

DATE	NEWSPAPER	HEADLINE	CATEGORY	PEOPLE
1/6/2006	Record Courier	Alpine County weathers floods	Weather	Gina Gigli, Dennis Cardozo, Eric Leffingwell
1/6/2006	Record Courier	Resource advisors seek project ideas	Government/Forest Service	
1/13/2006	Record Courier	Women's Center available to help	Social Services	Maureena Dressler,
1/13/2006	Record Courier	Report cites data about child care options	Social Services	Rachael Brothers
1/13/2006	Record Courier	Post office is hub of Markleeville	Post Office	Margaret Daniels, Rachael Brothers, Tom Abdo, Dean Trivett, J.C. Moore, Sherm Gettlig, Joely Abdo, Luke Brothers, Harriet Kelly, Mina Wood, Gina Gigli, Norman Rutherford
1/20/2006	Record Courier	General store marks century of service	Business/Biography	Gina Gigli, Bob Rudden, Dee Rudden
1/20/2006	Record Courier	Crews working to reduce Sierra avalanche danger	Roads/Weather	
1/20/2006	Record Courier	Alpine historian tackles 1918 Spanish flu	History/Health	Nancy Thornburg
1/20/2006	Tahoe Daily Tribune	Parking woes just bad timing, ski resorts say	Kirkwood	
1/27/2006	Record Courier	Capping off another day at Woodfords Station	Business/Biography	Lynda Kirby, Dave Kirby, Gina Gigli
1/27/2006	Record Courier	Flu pandemic research paper available	History/Health	Nancy Thornburg
2/1/2006	Historical Records	Historical Records Commission awarded grant	History/Awards	Nancy Thornburg, Karen Keebaugh, Dianne-Deadrich Rogers, Ella Turna, Heidi Hopkins

2/3/2006	Record Courier	In the field with Alpine Search and Rescue	Search and Rescue	Gina Gigli, Joh Crawford , Buck McClelland, Tom Minder, Ron Michitarian, Jack Doyal, Gary Ceragioli, Rob Levy
2/3/2006	Tahoe Daily Tribune	Alpine panel to discuss resources	Government/Forest Service	
2/3/2006	Tahoe Daily Tribune	Kirkwood offers carpooling incentive	Kirkwood	
2/10/2006	Tahoe Daily Tribune	Ski resort plans for expansion	Kirkwood/Development	
2/10/2006	Tahoe Daily Tribune	More visiting Kirkwood	Kirkwood	
2/10/2006	Tahoe Daily Tribune	A different breed	Kirkwood	
2/10/2006	Record Courier	Visitors Center chock full of information for travelers	Travelogue	Adam Washam, Joe Marzocco, Teresa Burkhauser, Angela Witten, Lee Miller, Gina Gigli, Jerry Sprout, Janine Sprout, Sandy Braenan, Peter Chope, Dave Johnston, Jeanie Glover, Amy Broadhurst, Jim Bertholf, David Cooper, Dave Kirby, Mark Phillips
2/10/2006	Record Courier	Inn offers Kirkwood package	Business	
2/10/2006	Record Courier	Supervisor Jardine to speak Saturday	Government	Don Jardine
2/17/2006	Record Courier	Kirkwood expansion nears approval by Forest Service	Kirkwood/Development	
2/17/2006	Record Courier	Crisis course offered at learning center	Schools	

2/17/2006	Record Courier	Fifty Plus visits students	Seniors	Phillip Bennet, Jan Brees, Gail Day, Gina Gigli, Sherri Dennis, Kathy Kerr, Dolores Clark, Cindy Hannah, Bessie Platten, Sonja Helfenstein
2/24/2006	Record Courier	Issues face downtown Markleeville	Government	Don Jardine, Gina Gigli, Dave Johnson, Dennis Cardozo, Lynn Nolan, Nancy Thornburg, John Crawford
2/24/2006	Record Courier	Luncheon topic is glaucoma	Seniors	Judy Molnar
2/24/2006	Record Courier	Senior bus trips offered	Seniors	
2/24/2006	Record Courier	More people visit Kirkwood	Kirkwood	Tim Cohee
2/24/2006	Record Courier	Employees seek no renewal of assistant's contract	Government	Judy Molnar, Gunter Kaiser,
2/24/2006	Record Courier	Fifty Plus	Seniors	Hubert Brns, Linda Bruns, Tina Long, Gail Day, Sherri Dennis, Cindy Hannah
3/1/2006	Record Courier	Alpine County death sparks call	Crime	William McKinnon, Edward Braz, John Crawford
3/3/2006	Record Courier	New Books by Alpine authors roll off the press	Arts	Nancy Thornburg, Michal Makley, William Thornburg, Gina Gigli
3/3/2006	Record Courier	Kirkwood draws different breed	Kirkwood	Tim Cohee
3/8/2006	Record Courier	Citizens' maligning Alpine Assistant	Opinion/Government	Lisa Wilson, Judy Molnar
3/10/2006	Record Courier	Math team does well in competition	Schools/Competition	Tatyana Jim, Kristin Slavic, Jesica Burt, Blessing Bennett, Matt Aarons, Jake Lovell, Ginger Craik
3/10/2006	Record Courier	March events chase away winter ues	Community/Events	Gina Gigli, Frank Jacobelli, Dr. Richard Harvey
3/10/2006	Record Courier	Alpine Items	Community	

3/17/2006	Record Courier	Bus links world to Markleeville	Transportation	Gina Gigli, Hazel Payne, Bob Jackson, Peter Duffy
3/17/2006	Record Courier	Racing through the storm	Kirkwood	
3/17/2006	Record Courier	BLM hosts public meeting on Tuesday	Government	
3/24/2006	Record Courier	This old house is full of fond memories	Biography	Gina Gigli, Judge Price, Ilene Price Long, Ellen Hutchinson Gansberg, Bill Long, Lela Price, George Coyan, Jim Long, Bob Long
3/24/2006	Record Courier	Kirkwood si benefit scheduled	Kirkwood	
4/7/2006	Record Courier	Learning bubbles	Schools	Adam Garren
4/7/2006	Record Courier	Watershed group completes first year of monitoring	Watershed Group	
4/7/2006	Record Courier	Making music in Markleeville	Arts/Community	Gina Gigli, Liz McGeein, Terri Peet's, Rita Lovell, Steve Craft, Teresa Horse, Sarah Harvey, Shawnyne Garren
4/7/2006	Record Courier	Alpine Report	Community/Events/Seniors	
4/14/2006	Record Courier	Headwaters spring from Alpine County	Watershed Group/Biography	Gina Gigli, Laura Lueders
4/14/2006	Record Courier	Leviathan clean-up receives \$400,000	Environment	
4/14/2006	Record Courier	County clean-up April 22-23	Community	
4/14/2006	Record Courier	Friends of the Library host book sale	Library/Event	
4/14/2006	Record Courier	Chamber meets	Business	
4/28/2006	Record Courier	Say goodbye to skiing and hello to angling	Fishing	Gina Gigli, Dave Zellmer, Hubert Bruns
4/28/2006	Record Courier	Alpine senior bus trips in May	Senior	Sherrie Dennis
5/12/2006	Record Courier	Longtime resident discusses Alpine wildfires	Fire/History	Gina Gigli, Nancy Thornburg, Dick Edwards
5/12/2006	Record Courier	Woodfords Fair plans get off to a flying start	Community/Events	Edie Veatch

5/12/2006	Record Courier	Volunteers sought for annual Death Ride	Bicycle	
5/18/2006	Reno Gazette	Questions surround proposed trans-Sierra power line	Power line	
5/19/2006	Record Courier	Circle the wagons and dates on the calendar	Community/Events/Business	John Brissenden, Patti Brissenden, Kimball Chatfield, Gina Gigli, Judy Wickwire, Edie Veatch
5/19/2006	Record Courier	Kirkwood has record winter	Kirkwood	Tim Cohee
5/19/2006	Record Courier	Fiends host annual Hope Valley work day	Hope Valley	
5/26/2006	Record Courier	Kirkwood schusses into summertime	Kirkwood	Any Broadhurst, Joe Broadhurst, Gina Gigli
5/26/2006	Record Courier	Alpine events	Community/Events	
5/26/2006	Record Courier	Free fishing guide	Fishing	Paul Washam, Gloria Washam
6/2/2006	Record Courier	Markleeville residents hit the trails	Biography	Satori Ivy, Wanda Coyan, Gina Gigli, Joe Voss, Joel Tabor, Caleb Knapp, Kate Ivy, Gary Coyan
6/2/2006	Record Courier	Woodfords student receives American Indian award	Washoe/Award	Nicole Bennett, Irving Krause, Wilma Rule, Greg Bennett, Dale Bennett, Nicole Caruana, Jack Doyal, Lauren LaMaster, Zac Scherbak, Rhian Snyder, Deanna Doyal, Phoebe Hamilton, Tessa Williams, Brandon Crawford, Riley Curry, Taylor Embry, William Rubino, Rena Spansail
6/9/2006	Record Courier	Hope Valley Outdoors is centered on healthy lifestyle	Hope Valley/Business	Joyce Coker, Gina Gigli

6/9/2006	Record Courier	Markleeville project report goes to county	Development	
6/9/2006	Record Courier	Alpine Events	Community/Events	
6/16/2006	Record Courier	Forest Service, Subconservancy seek comment on upper East Fork	Forest Service/Water	
6/16/2006	Record Courier	Alpine Events	Community/Events	
6/16/2006	Record Courier	Fuel wood permits go on sale today	Wood	
6/16/2006	Record Courier	Alpine artists draw from nature	Arts	Gina Gigli, Charles Muench, Susan Flakus, Jan Brees,
6/30/2006	Record Courier	Visiting Alpine County's museum	Museum	Gina Gigli, Dick Edwards, Ellen Martin, Carole Morgan, Lois Kaiser, Irving Krause, Steve Martin, Hubert Bruns, Gary Coyan, Karen Dustman, Rick Dustman, Ed Braz, Ruggero Gigli, Spencer Case
6/30/2006	Record Courier	Kirkwood will develop new residence club	Kirkwood	Tim Cohee
7/7/2006	Record Courier	Council touts reducing fuels	Fire/Safety/Biography	Jeff Brees, Gina Gigli, Don Jardine, David Griffith, Kim Chatfield, Shirley Taylor, Al Moss, Steve Yonker
7/7/2006	Record Courier	Grover Hot Springs reduces hours	Hot Springs	
7/14/2006	Record Courier	Flowers abound in the Mountain and Garden lodge	Business	Linda Merrill, Gina Gigli, Angie Merrill

7/21/2006	Record Courier	Coyan receives Alpine County Senior of the Year award	Seniors/Award	Lindsa Merrill, Lisa Cobourn, Vanessa Cruz, Sally Richardson, Lynn Zachariah, David Devore, Richard Specchio, Karen Dustman, Gunter Kaiser, Gary Coyan, Wanda Coyan, George Coyan, Elizabeth Coyan, Bobby Long, Jeannie Jackson, Judy Jackson, Linda Merrill, Barry Coyan, Greg Moll, j Chris Cook, Linda Ryan
7/28/2006	Record Courier	Old friends make a visit to Markleeville	Biography	Gina Gigli, Virginia York, Heidi Hopkins
7/28/2006	Record Courier	Alpine Events	Library/Museum	
7/28/2006	Record Courier	Behavioral health is topic of luncheon	Senior/Event	Frank Jacobelli, Dolores Clark
7/28/2006	Record Courier	New hours for Grover Hot Springs pool	Hot springs	
8/4/2006	Record Courier	Kirkwood puts on mountain flower show	Kirkwood/Event	
8/4/2006	Record Courier	Man being held in Bear Valley shooting	Crime	John Cole
8/4/2006	Record Courier	Classical guitar concert Wednesday	Arts/Library	
8/4/2006	Record Courier	How do animals cope with summer's heat?	Agriculture/weather	Gina Gigli, Karen Robinson, Forrest Robinson, Ted Bacon, Linda Merrill, Wanda Coyan, Gary Coyan, John Jackson
8/11/2006	Record Courier	Breaking for breakfast at noon makes sense	Business/Biography	Sandy Matlock, Joann Moody, Gina Gigli, Tanner Matlock, Landon Matlock, Macy
8/11/2006	Record Courier	Thanks for support	Opinion/Bicycle	Lyn Snyder, Susan Lippmann

8/18/2006	Record Courier	Woodfords practitioner helps with ancient art of acupuncture	Business/Biography	Gina Gigli, Kimball Chatfield, Melinda Chatfield
8/25/2006	Record Courier	State office to review Alpine death	Search and Rescue/Crime	William McKinnon, John Crawford, Edward Braz
8/25/2006	Record Courier	Alpine Events	Community/Events	
8/25/2006	Record Courier	Grover Hot Springs closed Sept. 11-22	Hot springs	
				Gina Gigli, Bessie Platten, Sonja Helfenstein, Rita Lovell, Andrew Voss, Dashona Godowa, Amber Neaves, Vito Neaves, Macy, Natane, Kristelle, Dashona Gadowa, Kendal, Issaih, Ombryann, Chelsea, Anna, Corrie, Landon Mckinna, Cole, Patrick, Andrew, Abigail, Elyssa, Tiller, Daniel, Jeff, Thomas, Cassandra Dick, Kim Jackson, Shannon Guerrero, Sarah Voss, Susan VanDoren, Tony Galvez, Courtney, Deanna, Jack, Shania, Teddy, Maya, Forest, Brooke
8/25/2006	Record Courier	Children celebrate reading program	Library/Event	
8/30/2006	Record Courier	Gigli put restaurant, home on the market	Business/Biography	Gina Gigli, Ruggero Gigli

				Gina Gigli, Rob Levy, DeAnne Jang, Ron Michitarian, Gail Day, Sherri Smith, Warren Jang, Chad Wickenberg, Bob Rudden, Dee Rudden, Leah Orndoff, Courtney Zaninovic, Michelle Macias, David Davila
9/1/2006	Record Courier	Restaurant Alpine's safest lunch place	Business/Biography	
9/1/2006	Record Courier	Kirkwood offers Labor Day activities	Kirkwood	
9/1/2006	Record Courier	Alpine events	Community/Events	
9/8/2006	Record Courier	Have table, will travel	Business/Biography	Michele Neely
				Dale Bennett, Kim Galvez, Danielle Galvez, Lynda Kirby, Edie Veatch, Mary Ellen Zellmer, Dave Zellmer, Todd Branscombe, Kaye Jobst, Greg Bennett, Benny DiSalvo, Dean Goodfellow, Michelle Macias, Rob Levy, Jon Taylor, Jill McGeein, Jeana Kelly, Paul Washam Tony Galvez, Chuck Daugherty, Amy Broadhurst, Earl O'Neal, Gary Ceregeoli, Wayne Hemmelrick, Craig Rnjak, Jason Lyons, Eberhard Weidenmeyer, Dick Lyons, Paul Wallace, Roma Morris
9/15/2006	Record Courier	Yellow flashing light signals Chili and Salsa Challenge in Woodfords	Gina Gigli	
9/15/2006	Record Courier	Subconservancy hosts workshop	Water	
9/15/2006	Record Courier	October is cleanup month in Alpine County	Trash	
9/15/2006	Record Courier	Alpine events	Community/Events	

				Gina Gigli, Lorraine Craik, John Craik, Ginger Craik, Ethan Craik, MacKenzie Craik, Laura Leuders, Sonja Helfenstein
9/22/2006	Record Courier	Alpine County is the birthplace for five rivers	Watershed Group	
9/22/2006	Record Courier	Alpine events	Community/Events	
9/29/2006	Record Courier	Alpine events	Community/Events	
				Gina Gigli, Sandy Baenan, Bessie Platten, Charles Muench, Jeff Brees, Todd Branscombe, Mark Vaughn, Deirdre Wallace, Evelyn Yonker, Dave Brees, Jan Brees, Dale Bennett, Susan Flakus, Peter Chope, Linda Lindsay Stallcup, Tanya Berger, Debra Esteban, Kay Jobst, Carolyn Vaughn, Jennifer Vaughn
9/29/2006	Record Courier	Treasure-seekers visit Apine	Arts/Event	
9/29/2006	Record Courier	Correction	Picture	Lorraine Craik
9/29/2006	Record Courier	Alpine Creek Day is Saturday	Watershed Group	Laura Leuders
10/6/2006	Record Courier	Preservation of history	Museum/History	Lewis Chalmers, Antoinette Laughton

10/6/2006	Record Courier	Art, nature unfolded in Alpine studio tour	Arts/Event	Gina Gigli, Sandy Baenan, Bessie Platten, Charles Muench, Jeff Brees, Todd Branscombe, Mark Vaughn, Deirdre Wallace, Evelyn Yonker, Dave Brees, Jan Brees, Dale Bennett, Susan Flakus, Peter Chope, Linda Lindsay Stallcup, Tanya Berger, Debra Esteban, Kay Jo
10/6/2006	Record Courier	Clorful autumn events scattered over Alpine	Community/Events	Bessie Platten, Edie Veatch
10/6/2006	Record Courier	Alpine events	Community/Events	
10/9/2006	San Francisco Chronicle	Bear Valley's owners have big plans	Bear Valley	Bruce Orvis, Maury Rasmussen, Jim Bottomley, Chuck Toeniskoetter
10/13/2006	Record Courier	Kirkwood plans Nov. 18 opening	Kirkwood	
10/13/2006	Record Courier	Staffing, fiscal issues prompt cancellation	Health/Event	
10/13/2006	Record Courier	Guest book inscriptions abound in Alpine	Arts/Event	Gina Gigli,
10/15/2006	Record Courier	A true trailblazer	Biography/Award	John Jackson, Jeanne Turnbeaugh
10/15/2006	Record Courier	California dedicates highway to surveyor	Biography/Award	Robert Jackson, Mason Jackson, Judy Currence, Jeanne Turnbeaugh, John Jackson, John Ellis, Margaret Jones, Mary Ann Ellis, Charles Jackson

				Gina Gigli, Sandy Baenan, Bessie Platten, Charles Muench, Jeff Brees, Todd Branscombe, Mark Vaughn, Deirdre Wallace, Evelyn Yonker, Dave Brees, Jan Brees, Dale Bennett, Susan Flakus, Peter Chope, Linda Lindsay Stallcup, Tanya Berger, Debra Esteban, Kay Jobst, Mary Ellen Zellmer
10/18/1960	Record Courier	Art among the aspens at Markleville tour	Arts/Event	
10/20/2006	Record Courier	Kirkwood rolls out upgrades	Kirkwood/Development	Chip Seamanship
10/20/2006	Record Courier	Darting fish and tumbled stones	Business	Roma Morris, Dave Kirby, Lynda Kirby, Ed Morris, jGina Gigli
10/27/2006	Record Courier	Some things never change	Travelogue	Gina Gigli, Bessie Platten, Barbara Howard, Gary Coyan, Laura Leuders
10/27/2006	Record Courier	Outdoor center may move	Business	Joyce Coker
11/3/2006	Record Courier	Like Bears, Markleville goes into semi-hibernation	Community/Events	Wren Jang, Deann Jang, Dick Edwards, Gary Coyan, Joely Abdoo, Sandy Matlock, Teresa Burkhauser
11/3/2006	Record Courier	Kirkwoo job fair is Saturday	Kirkwood	
11/3/2006	Record Courier	Health Fair set for Jan. 20	Health/Event	
11/3/2006	Record Courier	Fire safe council meets Nov. 27	Fire/Safety	Kerry Radelfinger

				John Jackson, Kim Jackson, Mason Jackson, Cole Jackson, Mckinna Jackson, Jeanne Turnbeaugh, Judy Currence, Robert Jackson, Rosella Jackson, Louis Bergevin, Charles Scossa
11/10/2006	Record Courier	Strolling around Markleeville	Biography	
11/10/2006	Record Courier	Alpine events	Community/Events	
11/17/2006	Record Courier	Kirkwood celebrates Thanksgiving holiday	Kirkwood	
11/17/2006	Record Courier	Christmas tree permits available	Wood	
11/17/2006	Record Courier	Markleeville couple pulling up stakes	Biography	Dean Swaim, AnnaLee Swaim
11/24/2006	Record Courier	Kirkwood Resort growing toward original plan	Kirkwood/Development	Chuck Cobb
11/24/2006	Record Courier	Woodfords Inn run by Alpine family	Business/Biography	Craig Rnjak, Barbara Rnjak, Gina Gigli
12/1/2006	Record Courier	Markleeville - the way it was	History	Kim Jackson, John Jackson, Bob Jackson, John Ellis, Tom Abdoo, Jim Long, Bob Long, Judge Price, Julian Masterini, Judy Farnsworth, Virginia York, Ted Bacon
12/8/2006	Record Courier	Markleeville shows the Christmas spirit	Community	Bernie Combs, Gary Howard, Barbara Howard, Ron Andrews, Beth Andrews, Teresa Burkhauser, Ernestine Fogarty, Dolores Clark, Richard Harvey, Jo Daugherty
12/8/2006	Record Courier	Alpine County ready to start plowing snow	Roads	
12/8/2006	Record Courier	Markleeville volunteers to receive new wild land engine	Fire/Safety	Jef Brees

12/15/2006	Record Courier	A walk in a Markleeville meadow revisited	Museum/Development	Dick Edwards
12/15/2006	Record Courier	Cowboys and cowgirls celebrate Christmas, too	Biography	Gina Gigli, Jan Lopes, Ted Bacon, Lee Bacon
12/22/2006	Record Courier	Alpine County Public Health Officer	Health	Dr. Richard Harvey, Bessie Platten, Rita Lovell, Nancy Thornburg
12/22/2006	Record Courier	Snow opening new terrain at Kirkwood	Kirkwood	Chip Seamanship
12/22/2006	Record Courier	Christmas wreaths and social circles overlap in Alpine	Library/Seniors	Gina Gigli, , Bessie Platten, Dr. Hichard Harvey, Cindy Hannah
12/29/2006	Record Courier	Alpine County residents make resolutions for new year		Gina Gigli, Barbara Howard, Randi Makley, Beth Nunez, Deb Goerlich, Judy Molnar, Donald O'Connor, Kim Skinner, Ed Daley, Jeanette Millar, Carol McElroy, Barbara Jones, Dave Peet's

Alpine County weathers floods

It hardly ever rains here. On the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada range, Alpine County followed the Californian weather pattern of flooding rain after Christmas. Northern Nevada also was beleaguered by this "Pineapple Express" storm, according to reports. Sheets of water-drenched wooded slopes, creating raging streams in otherwise dry-for-the-season irrigation ditches. When the ditches overflowed, pastures were strung out with silver tinsel rivulets leading to the East Fork, West Fork, and Middle Fork (Markleeville Creek) of the Carson River.

"Our county didn't sustain much road damage, because our guys had been busy cleaning out all of the culverts in the weeks preceding the flood, so that the excess water flowed freely through pipes," said new Alpine County Director of Public Works Dennis Cardoza. "We had crews out checking continually for rocks and debris on the roads. The U.S. Forest Service site in Markleeville was flooded (once again) by Markleeville Creek, and it was neat to see firemen, deputies,

Alpine Portfolio

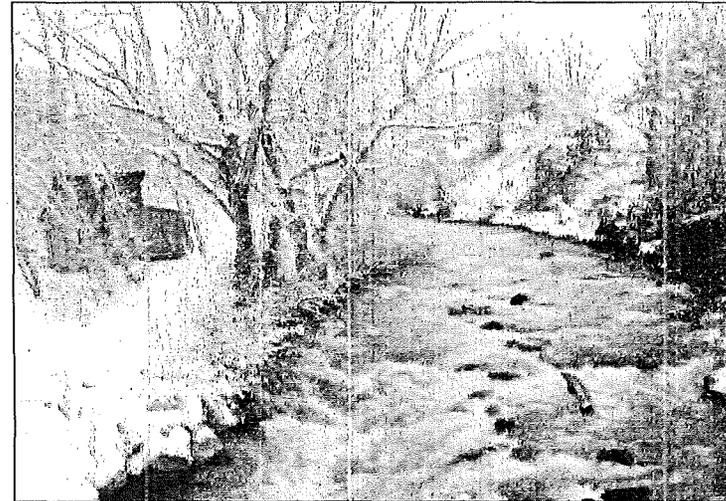
by Gina Gigli

forest service guys, and others pulling together. Up on Airport Road, the district attorney and his two kids were helping the road crew place sandbags. In Bear Valley, a few pine trees fell over the roads, and a truck was smashed, but fortunately, no one was injured."

Snow falling upon pines was a welcome sight, effectively stopping all flooding. Having recently served as transportation manager and assistant manager of the Mammoth/Yosemite Airport, Cardoza is matter-of-fact about snow.

"First, we clear the emergency areas; second, the roads; and finally, the berms in front of senior citizen's driveways."

He is concerned about the safety of senior citizens, those who live alone, or have medical problems, and he wants his road crew to watch over those folks in times of flood, snow, or



Markleeville Creek experiences high water during the New Year's flood.

power outage. Cardoza heard that Sierra Pacific employees knocked on the doors of some Alpine County residents to ascertain their well-being.

The foot-deep blanket of wet snow that covered the pines and willows also coated electric wires with the same heavy white stuff, and as we gazed at the fairylend scene, we also checked our supply of candles and matches, flashlights and batteries, stoves and firewood.

Sure enough, right after viewing the wet and wild Rose Parade, the television screen pixilated, the lights flickered, the washing machine whimpered, and soon we heard the sound of silence.

We read, talked, contemplated the new year, fired up the

wood-burning stove, heated up our homemade minestrone and grilled our bread over that fire. Later, we blew the dust from my lap harp and his fiddle, both handmade by Eric Leffingwell, who served as Head Ranger at Grover Hot Springs for many years. Neither of us can read music, but we were an enthusiastic audience of two enthralled by our original harp and fiddle compositions, snow swirling outside, and romantic candlelight inside. However, the hum of electricity was welcomed after eight hours of "pioneer life." A heartfelt thanks goes to our road and electric crews.

■ Gina Gigli is a Markleeville resident.

Resources seek

Staff Reports

The Alpine Resource Advisory is soliciting project

The committee is decide how to s approximately \$12 year that has been a Alpine County.

The funds must benefit the national Alpine County and for projects on adjacent or other agency land the work helps the watershed of the.

Examples of past include: Hazardous tion work near Grover Springs State Park, Alpine County Council Coordinating bear b improving water dis

Resource advisors seek project ideas

Staff Reports

The Alpine County Resource Advisory Committee is soliciting project ideas.

The committee is charged to decide how to spend the approximately \$120,000 this year that has been allocated to Alpine County.

The funds must be used to benefit the national forests in Alpine County and can be used for projects on adjacent private or other agency land as long as the work helps the ecosystem or watershed of the Forest.

Examples of past projects include: Hazardous fuel reduction work near Grover Hot Springs State Park, funding the Alpine County Fire Safe Council Coordinator, constructing bear boxes and improving water distribution in

campgrounds as well as funding the construction of a pedestrian bridge over Silver Creek.

The Alpine County Resource Advisory Committee of volunteers who were selected by the Secretary of Agriculture to advise the Forest Service on the use of monies allocated to the county through the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-determination Act of 2000.

The congressionally mandated committee consists of 11 county residents representing a broad section of the community including, outdoor recreation, environmental, elected officials and other interests.

For more information or to request a project application contact Pemberton, at 884-8150.



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Markleeville resi-

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Women's Center available to help

Staff Reports

The Alpine County Women's Center offers confidential 24-hour crisis line at 1-(888) 750-6444 and peer counseling at 14810 Highway 89 in Markleeville, upstairs from Choices for Children. For information, call Maureena Dressler at (530) 694-1853.

Dressler said that when people think of domestic violence they usually envision black eyes, bruises, cuts and other visible marks.

Many people are not aware that domestic violence can consist of emotional abuse, sexual abuse and financial abuse. Domestic violence can occur between a parent and child, boyfriend/girlfriend, partners in same-sex relationships, husband/wife or any other family dynamic.

Regardless of class, race, gender, sexual orientation, religion or age, no one is free from abuse.

"Many people believe that those who stay in abusive relationships are weak," Dressler said. "It is easy to think that you would just leave if your partner or family member physically abused you or treated you badly."

Dressler said every relationship begins in the "honeymoon" stage; life is wonderful, there is magic in the air and

your new partner seems to be just perfect.

But, as the relationship settles, things naturally change, and for victims of domestic violence, the cycle of violence begins.

"The cycle of domestic violence has three defined stages: Honeymoon, tension building, explosion and then back to the honeymoon. Each cycle can last anywhere from a few minutes to a few months. As these patterns continue, the cycles get shorter and involve more frequent episodes of violence."

"Verbal and emotional abuse is often used as power and control in the beginning of an unhealthy relationship," she said. "This can include name-calling, threats, silent treatment, jealousy and control over what the partner does or who they talk to. These manipulative behaviors create a sense of fear, low self-esteem and learned helplessness. More often than not, emotional abuse is combined with or followed by physical abuse. Scars left by emotional abuse are just as painful as those from physical violence.

"No one should be scared or intimidated by a loved one," Dressler said. "If you or someone you know is being emotionally or verbally abused, these are red flags that may lead to physical violence."

Report cites data about child care options

Staff Reports

Child care providers are struggling to meet the needs of families throughout Alpine County. Between the years 1990 and 2000 there was an 86 percent increase in the number of people working non-traditional hours.

Finding licensed child care in the evenings and on weekends is a challenge for parents working non-traditional hours. Licensed child care on the weekends is only available at the ski resorts in Bear Valley and Kirkwood during ski season.

No licensed child care is available in the evening at any time during the year.

Additionally, there is no licensed child care for school-aged children during school breaks or during the summer.

The lack of quality child care on evenings, weekends and during school breaks is critical, according to a report released last week by the California Child Care Resource & Referral Network, a statewide organization with a local member agency Choices for Children in Markleeville.

"More families need care that will accommodate the schedules of the increasing number of parents working non-traditional hours. These services are sorely lacking in our county," said Rachael Brothers, Resource Coordinator of Choices for Children.

Choices for Children has programs to help pay for costs associated with opening a family day care in your home. Call (530) 694-2129 for more information.

The cost of licensed child care remains a significant challenge as families search for care that accommodates their schedules and other needs, according

to the portfolio.

Child care expenses average \$444 a month for a preschooler in a licensed child care center, representing 19 percent of the income for a family with both parents earning minimum wage. If the same family also had an infant in a family child care home, their child care expenses would increase to 42 percent of their income.

While middle-income families struggle to balance child care and housing expenses against other family needs, lower-income families find these expenses comprise more than their entire household's income.

Choices for Children administers child care subsidies for low-income families that qualify for assistance. Call (877) 541-5848 for more information about subsidized child care.

The nonprofit California Child Care Resource & Referral Network is an association of member resource and referral agencies throughout California. Based in San Francisco, with offices in Chico, Los Angeles, Hanford, and Sacramento, the network coordinates data collection among member agencies, conducts research, and develops training materials used to keep parents informed and to facilitate discussion among parents, providers, and government leaders.

It helps build the supply and quality of child care by supporting recruitment and training of child care providers, and it manages TrustLine, the state's criminal background check for in-home and license-exempt child care providers.

As the oldest, most well-established system of child care resource and referral in the country, the network plays a vital role in national policy discussions.

Post office is hub of Markleeville

One way to catch up with the latest news about Alpine County is to walk or drive to the post office in Markleeville.

"It's a social activity for me," explains Markleevillage resident Dean Trivett. "I like to sit out front on the 'Group W Bench,' so-named by me in honor of songwriter Arlo Guthrie's description of a bench for military misfits. Norm, J.C., Sherm, and others tell me important stuff."

Next-door Itldo Realty has provided the outdoor rustic bench. J.C. Moore adds, "It gets me out of the house to come 'downtown' for mail, coffee, and also to find out what's going on."

Inside the building, Postmaster Margaret Daniels, who holds the record of longevity for the Markleeville postmaster position, talks about her time here.

"In my 19 years here in Markleeville, my absolutely favorite part of the job has been watching the kids grow up," Daniels said. "I've installed a 'baby board' where I post baby photos for all to admire."

One of the babies belongs to Woodfords resident and Choices for Children Resource Coordinator, Rachael Brothers.

"Margaret has my baby Luke's picture in her display. Not only do I enjoy the personal service she gives, especially compared to other post offices, but I also like that she is good with the neighborhood kids. She's always giving them candy or cookies."

Joely Abdoo, who sauntered across the street from her father's Wolf Creek restaurant agrees.

"I like picking up the mail because then I get to talk to Margaret." Now 26 years old, Joely continues, "I've known Margaret since I was a baby, when she worked at the Gardnerville Post Office, and she has

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

always been nice to me."

Naturally, not all of the customers are pleased all of the time. Daniels doesn't like it when patrons yell at her when something has occurred out of her control.

"The recent 2-cent postage increase was regulated by the Postal Rate Commission to cover increased expenditures. Not one penny of our tax dollars goes into the U.S. Postal Service. Ken Doyle, our carrier, drives 100 miles a day, six days a week, and the price of gas has greatly increased, as we are all aware. And that's just one example," Daniels said.

The rural route of 350 mailboxes extends along the roads of Fredericksburg, Mesa Vista, Diamond Valley, Hung-a-lel-ti, Sorensen's, and Woodfords, but 325 post office boxes are rented to Markleeville and Markleevillage residents, who must pick up their mail. The two clerks who fill in at busy times, or when Daniels is away, are long-time residents Harriet Kelly and Mina Wood. The postmaster claims that she knew that she could trust them completely because, "At the time of hiring, one was the wife of the judge, and the other was married to the sheriff."

Daniels, who is an active participant in the National League of Postmasters, has traveled extensively to conventions across the nation and often gives talks about legislative issues to attendees. When meeting legislators, she continues to be amazed by the number of people who are cognizant of



SPECIAL TO THE R-C

Margaret Daniels is the longest serving post master in Markleeville. The post office is a favorite place for people to stop and chat.



tiny Markleeville. Participating in conventions is not her only reason to travel. In the 12 months, she and her now-retired law enforcement husband, Dennis, have flown to Atlanta, Ga., 13 times to visit their son and daughter-in-law, and above all, their year-old granddaughter, Madalyn Grace.

A cancer survivor, Daniels said she has counseled countless cancer patients.

"I welcome discussing this disease with anyone who would

benefit from my encouragement to prevail."

Once sidelined for 13 months, she is now filled with energy.

"Driving to work from Gardnerville, when sometimes I'm the first person cutting through the snowy road, is like a cheap psychiatry session. Looking at the beautiful mountain scenery smoothes out all my worries."

■ Gina Gigli is a Markleeville resident.

Alpine

General store marks century of service

For 100 years, the Markleeville General Store has functioned as a “grocery store and more” for residents and travelers. For one-fifth of that century, and in their 20-year tenure of ownership, Dee and Bob Rudden haven’t regretted moving from Sunnyvale to Markleeville.

“We wanted to get out of the Bay area,” explains Bob, a former special test engineer at Lockheed, “although I did expect that storekeeping would be easier than it is.”

Bob especially enjoys interacting with people on vacation.

“They’re always happy.”

He does not like dealing with salesmen when they’re “pushy.”

Dee Rudden used to work as a bookkeeper for Glidden Paint Co.

“I love the office work and keeping track of the inventory, but I don’t appreciate feeling stuck in the store.”

She describes her position in the general store as, “I’m the general, and Bob is the private.”

In July of 2005, the Snowshoe Thompson Chapter of E Clampus Vitus dedicated a bronze plaque affixed to the exterior wall of the Markleeville General Store which reads,

“On Aug. 2, 1885, fire broke out in the town of Markleeville destroying several buildings including Harvey and Rask’s Butcher Shop and Smokehouse. Later on in the fall, the building was rebuilt and reopened as Rask’s Butcher Shop. The building today contains the original section plus additions, made in the 1890s and 1950s. The old cooler room, now referred to as the antiques

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

room, has 12 inches of sawdust in its 14-inch walls for insulation. In the early 1900s it changed into a general store. Through the years a soda fountain, service station and post office have been added and taken away, as the needs of the area and the times dictated. It still stands in the shadows of the Sierras to serve the needs of both residents and travelers alike throughout Alpine County.”

Though most residents do their “big” shopping at Carson Valley or Lake Tahoe supermarkets, it is truly remarkable that the Markleeville General Store is open all day, seven days a week, even on major holidays. If it’s suddenly discovered on Christmas day that there’s no whipped cream for the pumpkin pie, whipping over to the general store can still save the day.

