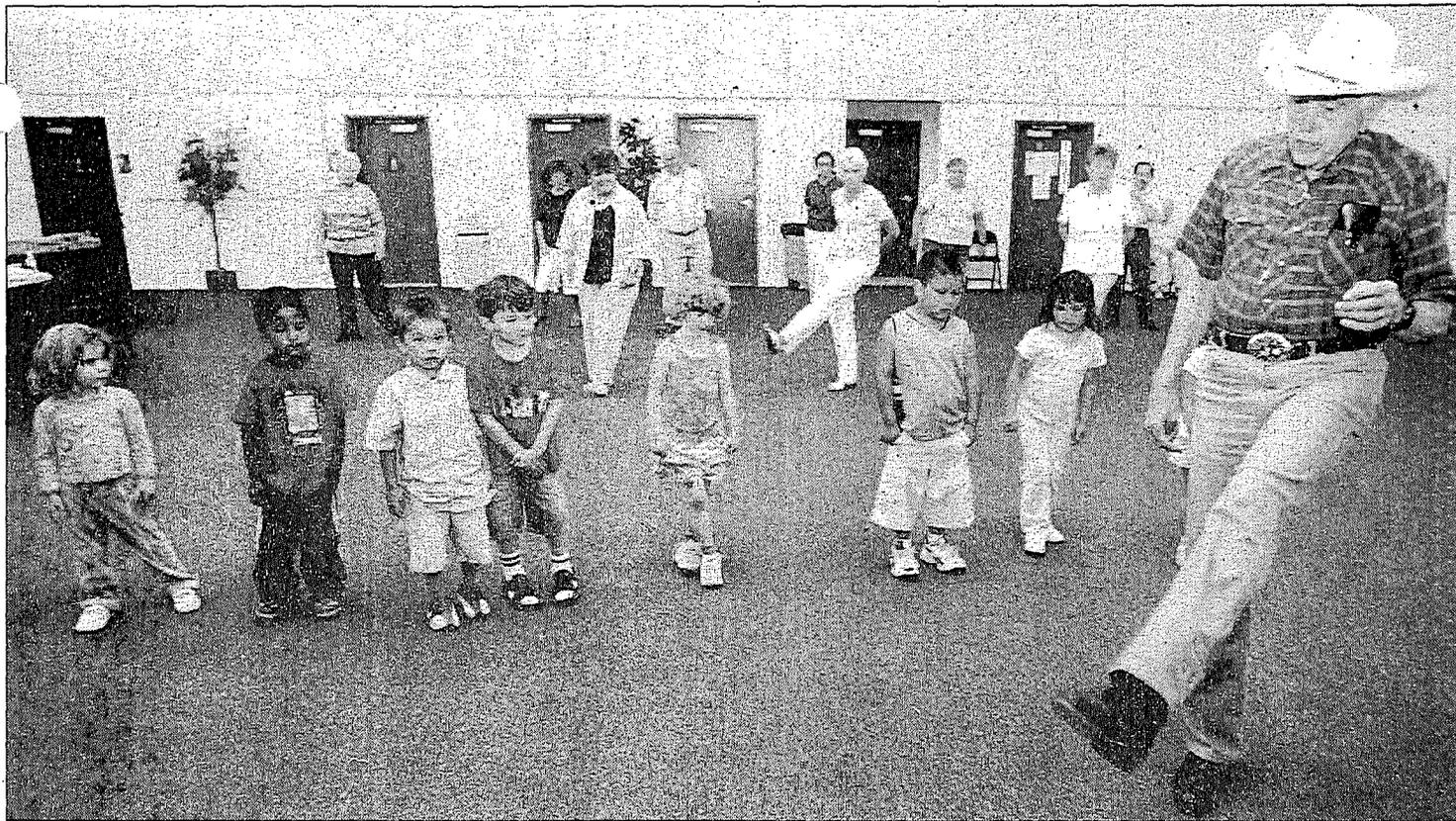
"I'm going to school in the fall time," said Andrew.

Katie Plexico, 4 1/2, came with her mother to the transition day. She will attend Kirkwood Meadows Elementary, but will travel to Diamond Valley School

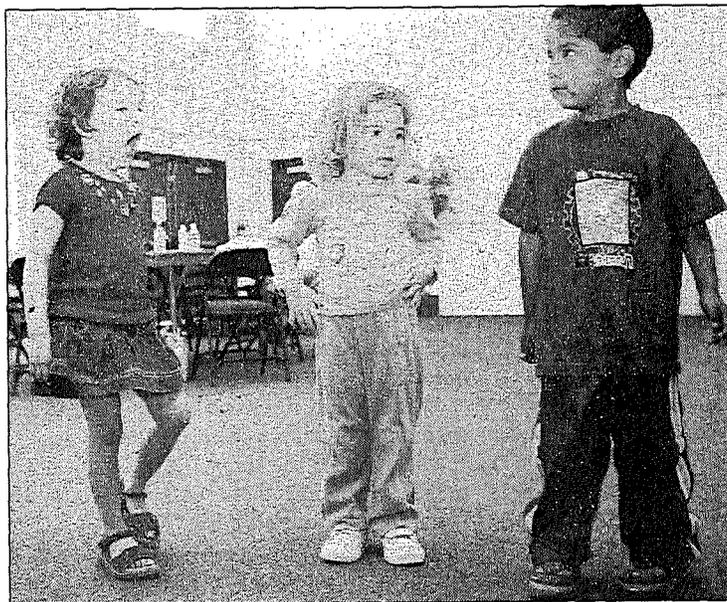
for certain events, such as assemblies.

When asked how she liked the big school, Katie quietly said, "Good."

Jo Rafferty can be reached at jrafferty@recordcourier.com or 782-5121, ext. 213.



KICKING UP THEIR HEELS



SHANNON LITZ/R-C photos
Earl Mussett, right, teaches line dancing to seniors and preschoolers at the Alpine County Early Learning Center on May 25. Madison Braz, Toria Franzi and Justin Dick, above, all age 4, learn to line dance.

Grovers Hot Springs starts summer hours

Grovers Hot Springs State Park's summer hours start today. The park is open 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

BRIEFS Moonlight madness takes place Saturdays from 9 p.m. to midnight. Fees for special events are \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids. For information call the pool at (530) 694-2249 or the campgrounds, (530) 694-2248.

Kids Fishing Day

Kids Fishing Day will take place 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. June 11 at Indian Creek Reservoir. The fish planting truck arrives at 10 a.m. This is a free fishing day — adults do not need a fishing license. A barbecue and fishing equipment for children under age 16 are also offered for free.

Sponsors include the Alpine County Fish and Game Commission, the Alpine Kids Program and Alpine County Chamber of Commerce.

July 4 weekend activity slated

Staff Reports

Storytime in the Park, hosted by the Alpine County Library, will take place 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 2 at Markleeville Community Park.

Adam Miller, a folk singer, storyteller and autoharp virtuoso, will present his multicultural "Singing Through History" folk music program, designed to enhance the development of cultural and historical literacy, emphasizing the importance of history as a well-told story. Audience participation is encouraged.

A presentation by The Washoe Singers will be led by Laura Fillmore, with a variety show of songs and dances depicting the Washoe culture. Brian Scott, a magician from the Bay Area, will end the festivity with a special program for children and adults.

Booths from local agencies will provide information, give aways and activities for the children and a local group's fund-raising activity has been organized by Robin Butler.

Lunch includes hotdogs and hamburgers. Discount coupons from local eateries will be available as an option.

The library organized the event for Alpine Kids, a volunteer operated group that helps children and families improve their lives through family outings and activities.

For more information, contact Alpine County Library at (530) 694-2120.

Alpine seniors attend Farmers Market

The Fifty-Plus Club will travel to Gardnerville for the Farmers Market on June 29.

Members and friends should meet at Alpine County Health & Human Services, 75-A Diamond Valley Road in Markleeville at 10 a.m. Shop-

pers will return at 2:30 p.m. For information, call Sherri Dennis at (530) 694-2235.

Bluegrass band plays at Sorensen's

On Sunday, the bluegrass

band "The Back 40 Band" will perform at Sorensen's Resort from 1-6 p.m. The resort is located south of Gardnerville on Highway 88 in Hope Valley, Calif. The cost is \$5 with proceeds benefitting The Friends

of Hope Valley, a non-profit organization helping to preserve the beauty and tranquility of Hope Valley by providing clean-up projects and working with local, state and federal representatives on a variety of

environmental issues. Barbecued chicken and ribs will be offered at a separate cost.

For more information, log on to www.hopevalleyca.com, call (800) 423-9949 or visit www.sorensensresort.com.

R-C

June 4, 2005

Children's center community update

Alpine Children's Center continues after-school programs, fund-raisers

by Edie Veatch
Special to the R-C

When Alpine Children's Center closed its school age and pre-school programs on Jan. 31 there was some outstanding debt remaining. To pay off the debt, Alpine Children's Center continues to do fund-raising. On July 8, the center will once again serve up the Death Ride spaghetti dinner.

As in the past years, we start cooking on the previous Tuesday, July 5. The center is also holding a 50/50 raffle at that time, with the drawing at 10 p.m. on July 8.

If you wish to sign up for any of the cooking days, or chopping vegetables, buttering bread or serving up spaghetti, please call Edie at (530) 694-2934.

Alpine Children's Center will have a booth at the Woodford's Faire, and do the Thanksgiving Turkey Bingo. There will be more 50/50 raffles.

The center continues to collect aluminum cans and plastic water and soda bottles. Some of the individual serving juice bottles are California redemption, too. We have a dumpster located next to the bike fence to hold cans and plastic.

The center is still doing the Friendship Club with Scolari's and our account number is 1013. We also have the Quality of Life Program through Raley's.

We no longer save Campbell Soup labels. We now give our soup labels to the Douglas County Public Library in Minden.

Alpine Children's Center's Home Visitor Program and the Alpine Kids Program are still up and running.

We are applying for grant funding through the Alpine Family Support Council to continue these programs.

For information about Alpine Kids, call Edie at (530) 694-2934.

JoJo found that retirement was not everything. She missed the children, and still had a lot of teaching left to do. The center

is operating a two-day-a-week preschool/playgroup program. JoJo's program is Monday and Wednesday mornings from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., the cost is \$10 per day. If you are on the Home Visitor Program, that program pays for one day a week. The center is applying to continue this program with grant funding from the Family Support Council.

For information about the Home Visitor Program and/or the preschool/playgroup program, call Lyn or Jo (530) 694-2390.

■ Edie Veatch is a resident of Alpine County.

Senator Cox to speak

California's state senator Dave Cox will speak to the Fifty-Plus Club at its monthly luncheon today. The topic will be senior issues. The luncheon, hosted by Alpine County Health & Human Services, will take place from noon to 2 p.m. at the Early Learning Center, 100 Foothill Road in Woodfords. For more information call Lois at (530) 694-9404 or Sherri at (530) 694-2235.

Kids Fishing Day

Kids Fishing Day will take place 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday

at Indian Creek Reservoir. The fish planting truck arrives at 10 a.m. This is a free fishing day — adults do not need a fishing license. A barbecue and fishing equipment for children age 16 and younger is also offered for free.

Seniors go to Tahoe

On June 15 the Fifty-Plus Club will be going to South Lake Tahoe by Douglas County Rural Transit bus. Members and friends should meet at Alpine County Health & Human Services, 75-A Diamond Valley Road in Markleeville at 10 a.m. and will return at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call Sherri Dennis at (530) 694-2235.

Seniors head to Bodie

On June 22 the Fifty-Plus Club will take an all-day trip to Bodie, a California ghost town south of Bridgeport.

"As many as 10,000 people once lived in Bodie, most dependent upon one of the 30 gold mines for their livings. Today, only a few park rangers and their families live there," according to Chuck Woodbury of the Out West newspaper.

Members and friends are welcome from both Douglas County Senior Center and Alpine County. Douglas County Rural Transit will provide transportation.

For more information, call (775) 783-6456 or Sherri Dennis at (530) 694-2235.

SPEED DEMON



SHANNON LITZ/The R-C
Nine-year-old Jack Doyal participates in the bike rodeo at the Bike-A-Thon at Diamond Valley School on June 3. The annual event is funded by the state tobacco program.

Fund-raiser to aid saving school principal, librarian positions

Distribution of funds will be up to the school board, superintendent says

by Jo Rafferty
Staff Writer

A fund-raiser to save lost positions, including the principal, at an Alpine County school will take place this month.

Parents at Diamond Valley School have requested money made at the event first go toward saving the principal's position, then to certificated staff, the site council and the student body. The request will be considered at the Alpine County Unified School District board meeting on June 16.

"It's up to the board as to how they use the money," said district superintendent Jim Parsons. "It's not my decision to make."

The fund-raiser, Alpine County Summer Sizzler Car and Craft Show, will be a car show, silent auction and raffle on June 18 at Diamond Valley School, 35 Hawkside Drive in Markleeville. The event will commence with a \$5 pancake breakfast from 8-9:30 a.m. fol-

lowed by a craft fair and car show from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Entry fees are \$50 per car, or \$30 for a craft booth for non-residents, \$15 for Alpine County residents. For car entries, call Cheryl, (530) 577-4823 or for a booth call Lee Ann, (530) 694-2217.

Robin Butler and 13 other parents formed the organization Fund-raising to Preserve Education Alliance to bring back four positions dropped for the 2005-06 year. The group is hosting the car and craft show.

Included in the cut positions are principal Katie Hadley, librarian Rita Lovell and American Indian Early Childhood Education specialist Dierdre Wallace.

The Alliance is seeking donations, either monetary or gifts for the silent auction or raffle. An account has been opened at U.S. Bank in Gardnerville. Checks should be made out to "Fund-raiser for principal and librarian for Robin Lynn Butler."

The state of California allows money raised at fund-raisers to go toward salaries, according to Tina Jung, California Department of Education spokesper-

son. Jung said other communities throughout the state are raising funds to support programs and staff positions.

"There's nothing to stop a school from accepting donations for school positions, but the community cannot designate what the money will go toward," said Jung.

Lake Tahoe schools have been reaping the benefits of fund-raising efforts for the last year. Last year when Lake Tahoe Unified School District middle and high school athletic programs lost two-thirds of their funding, an organization Save Tahoe Athletic Teams was formed that made \$200,000 through fund-raising events like silent auctions and raffles, according to school board member Barbara Bannar.

"They did everything they could do," said Bannar. "They were so successful last year, they made it in Sports Illustrated."

The Lake Tahoe Education Foundation, a non-profit founded in 1989, shifted its focus last year from donating money for one-time purposes — computers and musical instruments in

2004-05 — to an ongoing project, bringing back class-size reductions that were lost this year.

With the foundation's pledge to provide \$80,000 a year for three years and the district's promise to provide \$99,000, class-size reduction has been reinstated at South Lake Tahoe schools as of the 2005-06 year, along with the reinstatement of 17 teachers who had been given their notice.

Class-size reduction limits the number of students in a classroom to 20 per teacher.

The foundation makes some of its money through a monthly fund-raiser and also through a membership drive, which costs \$50 per person.

"You can pay for positions, you just can't specify a person," said Bannar. "Administrators don't like to do that because it's a one-time thing."

"It can be done. Sometimes it takes looking outside the box and thinking outside the box. That's hard sometimes."

■ Jo Rafferty can be reached at jrafferty@recordcourier.com or 782-5121, ext. 213.

June 15, 2005

Pilot dies in Alpine County plane crash



BELINDA GRANT/R-C photos

An airplane crash near the Carson River in Alpine County occurred at about 11:45 a.m. on Tuesday. At top, a Woodfords Auto Service tow truck driver moves a dead tree that was blocking investigators' path to the crash site, which was partially in the Carson River.

R-C 6-15-05

Pilot flew out of Minden-Tahoe Airport

by Jo Rafferty
Staff Writer

A man who flew out of Minden-Tahoe Airport died in a plane crash in Woodfords before noon on Tuesday.

The pilot was the only one in the acrobatic aluminum plane, according to Alpine County Sheriff John Crawford, who said he couldn't release the victim's name until next of kin were notified.

The Sheriff's Department was notified of the accident at approximately 11:50

a.m., said Crawford.

"We had a number of calls," he said. "We immediately responded to the scene and located the crash site with one single occupant inside.

"Deputies on the scene pronounced the pilot deceased."

The National Transportation Safety Board and Federal Aviation Administration had been notified and officials were en route at about 2 p.m., according to Crawford.

The aircraft came down next to the West

Fork of Carson River off Carson River Ranch Road.

"We haven't had an aircraft go down in a number of years here," said Crawford.

Responding to the scene were Alpine County Sheriff's Department, East Fork Fire and Paramedic District, Woodfords Volunteer Fire Department, Alpine County Search & Rescue and California Highway Patrol personnel.

Crawford said he had information that the man had flown out of Minden-Tahoe Airport.

Fatal airplane accident

Tahoe Daily Tribune
June 15, 2005



Belinda Grant/Tribune News Service

The pilot was killed Monday when his airplane went down in Alpine County near Woodfords.

Pilot out of Minden-Tahoe Airport killed in crash

By Jo Rafferty
Tribune News Service

A man who flew out of Minden-Tahoe Airport died in a plane crash in Woodfords before noon on Tuesday.

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Help save Diamond Valley school

EDITOR:

We are here to ask for an all-American response to our statement to help parents and children to save two or more key positions at our little Diamond Valley School.

This letter is about two very special people that God has placed in our lives.

First is Mrs. Hadley, our principal. This lady is one in a million. She is not only a fine principal,

See **Letters** on page 5

The Record-Courier ■ Gardnerville, Nevada

June 15, 2005

N

Letters: Saving a school

Continued from page 4

but is also a great mentor for all people to use as a role model. She hugs all the children and she knows them all by name, as well as their parents and teachers.

She is also there for them if they have any kind of problems regardless of whether it is school, home or socially. She also teaches morals in the school and each month they have a special theme to work on honesty, respect, citizenship and trustworthiness. They are then rewarded in front of the whole school on Tuesdays in the month the theme has been given. They are also given block awards to encourage all to do their best in whatever interests them so they all have a chance to get an award.

She tries to meet the needs of everyone. You can look into her eyes and see the depth of her soul and that she truly loves the children and their parents at this school. What an asset she truly is to all of America.

So please help us keep her and donate whatever you can and please come and see us at Diamond Valley School on June 18 for a special event to raise the funds we need. Please help us keep her position, that is being dissolved.

I would also like to tell you about another key person, our librarian Rita Lovell, who is a great person, too.

You can feel her presence in any room she enters. It fills the room with a beautiful gentleness. Her smile is so genuine and welcoming and she greets all of the kids by name. She knows all of the kids well enough to even recommend books that she knows will interest that particular child. She is always guiding them to expand their interests and tastes in authors.

Rita also produces an all-student news program every morning. She films three students live on a set like television newscasters and broadcasts it throughout the classrooms. They tell about up-coming events (such as the Alpine Sum-

mer Sizzler). They also include the lunch menu, the next day's breakfast menu and Words of Wisdom that pertain to character building. For fun they ask trivia questions and if the kids turn the answer in, they get a Diamond Dollar, which they can save or spend. This teaches them about properly handling their money.

It also teaches them to pay attention to the news and encourages those who are interested in becoming a newscaster. Rita wears many other hats at Diamond Valley School, including teaching computer technology and Spanish.

She is truly a great asset for our children and community.

Robin Butler
Markleeville

Pilot in Alpine crash from Carson

by F.T. Norton
R-C News Service

A Carson City man was identified Wednesday as the pilot killed in a Woodfords plane crash.

Jeffrey Zajicek, 39, was pronounced dead at the scene of the 11:30 a.m. crash of the 1972

Citabria, an aerobatic aircraft. The wreckage was found Tuesday along the west fork of the Carson River on the Ace Hereford Ranch in Alpine County.

Zajicek had flown out of the Minden-Tahoe Airport.

"I still don't believe that boy's gone," said father-in-law Robert Kre-

vitz, his voice choked with emotion.

Krevitz, who lives in Anchorage, Alaska, had flown home from Reno on Tuesday morning after spending time with his daughter Cathy and Zajicek. He hadn't been home an hour before Cathy called with the horrific news.

Immediately, Krevitz was back at

the airport, on his way to be by his daughter's side.

"She needs the support. I can't let her face this alone," he said.

Described as a "wonderful pilot," Krevitz said his son-in-law has been flying for years.

See **Crash** on page 7

Crash: Carson man killed

Continued from page 1

The couple moved to Carson City about three years ago from Alaska.

On other visits, Krevitz had taken to the sky with Zajicek. This trip he did not.

"He was a good pilot, a wonderful pilot. Whatever happened was just one of those things," he said.

Zajicek would have turned 40 on June 25.

He worked for PanTechnicon

Aviation in Minden.

The Federal Aviation Administration is conducting an investigation into the cause of the crash, according to the Alpine County Sheriff's Office.

Fund-raiser tries to save key positions at school

Staff Reports

A fund-raising event to benefit Diamond Valley School will take place on Saturday at the school. From 8-9:30 a.m. a pancake breakfast will be offered and the Summer Sizzler Car and Craft Show will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The event is hosted by Fund-raising to Preserve Education Alliance, an organization of parents who are trying to keep Principal Katy Hadley and librarian Rita Lovell's positions at Diamond Valley School.

Annual bike-a-thon proves successful

by Jo Rafferty

Staff Writer

The Alpine County Annual Bike-a-thon was a success, according to Rebecca Wheeler of Alpine County Health and Human Services, one of the sponsors of the event.

Approximately 120 people participated in the bike-a-thon, with 35 children in second grade or younger and 38 in third grade and older. Twenty children were ages 0-5, said Wheeler.

The bike-a-thon was sponsored by the following county agencies: Behavioral Health Services, Probation Department, Choices for Children, First 5 Alpine and Health and Human Services.

Agencies who set-up family activities during the event included: Alpine County Women's Center, Choices for Children, First 5 Alpine, Health and Human Services, Family Support Council, The Learning Center, Kirkwood Mountain Resort, Home Visitors Program, Alta Alpina Club and Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

Officer Steve Gwaltney of the California Highway Patrol volunteered his time setting up the bike rodeo.

In addition, California Highway Patrol officer Larry Bousquet volunteered his time to provide rider safety for the 8K road ride from Diamond Valley School down to the Hung-a-leli community and back.

Back Country, an outfitter store in Tahoe City, Calif., volunteered employee Gabriel McDowell to provide bicycle safety checks for all participants.

The Alpine County Sheriff's Department provided rider support during the 8K ride along with Alpine County Emergency Medical Services

Agencies who volunteered to support the rider aid stations were Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and the Washoe Indian Education Center.

Diamond Valley School provided support during the registration process and the Alpine County Unified School District provided use of the school grounds.



SHANNON LITZ/The R-C

Bikers leave Diamond Valley School for a ride along Diamond Valley Road with members of California law enforcement.

Dispute continues over health insurance increase

by Jo Rafferty
Staff Writer

Health insurance premium increases have been a hot issue in Alpine County, which are affecting everyone across the board from classified to management to elected officials to folks who have retired from the county.

People are upset at having to pay an insurance payment for the first time ever.

Faced with a \$225 monthly payment, the employees union is disputing the county's claim that it has a \$1.2 million deficit, and has hired its own auditor to look at the county's finances at a cost of about \$10,000, according to retired employee Nancy Thornburg.

"So far the county claims there is a deficit," said Operating Engineers Local No. 3 representative Joe Santella, indicating the results will be publicized soon. "Within two weeks we should have a better picture."

Alpine County Board of Supervisors submitted a counter-proposal on medical insurance to the union this week that probably wouldn't be accepted, according to Santella.

"I suspect the union will reject it," he said.

Santella said that for more than a couple of years insurance premiums had stayed the same, which had been an oversight of the insurance company.

"For two and a half years the county slipped under a radar," said Santella. "They basically got a free ride for about two and a half years. My question is, 'Why didn't (the county) put that money in savings?'"

The cost of health insurance for Alpine County employees and retired employees has been \$663 a month and will now go to \$1,250 a month, according to Assistant to Alpine County Board Judy Molnar, who said that on July 15, 2003, the county negotiated and agreed to an insurance cap of \$800.

"That's the maximum amount the

county agreed it will pay," said Molnar.

In addition to the \$800 cap, the county agreed to pay half the difference between \$800 and \$1,250.

"The difference is \$450," said Molnar. "The county agreed to pay 50 percent, which would be \$225 of the \$450. It is equally split by the employee and the employer," she said.

The contract for the \$800 cap expired in July 2004, according to an employees' report provided to the board, and they asked why there has not been new negotiations to raise the cap.

Other questions asked in reports concerned a 10 percent raise the Board of Supervisors received in January.

"The average total compensation for elected and department heads is approximately 50 percent higher than that of the average compensation of the miscellaneous employees," said the report.

Contracts ran out Jan. 1 for miscellaneous county employees and July 1 for Alpine County Sheriff's Department deputies. Negotiations have taken place

on and off since those dates.

According to the report, the board is considering turning Alpine County public safety communications over to Douglas County, and letting two dispatchers go.

Alpine County Board of Supervisors Chairman Donald Jardine said at the June 7 board meeting he would have the board's response to the employees' reports at the board meeting on June 21.

Alpine County Public Works Director Leonard Turnbeaugh wanted to clarify the 10 percent raise management had received. He said the 10 percent was the last year in a three-year 30 percent pay increase contract.

In comparison, he said miscellaneous employees had negotiated a two-year contract and got 20 percent, and the Sheriff's Department had received 30 percent in an 18-month contract.

"It's no different than what the others had received, expect ours was over three years and there's was over a shorter period," said Turnbeaugh. "Not

everything is as it seems until you know all the particulars."

Prior to management's salaries had risen 20 percent from 1990-2001, he said.

"The cost of living had gone up 37 percent in an 11-year period," said Turnbeaugh, "and our salaries had not."

Labor negotiations have also been plagued by misinformation.

Molnar requested a clarification on a April 22 Record-Courier article. She said statements she had made were misconstrued by the Record-Courier, as well as information she had received from the auditor that she had misinterpreted.

Molnar said Monday that she had misinterpreted what she was told by the auditor.

"I misunderstood the auditor's statement," said Molnar. "I understood this applied to only classified employees when actually administrative management and elected officials are subject to the same premium increase."

Letters to the editor

Alpine workers just want fair shake

EDITOR:

I would like to clarify a couple of things that were stated in the Friday article concerning the Alpine dispute over health insurance.

Most employees or retirees are primarily concerned about the attitude of the Board of Supervisors and with being treated fairly rather than with having to pay something toward the health

insurance premiums. We are all well aware of the out-of-control escalation in both health care costs and health insurance costs. We are well aware that most people who are lucky enough to have health insurance have to pay something toward the premium, and we are willing to pay a fair share.

The dispute is over the thinly disguised hostility shown by Board of Supervisors and their assistant toward rank and file employees and retirees. Ever since these people voted 41-1 to join the Operating Engineers Union about three years ago there has been a spirit of retaliation on the part of the board toward these employees and retirees. There has also been a spirit of rewarding the "good" employees, appointed and elected department heads, for not joining the union.

The only reason the vote went the way it did to join the union was because of the way employees had been treated by previous boards for years and years. We all hoped that with the union strength behind us we would get more equitable treat-

ment. And we all hoped that this last January, when three new supervisors took office, that things would change for the better in this regard.

Unfortunately, it has not. In the past, every year the board would deal with the county budget and when it was pretty much completed, if there was any discretionary money left over, they would then consider raises or benefit improvements for employees. Wages were kept low for most employees compared to other small counties, and cost of living increases, if given at all, were usually small, but always the assurance was given to us that the trade-off was that medical insurance coverage would always be there with the county paying the premiums — including for retirees.

So now there is some sense of a breach of that promise. At the same time, there is understanding that the premiums are now so high that it is probably fair for us all to pay something toward them. In that context, however, it did not sit well when the assistant to the board was quoted in "The Record-Courier" as having said that elected and appointed department heads would not have to pay anything toward the premium.

But take a look at the most recent offer by the board. For active employees they would pay \$50 per month for a single employee, \$100 per month for an employee plus one dependent, and \$125 a month for a family. That seems fair. For retirees, a single would pay nothing. But a single plus one would pay \$181 and a family would pay \$270.50. Except, all who retired before 1995 would continue to pay nothing. So all single retirees and those who retired before 1995 would pay nothing. But the 14 remaining retirees would pay significantly more than any other group. "Why is the board targeting those fourteen?" is a question we have asked. We have received no answer. Retirees would also lose vision and dental coverage.

Also, in January the appointed and elected department heads received a third 10 percent pay increase. It's true that that was guaranteed in their contract "if discretionary funds were available." That wording is also part of their contract. Within a couple of weeks it became known that the county is facing a large budget shortfall, but no effort was made by the board to rescind that 10 percent pay increase, and no offer has been made by those employees along that line. These are the highest paid of the county employees. "Them as has, gits," I guess.

Another example of that involves the "access fee." Every union member must pay \$30 per month union dues which also gives access to the health insurance coverage. All non-union members must pay an "access fee" of \$30 per month in order to obtain the health insurance coverage. But the board, in its infinite kindness, agreed that the county will pay that \$30 per month for all elected and appointed department heads, for some non-union contract employees, and for themselves. Most of these are among the highest paid employees of the county, yet the County picks up their \$30 fee while rank and file pay their own. Again, it's not so much the fee; it's the lack of fairness.

Irrespective of what Director of Public Works Leonard Turnbeaugh said, his salary has increased from \$69,936 to \$100,914 in the last five years. The Assistant to the Board's salary went from \$41,040 to \$73,500 in the same five years. Turnbeaugh is correct when he says that "not everything is as it seems until you know all the particulars." It's no wonder they support the way things are being handled.

What we all want is equal treatment. And common courtesy from the board. Two of the new supervisors, Veatch and Kaiser, promised during their campaigns last fall to treat all employees equally and with respect. The general consensus among rank and file is that we are still waiting for that to happen, not just from them but from all five supervisors.

Nancy Thornburg

Markleeville Village report goes to planners

Staff Reports

Alpine County planning commissioners will discuss certification of the Markleeville Village/Mahalee Lodge final environmental impact report at their regular meeting on June 29.

Alpine County supervisors voted to certify the final environmental impact report by a 3-1 vote on Tuesday.

Chairman Gunter Kaiser said that certifying the report does not constitute approval or disapproval of the project. District 1 supervisor Don Jardine voted against certification. Supervisor Phillip Bennett was absent.

The project consists of a 25-room lodge and 49-cabin resort to be located on 36 acres in

Markleeville.

The report was required as part of a settlement of a 2005 lawsuit over the project seeking a more involved impact report.

Utilities are to include the water and wastewater systems; their capacities, impacts and financial arrangements for ongoing maintenance and replacement costs.

The town ditch, which runs through the property, will be analyzed for water quality, downstream agricultural use and safety. Potential groundwater impacts will also be considered.

The report will look at whether there are adequate public services and funding for police, fire and emergency services.

Two more fund-raisers planned for school

by Jo Rafferty
Staff Writer

With only three weeks to get a fund-raiser going, Robin Butler and about 12 parents of students at Diamond Valley School had a hard row to hoe.

With the goal in mind to save the lost positions of their principal and librarian media coordinator, Butler and other organizers formed the group Fund-raising to Preserve Education at Diamond Valley School, gathered about 23 sponsors who contributed items for a silent auction and raffle and asked the Alpine County School Board if it could designate funds earned toward saving the positions.

Although the item was held until next month, Superintendent Jim Parsons said the board was willing to listen to suggestions once they knew how much the fund-raiser earned.

"The board was very receptive and thankful to see any amount coming," said Parsons.

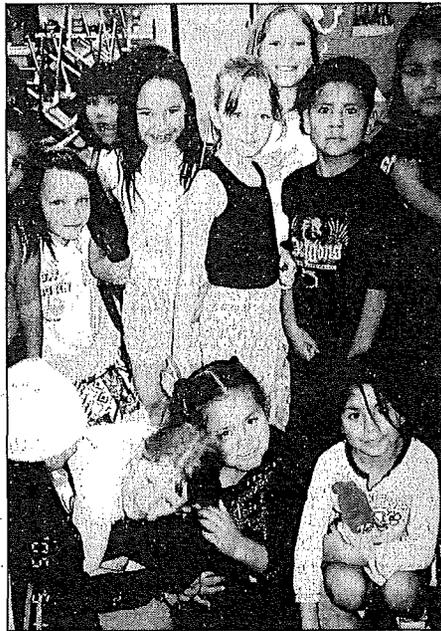
Butler said she and other parents and teachers are trying to organize a Parent Teacher Organization.

"That way we can have more control of where our money goes," she said.

The event, Summer Sizzler Car and Craft Show, did not earn as much as Butler had hoped, but she said they will come back more prepared next time at two more fund-raisers.

Butler said after expenses they raised \$200-300, but she saved some of the items donated for another fund-raiser to take place in September.

"A lot of people I went to said they needed a month-and-a-half notice," said Butler. "We had decided to put this on in three weeks time and the weather was bad.



"We had some people come, but mostly people from the school. We didn't have enough for the silent auction."

Two events are scheduled, the first a rummage sale to take place July 21-24 at a central location off Highway 88 in Gardnerville. Butler is looking at a couple of Gardnerville locations for the next car show and auction, also.

"Next time we're going to have it closer in town and advertise more," said Butler.

To make donations for the rummage sale, call Carolyn Aarons at (775) 781-5512.

■ A community outpouring of emotion has taken place over the last few months, including a reported tearful awards assembly last week during which the children said good-bye to their principal Katie Hadley.

Hadley has found a job in Southern



SHANNON LITZ/The R-C

Above, Lauren Ellis, 1 1/2 years old, eats pancakes at the Diamond Valley School fund-raiser on Saturday. Left, Diamond Valley School students cried when they said good-bye to their principal at an awards assembly last week.

California, according to Parsons. She currently resides in Minden.

Two teachers have been retained on a temporary basis, filling in for two teachers on one-year leave and at last week's school board meeting the board voted to continue funding Rita Lovell's librarian position.

"The site council voted to provide funding out of carryover dollars for the coming year," said Parsons. "She was hired back, but by the district, not by the county."

Also at the board meeting \$2,000 bonuses were approved for certificated and classified staff for the 2004-2005

school year and 4 percent raises should be approved next month for teachers for the coming year, according to Parsons.

"This would not have been possible if we had not made the cuts we did this year," he said.

In spite of past contention between administration and staff over the loss of jobs, especially the principal's position, Lovell said she wants to remain positive.

"All I know is I'm happy I'll be there with the kids another year," said Lovell.

Of the Summer Sizzler Car and Craft Show, Lovell said, "It was fun to do a positive thing instead of fighting and all the negativity."

6-24-05

Alpine worker costs very different

EDITOR:

I would have to disagree with Mr. Leonard Turnbeaugh when he said:

"It's no different than what the others had received, except ours was over three years and theirs was over a shorter period."

Mr. Turnbeaugh happens to be the highest paid employee in Alpine County, as the Public Works Director.

In January 2005, prior to receiving his last 10 percent raise, Mr. Turnbeaugh was making approximately \$100,000 — which is public record — in addition to all of the benefits. Figure the math people. The average Alpine County employee is making approximately \$37,000 right now and we (the miscellaneous employees) received our raises a long time ago.

In addition Mr. Turnbeaugh is benefitting from the presence of the union as he receives the same health benefits as the miscellaneous employees.

The part that he fails to mention is that his \$34 health access fee, as with all management is paid for by the county. Mr. Turnbeaugh also fails to mention that even though miscellaneous employees have their retirement contributions deducted from their paychecks, the county, once again, pays for his and all other management PERS contributions. The total fees paid by the County this year is \$142,000 for these two management benefits.

The union has saved Alpine County approximately \$1,500,000 over the last three years as compared to the previous health plan. The county blames the union for the recent rate hikes, but the county has yet to find a comparable plan at a lower cost.

And yes Mr. Turnbeaugh, I would have to agree with you when you said, "Not everything is as it seems until you know all the particulars."

Janine Cuddy

Alpine County miscellaneous
employee of Leonard Turnbeaugh

\$7 million for Leviathan Mine

Winter won't stop work on EPA Superfund site

by **Sheila Gardner**
Staff Writer

round cleanup at the toxic Leviathan Mine site high in the Sierra near Markleeville.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency is preparing to install a \$7 million system to provide year-

Project manager Kevin Mayer said the system should be operating by winter 2006-07 and is to continue un-

ON THE WEB
U.S. Environmental
Protection Agency
www.epa.gov

til a long-term remedy is determined to clean up the abandoned sulfur mine 25

miles southwest of Gardnerville.

Since cleanup of the Alpine County mine site began 20 years ago, efforts have been discontinued every winter because of harsh conditions at the 7,000-foot elevation.

See **Leviathan** on page 7

pg. 1

Leviathan: Year round work

Continued from page 1

When treatment systems are turned off in October, a bioreactor and pond collection system continue to protect water quality. Two acid drainage points flow untreated in Leviathan Creek for nearly eight months.

"When the treatment system is not in place, the stream is orange. It breaks your heart because you know how much work you've done," Mayer said.

Actively treating acid mine drainage under harsh winter conditions and without day-to-day access has not been implemented anywhere else in the nation, Mayer said.

"We have some pretty important trial runs this summer and this winter," he said. "We're not going to risk having a system where the pump might fail and dump more acid in one big flush."

He said the Leviathan Mine site appeals to environmental experts because of the challenge.

"These are folks who work on mines all around the country — the Appalachians, the Rockies — they can pick and choose what projects they work on and they find this site fascinating from a wide range of issues.

"Even though it's not the highest elevation mine for cleanup and it's not the largest volume of contamination being generated, it's the most remote site," Mayer said.

He said there is no way to get power up to the abandoned mine.

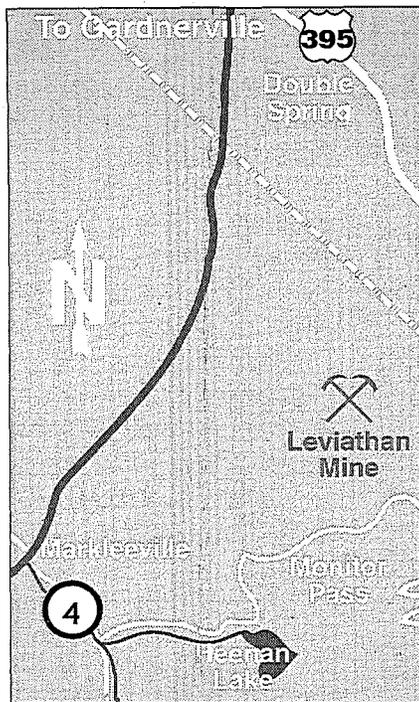
"At nearly every other site you can actually have personnel be there every day, checking valves and gauges," he said. "We can't do that for basically half the year."

The agency contracts with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to send field experts to the site.

"There's a lot of work going on already," Mayer said.

Mayer said he is more optimistic than he was three years ago that the site will be completely cleaned up.

"We're convinced the bugs and the fish will come back into Leviathan Creek," Mayer said.



DETAILS

Documents related to the Leviathan Mine Superfund site are available at the following locations:

■ Douglas County Public Library, 1625 Library Lane, Minden, 782-9841

■ Alpine County Library, 270 Laramie St., Markleeville, Calif., 530-694-2121

■ Nevada State Library and Archives, 100 N. Stewart St., Carson City, 684-3360

"We just want to make sure that it will be a safe home for them all year-round."

The abandoned open-pit sulfur mine was declared a Superfund site in 2000 by the federal government. It has been a source of water quality problems since the 1950s from a toxic mix of dissolved heavy metals and acid.

"Seeing a dead fish is such a negative sight for everyone working up there," Mayer said. "We don't want fish there where they might be subjected to unlivable conditions. We would rather the fish not show up until it was fixed completely because of the chance of having an inadvertent fish kill."

Agency officials were to meet Thursday with members of the Washoe Tribe whose land is bisected by the 10-mile polluted stream system.

"We find that sometimes the community in whose backyard these sites are would like to set even more stringent standards," Mayer said. "We need to say, 'All right. How much fish from the stream would be eaten?'"

"The basketweavers at the Washoe Tribe. You talk to people around the country and they have heard of Washoe baskets. They are world-famous. If they use roots and shoots of

streamed vegetation, We want to make sure there is not more arsenic. They use their mouths to prepare these baskets. We're making serious progress on what those issues are."

Mayer estimated the project would cost \$7 million over the next five years with BP Atlantic Richfield providing the bulk of the funding.

Leviathan Mine was developed in 1863 as a source of copper sulfate for processing silver ore on the Comstock Lode in Virginia City. The mine closed but was reopened for sulfur mining from 1935 to 1941.

When the Anaconda Co. purchased the 250-acre site in 1951, open-pit mining was used to extract sulfur. The mine was operated at Leviathan for about 10 years, generating tens of millions of cubic yards of waste.

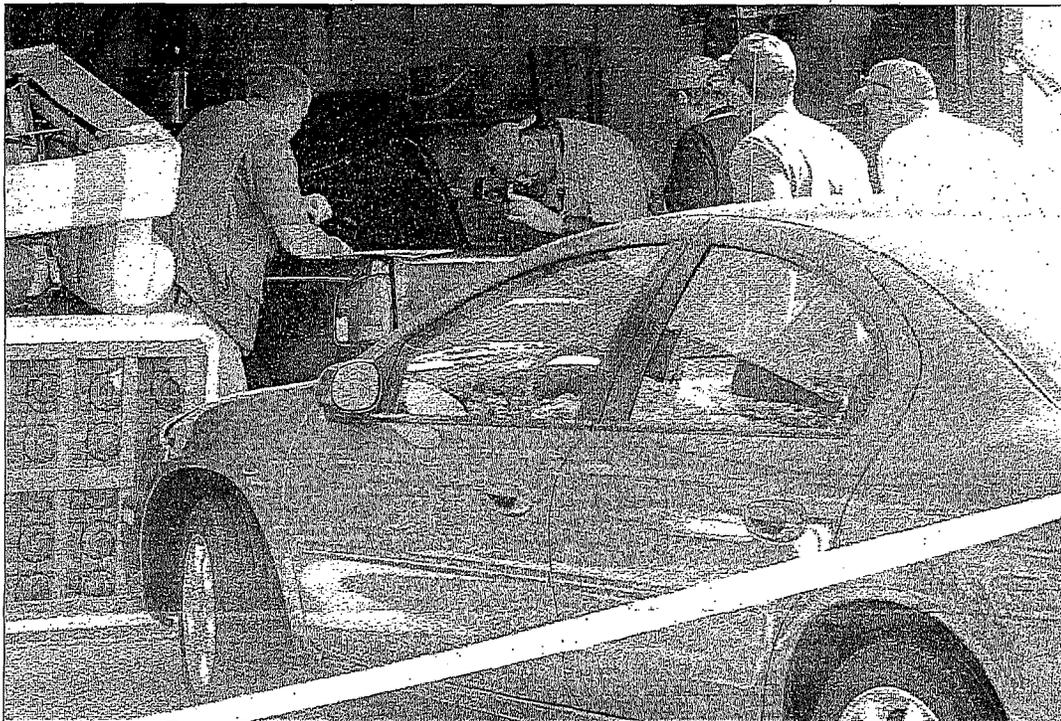
The state of California acquired the site in 1984 for \$50,000.

■ Sheila Gardner can be reached at sgardner@recordcourier.com or 782-5121, ext. 214.

R-C

6-24-05

Man killed in Ranchos brawl



Investigators at the scene. At top, the yard on Tillman Lane where the body was found.

SHANNON LITZ/R-C photos

Three held in early Friday homicide

by Sheila Gardner
Staff Writer

A 24-year-old Markleeville man was killed early Friday and six men were taken into custody in connection with a brawl at a duplex in the Gardnerville Ranchos.

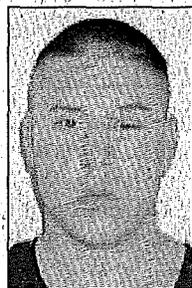
The victim was identified as Jeffrey Clayton John. His body was found in a yard near the intersection of Tillman Lane and Zinfandel Drive, according to Undersheriff Bob Rudnick.

"There was a gathering at the residence on Zinfandel which included several people," said Rudnick said. "About 1 a.m., there was a physical altercation inside the house that eventually went outside, down the sidewalk and across the street. The decedent was injured to the point where he lost his life."

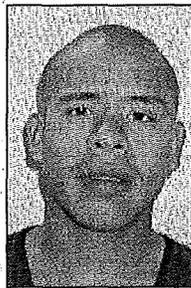
A cause of death and a motive for the slaying were not disclosed pending the results of an autopsy Friday morning and toxicology reports.

"We don't know what provoked it," Rudnick said. "We've conducted a lot of interviews and still are talking to people."

See **Brawl** on page 8



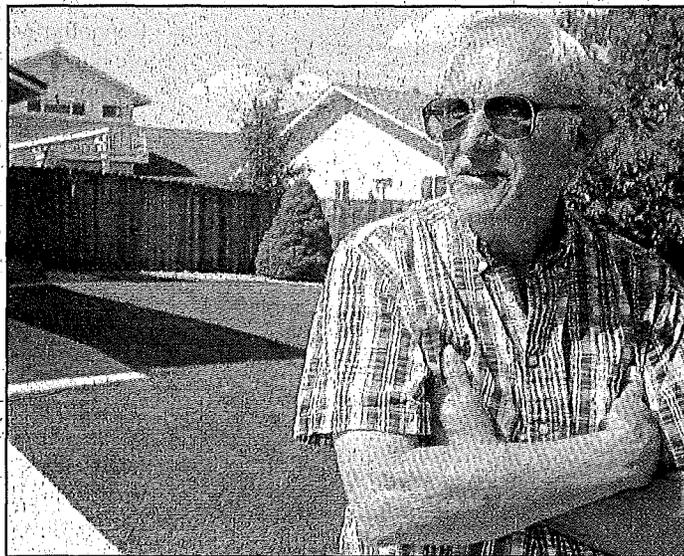
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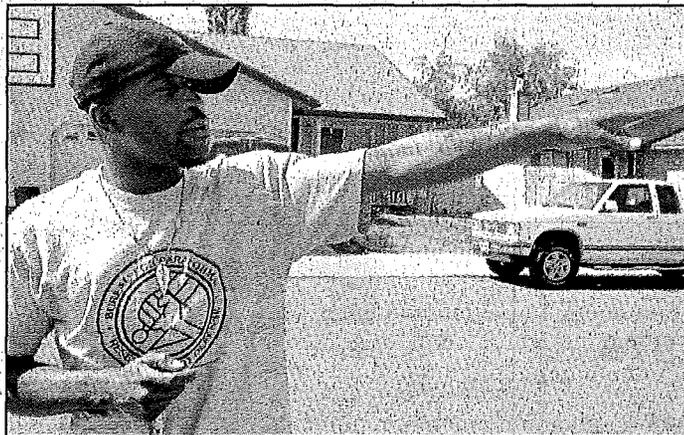
Garcia

DETAILS

The Douglas County Sheriff's Office is looking for people who may have information regarding an altercation early Friday at 1294 Zinfandel Drive in the Gardnerville Ranchos. One man was killed and three men face criminal charges. Anyone with information is asked to call Investigator Phil Lesquereux at 782-9927 or Secret Witness at 782-7463.



Above, Ken Cartwright talks about what he saw from his home on Zinfandel Drive, Friday. Below, Josh Robinson points to the home where the fight took place.





SHANNON LITZ/ R-C photos
Sherry Jacobson and Sean Jacobson talk about a brawl in their neighborhood on Friday that claimed the life of a 24-year-old Markleeville man.

Brawl: One dead, six in jail

Continued from page 1

At this point, the investigation is ongoing."

Arrested and held in Douglas County Jail without bail were:

■ Michael Ward, 21, Gardnerville, charged with principal to murder;

■ Enrique Garcia, 20, Gardnerville, principal to murder;

■ Jason Wellington, 21, Gardnerville, accessory to murder.

Garcia lived at the residence.

They are set to appear at a



Wellington

men at the residence:

They are Antonio Garcia-Garcia, 25; Cesar Pacheco-Castendia, 21 and Artemio Perez-Solis, 24.

Jimmie Richardson, 58, who lives in the adjoining duplex, said she woke up early Friday to hear officers in her backyard.

Richardson said she took a sleeping pill at 10 p.m. Thursday and went to bed. But she said noise from the Garcia residence kept waking her up.

"I woke up at 1:15 a.m. and heard a policeman coming over my fence, yelling 'Don't run or I'll shoot' to somebody."

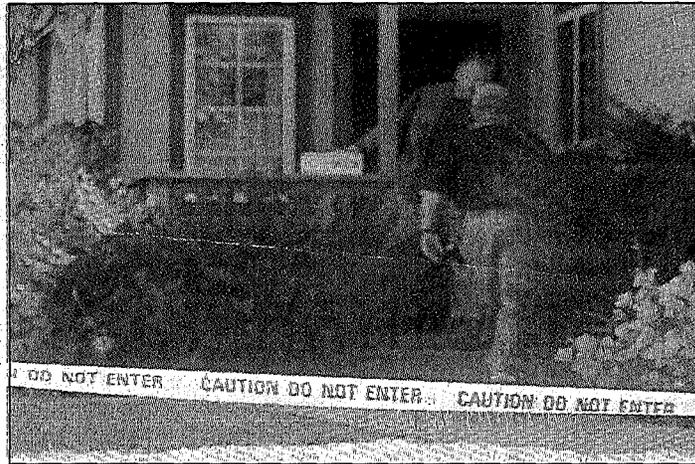
Richardson said her husband David was reluctant to leave Friday to go to work.

"It makes me scared," she said.

Richardson and other neigh-

hearing Monday in East Fork Justice Court.

Immigration holds — but no criminal charges — were placed on three



Investigators at the scene walk into the home on Zinfandel.

bors said the residence at 1294 Zinfandel had the reputation of a "party house" that didn't fit the character of their street of manicured lawns and kids on scooters.

"It's always noisy," Richardson said. "My husband would have to go over there and ask them to turn the music down."

"I've seen a lot of people come in and out of there," said Ken Cartwright, 70, who has shared a home four doors down with his sister, Nancy, 73, for eight years.

"I came out to get the paper this morning and I saw all these squad cars," Cartwright said Friday. "We're not used to waking up to this."

Josh Robinson, 27, who's lived in the neighborhood for three years, said occupants seemed to be moving in and out of the duplex.

"I knew the house was trouble already," he said. "It was just the wrong mix of people. There was lots of fighting."

Standing in the street in 80-degree weather Friday morning as onlookers gathered in small groups and curious boys zipped by on scooters, Robinson said most of the neighbors

had families.

"This is just a family neighborhood. There's nothing but children around here," Robinson said.

Sherry Jacobson, 52, and Eric Mason, 29, who live across the street, were up at 1 a.m. Friday and decided to go out for a pack of cigarettes.

Mason said he heard loud music, arguing and glass breaking at the Garcia home.

"First I heard something that sounded like a beer bottle breaking. Then it sounded like a bigger object — like a vase — broke. We left about 1 a.m. to get cigarettes and when we came back, the cops were all over the place," he said.

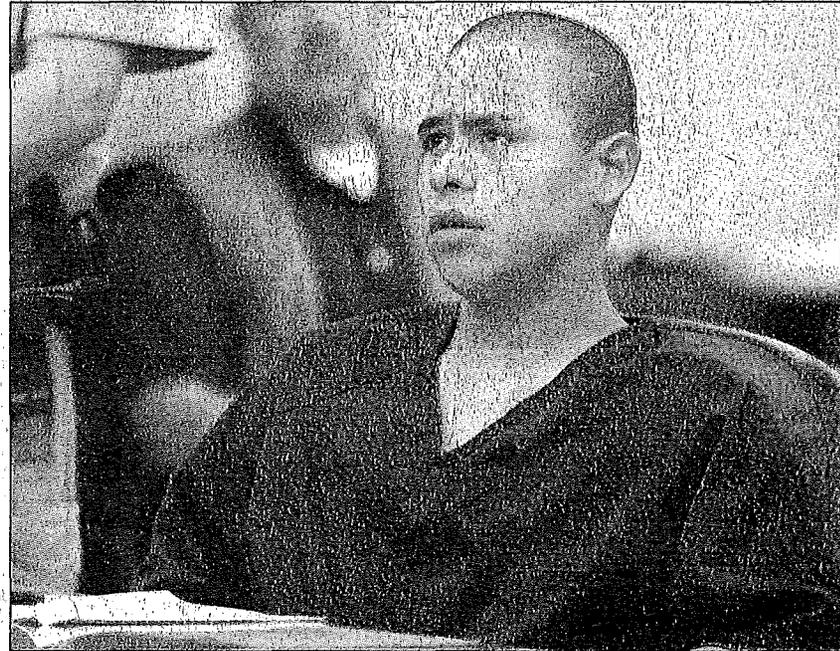
Mason said he videotaped the investigation until deputies asked him to stop.

"This is pretty much a family neighborhood," Jacobson said sitting on the porch with her son Sean, 21. "This is pretty upsetting. It makes you frightened."

Jacobson said she'd seen a lot of traffic in and out of the house where the incident took place, but she generally avoided eye contact with any people at the house.

Two held in Ranchos killing

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05



Michael Ward appears in East Fork Justice Court on Monday in connection with the death of Jeffrey John. Charges against Ward include battery with a deadly weapon and manslaughter. Right, Enrique Garcia, is being held as an accessory to the June 24 Gardnerville Ranchos slaying.

BELINDA GRANT/R-C photos

Accused killer took shower after fight

Charges against third man dropped at court hearing

by Sheila Gardner
Staff Writer

Accused killer Michael Ward took a shower and washed his clothes after he allegedly beat a 24-year-old Markleeville man and cut him with a kitchen knife, according to charges filed Monday.

Ward, 21, was charged with bat-

tery with a deadly weapon causing substantial battery harm, battery causing substantial bodily harm and involuntary manslaughter.

He is accused of cutting Jeffrey John with a knife, hitting and kicking him and killing the father of four during commission of an unlawful act June 24.

Ward, 21, and Enrique Garcia, 20,

DETAILS

The family of Jeffrey John, killed June 24 at a fight in the Gardnerville Ranchos, has established an account at Bank of America to buy a headstone for his grave. Donations may be made to account No. 004968993446 at any bank branch.

originally held on open murder charges, remained in Douglas County Jail on \$100,000 bail each.

Charges were dropped against a third defendant, Jason Wellington, 21, who had been held as an accessory to murder.

Wellington was released from Douglas County Jail on Monday and ordered by subpoena to be available to testify for subsequent proceedings.

Investigators are awaiting the cause of John's death pending autopsy results.

Wearing a blue jail uniform and handcuffed at the wrists and ankles,

See **Fight** on page 7

Pa. 1

Fight: Two remain in jail

Continued from page 1

Ward told East Fork Justice Jim EnEarl on Monday he couldn't afford to hire a lawyer or raise the bail amount.

"I think it should be lower, \$15,000," Ward said. "I don't have that kind of money."

EnEarl left bail at \$100,000 and appointed lawyer Tod Young to represent Ward.

Garcia was charged with aiding or abetting battery with a deadly weapon causing substantial bodily harm, aiding or abetting a battery causing substantial bodily harm and aiding or abetting involuntary manslaughter.

He was accused of encouraging Ward to shower after the incident and wash his clothes as well as attempting to hide the knife.

Lawyer Matthew Ence was appointed to represent Garcia.

Their next court appearance is today.

Deputies said the fight started shortly after midnight at Garcia's residence on Zinfandel in the Gardnerville Ranchos and spilled outside, down the block and across the street where John's body was found.

DETAILS

The Douglas County Sheriff's Office is looking for people who may have information regarding an altercation early Friday at 1294 Zinfandel Drive in the Gardnerville Ranchos. Anyone with information is asked to call Investigator Phil Lesquereux at 782-9927 or Secret Witness at 782-7463.

Each charge against Ward carries penalties of up to 10-15 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine if convicted.

Prosecutor Dina Salvucci said deputies originally were called to the Zinfandel address on a report of a loud party. Just as they arrived, a caller reported John's body was in the yard of a house on Tillman, about a block away.

She said there was no evidence to prove the elements of murder which would include premeditation.

"This appears to be an

extremely reckless act that caused the death of someone," she said.

Salvucci said investigators were still looking for one person who reportedly attended the party to provide more information. She said deputies have not yet determined what sparked the fatal altercation.