The soda fountain in the center of the store may be long-gone, but the contemporary replacement is built with cement blocks -- a cool California wine cellar standing in the far corner. An eclectic collection of antiques and collectibles attracts visitors to the old cooler room. Fishing supplies are abundant. Polaroid photos of fishers-for-trout with their “Big One” dot the walls, and if I look closely, I can find my grandsons’ photos among them.

Need a swimsuit or towel for Grover Hot Springs? You’re in the right place. Need maps or



PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE R-C

Dee and Bob Rudden inside the Markleeville General Store. Below, the store has been serving Markleeville for more than a century.



books about High Sierra trails? You’re in the right place. Want to view a giclee print of Charles Muench’s newest oil painting, “Digging Out?” You’re in the right place. Also, Charles Muench’s original oil painting

of the Markleeville General Store is prominently displayed, as it now belongs to Dee and Bob Rudden.

■ Gina Gigli is a Markleeville resident.

Crews working to reduce Sierra avalanche danger

by Amanda Fehd
Tahoe Daily Tribune

Caltrans crews were busy blasting to reduce avalanche danger on highways 50 and 88 after another foot of snow fell at higher elevations in Tahoe on Tuesday and Wednesday. That's on top of 2 feet of powder which fell last weekend.

The Sierra Avalanche Center in Truckee issued a high avalanche danger advisory Wednesday for backcountry travelers in Tahoe. The center is run by the U.S. Forest Service.

Avalanche danger is greatest in areas where the wind has blown the snow so that it accumulates deeper in one area, a phenomenon called wind loading.

Avalanche control closures are more common on the way to Kirkwood on Highway 88 at the Carson Spur and Carson Pass.

"If conditions warrant that we can wait, we usually try to cooperate with Kirkwood's

incoming times and outgoing times," said Caltrans spokeswoman Zelie Nogueira.

On Highway 88, Caltrans uses special wind obstacles called jet roofs to prevent dangerous cornice loading. Air cannons and explosive devices are used to urge unstable snow to come loose.

Avalanche danger for backcountry travelers like skiers, snowmobilers and snowshoers was "high" Wednesday, the fourth degree on a five-point scale.

Danger decreases as the snow compacts and layers of snow from several storms have a chance to bind more firmly, said Bob Moore, a forecaster from Sierra Avalanche Center.

Avalanche forecasters use many techniques to determine danger, most of which involve studying snow layers. Each storm is unique in temperature, wind patterns and snow depth. Conditions after a storm can also be a factor.

R-C
Jan. 20, 2006

The Record-Courier ■ Gardnerville, Nevada

Alpine historian tackles 1918 Spanish flu

Staff Reports

Longtime Markleeville resident Nancy Thornburg has researched and written a self-published booklet on the Spanish influenza's effect on Carson Valley and Alpine County.

Thornburg participated in a national radio program naming Markleeville as the "Town of the Week" on Dec. 10, 2005. The booklet is selling for \$20 plus postage and handling.

The following is a brief excerpt from Thornburg's book:

According to the 1918 State of Nevada Biennial Report of the State Board of Health, in 1917 a total of 122 people in Nevada died of flu and pneumonia (two deaths were listed as flu and the remainder as pneumonia). In 1918, 585 died; 354 of these deaths were specifically from "Pneumonia-Influenza," the first and only year a category separate from "influenza" and "pneumonia" shows in the record. Included in the total for that year are 65 for "Influenza" (epidemic) and 166 for other types of pneumonia.

In 1919, 292 died (36 of

influenza and 256 of pneumonia). And in 1920, 191 died (33 of influenza and 158 of pneumonia). Because of the way records were kept it is not clear how many of the "pneumonia" cases might have been associated with the "Spanish" flu. In 1921-1922 influenza was of a very mild type with 1,300 cases reported but only 20 fatalities.

The 1918 report also says, "It is difficult to determine the date of the appearance of the first case of this disease [Spanish Influenza] in Nevada, but the first one diagnosed and reported as such developed in Reno on the first day of October, the next at Las Vegas, Clark County, on the ninth, in Elko, Elko County, on the 10th, and in Carson City on the 15th. After the last date it spread rapidly throughout the state until there was scarcely a village or hamlet that did not pay toll to it in human life."

Contact Thornburg at (530) 694-2102, by e-mail at nthornburg@gbis.com or by mail at P.O. Box 156, Markleeville, Calif., 96120.

Parking woes just bad timing, ski resorts say

By Amanda Fehd
Tribune staff writer

Twice this season, those who headed to two South Shore ski resorts were met with an unfamiliar greeting: turn around.

On Dec. 29 and Jan. 15, parking lots at Kirkwood Mountain Resort and Sierra-at-Tahoe reached full capacity.

Shuttles offered
Back page

Sierra-at-Tahoe turned people around starting at 11:15 a.m., but was able to accept more guests an hour later.

Heavenly Mountain Resort also

experiences parking woes on holidays. Cars overflow into residential neighborhoods when California Lodge fills up. Gondola riders also look across Highway 50, where parking has been limited to two hours.

Resort representatives said it's not that skiing is now so outrageously popular that overcrowding will soon be a



Jim Grant / Tahoe Daily Tribune

Will Dais of Tahoma walks through Heavenly's parking lot to his car after Thursday's powder day.

regular problem. Rather, it was timing. After all, these were the first powder storms following months of nothing but rain.

"There was a lot of pent-up energy and a lot of pass holders were eager to get out, com-

bined with holiday crowds," said Sierra spokeswoman Nicole Belt.

Same story at Kirkwood. "During the holiday period, on Dec. 29, there was horrible weather leading up and horrible weather predicted the day

after," said Kirkwood President Tim Cohee. "All of a sudden, the forecasters said you have one day, and it will be fabulous."

Kirkwood has 1,000 more full pass holders without blackout days this year than

last. Cohee said resorts either have problems getting skiers to the mountain or getting them on the mountain. While Kirkwood may have parking

See **Parking**, Back page

Ski resorts push carpools, free shuttles

By Amanda Fehd

Tribune staff writer

While parking at ski resorts may be a problem at times, many hope the solution won't be more paved lots, but a push for improved public transportation and carpooling.

"I'd rather it be busy on some days than have huge parking structures all over the place," said Zach Gordon, an employee at Winter Wonderland, a ski shop on the corner of Ski Run Boulevard and Needle Peak Road in South Lake Tahoe.

Some skiers have tried to woo Gordon and co-worker Ryan Byrge into providing valet service to the resort when parking gets bad.

Kirkwood Mountain Resort president Tim Cohee said the resort will spend tens of thousands of dollars this year rewarding employees for carpooling. The more people they fit into a car, the more vouchers they receive to spend on gas, food and beverages at the resort.

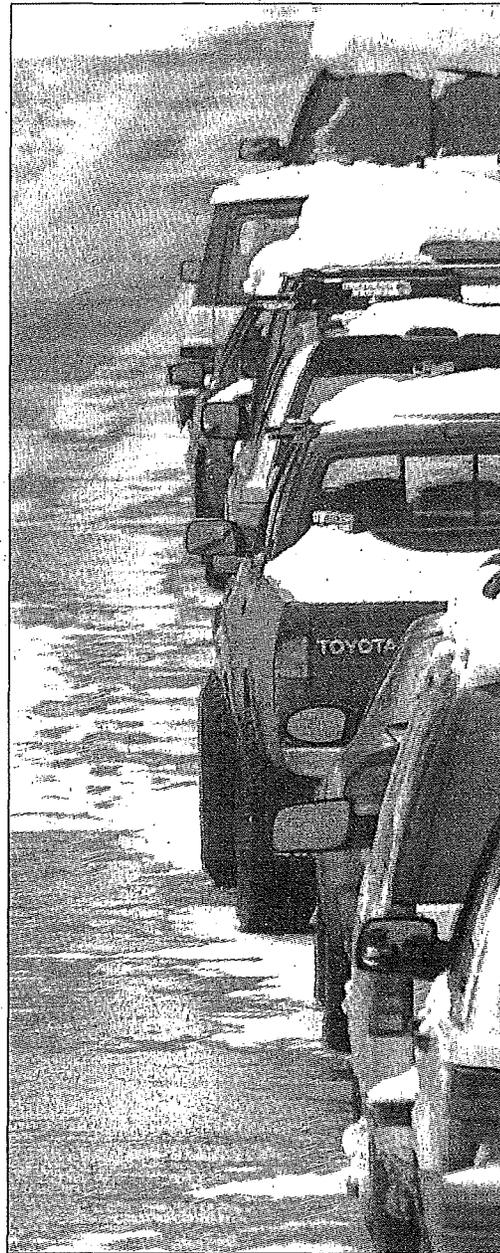
Sierra-at-Tahoe has a similar reward system. The resort educates lodging properties to encourage guests to take advantage of its free shuttle. The resort offers free preferred parking to hybrid and alternative fuel vehicles.

Sierra also partners with a Web site called AlterNetRides.com where skiers and snowboarders seeking rides can connect with those offering them.

All South Shore resorts provide free shuttle service, as well as early-morning employee buses.

Kirkwood houses 200 employees on its property, and shuttles another 100 per day.

Heavenly did not return calls for comment Thursday.



Dan Thrift / Tahoe Daily Tribune

Skiers' cars are parked along a residential street near Heavenly Mountain Resort.

Parking

From Page A1

problems, it has the shortest chairlift lines of any resort in Tahoe, he said.

The California Highway Patrol met with Sierra management recently after a fire truck responding to a medical call had difficulty leaving the resort, said Sgt. Mike Stewart.

CHP often helps direct departing traffic on Highway 50 at Sierra and Highway 88 at Kirkwood. Both intersections lack stoplights. Sierra contracts with CHP to reimburse them for these services, at a cost of \$65 an hour, according to Sierra general manager John Rice.

Sierra operates completely on public land through a permit with the U.S. Forest Service. It may park cars only along one lane of its road to leave room for emergency vehicles.

On Dec. 29, traffic was stopped eastbound for six miles to Strawberry. In eight years, Rice said he's only heard of traffic being that bad a few times at Sierra, Stewart said. Cohee said he's only seen it happen four times at Kirkwood in the last six years.

Lake Valley Fire Department responds to medical calls from Heavenly and Sierra, said Battalion Chief Bob Rossi. The injuries range from broken legs and wrists to back strains. Helicopters fly in for the most serious medical situations.

If there is traffic and the fire truck can't get down the center lane, they just hold tight and go with the flow, Rossi said.

Cindy Oswald with El Dorado

National Forest said Sierra may ask to add another parking lot and would likely be required to submit an environmental assessment, but the larger issue is how many people the mountain can safely support.

"A main criteria for us is a safe experience skiing and boarding at the resort," Oswald said.

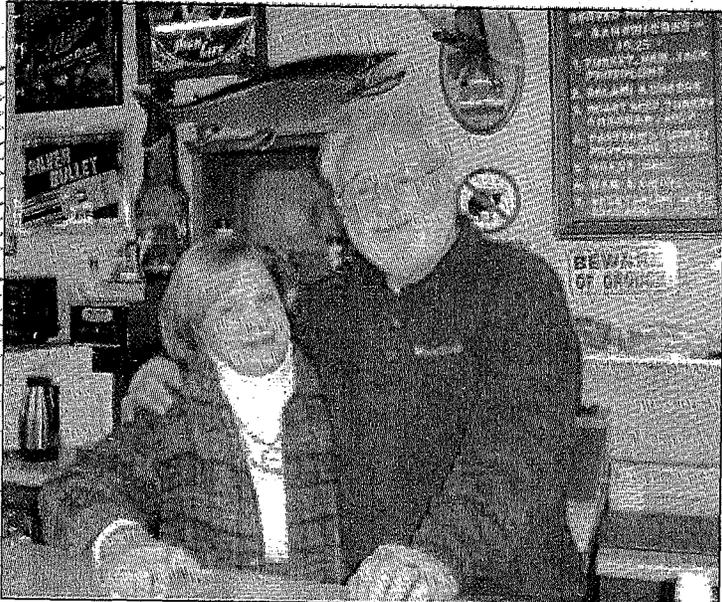
In the last year, Kirkwood developed half of an existing parking lot with condominiums. But they were able to open more spots in another area, Cohee said. The net loss of parking spaces was 20 spaces, not enough to make a difference during recent busy days, he said.

Lt. Martin Hewlett with the South Lake Tahoe Police Department said police get an occasional complaint from homeowners near Heavenly about parking. Complaints were more common before Heavenly developed an overflow plan and allotted more employees to direct traffic, he said.

Traffic and safety issues arise at the end of the day when everyone is trying to leave along Ski Run Boulevard just as roads are turning icy, he said.

Harrah's Lake Tahoe spokesman John Packer said the casino has noticed people like to park in the casino's free lot and use the gondola. Harrah's monitors the lot on holidays and has discouraged people from parking there. But it is not a huge problem because most of the casino's business comes at night, whereas skiers use the lot during the day, he said.

A Heavenly spokesman did not return calls for comment Thursday.



SPECIAL TO THE R-C

Lynda and Dave Kirby owners of Woodfords Station.

Capping off another day at Woodfords Station

Neatly pegged around the perimeter of the large room in Woodfords Station and hung from the beam over the hand-crafted wooden picnic tables and benches are hundreds of colorful baseball caps. In fact, there are more than 400 caps with company logos from across the United States and abroad that people have donated.

"My favorite ones are from overseas military personnel," said proprietor Dave Kirby. "Lynda and I own a country store where good ol' boys like to hang out, and where nobody is a stranger."

Near the only traffic light in Alpine County, though it's merely a blinking yellow light marking the turn off to Markleeville from Highway 88/89, Woodfords Station is the fourth reincarnation of a store in that location. The three former stores burned to the ground.

According to the recently published, "Images of America: Alpine County," "In 1847, a Mormon outpost called Brannon Springs was established at what later became the junction of Carson Canyon and Markleeville Roads. In 1853, when John Cary erected a water-powered sawmill and later, a flour and gristmill near the site, the name became Cary's Mills. But in 1849, Daniel Woodford had built a hotel on the river, across the emigrant trail, and in 1869, when a post office was established there, the camp was officially named Woodfords. In the 1860s, Woodfords became an important stage and mail-route station. When ranches, farms, and mining towns developed around the camp, it became the transportation hub of Alpine County."

Fire destroyed much of Woodfords in 1881, and Willis P. Merrill built a "new" store, which in turn, burned down.

Members of the National Pony Express Association recreate the Pony Express in a Commemorative Re-Run each year, and this June, as in every

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

even-numbered year, riders will once again stop at Woodfords Station. The last California rider will hand over the mochila — leather saddlebag holding mail — to the very first Nevada rider.

The Kirbys, who have owned the store at 290 Old Pony Express Road since June 13, 1983, work together to accomplish the tasks of running a country store.

"Lynda works here three days a week," explained Dave. "She shops for the food and comes in around noon to help out with lunch. She makes the chili, cornbread, and quiche."

Dave, Lynda or helper Teri make sandwiches and ladle out soup, as well as selling groceries, snow park permits, fishing licenses, and giving travel advice to often-confused tourists, whose maps don't explain adequately the winter closure of Monitor Pass and Ebbett's Pass.

Dave opens his doors every morning at seven for his regular.

In the winter, Woodfords Station is open until 4 p.m., Sunday through Thursday, closing at 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Benny, Skip, Dave, Wayne, Earl, Gary, and others sit at the counter to discuss local, national, and international politics. "We're an older redneck conservative group who mostly see the world in black and white," Kirby said.

The wood-burning stove adds its own heat to the discussion as the guys throw the dice to see who gets to pay for coffee.

"Around 7:45 I start getting cranky and tell them that I need my breakfast. I love socializing all day, but by the time I get home I'm pretty quiet, according to my wife."

■ Gina Gigli is a resident of Markleeville.

RC 1-27-06

Flu pandemic research paper available

Staff reports

A 21-page research paper focusing on how the 1918-1920 flu pandemic affected people in Carson Valley and Alpine County has been written by historian Nancy Thornburg of Markleeville.

The paper cites various sources for an overview of the pandemic and the statistics relating to Carson Valley and Alpine County. It then consists of nearly all references

to the local impacts of the pandemic (which were significant) in Carson Valley and Alpine County as cited in The Record-Courier during the three year period. Publication of this paper is timely given the current concerns about the possibility of another pandemic stemming from the H5N1 strain of influenza which has appeared in Asia and, more recently, in Turkey.

Copies of the paper can be

purchased from Thornburg by writing to her at PO Box 156, Markleeville, CA 96120. Each paper sells for \$10 plus \$2 postage and orders must be prepaid.

1-27-06



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PC 1-27-06



Historical Records Commission awarded grant

The Historical Records Commission received word this month from National Archives that the \$27,000 grant which had been applied for has definitely been awarded. Most of the grant money will be used to hire a qualified archivist for one year beginning July 1, 1986. The archivist will be responsible for appraising, processing, and organizing the county's historical records from 1864 to the present. The work will include indexing and preparing finding aids and, in general, establishing a functioning County Archives which is accessible to the public.

Final awarding of the grant was contingent upon the HRC finalizing plans for an area where the archives will be housed. Details have been worked out for use of the office area in the Library adjacent to the Librarian's office. This location will provide sufficient room for the collection and will offer both security and public access. The kitchen area of the Library building will undergo minor remodeling to provide additional workspace for the Librarian in order to compensate for "loss" of the processing area.

"We're really pleased that everything fit together so nicely and that the Commission has received such great cooperation from everyone," said Commission chairman Nancy Thornburg. "We are confident that by July of next year we will have all of the records straightened out and in an archives which the public can use for research into

the county's history. The fact that the records have been stored the way they have has made it almost impossible for the public to use them and probably explains why there has been so little written on Alpine history."

Mrs. Thornburg also commented that the Commission has been very pleased that so many individuals who have been in possession of county records have been returning them so that they can be incorporated into the collection.

"We think that when the collection has been processed we will find that nearly all of the records are here," she said. "We may have one of the most complete collections of any county in California."



Members of the Commission are Karen Keebaugh (County Clerk), Dianne Deadrich-Rogers (Librarian), Elta Turner and Heidi Hopkins (representing the public) and Nancy Thornburg (Historical Society).

Elaine Klavon, who works half time as the Historical Records Clerk, has been working on the laborious task of processing the oldest of the county's records. This has involved humidifying them and then flattening, sorting, organizing and filing thousands of records. She also completed an inventory of all county records showing date, description and location. This inventory is available at the Library.

In the field with Alpine Search and Rescue

Last Saturday, Alpine County Sheriff John Crawford drove me up to Hope Valley, so that I could observe the training program for the Alpine County Search and Rescue team and take a ride in their new snow cat. The team consists of sheriff's deputies plus volunteers from the community, who represent many ages, sizes, professions, and include husband and wife, father and son, and several Boy Scouts from Carson Valley.

These hearty and hardy souls are braving blizzard conditions to continue learning to assist in the wintry emergencies that often happen in high country. Outfitted in heavy-duty snow gear, including shovels in backpacks in case of avalanche, they all are dedicated to saving lives. The sheriff's office owns six snowmobiles for the eastern slope and four for Bear Valley. Volunteers who use their own snowmobiles also pay for their fuel. But as Woodfords Fire Chief Buck McClelland exclaimed, "Snowmobiling is my life!"

I am snug and dry in the front passenger seat of the nine-passenger snow cat, as Deputy Tom Minder drives from the staging area, down an incline, across a shallow icy stream, up the snow bank, and around Hope Valley. Through the tinted windows, we see cross country skiers and snowmobilers sharing territory. Winter willows delineate otherwise hidden waterways. The snow cat "turns on a dime" and Crawford notes how the ride is smooth and relatively quiet.

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

This transport unit was transferred to Alpine County from the Marine base at Pickel Meadow. Now medical personnel can be driven closer to the accident scene. Members of the search and rescue team have tinted the windows, because snow can be bright for victims who have lost their goggles. They also installed the communication system and created the graphics on the exterior. With its vivid orange color and flashing lights, it's not difficult to imagine that this vehicle will be a welcome sight to those who need assistance.

Deputy Ron Michitarian represents Alpine County at statewide search and rescue meetings in Sacramento to insure that assistance is given and received by neighboring counties.

"All we have to do is make a phone call, and we have help," he said.

With recent media attention drawn to victims being billed for the costs of their rescues, I asked the sheriff if that is the case in Alpine County.

"No, not yet," Crawford said. "The taxpayers pick up the bill, because the budget comes from the sheriff's office. The Alpine County Board of Supervisors designates \$5000 per year to be split between Markleeville and Bear Valley for search and rescue operations. We pay time and a half when deputies work



Members of the Alpine County Search and Rescue team with their new snowcat.

off-duty, and the volunteers spend their own money on gas and going places. Of course, we have to feed deputies and volunteers."

Crawford said there are two dangerous places where backcountry skiers can get into trouble on the eastern slope.

"One is the Caples Lake drainage, and the other is the backcountry of Silver Lake. We have a good relationship with the Kirkwood Ski Patrol, who attempts to locate lost skiers before calling us. Search and rescue can be very dangerous. Out of 30 volunteers on the Markleeville side, we'll get 10 responders, because their professions keep them busy. Bear Valley has about 20 volunteers. They all know some basic first aid and CPR. Some are members of fire departments and EMS."

A painted-white converted four-wheel-drive school bus serves as the command post, with a radio, phone, computer, and other equipment such as avalanche shovels. Jack Doyal donated his time to remove the seats and install cabinets, as did Gary Ceragioli, for the former bus. Trucks and trailers are used to transport snowmobiles, and rescuers often huddle in trailers to get a respite from bone-chilling weather. Another truck with new equipment is shared by all emergency services.

After rigorous training in

Hope Valley, the search and rescue team members were invited to Under Sheriff Rob Levy's house for a barbecue.

The sheriff said they've had one rescue so far this year.

"Two CHP radio technicians working up at the repeater site on Monitor Pass got their snow cat buried in snow. They radioed for help at 9:30. We had our briefing, and everyone got on his or her snowmobiles. The two men were rescued at midnight, and were they ever happy to see us. Search and rescue members were back home by 3 AM. The next day, Cal Trans pulled out their buried snow cat, but their winching cable broke three times."

Crawford, who first served as a cadet for the Washoe Tribal Police, has worked for the Alpine County Sheriff Office for 22 years.

"We don't have the same problems as big cities have. Our officers are friendly and approachable. We are a small county with limited resources and more and more visitors, and that's good. We'll continue to do our jobs, but we have to be prepared for an increase in population and think ahead. Our feeling of security can be attributed to the fact that all of us are watching out for each other."

■ Gina Gigli is a resident of Markleeville.

Alpine panel to discuss resources

Staff Reports

The Alpine County Resource Advisory Committee will meet 6 p.m. Feb. 9 at the Diamond Valley School near Woodfords.

The committee will be discussing issues relevant to natural resources in Alpine County. The meeting is open to the public.

The Alpine County RAC is a committee of volunteers who were selected by the Secretary of Agriculture to advise the Forest Service on the use of moneys allocated to the County through the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-determination Act of 2000.

The Congressionally mandated committee consists of 15 county residents representing a broad section of the communi-

ty including, outdoor recreation, environmental, mineral, education, cattle, elected officials, native American and other interests.

The Alpine County RAC is charged to decide how to spend the approximately \$120,000 per year allocated to Alpine County. The funds must be used to benefit the National Forests System lands in Alpine County and can be used for projects on adjacent private or other agency land provided the work helps the ecosystem or watershed of the forest.

For more information regarding the Alpine County RAC or how to submit projects to the RAC, contact Frank Pemberton, Public Affairs Officer for the Carson Ranger District, Carson City at 882-2766.

Kirkwood offers carpooling incentive

Tahoe Daily Tribune

While parking at ski resorts may be a problem at times, many hope the solution won't be more paved lots, but a push for improved public transportation and carpooling.

Kirkwood Mountain Resort president Tim Cohee said the resort will spend tens of thousands of dollars this year rewarding employees for carpooling.

Kirkwood has 1,000 more full pass holders without blackout days this year than

last.

The more people they fit into a car, the more vouchers they receive to spend on gas, food and beverages at the resort.

Kirkwood houses 200 employees on its property, and shuttles another 100 per day.

Cohee said resorts either have problems getting skiers to the mountain or getting them on the mountain. While Kirkwood may have parking problems, it has the shortest chairlift lines of any resort in Tahoe, he said.

Ski resort plans for expansion

Some wonder:
Is growth too
much too soon?

By Amanda Fehd

Tribune staff writer

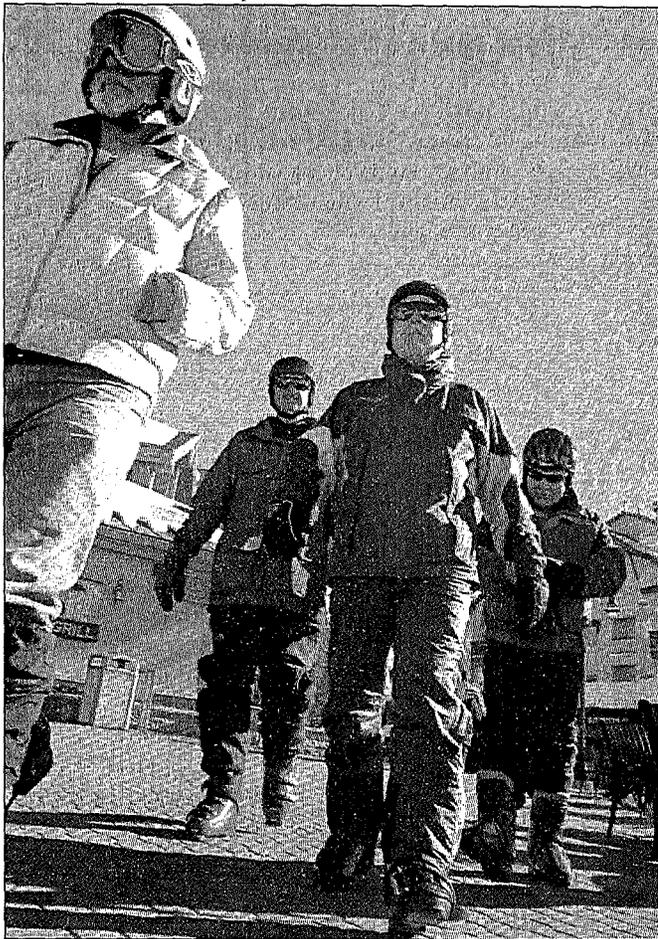
The U.S. Forest Service appears close to approving several new chairlifts that would increase skier capacity by almost 3,000 at Kirkwood Mountain Resort, a decision the resort has awaited for several years.

But some wonder if Kirkwood's infrastructure can keep pace with its proposed growth. The resort has had several busy days this year which filled its parking lots and hampered traffic on Highway 88.

Each year it seems more outdoor enthusiasts are lured to Kirkwood's message of a quiet ski village with the best snow in the world. But it's also going through what its president calls "peak day growing pains."

Thirteen power blackouts were logged since November at Kirkwood's electricity company, Mountain Utility. A new diesel generator is not blending so well with four 30-year-old generators, according to Reid Bennett, president of Friends of Kirkwood, a group that advocates sustainable growth at the resort.

See **Expansion**, Page A12
Missing



The self proclaimed "Geezer Skiers," from left, Bob Breedlove, 73, Don Gundred, 68, David Dolder, 67, and Don Dircksen, 62, head to the slopes at Kirkwood Ski Resort. The geezers have been skiing at Kirkwood for the past 25 years.

Jim Grant
Tahoe Daily Tribune

More visiting Kirkwood

Last year's epic snow attracts attention

By William Ferchland
Tribune staff writer

Kirkwood Mountain Resort had a record 375,000 visitors last year during an abnormally long season which ran from October to April.

The 804 inches of total snowfall last winter season increased Kirkwood's visibility as the resort is seeing an increase in season-pass sales and visits from the Jackson side of Highway 88.

General Manager and President Tim Cohee said the number of visitors so far this season is 1 percent below last year's record number.

In addition, Cohee said 13,000 season passes were sold this year, 5,000 more than last year.

A commissioned study on where vehicle traffic is coming from revealed an increase in the percentage coming from the Jackson side of Highway 88.

Last year it was 70 percent coming

"I believe everybody figures out everything that is good."

Tim Cohee

Kirkwood president

from the South Lake Tahoe side of Highway 88. This year it's 65 percent, Cohee said.

"I believe everybody figures out everything that is good," Cohee said.

Partnerships with the discount-giant Costco, outdoor store REI and car company Subaru has fueled single ticket sales.

Elana Miller, 23, purchased a \$45 lift ticket at a Costco for her Wednesday jaunt to Kirkwood from the Bay Area.

Miller said the ticket is cheaper

than the \$62 all-day ticket sold to adults at the resort.

It also allows her to buy a ticket the day before a trip, thus avoiding lines.

People like Miller who live in the Bay Area of other "high-octane places" search for resorts with smaller crowds on the mountain that they can get to on less-crowded roads, Cohee said.

— Contact William Ferchland
at wferchland@
tahoedailytribune.com.

K-Factor: (kerk-wood fac_tor) N.
Ski resort's in-house term to describe snow
conditions of extraordinary proportions.

Tahoe Tribune 2-10-2006

A different breed

Kirkwood has own counter- culture

By William Ferchland
Tribune staff writer

KIRKWOOD — The race from South Lake Tahoe to Kirkwood Mountain Resort, dubbed by some as the "Kirkwood 500," begins most days a little past 8 a.m.

The procession of cars comes in waves on highways 89 and 88. Often a wily driver feels the urge to get an early adrenaline rush by passing other motorists on the two lane highways through Alpine County.

Whether it be the terrain, the snow, lack of overwhelming crowds or the overall mood of Kirkwood, people can't seem to wait to get there.

"This is one mountain where you can still get scared," said Jack Reinhardt, coach of the Carson High School Ski Team who was at Kirkwood on Wednesday. "They have a lot of cliffs, chutes, steeps and drains."

The rough-and-tumble image of Kirkwood is one the resort seems to relish. Thirty-five percent of its runs are catered to advanced or expert riders as opposed to 15 percent for beginners.

General Manager and President Tim Cohee said a



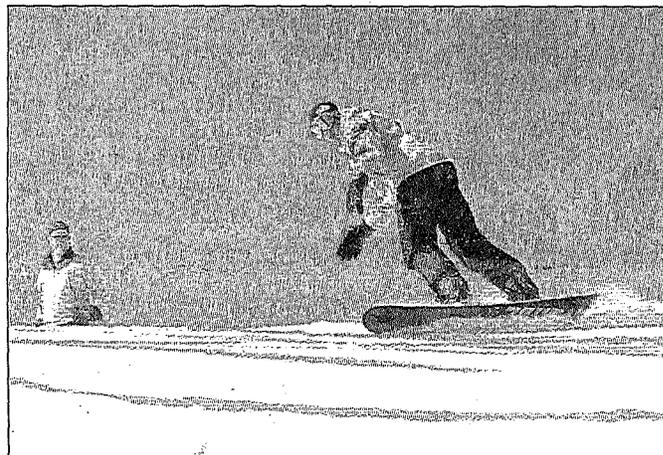
Photos by Jim Grant / Tahoe Daily Tribune

The Forest Service appears to be on the verge of approving more lifts for Kirkwood Mountain Resort.

different breed of skiers and snowboarders, "more athletic, more adventurous," are attracted to Kirkwood. Those snow enthusiasts, Cohee said, forego an emphasis on amenities such as restaurants and shopping found at other resorts.

"The fact of the matter is (Kirkwood) will be a little bit counterculture," Cohee said.

The "counterculture" can be seen in several ways. The building where employees live is dubbed "Animal House" and is known to match the atmosphere of the

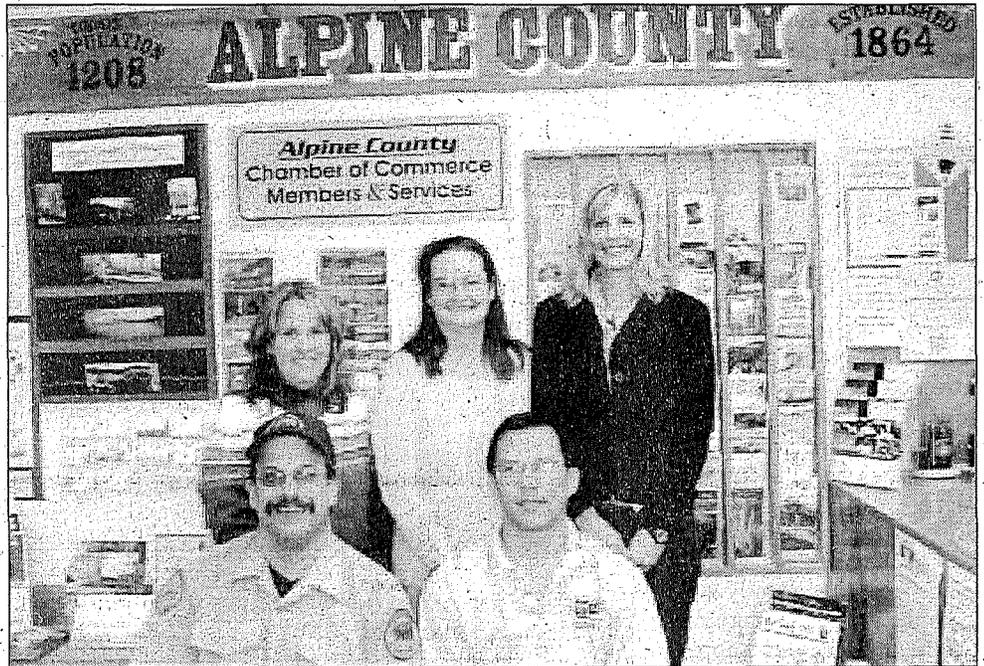


Kirkwood Ski Resort is best known for its deep snow and steep terrain.

See **Kirkwood**, Page A12

R-C 2-10-06

Visitors Center chock full of information for travelers



The people who work in the Alpine County Visitors Center. Front row, from left, California State Parks Senior Aide Adam Washam, Death Ride Manager Joe Marzocco. Back row, from left, Alpine County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Teresa Burkhauser, office assistant Angela Witten, U.S. Forest Service representative Lee Miller

by Gina Gigli

Enter Markleeville from the north and signs hanging over Smokey Bear in front of the first building mark the Alpine County Visitor Center, which houses Alpine County Chamber of Commerce, California State Parks, and U.S. Forest Service.

"We all assist each other, but we're stacked on top of one another," Alpine County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Teresa Burkhauser said. "We have limited space to display the merchandise we'd like to offer to the public, so we have to store stuff across the road and in extra sheds. Each agency has a variety of free maps and guides as well as items for sale, including Death Ride clothing and mugs."

Area books — notably, local writers Jerry and Janine Sprout's guidebook, "Alpine Sierra Trailblazer" and Alpine County Historical Society's, "Images of America: Alpine County," postcards by local artist Sandy Baenen, watercolors by resident artist Peter Chope, and photos by local photographer Todd Branscombe adorn Burkhauser's office. The chamber's "Visitors Guide" and the "Fishing Guide" by residents Paul and Gloria Washam are free, as are some maps, and brochures and business cards from area businesses. Alpine County history, camping, hiking, fishing, and interpretive material is also offered to the inquiring public.

In deep winter, the visitor center is closed on weekends, mainly because U.S. Forest Service representative Lee Miller is not funded to work from January to the middle of May. In summer and fall, she cheerfully pitches in and gives a hand wherever needed, working Thursday through Sunday. State Park senior aide Adam Washam, "on loan" from Grover Hot Springs, is at the visitor center one day a week to share his love of nature and history with travelers. Office assistant Angela Witten works the same hours as chamber director, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays. Informational material may be accessed from the visitor center porch even when the office is closed.

Death Ride manager Joe Marzocco works full time, but often from his home computer, since he is also the webmaster for the chamber. The Death Ride, now in the 26th year, has Alpine County marked on the map of sports fame. The chamber, along with the Alta Alpina Cycling Club, hosts the annual "Tour of the California Alps — Death Ride" each July. The ride starts and ends at Turtle Rock Park, located halfway between Woodfords and Markleeville, and features 129 miles of 15,000 vertical feet; traversing five mountain passes and attract-

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

ing only the most serious cyclists. Yet, entrance to the Death Ride necessarily is limited to 3,000 participants. Now is the time to register, since the lottery-type selection will take place on March 3. New this year is the ability to register as a group of 10 or less.