Nearly two dozen friends and relatives of John attended Monday's hearing in East Fork Justice Court. Seven uniformed deputies and other court personnel observed the 20-minute proceeding.

Dinah Pete said in an interview that her grandson was devoted to his family. He is survived by four children.

"He grew up around here and went to Douglas High School," Pete said. "He was just a lovable person. He was the greatest grandson anyone could have asked for."

She said John enjoyed sports, especially wrestling.

"He respected everyone," she said.

■ Sheila Gardner can be reached at sgardner@recordcourier.com or 782-5121, ext. 214.

Homicide hearing

delayed

R-C
7-8-05

by **Sheila Gardner**
Staff Writer

Missing witnesses and the unavailability of a medical expert led to a delay Thursday in proceedings against a defendant in the death of a Woodford's man whose body

was found after an altercation in the Ranchos.

Both sides agreed to resume a preliminary hearing Sept. 29 for Enrique Garcia, 20, accused of being "less culpable" in the June 24 death of Jeffrey John, 24.

Garcia, who bailed out of

Douglas County Jail on Thursday, is charged with aiding or abetting battery with a deadly weapon causing substantial bodily harm, aiding or abetting a battery causing substantial bodily harm and aiding or abetting involuntary manslaughter.

Garcia is accused of encouraging co-defendant Michael Ward to shower after the incident and wash his clothes at Garcia's residence.

Ward, 21, is charged with battery with a deadly weapon

See **Homicide** on page 3

DETAILS

The family of Jeffrey John has established an account at Bank of America to assist with funeral expenses. Donations may be made to account No. 004968993446 at any Bank of America branch.

Homicide: Released on bail

Continued from page 1

causing substantial bodily harm, battery causing substantial bodily harm and involuntary manslaughter.

He is accused of cutting John with a knife, hitting and kicking him and killing the father of four during commission of an unlawful act.

Ward remained in custody in Douglas County Jail on \$100,000 bail. His preliminary hearing is set for July 14.

According to court documents, a fight broke out at Garcia's Zinfandel duplex shortly after midnight June 24 and spilled outside, down the block and across the street where John's body was discovered in the front yard of a home on Tillman.

Prosecutor Dina Salvucci said Thursday that the East Fork constable and investigators from the district attorney's office had been unable as late as Wednesday night to find six witnesses for the hearing.

She said 13 witnesses were available Thursday as well as law enforcement officers who would be called to testify.

Salvucci said she was reluctant to call the witnesses into court for new subpoenas Thursday because some feared retaliation for their testimony. She said new subpoenas requiring the witnesses to testify Sept. 29 would be distributed before they left the Judicial and Law Enforcement Center.

Salvucci said some forensic evidence wouldn't be ready for up to 10 weeks.

East Fork Justice Jim EnEarl agreed to the continuance, but said he disliked waiting so long for the proceeding to determine if there is enough evidence to prove a crime was committed.

"The people in this courtroom and Mr. Garcia are entitled to some answers from this court," EnEarl said.

He encouraged Salvucci and defense lawyer Matthew Ence

'I'm not implying that you have or you will, but if you violate any laws, you will end up back in jail.'

Jim EnEarl
East Fork Justice



Garcia

issue since the June 24 incident.

He argued that allegations were made in print without reference to which defendant is alleged to

committed which offense.

He also accused prosecutor Salvucci of making comments that were prejudicial and didn't distinguish between defendants.

Salvucci said she made appropriate comments to The Record-Courier within the confines of her role as prosecutor but other members of the public who talked to the press weren't under the same constraints.

Ence asked that the media and public be barred from proceedings and that court officials, law enforcement and witnesses be banned from speaking to the press.

Ence said allegations by neighbors that Garcia's residence was a "party house" were unfounded and prejudicial to his client.

He referred to a U.S. Supreme Court decision that "any qualified First Amendment right to attend a pretrial proceeding must be limited to 'protect the defendant's superior right to a fair trial.'"

Gilbert said Ence's concerns were unfounded and he refused to close proceedings to the press and public.

Family and friends of the victim as well as the defendants have regularly attended court sessions.

A funeral service is set for 11 a.m. today for John at Walton's Chapel of the Valley in Carson City. Burial is to follow in the Woodfords Cemetery.

■ Sheila Gardner can be reached at sgardner@recordcourier.com or 782-5121, ext. 214.

to continue negotiations and to move up the court date if possible.

EnEarl asked Garcia if he agreed with Thursday's actions.

"Yes, sir," Garcia answered. "That's fine with me."

On Tuesday, Constable Paul Gilbert, filling in for EnEarl, agreed to lower Garcia's bail from \$100,000 to \$15,000.

Ence argued that Garcia had strong ties to the community and was not a flight risk. He said the \$100,000 bail was prohibitively high.

He asked Gilbert to release Garcia on his own recognizance or lower the bail to \$5,000. Gilbert lowered the amount to \$15,000 and Garcia was able to be released from jail on a \$1,500 bond.

He is to abstain from drugs, alcohol and weapons and is subject to random search and seizure by the alternative sentencing department.

EnEarl urged Garcia to abide by the terms of his release.

"Let me admonish you. Don't drink and don't smoke dope. I am not implying that you have or you will, but if you violate any laws, you will end up back in jail."

Gilbert refused Ence's second motion Tuesday to bar the public from the proceedings because of what Ence called "massive, highly prejudicial publicity" in The Record-Courier.

Ence claimed that the story had been published above the newspaper fold with photos and mug shots of his client in every

Authorities ask for help to find missing person

Staff Reports

The Alpine County Sheriff's Office received a report of a missing person, Wednesday at 12:15 p.m. Alpine County resident, William "Bill" McKinnon was last seen on June 30 at 5 p.m.

McKinnon is a 44-year-old white male adult, 5 foot 10 inches tall, 150 pounds with blonde hair and blue eyes.

Based on information received, the Alpine County Sheriff's Office initiated a search.

"The assumption they're going with is he was hiking, but nobody knows," said McKinnon's niece Molly Burgess, a Sacramento resident. "He is an avid hiker."

Involved in the search are volunteer search-and-rescue teams from Calaveras County, El Dorado County, Tuolumne County and a California Highway Patrol helicopter.

Anyone with information regarding McKinnon's whereabouts or having recent contact with him is asked to call the Alpine County Sheriff's Office



William "Bill" McKinnon has been missing since June 30. Anyone with information on his whereabouts should call the Alpine County Sheriff's Office at (530) 694-2231.

at (530) 694-2231.

Burgess said McKinnon has 13 brothers and sisters, who have joined the search and are

praying he'll be found.

"They're all looking for him," she said. There's no stopping them."

R-C July 8, 2005

Jeffrey C. John

1981-2005

A funeral for Jeffrey C. John, 24, a lifetime Woodfords resident, will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Walton's Chapel of the Valley.

Mr. John died June 24, 2005, in Gardnerville. He was born May 10, 1981, in Carson City, to Clayton and Cynthia Lundy John.

He participated on the Woodfords Men's League basketball team. He enjoyed fishing, bike riding, video games, wrestling, basketball, football and hiking. He was a member of the Alpine County Police Athletic League and was a Christian.

He was preceded in death by his father in 1983.

Among his survivors are his son, Jeffrey Red Bear John of Dresslerville; daughters Jesstyna Dressler and Tristen Dressler, both of Reno; stepdaughter, Tyeesa Jim of Dresslerville; mother of Woodfords; sisters Sonja Jaime of Rocklin, Calif., and Magdalena John of Woodfords; brothers Clayton Jr. of Carson City, Gerald of Bridgeport, Calif., and Niquoia of Woodfords; aunt, Karen Lundy who raised him; and cousins Danean McDarment and Dinalyn Skendore.

Burial will be in the Woodfords Cemetery. Walton's Chapel of the Valley is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. John's family has established an account at Bank of America to assist with funeral expenses. Donations may be made to any Bank of America branch, account No. 004968993446.

R-C

Friday, July 8, 2005 ■ A5

John Henry Generelli

1959-2005

A memorial service will take place at noon, July 9 at the Carson Valley United Methodist Church for John Henry Generelli, 46, who died at the Carson-Tahoe Hospital, June 29, 2005.

Mr. Generelli was born April 21, 1959 in Redwood City, Calif. to Mario and Marilyn Generelli. He was a resident of Menlo Park before moving to Gardnerville, 10 years ago. He married Janice Generelli in Minden.

He is survived by his wife Janice Generelli and his son Mario John Generelli of Gardnerville, his parents Mario and Marilyn Generelli of Lahina, Maui, brother Mario W. Generelli of Lodi, Calif., nephew, Steven Blummer and his cousin Kim Hunt.

Arrangements are in the care of Capitol City Cremation.

Death Ride turns 25

Organizers focused on maintaining what they have

By **Jeremy Evans**
Tribune staff writer

In the past 25 years, Alpine County hasn't been immune to change. Just like in Douglas County and Lake Tahoe, real estate signs stuck in the ground offer slices of tranquility at high prices. And Highway 89, which runs through Markleeville, handles more traffic than it did in 1980.

But while surrounding communities have seen significant changes to its landscape, California's least populated county has been able to maintain its breathtaking scenery without too much human scarring.

This Saturday, when the 25th anniversary of the Tour of the California Alps-Death Ride takes place, that scenery will be on display once again.

Going for a ride?

What: 25th Tour of the California Alps - Death Ride

When: Saturday, 5:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

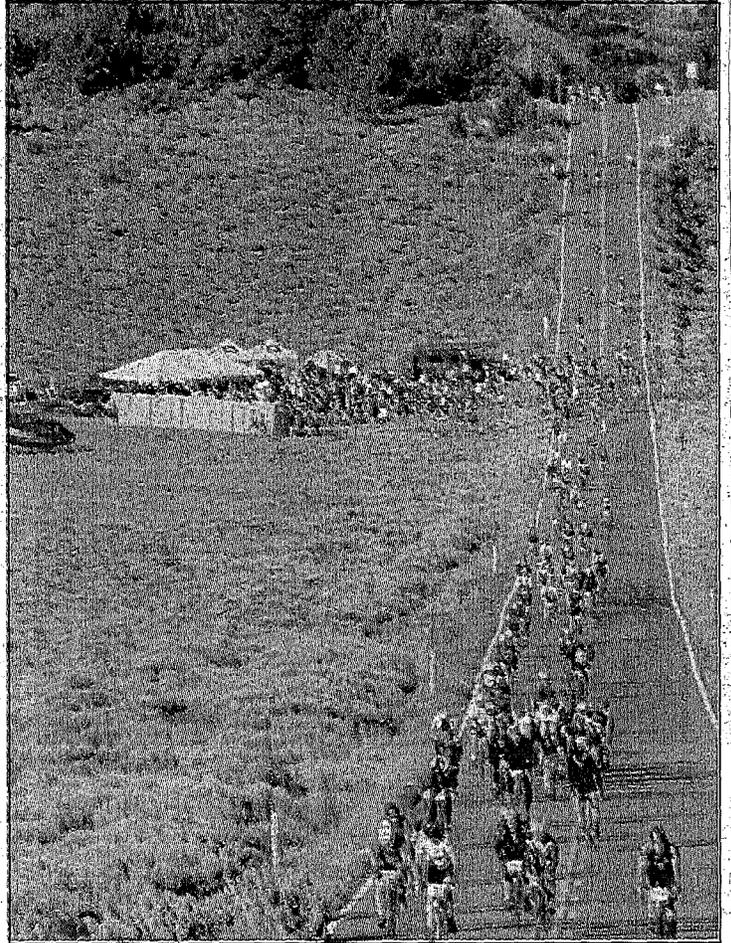
Where: Alpine County, Start/Finish: Turtle Rock Park

Who: 3,000 cyclists from around the world and 700 volunteers

What's at stake: 129 miles, five mountain passes, 15,000 feet of elevation/gained loss

Note: Highway 89 over Monitor Pass will be closed from 8 a.m. to noon. Highway 4 over Ebbetts Pass will be closed to vehicles from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Highway 88 over Carson Pass will not close.

"They got to keep this going," said 42-year-old cyclist Rob Rakoz of Vancouver, Wash. "This



Coreen Sapp/Tahoe Daily Tribune file

Riders climb the last stretch to the top of Monitor Pass during the 2004 Tour of the California Alps.

is great. This is known everywhere. Everybody knows about this ride. Everybody talks about it."

The Death Ride started in 1980 with just a handful of riders. This

See **Death Ride**, Page B3

Death Ride

From Page B1

year, 3,000 cyclists and 700 volunteers will be involved. They will scatter along the county's three main highways — Highways 4, 88 and 89 — and the three mountain passes that has helped protect its charm — Monitor, Ebbetts and Carson.

The difficult part for the cyclists will be negotiating five mountain passes and riding 129 miles of terrain that never dips below 5,000 feet, ingredients that result in 15,000 feet of elevation gain/loss. They have come from as far away as Australia and Japan, and as close as Lake Tahoe. But this event has evolved into something more than a race.

"It's kind of the tribal thing," said Bill Martin, a meteorologist for KTVU in Oakland. "It's a rite of passage for a lot of

"It's kind of a tribal thing. It's a rite of passage for a lot of people."

— Bill Martin

Death Ride rookie

people. I know guys who have done it the past 10-15 years. It's kind of like a brotherhood. I surf a lot, and that's where the whole subculture thing is. This kind of has the same texture as that. And I want to be a part of it."

Besides the scenery, there is another factor that has led to the race's sweeping popularity. Encouraged by the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce and the Alta Alpina Cycling Club, race organizers have been able to shut down High-

ways 4 and 89 for large chunks of the race.

"The race is very unique in that we get to shut down entire highways for the event," said race manager Joe Marzocco. "Not a lot of other places can do that, and that's why this makes it so attractive to people. The word is out. This is it for a lot of people. It's an annual thing for them."

The Death Ride is also an annual boost to the local economy.

In the days leading up to the race, cyclists spend the night at campgrounds and eat at restaurants in Markleeville and Lake Tahoe. They pedal along the pine-studded stretch of Highway 89 between Woodfords and Markleeville, stopping at the general store for refreshments.

"It would be tough to get an exact dollar amount, but it certainly is a little boom to the small businesses here," said Teresa Burkhauser, executive director for the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce.

"It also trickles over to South Lake Tahoe and Douglas County. We even have people coming down that are staying in Reno. It's a great thing for the area, definitely an economic plus."

Over the next 25 years, Burkhauser and her colleagues have a challenge — maintain the relative serenity of the race and continue to increase its popularity. Between 6-7,000 riders register for the race in January. A computer randomly selects the 3,000-person rider list, leaving a lot of disappointed cyclists.

However, it seems both the county's and the race's foundation remains intact with solid values.

"We'd like to add a few more riders, but our number-one concern is safety," Burkhauser said. "With everything that goes into the race, we always want to worry about the safety of the riders. We want to continue that tradition and showcase Alpine County."

Event has different meanings to participating riders

Life speeds by during the 25th annual 'Death Ride' bicycling endurance event

BY PETER THOMPSON
Appeal Staff Writer

At mile 92, Death Ride veteran Chuck Wiltens dismounts his \$5,000 race bike, takes two or three numbed-footsteps before his normal gait returns and walks over to the Hawaiian rest stop.

"You guys are always my favorite," he says, removing his cycling gloves and flashing an endorphin-widened smile at the flowered-shirt and lei-wearing volun-

teers from Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care.

Despite being near the front of the pack before stopping, Wiltens isn't sweating. He looks over the high-carb spread of cookies, energy gels, pretzels and drinks on the well-staffed lanai while steel drum music lazes through the air from a boombox. What he really wants is a turkey sandwich.

Amazingly, the group has one in stock.

"This is by far the best-supported ride anywhere," he says, taking a bite from the prize. "The volunteers are always so great."

One of more than 6,000 applicants who won one of the 2,500 spots and paid the \$80 entry fee to pedal in the silver

anniversary of The Death Ride, Wiltens says that while most everyone goes out of their way to insist that the grueling 129-mile exercise in alpine masochism is not a race, he's a little more realistic.

Across the street, a pack of three cyclists come breezing down the long descent at speeds of close to 60 mph. The cyclist in front tucks forward over his handlebars while the others follow in a tight draft. The wind in their spokes make the sound of whipped elastic strings as they sweep by.

"I guess it really is a race for some people," says Wiltens. "But I come for the camaraderie. If I try to think of it as a race, it feels too much like work."

The Californian says he commutes from his home in Hayward to his job in Alameda three times a week.

Pat Scully sits by the side of the road with her camera and waits for her 70-year-old boyfriend, Dan Telep, to pass.

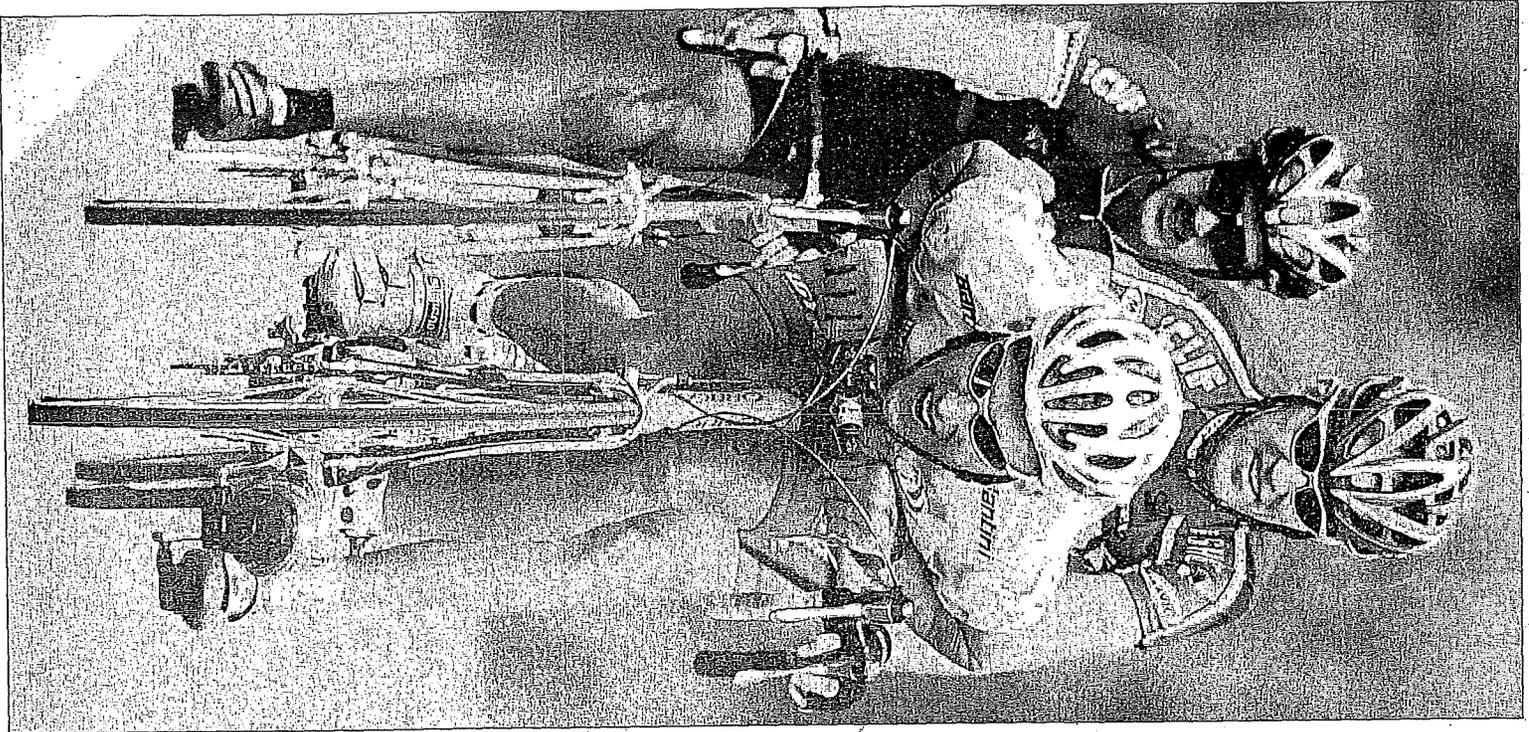
The couple flew out from Philadelphia, Penn., just for the event.

She says Telep was anxious to get started and was one of several dozen who were off and pedaling in the dark, just after 4 a.m.

"He's in great shape," says Scully. "You know 70 is the new 25," she laughs.

After making his climb to the summit

Please see **Ride**, Page **B5**



Stephen Delone, front; Mark Pazo, center and Rav Plunhoff race down Carson Pass
BRAD HORN/VENUEA APPELL

RIDE

From Page B1

of the 8,573-foot Carson Pass, a lone rider sits on a rock and listens the Carson River to wreak havoc on the rocks below while two fly fisherman in waders pop out of the bushes.

Ask 30 riders what The Death Ride is about and you'll hear 30 different answers — that it's about finding your breaking point high

in the Californian Alps, enjoying the high meadows and their mosaics of wildflowers, lunch at Centerville Flat, collecting all five skeleton stickers or speeding down long winding mountain passes following a 129 ribbon of white line trying not to get flattened by swerving motorists.

Surprisingly, The Death Ride has only claimed one casualty, an oral surgeon from Sacramento five years ago.

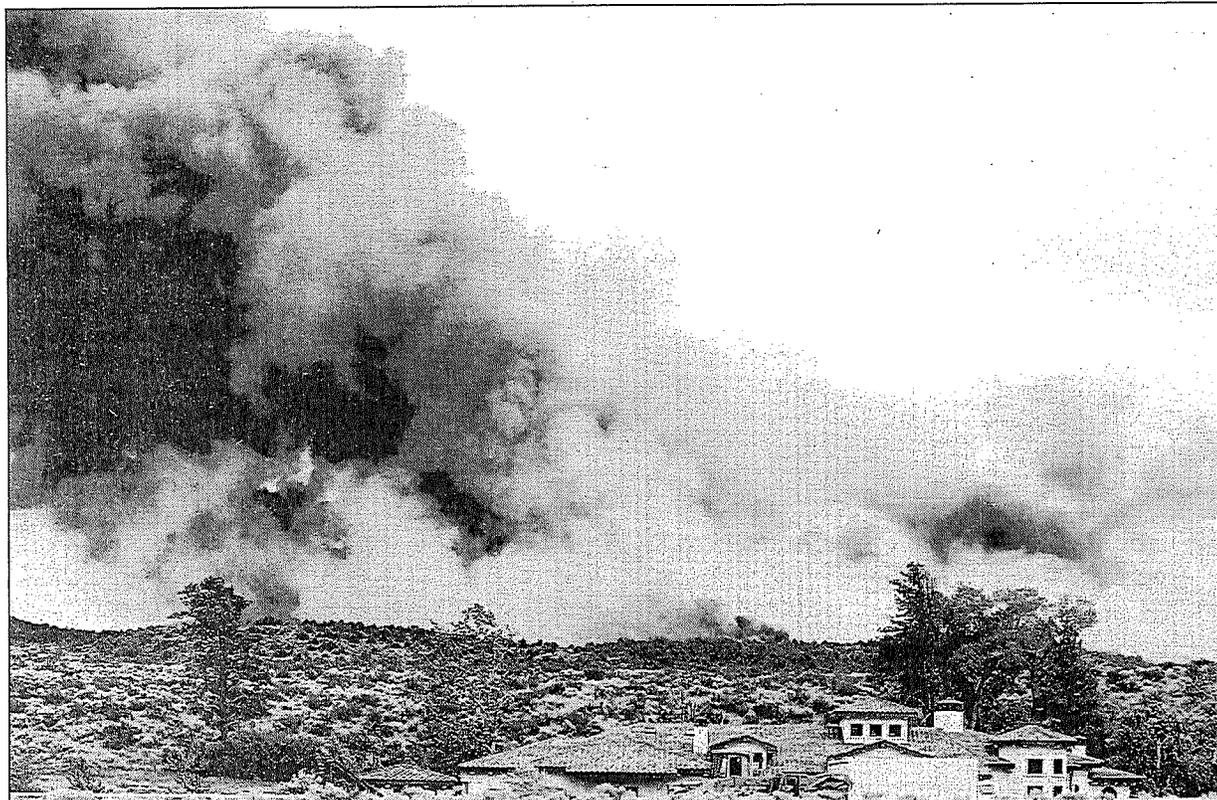
Death Ride manager and veteran cyclist, Joe Marzocco, says the

ride supports a lot of local organizations, from the library to the fire department.

Markleeville postmaster, Margaret Daniels, says despite the event's macabre name, it brings life to the community.

"Do you know how many bake sales we'd have to have in order to raise this kind of money?" she said with a laugh.

■ Contact reporter Peter Thompson at pthompson@nevadaappeal.com or 881-1215.4



The Mud Lake fire approaches a home on River Ranch Road between Gardnerville and Woodfords, Calif., on Saturday afternoon.

BELOW: A plane drops retardant on the Mud Lake fire on Saturday afternoon.

BRAD HORN
NEVADA APPEAL

Fire burns Alpine scenic corridor

Staff report

More than 300 acres of land designated as California Wild and Scenic River Corridor burned near Woodfords, Calif., on Saturday afternoon.

The fire was reported on Mud Lake Road off Highway 88, three miles northeast of Woodfords at 3:03 p.m.

A large plume of smoke from the fire burning in heavy brush could be seen from Carson City.

Helen Frazier with the Sierra Front Wild-fire Cooperators Dispatch Center in Minden said no structures were threatened, but additional engines were being sent to the area for structure protection if needed.

About 140 firefighters responded from

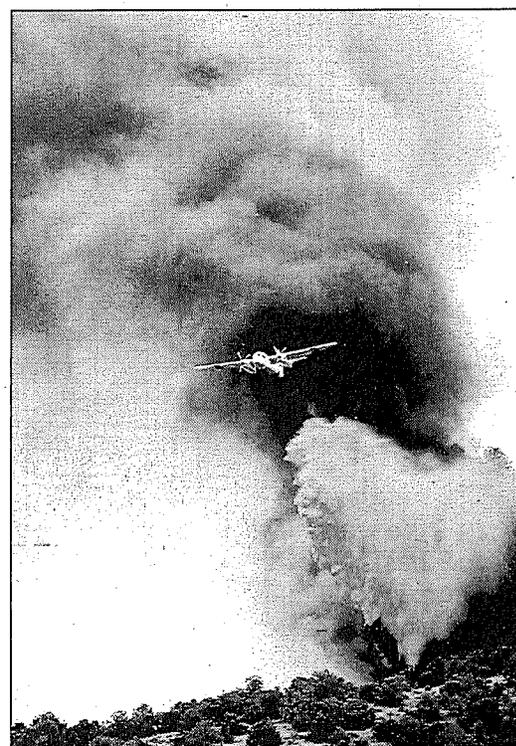
the Bureau of Land Management, Nevada Division of Forestry, U.S. Forest Service and fire and sheriffs' departments from Douglas and Alpine counties.

Crews were battling the blaze near the California-Nevada border using eight brush engines, four S2 tankers, three single-engine air tankers, three helicopters, one air attack, one lead plane and five hand crews.

Alpine County airport was closed to accommodate air operations and will remain closed until aircraft is no longer needed to fight the fire.

The cause of the fire is unknown and an estimated time of containment was not determined by 7 p.m. Saturday.

■ *Associated Press contributed to this story.*



Family: Healing begins with justice

R-C
7-10-05

by Cory McConnell
R-C News Service

WOODFORDS — Among the sobs and tears of more than 100 friends and family members, 24-year-old Jeffrey John was laid to rest in Woodfords Cemetery on Friday, two weeks after his death at a Gardnerville Ranchos home.

Wiping away tears, the woman who raised John, Karen Lundy, said the healing process hasn't really started yet. It will start, she said, with justice.

Michael Ward, 21, of Gardnerville, has been charged with involuntary manslaughter, battery and battery with a deadly weapon in connection with John's death. Enrique Garcia, 20, has been charged with aiding and abetting of the same charges. A Thursday hearing for Garcia was delayed due to missing witnesses and the unavailability of a medical



John

expert.

Authorities say Ward killed the Woodfords resident and that Garcia encouraged him to shower afterward.

Ward's mother has said anything her son may have done was in self defense. At John's memorial service in Carson City, and his burial in Woodfords, no one spoke about the defendants, however. Most spoke only of John.

There was still a palatable sense of anger over his death, said Phillip Bennett, John's uncle and pastor.

"I just hope it stays here (at the cemetery) when they go," he said.

John had three biological

See John on page 2

John: Victim mourned

Continued from page 1

DETAILS

children: Jeffrey Red Bear John and Tristen and Jesstyna Dressler. And he had taken another one in. He hadn't legally adopted Tyeesa Jim, but he was her father just the same.

Jeffrey John's father died young also, in a car accident at just about the same age as Jeffrey, Lundy said.

"He had to grow up without a father," she said. "Now it looks like his children will have to, too."

Family and friends describe John as a lover of sports — a basketball player, football player and state wrestling champion. They also described him as devoted to his family and his community. The day he died, he was volunteering as a furniture mover for a community group.

Those who spoke at the

The family of Jeffrey John has established an account at Bank of America to assist with burial expenses. Donations may be made to account No. 004968993446 at any bank branch

memorial service at Walton's Chapel of the Valley also took much of the time to warn the audience to stay away from drugs, alcohol and situations where people under the influence of drugs and alcohol could create violence.

"We've been led astray," said Mike John, Jeffrey John's uncle. "It's time for us to get on a better path."

■ Contact reporter Cory McConnell at cmccconnell@nevadaappeal.com or 881-1217.

R-C 7-10-05

Missing person found dead in Alpine County

by Jo Raftery
Staff Writer

Alpine County resident William "Bill" McKinnon was found dead at 1 p.m. Thursday in Hope Valley.

The cause of death has not been determined, pending an autopsy and a toxicology report,

according to Alpine County Sheriff's Department spokesperson Barbara Peach.

Peach said the family has been notified.

The Alpine County Sheriff's Office received a report of a missing person, Wednesday at 12:15 p.m. McKinnon was last seen on June 30 at 5 p.m.

McKinnon was 44 years old. Based on information received, the Alpine County Sheriff's Office initiated a search.

Involved in the search were volunteer search-and-rescue teams from Calaveras County, El Dorado County, Tuolumne County and a California High-

way Patrol helicopter.

McKinnon's niece Molly Burgess, a Sacramento resident, said on the phone on Thursday, prior to receiving the bad news, that McKinnon had probably gone hiking since he was an "avid hiker."

McKinnon had 13 brothers and sisters, according to Burgess.

Death Ride: If it's not a race, why do cyclists participate?

By Peter Thompson
Tribune News Service

At mile 92, Death Ride veteran Chuck Wiltens dismounts his \$5,000 race bike, takes two or three numbed-footsteps before his normal gait returns and walks over to the Hawaiian rest stop.

"You guys are always my favorite," he says, removing his cycling gloves and flashing an endorphin-widened smile at the flowered-shirt and lei-wearing volunteers from Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care.

Despite being near the front of the pack before stopping, Wiltens isn't sweating. He looks over the high-carb spread of cookies, energy gels, pretzels

and drinks on the well-staffed lanai while steel drum music lazies through the air from a boombox. What he really wants is a turkey sandwich.

Amazingly, the group has one in stock.

"This is by far the best-supported ride anywhere," he says, taking a bite from the prize. "The volunteers are always so great."

Out of 6,000 applicants, Wiltens was fortunate to gain one of the 3,000 entry spots to pedal in the silver anniversary of The Death Ride. Wiltens says that while almost everyone goes out of their way to insist that the grueling 129-mile exercise in

See **Death Ride**, Page B3



Dan Thrift/Tahoe Daily Tribune

Riders churn their way up to Carson Pass on Saturday during the Tour of the California Alps/Death Ride. The 129-mile ride covered five passes and started and finished at Turtle Rock State Park near Markleeville.

Death Ride

From Page B1

Alpine masochism is not a race, he's a little more realistic.

Across the street, a pack of three cyclists come breezing down the long descent at speeds of close to 60 mph. The cyclist in front tucks forward over his handlebars while the others follow in a tight draft. The wind in their spokes make the sound of whipped elastic strings as they sweep by.

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the camaraderie. If I try to think of it as a race, it feels too much like work."

The Californian said he commutes from his home in Hayward to his job in Alameda three times a week.

Pat Scully sits by the side of the road with her camera and waits for her 70-year-old boyfriend, Dan Telep, to pass.

The couple flew out from Philadelphia, Pa., just for the event.

She says Telep was anxious to get started and was one of several dozen who were off and pedaling in the dark, just after 4 a.m.

"He's in great shape," says Scully. "You know 70 is the new 25," she laughs.

After making his climb to the summit of the 8,573-foot Carson Pass, a lone rider sits on a rock and listens to the Carson River wreak havoc on the rocks below while two fly fishermen in waders pop out of the bushes.

Ask 30 riders what The Death Ride is about and you'll hear 30 different answers — that it's about finding your breaking point high in the Californian Alps, enjoying the high meadows and their mosaics of wildflowers, lunch at Centerville Flat, collecting all five skeleton stickers or speeding down long, winding mountain passes following a 129-mile ribbon white line trying

not to get flattened by swerving motorists.

Surprisingly, The Death Ride has only claimed one casualty, Sacramento oral surgeon Scott Lambert three years ago.

Death Ride manager and veteran cyclist, Joe Marzocco, says the ride supports a lot of local organizations, from the library to the fire department.

Markleeville postmaster, Margaret Daniels, says despite the event's macabre name, it brings life to the community.

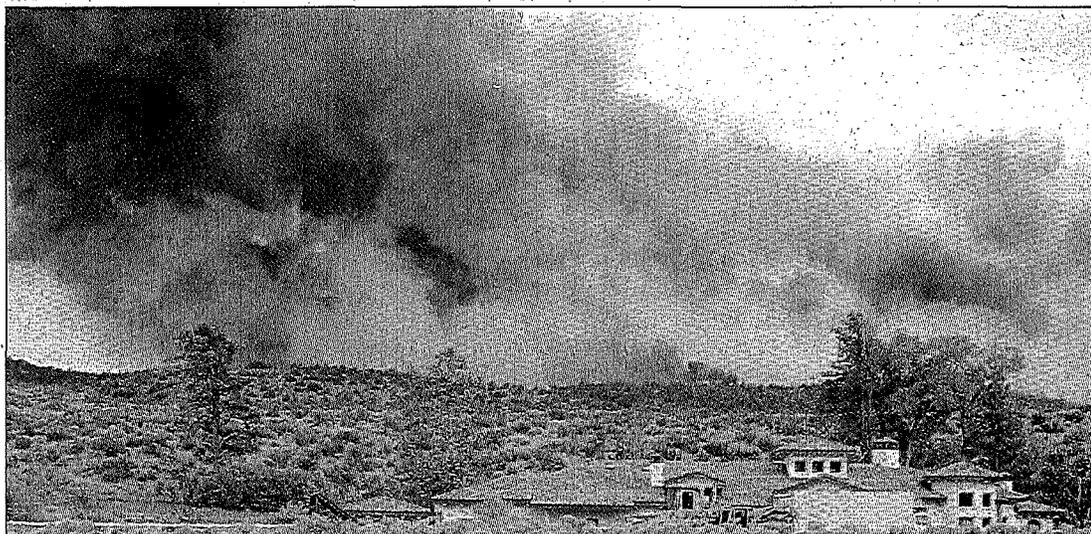
"Do you know how many bake sales we'd have to have in order to raise this kind of money?" she said with a laugh.



Dan Thrift/Tahoe Daily Tribune

Doug Jack of Granite Bay stretches and soaks in the sun Saturday after reaching the top of Carson Pass during the Tour of the California Alps/Death Ride.

Fire near state line is nearly contained



Brad Horn / Tribune News Service

The Mud Lake fire approaches a home on River Ranch Road between Gardnerville and Woodfords on Saturday afternoon.

Staff report

The 600-plus-acre Mud Lake fire burning since Saturday afternoon in land designated as a California Wild and Scenic River Corridor near Woodfords was coming closer to containment late Sunday afternoon.

One side of the fire blew up during a wind shift overnight, causing the amount of acreage burned to double from Saturday's estimates.

"But it's looking very good for right now," said Sierra Front Wildfire public information officer Tom Crawford from the scene. "There's virtually no visible smoke left."

Crawford said several helicopter water drops flown on Sunday did the job.

"Right now, we're still hitting the hot spots and working to get a perimeter," he said. "There's plenty of water up in Mud Lake this time of year so we've got plenty of good resources to make dips."

He also said the crew of about 150 firefighters responding from the Bureau of Land Management, Nevada Division of Forestry, U.S. Forest Service and fire and sheriffs' departments from Douglas and Alpine counties was working on wetting down a 300-foot barrier around the fire.

One firefighter reportedly sustained a sprained ankle and injured knee overnight from a dislodged rock.

The fire was reported on Mud Lake Road off Highway 88, three miles northeast of Woodfords, at

3:03 p.m.

No structures were being threatened.

Crews battled the blaze near the California-Nevada border using eight brush engines, four S2 tankers, three single-engine air tankers, three helicopters, one air attack plane, one lead plane and five hand crews.

Alpine County's airport was closed for the second day Sunday to accommodate air operations. It will remain closed until aircraft are no longer needed to fight the fire.

The cause of the fire is still unknown and an estimated time of containment had not been determined Sunday afternoon.

— *The Associated Press* contributed to this story.



BRAD HORN/R-C News Service

The Mud Lake Fire burns at 11:30 p.m. on Saturday in Woodfords. The wildfire burned 580 acres and should be out by this morning. Below, a tanker drops a load of retardant.

Mud Lake fire down to embers

Staff and News Service Reports

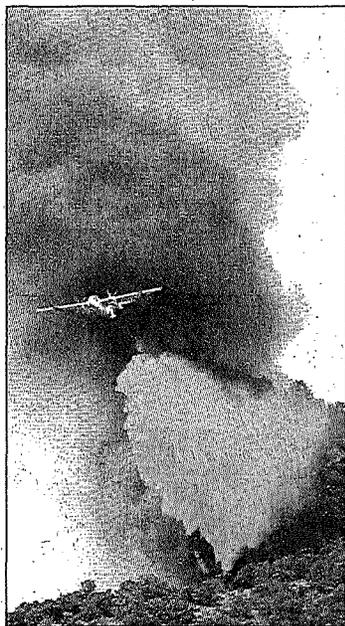
The cause of a 580-acre Mud Lake fire is still under investigation but the fire itself should be a smoldering memory today.

The fire, which sent a column of thick black smoke into the sky 3 p.m., Saturday was expected to be out Tuesday night with a single engine remaining on station to look for flare-ups today.

While the cause of the fire is still under investigation, a rancher from Jackson, Calif., called deputies at around 6 p.m. on Saturday to report that he'd heard approximately four gun shots west of his location.

He said he'd been working cattle on Brook's Ranch at about 2 p.m. on Mud Lake Road, two miles south of the Indian Creek Ranch Road intersection. The 63-year-old man said some time after he'd heard the shots, he saw smoke and then a fire in the same general vicinity.

A firefighter sprained an ankle Saturday night while battling the fire burning in south



Carson Valley above Mud Lake. The fire closed Alpine County Airport through the weekend. The airport, which was never threatened by the fire, served as a base for air operations and was reopened on Monday.

According to the Sierra Front Interagency Dispatch, more than 150 firefighters were battling the blaze at its height.

While the fire spread substantially Saturday night, by Sunday morning firefighters took advantage of cooler temperatures and calm winds to catch up.

The fire was located three miles northeast of Woodfords in the hills just east of Mud Lake located in southern Carson Valley.

By Monday, most of the work to build a line around the fire was being done by handcrews supported by fire engines and a bulldozer.

No structures were threatened by the fire, but it did burn up to the Carson River's East Fork, which is designated a wild and scenic corridor by California.

The cause of the fire is not likely connected to a rash of fires in Carson City, said Carson City Sheriff's Sgt. Bob White, a member of the Arson Task Force set up to investigate 11 fires in and around the capital city in June.

A camper reported shots before a 250-acre fire last September near Mud Lake.

R-C 7-15-05

Witnesses describe fatal party

Friday, July 15, 2005 ■ A9

by Sheila Gardner
Staff Writer

Witnesses to a fight that broke out in a Gardnerville Ranchos duplex offered testimony Thursday as to events that ended in the death of a 24-year-old Markleeville man.

Laura Christensen, who lived at the duplex where the fight started, said the victim, Jeffrey John, and defendant Michael Ward, 21, were horsing around in the living room at the duplex on Zinfandel before the fight turned deadly.

"They were kind of like arm-in-arm and Jeff said something to Mike and that started the fight. Jeff told



Ward

was charged with battery with a deadly weapon causing substantial bodily harm, battery causing substantial bodily harm and involuntary manslaughter in the June 24 death of John, a resident of the

Mike 'you need to go through me before you do anything to my uncle.' Mike said, 'OK,' and they started to fight.

Ward

See Party on page 9

Party: Fatal fight

Continued from page 1
Woodfords Indian Colony.

Christensen also testified she saw Ward come into the duplex twice to get a kitchen knife. When Ward returned to the house, she said he placed a knifehandle on the kitchen counter, took a shower and washed his clothes with the help of Enrique Garcia, 20, who lived at the duplex.

Christensen said Garcia and another roommate tried to clean up blood on the floor and living room furniture before deputies arrived shortly after midnight on June 24.

She said Ward returned to the living room after the fight and sat down beside her.

"Blood was coming from his nose. His face was red and his eye was swollen. He didn't have any shoes on and his socks were really bloody," she said.

"He kept trying to talk to me. He said he knew some people in Dresslerville," Christensen said. "He said he didn't hurt my cousin (John). I kept telling him I didn't want to hear what he had to say. He kept trying to get my attention. He touched my arm and my leg."

Carol Kam, who stopped by the duplex to pick up her cousin, David Love, said she saw Ward trying to get John to stop fighting.

When she arrived, she said Ward was on the couch under two other men who were fighting.

"Mike was curled up in a ball," she said. "He got away from the people who had been swinging up at him."

At one point, she said, Ward held John up against the wall and told him the fight was over. But she said John kept swinging and advancing on Ward.

"Mike just kept telling him, 'calm down, calm down,' but he (John) kept saying, 'I am going to f---ing kill you.'"

Even after Ward picked up a knife, John kept swinging, Kam said.

"Mike was fanning the knife, kind of like Zorro, telling him 'get away, get away,'" Kam said.

She said the two men disappeared into the darkness and the next time she saw Ward, he was standing outside her van, his face covered with blood.

"He looked like a scared kid," she said. "His eye was split open and he was covered in blood."

She said he appeared dazed, as if he didn't know what happened.

"He didn't actually say, 'Yeah, I did it.' It was like he was asking, 'Did I kill him?'"

Testimony continued Thursday before Battle Mountain Justice of the Peace Max Bunch who was sitting in for East Fork Justice Jim EnEarl.

Bunch will decide if there is enough evidence to support the charges against Ward and whether to hold him for trial.

Ranchos Fire Station 7 battles Mud Lake fire

A task force from our own Ranchos Fire and Rescue was sent out last Saturday to help with the Mud Lake fire near Highway 88 and River Road. Engine 77 was put in charge of structure protection while the crew from Brush Truck 7 spent the night battling flames on the ground.

Additional personnel stayed to cover the station in case any other calls from the district came in.

Chief Bob Spellberg told me that while en route to the fire from Reno, he could see flames as he descended the Lakeview Estates hill in Carson City.

Fortunately, though several hundred acres burned, no one was injured and there were no structures lost in the fire.

Ranchos Fire Station 7 is staffed 24 hours a day with a combination of career and volunteer firefighters along with rescue personnel. How fortunate we are to have such a dedicated group of people who continually look out for the safety and well being of us all.

A fun way to show your support of our local firehouse is to attend the 24th annual Ranchos Fire and Rescue fund-raiser. Festivities will take place July 23.

Dinner will be served from 4 to 8 p.m. Happy hour runs from 5 to 6 p.m. with music and dancing to follow.

Ranchos Roundup

by Amy Roby

The featured menu items include chicken and ribs, as well as burgers and hotdogs for the kids. Beer, wine and soft drinks will be available.

In addition, you can look forward to a live auction, silent auction and a raffle. Some of the prizes include framed artwork, fire hydrants, a tattoo from electric pencil and fantastic getaway weekends.

Tickets for the event cost \$8 for adults and \$4 for children. Anyone who purchases a ticket is eligible to win the grand prize of the evening, a new barbecue.

Come out to Ranchos Station 7 at 940 Mitch Drive for an evening of fun and camaraderie.

And a reminder since we are in the midst of fire season to make sure that the area around your house is clear of all brush and debris.

This "defensible space" perimeter should extend at least 30 feet from your home and be maintained year round.

■ Amy Roby can be reached at RanchosRoundup@hotmail.com.

Bed and breakfast offers Saturday night barbecue

by Jo Rafferty
Staff Writer

An established bed and breakfast in Woodfords joined with a former Gardnerville and Markleeville restaurant owner to offer Saturday night salmon barbecues.

"You can eat on two different levels," said Marsha Bennett, from the lower of two yards at the Mountain and Garden Bed and Breakfast. "You can sit in the midst of the garden with a spring running through."

Bennett described the setting as being like an enchanted forest. A creek babbles past the tables and flower gardens. Happy screams could be heard from the upper yard where children staying at the inn were running through the sprinklers.

Bennett ran her own restaurants for a combined 14 years. She owned Auntie M's in Gardnerville and then M's in Markleeville, for seven years each.

Bennett and Judy Farnsworth, waitress at M's for seven years and friend of Bennett's for 12 years, wanted to find a venue where they could serve Bennett's specialty, wild salmon. The historic Old Merrill house next to Woodford's Station was just what they

DETAILS

What: Salmon barbecues

When: 6-9 p.m. Saturdays

Where: Mountain and Garden Bed and Breakfast

Info: (530) 694-1200 or (530) 694-0012

hoped for.

"You have good food and incredible atmosphere. It's a winner," said Bennett.

The Merrill house, currently owned by Linda Merrill, was built after a Merrill family hotel constructed in the late 1800s burned down on the site in 1925. Five generations of Merrills have owned the property since the first Merrill opened a trading post there in 1854.

Bennett and Farnsworth, both of Markleeville, teamed up with Mundi Hamilton of Gardnerville, a graduate of culinary school, who does the barbecuing.

The wild salmon comes with a Caesar salad, fresh sourdough bread with basil butter and coffee or tea.

"We have a secret sauce for the salmon and a secret salad dressing," said Bennett.

The first two Saturday night barbecues have been a success,



Marsha Bennett and Judy Farnsworth discuss their new Saturday night barbecues in the garden at Mountain and Garden Bed and Breakfast in Woodfords.

SHANNON LITZ/The R-C

as well as a pasta dinner served after last week's Death Ride — Tour of the California Alps.

"We're taking it slowly," said Bennett. "This is it right now, but we are thinking of ways to expand if this goes well."

Salmon barbecues will be offered through September,

weather permitting.

Customers will get \$5 off their meal or a free glass of wine if they bring in this article. The dinner is offered between 6-9 p.m., and reservations are recommended.

Mountain and Garden Bed and Breakfast is located at 250

Old Pony Express Road at the corner of highways 88 and 89. For more information call Marsha Bennett, (530) 694-1200 or Linda Merrill, (530) 694-0012.

■ Jo Rafferty can be reached at jrafferty@recordcourier.com or 782-5121, ext. 213.

R-C
July 15, 2005

July 15, 2005

The Record-Courier ■ Gardner

School closure is on agenda

Staff Reports

Closure of Kirkwood Meadows Elementary School is on the Alpine County Unified School District agenda 8 a.m. Thursday at The Early Learning Center, 100 Foothill Road in Woodfords.

Other items to be discussed include approving \$2,000 bonuses and 4 percent salary increases for certificated staff and changes to the student services coordinator position.

Appointments of a summer school instructional aide and other temporary positions will be reviewed and voted on. A Board of Education meeting will follow.

For information, call (530) 694-2230.

BRIEFS

Presentation on estate planning today

Attorney at law Joseph Tillson and physician Richard Harvey will discuss estate planning at a community outreach senior luncheon today.

The Fifty-Plus Club arranged the presentation that will take place 12-2 p.m. at the Alpine County Court House, 14777 Highway 89 in Markleeville.

Seniors of the year will be announced by the Fifty-Plus Club.

For reservations, call the Court Department at (530) 694-2113.

Senior bus trips available

The Alpine County Fifty-Plus Club has the following bus trips scheduled for the month of July:

■ Wednesday — South Lake Tahoe

■ July 26 — Reno dinner and show, the cost is \$32

■ July 27 — Gardnerville's Farmers Market

■ July 30 — Mystery Trip, only a few seats left, \$1 for bus ride

Times for trips are 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., with the exception of night bus trips. Passengers generally are picked up by Alpine County Transit at the Alpine County Health and Human Services Building, 75-A Diamond Valley Road in Markleeville, but the bus makes a stop at Douglas County Senior Center in Gardnerville for some trips. For more information, call Sherri Dennis at (530) 694-2235.

Indian taco lunch benefits museum

The Alpine County Historical Society is inviting everyone to an Indian taco lunch. The cost is \$5 and includes a soda. Baked goods are for sale, too. The lunch will take place 11:30-2 p.m. July 23 at the Alpine County Museum in Markleeville. For more information, call (530) 694-2317.

Markleeville man may have ended own life

by Jo Rafferty
Staff Writer

The missing Markleeville man who was found dead near Red Lake in Hope Valley on July 7 most likely ended his own life, according to Alpine County Sheriff's deputy Spencer Case.

William "Bill" McKinnon, 44, was found dead one day after his disappearance on July 6. He was last seen on June 30.

Case said a gun had been

found at the site where McKinnon was discovered. Sheriff's officials are waiting for a few more autopsy and toxicology results, but Case said at this time it is almost certain that McKinnon took his own life.

The one-day manhunt involved volunteer search and rescue teams from the counties of El Dorado, Calaveras and Tuolumne, according to Case.

"Search and rescuers did a phenomenal job," he said.

R-C 7-20-05

R-C
July 22, 2005

Alpine County

County buildings on National Register first time

by Jo Rafferty
Staff Writer

For the first time in history, buildings in Alpine County have been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Old Webster Schoolhouse and the Alpine County Courthouse are the first to be nationally recognized in California's smallest county, which has a population of less than 1,200.

Alpine County Museum director Dick Edwards said that more of the county's historic buildings should soon achieve this status as well.

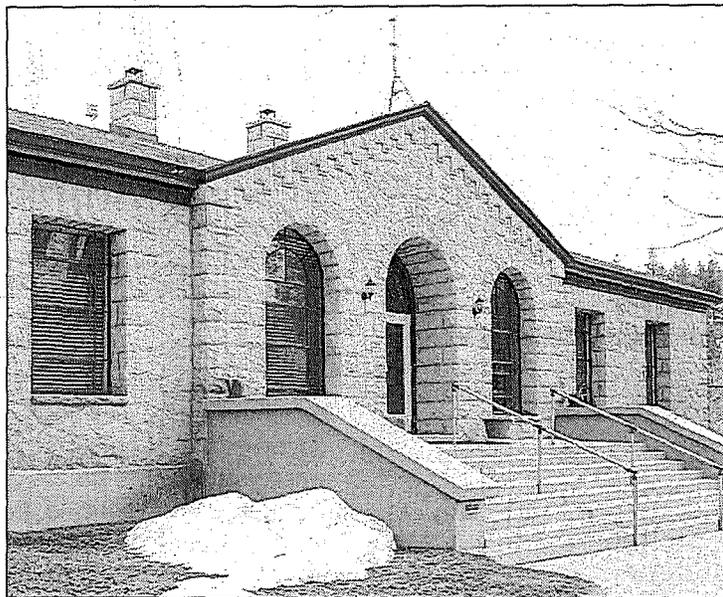
"These are the first and only buildings in the county to go on the Register," said Edwards. "There are other buildings we may also submit in Bear Valley, Kirkwood and Woodfords."

A dedication ceremony and barbecue to honor the two historic buildings is planned for this fall.

Both the one-room schoolhouse and the courthouse are located in Markleeville, the county seat.

The courthouse, built in 1928, was the first to receive its designation about a month ago. Structures must be at least 50 years old to qualify.

The Old Webster Schoolhouse, which sits at the top of School Street overlooking the town, easily qualified since it was constructed in 1882.



DAN THRIFT/R-C News Service

The courthouse, built in 1928, serves California's smallest county.

Edwards received notice of the schoolhouse's acceptance into the National Register on July 11.

Listing on the Register is important in a couple of ways.

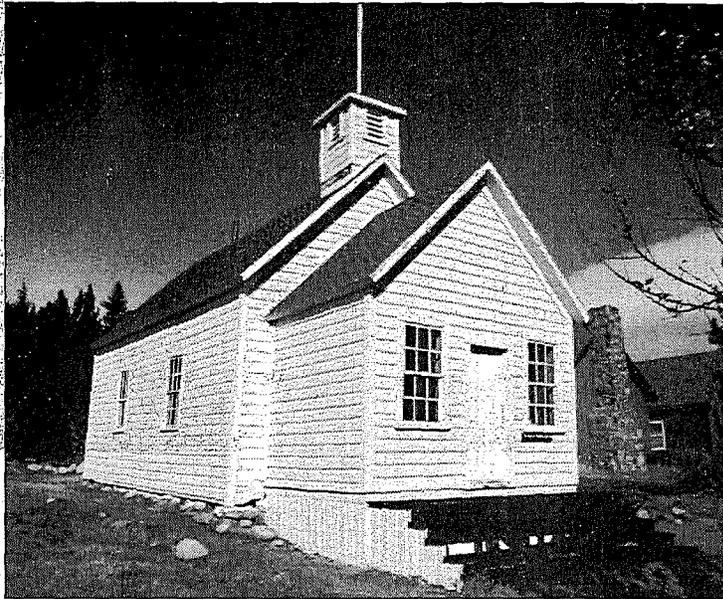
"It means you are eligible for certain grants and also prevents the property from being modified in any way," said Edwards.

The Town of Markleeville had a colorful history, according to museum reports. It was established in 1861 when Jacob Marklee built the first cabin on a site adjacent to the Carson River. Marklee was shot and killed in 1863 by a Mr. Tuttle

over property rights.

Markleeville had its peak population of more than 11,000 in 1864 due to the influx of silver miners. By 1873, after the mines played out, the town's population dropped to fewer than 250.

Markleeville became the county seat in 1874 and the Old Webster Schoolhouse was built eight years later. An 1885 school census report for the Webster School District reported 37 students enrolled at the school. The schoolhouse served both as a school and meeting place to the 200 residents.



Submitted by the Alpine County Museum
The Old Webster Schoolhouse has become part of the living history exhibit at the Alpine County Museum.

In 1926, the county decided to build a new courthouse in Markleeville of native stone, light cream-colored rhyolite tuff quarried from Silver Mountain City. Plans were made to use the remaining stone to build a new two-room schoolhouse to replace the overcrowded one-room schoolhouse.

The courthouse and the New Webster Schoolhouse were completed in 1928. The new schoolhouse served first- through eighth-grade students until 1949. Today it houses the Alpine County Library.

The Old Webster Schoolhouse closed in 1928 and a Washoe family under the name John Anthony resided in the building for many years, before it was abandoned and fell into disrepair.

In 1966, the Alpine County Historical Society began a campaign to restore the building.

“With volunteer help from both the community and the National Association of Restoration Specialists, the restoration was fully completed in 1968 and the building was appropriately dedicated,” according to museum reports.

Now, filled with original artifacts donated by the community, the one-room schoolhouse serves as a living history learning center in the museum complex.

Both the New Webster Schoolhouse and the Alpine County Courthouse were designed by Frederick DeLongchamps, a well-known western architect. DeLongchamps also designed the Douglas County Courthouse in Minden in 1916, as well as six other Nevada courthouses and many more buildings.

The Alpine County Courthouse is of the 20th century Romanesque Revival style. It is a one-story structure with a basement. The courtroom takes up approximately 70 percent of the upstairs. There are two judges’ chambers and a clerk’s office, according to reports.

The building is currently shared with the district attorney, Probation Department and the Sheriff’s Department.

The courthouse, as well as the New Webster Schoolhouse, could arguably “constitute the apex of Alpine County’s architectural history,” according to the Alpine County Superior Court Web site.

“It is a building of which Alpine County citizens may justifiably be proud.”

For more information, visit www.alpine.courts.ca.gov/history.html

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and donations to implement an after school program last fall at Toyon and this spring to all students in the county.