Check-in and the expo this year will be July 7, with July 8 being the date for the Death Ride, but reservations for lodging or camping should be secured now. Please note that highways 4 and 89 south of Markleeville will be closed on July 8.

"We could not do this event without all of our sponsors and volunteers," Burkhauser said. "Many non-profit groups benefit from the Death Ride. We distribute approximately \$20,000 each year in donations."

Residents and tourists take advantage of the many services that the visitor center provides, such as issuing permits for campfires, cutting fuel wood or Christmas trees, wilderness, and snow park; and workshops sponsored by the chamber for business owners and candidates' night for local elections.

Extremely visible will be two displays that the chamber plans to remodel, including one of the California State Capitol.

"Alpine County's kiosk is just two kiosks down from Gov. Schwarzenegger's office door," Burkhauser said. "Angela and I will recreate the photos on the cover of our 'Visitors Guide,' and place one of Russ Champion's miniature cabins and some of Kaye Jobst's pinecone baskets in the kiosk. Also, we'll be responsible to design and make Alpine County's booth for the California State Fair in Sacramento."

Though Alpine County has scant population, the chamber of commerce actually was founded 78 years ago, with early settler's names listed as founders: Chas. W. Barrett, Geo. W. Coyan, F.H. Payne, Eugenia M. Bruns, Harry Fleming, Wm. Barrett, John Thornburg, J. W. Thornburg, Mary N. Gray, L.T. Price, R.H. Luhrs, Nellie M. Koenig, Clara Barrett, Wm. J. Clark, W.A. Gray, Eloise Barrett, Elisabeth P. Coyan, Amy E. Fleming, and Geo. W. Koenig.

In my opinion, those 20 old-timers would be proud of the work being done by the current board members of the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce; President Dave Johnston, Vice President Jeanie Glover, Secretary/Treasurer Amy Broadhurst; board members Jim Bertholf, David Cooper, Dave Kirby, Mark Phillips; and 91 general members.

■ Gina Gigli is a Markleeville resident.

R-C

2-10-06

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DAN THRIFT/Tahoe Daily Tribune

Mark Erler cruises under Chair 6 on Wednesday at Kirkwood Mountain Resort.

Inn offers Kirkwood package

Staff Reports

The Carson Valley Inn is offering five great Winter Packages - including a value-priced Ski Get-a-ways - through March 31.

The Ski Inn-Vite provides two nights' hotel accommodations and one Kirkwood lift ticket per person for just \$95 per person, double occupancy, for Sunday through Thursday arrivals and \$109 per person for Friday and Saturday arrivals.

For more skiing and a longer visit, the Inn's Ski

Vacation offers three nights' accommodations, two Kirkwood lift tickets per person and two \$15 dinner certificates per person for just \$190 per person, double occupancy, for Sunday through Wednesday arrivals and \$209 per person for Thursday through Saturday arrivals.

Occupancy tax is additional, minimum age is 21, holiday periods are excluded, advance reservations are required, and a few other restrictions apply. For reservations on these winter packages, call 800-321-6983 or 783-6629.

R-C 2-10-06
Supervisor Jardine to speak Saturday

Alpine County Supervisor Don Jardine will address issues pertinent to voters of District 1 which includes Markleeville and Markleevillage, Saturday at the Alpine County Administration building, at 9 a.m.

The Alpine County Historical Society will be presenting

Jardine speaking about "Avalanches on Carson Pass" at the general membership meeting and potluck dinner on Feb. 16 at Turtle Rock Park. At 5:15 pm, there will be a no-host beer and wine social time, with a short meeting and dinner at 6 p.m., followed by Jardine's program at 7 p.m.

Kirkwood expansion nears approval by Forest Service

by Amanda Fehd
Tahoe Daily Tribune

The U.S. Forest Service appears close to approving several new chairlifts that would increase skier capacity by more than 3,500 at Kirkwood Mountain Resort, a decision the resort has awaited for several years.

But some wonder if Kirkwood's infrastructure can keep pace with its proposed growth. The resort has had several busy days this year which filled its parking lots and hampered traffic on Highway 88.

Each year it seems more outdoor enthusiasts are lured to Kirkwood's message of a quiet ski village with the best snow in the world. But it's also going through what its president calls "peak day growing pains."

Thirteen power blackouts were logged since November at Kirkwood's electricity company, Mountain Utility. A new diesel generator is not blending so well with four 30-year-old generators, according to Reid Bennett, president of Friends of Kirkwood, a group that advocates sustainable growth at the resort.

Half of the valley's homeowners belong to his group, Bennett said.

"The necessary infrastructure is not being developed by Kirkwood resort, whether it's reliable electricity, safe propane lines, parking and traffic," he said.

The mountain's overnight visitor capacity is 3,200 people.

DETAILS

Comments on the proposed Kirkwood expansion can be sent to:

Eldorado National Forest
Kirkwood MMDP DEIS

100 Forni Road,
Placerville, CA 95667

Contact Person:
Sue Rodman, ID Team
Leader
(530) 621-5298
srodman@fs.fed.us

Its parking capacity is 2,500 cars. On peak days, however, it can see nearly 7,500 skiers, Kirkwood General Manager and President Tim Cohee said. Electricity costs just under 50 cents per kilowatt hour, almost four times what Tahoe residents pay, according to Bennett.

Cohee said the resort's management is not living in the dark. He said it is "ridiculous" to imply the resort is not working on these issues.

To run a successful business, the parking and power issues are things the resort must address to keep skiers coming, he said. The resort's power bill is over \$1 million each year.

"We are going to have to figure it out, we don't have a choice here," Cohee said. "It's possible we are going to have to pave more parking lots."

The chairlifts will not go up overnight, he said, but it won't take 20 years to build them, either.

It will take another 12 to 20 years to build all the residential properties planned. On-mountain expansions will go at a faster pace than lodging growth, to keep Kirkwood's lines the shortest in Tahoe, Cohee said.

Meanwhile, small towns in the foothills are feeling the impact of increased traffic to Kirkwood, said Chris Wright, executive director of the Foothill Conservancy, which works on land-use issues in Amador and Calaveras counties.

"Do they really need to expand? Who is this benefiting? Is it benefiting anything else but their bottom line?" Wright said.

The Forest Service recently released its environmental review of Kirkwood's master plan, which came out in 2003. The agency must solicit public comment, which will be accepted through March 6.

Kirkwood hopes to build a ridge-top restaurant and five new lifts to match development of hundreds of homes and condominiums on private land at the base of the resort.

It also hopes to expand recreation to include paragliding launch sites.

The Forest Service has pinpointed Kirkwood's plan as its "preferred alternative." Their environmental review outlines two other possibilities: not doing anything at all, or leaving out two additional lifts on the back side. One of those lifts would go to the top of Thimble Peak, Kirkwood's tallest mountain.



JIM GRANT/Tahoe Daily Tribune

Kirkwood Ski Resort is best known for its deep snow and steep terrain.

Crisis course offered at learning center

A college course in crisis counseling will be offered at The Alpine County Learning Center by Lake Tahoe Community College.

The class will be 3-5:15 p.m. Mondays and Wednes-

days April 3 through June 21.

For information, contact Lois Denowitz at ld4education@hotmail.com or call (516) 851-2317. More information is available through the

Alpine County Family Support Council at (530) 694-9118. Class registration starts March 14.

For information, call Lake Tahoe Community College at (530) 541-4660. Or visit www.ltcc.edu/

R-C 2-17-06

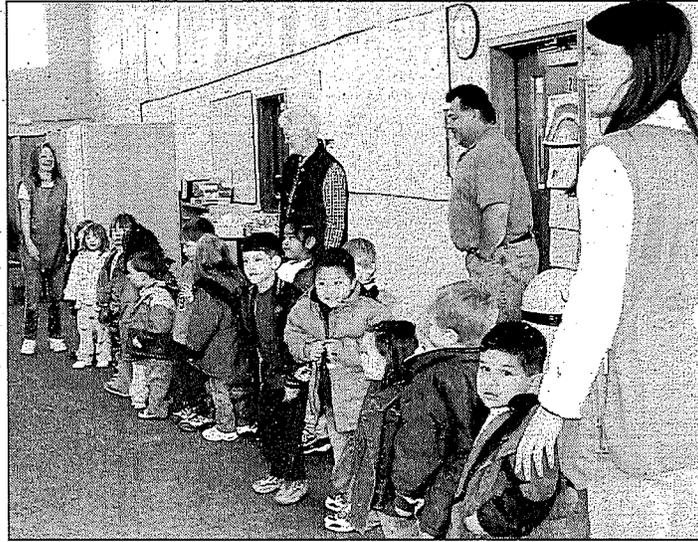
Fifty Plus visits students

Members of the Fifty Plus Club gathered at round tables in the Alpine County Early Learning Center multipurpose room, located at 100 Foothill Road, last Thursday and enjoyed a bountiful potluck lunch. Announcements were made of coming events, presentations awarded, and guest speakers introduced, all by the coordination of social service worker Sherri Dennis.

"Seniors," as members of the club were designated in the past, used to struggle with finding the money to rent space at Turtle Rock Park. Those early efforts have been eased by the fact that the Alpine County Department of Health and Human Services is now sponsoring the Fifty Plus Club, and the meetings are held at the Early Learning Center.

Kathy Kerr, past director of Health and Human Services, first took the group of senior citizens under her wing for comprehensive direction, after observing their dedication to gather together for sociability and information distribution. As an example of that dedication, Dolores Clark had supervised the making of a quilt to be raffled for the seniors' benefit. Many Alpine residents designed, embroidered or painted muslin squares that depicted a variety of mountain images, and Clark pieced them together into a striking quilt that ultimately brought in \$500 for supplies and rent.

Now, the Fifty Plus Club is a thriving fully-funded organization, attracting residents of all ages to attend the monthly "Second Thursday" potluck lunches. Alpine County Health and Human Services Director Cindy Hannah obtained funds from Area 12 Agency on Aging last year, and she is receiving a grant from the California Small County Initiative this fiscal year.



GINA GIGLI/Special to The R-C

Teachers and students line up at the Early Learning Center in Woodfords as Jan Brees and Phillip Bennett, against the wall, look on.

"My department also will be sponsoring lunches, prepared by senior nutritionist Gail Day, on the "Last Thursday" of February, March, April, and May," according to social worker Sherri Dennis. The next spon-

One of the benefits of meeting at the Early Learning Center is the proximity of preschool children.

Club members are encouraged to sign up to read children's books to the younger generation.

When the February birthdays were announced at the recent potluck, children lined up along the side of the room

Cindy Hannah highly recommended reading Dr. Andrew Weill's book, "Healthy Aging." Going along with his book's theme, she described Tai Chi and computer classes, and the health clinic, all available at the Department of Health and Human Services in Woodfords. For further information, phone 530-694-2235.

At the conclusion of the lunch, a red rose was given to each woman in honor of Valentine's Day.

■ Gina Gigli is a resident of Markleeville. Reach her at 530-694-2253.

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

sored lunch will happen noon until 2 p.m. on Feb. 23 and will feature Alpine County Supervisor Skip Veatch.

Dennis also schedules regular Wednesday trips on the Alpine County Transit Bus, so that club members can enjoy getting together for various area destinations.

"When I began this job, Cindy Hannah simply instructed me to do, 'whatever you need to do to make it happen,'" Dennis said. "The word 'No' is not in my vocabulary."

Hazel Payne was persuaded to come "front and center" so that she could be presented a plaque to honor her for faithfully traveling on the regular weekday bus line to Douglas County.

and enthusiastically sang "Happy Birthday" to Jan Brees and Alpine County Supervisor Phillip Bennett. Ernestine Fogarty baked the heart-shaped birthday cake.

Alpine County Librarian Bessie Platten described the Bookmobile schedule to club members. Readers can access book titles online and request books by phone.

Platten reminded the audience that the library book club meets once a month, and she also announced the arrival of 20 new large-print books at the library. After the lunch, and in the parking lot, library assistant Sonja Helfenstein proudly gave club members a tour of the bookmobile to familiarize them with the book layout.

Issues face downtown Markleeville

Alpine County Supervisor Don Jardine hosted a Saturday morning meeting for voters of District 1, Feb. 11, at the county administration building to discuss the future of Markleeville. At the request of Jardine, Alpine County Director of Public Works Dennis Cardozza also was in attendance.

First, Jardine announced that the visitor center would not be moving in the near future.

"On Feb. 10, I talked with President of the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce Dave Johnson, who told me that a number of issues had come up, and that the visitor center is not going to move now."



Jardine

Residents mentioned that they consider the intersection of Montgomery and Highway 89 in Markleeville to be

dangerous not only for pedestrians, but also for vehicles.

Cardozza and Jardine have been mulling over possible solutions to the problem, including angling parked cars 45 feet from that corner, painting cross walks, and installing warning strobe lights under the pavement. Jardine vowed to designate this problem as high priority on his list of projects.

Another problem is speeding on Hot Springs Road to town.

"I have asked Public Works for an engineering and traffic survey, so that the California Highway Patrol and the sheriff's department can enforce the speed limits on Hot Springs Road and other roads in Alpine County," Jardine said.

Jardine said funds from Sierra Pacific Power have been set aside to put the powerlines underground on Highway 89 through Markleeville.

"Public Works is working with the California Department of Transportation for the permit to put powerlines under the highway," he said. "Public Works also is going to search for other funds to establish sidewalks, walkways across the two bridges in town, and street lights. I would like to have this project done this year in late fall."

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

Alpine County, through grants writer Lynn Nolan, has applied for \$1.1 million from Proposition 50 funds for water line replacement in Markleeville.

"We have passed the first 'cut,' and we'll find out in July if this grant will pass the second 'cut,'" Jardine said.

A major change for Markleeville will transpire when the U.S. Forest Service moves from their long-familiar place alongside Markleeville Creek.

The Forest Service is working with the Bureau of Land Management to acquire land at Turtle Rock Park and is planning to move their facility there.

"It looks like construction may begin this year," Jardine said.

Now Alpine County is working to buy back the Forest Service site in Markleeville and is working on a restoration plan. Resident Nancy Thornburg remembers that when the Forest Service acquired the property from the county, they paid a grand total of \$10.

Public Works Director Cardozza envisions that the site could become an attractive day-use area park, with a new visitor center located above the flood zone.

Supervisor Jardine also mentioned the need for a new Law Enforcement Center due to a number of issues.

"Alpine County has developed a Facility Strategic Plan, and the Law Enforcement Center has first priority," Jardine said. "Sheriff John Crawford has received funds from the State of California, and Alpine County has used these funds to purchase land in Markleeville for this facility."

The sheriff now has \$991,000 for this project in trust, and we are expecting another \$500,000 from the State of California Rural Sheriff's Funds to help out. Draft plans have been put together.

The possibility of building the new facility at Turtle Rock Park has been brought up at one staff meeting. There are a number of

negative and positive issues with that idea: A county department would be moving out of the county seat, security at the court house, county employees not working in town, but more parking available for businesses. All of this could be happening within five years.

Jardine said he feels that the Historic Design Review Ordinance needs to be updated and clarified, as did the majority of the audience, since there are a number of projects in the works.

Along those lines, the Alpine County Planning Department has announced the Notice of Availability and Public Meeting of the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Mahalee Lodge/Markleeville Village Project. Copies of the DEIR are available for public review at the following locations during normal business hours: Alpine County Planning Department, Alpine County Clerk's Office and the Alpine County Library.

In addition, the DEIR may be viewed and/or downloaded from the planning department document page of the Alpine County Web site: www.alpinecounty.ca.com/departments/planning/documents.

The official description of the proposed project from the Alpine County Planning Department is: "A mixed use project including commercial, lodging, residential and open space areas; and infrastructure including new roads, a community water system and a new on site wastewater treatment system all located on approximately 36 acres in Markleeville. Proposed land uses include a lodging facility with 25 guest rooms, restaurant, conference center, day spa/wellness center and outdoor swimming pool; 49 detached residential dwellings, each containing approximately 1,600 square feet of living space proposed for fractional ownership; and up to 50,200 square feet of mixed use commercial and residential units in up to 13 separate buildings. The proposed project is located in Markleeville, Calif."

The public meeting to obtain additional information about the DEIR is scheduled for 6 p.m. March 2 at Turtle Rock Park, 17300 Highway 89, Markleeville.

■ Gina Gigli is a Markleeville resident.

Alpine briefs

Luncheon topic is glaucoma

The guest speaker at the Fifty Plus Club monthly potluck will be Judy Molnar, whose topic will be glaucoma. The potluck will take place noon to 2 p.m. March 9 at the Early Learning Center, 100 Foothill Road, Woodfords. Bring an Irish blessing of a dish. Information, call Delores (530) 694-2473 or Sherri (530) 694-2235.

Senior bus trips offered

On March 1 the Fifty Plus Club will travel to the Douglas County Senior Center for lunch and bingo. March 8, the club will take a trip to Carson City and on March 15 they will go to South Lake Tahoe. Approximate times for Alpine County Special Wednesday bus trips are

R-C 2-24-06
10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. On March 30 from noon to 2 p.m. Jill Mustacchio, yoga instructor, will be featured at the Alpine County Health and Human Services sponsored lunch, 100 Foothill Road, Woodfords. To contact the bus, call 783-6456 or Sherri Dennis at (530) 694-2235.

More people visit Kirkwood

by William Ferchland
Tahoe Daily Tribune

R-C - 2-24-06
Kirkwood Mountain Resort had a record 375,000 visitors last year during an abnormally long season which ran from October to April.

The 804 inches of total snowfall last winter season increased Kirkwood's visibility as the resort is seeing an increase in season-pass sales and visits from the Jackson side of Highway 88.

General Manager and President Tim Cohee said the number of visitors so far this season is 1 percent below last year's record number. Over the past three years the number of season pass holders has held steady at 13,000.

A commissioned study on where vehicle traffic is coming from revealed, an increase in

the percentage coming from the Jackson side of Highway 88.

Last year it was 70 percent coming from the South Lake Tahoe side of Highway 88. This year it's 65 percent, Cohee said.

"I believe everybody figures out everything that is good," Cohee said.

Partnerships with the discount-giant Costco, outdoor store REI and car company Subaru has fueled single ticket sales.

Elana Miller, 23, purchased a \$45 lift ticket at a Costco for her Wednesday jaunt to Kirkwood from the Bay Area.

Miller said the ticket is cheaper than the \$62 all-day ticket sold to adults at the resort. It also allows her to buy a ticket the day before the trip, thus avoiding lines.



GINA GIGLI/Special to The R-C
Meeting at the Alpine County Early Learning Center in Woodfords are members of the Fifty Plus Club. clockwise, Hubert Bruns, Linda Bruns, Tina Long, Gail Day, Sherri Dennis, and Cindy Hannah.

Employees seek nonrenewal of assistant's contract

by **Kurt Hildebrand**
Editor

A letter was sent on Thursday to Alpine County residents calling for the ouster of Assistant to the Board of Supervisors Judy Molnar.

Members of three groups, the Concerned Employees of Alpine County, the Concerned Citizens of Alpine County and the Concerned Deputy Sheriffs Association, issued the letter asking that residents support them in calling for the non-renewal of Molnar's contract.

The employees are in negotiations with Alpine County after the county lost an arbitration over longevity pay increases.

Alpine County Board of Supervisors Chairman Gunter Kaiser said Thursday he hadn't seen the letter yet.

He said the county is in closed door negotiations with its four different bargaining units and couldn't comment on the issue.

A Nov. 29, 2005, arbitrator's ruling will cost Alpine County at least \$150,000 in longevity

pay it failed to give 20 employees.

Employees claim Molnar has cost the county \$235,000 in lawsuits and was the subject of a Grand Jury investigation. The assistant's contract expires in June.

Alpine County has a \$7 million budget.

At issue is the memorandum of understanding between the county and two unions, the Alpine County Employees Association Miscellaneous Bargaining Unit and the Alpine County Deputy Sheriffs Association Law Enforcement Unit.

The agreement, which became effective July 15, 2003, tried to reform the way Alpine County compensated its employees for longevity.

According to the ruling, no one was happy with the old way, in which employees who were regularly promoted would end up not receiving longevity pay, because their accumulated time was tied to their time at a particular pay range, not to their total time.

Alpine County death sparks call

by Kurt Hildebrand
Editor

Family and friends are calling for a grand jury investigation into the death of Markleeville resident Bill McKinnon.

McKinnon was found shot through the throat on a trail about 200 yards from his cabin on July 7 after he was reported missing the previous day.

After finding McKinnon's body, investigators interviewed his landlords

and a neighbor, who told them he suffered from depression.

Alpine County Detective and Chaplain Edward Braz said gunshot residue was found at the point of impact and on McKinnon's fingers, consistent with the ruling that he shot himself.

"There were some concerns that there were two entry wounds," he said. "I reread the report and there are two wounds, but one is an entry wound and the other is an exit wound."

Braz defended the investigation and

the department.

"We're a professional agency and we want to be as thorough as we can," he said. "We explore every avenue."

As department chaplain, he said he realizes it is sometimes hard for a family to accept a ruling of suicide.

"I know it is hard for any family member or friend to accept suicide as a verdict," he said. "A lot of family members and friends don't know anything about the person's state of mind until it happens. If they had seen it,

they would at least have tried to take some action to stop it."

However, his father and a friend, both of whom have filed citizen complaints with the grand jury, said they spoke with McKinnon in the weeks leading up to his death and that he was not depressed.

They say he would not have killed himself and are asking for the investigation to be reopened, according to McKinnon's father, Ray.

"I don't believe he killed himself

and neither do all the people he has known around Markleeville," the elder McKinnon said. "We feel that the investigation was not thorough."

According to copies of the sheriff's report on the death, McKinnon's dog Betty was found wandering near Carson Pass 6 p.m. on July 1. The dog was taken to El Dorado County Animal Shelter and an attempt to contact McKinnon was made, but he didn't

See **Death** on page 7

Death: Family seeks probe for grand jury probe

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3/1/06

Continued from page 1
have a phone and the address on the dog's collar was not a valid Alpine County address.

One of McKinnon's landlords tried to contact him on July 1 and 2 to say his sister was visiting and that they were all right to be there.

The sister arrived on July 2 and found a note on McKinnon's door from a friend seeking him.

The same day, McKinnon's landlords returned home from Palm Springs, where they were vacationing. He was last seen by a neighbor at about 10 a.m. on July 2. According to the neighbor, McKinnon stayed for less than 5 minutes.

On July 3, the landlord said he heard a single shot that sounded like it came from a pistol. He later told investigators that the thought ran through his mind that McKinnon had killed himself.

It was noon on July 6, after learning McKinnon had not reported for work and looking

around the area for him, that McKinnon's landlord reported him missing. A search was conducted and at about 1 p.m. on July 7 McKinnon was discovered.

According to the coroner's report, McKinnon was found lying face down on the ground with his arms tucked under his torso and his hands positioned near his neck.

A .38-caliber Pietro Zanoletti semi-automatic handgun was found next to his left leg.

His left leg was fully extended and his right leg was bent at the hip and knee. The bullet appeared to have entered at the neck and exited through his back.

The report said it does not appear as though McKinnon died immediately of the wound.

McKinnon's sister, Francis Martin, told the investigating officer that none of the family considered him suicidal.

His father said he last spoke with McKinnon in mid-June on the phone and he sounded fine.

"The evidence they gathered was that Bill was a depressed person," his father said. "He was not depressed. They said in the report he was depressed because of the long, hard winter.

"It was the middle of July. Bill lived in that area for more than 20 years, he loved it. It just doesn't add up."

Ray McKinnon wrote at least two letters to Alpine County Sheriff John Crawford expressing his concerns.

He said he didn't receive an answer until after he'd written the District Attorney's Office.

On Feb. 6, he said he received a letter from Crawford saying the sheriff would thoroughly review the case.

"It's not good enough," the elder McKinnon, a 79-year-old Concord, Calif., resident who raised 15 children said. "I felt at the time that somebody was covering up something. We just want to get something out on the table. I just want them to answer the questions."

New books by Alpine authors roll off the press

In sparsely-populated Alpine County, where artists and authors abound, two new books by local writers have just been published.

The first book, self-published by Markleeville historian Nancy Thornburg, is a spiral-bound research paper of 22 pages, titled, "The 'Spanish' Flu Pandemic of 1918-1920: and its impact on the Carson Valley and Alpine County." The second book, published by the University of Nevada Press and written by Woodfords historian Michael J. Makley, is a hardback book with 291 pages, titled, "The Infamous King of the Comstock: William Sharon and the Gilded Age in the West."

Thornburg's interest in the worldwide flu epidemic in the early 20th century stems from two sources: her knowledge that her husband's uncle, William Thornburg, died at age 24 in the fourth wave of the Spanish flu, plus the fact that today's comparable avian flu is threatening world populations.

The familiar names of German and Basque settlers and ranchers of our area mark the pages of her research paper.

"The first three pages give an overview of the Spanish Influenza pandemic," Thornburg explains, "and the rest were researched from the files of The Record-Courier."

While records are incomplete, and there are no known statistics for flu deaths in Alpine County, it's certain that both valley and mountain communities were impacted adversely.

"Therefore be it ordered: that all public gatherings in the county of Douglas be refrained from and under no excuse be allowed. This includes meetings, gatherings in saloons or

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

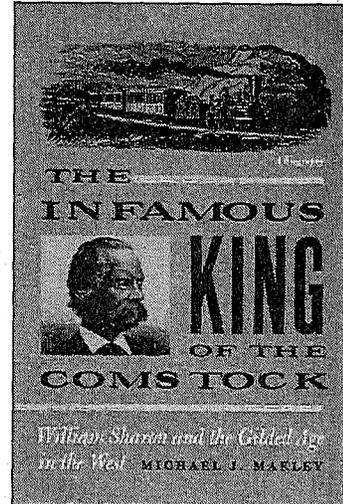
pool halls, private parties, etc.," so decreed the Douglas County Board of Health on Oct. 17, 1918. In November of that same year, the Alpine County Board of Supervisors ordained the public wearing of protective masks, "consisting of at least three thicknesses of gauze or such material of similar texture, and of such width and breadth to cover the nostrils and mouth."

The Spanish flu book may be purchased directly from Thornburg, by writing to her at P.O. Box 156, Markleeville, CA 96120, or by e-mailing her at nthornburg@gbis.com. The price is \$10, plus \$2 for mailing.

Amazingly, up until publication of Makley's new book, "The Infamous King of the Comstock," no biography of the notorious "robber baron" William Sharon had been written. Makley spent three years researching and writing a definitive tale of two states and the capitalist character who linked the complex history of San Francisco financial institutions with the mines of the Comstock Lode.

With research material he mainly uncovered at the Bancroft Library at the University of California in Berkeley, libraries of the University of Nevada, Reno, and Storey County records in Virginia City, Makley has painted a fascinating portrait of an outrageous person who created a vertical monopoly.

"William Sharon not only enjoyed playing poker, but



UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA PRESS

also he thought of his life as playing a game, and he believed that every man should be out for himself," Makley said.

Sharon saved the Bank of California from financial disaster and was responsible for the Virginia and Truckee Railroad's founding to ensure the delivery of the Comstock Lode's valuable ore.

Twenty eight black and white photos enhance the historical vision presented by the author, as described briefly in the last chapter.

"The saga of the Sharon wealth traces, in remarkable fashion, America's story in the Gilded Age. William Sharon himself was a man of *laissez faire* 'survival of the fittest' capitalism, building his wealth through monopoly and ruthless individualism."

The William Sharon biography is included in the Wilbur S. Shepperson Series of Nevada History published by the University of Nevada Press. Available nation-wide and at area bookstores, Makley's book sells for \$34.95.

■ Gina Gigli is a Markleeville resident. Reach her at 530-694-2253.

Kirkwood draws different breed

by William Ferchland
Tahoe Daily Tribune

The race from South Lake Tahoe to Kirkwood Mountain Resort, dubbed by some as the "Kirkwood 500," begins most days a little past 8 a.m.

The procession of cars comes in waves on highways 89 and 88. Often a wily driver feels the urge to get an early adrenaline rush by passing other motorists on the two lane highways through Alpine County.

Whether it be the terrain, the snow, lack of overwhelming crowds or the overall mood of Kirkwood, people can't seem to wait to get there.

"This is one mountain where you can still get scared," said Jack Reinhardt, coach of the Carson High School Ski Team who was at Kirkwood on a Wednesday. "They have a lot of cliffs, chutes, steeps and drains."

The rough-and-tumble image of Kirkwood is one the resort seems to relish. Thirty-five percent of its runs are catered to advanced or expert riders as opposed to 15 percent for beginners.

General Manager and President Tim Cohee said a different breed of skiers and snowboarders, "more athletic, more adventurous," are attracted to Kirkwood. Those snow enthusiasts, Cohee said, forego an emphasis

on amenities such as restaurants and shopping found at other resorts.

"The fact of the matter is (Kirkwood) will be a little bit counterculture," Cohee said.

The "counterculture" can be seen in several ways. The building where employees live is dubbed "Animal House" and is known to match the atmosphere of the movie with the same title. A watering hole near Red Cliffs Lodge was named The Battered Beaver but was renamed To The Moon Cafe and Saloon this year. There are at least two caves on the mountain where skiers and snowboarders congregate. Most riders wear helmets.

During powder days they can be seen standing on cornices, waiting to drop in.

Despite, or maybe because of this atmosphere, million dollar homes have sprouted around the valley that insulates Kirkwood along Highway 88. More are to come as Kirkwood aims to model itself as a destination resort with patrons staying two to five nights.

Although he and friends were staying near Heavenly Mountain Resort, 27-year-old New Yorker Brendan Lanahan was at Kirkwood.

"We want steep hills and that's why we're here," he said.

Kirkwood is not without its faults or detractors. It's loca-

tion, about a 40-minute desolate drive from South Lake Tahoe and farther for those coming from the Sacramento area, can be seen as a hindrance or benefit.

Tom D'Loughy, owner of Rip 'N Willies ski shop on Ski Run Boulevard, remarked Kirkwood's location impedes those who can get only a few hours of skiing in their day.

D'Loughy said past Kirkwood complaints focused on antiquated chairlifts. The gripes subsided when the chairlifts improved, D'Loughy said.

The powder-hungry skiers and snowboarders who wait for lifts to open after large storms at Kirkwood irks skier Bud Amorfini.

"The culture is 'Let's line up for half an hour to get fresh tracks,'" Amorfini said moments before heading up Heavenly Mountain Resort.

"You're there to ski, not wait," he added.

Alp



JIM GRANT / Tahoe Daily Tribune

Kirkwood Mountain Resort draws a particular sort of skier.

R-C 3-8-06

'Citizens' maligning Alpine Assistant

EDITOR:

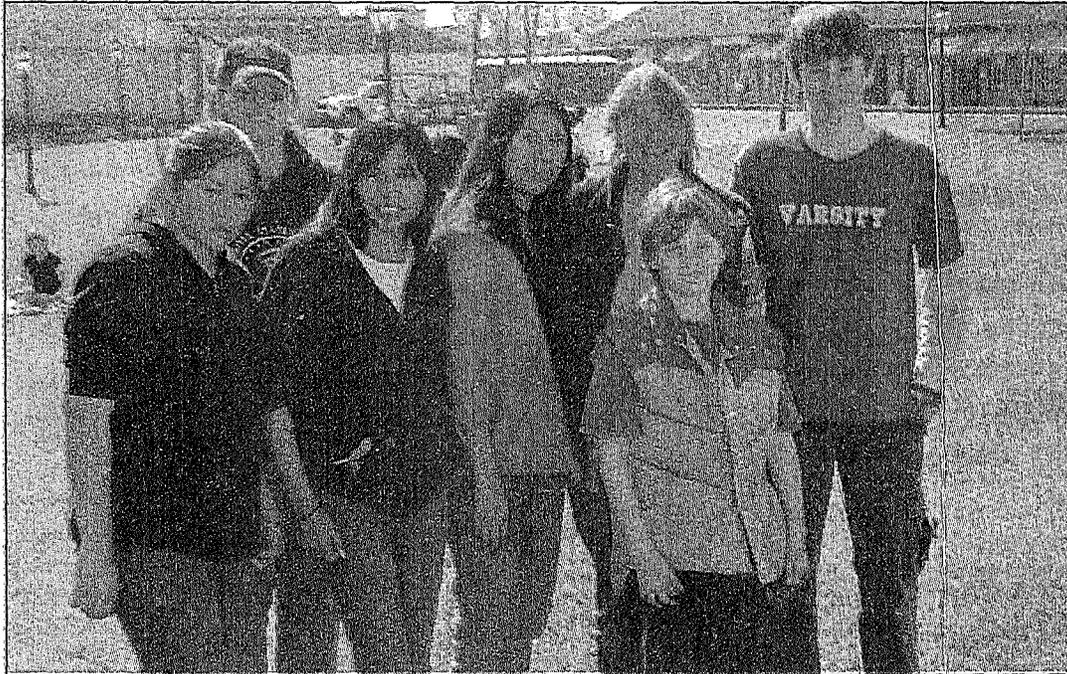
Could there be two assistants to the board of supervisors? The one I know is Judy Molnar. Yes, she has a name and it has been maligning.

Judy has held this extremely controversial position for eight years. During this time she has procured thousands of dollars in much needed grant money for the county. The list of projects and accomplishments achieved during her tenure is exhaustive. She has worked tirelessly as both a paid employee and a volunteer to make Alpine County a better place to live.

The "concerned citizens" seem to have forgotten, the assistant to the board of supervisors serves at the pleasure of the board of supervisors. Don't shoot the messenger; perhaps you have mistaken your quarry.

On Saturday I watched my children and countless others play in the park that Judy created. As I watched I wondered, who are these people that wrote of incompetence? I would like to tell them about the Judy Molnar I know.

Lisa Wilson
Gardnerville



SPECIAL TO THE R-C

Members of the Diamond Valley School Math Team went to Bridgeport in February.

Math team does well in competition

The Diamond Valley School math team attended the Winter Warm-ups Math Competition in Bridgeport at the beginning of February. The DVS Mathletes made a strong showing in the competition, which includ-

ed four schools from the Eastern Sierra.

On Feb. 25, the mathletes traveled to the Central Valley competition in Sacramento. This competition was attended by 14 schools from across Cal-

ifornia. The students did well and said they enjoyed the trip.

Tatyanna Jim, Kristin Slavik, Jessica Burtt, Blessing Bennett, Matt Aarons, Jake Lovell are on the team coached by Ginger Craik.

March events chase away winter blues

Since Old Man Winter has not yet relinquished his title of "king of the season," Alpine residents are scheduling activities to chase away any lingering winter blues.

Frank Jacobelli, from Alpine County Behavioral Health Services, in the March-April edition of "Alpine Threads," advises, "Take a lesson from our northern neighbors: Bundle up, grab a thermos filled with a hot drink, get out and soak up some winter sun. And remember, spring will be here before you know it."

In the same issue, Dr. Richard Harvey suggests walking the family dog to achieve fitness.

"I believe that being happy and relaxed is an essential part of staying healthy," he said. "And of course there is all that exercise that comes with walking a dog. And so, I put on my boots and out the door we go, my dog leading the way. More exercise, more fresh air. He won't take no for an answer. Another dog is leading his human to better health."

For more strenuous outdoor exercise than walking the family dog, there are several options scheduled at Kirkwood on Saturday.

The first one is a cross-country skiing day trip across 13 miles of stunning Sierra scenery on a well-marked backcountry route. The trail begins at Echo Summit and crosses the Sierra crest to finish at the Kirkwood Cross-Country and Snowshoe Center. Starting time is at 10 a.m. at the Echo Summit SnoPark. For more information, log onto www.ednsp.org

The other event is a full-moon snowshoe trek with the group meeting at 6 p.m. at the Cross-Country and Snowshoe Center. Call (209) 258-7248 for further information.

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by Gina Gigli

tasy forum presented by science fiction anthologist Milton Wolf at the Alpine County Library in Markleeville on March 17, from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Wolf has taught courses in science fiction at the University of Nevada, Reno, Truckee Meadows Community College, Western Nevada Community College and Chadron State College in Nebraska. He has recently written his 93rd publication.

In preparation for the lecture, library book club members have been reading Isaac Asimov's classic science fiction book "I, Robot" but everyone is welcome. Extra copies of

Asimov's book are available for check-out at the library.

Attendees of this memorable St. Patrick's Day event may wish to stay for the follow-up potluck lunch. A basic green salad will be provided by the Friends of the Library, with guests encouraged to bring condiments; for example, favorite salad ingredients, dressing, breads or cheeses.

Parents and Tots Story-time will be held 10:30 a.m. Saturday. The St. Patrick's program is funded by the Friends of the Library and will feature read-aloud leprechaun stories with crafts and snacks for the children.

Winter blues are bound to be dispatched by a judicious sampling of this menu of Alpine activities.

■ Gina Gigli is a resident of Markleeville. Reach her at (530) 694-2253.

Traveling on the Alpine Mountain Transit bus on Wednesday, the Fifty Plus Club will enjoy a group outing to South Lake Tahoe. For more information, phone Sherri Dennis at (530) 694-2235.

Yoga instructor Jill Mustachio will show gentle exercises for "mature" members of the Fifty Plus Club at the special lunch sponsored by Alpine County Health and Human Services, Thursday, March 30 at noon at the Early Learning Center.

To exercise the brain and for a "novel" experience, aficionados of science fiction books are invited to participate in the fan-

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Alpine items

Workshop April 19

The Merging Rivers Center for Well Being is hosting a meditation workshop – 7-9 p.m. April 19.

Information, www.mergingrivers.com and (530) 694-1881.

Winter hours

Alpine County Visitor Center's hours for winter are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Information, www.alpinecounty.com or (530) 694-2475.

Sno Park Permits

Sno park permits available at the Alpine County Visitor Center, Woodfords Station and Sorensen's Resorts. For additional information, (530) 694-2475 or visit Web site at www.alpinecounty.com

Bus links world to Markleeville

Theoretically, on any Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday, you could strap on a backpack, board the Alpine County Mountain Transit bus at 1:15 p.m. (ticket - \$2), arrive at Carson Valley Inn at 2:35 p.m.; transfer without charge to Douglas Area Rural Transit bus at 3:40 p.m., arrive at Super Wal-Mart at 4:15 p.m.; transfer to Public Rural Ride from Reno at 5:49 p.m. (ticket - \$3.25), arrive at Reno-Tahoe International Airport at 6:56 p.m.; and two hours later, board a jet bound for anywhere in the world for an undetermined amount of time and money.

For a less extravagant adventure, you simply could travel from Markleeville to Raley's to grocery shop. Tuesday morning, in the midst of a fierce blizzard, my husband and I did just that. We didn't have to put on chains or get our new vehicle dirty, and we saved about five dollars in gas.

We left the driving to ACMT bus driver Peter Duffy, who only charged us \$1 each for the round trip, because we're senior citizens. We had phoned DART (775-783-6456) the day before to ascertain the schedule and arrange to be picked up in front of our gate. When the bus arrived, we waded through foot-deep snow, with our cloth shopping bags in tow, and climbed into front row seats. Across the aisle and behind the driver, two plaques honor faithful riders Hazel Payne, who still rides the bus, and deceased Bob Jackson.

In winter, the Alpine bus has four studded tires and automatic drop-down chains for the back wheels. Slowly, but steadily, the bus made its way over the snow-packed "summit," bypassing the usual route through Diamond Valley to Hung-A-Lel-Ti because a "snow day" was declared for



SPECIAL TO THE R-C
Peter Duffy, driver of the Alpine County Mountain Transit bus.

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the preschool children who normally are transported to the Early Learning Center.

In Fredericksburg, Linda Bruns was picked up for her ceramics class at the Douglas County Senior Center.

"Pete's a good driver," Bruns said. "His only rules are 'no drinking or eating or dancing in the aisles.'"

As a member of the Fifty Plus Club, Bruns has traveled on the bus to Old Town Sacramento for a Mystery Cruise that included show and dinner on the Delta King; to Eldorado Reno to the 10 Tenors show; to the ghost town of Bodie; and to Apple Hill; activities sponsored by Alpine County Health and Human Services. Duffy added, "I also drove the club to the state capitol in Sacramento."

Wednesdays are special days, with the mid day route not functioning.

"The first Wednesday of the

month is reserved to transport members of the Fifty Plus Club to the Douglas County Senior Center for lunch and bingo," Duffy said. "On the second Wednesday, I drive to Carson City, wherever they want to go. We go to South Lake Tahoe on the third Wednesday for doctor appointments or to the California Department of Motor Vehicles. The fourth Wednesday is optional; often designated for excursions."

Since the bus necessarily had to make its way slowly through snowy and slushy roads, shopping at Raley's was curtailed to 20 minutes, but that was enough time to complete our short shopping list.

On the way home, we rode through Dresslerville and the Ranchos in search of possible riders. Duffy said that on his first run, he had driven a person from the bowling alley to the Alpine County Courthouse.

Nick Pomarius was waiting for the bus at the Mountain and Garden in Woodfords.

"I'm going to the library in Markleeville to access my e-mail, but first I'm going to the store to buy some orange juice," he said.

Duffy, who has driven the Alpine County Mountain Transit bus for one year, loves his job.

"Safety is number one with me," he said. "It gives me a good feeling to transport preschoolers, senior citizens, handicapped persons, residents and visitors. Sometimes Carson Valley residents like to ride the bus up to Markleeville just to walk around, have lunch or an ice cream. They say that it's like going on a little vacation with all of that beautiful scenery."

■ Gina Gigli is a Markleeville resident. Reach her at (530) 694-2253.

March 17, 2006

RACING THROUGH THE SNOW



JIM GRANT/Tahoe Daily Tribune

Cross country skiers and snowshoers begin a mass start at the 33rd annual Echo-to-Kirkwood Race and Tour on March 11. Due to the threat of avalanches, the race began and ended at the Kirkwood Cross Country Center.

BLM hosts public meeting on Tuesday

Staff Reports

The Bureau of Land Management, Carson City Field Office is seeking public input to an amendment to their resource management plan on approximately 19,000 acres of land managed by BLM in Alpine County.

A public open house workshop is set for 1:30 p.m. Tuesday at Turtle Rock Park.

Another meeting will be held 6 p.m. March 30 with the Alpine County Planning Commission at Turtle Rock Park. Encourage written and public participation.

As part of the resource man-

agement plan amendment, an environmental assessment will be prepared to analyze designation of public lands suitable for retention, disposal by sale or exchange, or conveyance for community expansion purposes. For more information, contact Desna Young, environmental coordinator at 885-6078.

This old house is full of fond memories

My first view of Alpine County was in the mid 1930s, when my family drove up from Southern California to visit Judge and Mrs. L.T. Price and family in Markleeville. My Aunt Carolyn Buell, Ellen Hutchinson, and Ileen Price all were high school friends in Los Angeles.

With severe winter storms back then and lack of modern snowplowing equipment, Judge Price had to alternate his venue by presiding over the Alpine County Superior Court in the temperate summer and by serving as a judge in the Los Angeles court system in the freezing winter.

The Price's quaint old house, located at the corner of Montgomery and School streets, has always held special memories, and I really appreciate the way that the heirs have preserved it. Markleeville has always been a "magical place" for me, and sometimes I have to pinch myself to believe that 32 years ago we moved to the little town of my childhood dreams.

Each summer, we took my aunt to Markleeville so that Carolyn, Ellen, and Ileen could spend carefree vacations together in the beautiful mountains. Ellen became a teacher and married Alpine

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

County rancher Chris Gansberg, Sr. Ileen married Bill Long and after a nomadic 15 years, courtesy of the U.S. Navy, settled into the old white house in Markleeville.

In 1993, I recorded a conversation with Bill Long.

He explained, "When I first saw Markleeville, I thought it looked like a small European hamlet in the Alps. It was May 1946, and Ileen and I had driven up from the Bay Area so that I could meet her parents and see the country. I thought it was nice territory. People were pleasant and conscientious. They were permanent residents and practically everyone was kin to each other."

In November of 1961, Long retired after 30 years of service that included stints in Okinawa, Guam and other Pacific islands, as well as Camp Pendleton and Parris Island, and they became permanent residents of Markleeville.

"Ten days after we arrived here, it snowed to beat all get out," he chuckled. "The boys



The Price house in Markleeville.

SPECIAL TO THE R-C

saw the mountains and loved it here.

"Ileen's mother, Lela Price, lived with us, because her husband had died. I figured out that the house was built in 1908, because when I was working with the electrical wiring and tore into the walls, I found old newspapers used for insulation, dated April 4, 1908. I worked around the house fixing things up, and I also enjoyed rock-hounding. When George Coyan wasn't too busy with his cabins, he and I would go looking for rocks together. I got started with this hobby when Ileen wanted some obsidian buttons. We went down near Lee Vining to the glass mountain, and we brought back obsidian

that I cut and polished into 3/4 inch square buttons."

Bill and his two boys, Jim and Bob, hiked, camped, fished and skied together.

He continued, "I tried my darndest to keep up with them, but they were always over the ridge or somewhere."

The Long family fully enjoyed their life in Alpine County.

"For fun, we would all go up to Grover Hot Springs to soak. Another favorite activity of ours was to drive up to the dump that was off the road at the bend on the way to the hot springs to watch the scavenging bears. Once, when I was standing outside the car, Ileen jokingly locked the doors, and I started yelling. But the

bears weren't interested in me at all; they just wanted to eat the garbage."

When asked how the winters were in the '60s, Long replied, "I was fascinated with the snow, and I enjoyed it when I was younger and could fight it. If you had to go somewhere and it wasn't an emergency, you just waited for three days or so until the roads were clear. In '63, it was so cold that all of the pipes in town froze."

The three young women, who spent their summer vacations in Markleeville, are no longer with us, nor are their husbands. But their joyous laughter resounds in our memories when we look at the house.

I close my eyes and imagine Ileen Price Long in summertime, sitting in the shade on the lawn full of dandelions (she didn't like Bill to mow them down), sipping a drink and reading a book.

■ Gina Gigli is a Markleeville resident. Reach her at (530) 694-2253.

R-C
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Kirkwood ski benefit scheduled

The Kirkwood Ski Education Foundation's (KSEF) Best of Kirkwood annual feast and auction is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. April 8 at the Red Cliffs Lodge in Kirkwood. This event is the highlight of the season and features culinary delights from restaurants in Kirkwood, South Lake Tahoe, Carson Valley and Jackson.

Enjoy wine and beer from local breweries and wineries. Bid on auction items in the silent and live auctions. Items will include summer and winter vacation getaways, golf vacations, ski vacations, rare vintage wines, winter and summer sports gear, artwork, prizes for the kids and more. All proceeds benefit the Kirkwood Ski Education Foundation. Tickets are \$35 per person and are available now.

To reserve your tickets or for more information, e-mail KSEF at mail@ksef.org or call KSEF at 209-258-5733.

R-C
April 7, 2006

LEARNING BUBBLES



Three-year-old Adam Garren blows bubbles at the Kick off for Kids event Wednesday at the Early Learning Center. **SHANNON LITZ/The R-C**

R-C
April 7, 2006

Watershed group completes first year of monitoring

Staff Reports

The Alpine Watershed Group has completed its first year monitoring water quality throughout the upper Carson River watershed in Alpine County.

Formed in 2004, the group is one of nearly 800 volunteer monitoring groups in the United States.

The mission of the Alpine Watershed Group's citizen monitoring program is to produce environmental information which is needed to protect California's watersheds and aquatic resources. Citizen monitoring also serves to inform and engage the community in effective watershed stewardship.

After one year of collecting data it is too early to draw any strong conclusions, according to organizers. The South Yuba River Citizen League's volunteer monitoring program has been collecting data for six years, and they feel that they are almost to the point in which their data may reveal trends. One year of data cannot take into account normal climatic and ecological cycles.

The intended use for this data is for general watershed assessment purposes. This data will be useful in providing information for watershed management and pollution prevention and screening. The data is available to the public for purposes of watershed edu-

cation. It will also be made available to the regulatory and resource management agencies to supplement their existing data collection efforts. One potential application of the data will be to provide information to the regional and state boards for their use, if they so choose, in Section 305(b) reporting.

Eighteen volunteers spend at least four Saturdays a year to collecting data at eight sites throughout the Upper Carson River Watershed from Hope Valley to Ebbet's Pass. Since the initiation of this program volunteers have spent approximately 900 hours. These volunteers have been trained with the assistance and financial support of the South Yuba River Citizens League, the Carson Water Subconservancy District, and the Sierra Nevada Alliance. The training ensures that each volunteer is performing to standards required by the Alpine Watershed Group's Quality Assurance Project Plan approved by the State of California.

Four times a year volunteers collect water quality data (dissolved oxygen, turbidity, pH, temperature, and conductivity). Twice a year (March and September) volunteers conduct a streamwalk survey at their sites. The purpose of the streamwalk survey is to visually assess the stream. This program is possible due to the dedication of the volunteers

who devoted a total of 900 hours of their time since September 2004.

The Alpine Watershed Group finished their first year in October 2005 and released their first annual report which is available electronically. To receive a copy of the report email watershed@alpinecountyca.com and type WQ Monitoring Report Request in the subject line. Contact the Alpine Watershed Coordinator at (530) 694-2327 to learn more about the group or become a volunteer water quality monitor.

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April 7, 2006

Making music in Markleeville

This morning, after the rain stopped pelting Markleeville, two commuters honked at us before departing on their daily trip to Carson Valley. We all travel to Carson Valley for services not available here, and some of us drive to the Valley for school or work. But these musical residents are notable, not only for their concerts echoing from their lovely creek-side home, but also for the fact that they fly to work. Taking off from their home, they spiral in ever-widening circles above town to gain altitude, and dip their wings in a friendly gesture before flying due north. An encore performance of exuberant honking is anticipated when this pair of geese arrives back in the early evening.

Another free concert will take place at the Alpine County Library 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, when New England fiddler and folk singer, Lissa Schneckenburger, will play her original tunes.

Lissa S. grew up in Maine as an active member of the folk music and dance community and became a musician at a very young age. She has continued to explore music throughout her life, leading to her graduation from The New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, Massachusetts in 2001. While embracing a diverse pallet of musical influences, she still stays true to her New England roots.

She has played all over the world as a fiddler and vocalist, including appearances in Russia, Holland, Belgium, Denmark, Canada, and of course,

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

the United States. She has opened for artists such as Alasdair Fraser, Richard Thompson, Karen Casey, Kate Campbell, and Judy Collins. She has been featured in countless radio broadcasts including "Bound For Glory" broadcast from Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., KPIG radio in Watsonville Calif., WBZ Boston, and annual features on Maine Public Radio's "Live at 11". Her television appearances include the PBS specials "A Taste of Chanukah" and "A Taste of Passover" filmed in New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall.

Although they are very welcome at a Lissa S concert, Alpine County teenagers, like their counterparts nationally, mostly listen to music on their iPods. Known for their multi-tasking, which doesn't necessarily indicate that they are doing chores for mom and dad, kids are simultaneously talking on their cell phones, e-mailing or instant-messaging friends, listening to music, watching TV and "doing" their homework. Time magazine calls them GenM (Generation of Multi-tasking).

Partly as an answer to the specific question of how to pry teenagers from their electronic equipment, but even more as building partnerships leading to positive and healthy youth

development, the program called Friday Night Live was established in California in the 1980s. Currently, 55 of California's 58 counties have chapters of Friday Night Live. Each chapter provides a physically and emotionally safe environment, gives opportunities for community service, leadership, and development of character and skills.

Alpine County's chapter is under the direction of Cindy Schemaurer and Liz McGeein of the Alpine County Health and Human Services. Actually, there are two clubs; Club Live is for ages 10 to 12 and Friday Night Live is for teenagers. On April 29, Club Live plans to go to Marine World. The Friday Night Live trip to Great America last Saturday, temporarily cancelled because of snow, will be re-scheduled in May. Signed up to chaperone these trips are; Lynette Bennett, Ted Doyal, Cindy Schemaurer, Liz McGeein, Terri Peets, Rita Lovell, Steve Craft, Teresa Horse, Sarah Harvey and Shawnyne Garren.

Regular activities include swimming, bowling, and once a month a movie/pizza Friday night. On movie night, teens only pay \$5, and the program foots the cost of the pizza before and ice cream or hot chocolate after the movie.

For more information about Friday Night Live, please phone Health Education Assistant Liz McGeein at 694-2146.

■ Gina Gigli is a Markleeville resident. Reach her at 530-694-2753.

April 7, 2006

Alpine report

Egg hunt April 13

The Annual Choices for Children Spring Party and Egg Hunt is 1-3 p.m. April 13 at Diamond Valley School.

There will be an egg hunt, children may sit for pictures with the Easter Bunny, crafts, and food.

All children must be accompanied by a supervising adult. Information, (530) 694-2129.

Volunteers sought for annual Death Ride

Volunteers are being sought to help out with the annual Tour of the California Alps - Death Ride.

The 129-mile bicycle tour route travels over five passes with a verticle difference of more than 15,000 feet. This year's Death Ride is July 8.

Anyone interested in volunteering, should contact Angela Witten at the Alpine County Visitor Center. Information, (530) 694-2475.

Spring Clean-up

The spring 2006 County

Clean-Up, Surplus Property Sale, and Indian Taco Sale is 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 22-23 in the Public Works Yard in Woodfords.

Donated rummage for sale will benefit the Alpine Children's Center

The service provided for county residents only by Alpine County Public Works.

The county burnpile will be in operation 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. through May 28, depending on the weather. Information, (530) 694-2140.

Alpine Chamber meets April 20

The Alpine County Chamber of Commerce will hold its general membership meeting 5:30-7 p.m. April 20 at Turtle Rock Park in Markleeville

Information, (530) 694-2475.

Annual fishery update April 28

An annual fishery update meeting will be 10 a.m. - noon April 28 at Turtle Rock Park in Markleeville.

Information, (530) 694-2475.

Crab feed Saturday

The Bear Valley Crab Feed is 6 p.m. Saturday at the Bear Val-

ley Community Center.

Open House Thursday

The U.S. Forest Service Open House will be 3-6 p.m. Thursday at Turtle Rock Park.

Among items on the agenda are the off-highway vehicle route designation and forest plan revision in Alpine County.

Information, Dave Loomis, 882-2766.

Fiddler to perform

New England fiddler and folk singer Lissa Schneckenburger will perform 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Markleeville Public Library in Markleeville.

Information, (530) 694-2120.

50-Plus luncheon potluck Thursday

The 50-Plus Club monthly pot luck luncheon is noon to 2 p.m. Thursday in the Early Learning Center in Markleeville.

Speakers include Alpine County Fish and Game Commission Chairman Dave Zellmer and Alpine Watershed Group Executive Director Laura Lueders.

Information, (530) 694-2235.

April 14, 2006

Headwaters spring from Alpine County

Gazing at the white peaks of Alpine County, one can visualize how trickles of snowmelt join rivulets from springs, tumble down into high mountain lakes, and spill into sources of pure water. It's amazing to realize that the headwaters for five valuable rivers are located in Alpine County.

Snowmelt and spring waters commingle in the two Highland Lakes, altitude 8,600, near Ebbetts Pass on Highway 4. Of interest, while the northeastern Highland Lake flows to the Mokelumne River, the southwestern Highland Lake flows to the Stanislaus River. Near Carson Pass on Highway 88, tributaries enter Caples Lake which becomes the source for the South Fork of the American River. The Upper Truckee River, ultimately flowing into Lake Tahoe, has tributaries originating on Red Peak and Stevens Peak, with Grass Lake (meadow) near Luther Pass on Highway 89 supporting some source water. The two branches of the Carson River also originate high in Alpine County. Wolf Creek and Heenan Lake near Monitor Pass on Highway 89 contribute to headwaters for the East Fork of the Carson River, and Forestdale Creek, Lost Lakes and Red Lake near Carson Pass on Highway 88 form sources for the West Fork of the Carson River.

In a recent conversation with Robert Twiss, professor emeritus, UC Berkeley, he explained that good water is the key to continuing our quality of life for urban users, agriculture and the environment. The mountain counties and the federal agencies that manage much of this land need to guarantee that water-impacting uses, such as forestry, grazing, mining, recreation, and rural housing will always protect our valuable water resources.

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

According to Twiss, the high country's vegetation binds carbon that is critical in offsetting the CO2 produced by power plants that could lead to further climate change, global warming, and consequent rising of sea levels. He said the value of maintaining our forests, meadows and brush lands in their natural state is inestimable. Several local agencies and non-profit organizations are involved in the process to reach these goals.

The Alpine Watershed Group is working to preserve and enhance the natural system functions of Alpine County's watersheds for the benefit of future generations. Formed in 2004, the group is one of 24 Watershed Groups throughout the Sierra Nevada range committed to protection and restoration of the Sierra's watersheds.

The first professional coordinator to lead this volunteer group is Laura Lueders, and her position is funded in its entirety by the California Department of Conservation through the Watershed Coordinator Grant. The Alpine Watershed Group and Alpine County have partnered in sponsoring this position. Lueders, who received her bachelors of arts in biology from William Woods University in Fulton, Mo. and her masters of science in watershed management and restoration from the University of Wisconsin, embraces her work and life in the high country. Her hobbies of canoeing, kayaking, rafting, telemark skiing, cycling and fly fishing interweave with the natural landscape of Alpine Coun-



SPECIAL TO THE R-C

Alpine Watershed Group coordinator Laura Lueders

ty.

Markleeville Creek Days, in the Upper Carson River Watershed, is an event that has been hosted for five years by the Alpine Water Watershed Group. Last year, the group hosted four Creek Days in cooperation with the Sierra Nevada Alliance, Carson Water Subconservancy District, Friends of Hope Valley, Bear Valley Residents, Inc. and Kirkwood Mountain Resort. Over 100 people assisted in monitoring water quality, releasing trout, conducting stream bank stabilization and fighting invasive weeds.

Stream restoration projects have high priority with this group, with a current project on the design table of restoring Markleeville Creek to a natural course through the United States Forest Service Guard Station site. The restoration is a partnership of Alpine County, the Alpine County Watershed Group and the USFS.

Lueders encourages residents of Alpine County, "along with those who live elsewhere but recreate here" to volunteer for the water quality monitoring program.

"We will begin monitoring benthic macroinvertebrates (bugs in the stream) in May," she said

The group is also interested in addressing non-point source pollution, as it is also a threat to our water quality. After consulting with local contractors, a

manual of best management practices will be created, and a demonstration workshop will be held, with the goal being to decrease the soil erosion that threatens the health of streams.

The Alpine Watershed Group meets at 6 p.m. every second Tuesday of the month at Turtle Rock Park, and anyone interested in learning more about the programs is encouraged to attend. To receive the monthly electronic newsletter and meeting agenda, e-mail Lueders at watershed@alpinecountyca.com.

When the Carson Water Subconservancy General Manager, Ed James, spoke before the Alpine County Board of Supervisors last week, he addressed the issue of balancing water demands with environmental, agricultural and domestic use. He also talked about the effects of global warming creating more rain on snow events, earlier spring runoff and less stream flow in summer.

While those of us living near the headwaters of five rivers celebrate the end of this particular drought, we shouldn't be complacent toward water conservation and watershed protection, because the effects of future seasons are unpredictable.

■ Gina Gigli is a Markleeville resident. Reach her at giginagigli@gbis.com

Leviathan clean-up receives \$400,000

Associated Press

A state board has approved a request for \$400,000 for the continuing cleanup of a Sierra Superfund site.

The California Water Resources Control Board's action last week will allow for the treatment of up to 2 million gallons of polluted water at the abandoned Leviathan Mine 25 miles southwest of Gardnerville.

The stew of acid and dissolved heavy metals has collected at the old sulfur mine in California's Alpine County for half a century and polluted streams in the upper Carson River basin.

Acidic waters discharged from the mine site are collected and stored in five evaporation ponds.

Treating the polluted water helps prevent the ponds from overflowing into Leviathan Creek — a tributary of the East Fork Carson River — and destroying aquatic life downstream.

The ponds are expected to

overflow in by early May if no action is taken, officials said.

"Left untreated and uncontrolled, the discharge from the ponds would destroy aquatic life in Leviathan Creek and waters downstream, and might render the water a hazard to human health," board Chair Tam Doduc said.

"Cleanup is necessary to protect water quality in two states and in waters that flow through lands controlled by the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California," he said.

Because the high-elevation mine is located in an isolated part of Alpine County, access is difficult except during the summer and early fall.

Plans call for personnel and equipment to be sent to the site in special vehicles over snow.

The Leviathan Mine opened in 1863 as a source of copper sulfate for processing silver ore from Comstock Lode mines in the Virginia City area.

The mine closed but was reopened for sulfur mining from 1935 to 1941.

Alpine report

County clean-up April 22-23

The spring 2006 County Clean-Up, Surplus Property Sale, and Indian Taco Sale is 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 22-23 in the Public Works Yard in Woodfords. Donated rummage for sale will benefit the Alpine Children's Center.

The county burnpile will be in operation 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. through May 28. Information, (530) 694-2140.

Friends of Library host book sale

Alpine County Friends of the Library is hosting a paperback book sale at the Alpine County Library in Markleeville, 270 Laramie Street, up the street from the Wolf Creek Restaurant through April 30. Paperbacks are selling for 25 cents each or five for \$1. The library is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Chamber meets

The Alpine County Chamber of Commerce will hold its general membership meeting 5:30-7 p.m. April 20 at Turtle Rock Park in Markleeville. Information, (530) 694-2475.

Say goodbye to skiing and hello to angling

by Gina Gigli

While more than 800 inches of snow fell at Kirkwood Resort this season, the slopes will be closing for the season on April 30.

Dave Zellmer, chairman of the Alpine County Fish & Game Commission, said fishing season for streams in California always opens the last Saturday in April, which this year is April 29.

"Alpine County has the best fishing in California," he said.

Fish planting is overseen by the Alpine County Fish & Game Commission, formed in 1951 following a resolution initiated by Alpine County Board of Supervisors Chairman Hubert Bruns.

Zellmer, an avid hunter and fisherman, has served on and off the commission since 1955, when he was playing professional baseball in Reno and living in a ranch house in Alpine County's Fredericksburg. This Mothers' Day, May 14, he is being honored by the University of Nevada baseball team and is invited to throw out the first pitch for their home game.

"Back in the old days," says Zellmer, "I would often plant fish in the back country by horseback, carrying the trout and water in panniers. We used

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

to run fish tanks near Wolf Creek, but herons and poachers snatched the fish we were raising. Now, we buy the trout and plant them every week during the season, in 42 locations, including the East Fork and the West Fork of the Carson River, Markleeville Creek, Hot Springs Creek, Silver Creek, and the lakes; Caples, Alpine, Summit, and Indian Creek Reservoir."

Over coffee at Woodfords Station, when Zellmer was asked about the location of the best fishing spots, he replied, "All over the county."

Locals do have their favorite fishing spots, though most won't share their choices. Just hang around Woodfords Station, and you can listen and learn. You also can buy a fishing license and gear.

Hope Valley Outdoor Recreation Center offers bait, maps, books and flies. Nearby Sorensen's Resort offers fly-fishing lessons through Horse Feathers Fly Fishing School and other fly-fishing programs and supplies.

In Markleeville, Bob Rudden, co-owner of the General Store, not only "will tell you fishin' lies," but he also will sell you a license and equipment and then weigh your trophy fish and take your Polaroid photo.

Carson River Resort, located on Highways 4 and 89 on the East Fork of the Carson River, 2.5 miles south of Markleeville, has fishing supplies, licenses and Pleasant Valley fly fishing permits.

Zellmer always enjoys the free kids' fishing day, scheduled for June 10 this year and sponsored by our local fish and game commission, chamber of commerce and Alpine Kids. The kids will help plant fish in the morning — and then catch them in the afternoon?

"We don't feed the fish for two days before planting them, to avoid their getting 'seasick' in the truck," Zellmer said about planting trout throughout the season. "Then, after pouring them into their new water, they need a while to settle down and get acclimated to their unfamiliar surroundings."

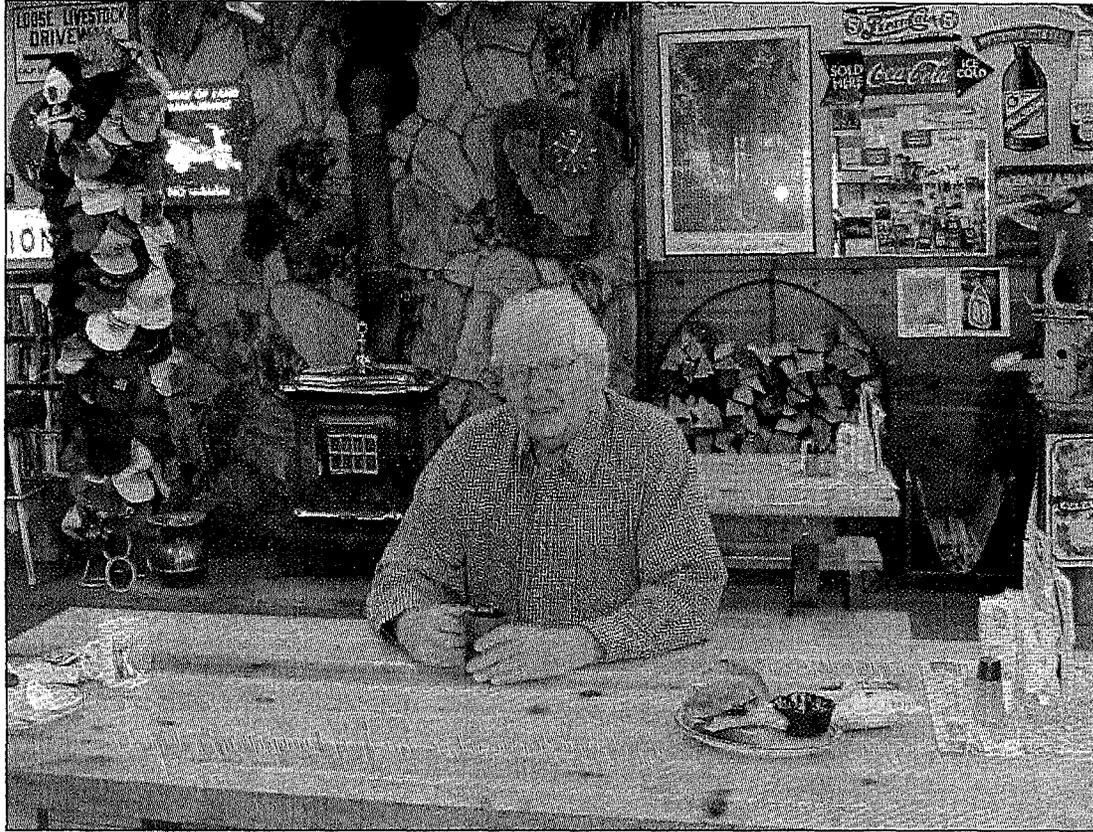
Zellmer says that the commission will be planting 22,000 pounds of "catchables" — trout that are 12-14 inches long and "trophies" — fish that weigh three to ten pounds or more, mostly Rainbows, but some

Alpine senior bus trips in May

Senior bus trips during the month of May for Alpine County Special Wednesdays bus trips will be 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday to the Douglas County Senior Center for lunch and bingo, on May 10 an 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mother's Day special to Carson City RSVP. Cost \$21.50 limited to 10

ladies. May 17 to South Lake Tahoe. Also the first of many Reno Dinner and Show specials. May 17, reserve your seat now. The cost for the Reno Dinner/Show is \$32 per person. The bus departs at 2 p.m. and will return late. To contact bus call 783-6456 or Sherrie Dennis (530) 694-2235.

April 28, 2006



GINA GIGLI/The R-C

Dave Zellmer, chairman of the Alpine County Fish & Game Commission.

Brooks and Goldens.

So far, the streams and lakes of Alpine County have not been infiltrated by the New Zealand Mudsnaill. Zellmer explained that this tiny snail, "about the size of a BB," was brought into the United States from New Zealand in the ballasts of cargo ships, which dumped surplus water into our ports.

The snails can live in most types of water, from silted river bottoms to brackish waters and even clear mountain streams, and they reproduce asexually. The snails disrupt the food

chain by consuming algae in the stream and competing with native bottom-dwelling invertebrates. A decline of invertebrates (small aquatic organisms) could follow the advent of the snails, thereby reducing forage for fish. With a decrease in fish food, fish populations could diminish.

People accidentally spread the mudsnail with their waders and fishing gear. The best way to stop these aquatic hitchhikers is by cleaning all recreational equipment, such as cleaning rubber boots with bleach.

I'll conclude this column by telling a fish story. When I was first married, my Dad wanted to show my husband how to fly fish, so he took him out to the East Fork of the Carson River. My Dad said, "I'll show you how it's done," casting his line with two leaders — and he immediately caught two trout, one on each fly, with that very first cast.

■ Gina Gigli is a Markleeville resident. Reach her at ginagigli@gbis.com

May 12, 2006

Longtime resident discusses Alpine wildfires

by Gina Gigli

Featured speaker Nancy Thornburg will address the hot topic, "Fire!" 5:30 p.m. May 18 when the Historical Society of Alpine County convenes for their spring quarterly meeting at the community center building at Turtle Rock Park.

In 1986 and 1987, Alpine County residents' worst fears were realized when flames raced through their neighborhoods.

One hundred years before, a disastrous fire had destroyed most of Markleeville's wooden structures, and countless wildfires have occurred since then.

As a longtime resident, who married into a pioneer Markleeville family, Thornburg

is concerned that new residents aren't fully aware of the dangerous fire conditions that can be caused by flammable fuels, down-canyon winds and lack of defensible space around residences.

She has been active in forestry and fire issues over a period of 30 years and is a member of the Alpine County Fire Safe Council.

Thornburg will show footage that she has converted and edited, via her computer, depicting the Fredericksburg Fire in 1986 and the Acorn Fire of 1987.

The Fredericksburg Fire, according to Thornburg, was caused by undetermined factors and sped downhill totally out of control in just nine minutes. The Acorn Fire, ultimately

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

destroying 24 homes, was started by unknown careless persons and wasn't stopped until it reached the "fuel-less" area of the burned slopes of Fredericksburg.

"Fire!" should be circled in red on all calendars as a program not to be missed.

Member or not, anyone interested in Alpine County history is welcome to attend the potluck dinner and general membership meeting. The only requirement, in lieu of admission, is to bring a hot or cold

DETAILS

What: Historical Society of Alpine County Quarterly meeting

When: 5:30 p.m. May 18

Where: Turtle Rock Park

contribution to dinner.

Alpine Historical Society members are known for their good cooking, so everyone can look forward to a delicious meal.

It never fails to amaze me that, though unplanned, the number and variety of salads seems to balance the offerings of proteins and carbohydrates.

A no-host bar will open at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at

6 and the "Fire!" program at 7.

Alpine County pioneer family member and Historical Society President Gary Coyan is looking forward to completing a trio of long-term projects at the museum this summer; the stamp mill, blacksmith's shop and carriage shed.

"By volunteering to help fix up the museum, people can express their pride in their county's unique heritage, get some exercise and enjoy the company of their neighbors," Coyan said.

Residents who volunteer their time by serving on the Historical Society Board of Directors are Vice President, Irving Krauss; Secretary, Ernestine Fogarty; Treasurer, Dolores Clark; Directors, Bessie Platten,

Wanda Coyan, Richard Specchio; and Past President, Mike Makley.

Other plans for improvement of the museum involve the Alpine County Public Works Department placing pavers over decomposed granite leading from the parking lot to the front porch of the museum, thereby avoiding mud being tracked into the building.

"We are looking forward to the re-opening of the museum for the season on Saturday, May 27 at 11 a.m.," said Alpine County Museum Director Dick Edwards.

■ Gina Gigli is a Markleeville resident. Reach her at ginagigli@gbis.com

Woodfords Fair plans get off to a flying start

Staff Reports

530-694-2934.

Many chili and salsa cooks are already gearing up for competition, and the committee stands ready to sell craft booth space for the Woodfords Fair to take place on Sept. 16 and 17, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

At this date, many raffle prizes have been donated, but the committee welcomes pledges for gifts to be raffled.

Anyone who would like to have a booth for the Craft Fair, enter the Chili/Salsa Cook Off, or volunteer to help with the community-oriented Woodfords Fair, may contact Edie Veatch at

Volunteers sought for annual Death Ride

Volunteers are being sought to help out with the annual Tour of the California Alps - Death Ride.

The 129-mile bicycle tour route travels over five passes with a verticle difference of more than 15,000 feet. This year's Death Ride is July 8.

Anyone interested in volunteering, should contact Angela Witten at the Alpine County Visitor Center. Information, (530) 694-2475.