With the same contributions, the alliance, will offer a semester of classes to 40 students in 2005-2006.

Ideally the program would be expanded at the high school level in 2006-07 and become an elective class during the regular school schedule. The estimated cost of that program is \$65,000.

The new fee is expected to bring in \$16,000 to \$18,000 annually.

Contact Vanessa Turner at vturner@calaverasenterprise.com.

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those uses are subordinate to the street's central purpose, Seaton said.

"This is primarily a public street and it should be maintained as a public street," he said.

Gateway Park is located at the intersection, and Seaton added that when the public restrooms are completed there, more people would be using the park and crossing the street to do so.

The item was agendized as a reconsideration of the original decision and died for lack of a motion, leaving the original resolution, supporting the sign, intact.

Contact Craig Koscho at ckoscho@calaverasenterprise.com.



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Sold: Bear Valley resort officially changing hands

By Vanessa Turner

It's official. Bear Valley Mountain Resort has been sold to Dundee Realty USA in Colorado.

Tim Bottomley, president of Bear Valley Ski Co., confirmed the sale of the company's assets, essentially the resort, Wednesday. It had been in escrow for two months.

The resort encompasses 1,280 acres with 10 lifts and 67 trails.

Jim Gentling is the resort's new general manager and chief operations officer. Gentling was Dundee's general manager at the Arapahoe Basin Ski Resort in Colorado, which the company bought in 1997 and has since made significant improvements to.

Dundee's plans for Bear Valley are very similar.

Aside from making improvements to the ski resort within the next year, Dundee will be partnering with a local landowner Chuck Toeniskoetter to build out the area's master plan, which includes development of a cross-country ski area and a golf course surrounded by homes.

Also, retail and homes would be added to the village, which currently consists of a lodge, a gas station, two real estate companies, a pizza parlor, a ski and sports shop, an art gallery, a gift shop, general store, coffee shop, two bars and two restaurants.

The Bear Valley area currently has 305 single family homes built out of a planned 430. There are also 250 existing condominium units.

Dundee's first project will be



Photo courtesy of Bear Valley Mountain Resort

Dundee Realty's Jim Gentling, left, and Tim Bottomley.

to build a chair lift from the village up to the ski mountain, according to company spokesperson Merri Donovan said.

Dundee plans on retaining all of the resort employees, Donovan added.

Also, ski passes that were previously issued for the upcoming ski season will be honored.

"At this point you won't see a lot of changes this first year on the mountain," Donovan said. "They want to start basically from within. We may have some internal changes - working on employee training. Guest services will be a big focus."

The Bottomley family purchased Mt. Reba Inc. from the Rasmussen family and renamed it Bear Valley Ski Company. The family patriarch Jim Bottomley passed away at the age of 68 in July 2003.

Now that he's "unemployed," Tim Bottomley said he would be trying to get into property development in Calaveras and maybe Colorado.

Contact Vanessa Turner at vturner@calaverasenterprise.com.

County searches for new public defender, public works director

by Jo Rafferty
Staff Writer

Alpine County is losing its public works director and public defender this year, and is shopping for replacements.

Officials say they will have a hard time filling the current public works director Leonard Turnbeaugh's shoes.

"I would say his plate is a very full plate. As you look toward replacing him, that's something to consider. He has inherited various responsibilities over time," said John Blacklock

of J. Blacklock Consulting, speaking to Alpine County supervisors during Tuesday's board meeting. Blacklock was hired by the county to review the public works director's position and make recommendations for hiring prior to Turnbeaugh's retirement at the end of the year.

Turnbeaugh said he is a "jack-of-all-trades," who in his 35 years with the county has assumed additional positions such as land surveyor, director of transportation and secretary for the local transportation commission.

The director of public works is

an allocated position within the county's adopted classification plan, according to assistant to the board Judy Molnar. The current salary for the position is on a five-step salary system, set at \$6,260-\$7,610 a month. The employee typically begins at the lower end of the scale and works his or her way up. It is a full-time position with full benefits, including PERS retirement, health coverage, vacation and sick leave.

The public defender, a contractual position, is currently open. The projected budget for this position for fiscal year

2005-2006 is \$55,000. The State of California requires the establishment of the office of public defender. It is a part-time position. As an independent contrac-

tor, there are no benefits provided by the county.

Lori London of South Lake Tahoe previously served as Alpine County's public defend-

er. She was not available for comment at press time.

For more information on these positions, call (530) 694-2281.

Briefs

Benefit dinner today

An all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner to benefit the Alpine Children's Center will take place 5-9 p.m. tonight at Turtle Rock Park. Music will be provided by the Alpine Trio.

The cost is \$5 per person or

\$20 per family. Children ages 2 and younger eat for free.

Dinner includes spaghetti with meat or veggie sauce, salad, garlic bread, melon, bottled water, soda and dessert. Raffle tickets are \$1 or six for \$5. The drawing will take place at 9 p.m. You need not be present to win.

For more information, call Edie Veatch at (530) 694-2934.

Museum fund-raiser

The Alpine County Historical Society will serve Indian tacos 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the Alpine County Museum at the top of School Street in Markleeville. The cost for an Indian taco and a soda is \$5. Baked goodies will be for sale, too. Proceeds will benefit the museum. For information, call the museum at (530) 694-2317.

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Article published Jul 23, 2005

New Bear Valley owners plan changes

Improving ski area and building new condos are part of their focus

BEAR VALLEY -- A partnership including a San Jose developer, two veteran Silicon Valley venture capitalists and a Canadian real estate company has acquired Bear Valley Ski Co.

The purchase puts the ski resort and much of the private property in the valley under a unified ownership and could allow planned development of the area as envisioned three decades ago, said Chuck Toeniskoetter, owner of the Bear Valley Lodge and chief executive of Toeniskoetter & Breeding Inc., a San Jose building and development company.

Toeniskoetter said he plans a three-pronged approach: improving and redeveloping the ski area, building a lift from the Bear Valley Village area to the resort higher on the mountain and constructing new condominiums.

"That's our focus and will probably be over the next four to five years, maybe seven years, to do all this. It's a big project," Toeniskoetter said Friday in a telephone interview. That all sounded positive to David Johnston, president of the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce and owner of the Bear Valley General Store, which occupies space leased from Toeniskoetter.

"It's got to be a big boost for us and for most of the other businesses here in town," he said of the plans. Johnston said the new resort owners all have strong business credentials.

"They are a good group of people. They are very active, and they are going to be very aggressive."

Toeniskoetter has joined with Dundee Realty USA LLC, the U.S. arm of a Canadian real estate management and development company, which also owns and operates the Arapahoe Basin ski resort in Colorado, and Kevin Compton and Doug Mackenzie, both partners in the Silicon Valley venture-capital firm Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers.

Compton, who owns a home in Murphys and has skied at Bear Valley for many years, said Friday that change may be coming but that the basic character of the resort will be preserved.

"I want to keep it as a family place," he said Friday in a telephone interview. "We just don't want to change it too much, because that wouldn't Bear Valley anymore."

As a venture capitalist, Compton said he knows enough not to try to run every company in which he invests.

"We hire great management teams to do it, and Dundee is a great management team to make this happen."

Terms of the sale were not disclosed, nor would the partners discuss how much they plan to spend on development.

"That's not important," Toeniskoetter said. "The most important part of it is how excited the people here are to have this finally happen."

What "this" is will be the creation of a mountain resort where visitors can walk or ski to wherever they need to go.

From the homes and condominiums surrounding the resort village, Toeniskoetter said, visitors will be able to walk down to town, where they will find the lift that can carry them uphill to the resort. Also, they can access a highly rated cross-country ski area as well as snowmobiling activities.

Toeniskoetter said he and two other business partners have been acquiring available land in Bear Valley for more than 15 years.

"The ski area is the last piece we needed to put into the equation to make this work," he said.

Dundee, in a news release, said Jim Gentling, who has been general manager of Arapahoe Basin for eight years, will take the reins at Bear Valley.

He will oversee an area on 1,280 acres of national forest land featuring mostly intermediate and advanced trails, open-bowl skiing and snowboarding. Ten lifts serve 67 trails with a vertical drop of 1,900 feet.

Dundee's plan for Bear Valley will be much like that for the Arapahoe Basin in Summit County, Colo. Since acquiring the ski area in 1997, Dundee said it made significant investments in lifts, snowmaking and buildings, resulting in an increase of annual skier days of almost 33 percent.

"That's quite a bit," Johnston said.

Contact reporter Reed Fujii at 209 546-8253 or rfujii@recordnet.com

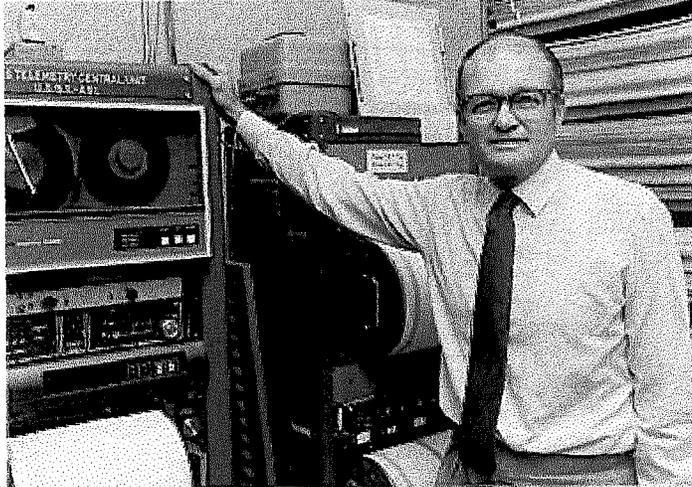
UC Berkeley Press Release

Seismologist and earthquake hazard expert Bruce Bolt dies at 75

By Robert Sanders, Media Relations | 25 July 2005

BERKELEY – Bruce A. Bolt, for decades one of the state's most visible experts on earthquakes and seismic hazards and professor emeritus of earth and planetary science at the University of California, Berkeley, died Thursday, July 21, of pancreatic cancer at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Oakland. He was 75.

As director of the University of California Seismographic Stations for 28 years, he traveled the world to investigate the sites of major earthquakes, lectured on earthquakes and earthquake hazards around the country and internationally, and served on numerous local, state and national panels and commissions. He even wrote two popular books: "Earthquakes: A Primer" (1978) and "Inside the Earth: Evidence from Earthquakes" (1982).



Seismologist Bruce Bolt, professor emeritus of earth and planetary science. (1986 photo by Ben Ailes)

[Print-quality image available for download \(http://www.berkeley.edu/news/media/download/\)](http://www.berkeley.edu/news/media/download/)

He served for 15 years on the California Seismic Safety Commission and was its chairman in 1986. According to a statement issued Friday by the California Seismic Safety Commission, "Former Commissioner Bolt was one of California's most influential policymakers in earthquake safety. ... He was particularly renowned for his ability to increase the public's awareness about earthquakes and motivate legislators to improve earthquake safety. Professor Bolt leaves a rich legacy of public policy accomplishments."

Bolt, a native of Australia who became a naturalized citizen of the United States, was unique in straddling the boundary between seismology and engineering. He was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 1978, joined the UC Berkeley Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering in 1988, and was a key liaison to engineers desperately seeking information about ground motion so that they could design buildings to withstand the shaking.

"He really was the founder of the modern field of engineering seismology, which is the interface between earth science and the fields of geotechnical and structural engineering," said Gregory Fennes, UC Berkeley professor and chair of civil and environmental engineering. "He was an indefatigable advocate for communication between seismologists and engineers. He could speak to broad audiences, right at their level, including legislators and governors."

Fennes credits Bolt with being a strong advocate of installing strong-motion sensors near earthquake faults to measure the true ground movement, essential information for earthquake engineers. He also was one of the first to recognize the importance of near-fault effects of quakes, which can be much different from the effect only a mile away.

UC Berkeley colleague Douglas Dreger, associate professor of earth and planetary science, noted that Bolt coined the term "fling" for the brief period when a fault slips during an earthquake.

"He recognized early on that this rapid elastic rebound could have severe consequences for structures, and this importance was borne out in strong ground motion recordings from recent quakes, such as the Denali earthquake in Alaska and the Chi-Chi event in Taiwan," Dreger said.

Bolt contributed to many other areas of seismology through analysis of seismic wave recordings.

"In the 1960s and '70s he made significant contributions to our understanding of the deep Earth - in particular, the Earth's inner core," said Barbara Romanowicz, UC Berkeley professor of earth and planetary science who succeeded Bolt in 1991 as director of the Berkeley Seismological Laboratory.

She also noted his contributions to the laboratory, including making it the first institution to install broadband seismometers that, unlike previous seismometers, can measure earthquake waves across a broad band of frequencies. Bolt also was among the first to switch from paper readouts to digital recordings on tape, which led to today's use of computers to record and analyze seismic data.

"As a result, UC Berkeley is still a leader in digital research, and Professor Bolt started us off," Dreger said.

Bolt also was president from 1982 to 1985 of the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. He was a member of the board of trustees of the academy for 11 years, from 1981-92, and again joined the board in 1999.

"Bruce has been one of the staunchest supporters of research programs at the academy, and has been an ardent spokesperson for the system of scientific research, exhibits and education," said Terrence Gosliner, provost of the academy. "In the three decades he has been associated with the academy, he really pushed to make people think creatively. And when he got enthusiastic about something, he would always follow through."

Not surprisingly, Bolt pushed for an exhibit about earthquake preparedness and helped design the museum's first such exhibit, which debuted in the early 1980s. Bolt even narrated a demonstration of the severe shaking that took place during San Francisco's 1906 earthquake. In the 15-20 years that the exhibit was up, Gosliner recalled walking by many, many times and hearing Bolt intone, "We must be prepared, it will happen again."

Aside from his university responsibilities, Bolt "consulted on every major seismic project in the state, including dams, bridges and airports," said his former student, Norm Abrahamson, an engineering seismologist for Pacific Gas & Electric. Some of this consulting was for PG&E, including for the company's Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant, although he consulted on the Alaska oil pipeline, the Aswan dam in Egypt and many other international projects. In recent years, he mostly reviewed projects, Abrahamson said, including what may have been his last - an assessment of the BART tube running under San Francisco Bay.

"He was probably the first seismologist to really go over and talk to the engineers - that was his strength," Abrahamson said.

Bolt was born in the small town of Largs in New South Wales, Australia, on Feb. 15, 1930, and earned all his degrees - a B.Sc. in 1952, a M.Sc. in 1955, a Ph.D. in applied mathematics in 1959 and a D.Sc. in 1972 - from the University of Sydney. He lectured there in applied mathematics from 1954 until 1962, and developed in interest in mathematical modeling of the Earth's interior.

Following a Fulbright post-doctoral fellowship at the Lamont Geological Observatory in New York, he visited the department of Geodesy and Geophysics at Cambridge University, England, where he met professors Perry Byerly and John Verhoogen of UC Berkeley. They were impressed and invited

him to come to UC Berkeley, where in 1963 he succeeded Byerly as director of the Berkeley Seismographic Stations, now the Berkeley Seismological Laboratory. He remained director until 1989 and retired to emeritus status in 1993.

During his years at UC Berkeley, Bolt served the campus in many capacities, including as a member of the Seismic Review Committee from 1988 to 1991 to assess the earthquake safety of campus buildings and design a plan to improve them.

Bolt also was president of the Academic Senate in the 1992-93 school year and retired only last year after 10 years as president of the Faculty Club. He could be found dining at the club many a lunchtime, said Fenves, recalling that eating with him could be difficult because of all the people stopping by to say hello. In addition, Bolt was an amateur actor and director and a member of an informal faculty and faculty spouse drama section, part of the University Section Club, that met regularly and put on plays to raise money for emergency scholarships and grants for students.

As a member of the state's Seismic Safety Commission, Bolt was instrumental in developing state legislation for seismic hazard mapping, the Southern California and Bay Area Earthquake Preparedness Projects, the California Earthquake Education Project, earthquake safety improvements for mobile homes, private schools, hospital buildings, essential services buildings, and unreinforced masonry buildings, the "California at Risk" earthquake loss reduction program, requirements for the disclosure of earthquake weaknesses to potential homebuyers, and a small building permit fee to fund the Strong Motion Instrumentation Program.

Bolt was a fellow of the American Geophysical Union and of the Geological Society of America, an associate of the Royal Astronomical Society and an overseas fellow of Churchill College, Cambridge. He was president in 1974 of the Seismological Society of America and editor of its bulletin from 1965 to 1972, and president of the International Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior from 1980 until 1983. He won the Alfred Alquist Medal of the California Earthquake Safety Foundation, the George W. Housner Medal from the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, and, upon retiring from UC Berkeley, the campus's highest honor, the Berkeley Citation. Aside from his two popular books, Bolt also wrote "Earthquakes and Geological Discovery" (1993) and five editions of "Earthquakes" (fifth edition, 2003).

He also was a member of the Bohemian Club and San Francisco's University Club.

Bolt was active to the end, having returned in June from a California Academy of Sciences trip to the Galapagos Islands and a subsequent trip to a meeting in Turkey. "He was going full bore," said his daughter, Gillian Bolt Kohli. "He kept up an amazing pace because he was so much in demand."

He was scheduled to give a retrospective on the 1906 earthquake at the upcoming "100th Anniversary Earthquake Conference" to be held in San Francisco in April 2006, where he was to address seismologists, engineers, planners, policy makers and responders.

Bolt is survived by his wife, Beverley (Bentley), of Berkeley; daughters, Gillian Bolt Kohli of Wellesley, Mass., Helen Bolt Juarez of Fremont, Calif., and Margaret Barber of Rumson, N. J.; a son, Robert, of Hillsborough, Calif.; a sister, Fay Bolt, of Sydney, Australia; and 14 grandchildren.

A campus memorial service is scheduled for Friday, July 29, at 3 p.m. in the Faculty Club. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Bolt's name should be sent to the California Academy of Sciences or to the Bear Valley Tennis Club, c/o Ann Wolff, Treasurer, 151 Pepper Court, Los Altos, CA 94022.

Links:

[Bruce Bolt memorial page, Berkeley Seismological Laboratory](http://seismo.berkeley.edu/memorial/bruce_bolt/)
(http://seismo.berkeley.edu/memorial/bruce_bolt/)

ociation, 6:30
Springs Club-
Willow Springs

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17555 Tuolumne
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Utilities District
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85 Nugget Blvd.,
Road.

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1855 Mono Way,
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Farmers' Mar-
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Greater Arnold Business
ociation, 5:30 p.m., Calav-
eras Title, Arnold, 728-9700.

TOMORROW
Story Time, 10:30 to 11
a.m., preschool through pri-
mary-grade children, Angels
Camp Library, 185 S. Main
St., Angels Camp, 736-2198.

Story Time, 11:30 a.m. to
noon, Calaveras Central Library,
891 Mountain Ranch Road,
San Andreas.

**San Andreas Merchants
Association**, noon, call for
location, 754-3555.

**Calaveras County Sher-
iff's Explorer Post**, 2 p.m.,
sheriff's office, 891 Mountain
Ranch Road, San Andreas.

**Valley Springs Commu-
nity Blood Drive**, 3 to 7 p.m., Val-
ley Springs Sports and Fit-
ness Center, (800) 995-4420.

Music in the Park, Ban-
shee in the Kitchen, 6:30 to 8
p.m., Turner Park, San Andreas,
754-1774.

**Valley Springs Public Util-
ity District**, 7 p.m., 150 Sequoia
St., Valley Springs, 772-2650.

*(For arts and entertain-
ment listings, see **Weekend
Thursdays**. The **Union Demo-
crat Calendar** attempts to
list all non-commercial events
of public interest in the
Tuolumne and Calaveras
county areas. Contributions
are welcome. Call The **Union
Democrat**, 588-4525 or 736-
1234, visit the office, 84 S.
Washington St., Sonora, or
e-mail us at: jhouse@union-
democrat.com.)*

teacher in
Hayward for
30 years. He
served in the
U.S. Army
during the
Korean con-
flict.

He retired
to Souls-
byville in
1989 after living in Hayward
for 25 years and Bay Area
for most of his life.

He enjoyed playing bridge,
reading and discussing fam-
ily history with his grand-
children, traveling and swim-
ming.

Mr. Cohen is survived by
his wife of 51 years, Bev-
erly Cohen, of Soulsbyville;
daughters and son-in-law,
Renee DeVol, of Soulsbyville,
and Julie and Ken McNair,
of Sonora; grandchildren,
Jessica DeVol, of Tuolumne,
Matt DeVol of Soulsbyville,



DAVID
COHEN

Donations can be made to
Visiting Nurse Association,
Hospice the Sierra, P.O.
Box 480b, Sonora, CA 95370.

Terzich and Wilson Funer-
al Home is handling arrange-
ments.

Karl Hatfield Harris

May 6, 1914 - July 21, 2005

Sonora resident Karl Hat-
field Harris died Thursday
at a Sonora care home. He
was 91.

He was born in Du Quoin,
Ill., to Oran and Lyda Harris.
In 1929, he moved with his
family to Fullerton and grad-
uated from Fullerton High
School in 1932. He served
with the U.S. Army during
World War II, assigned to
the Signal Corps in Europe
from 1942 to 1945. After the

daughter-in-law, Bob and
Melinda Harris, of Flower
Mound, Texas; a daughter
and son-in-law, Karla and
Jim Hoback, of Sonora; grand-
daughters, Sally Scholl of
Sonora, Katie Heinze, of Day-
ton, Nev., Carly Kisor, of
Granbury, Texas, and Meryl
Harris, of Flower Mound; four
great-grandchildren; and a
brother and sister-in-law, Bob
and Mary Harris, of La Habra,
Orange County.

At his request, no services
are scheduled.

Terzich and Wilson Funer-
al Home is handling arrange-
ments.

Naomi Bunting

June 8, 1928 - July 20, 2005

Longtime Tuolumne resi-
dent Naomi Bunting died
Wednesday at a Sonora hos-
pital. She was 77.

and Patti Bunting, of Valley
Springs; a sister, Nellie
Hodge, of Tuolumne; 10
grandchildren; and 10 great-
grandchildren.

She was preceded in death
by her husband, Robert
Bunting, in 1986.

Donations can be made to
Salvation Army of Tuolumne
County, P.O. Box 654, Sono-
ra, CA 95370.

A memorial service is
scheduled for 11 a.m. Sat-
urday at Heuton Memorial
Chapel.

Heuton Memorial Chapel is
handling arrangements.

Notices

ELSEGOOD — Marie Else-
good, 79, of Mariposa, moth-
er of Robin Olson, of Sonora,
died Saturday at a Modesto
hospital. Terzich and Wilson
Funeral Home is handling
arrangements.

Earthquake expert Bruce Bolt dies

BERKELEY (AP) — Bruce A. Bolt, a
University of California, Berkeley, earth-
quake expert, has died at age 75.

Bolt died Thursday of pancreatic can-
cer at a hospital in Oakland, according
to a release issued by campus officials
yesterday.

Bolt, director of the UC Seismographic
Stations for 28 years, traveled the world
to investigate major earthquakes, served
on a number of panels and commis-
sions and wrote two books, "Earth-
quakes: A Primer" in 1978 and "Inside
the Earth: Evidence from Earthquakes,"
in 1982.

He served for 15 years on the California
Seismic Safety Commission and was
chairman in 1986.

Born in New South Wales, Australia,
on Feb. 15, 1930, Bolt earned all his
degrees, including a Ph.D. in applied
mathematics, from the University of

Sydney. He lectured there from 1954 until
1962 and became interested in mathe-
matical modeling of the Earth's interi-
or.

In 1963, he became director of the
Berkeley Seismographic Stations, now
the Berkeley Seismological Laboratory.
Bolt, who became a naturalized citi-
zen of the United States, remained
director until 1989 and retired to emer-
itus status in 1993.

Bolt, who also was a Berkeley pro-
fessor emeritus of earth and planetary
science, was known for linking engi-
neering and seismology, key to design-
ing buildings that can withstand shak-
ing.

"He really was the founder of the
modern field of engineering seismol-
ogy, which is the interface between
earth science and the fields of geot-
echnical and structural engineering,"

Gregory Fenves, UC Berkeley pro-
fessor and chair of civil and environ-
mental engineering, said in a state-
ment.

Bolt advocated for installing strong-
motion sensors near earthquake faults
to measure the true ground movement,
said Fenves.

He also recognized the importance of
near-fault effects of quakes. Bolt con-
tributed to other areas of seismology
through analysis of seismic wave record-
ings.

Survivors include his wife, Beverley,
of Berkeley, daughters Gillian Bolt
Kohli of Wellesley, Mass., Helen Bolt
Juarez of Fremont and Margaret Bar-
ber of Rumson, N.J., and son, Robert, of
Hillsborough.

A campus memorial is scheduled Fri-
day at 3 p.m. in the UC Berkeley Fac-
ulty Club.

ANT
DU

Achievements • Honors •
Club News • Meetings
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and more

588-4525

Author Susan Gordon Lydon dies of cancer

THE UNION DEMOCRAT - Tuesday July 26, 2005 1A

CONTRA COSTA TIMES

Posted on Tue, Jul. 26, 2005

Earthquake expert Bruce Bolt dies at 75**By Betsy Mason**
CONTRA COSTA TIMES

Bruce Bolt, a passionate, influential advocate for seismic safety who was instrumental in forming many of the state's earthquake hazard and preparedness laws, died Thursday in an Oakland hospital of pancreatic cancer.

Bolt, who was one of California's best known earthquake experts, was 75.

"He leaves a very rich legacy of public policy," said engineer Fred Turner of the California Seismic Safety Commission, for whom Bolt was a commissioner for 15 years, including a year as chairman in 1986. "It's a very big loss for California."

During Bolt's tenure as commissioner from 1978 to 1993, the commission sponsored numerous bills that became California law, including the seismic hazard mapping program, earthquake preparedness programs, seismic safety improvements for unreinforced masonry buildings, mobile homes, private schools and hospitals, and disclosure of earthquake weaknesses to potential home buyers.

"It was a very prolific era," said Turner, who has worked for the commission since 1988. Turner also was a student of Bolt, who was a professor at UC Berkeley and director of the University of California Seismograph Stations.

Bolt was also known for his work in bridging the gap between seismologists and engineers to help them design buildings to better withstand earthquakes. At UC Berkeley he was a professor of earth and planetary sciences from 1963 to 1993, but he also was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 1978 and joined the school's civil and environmental engineering department in 1988.

Another of Bolt's hallmarks was his ability to communicate complicated, arcane scientific issues to the public and lawmakers and motivate them to improve safety and preparedness, said Turner. Bolt wrote two popular books, "Earthquakes: A Primer" and "Inside the Earth: Evidence from Earthquakes."

Bolt consulted on many major seismic projects, including virtually every one of note in the state -- dams, bridges, airports and a nuclear power plant. Most recently he worked on an assessment of the Transbay Tube. He also consulted on the Alaska pipeline and the Aswan Dam in Egypt.

Active to the end, Bolt was scheduled to speak at a conference in April in San Francisco to mark the 100th anniversary of the 1906 earthquake and had returned in June from a trip to the Galapagos Islands with the California Academy of Sciences.

"He was going full bore," said daughter Gillian Bolt Kohli in a UC Berkeley news release Monday. "He kept up an amazing pace because he was so much in demand."

Bolt was president of the California Academy of Sciences from 1982 to 1985, and also served on its board of trustees for 12 years. He pushed for an exhibit about earthquake preparedness and narrated a demonstration about the 1906 earthquake for that exhibit, which was on view for about 20 years, said academy provost Terrence Gosliner.

He recalled walking by that exhibit many times and hearing Bolt's voice saying, "We must be prepared; it will happen again."

Betsy Mason covers science and the national laboratories. Reach her at 925-847-2158 or bmason@cctimes.com.

EPITAPH

BRUCE BOLT

Born: Feb. 15, 1930, Largs, New South Wales, Australia

Died: July 21, 2005, Oakland

Survivors: Wife Beverley (Bentley) of Berkeley; daughters Gillian Bolt Kohli of Wellesley, Mass., Helen Bolt Juarez of Fremont, and Margaret Barber of Rumson, N.J.; son Robert of Hillsborough; sister, Fay Bolt of Sydney, Australia; and grandchildren.

Memorial service: 3 p.m. Friday in the Faculty Club, UC Berkeley campus. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Bolt's name should be sent to the California Academy of Sciences or to the Bear Valley Tennis Club, c/o Ann Wolff, Treasurer, 15 Pepper Court, Los Altos, CA 94022

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Service is Thursday for teen killed on Kingsbury

R-C
7-27-05

by Kurt Hildebrand
Editor

A celebration of the life of Douglas High School athlete Cory Jackson, who was killed July 21 in a Kingsbury Grade automobile accident, is 3-6 p.m. Thursday at Carson Valley Christian Center on Stephanie Way.

Heidi Jackson, Cory's mother, said she wanted people to remember Cory as the fun-loving person he was.

"He always made people laugh," she said. "He had a big heart and a gentle spirit."

Cory's cousins said the 16-year-old was coming home from his second day on the job when he was killed after driving off the road. The Gardnerville teenager had celebrated his birthday

five days before his death.

South Lake Tahoe cousin Coral Warren, who is three weeks younger than Cory, said Cory, cousin Cole Jackson and she were very close.

"We did everything together," she said. "Cole really looked up to him. I was hugging Cole and he looked in the mirror and said we were missing the third of our triad because Cory



Heidi and son Cory Jackson on a ski trip. Cory died on Kingsbury Grade on July 21.

wasn't there. People say Cory was a great person, but it's not 'was.' Cory is a great person."

While they did not see each other as often as Coral would like, she said Cory always greeted her as if they saw each other every day.

"Every time I saw him he would give me a hug and I could feel the love in him."

See **Service** on page 8

Service: Celebration of life

Continued from page 1

Cousin Nikki Warren said the community has provided a lot of support to the family and to Cory's mother.

A tragedy like this ripples through the entire community," she said.

She and Coral said food has been pouring into the house, some from people they didn't know.

"The compromise people make to live here sometimes pays off so much when a tragedy occurs because everyone really cares about Cory," Warren said.

She said Cory was good with children and volunteered to work with them whenever possible. He volunteered with the Family Support Council and with the Carson Valley Days parade.

"He was just amazing with kids," she said. "He was the happiest person. That's not always true for a teenager, but he was happy all the time. He was a big part of his church and youth group."

The 16-year-old worked at

YOU CAN HELP

A memorial fund has been established to help Cory Jackson's family at Wells Fargo Bank, Acct. No. 8126308611

Lakeside Beach Grill in South Lake Tahoe for just a few days before his death, but that was enough time for the people there to miss him.

"Everybody there just loved him," Warren said.

Cory's girlfriend Denai Neilander and he were both on the swim team. His cousins said the couple was very close.

Coral said the full scope of the tragedy only unfolds when you know the person involved.

"Kids need to understand it is reality," Coral said.

"I remember the girl dying last summer, but I didn't understand how different it is when someone is close to you ... I'm terrified when I think about getting in a car, I can't bear it."

Cory is the only son of Heidi Jackson.

He and Coral were three weeks apart in age and grew up together in South Lake Tahoe.

Cory swam, wrestled and played football at Douglas High School. He worked as a baby sitter at the Family Support Council.

He was killed coming home from work at about 9:35 p.m. Thursday when his Ford Probe went over the edge of Kingsbury Grade near Tramway.

Cory is survived by maternal grandparents, David and Cary Jackson of Gardnerville; paternal grandparents David and Arlene Sawyer of Southern California; aunt Kelly Jackson of Gardnerville; cousins Coral Warren and Cole Jackson; half-brothers Noah and Justin Hughes; and many cousins, aunts and uncles from South Lake Tahoe, Southern California and Idaho.

He was an active member of the youth group at High Sierra Fellowship.

Man accused in Gardnerville Ranchos

slaying denies charge

R-C 7-27-05

Tracy Tierney
Staff Writer

The Gardnerville man accused in the June 24 slaying of a Markleeville father of four formally denied the charges at a hearing on Monday.

Michael Ward, 21, pleaded not guilty to battery with a deadly weapon causing substantial bodily harm, battery causing substantial bodily harm and involuntary manslaughter.

A trial has been scheduled to begin Oct. 4.

Ward is accused of cutting 24-year-old Jeffrey John with a knife, hitting and kicking him in a



Ward

late-night Gardnerville fight.

Kevin Walsh, Ward's attorney, asked Douglas County District Judge Michael Gibbons to reduce Ward's bail from \$100,000 to \$50,000.

"Then he can go back to work, if he can make bail," Walsh said to Gibbons as some of Ward's family members watched in the courtroom.

Prosecutor Dina Salvucci said \$100,000 was

an appropriate amount for bail.

"Mr. Ward is not supervisable, and he doesn't follow rules," Salvucci said. "His job was clearly temporary."

Gibbons denied the request to reduce Ward's bail. Walsh said self-defense will be a part of the defense's case during the trial.

"As for involuntary manslaughter, it's not sure what killed (John)," he said. "I think we do have a good case that needs to go trial."

Each charge against Ward carries penalties of up to 10-15 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine if convicted.

At a July 14 preliminary hearing investigator Phil Lesquereux testified deputies collected 40 to 50 items of evidence including pieces of two knives.

Broken blades were found on the sidewalk and in the grass. A knife handle was found on the kitchen counter in Garcia's residence.

He said a handle wrapped in tissue paper and covered with blood and fingerprints was found under a spare tire in a truck bed in the duplex garage.

Lesquereux said Ward was confused about the charges and was surprised that John was dead.

County moves report forward

by Jo Rafferty
Staff Writer

The results of a lawsuit demanding an environmental report for a Markleeville time-share project are not in yet, but the Alpine County Planning Commission is moving ahead with the report.

On the agenda for Tuesday's Alpine County Board of Supervisors meeting is a request to authorize a contract for preparation of a "focused" environmental report.

"We want to be able to select a consultant, assuming litigation will be settled," said Planning director Brian Peters.

Peters said the two parties, Friends of Markleeville and Alpine County, had reached a "tentative agreement to do a focused (environmental impact report) on half-a-dozen issues."

Litigation is just days away from being settled, on a project consisting of 49 fractionally-shared cabins, a 25-room lodge and 14 commercial spaces. In fractional ownership there can be from four to 12 owners of

each unit, with a minimum of four weeks and a maximum of 13 weeks of usage each year per owner.

Friends of Markleeville filed the lawsuit against the county in March, asking that a full environmental report be conducted for the project.

Alpine County Supervisors voted last year to allow construction of the project without an environmental report.

The project developer is Markleeville U.S.A.

■ Additionally, the county and the Alpine County Employees Association Administrative Bargaining Unit will continue with salary negotiations. Supervisors will consider approval of an amendment to the employees' contract, and will be asked for possible direction to prepare a hiring freeze.

Alpine County Board of Supervisors meets at 9 a.m. Tuesday in the Alpine County Administrative Office Building, 99 Water St., Markleeville. For more information, call (530) 694-2281.

Briefs

Fifty Plus Club offers senior activities

The following bus trips will be offered for seniors by the Fifty Plus Club during the month of August:

Aug. 3 - Douglas County Senior Center for lunch and bingo

Aug. 10 - Carson City

Aug. 17 - South Lake Tahoe

Aug. 29 - Tour of the State Capitol

Bus trips take place from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Riders meet

at Alpine County Health and Human Services, 75-A Diamond Valley Road, Markleeville.

A gift of snowmobiles

The Alpine County Sheriff's Department transferred ownership of surplus snowmobiles to Douglas County Search and Rescue for mutual aid support. The Board of Supervisors voted last week to approve the county-to-county gift.

"They always help us out. We're helping them out," said Alpine County Sheriff John Crawford.

Don Jardine: Recalling days with Dad

by Jo Rafferty
aff Writer

Don Jardine sipped his ginger ale as he spoke fondly of his father Donald Jardine, who died July 11 at the age of 77.

Although a photo he was carrying of his father showed a distinct resemblance between father and son, Jardine said their lives had been very different. While the mining business had led the elder Jardine's family to moving 12 times in 12 years, the younger Jardine had left the prospecting life for a more stable line of work.

"I didn't like moving around the countryside," said Jardine, a Caltrans supervisor and chairman of the Alpine County Board of Supervisors. "I loved this area so much. This whole area is really wonderful."

Yet, Jardine said growing up with his father, mother and three siblings had been secure in other ways.

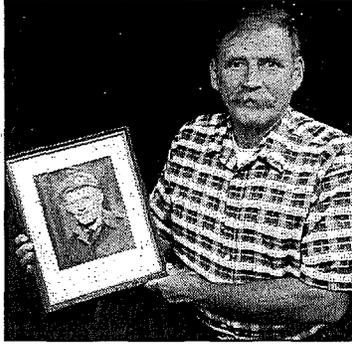
"He always seemed to be there whenever we were doing something," said Jardine, recalling his dad attending his Little League games in Carson City in 1964. "Dad supported us. He was wonderful. He went to all the games, practices."

Jardine, a resident of Markleeville, was the oldest child. His brother David Jardine and sister Heather Maule reside in Gardnerville and his sister Elizabeth Hawkins lives in Antelope, Calif. For medical reasons, his mother, Vera Jardine, lives in Sacramento.

Jardine remembers the family moving all over the country, but returning to Alpine County four or five times before finally settling there in the early 1970s. They stayed in the county from then on, except for a brief time in Arizona.

"Dad always loved it in Markleeville," said Jardine. "He got to know an awful lot of people right away. He managed to cut it off with everyone."

"He felt comfortable everywhere, from Vancouver, British Columbia, to the Golden Bubble



SHANNON LITZ/The R-C
Above: Don Jardine holds a portrait of his father when he was in the Canadian Army. Right: This photo, taken by Nancy Thornburg, of the elder Donald Jardine in his miner's garb, was published in the Alpine Enterprise in 1986.

(now Sharkey's Casino)."

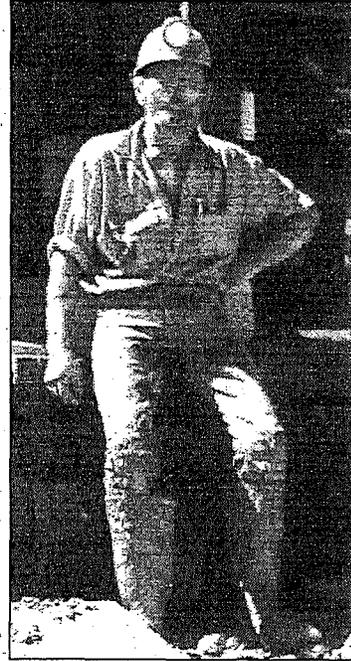
The elder Jardine was born in Ottawa, Canada, where as a young man he worked as a lumberjack, joined the Canadian Army, became a land surveyor and was employed by the City of Ottawa in the public works department. He and Vera were married in 1949 and their lives changed when he answered an advertisement placed by a mining company in Netterland, Colo.

The growing family moved from Colorado to Wyoming when the elder Jardine landed a surveyor position there. After that, the mining business called him to the Nevada cities and towns of Las Vegas and Silver City.

"Dad worked for a French mining company that reopened the New York shaft on Gold Hill," said Jardine. "We lived (in Silver City) for three years. We went to elementary school in Dayton."

Jardine remembers being happy with their move to Alpine County, when his dad took a job working in the Zaca Mine on Monitor Pass.

"When we first moved to Markleeville we came by train," said Jardine. "I remember getting picked up by my father in the Reno train station and driv-



ing into this little town.

"In Markleeville, I remember shooting rabbits, hunting and fishing. I just had a great time as a kid."

Jardine recalled his dad's extensive mining experience and his love of a good challenge.

"During all his experience mining, he ran an assay office and performed surveys for various mining companies," said Jardine. "He built a number of floatation mills. His expertise was sought after. He was really a very remarkable guy. My mom was remarkable for hanging in there."

"Companies would ask him to come in and get a mine going. He would do research on the property to see if it was worthwhile. He loved taking on a project and working it through to completion. There were lots of things that fascinated him."

As a child, Jardine and his brother and sisters visited the mines while their dad was working, such as in the Colorado tunnel at the Zaca Mine.

"As a little kid, Dad would take us down in the shaft and carve our name with smoke from the carbide light," said Jardine, referring to the lights on

the mining helmets that used to be a flame.

"When I used to go underground, there was a special smell of the dirt. It was kind of comforting."

Whenever his family lived in Alpine County, the elder Jardine would work for Claude Lovestedt and his wife Helen, according to Jardine.

"My dad did a lot of exploration in the Sweetwater and Pine Nut mountain ranges," said Jardine. "He loved it around there. He built railroad trestles and bridges for mine cars. He had a diesel locomotive."

Jardine remembers his father working in his assay office near Monitor Pass.

"He did qualitative and quantitative analysis of samples with a mass spectrograph that would show what kind of minerals were in that sample," said Jardine. "When he worked underground, he would analyze where a tunnel was three-dimensionally. He would dig up from another tunnel and hit it."

Jardine worked in the mines with his father until 1985.

"Back in 1982, I went with him to rebuild the head frame of a shaft in the old ghost town of Broken Hills," said Jardine. "We started to rebuild the timbers all the way down. It was quite an experience."

The younger Jardine said he admired his father's intelligence. His dad had belonged to Mensa, which requires its members to be in the top 2 percent in IQ level, according to Jardine.

"You could talk to him about almost any topic," said Jardine. "He'd certainly have an opinion, but he'd be knowledgeable about almost everything."

"We really miss him. We could always go to him and say, 'Gee, I have this problem. What should I do about it?' He would not always say what we wanted to hear, but in the larger picture, it would be the right thing to do."

Preparations made for environmental study on resort

by Jo Rafferty
Staff Writer

Alpine County supervisors overturned a decision made last year by a previous board. They voted Tuesday to allow county staff to choose an environmental consultant for a planned Markleeville vacation resort.

The 2004 board had determined a full environmental study wasn't necessary for a full environmental impact report on the proposed project, consisting of 49 fractionally-owned cabins, a 25-room lodge and 14 commercial spaces.

Friends of Markleeville filed a lawsuit against the county in March, asking for a full environmental impact report.

Superior Court Judge Terrence Finney will mediate during negotiations between the two parties today.

"We are 90 percent there," said Alpine County Counsel Dennis Crabb. "During the session with Judge Finney on Friday, hopefully they'll take care of the remaining issues. My expectation is we will resolve it on Friday."

Alpine County Planning Director Brian Peters said two environmental consulting bids are being considered, one suggested by county counsel and the other by the Friends of Markleeville.

"I would not recommend the board request work to take place until the settlement is final," Peters said. "The county would be liable for paying for the work."

"In the next few weeks, hopefully all this will be settled," he added.

The vacation resort is being proposed by developer Tom Abdo of Markleeville, U.S.A.

■ Supervisor Skip Veatch announced that the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board had issued the permit to California Department of Fish and Game to do rotenone treatments in Silver King Creek, to preserve the Paiute cutthroat trout.

The rare trout is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

Treatments of rotenone and a neutralizer potassium permanganate will begin this month, according to Veatch. Treatments of the poison will rid the creek and its tributaries of rainbow trout and other species, thus prevent hybridization.

■ Bear Valley Ski Co. has been purchased by Dundee Realty U.S.A., LLC, according to Supervisor Terry Woodrow. Dundee Realty also owns Arapahoe Basin in Summit County, Colo.

At the Colorado ski resort, Dundee "made significant investments in lifts, snowmaking and buildings, resulting in an increase of annual skier days of almost 33 percent," said the Bear Valley Web site www.bearvalley.com

■ Carson District Ranger Gary Schiff said Tuesday that an analysis of placing a cell tower at Hawkins Peak will be conducted this fall.

Construction of the tower could begin as early as spring 2006, he said.

■ Jo Rafferty can be reached at jrafferty@recordcourier.com or 782-5121, ext. 213.



BELINDA GRANT/The R-C

Mike Martinkus of Carson City walks with his fishing buddy Jim Norton of Gardnerville near Pleasant Valley Creek in Markleeville, Tuesday. The two men were participants in the national organization Reel Recovery's retreat, where men in cancer recovery receive therapy by fly-fishing with other men. Visit www.reelrecovery.org or call (800) 699-4490.

Meeting on off-road vehicle closures

A public meeting on changes to roads that are allowed for motorized vehicle use in the Eldorado National Forest will be held 7-9 p.m. Thursday at the Turtle Rock Park community center on Highway 89 near Markleeville.

Changes to be in effect this month include prohibited use of motorized vehicles for cross-country travel and limiting of motorized vehicle use to a classified system of roads.

Maps will be available. For more information, visit the Web site www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado/proj-

[ect/route/index.shtml](#) or call the Eldorado National Forest supervisor's office, (530) 622-5061.

Markleeville Creek Day on Aug. 13

The Alpine Watershed Group will host the fourth annual Markleeville Creek Day, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Aug. 13 at the Elizabeth Cohan Park in Markleeville.

Activities include a fish release, stormwater drain stenciling, invasive weed pull, stream clean-up and a macroinvertebrate educational station. A future restoration site on Markleeville Creek will be toured at noon. Participants receive free lunch and a water bottle.

For more information, call (530) 694-2327 or e-mail water-shed@alpinecountyca.com

Book coming soon

A book published by Arcadia Publishing, "Images of America — Alpine County, Kirkwood and Markleeville," will be available sometime this fall.

The book contains 128 pages and more than 200 photographs of past and present Alpine County.

For more information, call Alpine County Museum at (530) 694-2317.

Commission awarded

The First 5 Alpine County Commission received the Preschool All-Star award from

the David and Lucile Packard Foundation for its part in the construction of the Alpine County Early Learning Center in Woodfords.

"It was for our effort in funding the Early Learning Center," said First 5 executive director Ron Rhoads, "for opening the doors and keeping it open."

The Alpine County commission was one of four California counties to receive the award, and the only small county. Other counties awarded were Los Angeles, San Mateo and San Francisco.

The Preschool All-Star award is informally called the Red Tennie award for the red children's tennis shoe, which is displayed inside the award.

NOTEBOOK

MILESTONES

DISCOVERED. A possible **NEW PLANET**, as yet unnamed; by scientists at Caltech, Yale and the Gemini Observatory. The researchers said the ball of rock and ice is the first object larger than Pluto to be found in the outer reaches of the solar system.



BERNARD PAPON—REUTERS

▲ WON. LANCE ARMSTRONG, 33, a record seventh consecutive Tour de France; by 4 min. 40 sec. over Ivan Basso of Italy; in his last professional competition; in Paris. Of the race that defined his career, the cycling champion, who in April announced his planned retirement, said, “Vive le Tour; forever!”

SENTENCED. AHMED RESSAM, 38, the so-called millennium bomber who plotted to attack Los Angeles International Airport on the eve of the new century; to 22 years in prison; in Seattle. During the sentencing hearing, Judge John Coughenour rebuked the Bush Administration, noting that “we did not need to use a secret military tribunal, detain the defendant indefinitely as an

AL HELD—PUBLISHED BY CROWN POINT PRESS

enemy combatant or deny [him] the right to counsel.”

DIED. SUSAN GORDON LYDON, 61, feminist writer and editor whose landmark 1970 essay for *Ramparts* magazine, “The Politics of Orgasm,” turned a previously taboo subject into a public debate; of cancer; in Boca Raton, Fla. She came up with the idea after listening to women’s groups and realizing that many had faked orgasm but were afraid to discuss it. The topic, said a *Ramparts* editor, quickly ballooned from “a giggle to a cause,” and her essay became a staple of many women’s studies courses.

DIED. BRUCE BOLT, 75, pioneer in engineering seismology, which uses earth science to influence structural engineering; in Oakland, Calif. By using data from sensors along fault lines, records of old quakes and analysis of underground rock formations, he explained why certain spots in active seismic areas, including some far from the epicenter, are hit harder than others. His work influenced legislation in California, and he was consulted on construction projects from Egypt to Alaska.

▼ DIED. AL HELD, 76, abstract painter and Yale University professor known for his gigantic geometrical pieces; near Camerata, Italy. After making his mark in the 1960s and ’70s with a series of orderly, stylized, mural-size black-and-white works featuring cubes and pyramids that appeared to be floating, he painted dizzying grids and spheres in eye-popping colors. Describing the theme of much of his work, he said, “We’re not going to get rid of chaos and complexity... But we can find a way to live with them.”

DIED. DANNY SIMON, 86, veteran comedy writer for Phil Silvers, Milton Berle and Sid Caesar, and the inspiration for some of the famous characters written by his younger brother Neil; in Portland, Ore. Revered by younger comics—Woody Allen said he learned all he knew about comedy writing from him—Danny had an idea for a play, from his experience as a divorced man living with another, that became Neil’s *The Odd Couple*.



DIED. RICHARD DOLL, 92, one of the first scientists to link cigarette smoking to lung cancer;

in Oxford, England. The epidemiologist’s 1949 findings, based on patient surveys at 20 hospitals in London, showed smoking to be the one habit consistent among the disparate population, leading to more definitive studies. Last year he published the final report in a half-century-long study of a group of British doctors, finding that continual smoking reduced life expectancy by 10 years but that stopping, even late in life, could significantly improve it.

▼ DIED. CATHERINE WOOLLEY, 100, writer of 87 children’s books including *The Puppy Who Wanted a Boy* and the *Gus the Ghost* series; in Truro, Mass. So prolific that her publisher advised her to take an occasional pseudonym, she often used her grandmother’s name, Jane Thayer.



THE CAPE COD TIMES/AP

40 YEARS AGO IN TIME

Today’s **TEENAGERS** are a new breed, no doubt, but so were their precocious forebears from the baby boom.



“If Booth Tarkington were to write *Seventeen* today,” says a Connecticut high school English teacher, “he’d have to call it *Twelve*.” Sociologist Reuel Denney notes with fascination the shopping list of a twelve-year-old suburban girl: “Water pistol, brassiere, permanent.” When a 16-year-old Louisville boy, as a practical joke, announced at dinner that his girl friend was pregnant, the first reaction of the stunned family came from the boy’s younger brother, 13. “My God,” he said. “You’ll lose your allowance.” Worldly, interesting, informed and even intellectual when barely out of childhood, young kids all over the U.S. are pulling down the entry age to teendom. Even as they do, the affluent society is pushing up the average age of school leaving. The lengthened span of teen-agerhood is further fattened by a growth rate of the teen-age population that is four times as high as the U.S. average. —TIME, Jan. 29, 1965

Read the entire article at time.com/years

By Melissa August, Harriet Barovick, Elizabeth L. Bland, Leslie-Bernard Joseph, Jeninne Lee-St. John, Golnoush Niknejad and Elspeth Reeve

Fifty Plus Club offers activities for seniors

The following bus trips will be offered for seniors by the Fifty Plus Club the rest of this month: Wednesday - South Lake Tahoe and Aug. 29 - Tour of the State Capitol.

Bus trips take place from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Riders meet at Alpine County Health and Human Services, 75-A Diamond Valley Road, Markleeville.

Other activities in August include a presentation by Frank Jacobelli of Alpine County Behavioral Health Services during the Fifty Plus Club monthly potluck noon-2 p.m. Aug. 11 at the Early Learning Center, 100

Rummage sale earns money for school

Formation of a Parent Teacher Association and fall fundraiser planned

Staff Reports

A recent Diamond Valley School fundraiser, a rummage sale at Highway 395 and 88, raised \$362, according to organizer Robin Butler. This was the second event organized to help bring back two positions that were dropped at the school — the principal and a teacher.

Organizers have since been told by school board members that the one-time money raised can't pay for positions, so Butler said a Parent Teacher Association formed this fall will designate what money raised will go toward. The group of organizers plans to have the funds go directly to student-related activities, such as field trips.

Another fundraising event will take place sometime in the fall.

Since receiving her notice, former principal Katie Hadley has accepted a position as principal in a Southern California school.

"We'll miss her. She was the diamond of Diamond Valley," said Butler.

Aug. 12, 2005

The Record-Courier ■ Gardnerville, Nevada

Lodge on agenda Tuesday

The settlement of a lawsuit regarding a vacation timeshare project in Markleeville will be presented to the Alpine County supervisors at the 9 a.m. Tuesday board meeting at the Administrative Office Building, 99 Water St., Markleeville.

Friends of Markleeville filed a lawsuit against the county for last year's board decision to allow construction of the Mahalee Lodge project without

a full environmental impact report.

A request for approval of a contract with Entrix, Inc., to conduct the report will also be presented.

Also, a request for other jurisdictions to release problem bears into Alpine County will be considered, as well as a 10 a.m. public hearing concerning changes to the current animal control regulations.

Alpine County

Markleeville Creek Day on Saturday

The Alpine Watershed Group will host the fourth annual Markleeville Creek Day, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, at the Elizabeth Coyan Park in Markleeville.

Activities include a fish release, stormwater drain stenciling, invasive weed pull, stream clean-up and a macroinvertebrate educational station.

A future restoration site on Markleeville Creek will be toured at noon. Participants receive free lunch and a water bottle.

For more information, call (530) 694-2327 or e-mail watershed@alpinecountycal.com

Workshop addresses Forest Service issues

A U.S. Forest Service workshop will take place at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday at Turtle Rock Park, 17300 Highway 89 in Markleeville. On the agenda is a Forest Plan Revision, travel management and other issues.

Subconservancy meeting Wednesday

The Carson Water Subconservancy District will meet 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at Turtle Rock Park, 17300 Highway 89 in Markleeville. The meeting will be preceded by a tour of the U.S. Forest Service Markleeville Guard Station Stream Restoration Plan, with participants meeting at the Alpine Administrative Building, 99 Water St., Markleeville.

Foothill Road, Markleeville. The topic is mental and emotional well being in older age: separating fact from myth. Participants should bring a homemade dish to share. For information, call Lois, (530) 694-9404 or Sherri (530) 694-2235.

On Aug. 25, a luncheon hosted by Gail will take place with the theme, Hot August Days. Call Sherri, (530) 694-2235, for information on the luncheon or bus trips.

The annual Death Ride was a success

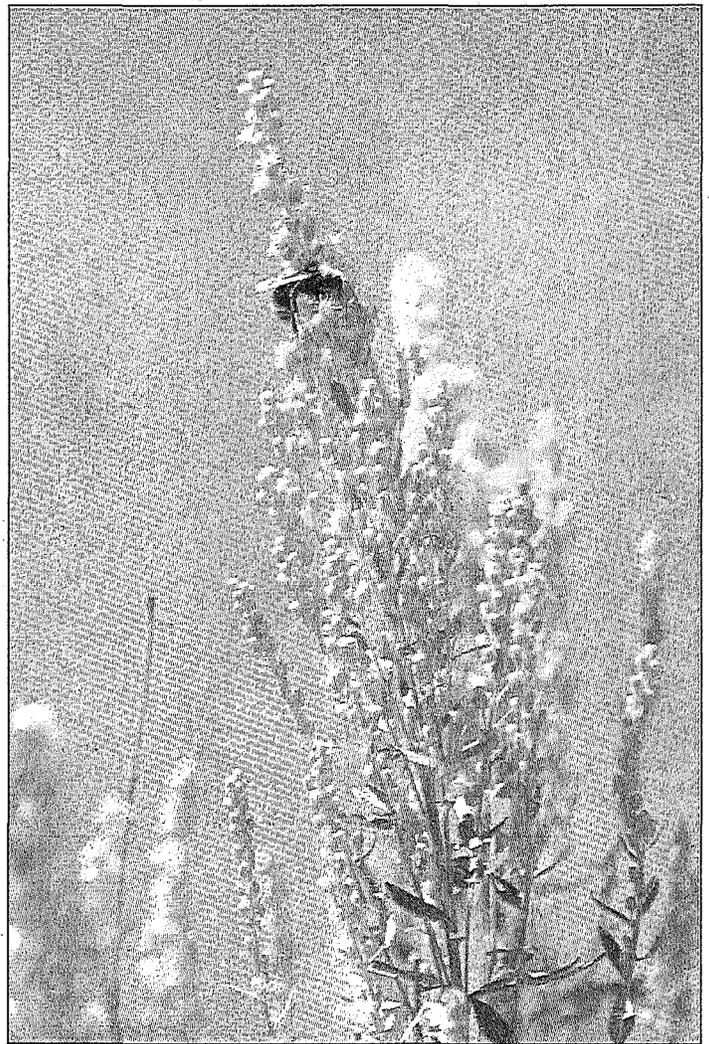
Alpine County Chamber of Commerce executive director Teresa Burkhauser said the 2005 Tour of the California Alps — The Death Ride went very well this year. "We had approximately 2,900 riders," she said. "There were no serious injuries and everyone seemed to have a great time.