Questions surround proposed trans-Sierra power line

By Doug McMillan/Gazette-Journal

This summer, two utilities and the U.S. Forest Service will pick a route for a high-voltage power line across some of the most environmentally sensitive land in the Sierra Nevada — or decide whether it should be built at all.

Two alternative routes are under consideration for the 345,000-kilovolt transmission line that would tie Sierra Pacific Power Co. to the Sacramento Municipal Utility District, better known as SMUD.

The northern route would basically follow Interstate 80.

It would start at Sierra Pacific's North Valley Road Substation, near Hug High School on North McCarran Boulevard, skirt the flanks of Peavine Mountain and circumvent the north end of Verdi before joining existing power lines that stretch over Donner Summit to Roseville, Calif.

The southern corridor would follow U.S. Highway 50 through the mountains.

It would start at Sierra Pacific's Mira Loma Substation east of the Double Diamond Ranch in southeast Reno, string

along the Virginia Range just east of the Virginia Foothills, Steamboat and Washoe Valley, and pass Carson City on the east before emerging into Douglas County's Carson Valley.

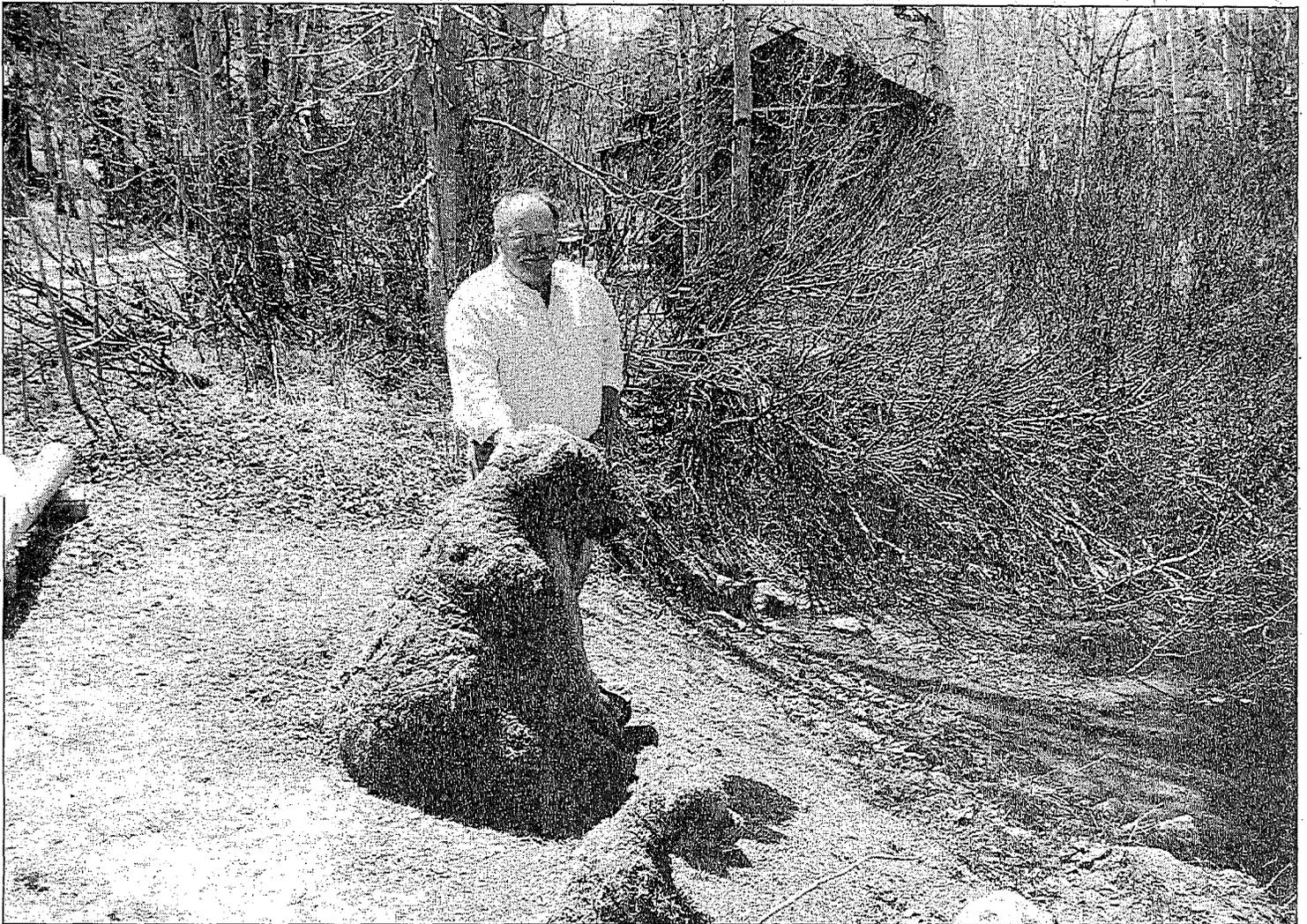
From there, it would reach the mountains, either by bisecting the valley and climbing Kingsbury Grade, or bypassing Minden and Gardnerville by following the eastern and southern edges of the valley, finally climbing up Fay Canyon on the southern flanks of Job's Peak.

See HIGH VOLTAGE, page 20A

Reno Gazette May 18, 1986

R-C
May 19, 2006

Circle the wagons and dates on the calendar



GINA GIGLI/R-C Photos

John Brissenden, owner of Sorensen's Resort, with bears at the pond. Below, Eric Gunnison, Hope Valley Campground host, in a classic Manor Trail Coach.

Nearby Sorensen's Resort could provide time away from unsolicited phone calls, e-mails and fax transmissions and television commercials:

Sorensen's offers a fishing pond just for children, with topiary bears created by Markleeville sculptor and nationally-known topiary artist, Jeff Brees.

"These bears," said owner John Brissenden, "teach kids to read, fish and to respect wildlife."

The gift store's shelves are stocked with more than 350 book titles:

John and wife Patty Brissenden, who have remodeled and added structures in their 24 years of ownership, achieving a total of 35 cabins set among the aspen trees, also have established several programs at Sorensen's. The duo invite guests to "climb a mountain, cast a fly, or simply do nothing at all."

"Birding in the High Sierra," an introductory class about bird habitats, nesting, food sources and seasonal adaptations, will be led by naturalist Chuck Campbell on morning walks in Hope Valley on May 24, 27, June 7, 10. The cost, which includes brunch at the Country Café, is \$35. for guests or \$50. for non-guests.

"Medicinal Plants of the Sierra," is conducted by Dr. Kimball Chatfield, author of *Medicine from the Mountains*, to take place on July 2.

"Carson-Emigrant Trail Walk and Drive Tours," accompanied by historian Frank Tortovich explains some of the hardships experienced by the emigrants as they slowly pulled and pushed their wagons over our mountain passes.

When we visited Hope Valley Campground, the "sister" resort of Sorensen's located at the cascades of the West Fork Carson River, camp host Eric Gunnison showed us evidence of the emigrants' travails. We saw where the wagons tortuously made their way up the canyon and where would-be gold-seekers wrote their names with wagon axle grease on the wall of a cliff.

Mountain-man Gunnison, who claims, "I'm 50 and sin-

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

gle," took us on a walking tour of the campgrounds, which include full RV hookup spots close to the spouts and chutes of the thundering cascades, tent sites with spectacular views of Woodfords Canyon, and a nightly-rental classic aluminum-clad 1947 Manor Trail Coach, complete with a river view at the top of the waterfalls.

Other activities offered at Sorensen's this summer include: "Cast a Line for Trout," by Alpenglow Angling on June 24, 25; "Llama Fun for All," by Chuck and Dianne Campbell on June 30, July 21, Aug. 18; "Tales by the Campfire," by Art Ewart on July 20, Aug. 24; "Photographing the Sierra," by Terry Nathan on July 25; "Sierra Sketchbook," by Jack Laws on July 26; "Sierra Natural History Hike," by David Lukas on July 27; "Wildflower Illustration," by Jack Laws on July 29; Sierra Wildflower Hike," by Karen Weise on August 5; and "Horse Feathers Fly-Fishing School," by Judy Wickwire, by reservation. For exact times, prices and information about these workshops, phone Sorensen's at 800-423-9949.

The Golden Trout Award from the organization of California Trout was presented this year to the Brissendens for "actions and deeds exemplifying the meaning of public service."

"I like working with our staff and informing guests about conservation ethics," Brissenden said. "One of our most memorable encounters occurred in the London airport, when a man noticed the Sorensen's logo on my hat. He asked us, 'Do you love Sorensen's as much as I do?'" I replied, 'We better, because we own the place!'"

Other community calendar-circling activities are:

■ Parents and Tots Story time at the Alpine County Library will feature Sonja Helfenstein reading stories

about spring from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, May 20.

■ Alpine Kids will spend the afternoon of Sunday, May 21, in Carson City, picnicking at Mills Park and seeing the musical, "Grease" at the Community Center. Phone Edie Veatch for information at 530-694-2934.

■ Alpine County Health and Human Services will sponsor a lunch for the Fifty Plus Club at the Early Learning Center at noon on Thursday, May 25. Lois Denowitz will speak about "Memories."

■ Blood Drive, sponsored by Alpine Kids, will take place at Turtle Rock Park from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, June 2. For an appointment, phone Edie Veatch, 530-694-2934.

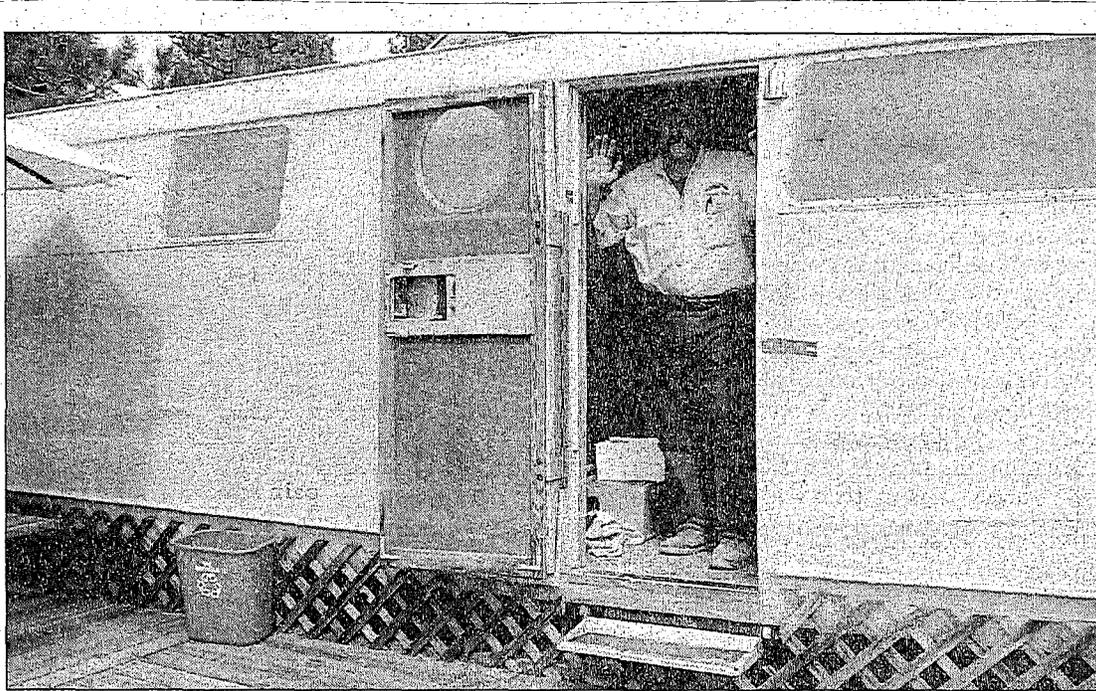
■ Alpine County Bike-a-thon will thrill youngsters as they negotiate their bicycles on closed-to-other-vehicles Diamond Valley Road from 2 to 5 p.m. Friday, June 2.

R-C

May 19, 2006

R-C

May 19, 2006



Consider that the wagons and the calendars have been drawn up and circled 'round the campfires for another week.

I would like to place Alpine County upcoming events at the end of each column, so please email me with notices of organization activities.

■ Gina Gigli is a Markleeville resident. Contact her at ginagigli@gbis.com

Kirkwood has record winter

Staff Reports

Kirkwood Mountain Resort set two records this season, breaking its all-time skier visits and having North America's deepest snow with 850 inches.

The resort attracted more than 400,000 visitors for the first time in its 34-year history.

Kirkwood joins only 50 other resorts in the country and six in California that reached that figure.

"In the ski business, 400,000 is a major milestone," said Tim Cohee, resort president and a 32-year industry veteran who has spent the past 13 years at Kirkwood's helm.

"We've been working for a decade to reach this point. Our ownership group, manage-

ment team and staff are proud to bring the resort to new heights and offer our visitors the type of product they can only receive here."

Cohee credited the resort's evolving appeal to the surge in popularity.

"When you see a resort's parking lots completely full, you pretty much expect long lines on the mountain," said Tod Francis, a long time Kirkwood homeowner who spends virtually every weekend and holiday at the resort.

"I've been skiing the Tahoe region for more than 20 years and have lots of friends who ski other resorts around the lake on peak days. When I tell them I didn't stand in line on a bluebird Saturday after several feet of fresh snow, they can't believe it."

Friends host annual Hope Valley work day

Staff report

Join the Friends of Hope Valley for its annual work day on May 27.

The Friends of Hope Valley is a grassroots organization formed to protect the scenic, historical and recreational values of Hope Valley and the eastern slopes of Alpine County.

Located in Alpine County,

Hope Valley is one of the last pristine high altitude valleys left undeveloped in the Sierra Nevada.

Friends of Hope Valley was instrumental in seeing that Hope Valley became public land.

To join the workday meet at Pickett's Junction (Highway 89 and 88, in Hope Valley) at 9 a.m.

A picnic lunch is provided for those that work until 12:30 p.m.

Bring work gloves, fencing tools, shovels and/or clippers;

wear hat, sunblock and warm cloths.

For more information: www.hopevalleyca.com

Alpine

Kirkwood schusses into summertime

Genuine enthusiasm for her occupation confirms that Markleeville resident Amy Broadhurst is working in the right place at the right time.

Though she first received her bachelor of arts degree from Chico State College, followed by a year earning her teaching credential, Broadhurst has rarely taught in the school system. However, she does plan activities for children and adults in her current position as programs director at Kirkwood Mountain Resort.

"Chairlifts One and Two, Snowkirk and Caples Crest, will be functioning on weekends in July and August to transport mountain bikers to hit trails, kids to hike over the ridge for overnight camping trips, and wildflower enthusiasts to reach 'Devil's Corral' on guided tours," said Broadhurst, with eyes sparkling animatedly.

While Amy Broadhurst has worked 12 winters at Kirkwood, she and her contractor husband Joe have resided for two years in Markleeville, and she commutes from 5,500 feet to 7,800 feet altitude each day. Previous to employment at Kirkwood, she worked at a sea-level family resort in Guam.

Summer programs at Kirkwood start with on and around July 4 weekend after the snow has melted.

The Annual Kirkwood Volunteer Fire Department Barbecue and Kids' Carnival" will be 3:30-6 p.m. July 1, according to Broadhurst.

There'll be barbecued tri-tip and chicken, corn, fresh fruit and wine tasting. The kids will have a bounce house and all kinds of games to play.

Children's overnight JAM Camps are July 15 and Aug. 12, when kids, ages 7 to 10, will first be taken up the mountain by chairlift and then hike over the ridge to the backside by the old Mormon/Emigrant



Amy Broadhurst is the program director for Kirkwood Mountain Resort in Alpine County.

Trail.

"After their destination is reached, they'll be helping to put up tents and learning all kinds of fun stuff like cooking over a campfire, knot-tying and orienteering with Global Positioning System units," Broadhurst said.

The Community Fishing Derby will start at nine in the morning of July 29 at the spillway of Caples Lake and finish with a fish fry at Kirkwood Inn at 1 p.m. Three season passes will be awarded to the most successful child, junior and adult fishing contestants.

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

One of the most popular events of the summer season is the Wildflower Festival scheduled this year 9 a.m. and noon Aug. 5. Wildflower hikes will be guided through the "Devil's Corral" by botanist and author, Laird Blackwell.

"Music, Art and Wine" will set the scene, from noon to 4 p.m., on the same day with live music resounding through the valley, local artisans displaying and selling their artworks, and local wineries hosting wine tastings.

Continuing throughout the summer, Kirkwood will welcome mountain bikers to the lifts and trails, rock climbers to the climbing wall, horseback riders to rent steeds from Kirkwood Corrals, music lovers to attend chamber music concerts, brides and grooms to hold weddings in the meadow, and geocachers to search for clues with rented GPS units.

Geocaching is an adventure game for GPS users who use location coordinates to find the caches. Once found, a clue may provide the visitor with a wide variety of rewards.

The word geocaching comes from geo for geography and caching for the process of hiding a cache — a place to conceal and preserve provisions.

For further information about any of these summer activities, call Broadhurst at 209-258-7386.

■ Gina Gigli is a Markleeville resident. Reach her at ginagigli@gbis.com

May 26, 2006

Alpine Events

Pull Up Your Wagons and Circle Your Calendars:

■ **Blood Drive** 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. June 2, sponsored by Alpine Kids, at Turtle Rock Park. For an appointment, phone Edie Veatch, 530-694-2934.

■ **Alpine County Bike-a-thon** 2 to 5 p.m. June 2 will challenge youngsters as they negotiate their bicycles on closed-to-other-vehicles Diamond Valley Road. The kids' goal will be to bicycle from Diamond Valley School to Hung a lei ti community and back, a distance of eight miles. Just in case some get too tired, Sheriff John Crawford will be ready to transport child and bike by truck and trailer back to the start line. A free barbeque for participants and their families will feature prizes, games and activities centered on emphasizing healthy lifestyles. Many county agen-

cies are lending helping hands to make this event successful, including Health and Human Services, Sheriff's Department, EMS, Public Works Department, Chamber of Commerce, Diamond Valley School, Family Support Council, Washoe Tribal TANF, Friday Night Live Peer Educators, Choices for Children, Women's Center, Library, plus the CHP, Truckee Police Department, South Lake Tahoe High School Cheerleaders, Kirkwood and Sorensen's. For further information, 530-694-2146.

■ **Live music by the Back 40 Band** and a barbeque at Sorensen's 1 to 6 p.m. June 4 with proceeds benefiting Friends of Hope Valley. For more information, 530-694-2201.

■ **Vaccinating and Licensing Pet Clinic** at the Woodfords Fire Station 3 to 6 p.m. June 29 hosted by the Alpine County Sheriff's Department. Information, 530-694-2231.

Free fishing guide out

by **Don Quilici**
Nevada Appeal

A 52-page outdoor publication, known as "Fishing The California Alps" has been recently distributed in this area.

This free newspaper, now in its 15th year, is produced by Paul and Gloria Washam of Family Enterprises of nearby Woodfords, Calif.

"Fishing The California

Alps" is the 2006 guide to fishing spots, hiking trails, camping opportunities and all kinds of outdoor activities in the nearby High Sierra and many other locales in this greater area.

Washam said 50,000 copies will be distributed all over the Sierra.

For information, call Paul or Gloria Washam in Woodfords, Calif. at (530) 694-2966.

Markleeville residents hit the trails

Graduating Woodfords High School student Satori Ivy has a mission. Before he leaves his Markleeville home at the end of summer to attend Savannah College of Art and Design, he hopes to see progress on the Curtz Lake Interpretive Trail Restoration Project, as proposed by the Bureau of Land Management.

In the summers of 1972 and 1973, BLM and the Youth Conservation Corps created an interpretive trail near Curtz Lake, located on Airport Road between Woodfords and Markleeville. Color-coded signs indicated three trail systems; vegetative, geologic and aquatic. However, the site has been neglected for years.

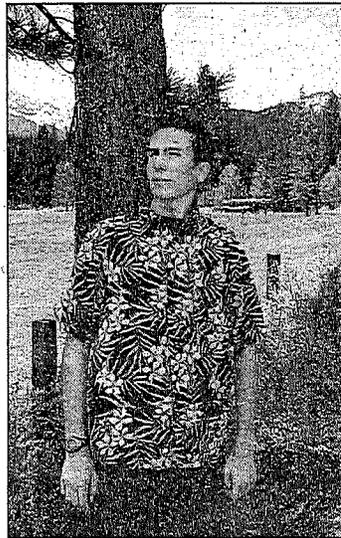
Washed-out trails are littered by fallen logs, and shot-up metal interpretive signs are standing broken and rusted.

A revitalized site would benefit residents and tourists alike, as well as students on educational field trips.

"I am the coordinator of the Curtz Lake Trail Restoration Project," he said. "This is a community-based project established through the Environmental and Spatial Technology lab at Woodfords High School."

Woodfords High School is a "necessary small school," with 10 students and two teachers, Joe Voss and Joel Tabor, and the EAST lab stresses self-directed learning, teaching students how to handle and solve problems with teamwork.

"The vision of this project is to create a new trail to replace an existing one that is falling into disrepair. Through our collaboration with the Bureau of Land Management, the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce, the Alpine Watershed Group and interested individuals and organizations, this project will impact the recreational and educational opportunities in Alpine County."



GINA GIGLI/R-C photos

Satori Ivy, left, hopes to help restore Curtz Lake Interpretive Trail. At right, Markleeville resident Wanda Coyan is training goats to pack her gear on hikes.

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

Ivy, along with student collaborator Caleb Knapp, Tabor and adult collaborator, Kate Ivy, will be mapping out a rerouted trail with the Global Positioning System, conducting a survey and encouraging partnerships to be established within the community. Interested members of the public may receive a survey form by e-mailing Satori Ivy: sivy@alpinecoe.k12.ca.us.

To learn more about the Curtz Lake Environmental Study Area, the public is invited to a free power point presentation about the project and dessert at the Alpine County Library in Markleeville on Wednesday, June 7 at 7 p.m.

■ Markleeville resident Wanda Coyan dreams of hiking without having to lug camping equipment. To achieve this goal, she has been raising three kids — young goats — and training them for packing her gear

on the trail.

"When our four boys were little, I had some goats for milking," Coyan said. "Last year, I was thinking about buying a goat to milk and met Charlie Gaggan, who owns Lightfoot Goat Packing in Fallon. I hadn't even thought about goat-packing at that time, but she convinced me that goats are ideal hiking companions, nimble, surefooted and strong enough to be pack animals. So I bought Oliver, Ivy and Willamina."

Oliver and Ivy were bottlenecked by Coyan since they were born. Willamina arrived at the Coyan compound after she was weaned. Ivy and Willamina are does, and Oliver is a wether, a neutered male goat. All three of Coyan's 1-year-olds are part Saanen, Boer and Alpine and bred to be big. Oliver will weigh about 300 pounds when he's 4 years old and full-grown, ready for packing. Goats can pack 30 percent of their weight.

As Coyan leads her docile goats from one fenced-in yard to another, she presents the image of a grown-up "Heidi" in California's Alps. She also

keeps chickens for fresh eggs, grows vegetables and is happy creating homespun crafts like baskets made from pine needles.

"As an only child growing up on a farm in Tennessee, my best friend was a goat. We played tag and hide and seek together," she said.

Last month, Coyan and her husband, Gary, went to the Annual Goat Pack Trip at Succer Creek State Park in Oregon, near the border of Idaho.

"There were goat-packers from the western states and more than 100 goats," she said. "We camped in tents for four days and attended goat-packing workshops. We had a great time, but our German Shorthair dog was more trouble than my three goats put together! Oliver, Ivy and Willamina just followed me around, thinking that I'm their mother."

When her three goats are mature enough to pack Wanda Coyan's gear over Alpine County trails, no doubt that they will continue to follow her and call her, "Ma-a-a-a-a."

■ Gina Gigli can be reached at ginagigli@gbis.com



SHARLENE IRETE/The R-C

Nicole Bennett receives the Wilma Rule American Indian Scholarship from Irving Krauss at Diamond Valley's Block DV award ceremony May 25.

Woodfords student receives American Indian award

by **Sharlene Irete**
Staff Writer

Nicole Bennett received the Wilma Rule American Indian Scholarship at Diamond Valley's Block DV award ceremony May 25.

Bennett will use the \$1,000 award to attend the American Indian University of Lawrence, Kan. She is the daughter of Greg and Dale Bennett of Woodfords.

There were 13 students in the fourth through seventh grade who received recognition at Diamond Valley School's Block DV awards event.

The DV letters and pins are given to students who excel in a range of subjects — academics, sports, citizenship and leadership.

The award is designed to

DETAILS

Block DV Award

Recipients:

Nicole Caruana	4th grade
Jack Doyal	4th grade
Lauren LaMaster	4th grade
Zak Scherbak	4th grade
Rian Snyder	4th grade
Deanna Doyal	5th grade
Phoebe Hamilton	5th grade
Tessa Williams	5th grade
Brandon Crawford	6th grade
Riley Curry	6th grade
Taylor Embry	6th grade
William Rubino	6th grade
Reena Spansail	7th grade

motivate students to become positive and active participants in school and community.

Hope Valley Outdoors is centered on healthy lifestyle

Hope Valley Outdoors is still outside, but it's no longer a center.

"I've officially dropped the word 'center' from Hope Valley Outdoor Center," owner Joyce Coker said of the name change for her store/café/school.

In blizzards or wintry sunshine, she rents cross country skis or snowshoes to hardy folks from nearby Sorensen's Resort and others who come to Hope Valley Outdoors to have lessons and guided tours on 60 trail miles in Hope Valley.

Coker plans to organize hiking tours to view Basque sheepherder carvings on aspen trees this summer. She and naturalist Chuck Campbell led us over hill and dale to preview special groves of aspens, with names of lonely Basques cut into the greenish-white bark. Since large aspens have a limited lifetime, these living monuments of times past will be "biting the dust" soon.

Now that summer is upon us, in place of leading outdoor ski tours, Coker is baking pies, stirring pots of chili and spending more time indoors. She not only dishes up sandwiches and tacos behind the counter, but also advice about fishing and hiking, because the West Fork of the Carson River is flowing by her front door, and hiking trails abound in Hope Valley.

Her menu for lunch stresses healthy foods; for example, salmon salad sandwich with homemade creamy wasabi caper sauce, lettuce and tomato, or "CLT" sandwich with chicken roasted in garlic and herbs, served with lettuce, tomato, onions, Dijon mustard and mayonnaise. Salads, tacos and black bean chili are also served during the day. Late in the after-

noon, a "Sunset Hour" selection appears: chicken or fish tacos, black bean tostada, chili nachos, chips and salsa. Six microbrew beers are always on tap, along with bottled beer, fruit juices and other beverages.

Famous in outdoor circles for her one-pound cookies and black-and-blue pies, Joyce Coker has just experienced an epiphany.

"If I save the syrup from concocting all of the different combinations of pie fillings, I then can pour these fruit syrups over vanilla-bean ice cream to make unusual ice cream sundaes."

While the filling for her black-and-blue pies is com-

roundings became even more evident as she entered into partnership with Steve Lannoy in the Hope Valley Outdoor Center, buying him out in 2003.

Coker's wish to inspire more people in discovering backcountry activities is outlined in her petition to establish a seasonal system of yurts in Hope Valley.

To begin, Hope Valley Out-

doors would like to construct a temporary yurt at Picketts Junction or at Burnside Road as a satellite location for cross country ski rentals and lessons.

In addition, HVO is proposing future yurt lodges near the Burnside Mine, Scott Lake, and Willow Creek, as feasibility is found.

These yurts would be con-

structed for overnight, backcountry ski/snowshoe treks on permitted cross country trails, and HVO would accept responsibility for all sanitary, safety and environmental concerns.

■ Gina Gigli is a Markleeville resident. Reach her at ginagigli@gbis.com

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

posed of blackberries and blueberries, she also bakes boysenberry, apple, peach, and sour cherry pies, often combining ingredients, including sour cream. Clients can buy slices, the whole pie, or take-and-bake for home.

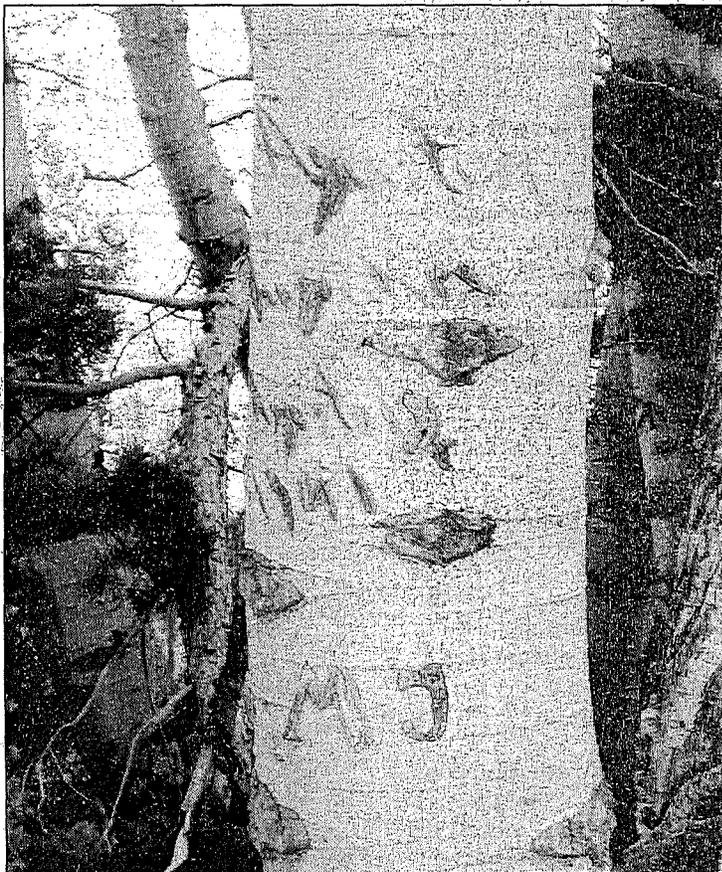
Photographer Tony Rowell has his "Mountain Light" framed photos displayed on pine-paneled walls in her alcove, and he will be presenting a slideshow of his work this summer.

Having spent her childhood in the Midwest, Coker was so intrigued by the breathtaking landmasses and waterfalls of Yosemite that she worked there for 20 years. In 1997, her enthusiasm for natural sur-



GINA GIGLI/R-C photos

Hope Valley Outdoors owner Joyce Coker holds one of her combination pies inside the business. Below, Basque carvings adorn an aspen.



Markleeville project report goes to county

Staff Reports

The final environmental report for the proposed Mahalee Lodge/Markleeville Village project will be before the Alpine County Board of Supervisors for certification 1:30 p.m. June 20.

Supervisors meet at the Alpine County Administration Building in Markleeville.

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 6 acres adjacent to downtown Markleeville.

When first approved by the county, opponents filed a lawsuit challenging the approval.

Part of the agreement to settle the lawsuit was that the previous county approval would be vacated and a more detailed environmental impact report conducted.

In exchange, opponents were required to submit an alternative project description to Entrix, the firm conducting the analysis.

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.

Alpine Events

■ Kid's Fishing Day 9 a.m. Saturday at Indian Creek boat launch. Fishing permits not required for children and parents for this one-day event. Free hot dog lunch. Sponsored by Alpine County Fish and Game, Alpine Chamber of Commerce and Alpine Kids.

■ Fifty Plus Club bus trip to Virginia City 9 a.m. Wednesday leaving from ACHHS. Phone Sherri Dennis at 694-2235.

■ Eighth Grade Graduation 7 p.m. Thursday at Diamond Valley School.

■ High School Graduation 5 p.m. Friday at Douglas High School.

■ Woodfords High School Graduation 6 p.m. June 17 at the Early Learning Center.

■ Alpine County Board of Supervisors will hold a public meeting to consider certification of the Final

Environmental Report for the proposed Mahalee Lodge/Markleeville Village project 1:30 p.m. June 20 at Alpine County Administration Building.

■ Picnic-by-the-Lake. Fifty Plus Club goes to South Lake Tahoe 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. June 21, leaving from ACHHS. Phone Sherri Dennis at 694-2235.

■ Fifty Plus Club Yard Sale June 23 and 24 at Early Learning Center.

■ Story time in the Park will feature storyteller James Cogan and live music by Acoustic Solution 5-7 p.m. June 28 at the Markleeville Community Park. Dale Bennett will serve her Indian tacos.

■ Vaccinating and Licensing Pet Clinic 3-6 p.m. June 29 at Woodfords Fire Station, sponsored by the sheriff's department. For information, phone (530) 694-2231.

R-C

June 9, 2006

Forest Service, Subconservancy seek comment on upper East Fork

Staff Reports

The U.S. Forest Service and the Carson Water Subconservancy are inviting public comment on future management of the Upper East Fork of the Carson River.

The agencies are developing a joint strategy for management of a 40-mile stretch of the river from its headwaters in the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness to Ruhenstroth Dam south of Gardnerville.

The strategy is intended to lay out a solid plan of action for improving management of Forest Service lands along the Carson River.

It will present recommendations for enhancing recreational experiences, protecting riparian and wildlife habitat, controlling noxious weeds, addressing wild and scenic river status and improving watershed conditions.

The public is invited to review information on the river's use and natural resources and share their ideas about future management of the river at public workshops on June 27

DETAILS

What: Public workshop

When: 6-8 p.m. June 27

Where: Turtle Rock Park

at Turtle Rock Park near Markleeville from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and June 29 at Western Nevada Community College, Douglas Campus, 1685 Bently Parkway South, Room 107, Minden from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

"This is a great opportunity for folks to learn more about this important stretch of the Carson River," said David Loomis, Forest Service Project Manager. "We'd like to hear ideas about how the public would like the river to be managed."

Agency staff will be present to answer questions and to provide information on the river and its resources.

For more information on this release, www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf or call Forest Planner Dave Loomis at 884-8132 or Public Affairs Specialist Franklin Pemberton 884-8150.

Alpine Events

■ Woodfords High School Graduation 6 p.m. Saturday at the Early Learning Center.

■ Alpine County Board of Supervisors will hold a public meeting to consider certification of the Final Environmental Report for the proposed Mahalee Lodge/Markleeville Village project 1:30 p.m. Tuesday at Alpine County Administration Building.

■ Fifty Plus Club goes to South Lake Tahoe 10 a.m. Wednesday, leaving from ACHHS, Picnic-by-the-Lake. Phone Sherri Dennis at 694-2235.

■ Fifty Plus Club Yard Sale June 23 and 24 at the Early Learning Center.

■ Story time in the Park 5-7 p.m. June 28 at the Markleeville Community Park. Features storyteller James Cogan and live music by Acoustic Solution. Dale Bennett will serve her Indian tacos.

Fuelwood permits go on sale today

The Carson Ranger District will begin selling fuelwood permits today. Fuelwood cutting and gathering may begin that day and continue through Nov. 18.

The fuelwood cutting areas include National Forest System Lands in the Dog Valley area north and west of Verdi and the Leviathan area west of Topaz Lake. An additional cutting area south of Picketts Junction in the Hope Valley/Forestdale area will be available this year.

Dead trees or logs less than two feet in diameter may be cut. Permits are for \$15 a cord, with a two-cord minimum per permit. Additional cords are available up to a six-cord maximum per household per season. Please be advised that permits are available by cash or check only, debit and credit cards are not accepted.

During the hotter and drier months of summer, increased fire restrictions and cutting restrictions may be imposed. When "hoot-owl" fire restrictions are in place, fuelwood cutters will not be allowed to operate a chainsaw after 1 p.m. and there may be temporary restrictions on the use of any motorized equipment during extreme fire danger.

Firewood cutting areas are subject to closure due to wildland fire risk or wet road conditions. Permittees should obtain the latest fire restrictions. Call 882-2766 or 355-5301 after 4:30 p.m. the day before cutting wood to determine if woodcutting areas will be open or if restrictions are in place.

Permits and maps will be available for purchase at the following locations:

■ Markleeville Chamber of Commerce
No. 3 Webster Street
Markleeville, CA 96120
Sat.-Sun. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
530-694-2475

■ Carson Ranger District
1536 S. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701-5291
Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

■ Humbolt-Toiyabe National Forest
Supervisors Office
1200 Franklin Way
Sparks, NV 89431
Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Additional areas may be added later in the season. As these areas open, maps and rules will be available at any office that sells permits. For more information concerning fuelwood cutting contact the Carson Ranger District at 882-2766.