"Of course we couldn't put on the event without our sponsors and volunteer groups, as well as the county and chamber members."

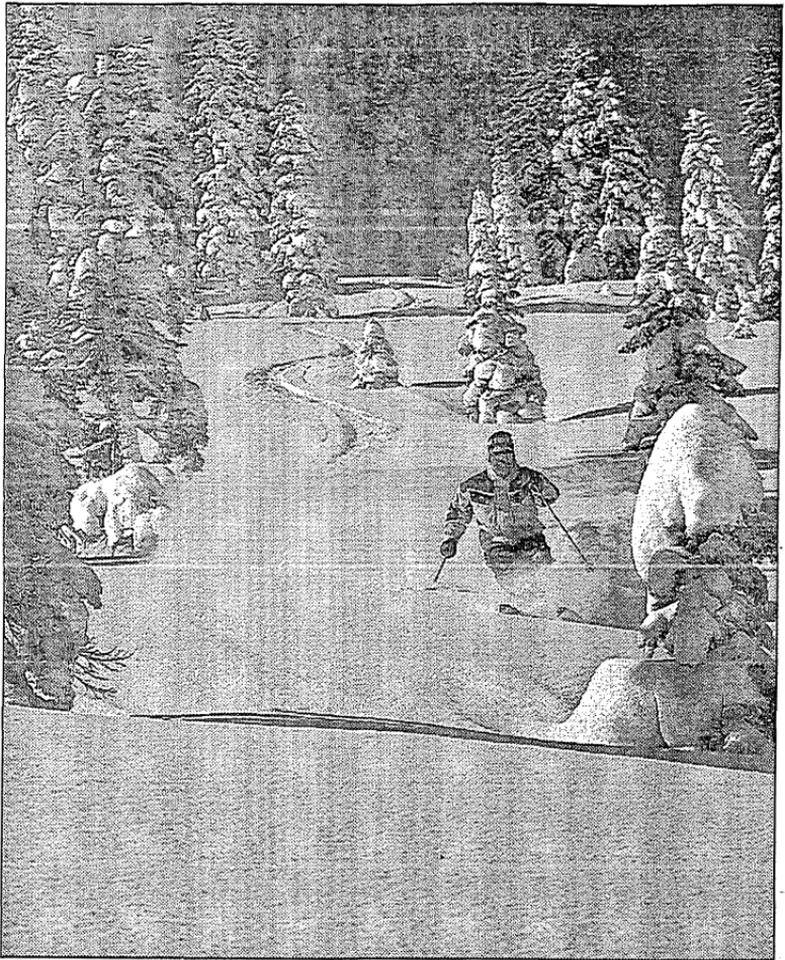
Music Festival final days this weekend

Bear Valley Music Festival is in full swing. The event started July 30 and ends this Sunday. Call (209) 753-2574 for ticket information.

GOLDENROD



BELINDA GRANT/The R-C
A bumblebee enjoys the nectar of a goldenrod flower near Pleasant Valley Creek in Markleeville.



Photos by Bear Valley Resort

Skiers will find more than fresh powder at Bear Valley in coming years; there will be a fresh look to the Alpine County ski town.

Bear Valley in line for a makeover

► SARACEVIC

From Page B1

San Jose development business partners Dan Breeding and Steve Hallgrimson, as well as Kleiner Perkins venture capitalists Kevin Compton and Doug MacKenzie. Financial terms were not disclosed.

As a group, they plan to give the small Alpine County town a total makeover, including a big, honking ski lift from the center of town to the slopes. They're also hoping to throw in a slew of condos and some new lifts on the mountain.

"We've kept this quiet for years," said Toeniskoetter. "Now it's Bear Valley's turn to come alive."

Looking at the situation, and the principals involved, I'm guessing the town *will* come alive. And make these guys a boatload of money.



Freestyle skier Mike Schimke enjoys Bear Valley in 2001.

Skiing Bear to have a whole new look

If you can't bring snow to Silicon Valley, take the valley to the mountains, right? A group of South Bay developers and some venture capital types are doing just that, snapping up the relatively unknown Bear Valley ski resort with plans to spruce the ol' place up and make it *the* place for the tech set to ski.

It all started nearly 20 years ago when Chuck Toeniskoetter, a 60-year-old South Bay land develop-

er, started acquiring properties in and around Bear Valley, a small town and ski resort due east of Arnold in the Sierra Nevada, with the eventual hope of buying the whole darn thing.

As they say, persistence pays off. Last month, after years of deals and maneuvering, Toeniskoetter and his team of investors finally landed the final piece of the puzzle: the Bear Valley ski area itself.

To be exact, Dundee Realty



Alan T. Saracevic

Money Talks

USA LLC, a subsidiary of Toronto's Dundee Realty Corp., purchased the Bear Valley Mountain Resort from its long-time owners, the Bottomley family, and entered into a partnership with Toeniskoetter's team, which includes his

► **SARACEVIC** : Page B2

the principals involved, I'm guessing the town *will* come alive. And make these guys a boatload of money.

As it stands, the developers own about 80 percent of the buildings in town, which are surrounded by some 325 residential houses. And, now, they own the resort, too. Toeniskoetter slowly put together the land holdings since 1987, when he started it all off by buying a parcel right in the center of town that was zoned for a sort-of "commuter" ski lift to the slopes. He added a little here and a little there throughout the '90s before finishing things off last month.

When Bear Valley was conceived back in the late '60s, the town approved a master plan of development that was never fully completed. The new owners of the town and resort plan to use the existing plan, building previously approved housing and ski lifts, said Toeniskoetter.

Why? Well, it's pretty simple. This place is close to Silicon Valley. And you can't ski in Palo Alto.

Located about halfway between Lake Tahoe and Yosemite in the Sierra Nevada, Bear Valley is about 180 miles east of the South Bay. If you have a map handy, follow Highway 4 east until you hit Bear Valley.

Compared with its developed neighbors to the north, i.e., North and South Lake Tahoe, Alpine County has been a relatively forgotten part of the Sierra, much to the delight of its 1,200 inhabitants.

Of course, that's going to change a bit now that the Silicon Valley fellas are ready to realize their decadeslong dream. Toeniskoetter says the group plans to keep the area's rural charms intact.

"Bear Valley is surrounded by Forest Service land," he said, the enthusiasm in his voice palpable. "We have this island in the forest that is really pristine. What we're going to do is keep it pristine, so people can go to this area without all the traffic and the rest you sometimes get in the Sierra."

Environmentalists aren't up in arms, although they're keeping an eye on things. "In terms of controversy, it's not high," said Warren Alford, a former Sierra Club activist currently working for the Sierra Nevada Forest Protection campaign. "There's obviously some wait-and-see to the situation."

Critics will also wait and see what the traffic looks like up there. Anyone who's driven Highway 4 on a bad day might argue that more houses on the road don't make a lot of sense.

But the biggest obstacle might be overcoming Bear Valley's reputation as a so-so ski area. That's

Freestyle skier Mike Schimke enjoys Bear Valley in 2001.

where the Dundee folks come in. Back in 1997, Dundee took over Arapahoe Basin, on Colorado's famed strip of Summit ski areas, and transformed the rustic site into a happening destination.

A-Basin, as it's known among powder hounds, has gone from 200,000 skier days per year to 358,000 skier days over the past seven years.

"They know what they're doing," said Toeniskoetter. "Bear Valley deserves this."

And no California story would be complete without the requisite real estate speculation. Paul Petersen, the unofficial mayor of Bear Valley, who runs Bear Valley Cross Country and Adventure Co. with his wife, has been in town for "30 winters." He says speculation has been rampant all summer.

"This deal was in escrow for about 60 days," said Petersen. "At the start of escrow there were a whole bunch of lots available around town. Now, there's about two left."

Petersen said lots that were going for about \$75,000 two years ago are nearing \$200,000 now. "It's pretty much crazy California real estate."

Nonetheless, Petersen says there's been little or no opposition to the development of the area. The locals are ready to get their shot at prime time.

"These guys do not appear to be undercapitalized," said Petersen, with a chuckle. "They seem to have the passion and vision that's right for Bear Valley. It's not like (massive ski resort company) InterWest came down from Canada and built a bunch of cookie cutters in the parking lot."

Amen.

Talk back. Send your items to Money Talks at asaracevic@sfchronicle.com.



Trout kill not necessary, lawsuit claims

By Denny Walsh
BEE STAFF WRITER

High in the Sierra, in sparkling streams and a pristine lake in the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness Area of Alpine County, dwells the Paiute cutthroat trout.

One California Department of Fish and Game official calls it "the rarest trout species in the world," and it has survived for thousands of years exclusively in the watershed of Silver King Creek and its isolated tributaries, southeast of Markleeville in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

But the trout is a federally listed threatened species and, according to California and federal officials, unless nonnative fish in the Paiute's range are exterminated, it could become extinct.

The state Fish and Game Department and the U.S. Forest Service propose getting rid of nonnative trout by chemically

► TROUT, Page A13

Sac. Bee Aug. 18, 2005

“The way we manage fisheries changes from time to time. That’s not unusual. Various factors play into it.”

Michael Wintemute

deputy director, state Department of Fish and Game

Trout: State had planted fish it wants to kill

► FROM PAGE A1

treating 11 miles of the Silver King Creek stream system and nearby Tamarack Lake with the poison rotenone, the same chemical used by the state in its unsuccessful effort to eradicate northern pike from Lake Davis in Plumas County.

The goal is to cleanse the stream system of rainbow trout that were stocked by the state in past years – and have interbred with the Paiute trout – and then restock the range with genetically pure Paiute.

But some conservationists, including Californians for Alternatives to Toxics, are dead set against the project and challenging the plan in Sacramento federal court.

“The decision to approve the rotenone project constitutes a major federal action significantly affecting the human environment within the meaning of” the National Environmental Policy Act, according to a lawsuit filed Monday. According to the suit, the Forest Service violated the act “by failing to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement that considers, analyzes and discloses all relevant effects of the project.”

The Forest Service also violated the act by failing to jointly plan the project with Fish and Game, the suit alleges.

The Environmental Assessment done in lieu of an impact statement by the Forest Service is inadequate, the suit claims.

It says the agency did not consider reasonable alternatives to rotenone, a colorless, odorless compound used as an insecticide. It historically has been applied to eradicate fish from their nonnative habitats.

“Rotenone has recently been linked with Parkinson’s disease,” the suit claims. “Three ingredients in the proposed rotenone formulations are on (the state’s anti-toxins law’s) list of chemicals known... to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity.”

Two years after the poisoning of other parts of Silver King Creek with rotenone, the diversity and abundance of aquatic invertebrates had not repopulated with the same numbers and types, the suit says.

“Other published studies have shown loss of non-target species, and food web and community changes from the use of rotenone,” it says. “Neither (the Forest Service) nor Fish and Game have refuted this evidence with scientific data.”

But Michael Wintemute, deputy director of Fish and Game, said in an interview that the project is “absolutely necessary to restore the Paiute to its native waters. Hybridization and too much competition for food are squeezing it out.”

“The nonnative fish need to be removed, and this is the safest and most effective way to do that,” Wintemute said.

The Alpine County Board of Supervisors at first had reservations about the project but withdrew its opposition at a May 17 board meeting, County Clerk Barbara Jones said.

Erin O’Connor, spokeswoman for the Forest Service’s Intermountain Region, in which the Silver King Creek area is located, said she could not comment because the region has not yet received the lawsuit.

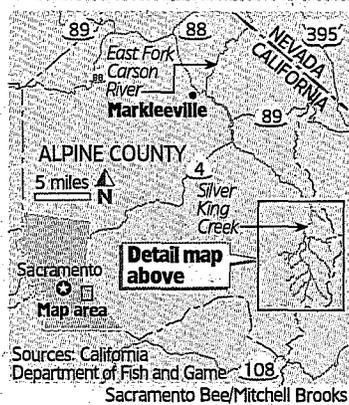
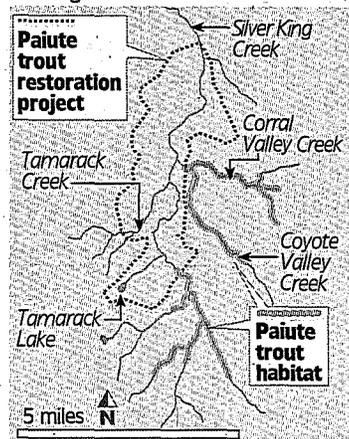
The conservationists argue that the project is unnecessary.

“The Paiute cutthroat trout is

Paiute cutthroat trout

Oncorhynchus clarki seleniris

As part of a restoration project to save the Paiute cutthroat trout, the state Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Forest Service plan to chemically treat a stream in Alpine County with the insecticide rotenone to kill nonnative trout. The Paiute cutthroat trout, one of the rarest trout subspecies, is found only in the Silver King Creek watershed in the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness Area.



already established in 11.5 miles of this stream, in two other creeks within the same watershed, and in four populations in other watersheds in the Sierra Nevada,” the suit contends. “Together, these stream reaches surpass the species’ historic range.”

Moreover, the suit alleges, Fish and Game, with the Forest Service’s blessing, in years past stocked the nonnative trout the agencies now want to eradicate.

Wintemute acknowledged that his agency had done some stocking of rainbow trout in the Paiute’s range. “The way we manage fisheries changes from time to time,” he said. “That’s not unusual. Various factors play into it. But, right now, our goal, along with the federal government, is to restore the Paiute to its native range.”

■ ■ ■
The Bee’s Denny Walsh can be reached at (916) 321-1189 or dwalsh@sacbee.com.

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Aug. 18, 2005

R-C
8-19-05



JESSICA COMBOS/The R-C
Alpine Watershed Coordinator Laura Leuders, center right, shows volunteers, left to right, Mary Shun, Sean Whalen and Robert Shun, how to hang a bat box during the fourth annual Markleeville Creek Day at Elizabeth Coyan Park in Markleeville on Saturday.

Changes ahead for animal control

by **Jo Rafferty**
Staff Writer

Residents of Alpine County will be given the chance to voice their opinions before proposed changes to animal control laws can occur.

Alpine County supervisors at Tuesday's board meeting agreed that with the varying demographics in Kirkwood, Bear Valley and the towns of Markleeville and Woodford, leash laws should vary as well.

"What will work in Bear Valley won't necessarily work in Markleevillage," said Alpine County Sheriff John Crawford.

Terry Woodrow, supervisor for District 4 in Bear Valley, said there is a large number of dogs in Bear Valley, as well as in Kirkwood.

"We have a lot of dogs," she said. "I think we should discuss this with the communities."

County Counsel Dennis Crabb said it is possible for the different communities to establish their own laws.

"It's within the board's discretion to establish different

ordinances in different communities," he said.

The existing ordinance allows dogs in Alpine County to be either on leashes or controlled through voice command. The proposed ordinance would require leashes up to 10 feet long.

The last time an animal control ordinance was adopted was more than 20 years ago.

Jackie Sodaro, who lives in Markleevillage, said she had been out in front of her house with her dog on a leash when another dog "dashed to the edge of the property." Although the other dog's owner whistled for the dog before it reached Sodaro, she said she had been startled by the incident.

"I really do believe, out of courtesy, dogs should be on a leash," said Sodaro.

Markleeville resident Nancy Thornburg said she lets her dog loose on her property, but not outside her property.

"Voice control means no control," said Thornburg.

The public hearing on the new Animal Control Ordinance

was postponed until the Sept. 20 Alpine County Board of Supervisors meeting.

Thornburg said more people should be notified of the September meeting.

"This is a major change to a major ordinance and I don't believe anyone knows about it," she said.

Assistant to the board Judy Molnar said she will mail postcards with a summary of the new ordinance to property owners in Alpine County prior to the meeting. Information will also be posted on the county Web site, www.co.alpine.ca.us

Comments can also be mailed to Alpine County Administration Building, assistant to the board Judy Molnar, P.O. Box 158, Markleeville, Calif. 96120.

For more information, call Alpine County Administration at (530) 694-2281.

Jo Rafferty can be reached at jrafferty@recordcourier.com or 782-5121, ext. 213.

County agrees to environmental study

Record-Courier
Aug. 19, 2005

by Jo Rafferty
Staff Writer

A settlement has been reached which repeals a 2004 Alpine County Board of Supervisors' decision to allow a proposed vacation resort in Markleeville without an environmental impact report. Supervisors voted Tuesday to uphold the agreement.

In March, a lawsuit was filed by Friends of Markleeville against the county to overturn the previous board's decision and demand an environmental report for the proposed Markleeville Resort-Mahalee Lodge, a 25-room lodge and 49-cabin resort, to be located on 36 acres in Markleeville.

The lawsuit asked that a "focused environmental impact report" be completed.

Alpine County Supervisors approved hiring of Entrix Inc. of South Lake Tahoe to do the job for \$56,000 or less. All fees will be paid for by developer, Tom Abdo of Markleeville USA.

The developer is also responsible for all legal costs, including reimbursement of \$17,000 to Friends of Markleeville, for attorney fees paid to the Brandt-Hawley group, according to the agreement.

Alpine County Counsel Dennis Crabb said that the report should be completed by spring with commencement of construction in spring or summer of 2006.

Specific issues to be looked at, as listed in the agreement, are: aesthetics, utilities, public services and roads and parking.

The Highway 89 entrance, tree removal and the Montgomery Street/Hot Spring viewshed will all be examined for aesthetics.

Utilities are to include the water and wastewater systems, their capacities, impacts and financial arrangements for ongoing maintenance and replacement costs. The town ditch, which runs through the property,



Alpine County residents tour the site of the Markleeville Resort-Mahalee Lodge last year. The town of Markleeville is in the background.

Submitted to the R-C

will be analyzed for water quality, downstream agricultural use and safety. Potential groundwater impacts will also be considered.

The report will look at whether there are adequate public services and funding for police, fire and emergency services.

Additionally, the report will determine if there is adequate parking, access and sight distances for motorists.

Both sides in the Mahalee Lodge-Markleeville Resort decision say they can't comment on the settlement, because the agreement states that all comments will be contained in a statement, written by both Markleeville USA and Friends of Markleeville.

Whit Manley, Markleeville USA attorney, said he is not sure of the release date for the statement.

Crabb looked at the benefits of the decision at Tuesday's meeting.

"The project proponent gets the certainty of what the project will be and Friends gets issues looked at," he said.

The legal agreement rescinds previous actions by the board, and will "revise and replace the existing General Plan Amendment and Planned Development

Zoning adopted for the project," states the agreement.

The most recent plan describes the proposed resort as approximately 25,000-square-foot in size and consists of mixed commercial and residential use structures. The 49 cabins are to be sold as fractional time shares. The project will be built on 36 acres adjacent to downtown Markleeville.

The agreement states that Friends of Markleeville must submit an alternative project description to Entrix. After analysis is complete, Entrix will recommend one of the following options: no project, the proposed project, a reduced project, or the alternative submitted by Friends.

Project proponents in the past have said that they think the project will greatly increase tax revenues, provide jobs and help the financial situation of the town of Markleeville, which has a population of 237, according to U.S. Census reports.

Project opponents have said they are concerned the issues, to be addressed in the environmental impact report, have not been dealt with.

■ Jo Rafferty can be reached at jrafferty@recordcourier.com or 782-5121, ext. 213.

Silver State Marathon, Silver Run this weekend

By Dave Price
Tribune News Service

This will be a silver weekend for local area runners.

For starters, the inaugural Virginia City Silver Run 10K and 2-mile run/walk will be held on Saturday. Then on Sunday, the 29th annual Silver State Marathon will be held in the Washoe Valley with various races, including a 10K walk, 10K run, half-marathon and marathon.

The Silver Run begins at 8 a.m. with both the 10-kilometer and 2-mile races from the Delta Saloon on C Street in downtown Virginia City. The 2-mile course will cover the city's historic streets. The 10K course will include stretches of trails that will pass three different cemeteries.

Awards will be given out to the top three finishers in each age group for the 10K and 2-mile runs and to the top three male and female overall finishers in the walk. The entry fee is \$30, with proceeds going to benefit the programs at Hugh Gallagher Elementary School in Virginia City. Registration will open at 7 a.m. on Saturday.

For more information, contact race director Sue Moulden at (775) 882-6828 or at (775) 847-0977. The Sagebrush Stompers and Tahoe Mountain Milers running clubs are helping with the race organization.

On Sunday, the Silver State Marathon starts at 6 a.m. from Bowers Mansion Regional Park. The 26.2-mile course will take runners around Washoe Lake, as well as Washoe Lake State Park and the Scripps Wildlife Preserve before returning to finish at Bowers.

The half-marathon and 10K races start at 8 a.m. and the 10K walk at 8:10.

Entry forms are available at www.silverstatestriders.com, but no race-day registration will be accepted.

Looking ahead, the 25th annual Kirkwood 5K/10K will be held on Sept. 3 at Kirkwood Ski Resort in Alpine County.

A one-mile kids' fun run will be held at 9 a.m., followed by the start of the 5 and 10K races.

Registration is \$25 if post-marked by Aug. 26 (\$30 after that date). The entry fee for the kids' fun run is \$5.

Tahoe Daily Tribune Aug 19-21, 2005

Judge gives OK for waterway poisoning

The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — Crews will pack into the Carson Iceberg Wilderness and use rotenone to poison fish in the middle section of the Silver King Creek after a Sacramento Superior Court judge ruled Friday that a state plan to preserve a rare species of trout by poisoning the waterway should not be delayed.

Judge Lloyd G. Connelly Jr. ruled against conservationists who have tried to keep wildlife officials from pouring fish killer in 11 miles of watershed south of Lake Tahoe. State officials hope to recover the native Paiute cutthroat trout by eliminating its competitors for food.

Conservationists argued that the poison would destroy other organisms critical to the ecosystem, as well as endanger humans.

After a lengthy hearing, Connelly ruled that a temporary stay of the project "would be against the public interest."

The judge said there was not enough evidence before him to decide that the "degrading impacts" on the watershed and its ecosystem outweigh the public's interest in preserving the Paiute.

The Paiute is on the federal list of threatened species. According to California and federal officials, unless fish that are not native to its habitat are exterminated, the trout will have to be upgraded to endangered.

The California Department of Fish and Game plans to start applying rotenone, an aquatic insecticide, to the stream system on Wednesday.

See **Poisoning**, Page A7

Poisoning

From Page A1

Rotenone has been particularly controversial in the Sierra Nevada since the state used it in an unsuccessful effort to eliminate voracious northern pike from Lake Davis north of Lake Tahoe in 1997.

Conservationists, led by the Eureka-based Californians for Alternatives to Toxics, challenged the Paiute project with lawsuits in federal and state courts in Sacramento.

Cyclist Jeff Matthews rides along the edge of the new asphalt paving on Highway 89 from Meyers to Luther Pass.

Jim Grant
Tahoe Daily Tribune

Tahoe Daily
Tribune
Aug. 23, 2005



Luther Pass paved but cyclists left in the rough

By Susan Wood
Tribune staff writer

Motorists aren't the only ones getting pinched by high oil prices.

Bicyclists who ride Highway 89 up Luther Pass will find an overlay set by Caltrans a month ago that extends to the edge of the travel lane — and that's where it stops.

Caltrans says it stopped short of extending its work onto the shoulders used by cyclists because, among other things, the oil used in its over-

lays has gotten too expensive.

Most cyclists ride where the lip between the old and the new pavement lies, requiring a good sense of balance to negotiate. Cyclists agree it's a hindrance and hazard to ride on two levels of roadway.

"What they did is terrible," said cyclist and bike ride promoter Joe Marzocco. "Why didn't they pave out to the edge? We're paying for this road? It's like riding down the road on Highway 50. You take your life

See **Cyclists**, Page A7

Cyclists

From Page A1

into your own hands."

Marzocco organizes the annual Death Ride, one of the area's premier cycling events.

To save money and time in construction, Caltrans put in a thin-layered mix of oil, water and gravel called a slurry seal. The preventive maintenance treatment — considered a stop-gap measure to a standard overlay — can extend the life of a road by at least five years, but it costs \$15,000 per lane, per mile.

Asphalt is not cheap. The cost of the oil-based substance has about doubled in a year. In 2003, it cost \$150 to \$170 a ton. Last year, it would cost road crews \$300. Add the

transportation fuel expenditures, and road improvements can turn into a costly venture.

Regardless of the thickness of a layer, there's no full Class 2 bike lane on the thoroughfare between El Dorado and Alpine counties.

"The point is, when we do a slurry seal, we just cover the width of the travel lane. We try to do what we can to accommodate traffic. We can't just add shoulders," said Joe Caputo, Caltrans' deputy district director of maintenance.

But tell that to the recreation minded in South Lake Tahoe.

Jeff Matthews, another Alta Alpina Cycling Club rider, rode on the new Highway 89 asphalt on one recent weekend day. He felt it was unsafe to pedal in the motorists' travel lane.

"A lot of motorists don't understand why we ride in the lanes. This is why," he said. "If we talk about biking in the basin, we should start with the major arteries," he said.

But there may be hope in the future for cyclists. The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, along with the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control, has listed a curb/road-widening project among its \$908 million worth of slated environmental improvement programs.

The water-quality improvement ranks No. 4 in a list of 10 high priority projects, TRPA said Monday. Other than the ranking, there's no timeline scheduled for doing the work. The project is unfunded at this point.

By next summer, Caltrans plans to lay a slurry seal on Highway 89 between the "Y" and D.L. Bliss State Park around Emerald Bay.

Fish poisoning begins in Alpine

RC
8-24-
05

The Record-Courier ■ Gardnerville, Nevada

by Jo Rafferty
Staff Writer

A Sacramento judge's ruling Friday cleared the way for poisoning in an Alpine County creek.

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Connelly ruled against conservationists who have tried to keep wildlife officials from pouring rotenone in 11 miles of

the Silver King Creek system and nearby Tamarack Lake.

Officials from the California Department of Fish and Game and Nevada Fish and Wildlife said they were confident the poisoning would not be stopped.

"The state court denied the injunction," said Nevada Fish and Wildlife field supervisor Robert Williams, Tuesday. "But we hadn't put anything on hold. We were ready to go."

Four Fish and Wildlife biologists, plus several officials from California State Fish and Game and the U.S. Forest Service made the 3-1/2 mile trek into

See **Fish** on page 10

Fish: Poisoning of Silver Creek begins

Continued from page 1

Llewellyn Falls in Silver Creek Canyon on Monday, according to Williams.

Supplies had been brought in Sunday afternoon on horseback and more were being packed in Tuesday.

"They're up there right now," said Williams.

"Treatment might be starting this afternoon or tomorrow. The proposed treatment should be completed by Friday or Saturday."

State officials hope to recover the native Paiute cutthroat trout by eliminating its competitors for food.

"We just felt confident we were going to complete the project," said California Fish and Game Chief Deputy Director Paul Stein. "We were hoping to take the first step in preserving the Paiute cutthroat trout."

Multiple treatments are planned for the project, which

will extend downstream of Llewellyn Falls to Silver Creek Canyon. The project involves closing off the area for a period of two to three years.

The Department of Fish and Game performed similar poisonings in the early 1990s in the upper section of the creek, effectively restoring the trout in the creek and its tributaries above Llewellyn Falls.

The Paiute is on the federal list of threatened species. According to California and federal officials. Unless fish that are not native to its habitat are exterminated, the trout will have to be upgraded to endangered.

Rotenone has been particularly controversial in the Sierra Nevada since the state used it in an unsuccessful effort to eliminate voracious northern pike from Lake Davis north of Lake Tahoe in 1997.

South Lake Tahoe resident Mary Lou Mosbacher attends

every Alpine County Board of Supervisors meeting and has been fighting rotenone poisoning since 1987.

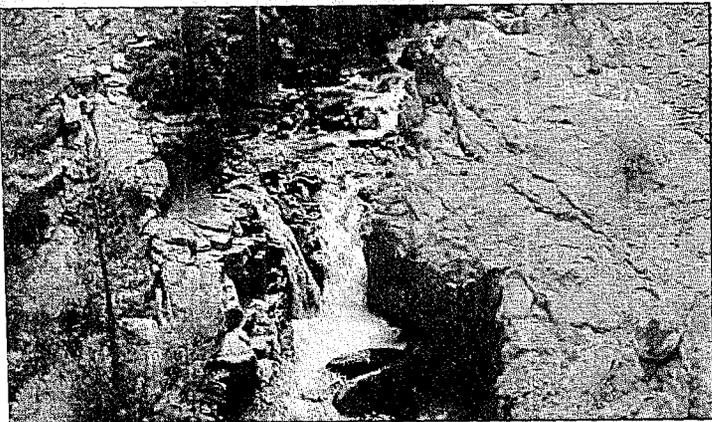
"I think things are supposed to evolve out and in," said Mosbacher. "I don't understand why, after seeing what happened at Lake Davis, they would want to proceed."