Alpine artists draw from nature

Even though the aspen trees just now have leafed out in soft green, the group known as Markleeville Artists already is planning the fourth Autumn Open Studios, Oct. 7 and 8, in celebration of the changing colors of leaves to gold, bronze, apricot, russet and red.

First of all, new this year is the appearance of "Aspen Art" as a leitmotiv. Though other themes and individual techniques will be displayed by artisans, painters, photographers, printmakers, potters and sculptors, "Aspen Art" will be featured in the entrance of each studio.

"My aspen-themed painting will involve my seasonal visit to the cathedrals of golden color in Hope Valley," said Charles Muench, Markleeville's renowned Plein Air (on-location) oil painter. "Each year I devote time to painting amidst the aspen groves. The light filtering through the leaves gives a stained glass appearance, drenching every object in subtle gold, yellow, and emerald hues."

In her studio by the West Fork Carson River, metal sculptor Susan Flakus plans to torch a steel shelf, surmounted by a small cluster of rusted aspens cloaked in brightly painted leaves for her themed artwork.

"The prototype for this piece is the 'Little Bonsai Tree' shelf I created last year," she said.

Nature artisan Jan Brees will add aspen leaves to her display collection of oak, sycamore and maple metal mesh leaves.

"My joy at open studios stems from watching buyers mix and match varieties and sizes of leaves. Most people use my brass and copper leaves for table decorations, often as bases for candles, sometimes placing both leaves and candles over mirrors," she said.

Second, the group is issuing a call to all area artists to participate in Autumn Open Studios. Artists living in the postal zone of 96120 served by the Markleeville Post Office,

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

including Markleeville, Markleevillage, Alpine Village, Woodfords, Mesa Vista, Diamond Valley, Hung-a-l-el-ti, Paynesville, River Ranch, Crystal Springs and Hope Valley, are invited to join other local artists in opening their studio space to the public the second weekend in October. The only requirements are that

the work displayed in the studios be artist-produced and a fee of \$75 per artist be paid. Local businesses again will have the opportunity to become sponsors. For information and sign-up for the fourth Markleeville Artists Autumn Open Studios, please contact Sandy Baenen at 694-1112, Jeff Brees at 694-2515, Gina Gigli at 694-2253, or Charles Muench at 694-2115.

Third, but most importantly, the goal of the group is to promote the appreciation of visual arts in Markleeville via expansion of education by artist-in-residence and scholarship pro-

grams.

■ Gina Gigli is a Markleeville resident. Reach her at ginagigli@gbis.com



Charles Muench paints a fall landscape in Alpine County.

SPECIAL TO THE R-C

Visiting Alpine County's museum

"Wow, I wouldn't think that such a sparsely-populated county as yours would have such a spacious and fascinating museum!"

"We love seeing how the old Markleeville jail and the old Webster schoolhouse are beautifully preserved up here on the hill."

These positive comments, along with a typical kid's quote, "I like to get candy from the jar in the old store display," keep Alpine County Museum Director Dick Edwards enthused about his "retirement career."

After graduating from Cal Poly (California State Polytechnic University) in the '50s, Edwards began and completed his 36-year career with California State Parks as an interpretive and exhibit specialist. Six months after retiring, he signed on as Director of the Alpine County Museum and now is embarking upon his tenth year here.

Edwards says, "I love talking to the public and interpreting the history of Alpine County. Working here gives me the opportunity to continue with my previous specialties, but in a more relaxed mode."

He and museum assistant Ellen Martin work four days each, from Memorial Day weekend to Halloween weekend, when the museum closes for the winter season. During summer and autumn, doors open Thursday to Monday, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Local resident-volunteers Carole Morgan, Lois Kaiser and Irving Krauss give day to day assistance, along with Tahoe volunteer Barbara Sparkman.

Upon walking into the museum, you immediately time-travel into centuries past. Washoe artifacts, pioneer trappings and mining gear reflect our heritage. The sole contemporary note is the museum's store, chock-full of fascinating items for sale.

Coal bins, tongs, bellows, horseshoes and more; all of the tools used by blacksmiths, soon

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

will be displayed in the yet-to-be-built shed slated for construction behind the old wooden jail. The 15 by 25 feet structure will be built by Steve Martin in rough-sawn walls, corrugated iron roof, with a dirt floor. Tools from his ranch were donated by Alpine County resident Hubert Bruns and volunteers from the Blacksmiths Guild will provide a slice of life from another era, as they practice their trade in the shed next summer. Edwards' hope is that in the future, Alpiners might bring their horses to the museum to have them shod by blacksmiths.

Funding for this project came from a grant awarded by the California State Parks. Other projects continuing this summer at the historical complex include completing installation of the stamp mill and painting the carriage shed. Edwards says, "Volunteer help will be greatly appreciated."

As I waited to interview Edwards on the porch, I noticed that the exteriors of the museum and the schoolhouse have been freshened up with new coats of paint. I also enjoyed taking in

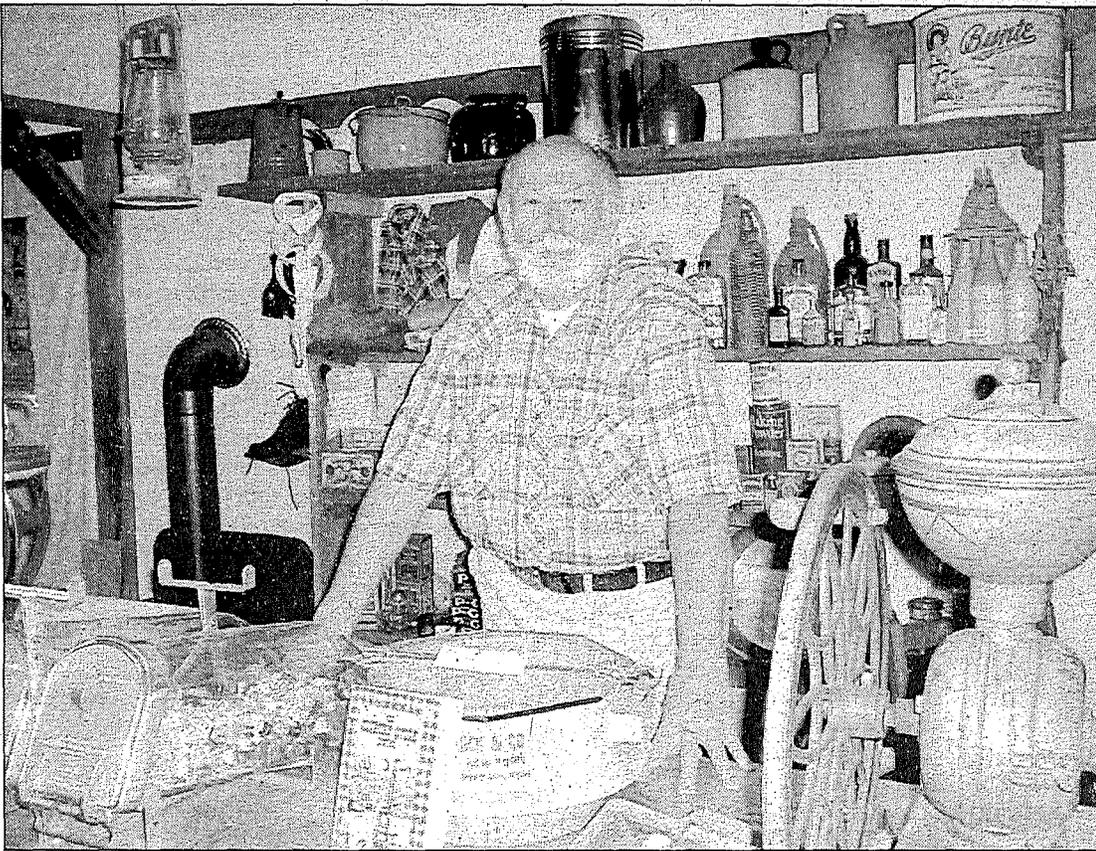
the view. Of course, many of you know that if I face west, I'm looking at my own place, but there are 360-degree spectacular views of mountain and town from the top of School Street, where the historical complex is located.

Alpine County Historical Society is collaborating with Edwards for plans for an outdoor gathering. Alpine County Historical Society President Gary Coyan envisions an entertaining and educational afternoon at Silver Mountain on Saturday, Aug. 19. Hot dogs will be barbecued, and historical society members will supply accompanying food for this old fashioned picnic. Local authors, Karen and Rick Dustman, will lead the assembled group on an historical tour of Silver Mountain.

Going out on a limb

Hearing screaming yesterday, I first thought that coyotes were staging a gathering. Then I recognized the rarely-heard sounds of night—cougar calls—but this was morning. The screams continued, and since I was home alone, I called the sheriff's office. Detective Ed Braz came up, looked around in the area, and determined that nothing was amiss, telling me to call if I saw a wildcat. After he left, I kept hearing screaming alternated with hissing. When Ruggero came home with groceries, he unloaded them in our next-door

June 30, 2006



GINA GIGLI/The R-C

Dick Edwards, director of the Alpine County Museum.

restaurant, only to return to the house to tell me, "There's a wildcat lying on our lawn under the shade of the pines." From our deck we watched him stretch out peacefully, but we kept hearing screaming in the distance. Braz returned, along with Detective Spencer Case. As they carefully approached the cat on the grass, he gracefully rose up, glared at them and purposefully strode back into the woods. Then they discovered that the screaming was emanating from another wildcat, draped over a branch, high in our pine tree above the spot where his rival had been lurking. I'd been witnessing the sounds and sights of a turf war.

Last night Ruggero turned on a large sprinkler on the lawn to deter the return of the "lounger," and this morning the "acrobat" was no longer in the tree.

■ Gina Gigli is a Markleeville resident. Reach her at ginagigli@gbis.com

Kirkwood will develop new residence club

Staff Reports

Kirkwood Mountain Resort has announced plans to develop Expedition Lodge, the first on-mountain private residence club in the High Sierra. Reservations are being accepted with a list of prospective buyers growing for the 56 one-eighth interests available in the seven residences offered in phase one of the initial release.

Private residence clubs represent a growing segment of the fractional real estate ownership category, growing from \$200 million to nearly \$2 billion in sales in only six years. Popularity is attributed to highly desirable features including flexible and generous use plans, five star accommodations, extensive amenities, un-compromised hospitality, owner activities, and the ability to exchange into other five star properties around the world a highly desirable combination.

"Given Kirkwood's world wide reputation for high adventure, Expedition Lodge will be where the wild meets the tame," said Tim Cohee, President of Kirkwood Mountain Realty, and for the past 13 years President of Kirkwood Mountain Resort.

"The combination of world class skiing, a five-star luxury residence club and the best location in Kirkwood has created tremendous demand for Expedition Lodge."

Cohee ensured the property to be among the finest built in the High Sierra, with construction quality, finishes, amenities and hospitality to match the best clubs in the most well

known resorts in North America.

"Our initial round of interviews has produced far more interest than we could have hoped for," said Chris Tivey, Chief Operating Officer of Star Resort Group, the nation's leading fractional real estate marketing and sales firm. "When the concept of private residence clubs is introduced to a region, you never quite know what to expect. With Kirkwood's reputation for great snow, world class terrain, uncrowded slopes and natural beauty, there was clearly pent-up demand for ownership in real estate of this type and quality."

Expedition Lodge will feature large, luxurious three and four-bedroom residences ranging from 2,260 to 2,680 square-feet.

Amenities will include outdoor Jacuzzis, exercise room, owner lounge, game room and perhaps the most popular feature, a wine bar.

"Given our proximity to and relationship with many of the leading wineries in the Napa/Sonoma region, we anticipate the Expedition Lodge Wine Bar to be a very popular feature of the club," said Cohee.

"I expect our service levels to be similar to those found in the finest resort hotels," said Suzy Scully, Expedition Lodge's Director of Hospitality and for several years a Ritz Carlton consultant.

"Our owners will find our staff ready to deliver on the promise of memorable times while in residence."

July 7, 2006

Council touts reducing fuels

Surrounded by attractive, but highly-flammable, wild rose, desert peach and sage brush, Alpine Fire Safe Coordinator Jeff Brees urged local residents to secure at least 100 feet of defensible space around their homes.

"Reducing the intensity of fuels, by interrupting the horizontal and vertical continuity, gives the firefighters a better opportunity to save your home," Brees said.

Brees has just returned home from fighting the Linehan wildfire near Carson City, where he battled flames for three nights with a scant six hours of sleep.

A Markleeville resident, Brees wears many hats.

Not only is he the Fire Safe Coordinator, but also the assistant fire chief of the Markleeville Fire Department, ski patroller, internationally-recognized topiary sculptor, husband and father.

He's been a Markleeville volunteer firefighter for 16 years. In his 30 years of working on and off at Kirkwood, Brees has worked with BLM in fuel reduction, run crews for erosion control and re-vegetation projects and developed a network of contacts with state and federal organizations.

Exciting news for Markleeville, Woodfords, Woodfords Colony and Hope Valley residents is the establishment of the first-ever Alpine Curbside Chipping Program, sponsored by the Alpine Fire Safe Council in partnership with the Lake Valley Fire Protection District. Establish defensible space by pulling out unsafe shrubs and bushes.

Crews will chip all natural green vegetation back onto your property. Cuttings, with limbs no larger than 6 inches in diameter, should be placed near the side of the road, but not in the roadway or road ditch. This free service will be provided from July 31 to Aug. 4. For more information, visit www.alpinefiresafe.org or call 694-2791.

Alpine County has always lived with the threat of wildfire. The most destructive fire on the Sierra Front occurred in Alpine County in 1987 when 26 homes were lost. With increasing population in the county, this threat continues to grow. The Alpine Fire Safe Council seeks to reduce this threat by developing a coordinated planning effort to address the hazards in our communities.

Along with staff of Brees and Administrator Kerry Radelfinger, the Alpine Fire Safe Board of Directors consists of one Markleeville and six Woodfords members; Don Jardine, Chairman David Griffith, Vice Chairman Kim Chatfield, Shirley Taylor, Al Moss and Steve Yonker.

The AFSC is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to reducing the risk to life and property due to catastrophic wildfires and was formed in 2003 after the Resource Advisory Committee granted funds from Title II of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000. Although most of what the AFSC does could and should be done by local government, as a nonprofit corporation, the AFSC is eligible for grant funding that would otherwise not be available to the community.

The committee, which awards Title II funds provided by the federal Secure Rural Schools and Community Self

More than 96 percent of the total land area in Alpine County is held in public ownership on three national forests. With less than 26,000 acres of privately assessed property, much of which is zoned for agricultural or timber preserve purposes, the county has little alternative revenue-generating capacity except

for recreation on its public lands. The landmark federal legislation in 2000, Public Law 106-393, restored the equivalent of historical payments made to rural counties' schools and roads under the 25 percent Forest Reserve Act of 1908. Projects with this funding included multiple fuel reduction and fire management projects on both the east and west slopes of the county.

"Hopefully, on a federal level, reauthorization will occur of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, and locally, residents will realize that by clearing a defensible space around their homes, they are enabling fire-safe protection," Brees said.

■ Gina Gigli is a Markleeville resident. Reach her at ginaigigli@gbis.com.

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

Determination Act of 2000, has been very supportive in providing a basic operating grant and has also funded individual projects. The Sacramento Foundation, working with the Bureau of Land Management and the California Division of Forestry, has funded individual projects.

R-C
July 7, 2006



GINA GIGLI/The R-C

Alpine Fire Safe Coordinator Jeff Brees checks out the brush.

Grover Hot Springs reduces hours

Staff Reports

The Grover Hot Springs Pool Complex will be reducing their operating hours starting Sunday.

The new hours will be 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. daily. The Friday and Saturday 9 p.m. - midnight openings will also be discontinued starting today.

The pool phone number is (530) 694-2249.

Flowers abound in the Mountain and Garden lodge

Petals from blossoming pear and apple trees, roses, lilacs, sweet peas, iris, columbines, fox gloves and daisies drift over Linda Merrill's garden at the foot of Woodfords Peak at various times of the year.

In 1996, Merrill opened up the Mountain and Garden Bed and Breakfast, and has been puttering around the house and grounds ever since. The place has become a refuge for folks seeking to escape from city life and strife, if only for a few days. The house sleeps eight to 12 people and can easily be converted to a vacation rental, or rented for afternoon meetings and small lunches. Retreats and conferences are held in the garden, along with parties, receptions and weddings. Groups of up to 150 guests may be seated on two levels, under the pergola or by the house and one of the three ponds on the premises.

The Mountain and Garden is situated on eight acres in Woodfords, with artesian springs and several small streams adding to the ambience. Weddings are staged with the backdrop of a tall, slender waterfall dropping from a notch in the mountain.

Merrill's father was born in the old Woodfords Hotel on the same acreage. The venerable white house rose from the ashes of a disastrous fire when the

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

Woodfords Hotel, owned by Linda Merrill's great grandparents, burned to the ground in 1925. An addition to the house was built in the 1950s.

While growing up in the Bay area, Merrill spent summers in Alpine County and was very close to her grandmother, Angie Merrill, who she describes as being "nurturing and loving." As they picked blackberries and cooked together, her grandmother told her stories about the past. Linda loved her room under the eaves in the country house, now called the "Lilac Room."

After earning her degree at Humboldt State College, Merrill restlessly traveled back and forth between the west coast and the east coast; from San Diego to Santa Barbara to Hawaii.

In Merrill's own words, "I wandered around for 20 years, searching for something I couldn't find. Then my grandmother left me this place, and I felt like I had reached my destination. I feel gratitude for being able to be here in this beautiful spot, and even

July 14, 2006



Linda Merrill sits in her garden at the foot of the mountains.

GINA GIGLI/
The R-C

when I visit the family cemetery in the back, I'm not sad but am happy in the knowledge that I'm continuing the family line of giving hospitality."

Fresh herbs and flowers and foods from the Farmers Market are featured at the Mountain and Garden. Apple and pear trees date back to the era of the old hotel, and watercress grows in

the ponds, with tarragon, peppermint, lavender, and basil tucked into flower beds. She likes to cook and create artistic dishes, garnished with flowers and herbs from her garden.

Merrill's son Gabe is 11-years-old, and she says, "He's starting to ask questions about the history of the place and liking to cook. Maybe he will fol-

low in my footsteps and those of his ancestors by entering into the hospitality field right here on the site of the historic Woodfords Hotel."

Twice a month, on Saturday evenings, a combination of live music and dinner is served to the public. As Linda Merrill says, "Drop in, reserve ahead, or call to obtain my schedule at (530) 694-0012."

"Death Ride" Declarations

Three Death Ride participants, Bruce and Nancy Bell from Sausalito and Andrew McDonald from Los Gatos commented about the big event last weekend in Markleeville, "Hail, rain, thunder and lightning made the ride even more exciting!" "This is the most breathtakingly beautiful bicycle tour." "I have a little computer on my bicycle that tells me that I used up 10,000 calories on the five mountain passes today."

Alpine Events

- Saturday, July 15, 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. – Alpine County Museum, Indian Tacos (530) 694-2317
- Saturday, July 22, at 5 p.m. – Sand Harbor Beach, Alpine Kids Potluck Picnic (530) 694-2934
- Saturday, July 22 – M.S. Dixie II, Fifty Plus Club Three-Hour Dinner Cruise (530) 694-2235

Coyan receives Alpine County Senior of the Year award

Another perfect day in Markleeville!

On July 13, members of the Fifty Plus Club, plus some county employees, were treated to an alfresco lunch on the courthouse lawn.

As guests of the Superior Court of Alpine County, we were seated at shaded tables and treated to a delicious picnic catered by Linda Merrill.

Soft breezes wafted over the floral centerpieces as old-timers and newcomers alike chatted.

The afternoon event was "masterminded" by employees of the court, Lisa Cobourn, Vanessa Cruz, Sally Richardson and Lynn Zacharias. Superior Court Judges David Devore and Richard Specchio warmly welcomed their guests.

After lunch, the venue switched to the courtroom, where Karen Dustman presented an informative program to the senior citizens, entitled, "So You Have a Will and Trust: What Can Go Wrong?"

But first, Chairman of the Alpine County Board of Supervisors Gunter Kaiser presented a framed resolution from the board, naming Gary Ellis Coyan as "Senior of the Year."

Supervisor Kaiser adlibbed a portion of his reading of the resolution and joked, "Gary and Wanda Coyan were married in 1971 and raised four sons, George, Adam, Josh and 'little' Gary, all taller and more attractive than Gary," and Coyan grinned.

Gary Coyan, hesitant to accept the award, nevertheless managed to smile again at the

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by Gina Gigli

assembly of senior citizens and say, "Thank you for voting for me." Perhaps he thinks that he's not old enough (72) or worthy, but he's wrong on both counts, especially the "worthy" part.

His parents and his grandparents taught him the importance of giving back to this beautiful mountain community by contributing service to others. His father, George Coyan, was the Alpine County Coroner for 45 years, and his mother, Elisabeth Coyan, was Alpine County Treasurer for almost 50 years.

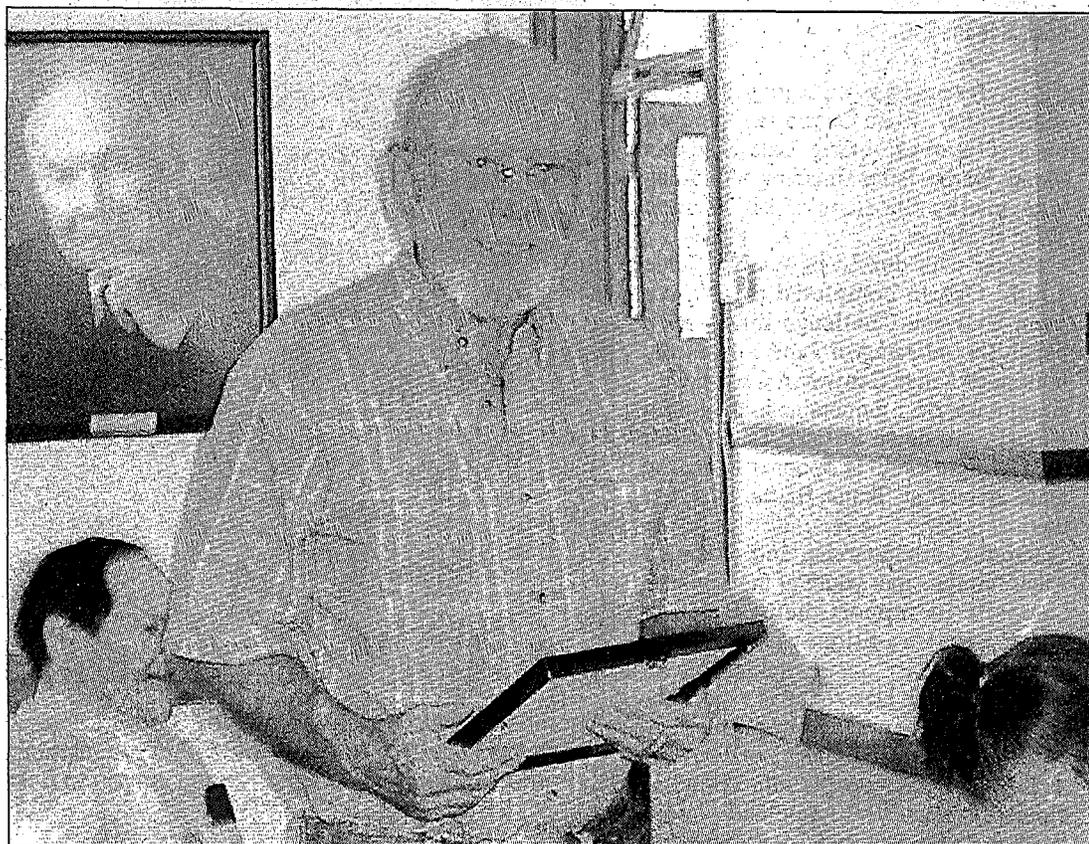
A life-long resident, Coyan lived in the old Alpine Hotel, currently named Wolf Creek, until he was a boy of eight. His parents owned and managed the hotel, and his memory of those days centers on his standing upon a box in order to reach the kitchen sink.

"I picked chickens to get ready for Sunday dinners. We had a chicken coop and a big vegetable garden out back."

He continued, "In the summertime, folks from Reno came all the way to Markleeville to eat our chicken dinners, and I had to pull out all of the pinfeathers before my mother could cook the chickens."

In answer to my wondering when electricity arrived in Markleeville, Coyan replied, "Previously, we had generators, but I don't recall the year when

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Gary Coyan accepts the award for Alpine County Senior of the Year.

GINA GIGLI/The R-C

the electric crew came to town. I do remember that I was old enough to shimmy up to retrieve the silver dollars that the crew would stash at the top of the pole to tempt me into climbing.”

From age eight until he served in the Navy, Coyan lived creek-side with his family in the white house we used to call Grandma’s house, now named Merging Rivers and painted tan.

Shortly after leaving the Navy, Coyan returned to Markleeville, where he’s held a succession of jobs and run several businesses. He’s owned the Alpine Motel (now the Creekside Lodge) Coyan’s Cabins (leveled land), the laundromat (private residence), and

Coyan’s Cones a.k.a. the Frosty (Bear Necessities vacation rental) and currently, his former two-story residence (leased to Choices for Children) and the recently-constructed Mountain Creek Cabin vacation rental.

When he owned the Frosty, local teenagers not only found a congenial place to work, but also an empathetic boss who would listen to their stories. Bobby Long, Jeanne and Judy Jackson, Cathy and Linda Merrill, Barry Coyan, Greg Moll, Chris Cook, Linda Ryan and others all participated in preparing “Boss Burgers” (spicy hot), fish sandwiches, and tacos with guacamole.

“People were always asking me how I made the tacos,”

Coyan said.

He claims that one teacher at Douglas High School even told some of Coyan’s helpers that she would give an ‘A’ to anyone who would reveal his secret recipe for tacos.

One day as we talked on the porch of “Sleepy Hollow,” the Coyan’s country cottage nestled by Markleeville Creek, Coyan reeled off some of the work he’s done for Alpine County; heavy equipment operator and surveyor for the road department, school bus driver and maintenance worker, provider of school lunches and probation officer. He also has served the county as volunteer fire chief, deputy sheriff and game warden. He was in charge of weights and measures

and, along with Fritz Thornburg, he developed the town water system.

He’s been a 4-H leader, youth director for Alpine Kids, twice president of the Alpine Chamber of Commerce; is active in the Alpine Christian Church and the Alpine County Historical Society. Currently, he is the president of the historical society, and over the years, he’s donated many artifacts, photographs and documents to the Alpine County Museum.

I would venture to say that Gary Coyan is more than worthy to accept the honor of Senior Citizen of the Year.

Old friends make a visit to Markleeville

R-C
7-28-06

Sitting on the deck of The Deli in Markleeville awaiting the arrival of sandwiches, I experienced a pleasant shock of déjà vu when I glanced upward and gazed into the faces of two women from the past.

Virginia York and Heidi Hopkins each had lived in Markleeville before the turn of this millennium.

Returning to town briefly in order to rejuvenate her house on Laramie Street for rental purposes, York had flown from England, where she currently lives, and Hopkins had driven over from Lee Vining to devote her morning to help her friend.

Heidi Hopkins, who had worked as Alpine Enterprise Editor and Alpine County Arts Council Director in the '80s, revealed some exciting news when she told us that two weeks ago, she married bicyclist Jim Merz.

They live in Big Sur, with views of the Pacific Ocean and live part time in Lee Vining, with views of Mono Lake. Hop-

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kings is active in the struggle to save Mono Lake from further depredation.

When she lived in Alpine County, Hopkins was instrumental in the formation of Friends of Hope Valley, insuring that the scenic area would not be over developed.

Whether she's working to establish land trusts or committees to protect the environment, her modest demeanor and calm determination quietly create successful outcomes.

Virginia York has lived in the environs of Markleeville since the late '60s, and she owns two homes here; a cottage in town and a walk-in wilderness cabin in Raymond Canyon.

In the '70s, York was Alpine County Librarian, but after the

untimely death of her husband John, 17 years ago, she concentrated on the well-being and education of her two children, Ben and Daisy, enrolling them in private schools in Ojai, Calif., and England.

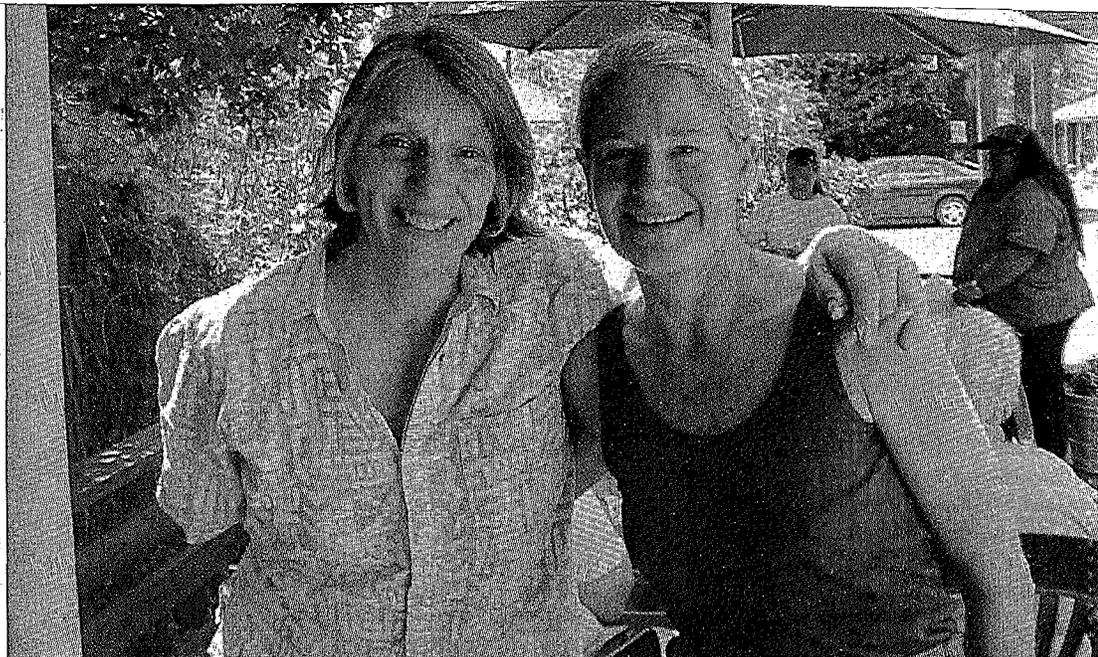
York is teaching language arts, cooking and social studies at the Brockwood Park School in England's Hampshire countryside, until Daisy, almost 17, graduates next year.

This school and its "sister" school in Ojai, is international, vegetarian, and each emphasizes academic excellence plus healthy relationships.

Ben, 22, graduated from Brockwood Park School and now is attending Humboldt State University in Arcata, California.

We look forward to York's return to our community, when her vivacious wit and warm empathy will charm us once again.

■ Gina Gigli is a Markleeville resident. Reach her at ginagigli@gbis.com



GINA GIGLI/The R-C

Virginia York and Heidi Hopkins stand under one of the umbrellas at The Deli in Markleeville.

Alpine events

■ **Book Sale.** The Alpine County Library Annual Book Sale starts

Aug. 5 during regular library hours. Information, 530-694-2120.

■ **Society Picnic.** Alpine County Historical Society at Silver Mountain, old fashioned picnic Aug.

19. Local authors, Karen and Rick Dustman, will lead the group in an historical tour of Silver Mountain. Information, 530-694-2317

Behavioral health is topic of luncheon

Alpine County Behavioral Health Services will host the Fifty-Plus Club monthly potluck with speaker Frank Jacobelli LCSW whose topic is

“Feeling Good and Your Brain.”

The senior luncheon will take place noon to 2 p.m. Aug. 10 at the Early Learning Center, 100

Foothill Road, Woodfords.

For more information, call Dolores at (530) 694-2473 or Sherri at (530) 694-2235.

New hours for Grover Hot Springs pool

Grover Hot Springs pool in Markleeville has new hours of operation.

The pool will be open 10

a.m. - 7:30 p.m. daily. Information, (530) 694-2249.

New hours for Grover Hot Springs pool

Grover Hot Springs pool in operation. The pool will be open 10 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. daily. Information, (530) 694-2249.
Markleeville has new hours of

Kirkwood puts on mountain flower show

Staff Reports



BELINDA GRANT/R-C file photo Indian paintbrush decorates the trailside in this 2004 photo taken near Winnemucca Lake in Alpine County.

As the snow retreats to the surrounding peaks, wildflowers blanket Kirkwood Mountain Resort's rugged mountain terrain, creating a colorful spread of purple Lupine, yellow Mules Ear, pink Lewis' Monkey Flower and orange Apricot Mallow. Kirkwood welcomes visitors to celebrate Mother Nature's beauty at its annual Wildflower Festival on Saturday starting at noon.

Partnering with Amador Vintners, the event will feature wine and beer tasting, a barbecue, live music, local artisans' works of art, children craft booths, a bounce house, clown and more.

A free live concert will be provided by bluegrass band F-150s on the plaza.

Local historian and botanist Laird Blackwell will take adults and children on a guided wildflower hike at 9 a.m. and noon through Devil's Corral and the Kirkwood Valley to identify the alpine wildflowers and learn about the history of the Kirkwood area.

The two-hour educational hikes are offered at \$20 for adults and due to popularity, reservations are recommended at

(209) 258-7386.

"The best time to visit Kirkwood in the summer is in late July and early August when the wildflowers are blooming; some of the wildflowers are 5 to 6 feet high," Tracy Miller, resort marketing director, said.

Information, www.kirkwood.com. For lodging, (800) 967-7500.

Man being held in Bear Valley shooting

Staff Reports

A Tamarack, Calif., man is in custody after a shooting in Bear Valley on Tuesday.

John Cole is being held for attempted murder in the 8 a.m. shooting that occurred at 141 Lombardi No. B in the Alpine County resort town.

The Alpine County Sheriff's Department reports that a witness said Cole went to the apartment of his estranged girlfriend armed with a handgun.

A witness heard multiple gunshots and called the sheriff's department.

Deputies found the victim, whose name is being withheld,

and Cole in the apartment, both suffering from multiple gunshot wounds.

Both were flown to different area hospitals.

The case is still under investigation and as of Thursday, the sheriff's department had released no new information in the shooting.

Classical guitar concert Wednesday

Staff Reports

A classical guitar concert (Bach, Brazilian and original works) featuring guitarist Ernesto Ale and soprano Andrea Bond is 7-9 p.m. Wednesday at the Alpine County Library in Markleeville.

Ale is an accomplished classical guitarist, composer and arranger.

He has been enchanting listeners throughout Southern California for over two decades.

He is also a professional rock climber. Ale makes his home in the mountain town of Idyllwild where he continues to teach and perform his music.

Upcoming performances include the Idyllwild Jazz Festival on Aug. 26 and the Sweet and Hot Jazz Festival, Sept. 1-2, appearing with Bond and Herb Jefferies.

Bond has been singing for over 19 years and is currently working on a collaborative CD with Ale, produced by the Jefferies.

She performs regularly in Idyllwild where she lives and teaches voice and early childhood music education.

Admission is free to the public.

This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Donations accepted.

How do animals cope with summer's heat?

Our donkey Argenta shares adjoining pastures with neighbor Forrest Robinson's three horses. "Flicka Mustang" and "Patrick Wannabe-Stallion" are a pair. They stand rear-to-front, successfully flicking flies from each other's eyes with their swishing tails. But "Major Horse," who can be described as being a true gentleman, has bonded with "Argenta Burro." Major is a tall, white, horse with a spectacularly long and fulsome tail. Argenta is a sweet, stubby donkey with a skinny and ineffectual tail, as far as fly-flicking goes. Nevertheless, there they stand; Argenta being fanned by the spectacular white tail and Major receiving no relief from heat waves. Love conquers all.

We look out over a billowing quilt of green pastures, stitched with irrigation ditches and dotted with cattle. Learning about the many dairy cows dying in California's central valley, I wondered if our neighboring cattle were suffering in the recent heat spell. I phoned Jan Lopes, local "cowgirl" and irrigator for Ted Bacon's Jubilee Ranch summer pastures.

"They don't mind the heat," she assured me, "They just go under the pine trees."

Linda Merrill's cat, Smoky, will hardly move during hot

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by Gina Gigli

days.

"She wouldn't let me pet her, and she slouched in silent protest," Merrill said. "My dog Kaiya spent a lot of time in the water. Every chance she got, she'd get wet, and then when it cooled down a bit in the evening, she'd go crazy and run around in circles."

Across the road, "Susie Donkey," "Young Drifter Horse" and "Sweetheart Paint Horse" are spending much of their time in the shelter of sheds.

Asked how her chickens fare in the heat, Karen Robinson replied, "They don't do too well, and they don't lay as many eggs."

The eggs may be scarce, but they're beautifully colored in shades of tan and blue green. Her only rooster, Rocky, is a bantam who thinks he's the cock-of-the-walk, but he hasn't been spending as much time as usual herding the larger hens, Henny Penny, Ebony, Snow White, Cinderella, Silver, Buffy and Penny from one end of the coop to the other.



GINA GIGLI/The R-C

Major the horse and Argenta the donkey share a pasture in Markleeville.

"When it's really hot, I replenish their fresh water often and sprinkle water over the coop roof in order to cool the air," Robinson said.

Wanda Coyan, who also keeps chickens, said she, too, has noticed a sharp decrease in egg production. But her white goats go out of their way to lie out in direct sun instead of seeking shady spots. Alarmed, she phoned her goat-raising mentor in Fallon.

"Goats normally have tem-

peratures that average 104 degrees, so if the outside temperature is 100 degrees, it seems cool to them," Wanda reported her goat expert said. "Besides, their white coats are reflective, making them heat tolerant."

Rose, the Coyan's German shorthair dog, copes with heat by taking many swims in Markleeville Creek. John Jackson was fishing for trout the

other day when he noticed a commotion in the creek. Rose had just caught a big trout. He took it away from her and tossed it back into the creek, unharmed.

"If Rose is as good a hunter as she is a fisher, I want one of her pups!" he told the Coyans.

■ Gina Gigli is a Markleeville resident. Reach her at ginagigli@villagigli.com

R-2
Aug. 4, 2006

Aug. 11, 2006

Breaking for breakfast at noon makes sense



GINA GIGLI/The R-C

Sandy Matlock and her mother, Joann Moody, stand under the old cottonwood tree at J. Marklee Toll Station in Markleeville.

After a morning's work, I invited friend Michele Neely to lunch at the J. Marklee Toll Station on Main Street in Markleeville, unaware that only breakfast is being served in summer.

Owner Sandy Matlock was watering the flowers and shrubs in the strip between the sidewalk and rock wall, but she invited us into the small country café for coffee. The three of us sat at one of her new "ice cream" tables, as her mother and waitress, Joann Moody, asked, "Caf or decaf?"

Looking at the chalk-written and tempting selections on the blackboard, Michele and I timidly asked if it would be too much trouble to cook us breakfast so late in the day. Matlock assured us that she wouldn't mind and disappeared into the kitchen.

Omelets, biscuits and gravy, pancakes and bagels were written on the menu, but the breakfast burrito became the winner. And what a champion it turned out to be — hot flour tortilla, stuffed with black beans and avocado slices, topped with cheese and spicy hot salsa. Now that's my ideal way to break-the-fast, no matter what time of day.

Jingle-jingle, and the bells on the front door announced the arrival of two more hungry people. "We only serve breakfast," Moody firmly

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

declared. "That's OK with us," said Nadine and Carlyle, who were on their way to Santa Fe from San Francisco.

Jingle-jingle, and another two came through the door, to be told, "We only do breakfast." As they sat down, Cynthia and Duncan agreed, "Fine with us." They too were from San Francisco and were headed for Arizona.

Jingle-jingle, "We don't serve lunch."

"But can we have breakfast?" Ken and Linda asked, "We live in Cameron Park, and we're on our way to Angel's Camp, via Reno, and we're hungry." It is, after all, Hot August Nights in Reno.

The next jingle-jingle was accompanied by a grandfather and grandson duo from Carson Valley and Spokane, respectively. Rex had taken Trevor fishing for the first time, at Silver Creek, and the score for round one was zero for grandpa and three trout for 15-year-old Trevor. These two also opted for breakfast in the p.m. and

when Rex jokingly asked Moody if he only got one napkin for his pancakes, she shot back, "You're wearing Levis, so wipe your spilled syrup on them."

Mother must have passed on her sharp wit to daughter, because Sandy loves to laugh and possesses a great sense of humor. When asked what she enjoys about owning and managing the J. Marklee Toll Station, Matlock replied, "The work never ends!"

"What do you like the least about your work?"

"It never ends!"

A divorced mother of three, during the summer Matlock's children, 15-year-old Macy, 13-year-old Tanner and Landon, 7, her parents and a couple of local kids help run the café and the motel, complete with five rooms and a cabin.

Sandy Matlock, who has lived in Markleeville for 16 years, says, "I absolutely love living in Alpine County. It's a lot of work being a business owner here, as we really only see people for three months out of 12. But you get to experience all four seasons, and it's worth it. I'm sure that the other 160 people who live here in town would agree with me."

■ Contact Gina Gigli at ginagigli@villagigli.com

Aug. 11, 2006

Kudos

Thanks for support

EDITOR:

Thanks to the collaboration of many volunteers the Bear Valley Bike Rodeo was a huge success. Ninety-eight people participated in this year's event and nine children won new bikes.

Everyone enjoyed a barbecue lunch, fun on the beach and spending the afternoon with good friends.

A special recognition goes to Alpine County sheriff's deputy Jeff Sanford for coordinating the

participation of the Boy Scouts, California Highway Patrol, Department of Forestry, the Bear Valley SAFE program and other resources in Bear Valley.

This year we received generous donations from Alpine County Behavioral Health Services, Alpine County Chamber of Commerce, Alpine County Health & Human Services, Alpine County Public Works, Alpine County Sheriff's Department, Alpine County Family Support Council, Big Daddy's Bike Shop in Gardnerville, Alpine Kids, Bear Valley General Store, Kati and Walter Bell and Choices for Children.

Once again, Alpine Children's Center-Home Visitor Program would like to thank everyone

involved in making this a wonderful experience for families in Alpine County.

Lyn Snyder

Alpine Children's Center, Woodfords

EDITOR:

The Alpine County Family Support/Child Abuse Prevention Council would like to thank Keith at Big Daddy's Bikes on Highway 395 in Gardnerville for his generous donation towards the purchase of two "Trek" bicycles for the Bear Valley "Bike-a-thon" and safety demonstration. A number of bikes and tricycles were raffled off during the event but none so coveted as Big Daddy's "Treks."

The "bike-a-thon" was held on July 12 and

over 100 people attended the event. Children of all ages were invited to ride their bikes or tricycles, participate in safety demonstrations, and then enjoy barbecued hamburgers and hot dogs provided by Alpine Kids and Alpine County Health & Human Services.

Special thanks also to the ACC Home Visitor Program, Alpine County Sheriff's Department, Behavioral Health, Public Works, Boy Scouts of America, Forestry Department, Alpine County Chamber of Commerce, Bear Valley General Store and Choices for Children.

Susan Lippmann

Alpine County Family Support/Child Abuse Prevention Council

Woodfords practitioner helps with ancient art of acupuncture

Mesa Vista resident Kimball Chatfield, doctor of oriental medicine and board certified acupuncturist, who's been in practice since 1983, not only maintains an office at South Lake Tahoe, but also has an office in Woodfords for the convenience of his Alpine County and Carson Valley patients.

After earning his bachelor's degree from San Diego State University in natural resource management, Chatfield continued his studies at four more colleges, for a total of nine years.

When he was a graduate student taking naturopath classes, he met an acupuncturist who he greatly admired for his ability to promote healing.

At that point, Chatfield turned from his first study field of protecting the natural environment - plants; to learn instead to managing the natural resources of people.

He subsequently was awarded his doctorate in acupuncture from the California Acupuncture College in Santa Barbara.

Acupuncture, one of the oldest, most commonly used medical procedures in the world, originated in China more than 2,000 years ago.

The procedure began to become better known in the United States in 1971, after New York Times reporter James Reston wrote about how doctors in China used needles to ease his pain after surgery.

Even though he became more people-oriented, Chatfield didn't abandon his love for plants, since acupuncturists are required to have an extended

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

knowledge of herbal medicine. Moving from the coastal cities of Santa Barbara and San Diego to the mountains of Sierra Nevada, he pursued the lore and logic of local medicinal plants.

Since there were just a few books available on medicinal plants of the Sierra, Chatfield wrote the definitive book, "Medicine from the Mountains" - now out of print.

When asked why it isn't being re-printed, he replied, "Because I want to revise my book by more than doubling the 70 plants described in my first book."

Wondering how Chatfield learned enough to write his book on plants of the Sierras, he replied, "I took my first class in California plant identification in 1971 in my freshman year.

"Fifteen years ago, I taught myself about medicinal plants of the Sierra, first by reading all of the books available and then by going out in the field and gathering herbal plants. I would take these herbs to Indian gatherings, and sometimes they would identify their uses and sometimes not."

Chatfield began teaching at Lake Tahoe Community College 12 years ago.

Courses he has taught include not only acupuncture, but also nutrition, herbal medi-

cine and environmental health. He guides guests of Sorensen's on walks, "Medicinal Plants of Hope Valley," each summer.

Acupuncture focuses on improving health, and "there are no side effects with acupuncture," Chatfield claims. His treatments last 20 to 30 minutes.

He especially likes to help people recover from injuries, strokes and spinal cord injuries, obtaining referrals from neurologists.

In some studies, acupuncture has been found to speed healing twice as fast as with conventional methods, by releasing healing endorphins.

Acupuncture is not intended to conceal pain, but rather to promote healing by regulating the nervous system.

Chatfield's hobbies include hiking through the Sierra Nevada and gardening.

He has a vegetable garden and a small orchard at his home in Mesa Vista and believes in eating fresh food in its natural

state, because, "Health is your only true wealth," he says.

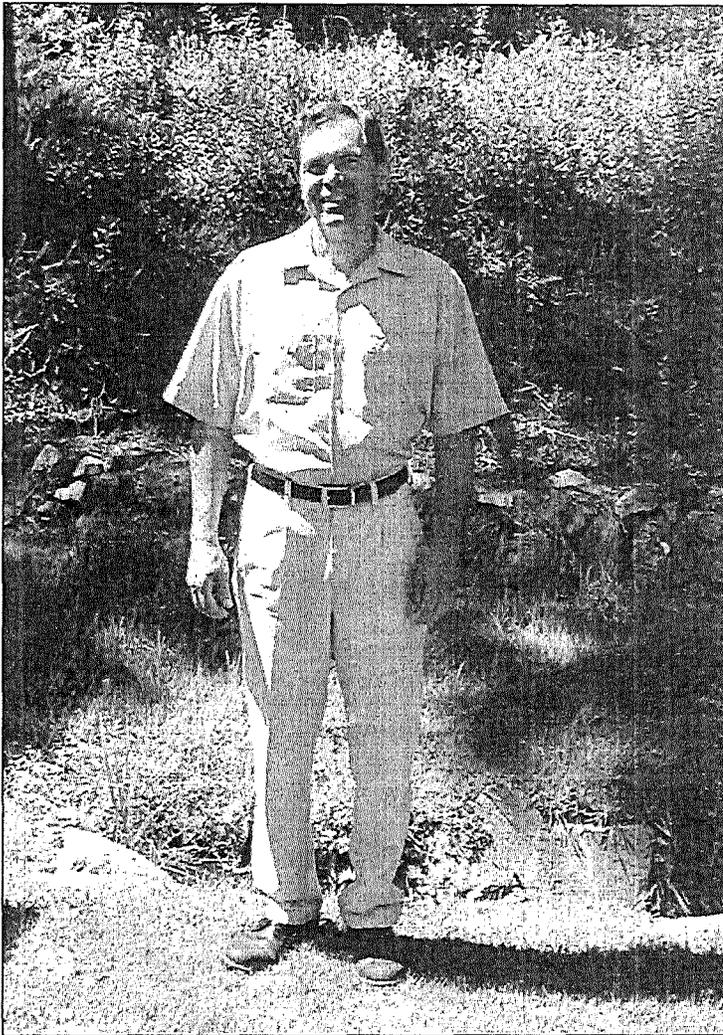
Chatfield met his wife Melinda in a restaurant in northern Santa Barbara County where he was working as a waiter, and she was a guest.

They've been married for 25 years, and have two children, 21-year-old Michael, who is interested in landscaping, and Douglas High School student Shannon, 16, who wants to be a journalist.

The family had resided at South Lake Tahoe, but has lived in Alpine County for three years. Melinda is her husband's office manager.

The office in Woodfords is open Mondays and Wednesdays and is located within the Mountain and Garden premises, at 290 Pony Express Road, and the phone number is (530) 694-2459.

■ Gina Gigli is a Markleeville resident. Reach her at ginagigli@villagigli.com



GINA GIGLI/The R-C
Woodfords acupuncturist Kimball Chatfield in the Mountain and Garden back yard.

State office to review Alpine death

by Kurt Hildebrand
Editor

The California Attorney General's Office is reviewing the death of William McKinnon in Alpine County last summer.

McKinnon was found dead on a trail about 200 yards from his cabin on July 7, 2005, after he was reported missing the previous day.

In a letter to Alpine County Sheriff John Crawford, Senior Assistant Attorney General Jo Graves said she had been contacted by family and friends of McKinnon who do not agree with the coroner's ruling that he shot himself.

The letter was forwarded to The Record-Courier by McKinnon's father, Raymond F. McKinnon.

In the letter, Graves said the

state prosecutor's office has been asked to review all the investigative reports relating to McKinnon's death to determine whether further investigation is required.

Graves said Thursday she had forwarded additional information to the family's forensic analyst.

McKinnon's friends and family have sought a grand jury investigation into the death.

After finding McKinnon's body, investigators interviewed his landlords and a neighbor, who told them he suffered from depression.

Alpine County Detective and Chaplain Edward Braz said gunshot residue was found at the point of impact and on McKinnon's fingers, consistent with the ruling that he shot himself.

Alpine events

■ **Fun Trip.** Alpine Kids go to Wild Waters in Reno 10:45 a.m. Sept. 2. RSVP Edie at (530) 694-2934.

■ **Chili Challenge.** Woodfords Community Faire & Country Chili & Salsa Challenge. Old Pony Express Road 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 16 and

17. Information, (530) 694-2930.

■ **Creek Day.** Creek Day at Markleeville Community Park 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 30. Information, (530) 694-2327.

Grovers Hot Springs closed Sept. 11-22

Grovers Hot Springs will be closed for annual maintenance Sept. 11-22.

The state park will reopen for the fall after maintenance is complete.

For further information, call (530) 694-2248.

Aug. 25, 2006

Children celebrate reading program

Running helter-skelter down the sloping grass at Villa Gigli, playing impromptu circle games and munching on pizza, children of all ages celebrated their completion of the summer reading program sponsored by the Alpine County Library. The event on Friday afternoon, Aug. 18, highlighted the children's efforts, as well as those by library staff members who encouraged youngsters to read for pleasure during summer vacation.

Alpine County Librarian Bessie Platten was assisted by Sonja Helfenstein and Rita Lovell in the program. According to Platten, "I've seen the number of participants increasing steadily through the years, thanks to the staff's enthusiasm and parents' involvement, especially in the zero to five group."

Wondering about the incongruity of toddlers reading, the answer is obvious; when parents read to their babies and toddlers, a lifelong love of books can develop. The goal for ages zero to five was to have at least 10 books read to them. For kids from six to eight, reading at least 100 pages was required to successfully complete the program.

The librarians proclaimed highest achievers to be Andrew Voss and Dashona Godowa.

Teenagers Amber, Vito and Macy organized games of tag and watched over the younger kids; Natane, Kristelle,



GINA GIGLI/The R-C

Alpine County children and their families celebrate the completion of the Alpine County Library's summer reading program.

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

Dashona, Kendall, Issaih, Ombryann, Chelsea, Anna, Corrie, Landon, Mckinna, Cole, Patrick, Andrew, Abigail, Elyssa, Tiller, Daniel, Jeff and Thomas.

Parents who enjoyed their offsprings' successful summer reading by watching their kids play and sharing Ruggero's handmade pizza were Cassandra Dick, Kim Jackson, Shannon Guerrero, Sarah Voss, Susan Van Doren and Tony Galvez.

Cassandra Dick, elementary school tutor at the Woodfords Indian Education Center, drove a van-load of kids over to Markleeville from Hung-a-lel-ti and commented, "We enjoyed collaborating with the library staff to promote reading to our students during the summer." She said that the favorite book that she read aloud to kids was "I Knew an Old Lady."

Other favorite books of the children-on-the-lawn were "Clifford," "The Baby Rattlesnake," "Where the Wild Things Are," "Rainbow Fish," and of course, the all time winner, "Cat in the Hat."

Courtney, Deanna, Jack, Shania, Teddy, Maya, Forest and Brooke were away on trips in this last week of summer vaca-

tion, or were not able to attend the pizza party, but the librarians wish to acknowledge their successful participation.

Helfenstein added, "All of the children will always be in my heart, and it's fantastic to see them so excited to read."

Lovell, a recent addition to the Alpine County Library staff, said, "We're so happy that so many children participated, and that there was so much parent support, because it's a team effort."

Platten thanked the Friends of the Library for the juice and cookies and Villa Gigli for donating the pizzas.

■ Gina Gigli is Markleeville resident. Reach her at Gina@vil-lagigli.com

Giglis put restaurant, home on the market

by **Sharlene Irete**
Staff Writer

Gina and Ruggero Gigli are putting their home and their Villa Gigli restaurant up for sale to be with their children on the East Coast.

"Two of our kids and soon all four will be living in Maryland and Washington, D.C.," said Gina Gigli. "We want to be near our children and start a new adventure."

The Gigli's three-acre property in Markleeville including two habitable buildings and the restaurant is selling for \$1.5 million.

"We need to sell our house first so we may be here for a year or two," said Gigli. "I hope someone buys it who wants to continue the restaurant. My husband is willing to teach whoever wants to learn his secrets."

It's been almost 15 years since the Giglis opened the restaurant in Markleeville.

Ruggero Gigli said he wanted to just serve a little bread and wine on the weekends, but within six months, that idea developed into the Villa Gigli Trattoria.

The Giglis feature music and serve Italian dinners on Saturday and Sunday nights, May through October.

The rest of the year they do artwork and travel. A popular destination is Ruggero Gigli's native Italy.

The couple have owned property in Markleeville for 30 years. They first had a coffee house but wanted to travel to other places.

"We decided to be artists and moved to Carmel for a year and St. Helena for four years and came back and opened the restaurant in our former studio," Gina Gigli said.

Gigli met her husband a few years after he moved to the United States from Florence, Italy. She had three sons from a previous marriage and the cou-

ple have a daughter together.

The former Jane Green became "Gina" at her first meeting with Ruggero Gigli.

"He always called me Gina and pretty soon our friends asked if they could call me that too," Gina Gigli said. "Now when I sit in an office and they call for 'Jane,' I wonder where she is. I don't even identify with 'Jane' anymore."

While the Giglis want to get out of restaurant business, they plan to continue to create art, travel and visit with their family.

"I'm 75 and Ruggero is 74 and I said we should quit when we're ahead. We don't want our service to suffer," said Gigli.

"As we get older and slower, the restaurant is hard work. We've had a full life and it will be fun to go on a new adventure."

Villa Gigli continues business at 145 Hot Springs Road in Markleeville. Call (530) 694-2253 for more information.

Restaurant Alpine's safest lunch place

Bustling is the keyword when lunching at The Deli in the heart of "downtown" Markleeville. Proprietor DeAnne Jang and her crew stage a smooth-running assembly line to serve Alpine County employees efficiently on their lunch hour. Add fishermen, tourists and other residents to that entree and a full menu of guests results.

Talking about a full menu; this tiny deli lists a choice of 51 (I counted twice) sandwiches, salads and soups. House specialties include a honey wheat berry sandwich filled with Black Forest ham, turkey, avocado, lettuce, tomato and onions and "soup of the moment."

Patrons remark that the food is both nutritious and delicious, but I also notice how safe the place is.

Why safe? On any given day, one can observe emergency-trained workers; employees from the Alpine County Sheriff's Department, Volunteer Firemen, Health and Human Services, EMS, plus U.S. Forest Service and BLM, who sit out on the deck under green umbrellas. If anyone were to choke on a pickle, a dozen or more saviors would be available to administer the Heimlich maneuver.

Undersheriff Rob Levy, Detective Spencer Case and Deputy Ron Michitarian comment that they appreciate the healthy homemade food and joke about the other reasons they like The Deli.

"It's close to our office, and it's a great hiding place for us behind these bushes, because we can catch speeders," Levy added, "Seriously, Warren and DeAnne are good folks. You can count on them to deliver when we have a search and rescue operation going, and we suddenly need lunches for 40 hungry people."

"We like running into locals and also meeting people just passing through town," chimed in Gail Day and Sherri Smith from the Alpine County Health and Human Services.

The Deli Co. was born 14 years ago, the brainchild of Warren and DeAnne Jang, and is a family venture. Children Rendee Perry and her husband Mike Perry help out, as well as UNR student-son Chad Wickenberg, who was calmly taking orders and money from the line-up the other day.

"No, we can't accept radios for payment," Wickenberg jokingly told a frazzled BLM firefighter who reached for his radio instead of his wallet. "We already have one."

Indeed, The Deli has a scanner, so they can follow emergency reports. The two kids grew up, so to speak, in the deli, and DeAnne's parents,

The Deli Co. is open each year from the opening of stream fishing season (late April) to Halloween, and the hours are 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays and from 10:30 a.m.

to 5 p.m. on weekends.

■ Gina Gigli is a Markleeville resident. Reach her at ginaigigli@villagigli.com

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

Bob and Dee Rudden, own and manage the Markleeville General Store right next door.

Other employees are Leah Orndoff and Courtney Zaninovic, who switch roles from making sandwiches to being cashier, "Girl Friday" Michelle Macias and runner David Davilla.

DeAnne works in wintertime at the Zephyr Cove Snowmobile Center, and Warren works full-time at the Reno Costco, but over the years, the two of them have repaired, painted, planted and polished the old house into a white and green streamlined deli.

R-C
Sept. 1, 2006



GINA GIGLI/The R-C

Undersheriff Rob Levy, Detective Spencer Case and Deputy Sheriff Ron Michitarian have salads at The Deli Co. in Markleeville.

Kirkwood offers Labor Day activities

Staff Reports

Kirkwood Resort is offering a variety of activities over the Labor Day weekend.

Festivities kick off Friday with the Friday Night Community Barbecue featuring wine tasting from 5-7:30 p.m.

On Saturday, Kirkwood's Annual 5K/10K Race & Fun Run starts at 9 a.m. The Thin Air Chili Cook-Off is from 1-3 p.m. complemented by live music by Sunday at Ed's from 1-4 p.m.

On Sunday, Kirkwood will host its annual ski swap from 9 a.m.-noon, where bargains on equipment and apparel help

get people ready for the upcoming ski season. Also, Kirkwood Mountain Sports will have its Labor Day sale from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

The community tennis tournament will be held from 9 a.m.-noon and includes lunch and prizes. Some of Kirkwood's most exclusive homes will be open for tours from 2-4 p.m. and the Timber Ridge will host an open house from 1-3 p.m.

Hors d'oeuvres and live music by the Steve Vasco Quartet follows from 3-5 p.m.

Information, (209) 258-7386 or visit www.kirkwood.com.

Alpine events

■ **Museum Fundraiser.** Indian Tacos will be for sale at the Alpine County Museum, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. **Saturday** at the museum grounds. Information, (530) 694-2317.

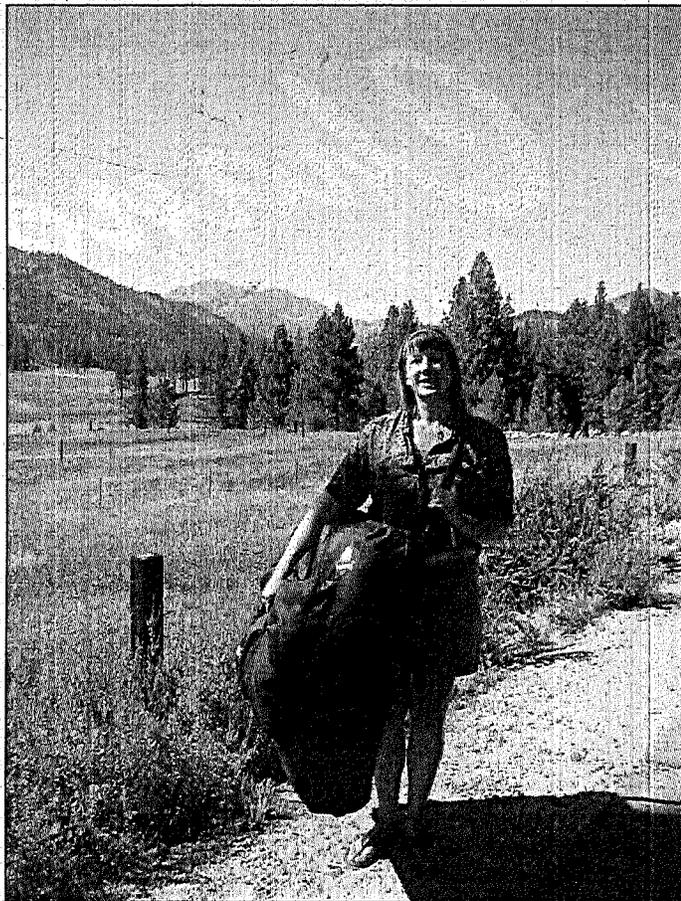
■ **Salsa Challenge.** Woodfords Community Faire & Country Chili & Salsa Challenge, Old Pony Express Road, 10 a.m. to

5 p.m. **Sept. 16 and 17.** Information, (530) 694-2930.

■ **Creek Day.** Creek Day at Markleeville Community Park, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Sept. 30.** Information, (530) 694-2327.

■ **Open Studios.** Markleeville Artists Autumn Open Studios, Markleeville environs, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Oct. 7 and 8.** Information, (530) 694-2253.

Have table, will travel



GINA GIGLI/The R-C
Michele Neely and her traveling massage table.

Have table, will travel

Folding table-in-a-bag, supported by a strap over her right shoulder and handle firmly grasped by her left hand, massage therapist Michele Neely is ready to travel to anyone in Alpine County afflicted with aching muscles.

Hiked mountain trails from dawn to dusk? Cast too many flies toward deep pools in the creek? Bicycled to the summit and back? Shoveled pine needles into giant heaps? Cut back that pesky manzanita? And soon, raked too many dry leaves?

A massage by Neely, who is a certified massage therapist, specializing in Swedish, sports and deep tissue methods, might be the answer to recovery from pain.

"I think that Alpine County is the best outdoor playground in the country, but people tend to overdo," Neely said.

She gives massages to residents in their homes, as well as to visitors staying in campgrounds and resorts. And in the winter, she travels to Kirkwood, with her portable table and her skis.

"I love to move, because it's great for the body," she said. "I like all kinds of dancing, skiing, snow-boarding, kayaking, swimming, biking and hiking. I try to influence other people to be healthier and happier through fun and fitness."

"My family lived in the best of all worlds," she said of growing up in Pennsylvania. "We were 45 minutes by train to Philadelphia, where there were all kinds of sporting events, concerts and great restaurants. It only took us 30 minutes to travel to the Pocono mountains for skiing, camping, hiking and swimming in creeks, rivers and lakes. We also could reach the Jersey shore in one and a half hours to enjoy the beach."

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

Earning degrees in holistic health and in equine science, Neely traveled to Vermont, where she worked at the Danville Morgan Horse Farm and at bed and breakfasts, ultimately traveling to Lake Tahoe. Though she was trained in the art of massage at the East-West College in Portland she involves herself in continuing education classes such as dance and weight training at Lake Tahoe Community College and has been instructed in reflexology, Ayurveda, acupressure, Thai massage at various centers and spas. She flew to Hawaii to learn the Lomi Lomi method.

Previous to her nine-year residence in Alpine County, Neely did massage therapy at a ski resort and a dude ranch in Jackson, Wyo.; a spa in Telluride, Colo.; and spas at Lake Tahoe. Having worked for others, she now enjoys being self-employed at her own Alpine Massage. She intends to build up her business and has plans for the future to add fitness and dance instruction and eventually develop a healing center.

Michele Neely lives at the Mountain and Garden in Woodfords and can be reached by phoning her there, (530) 694-0012, or by leaving a message on her cell phone at (530) 694-0626.

■ Right in Woodfords, at the flashing yellow light (the only traffic light in all of Alpine County) at the junction of highways 88 and 89, the "Chili Thing" will be happening on the weekend of Sept. 16 and 17.

Known more formally as the Woodfords' Community Faire and Country Chili Challenge, the event benefits the Alpine Kids organization.

Activities start each day at 10 a.m. and continue until 5 p.m. Actually, Saturday will be the Chili Challenge, and on Sunday the Salsa Challenge will take place.

I will dedicate my column next week to describing the many facets of the Woodfords' Community Faire on Old Pony Express Road, but first I want to issue a challenge of my own. I summon all of those who think their chili or salsa is the best-ever to sign up with Lynda Kirby of Woodfords Station, (530) 694-2930.

■ Gina Gigli is a Markleeville resident. Reach her at ginagigli@vil-lagigli.com

RC Sept. 8, 2006

Yellow flashing light signals Chili and Salsa Challenge in Woodfords

The only traffic signal in all of Alpine County, located in Woodfords at the junction of Highways 88 and 89, marks the south turnoff to Markleeville and the north turnoff to Old Pony Express Road, a hot spot this Saturday and Sunday.

Known officially as the "11th Annual Woodfords' Community Faire and Country Chili Challenge," the event will be open both days from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Old Pony Express Road is the Highway 88 frontage road, providing access to Woodfords Station, Old Pony, the Mountain and Garden, Alpine Christian Church and Woodfords Auto.

Chili and salsa cooks will compete for championships; chili on Saturday and salsa on Sunday. When I say that this will be a hot spot, I mean "hot."

Not only will the public have chances to taste and vote for the best chili and salsa, but they also will be able to purchase hot dogs and Dale Bennett's Indian tacos.

Perched on a rock in front of Woodfords Station the other day were coordinators Kim Galvez with small daughter Danielle, Lynda Kirby and Edie Veatch. They say that the fair will emphasize fun for the whole family with a "bounce house" borrowed from Kirkwood, horseshoes and live music provided by the ever-

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

popular Alpine Trio, two Zellmers (Mary Ellen and Dave) and a Veatch (Skip).

Along with the music coming from the improvised stage-on-a-flatbed-truck will come announcements of the winning chili and salsa cooks and raffle prizes to be awarded. Donations for raffle tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5.

Booths lining up along Old Pony Express Road will fall into several categories: Informational, for example, voting registration, recycling, Alpine Kids, Alpine County Sheriff Department, Choices for Children; Crafts, such as tie-dye, bear and eagle photos by Todd Branscombe, embroidery by Jones' Stitches, gourds by Kaye Jobst, knives by Greg Bennett, beadwork by Dale Bennett; the "Hardware Man" and the "Honey Lady."

Lynda Kirby is in charge of signing up chili and salsa cooks, including Benny Di Salvo, Dean Goodfellow, Rob Levy, Jon Taylor, Michelle Macias, Jill McGeein and Jeana Kelly; Kim Galvez coordinates games; Edie Veatch, who was

one of the original organizers of the fair 11 years ago, along with Lynda Kirby and Paul Washam, fills in with jobs "deemed necessary."

Willing (one hopes) volunteers include the husbands of the three coordinators: Proprietor of Woodfords Station Dave Kirby answers questions, hands out fliers, obtains raffle prizes; Tony Galvez supervises electrical work and, with Chuck Daugherty, is night watchman; Alpine County Supervisor Skip Veatch is master of ceremonies and in charge of music. Other helpers are Michelle Macias, Amy Broadhurst, Bobby Stephens, Dave Zellmer, Earl O'Neal, Gary Ceregeoli, Wayne Himmelrick, Benny Di Salvo, Craig Rnjak and Jason Lyons.

Sponsors of the Woodfords' Community Faire are the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce and Kirkwood Mountain Resort. The United Blood Services blood mobile will be on location there on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will offer free hot dog lunches to donors.

Celebrating 25 years as a chartered church, the Alpine Christian Community Church, also on the frontage road, will be offering a bountiful breakfast 8-10 a.m. Sunday, donations accepted. Church service will commence at 10 a.m., with several ministers from the past 25

years attending; Eberhard Wiedenmeyer, Dick Lyons and Paul Wallace. As Ernestine Fogarty told me, "Our girls will be singing at the service; three Chavez girls, three Bennets, and one Craft girl."

After church service, around noon, the church will have a potluck barbecue and will encourage everyone not only to enjoy the Woodfords Community Faire, but also to hang out on the lawn all afternoon and play badminton and horseshoes.

Another event centered on the faire, will be the Grand Opening of the Odd Pony, an eclectic collection of gifts located in the Woodfords Station building. Owner Roma Morris says, "I feature kites, bears and bunnies. In fact, I have something for everyone. My hours might change, but for the Woodfords' Community Faire, my hours will be from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the same as theirs."

■ Gina Gigli is a Markleeville resident, contact here at www.villagigli.com



GINA GIGLI/The R-C

Woodfords Community Faire coordinators Kim Galvez with daughter Danielle, Lynda Kirby and Edie Veatch survey the scene in front of Woodfords Station.

Subconservancy hosts workshop

Staff Reports

Members of the Carson Water Subconservancy will be hosting a regional water system workshop at Turtle Rock Park at 9 a.m. Tuesday.

The workshop is one of a series held by the subconservancy in communities with an interest in the Carson River.

Alpine County is a member of the subconservancy, which also serves Douglas, Lyon and Churchill counties and Carson City. Subconservancy Regional Water System Committee members are gathering information for a report outlining concerns and recommendations from participants in the watershed.

The subconservancy committee met with more than two dozen Douglas County water users and purveyors on Monday. The panel is scheduled to meet in Lyon County on Wednesday. The workshop is open to the public. For more information please contact Toni Leffler at (775) 887-7450 or Ed James at (775) 887-7456.

October is cleanup month in Alpine County

by April Epps
Staff Writer

The bi-annual Alpine County cleanup weekend is here again. The event, which began in the early 1990s, will be 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 14 and 15 at the Alpine County Department of Public Works Yard in Woodfords. With drop-off locations for everything from trash and recycling, to shrubbery and items to be donated for sale.

All items donated will be put into a rummage sale, with benefits going to the Alpine Children's Center. All unsold items being donated to local charities.

Furniture, household items, sporting goods, clothing, and much more will be accepted for the sale. While the drop-offs are for the residents of Alpine County only, everyone is invited to come to the sale and to indulge in the Indian tacos and cold drinks that will be sold at the event.

The public works yard, which is located at 50 Diamond Valley Road in Woodfords, has a recycling center that is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday, except for holidays. They request that all items be sorted upon arrival, for more information on items that are acceptable call (530) 694-2140.

Douglas Disposal has provided dumpsters for residential use only and will have room for both large and small item disposal.

Washers/dryers, water heaters, stoves, refrigerators/freezers, regular garbage and other things will be accepted.

DETAILS

What: Alpine County Clean-up weekend

When: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 14 and 15

Where: Alpine County Department of Public Works

Info: (530) 694-2140

Items that won't be accepted include tires, rocks, dirt, concrete, stumps, construction debris, slash, or commercial waste.

Shrubs, vegetation, pine needles/cones, grass, leaves, branches and limbs can be dropped off at Turtle Rock Park from now until the end of October, on weekends from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days for the burn pile. While the residents are not involved in the actual burning, the Alpine Fire Safe Council is in charge of managing materials dropped at the park and keeping the bonfire under control.

Julie Ola, editor of the local newsletter "In The Works," said that this is a very successful way to keep the community clean.

"With more advertising it is getting bigger and bigger every year. The surplus sale is bigger than it has ever been before," said Ola.

The 2006 Alpine County cleanup has begun and public works officials said they expect this to be the best year so far. The cleanup usually takes place around April and October of every year.

Alpine events

■ **Chili Challenge.** Woodfords Community Faire & Country Chili & Salsa Challenge, Old Pony Express Road, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Sept. 16 and 17.** Information, (530) 694-2930.

■ **Creek Day.** Creek Day at Markleeville Community Park, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Sept. 30.** Information, (530) 694-2327.

■ **Open Studios.** Markleeville Artists Autumn Open Studios.