Mosbacher said her son-in-law Jeff Chavarria, who was an avid fisherman before he died last year was not impressed when fishing for Lahontan cutthroat trout.

"He said the Lahontan fight like a dead leaf," said Mosbacher.

As far as the poisoning, Mosbacher said, "For real fisherman (saving the Paiute cutthroat trout) doesn't seem to be a big deal. We can't save everything."

■ The Associated Press contributed to this report.



Llewellyn Falls is the location of a fish kill to make room for the Paiute Cutthroat trout.

Fish poisoning begins in Alpine

R-C
8-24-05

by Jo Rafferty
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See **Fish** on page 10



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Aug. 24, 2005

The Record-Courier ■ Gardnerville, Nevada

Fish: Poisoning of Silver Creek begins

Continued from page 1
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■ The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Markleeville woman fights for cure for glaucoma

by Jo Rafferty
Staff Writer

Melissa Baker of Markleeville was chosen to be one of four honorary co-chairs for the Glaucoma Research Foundation's campaign Catalyst For a Cure, joining Roger McGuinn of the rock band The Byrds, the honorary national chairperson and spokesperson.

The 24-year-old student at Lake Tahoe Community College, who lost her left eye to the disease a year ago, is hoping the campaign will bring crucial information to light.

"It's cool to spread the education about glaucoma," said Baker. "I'm definitely very honored."

Baker said she thought she was chosen because of her age. The other co-chairs are Latina, African-American and Asian.

"I think they wanted a diverse group. I'm young to have had glaucoma," said Baker.

The importance of spreading information comes from the fact that with proper testing, the disease can be stopped before it does permanent damage, Baker said.

"There were no signs that I had glaucoma other than my vision decreasing," said Baker. "Once your vision decreases, it's too late. That's why it's so important to get a routine eye exam."

With glaucoma, intraocular pressure damages the optic nerve.



JUDY MOLNAR Submitted to The R-C
Above, Melissa Baker visits Highland Lake in Alpine County. Below, Baker with her dog, Judah.

"My pressure was up for over eight years," said Baker, "that's why my eye was so severely damaged."

A DNA test of scar tissue revealed that the glaucoma had been there since she was 7. Her doctor never measured her eye pressure, so she wasn't diagnosed for glaucoma until it was too late.

"The eye doctor that I was going to since I was 7, for eight years never checked the pressure



in my eye," said Baker. "If he had, my eye would have been saved."

As a teenager, a tragic ski accident led to a confirmed diagnosis.

"I kind of had a lazy eye and nobody had an answer for my mom," said Baker. "When I was 15, while on the Douglas High School ski team, I fell skiing and had blackened eyes. The pressure in my left eye was tremendous."

Baker then saw a new eye specialist, who finally told her the reason for her eye problems was glaucoma. Baker underwent four surgeries in the following years, but by age 22 her eye pressure was worse than ever. During her fifth surgery, her left eye was removed.

Losing her eye has been "definitely very difficult," said Baker.

She met the Glaucoma Research Foundation director of development Craig Palmer when he went to Markleeville to help in the lunch tent during the annual Tour of the California Alps — Death Ride. Baker's mom, Judy Molnar, assistant to the Alpine County Board of Supervisors, donated \$3,000 from the lunch proceeds to Catalyst For a Cure for the last two years, totaling \$6,000.

Catalyst For a Cure, in its fourth year, began as a collaboration between the Glaucoma

Research Foundation, in its 27th year, and the Kirsch Foundation, which funded the campaign the first three years. Four university laboratories — Vanderbilt, Johns Hopkins and universities of Utah and Washington — made "a good deal of progress" in the three-year study, according to Palmer.

The board has already raised 56 percent of the \$7.5 million needed for studies for the next three years, he said.

The public launch of the Catalyst For a Cure campaign, Speeding the Cure, will take place during a program and reception, featuring the campaign's honorary chairman, McGuinn of The Byrds and the other honorary co-chairs, including Baker. The event takes place at 6 p.m. on Sept. 8 at The City Club of San Francisco.

"There is a stereotype that this is an older disease, but everyone is vulnerable," said Palmer. "The leading preventable cause of blindness is glaucoma. Melissa, bless her heart, has been grappling with this disease for several years now."

For more information, call Palmer at (415) 986-3162 or visit the Web site, www.glaucoma.org

■ Jo Rafferty can be reached at jrafferty@recordcourier.com or 782-5121, ext. 213.

Antique gas powered engines on display Saturday

Alpine County Museum
Special to the R-C

The Alpine County Museum and the Historical Society of Alpine County will host a display by the Antique Gas Powered Engine Association of Northern Nevada on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the museum grounds.

These meticulously restored antique engines will all be running and many of them will be performing chores such as grinding grain, pumping water and turning an antique ice cream maker. This is the second year the group has visited the museum and they are a great hit with the visitors.

There will be lots of good eats

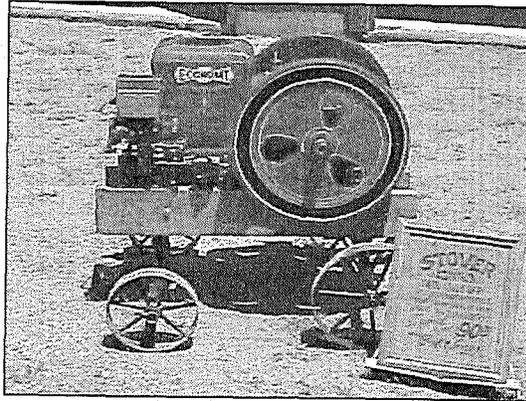
provided by the Alpine Parlor of the Native Sons of the Golden West including sausage dogs, soda pop and other delicacies commensurate with the spirit of the engines of a bygone era. The eats will be free, but donations will be gladly accepted.

Inside, the museum visitors will be able to view the new Chalmers exhibit and visit the

museum book store. And as always, admission to the museum is by donation only.

Parking is limited but bus service from the Alpine County Administration parking lot will be provided at no cost. The Museum parking lot will be reserved for vehicles with disabled parking permits only.

Information, (530) 694-2317.



The Antique Gas Powered Engine Association of Northern Nevada will have a display at the Alpine County Museum on Saturday.

8/24/05



Gardnerville residents Liz and Don Weirauch stand next to a sign near Silver King Creek stating that fishing is illegal above Llewellyn Falls.

Alpine fish kill hits federal legal snag

by Jo Rafferty
Staff Writer

A federal judge, who issued a last-minute restraining order earlier this week preventing state officials from poisoning an Alpine County stream hours before it was to happen, will revisit the issue Tuesday in Sacramento.

U.S. District Court Judge Frank Damrell will preside in a second hearing, this time looking at an injunction against the poisoning.

The case was filed by environmental groups Californians for Alternatives to Toxics and Wilderness Watch and two independents South Lake Tahoe resident Laurel Ames and Ann McCampbell, a Santa Fe, N.M. physician.

U.S. Forest Service's environmental assessment on the project, according to Ames. The Forest Service has until 5 p.m. Monday to submit any evidence to be used during arguments. Plaintiffs have until noon on Friday. The hearing starts at 10 a.m. Tuesday in Sacramento Superior Court, Courtroom 2, 15th floor.

The application of rotenone by state and federal wildlife officials would kill all the fish in approximately 11 miles of Silver King Creek and its tributaries. A neutralizer would, within two or three years, make the waterway habitable again to allow for planting of Paiute cutthroat trout, a threatened species on the federal Endangered Species List.

The case challenges the

Fish: Judge orders hearing

Continued from page 1

About 35 Fish and Game and Forest Service officials entered the wilderness area south of Lake Tahoe on Saturday to prepare for the project after Sacramento Superior Court Judge Lloyd G. Connelly Jr. gave them the go-ahead. On Friday, Connelly ruled against conservationists saying that a temporary stay of the project "would be against the public interest."

The judge said there was not enough evidence before him to decide that the "degrading impacts" on the watershed and its ecosystem outweigh the public's interest in preserving the Paiute.

Tuesday, Damrell ordered that the kill be stopped.

California Department of Fish and Game spokesman Patrick Martarano said the crews were contacted about 4 p.m. Tuesday via satellite phone, and were told not to proceed with the poisoning, which was to commence at 9 a.m. Wednesday.

"They were eagerly awaiting the decision," said Martarano. "We're not giving up. The project was stopped on time. Part of the problem is the Forest Service hadn't conducted the proper NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) requirements. We're leaving about five people out there. We had literally tons of equipment in there. That stuff's coming back out. It is just a logistical decision. Otherwise it would all have to be in there for a week."

Martarano said it is a 7-mile hike into Silver King Creek below Llewellyn Falls where the poisoning was planned.

Reporters don't frequent the area, according to Martarano, said the last reporter he remembers was from KCRA Channel 3, more than a few

DETAILS

What: Fish hearing

When: 10 a.m. Tuesday

Where: Sacramento Superior Court

years ago. The same reporter still works at the Sacramento television station, but opts to not come out to the site these days, he said.

It took Fish and Game information officer Patrick Foy three and a half hours to reach the poisoning site earlier this week, said Martarano. Foy was still at the site on Wednesday, taking some pictures.

Laurel Ames, 58, who has lived in South Lake Tahoe all her life, attended Tuesday's hearing in Sacramento. She said the hearing that started at 9:30 a.m. was supposed to end by noon. Damrell's decision didn't come in until almost 4 p.m.

Ames, who doesn't represent any particular group, said the crews had been too optimistic about what the outcome of Tuesday's hearing would be.

"They jumped the gun," said Ames. "There was an assumption on their part that they would prevail. They did this last year when they thought Lahontan (Regional Water Quality Control Board) was going to give them a permit. They went in without waiting for it."

Martarano said this time it came a lot closer than it did when their permit was denied in September 2004.

"We had a couple of days then, at least," said Martano. "This time we were within hours."

Liz and Don Weirauch, members of High Sierra Fly Casters and owners of the Angler's Edge in Gardnerville, went fish-

ing at Silver

King Creek three weeks ago. Two in their party, Don and his friend Steve Morris, a U.S. Marine instructor, caught and released approximately 60 fish each, according to Weirauch.

She was embarrassed to admit she forgot her reel that day. In spite of this, she pulled in about 30 fish.

"No one ever mentions this is a wild trout stream," said Liz. "They're just ruining that stream if they poison it."

The Weirauchs and other anglers have complained that the Lahontan cutthroat trout that was preserved with the same rotenone procedure 10 years ago in the Upper Truckee River are small and don't put up a fight.

"Two weeks ago we caught 4-inch fish in the Upper Truckee River," said Liz. "It was miserable. Lahontan are not any fun to fish for. They lay over."

Liz said she is not optimistic about the health of the Paiute cutthroat trout, although she has not fished for them because it is illegal.

"We took out 10-inch fighting brookies at Silver King Creek," said Liz. "They're not doing this for the fishermen."

However, Western Nevada Resource Conservation and Development coordinator Dan Kaffer said he has enjoyed fishing for Lahontan in Pyramid Lake.

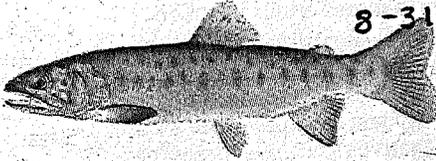
"I like catching fish. I like catching Lahontan cutthroat trout," said Kaffer. "They're some of my favorite fish to catch."

"We shouldn't criticize a fish because it's easier to catch than a rainbow trout."

Jo Rafferty can be reached at jrafferty@recordcourier.com or 782-5121, ext. 213.

RC 8-26-05

Sac-Bee
8-31-05



Joe Tomelleri

Under the plan, genetically pure Paiute cutthroat trout would be reintroduced in an Alpine County creek after chemical treatment to kill nonnative rainbow trout.

Proposal to poison stream on hold

Judge issues injunction, hints a complete review is needed before plan to restore rare trout proceeds.

By Denny Walsh
BEE STAFF WRITER

A Sacramento federal judge on Tuesday halted for the foreseeable future the state's plan to poison 11 miles of a creek and a nearby lake in the high Sierra as part of a recovery project for the rare Paiute cutthroat trout.

U.S. District Judge Frank C. Damrell Jr. issued a preliminary injunction, which means the project will be on hold at least until the judge makes a final ruling in a conservationists' lawsuit challenging the plan.

Damrell hinted strongly that he feels a full environmental impact statement must be done before the suit can be resolved.

Benjamin Longstreth, an attorney for the U.S. Forest Service, estimated an EIS "probably would take a couple of years."

Because the waters are in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, the California Department of Fish and Game has been working with the Forest Service on the project.

Longstreth described the Paiute, a federally listed threatened species, as the "rarest trout in North America," and argued that, without the recovery project, it is "highly vulnerable to extinction."

The plan called for Fish and Game to chemically treat a part of Silver King Creek and some of its isolated tributaries and Tamarack Lake, in the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness Area of Alpine County, with a highly toxic aquatic insecticide called rotenone.

The goal was to rid the waters of nonnative rainbow trout, which have interbred with the Paiute and compete with it for food.

Once the rainbow were eliminated, the plan was to restock that part of the stream with genetically pure Paiute, which have

► TROUT, Page B3

Trout: 'Proof of irreparable harm' is cited by judge

► FROM PAGE B1

survived for thousands of years exclusively in the watershed of Silver King Creek southeast of Markleeville.

But the conservationists, led by Eureka-based Californians for Alternatives to Toxics, argued that rotenone kills everything, and there is no evidence as to every species that inhabits the target area, possibly including some "rare and endemic macroinvertebrate."

Only a comprehensive impact investigation will yield that information, the conservationists insist.

The "balance of hardship tips sharply in favor of the plaintiffs," Damrell said.

"On the one hand, the Paiute cutthroat appears to be surviving, at least for now, in other parts of the same watershed and in other watersheds. These locations may not be the best habitat nor their native habitat, but they seem to be serviceable for the time being.

"On the other hand," the judge said, "you have what is a stark finality; an execution in a very special place in our treasured mountains.

"Whatever's in there will be eliminated. There's no dispute about that," he noted. "But there is a dispute as to whether everything will repopulate and to what extent.

"That's proof of irreparable harm. Life there will end for a period of time."

The two government agencies argued that they covered all of these contingencies in a joint environmental assessment of the project.

But Damrell said the environmental assessment relies on conclusions drawn from raw data.

He said the plaintiffs have two macroinvertebrate experts "who the Forest Service should pay attention to."

"There are so many uncertainties about the results of the plan as it is now proposed that an environmental impact statement would be appropriate," the judge declared.

"There is substantial controversy and substantial uncertainty, so this 11 miles of stream should not be poisoned without further and more careful study.

"Poisoning our waters may be helpful in certain instances, but I don't think this is the way you do it."

Deputy Attorney General Sara Russell, who represents Fish and Game, told Damrell if the rotenone application is not done now it may never be done, because the federal funding will be lost.

"Budget constraints cannot be a factor in this decision," the judge said. "This is an environmental matter and money has no place in it."

The judge set a status conference in the case for Oct. 21.

■ ■ ■

The Bee's Denny Walsh can be reached at (916) 321-1189 or dwalsh@sacbee.com.

Sac Bee 8-31-05

RC 8-31-05

Letters to the editor

spell "Paiute" right?

Nancy Thornburg
Markleeville

Piute, Paiute, let's just call it all off

EDITOR:

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. The picture accompanying your article "Alpine fish kill hits federal legal snag" fairly screams for comment. The big print on the sign states "Piute Trout Management Area."

How can we possibly trust agencies like the California Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, or the U.S. Forest Service to go into a pristine wilderness area and poison 11 miles of beautiful stream to protect an allegedly threatened species of trout when they can't even

Our opinion

Time to fish or cut bait

A ruling preventing the California Department of Fish and Game from poisoning an 11-mile stretch of stream isn't about fish, it's about process.

On Tuesday, a federal judge granted an injunction preventing the state's proposal to kill off non-native fish and plant endangered Paiute cutthroat trout in their place.

U.S. Judge Frank Damrell ruled the U.S. Forest Service should have done an environmental impact study before allowing the fish kill.

Last summer, Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth rejected a challenge to the plan to poison Silver King Creek in the Carson-Iceberg. Bosworth was backing up Regional Forester Jack Troyer, who issued a finding of no significant impact in response to the challenge that poisoning the creek will affect insects fish eat.

Environmentalists and anglers are challenging that rule in an effort to stop the poisoning.

Whether the poisoning will help save the Paiute cutthroat trout is another debate entirely.

Silver King Creek might as well be paved with the precious metal for all the taxpayer money that has gone down it.

It is a poster child for the people who say trying to preserve species is a waste of money.

It doesn't help that people on both sides of the debate use the same rhetoric. Those against it say people shouldn't interfere with nature. Those who are for it point out the cutthroats are in trouble because of people's interference.

Either way, the legal struggle isn't doing the Paiute cutthroat or our pocketbooks any good.

R-C

9-2-05



Thornburgs: 130 years in Markleeville

by Jo Rafferty
Staff Writer

Nancy Thornburg has eight binders of photographs of family.

Her husband Fritz's family has lived in Markleeville since not long after it became a town in 1861. The first Thornburg came to the Alpine County town around 1875, 130 years ago.

"Neither one of our families ever threw anything out," said Nancy, leafing through the pages of black and white photos.

There are four family lines — Belshaw, Critcher, Carmine and Hawes — on Nancy's side, and two on Fritz's side — the Thornburgs and the Smalls.

Fritz, 71 in September, went to work for the county road department in 1960. He served for 17 years on the board of directors of the Markleeville Water Company and was appointed to a term on the Alpine County Planning Commission. He was a member of the volunteer fire department from about 1949 to 1978. He started a construction business

in 1960. For a while he was in partnership with Gary Coyan and together they installed Markleeville's water system in 1963.

In 1976 he ran for the Alpine County Board of Supervisors and won. He served for five years, taking over for someone else's term for one year and four years on his own term.

"Then he got beat, which he said is the best thing that ever happened to him," said Nancy, 67, who these days is involved in county politics and is a member of the Alpine County Historical Society.

"As a supervisor I got stopped while on my backhoe," said Fritz. "I would spend an hour or two explaining my decision."

"It's a lot of work for the conscientious person," said Nancy.

Nancy, who was director of the Alpine County Museum for 15 years, from 1982-1997, learned to save memorabilia from her grandmother.

"My grandmother left genealogies of our family," said Nancy. "She left me with her binders in the '70s. I started with Thornburg from scratch."

The Thornburgs came early in Markleeville's childhood. In Alpine County there is a canyon, a peak and a 12-acre subdivision, all carrying the family name.

"We had 23 acres downtown," said Nancy. "We had to sell. The county taxed us out."

The land their house sits on now was purchased in 1913. Outside their kitchen window is the Humboldt-Toiyabe Forest, where they have seen many bears and other wildlife over the years.

"I don't have bear troubles. I've got a dog who takes care of that," said Fritz, referring to their Queensland healer, Joey. "He's not very big, but he's got an attitude."

Cattle graze the meadow next to the house, since the Thornburgs lease property to a cattle rancher from Carson Valley.

Nancy and Fritz moved to

their house from the site of Fritz's childhood home, behind where the library is currently located. When they were married they tore down the old house and rebuilt a new home where they lived until 1973. They raised three daughters: Becky Ali, a nurse who lives in Florida; Jenny Thornburg, a geologist in Folsom, Calif.; and Nani Ellis of Markleeville. They have one 21-month-old granddaughter, Lauren Ellis.

Fritz, an only child, was born in 1934 in a Reno hospital. His given name is Frederick. A graduate of Webster School in Markleeville and Douglas County High School in Gardnerville, Fritz said he has seen many changes in the county due to increased population and technology.

"We had a generator at our house. We got that when I was a small kid," said Fritz. "My mother was the first to demand indoor plumbing in Markleeville."

Nancy said Markleeville didn't have electricity until 1945. Approximately 235 people resided in the county in the 1940s and 1950s, and now there are 1,200.

As a child, Fritz would ski up to the Leviathan mine to meet his Uncle John Thornburg, who was caretaker of the mine for 21 years. Normally he would leave from Monitor Junction, but one time when he was 8 he started out directly from town.

Those days were good for fishing and hunting, according to Fritz, who said that in the early 1950s they were taking 3,500 bucks out of the county, and only 27 were reported in 2004. Fish have also decreased in number, said Fritz.

"Fishing's no good unless you follow the fish truck," he said.

Fritz worked on a ranch as a teenager and also later for a while as an adult.

He served in the U.S. Army from 1955-1957, then went to the University of California, Davis, in spring 1958, where her met Nancy, who was raised in the Bay Area, and they were married late that year. Nancy majored in history and got her elementary school teaching credential. She taught school in Markleeville for two years when they were first married. Fritz majored in agriculture.

Fritz's parents were Benjamin and Lillian Thornburg. Benjamin and Lillian's first home was located on the property where the County Administration Building is now located. Benjamin, born in Markleeville in 1888, had five brothers and one sister.

Benjamin worked as a teamster hauling freight from Carson City to Bodie in the early 1900s, he drove a mail stage from Minden to Markleeville, he served in the Army for two years, was a cabinet maker, worked for the U.S. Forest Service and served as Alpine County clerk, auditor and recorder. He suffered from multiple sclerosis since his 40s and died in 1959 after a 25-year struggle with the disease.

Fritz's grandfather, William M. Thornburg, was born in 1849. William was the first Thornburg to settle in

Markleeville, and the first record of him in the county was when he registered to vote in 1875.

In 1881 he was appointed

judge of the Justice Court. In 1882 he married Mary Small of Markleeville, whose parents owned and operated Small's Station at Lake Tahoe, Nev.,

later known as Edgewood. William served as deputy sheriff, as reported in an 1885 "Alpine Argus," and also as a trustee for the Webster School

District. He was elected district attorney of Alpine County and served from 1894-1897. William contested his successor J.E. Mayo in court, saying he was ineligible "as he had never been admitted to practice law before the Supreme Court of California."

According to county records, after winning his case William assumed the office of district attorney once again, and served until 1910.

William built and operated a sawmill in Thornburg Canyon, about three miles from Hot Springs Creek. He promoted and helped build roads, dams and reservoirs in and around Markleeville and in Carson Valley.

He died of pneumonia in 1912 and was buried in Markleeville Cemetery. Mary died of a stroke in Markleeville in 1936, and is buried at Fredericksburg Cemetery in Alpine County.

■ Jo Rafferty can be reached at jrafferty@recordcourier.com or 782-5121, ext. 213.



SHANNON LITZ/The R-C

Fritz and Nancy Thornburg in their home in Markleeville. Below, Nancy Thornburg looks through an album. At upper left, the Thornburg clan in 1906. From left, John, Walt, Charlie, Ben, Mary, William M., William A. and Ivan Thornburg.



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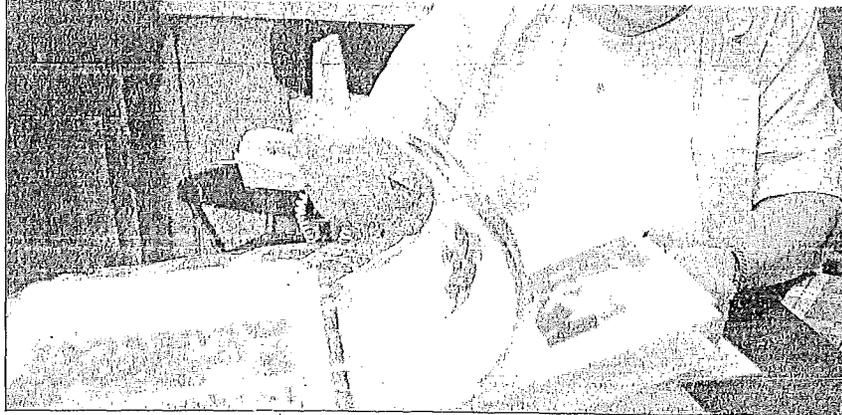
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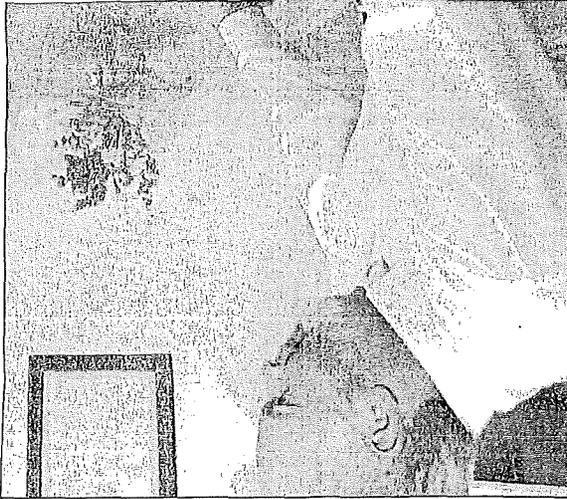
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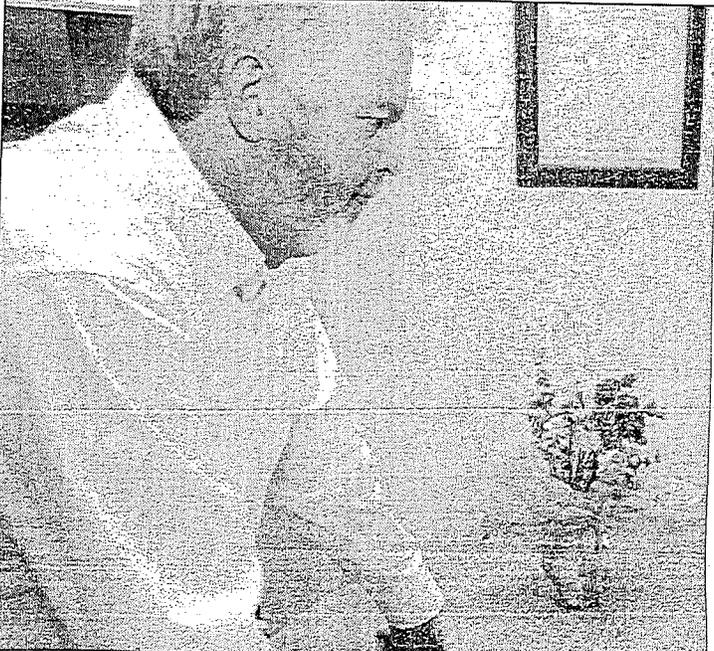


From page 1

Continued from page 1
 pregnant girls at their home in Genoa. They outgrew that residence and acquired 40 acres in the Pine Nuts from Stoddard and Jewel Jacobsen.
 For a while, City of Refuge was a double-wide on the property. "Miraculously, the babies are OK," Gamble said.
 Every mom plants a tree in a grove on the property and each baby gets a page in a photo album.
 Sometimes, the moms come back for another delivery or boyfriend and husbands.
 But it was a haven for girls and women who were pregnant and alone or matched up with unreliable or dangerous boyfriends and husbands.
 said Diane Gamble. "She'd been in jail."
 They are referred by juvenile probation departments, pregnancy crisis centers and adoption agencies.
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Refuge: Fresh Start in Pine Nuts

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Alpine seniors visit California capital

Staff Reports

R-C 9-2-05
About 13 seniors in the Fifty Plus Club visited the capitol building in Sacramento Monday and got a surprise, according to Alpine County Health and Human Services social worker Sherri Dennis.

During a meeting, Sen. Dave Cox called attention to the group of Alpine County residents, said Dennis, who was the chaperone.

The Fifty Plus Club offers weekly bus trips, plus special events, for seniors of Alpine and Douglas counties.

■ On Sept. 7 the club is traveling to Douglas County Senior Center for lunch and bingo.

■ On Sept. 8, Lake Valley

Fire Department officials will speak about fire safety to the club noon-2 p.m. at the Early Learning Center, 100 Foothill Road, Markleeville. Bring a favorite dish.

For more information, call Dennis at (530) 694-2235.