Markleeville environs, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Oct. 7 and 8.** Information, (530) 694-2253.

■ **Slide Show.** Tony Rowell slide show, 6:30 p.m. reception, show starts at 7 p.m. **Sept. 22** in the Hope Valley Outdoors Center. Information, (530) 694-2266.

■ **Equinox Celebration.** Beer and pie tasting 1-4 p.m. **Sept. 23** at the Hope Valley Outdoors Center. Information, (530) 694-2266.

Alpine County is the birthplace for five rivers

Where can you go to pay homage to the birthplace of five roaring rivers and the aquatic organisms that make those waterways healthy? And also, where you can listen to live music by Acoustic Solution while eating free lunch and learning how to create a fish print upon your free tee shirt?

Alpine Creek Day organizer Lorraine Craik holds the answer to these questions. The five rivers that have their headwaters in Alpine County are: the Carson, Mokelumne, Stanislaus, Truckee and American, and people may demonstrate their respect for these rivers by turning out for Alpine Creek Day. Craik says that volunteers who appear at the Alpine County Library Park in Markleeville on 9 a.m. Sept. 30, will be given the opportunity to participate in all of the aforementioned activities, plus even more.

Alpine Creek Day participants also will be led by team captains in projects that will include helping to restore the meadow at Grover Hot Springs State Park, removing noxious weeds and trash, stenciling storm drains with warnings, releasing 100 pounds of trout into the stream, learning about fish habitat, experiencing an

interactive watershed model, receiving educational literature, trying to win raffle prizes and listening to fish stories for tots read by librarian assistant Sonja Helfenstein.

"Alpine Creek Day presents a wonderful opportunity for community members of all ages to help preserve our waters for future generations," said Laura Lueders, Alpine Watershed Coordinator.

This event is the fifth annual Alpine Creek Day, initiated by the Sierra Nevada Alliance and then followed up by the Alpine Watershed Group. Other partners are Carson River Subconservancy District, California State Parks, Central Sierra Resource and Conservation Development, the Rose Foundation, Friends of Hope Valley and Alpine County.

After arriving at the park at 9 a.m., being assigned to a team and working on designated projects for a couple of hours, volunteers will return to the park to celebrate their accomplishments.

Acoustic Solutions will play music from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the just-finished rama-da-style band shell, while folks enjoy their free lunch, catered by Dave Kirby of Woodfords Station.

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

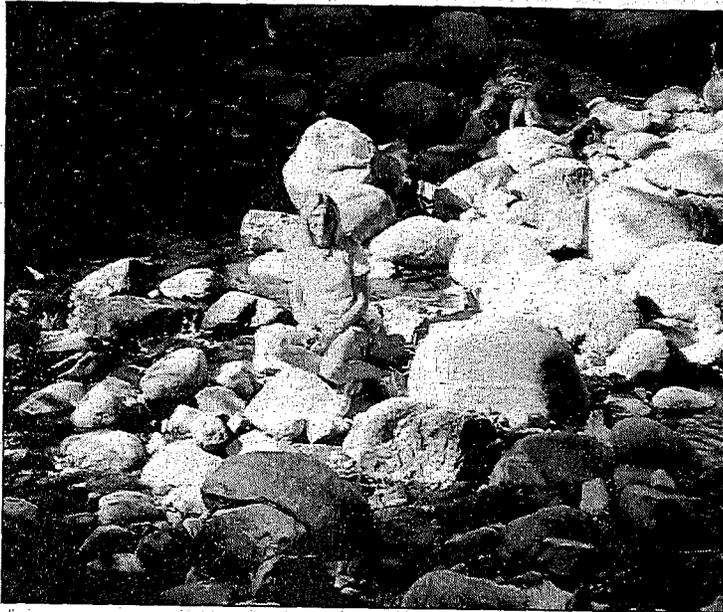
Event organizer Craik, a four-year resident of Woodfords, is married to John Craik who grew up in Alpine County. She and Ginger Craik, her mother-in-law, have become citizen water monitors for the Alpine Watershed Group.

"Ginger and I go out four times a year to our designated spot in the West Carson River and conduct tests on the quality of the water. We test for Ph, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, temperature, depth and conductivity. We go to the same site each time, so the seasonal differences are readily apparent."

As the mother of Ethan, 7, and Mackenzie, 6, Lorraine Craik said "Stewardship of our watershed is important because it affects the future of our children and environment. I've been volunteering as a water monitor for two years."

Lorraine and John enjoyed living nine years in Colorado, but they moved to Alpine County to be near family. Their kids play soccer and the whole fami-

Sept. 22, 2006



GINA GIGLI/The R-C

Alpine Watershed Coordinator Laura Lueders.

ly skis at Kirkwood. At one time, Lorraine thought to be a forest ranger, but since she was always creative, she went to Brooks College in Long Beach, Calif., to study fashion design.

Now, Craik not only is a seamstress and designer, but also is a painter of interior walls, including faux painting, and a tilesetter. Her artistic talents are appreciated by her husband, who has a contracting business, "Big John."

During Alpine Creek Day,

Lorraine and Sonja Helfenstein will assist kids in creating fish prints. Parents can choose whether their child will use washable paint-on-paper or permanent silkscreen paint on the free T-shirt. Fish printing origi-

nated in Japan in the early 1800s, when Japanese fishermen measured their fish that way. The craft is called "Gyotaku" — fish rubbing — gyo = fish, taku = rubbing. Gyotaku (pronounced ghio-takoo) is a good way to gain appreciation of the beauty of aquatic organisms.

The Alpine Watershed Group extends a warm welcome to people of all ages to participate in Alpine Creek Day on Sept. 30, to learn how to protect the quality of our waters and the health of our landscapes. For further information, phone Laura Lueders at (530) 694-2327.

A gentle hint: Be sure to wear old clothes to participate in the restoration work of Alpine Creek Day.

■ Gina Gigli is a Markleeville resident. Reach her at ginagigli@vil-lagigli.com

Alpine events

■ **Fire Safe.** Community Meeting, sponsored by the Alpine Fire Safe Council, Alpine County Administration Boardroom, 9 a.m. **Saturday.** Information, Jeff Brees, (530) 694-2791

■ **Creek Day.** Alpine Creek Day at Markleeville Community Park, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Sept. 30.** Information, Laura Lueders, (530) 694-2327.

■ **Autumn Art.** Markleeville Artists Autumn Open Studios, Markleeville environs, 11 a.m. to

4 p.m. **Oct. 7 and 8.** Pick up free map of artists' studios at the Alpine Visitor Center in Markleeville. Information, Gina Gigli, (530) 694-2253.

■ **Autumn Splash.** Markleeville Autumn Splash, meet at Alpine County Community Park and then walk to Grover Hot Springs

State Park 8 a.m. **Oct. 14** Phone the library for more information at 530-694-2120.

■ **Autumn Splash.** County Clean Up Weekend, Alpine County Department of Public Works Yard, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Oct. 14 and 15.** Information, (530) 694-2140.

Sept. 29, 2006

Treasure-seekers visit Alpine

Follow the free map issued at the Alpine County Visitor Center in Markleeville on Oct. 7 and 8, and treasures will reveal themselves in various guises. The fourth annual Markleeville Artists Autumn Open Studios, extending from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day, marks the height of the colorful foliage in Alpine County and the desire of area artists to share this bounty with others.

Map-followers not only will be treated to a full spectrum of colors in nature's own palette of aspen leaves, but also to a wide array of artistic media at the artists' studios.

Alert treasure-seekers will discover valuable troves of art hidden among the displays of an eclectic collection of 18 artists. As for the jewel-like aspen leaves, whether they are set in brilliant sky-blue hue or in silvered cloudy color, they will be beautiful. Even when skies are gray, the golden orbs appear to be illuminated within themselves as they shimmer in the soft breeze.

Some years ago, I overheard Sandy Baenen talking in the library to Alpine County Librarian Bessie Platten about the possibility of area artists opening their studios once a year to the public. While I thought it was a grand idea, I was somewhat skeptical about the artists coming together cohesively, because it's no secret that artists don't like to attend meetings.

We have succeeded in organizing ourselves by having potluck get-togethers instead of meetings and setting our egos aside for the greater good. A



After a "get-together" some of the Markleeville Artists display their artwork.

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

small but efficient group deals with the nitty-gritty; Sandy Baenen uses her talents of graphic design to implement postcards, signs, banners and maps – all bearing her distinctive aspen leaf, mountain peak and sun ray logo, sculptor Jeff Brees handles the money, and painter Charles Muench and I share writing chores. Then there are the "banner boys," Brees, Muench, photographer Todd Branscombe and potter Mark Vaughn. They put up signs, large announcement banners at Woodfords Station and Markleeville Gas, along with the bright "Bali" banners sewn by fibre artist Deirdre Wallace

that mark each home-studio on the tour. Pastel artist Evelyn Yonker is helping Baenen distribute materials. Dave Brees, husband of sculptor Jan Brees, volunteers each year to sit at the registration table on the porch of the visitor center. This year, bead-crafter Dale Bennett will be selling Indian tacos. All of the artists distribute postcards announcing our popular October event.

Artists who will be opening their studios to the public are Diamond Valley Road metal sculptor Susan Flakus; Mesa Vista pastel artist and sculptor Evelyn Yonker. In the town of Markleeville, studios opening include Washo Indian bead-crafter Dale Bennett on the visitor center porch; designer Sandy Baenen; watercolorist Peter Chope; watercolor and oil painter Linda Lindsay Stallcup; pen and ink artist and potter Tanya Berger; fibre artist

Deirdre Wallace; and etcher and mask-maker Gina Gigli. Artists in Markleeville are topiary and garden sculptor Jeff Brees; nature sculptor Jan Brees; chocolatier-sculptor Debra Esteban; plein-air oil painter Charles Muench; nature photographer Todd Branscombe; bead-crafter and basket-maker Kay Jobst; potters Carolyn and Mark Vaughn; and photographer Jennifer Vaughn.

The Markleeville Artist group invites all artists and crafters, with addresses that include the name "Markleeville" and with self-created artwork, to join in their endeavors.

Sponsors, whose generous contributions help make this locally-grown event free of government funding are; Hope Valley Outdoors, Yonker Construction, The Deli, Markleeville General Store, Sunrise Construction, Villa Gighl Trattoria and Wolf Creek.

Markleeville Artists Autumn Open Studios is growing in popularity – last year over 400 people attended the event during the weekend. The focus of the artists is evolving into the promotion and appreciation of visual arts in Markleeville via planned expansion of education by artist-in-residence and scholarship programs.

For further information, phone (530) 694-2253, visit www.charlesmuench.com, or e-mail ginagigli@gbis.com

■ Gina Gigli is a Markleeville resident. Reach her at ginagigli@gbis.com

Alpine Events

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Works Yard, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Oct. 14 and 15.** Information, (530) 694-2140.

CORRECTION

GINA GIGLI/The R-C
Lorraine Craik sits among boulders in autumnal Markleeville Creek, the "middle" fork of the Carson River. The wrong person was listed in a caption in the Sept. 22 edition.

Alpine Creek Day is Saturday

by April Epps
Staff Writer

The annual Alpine Creek Days will be 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday.

Participants will meet at the Alpine County Library Park in Markleeville.

The watershed stewardship program will be doing restoration projects, protection projects, and activities to teach residents why keeping rivers and streams healthy is important.

"The goal is to involve community members in protecting the Alpine County watersheds," said Laura Lueders, Alpine Watershed Coordinator.

This is the fifth year that Alpine Creek Day has taken place, and it is a family event.

There is a large influence of educational activities.

"With 50 to 200 participants

in a county with about 150 residents, it has been very successful," said Lueders.

Activities include a meadow restoration project at Grover Hot Springs State Park, noxious weed and trash removal, storm drain stenciling, interactive, watershed model and educational literature, arts and crafts, free lunch, T-shirts, raffle, story time for tots and a fish release and fish habitat education.

"We are most proud of the fish release," said Lueders. "People of all ages come out to release 100 pounds of trout into the stream."

Sponsors for the event include Alpine County, Friends of Hope Valley, the Rose Foundation, Carson River Subconservancy District, California State Parks and many more.

R-C Oct 6, 2006

Preservation of history

Planks from saw mill find new resting place in Alpine

by Jonni Hill
Staff Writer

The Alpine County Museum curators are excited about a piece of Alpine history they will now have on display in their newly renovated "carriage shed." Two of the walls are now lined with the 140-year-old planks milled on sight at the Davidson saw mill which are some of the remains of the mill itself, located within sight of present-day Highway 4 heading to Ebbetts Pass.

The mill as well as an eight-stamp quartz mill, the Buckey No. 2 Mine and other holdings, all located near Silver Mountain some 9 miles south of Monitor on Silver Creek, a tributary of the East Carson River, became the property of a Scotsman by the name of Lewis Chalmers who, in the fall of 1869, purchased the mining concerns and renamed it the Exchequer.

Chalmers was born on the east coast of Scotland in the town of Fraserburgh in Aberdeenshire on March 9, 1825. He married Elizabeth Ann Gordon Cameron in 1850, and they had one son, Lewis William Chalmers. Sadly, Cameron passed away in childbirth in 1851. He remarried a year and a half later, to Ellen Miller MacEwen, who bore him four children.

In 1864 he moved to London, taking a position with the firm of Matthey & Company, "assayers and smelters to the Bank of England." Within a year he joined the Imperial Silver Quarries Company where he was bitten by the "silver bug" and soon sailed to the United States as the company agent, arriving in the town of Monitor in Alpine County, Nov. 9, 1866.

Chalmers sailed for America, leaving a wife and his five children, and hopefully enough funds to see them through until his return. But that return was long in coming.

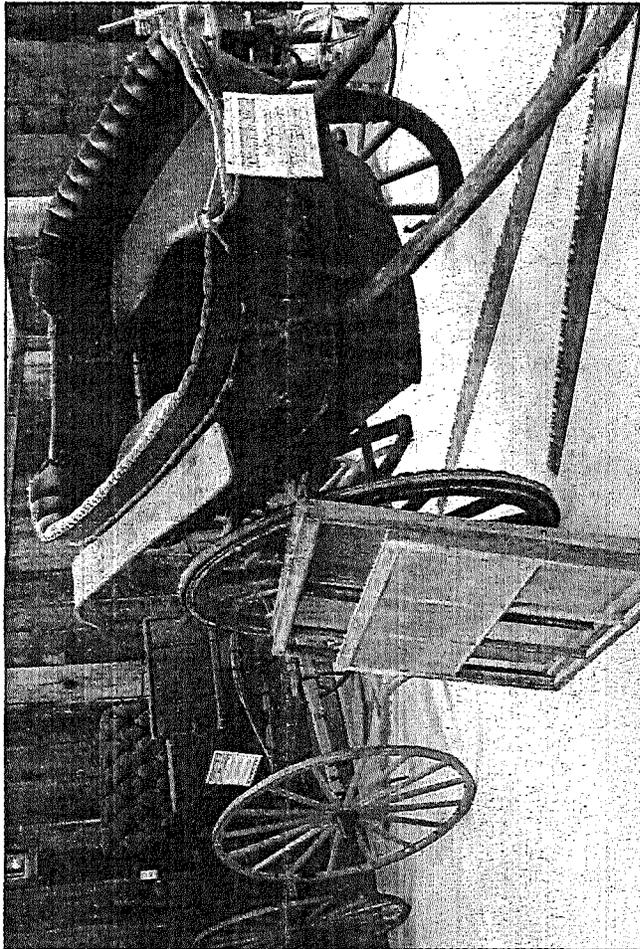
After several failed ventures, Chalmers acquired the properties he renamed the Exchequer and built himself a fine home which has come to be known as Chalmers Mansion. His brother, Captain John Chalmers, came to America to help manage the mine. In the spring of 1870 he arrived at Silver Mountain and set about his work — erecting a building for the miners, grading a road to the mill and opening the shafts, drifts and winzes of the Exchequer. But, extracting the precious silver from the recalcitrant ore proved hard to almost impossible. Hard Alpine winters hinder progress and the Chalmers brothers could not pound a profit from the quartz they milled.

Almost from the beginning, Lewis Chalmers had maintained a housekeeper. When his current housekeeper, Mrs. Kelly, left for San Francisco, she recommended a friend, Antoinette Laughton, who had a baby boy. Antoinette enchanted the entire town when she stepped off the stage in Silver Mountain and Chalmers was infatuated. Antoinette, a strikingly attractive girl of 20, was disillusioned by a poor marriage and divorce, was subtly conniving and understandably suspicious of men's motives, but she charmed the then widower Chalmers. Although he was 30 years her senior, he was still considered the catch of the county.

Chalmers and Antoinette (Nettie) were eventually married in San Francisco and from that union they had a son and a daughter. They returned to their Exchequer holdings and still continued to search for the silver Chalmers doggedly maintained was there for the taking. By January 1884, with mines shut down and creditors demanding sale, Chalmers returned to England for the

See **Preservation** on page 6

Part II 2006 missing?



JONNI HILL/The R-C

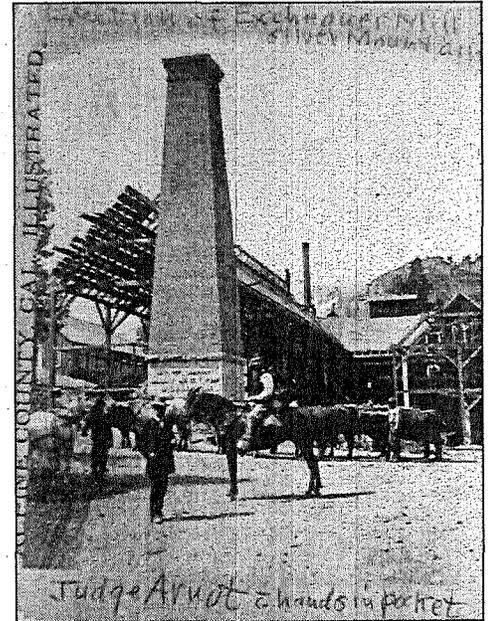


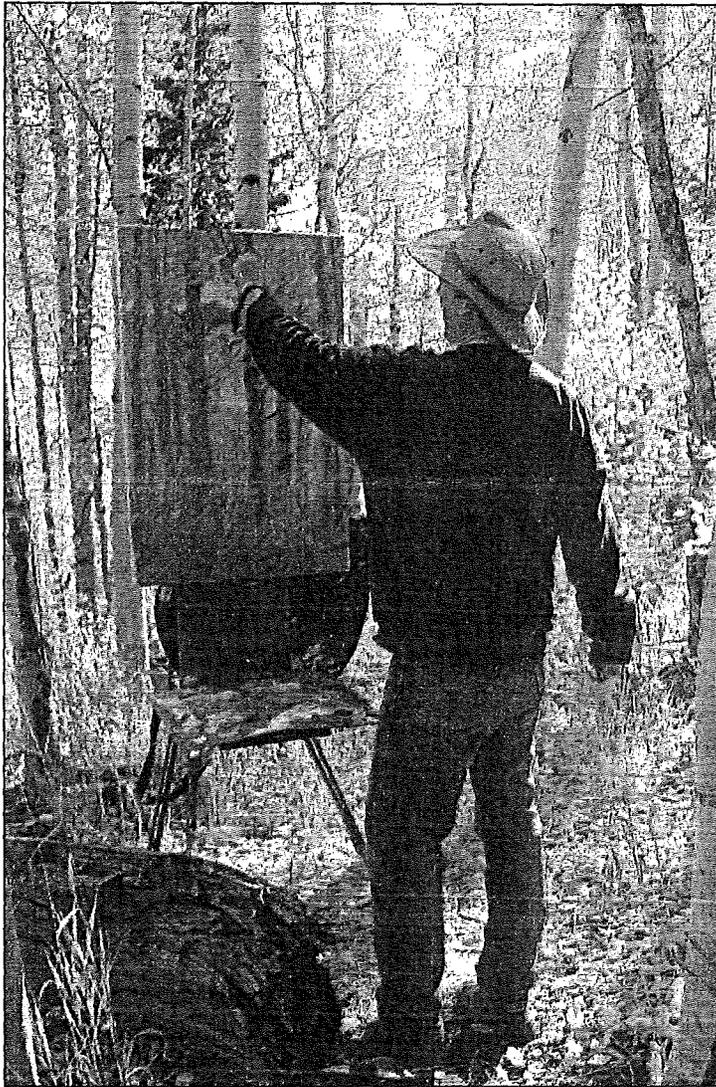
PHOTO COURTESY OF ALPINE COUNTY MUSEUM



From top: Restored planks from the Exchequer Mill are a backdrop to an Irish cart in the "carriage house" at the Alpine County Museum. The Exchequer Mill, Silver Mountain, was purchased by Lewis Chalmers, located off Highway 4 in Alpine County. Boards for the carriage house came from the remains of the mill. The chimney still exists, as seen in this silhouette, just a few yards from Chalmers Mansion.

JONNI HILL/The R-C

10-6-06



SPECIAL TO THE R-C

Charles Muench captures the true feeling of Alpine County in a plein-air setting among brilliant aspens that have made Alpine County an autumn destination. Muench is one of the artists to participate in the fourth annual Markleeville Artists Autumn Open Studios Tour "Changing of the Leaves" 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Art, nature unfolded in Alpine studio tour

Staff Reports

As in the past three years, art and nature lovers from the Valley and beyond will drive to Markleeville to witness changing of the leaves in both local art studios and in the surrounding countryside.

Changing of the Leaves is the name of the fourth annual Markleeville Artists Autumn Open Studios tour, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 7-8.

The crisp feeling of fall is in the air and the aspens are on the verge of changing into their festive autumn dress of brilliant golds and vibrant oranges. More than a dozen Markleeville artists are preparing to celebrate the "Changing of the Leaves" by opening their studios to the public.

This event will feature the studios of Linda Stallcup, Sandy Baenan, Jeff Brees, Jan Brees, Peter Choep, Todd Brandscombe, Susan Flakus, Gina Gigli, Kaye Jobst, Charles

Muench, Mark and Carolyn Vaughn, Jennifer Vaughn, Debra Esteban, Deidre Wallace and Tanya Berger, Evelyn Yonker and Dale Bennett.

The celebration of art and the welcome to fall in Alpine County is sponsored, in part, by Villa Gigli, Sunrise Construction, Yonker Construction, Wolf Creek Restaurant, Markleeville General Store, The Deli and Hope Valley Outdoors.

A free map of the tour will be available at the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce, the first building on the right as you come into town on Highway 89 from Carson Valley and Woodfords. The map is a helpful guide, for those making the tour, to all the different stops along the way as well as a small introduction to help acquaint the visitors to each artist on the tour.

For more information on this event visit the Web site www.charlesmuench.com or by calling Villa Gigli, (530) 694-2253.

RC 10/6/06

Oct. 6, 2006

Colorful autumn events scattered over Alpine

Just as copper, brass, bronze and gold deciduous leaves are falling from trees in Alpine County, so are colorful events being scattered over the area during the month of October.

This weekend, maps for the fourth annual Markleeville Artists Autumn Open Studios will be handed out at the visitor center, the first building on your right as you enter town. Artists' studios will be open Saturday and Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The public is invited to this free event to tour studios of 18 Markleeville artists in 12 locations, with views from those working studios of mountain peaks, pastures, creeks and rivers, with aspen trees promising to be at the height of their glory.

This will be a rare opportunity to meet the artists in their home/studio settings and inquire how they come up with ideas for their works, including metal sculptures, oil paintings, collages, pottery, beadwork, etchings, baskets, drawings, watercolors, photographs, pastels, acrylic paintings, papier-mâché masks, enhanced gourds, knitted and crocheted hats and pouches, illustrations, clay sculptures, greeting cards, books, dog leashes, garden

sculptures and edible chocolate creations.

■ Another interactive event celebrating autumn that will occur the following weekend Oct. 14 is the Markleeville Autumn Splash.

In the words of Alpine County Librarian Bessie Platten, "Smell the sagebrush and pines, listen to the murmur of the creek, and absorb the splendor of autumn's bright colors. At the same time, know that you are helping to raise funds for our library technology program."

The Friends of the Library and the Library Commission invite everyone who would enjoy a leisurely walk to Grover Hot Springs to join them at 8 a.m. in the library parking lot. At the end of the 4-mile easy walk, dip into the hot spring pool and ease any tired muscles.

Platten says, "Relax and enjoy the cool morning under the blue sky, warm mineral-rich water and conversation with companions." A shuttle bus will transport "Autumn Splashers" back to the library between 11 a.m. and noon, where a gourmet salad bar will be awaiting them at the newly renovated Markleeville Community Park.

Participants are asked to donate a minimum of \$15 for the use of the pool, all-you-can-eat salad bar, and bottled water for the walk.

For those who cannot make the walk, another option is available — the gourmet 20-item salad bar at the park will be open between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Just weigh your plate on a scale, pay \$3 per pound and give a donation to the library technology fund.

Local and state government agencies, community organizations, interest groups, and families are encouraged to attend as a group and walk together. Neighboring communities are encouraged to participate. Pre-registration is highly recommended, so that the organizers can estimate the amount of food for the salad bar. Please contact the Alpine County Library for more information at (530) 694-2120.

■ Need an excuse to get rid of house and yard junk? Oct. 14 and 15, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. marks just such an opportunity, because the Alpine County Department of Public Works will be taking trash at the county yard in the form of household garbage, washers, dryers, water heaters, stoves,

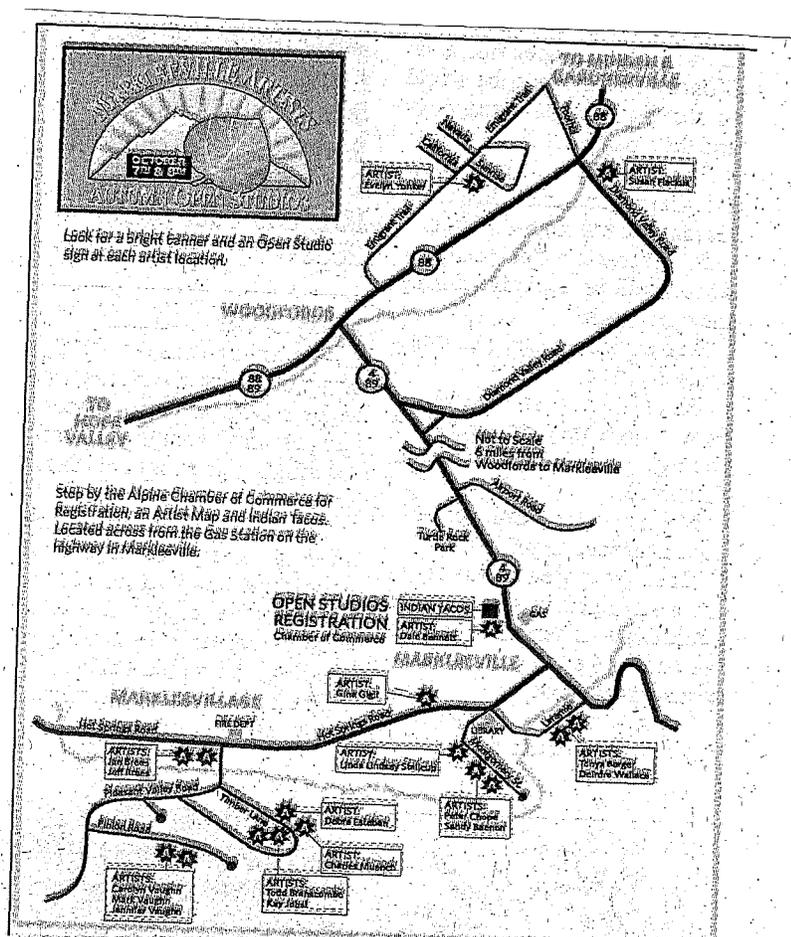
car batteries, computers, and monitors, intact TVs, florescent bulbs in original packaging and refrigerators and freezers with on-site Freon removal provided.

Edie Veatch, representing the Alpine Children's Center, will be on hand to accept useable rummage, such as equipment, furniture, clothing and sporting goods to be sold at a later date at the surplus sale to benefit the center. Indian tacos will be offered for sale at County Clean Up Weekend.

The following items will not be accepted; tires, rocks, dirt, concrete, stumps, construction debris, slash or commercial waste.

Natural vegetation, such as pine needles and cones, shrubs, grass, leaves and branches can be dropped off at the county burn pile at Turtle Rock Park through the end of October, on weekends from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

■ Gina Gigli is a Markleeville resident. Reach her at ginagigli@gbis.com.



Alpine Events

■ **Open Studios.** Autumn Open Studios. Markleeville environs, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Saturday and Sunday.** Pick up free map of artists' studios at the Alpine Visitor Center in Markleeville. Information, Gina Gigli, (530) 694-2253.

■ **Highway Dedication.** Robert Jackson Memorial Highway Dedication. Monitor Pass, 10 a.m.

Wednesday. Presented by California State Senator Dave Cox. Reception to follow at Alpine County Museum at noon.

■ **Potluck Lunch.** Fifty Plus Club Potluck Lunch. Early Learning Center, **Oct. 12.** Alpine County Public Health Nurse to speak about adult immunization, noon to 4 p.m. Information, Sherri Smith, (530) 694-2235.

■ **Autumn Splash.** Meet at 8 a.m. at Markleeville Community Park and then walk to Grover

Hot Springs State Park, **Oct. 14.** Information, Alpine County Library, (530) 694-2120.

■ **Clean-up Weekend.** County Clean Up Weekend. County Yard, Woodfords, **Oct. 14 and 15,** 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Information, Alpine County Department of Public Works (530) 694-2140.

■ **Home Care.** Home Death Care for Families. Woodfords, **Oct. 26 and 27,** workshop with Nancy Jewel Poer. Information, Dianna Mitzner (530) 694-9691.

OUTDOORS

Bear Valley's owners have big plans

New high-speed quad leads way for many changes

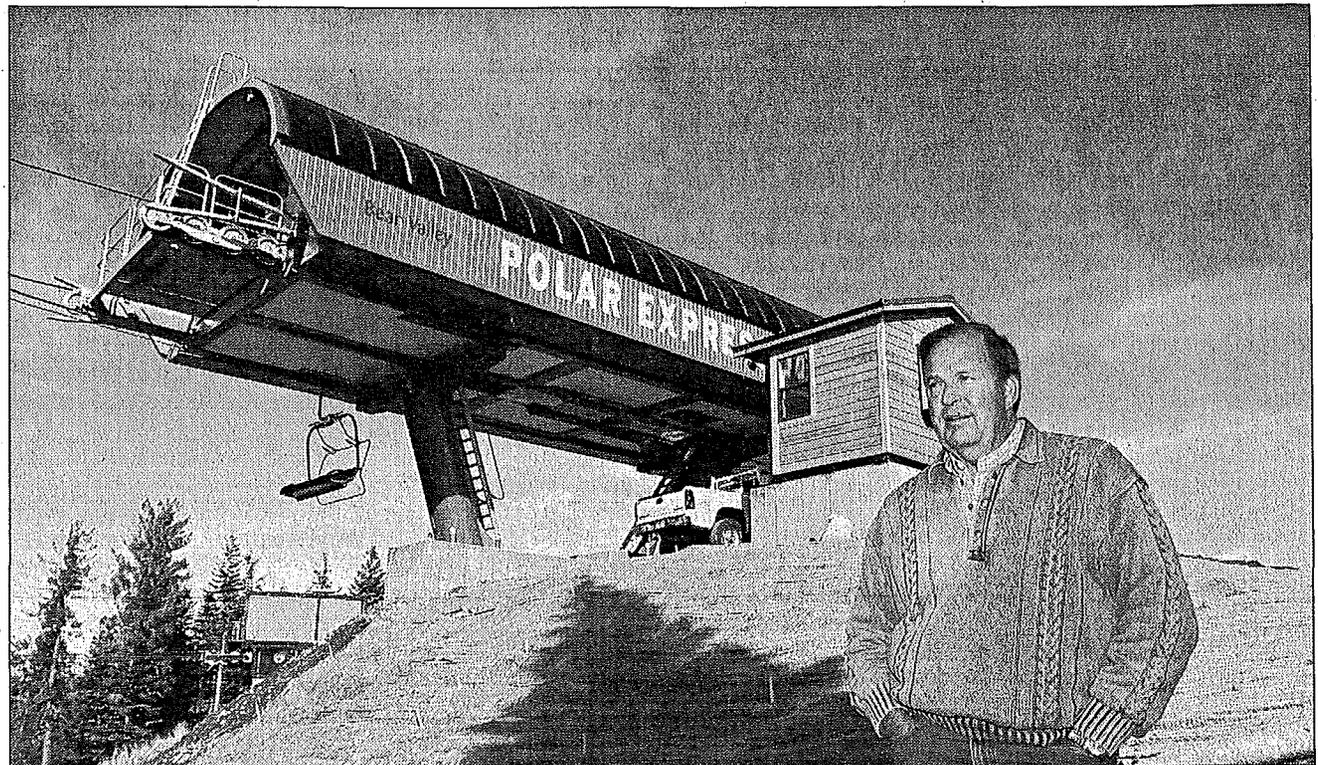
By Paul McHugh

CHRONICLE OUTDOORS WRITER

Under its new team of owners, Bear Valley's modest winter sports mecca seems poised to grow into a spectacular destination. That's also been an aim of resorts like Kirkwood and Mammoth Mountain, where corporate investors have bet heavily on the notion that "If we really build things up, they will come."

In a ski/snowboard industry that essentially displays flat growth, operators must outmaneuver each other for a wider slice of the patronage pie. In bucolic Bear Valley, a remarkable makeover has been launched. Its authors want their end result to embody a keynote theme: family-friendly.

When California's greatest overland explorer chose to cross the snowbound Sierra in 1827, he blazed a trail that still



Photos by STEVE YEATER / Special to The Chronicle

makes plenty of sense. Jedediah Strong Smith went straight up the Stanislaus River Canyon toward 8,730-foot Ebbetts Pass. En route, he cruised right by the site of present-day Bear Valley.

It's a small village with a huge cross-country ski zone (45 miles of groomed trails) and a medium-size downhill area (1,280 acres, 1,900 feet of vertical), and it all retains that asset of accessibility. You can reach this place without cresting any high Sierra passes. In winter, that makes it easier to get to, plus unlikely that you'll be stuck after you arrive.

Another strength: This region remains resonantly green and rural. Alpine County has 96 percent of its land base in national forests. Bear Valley lounges amid it all.

However, for decades Bear Valley's recreational facilities limped along under owners who had grand dreams but not enough capital to usher them to fruition. The ranching Orvis family bought the area in 1952, opening lifts in 1967. Mill operator Maury Rasmussen bought in, then beer distributor Jim Bottomley took over.

Now there's a new guy in town.

"Our intro to Bear Valley came in 1985," said Chuck Toeniskoetter, 62, the San Jose builder spearheading the resort's redevelopment. "I went up there with a daughter. We had gone to Tahoe mostly, before. I noticed what a great place Bear was to be with your family. You could let your kids head out the door and not worry about a thing. We skied for a weekend. By the end of the next week I had tied up my purchase of our first house up there."

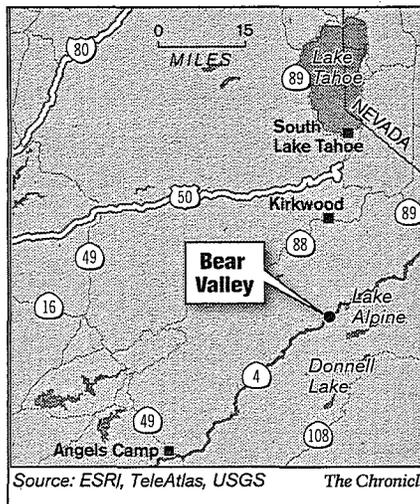
That toehold became a foothold. In 1987, he bought the huge meadow on the south side of Highway 4, across from the village, which had been slated for condo development. There were multiple motives. Toeniskoetter's wife liked to cross-country ski. Getting that meadow and keeping it clear of buildings ensured Paul Petersen's ski center could still run there in winter. And in summer, a ranching operation could continue, and Toeniskoetter wanted his son to participate in it. Toeniskoetter had formative experiences working on a cattle farm in Missouri as a youth.

In for a penny, in for a pound, as they say. By 1990 Toeniskoetter and two fellow Bear Valley buffs acquired all 13 acres of the village on the north side of Highway 4. In partnership with Toronto-based Dundee Realty, responsible for the redevelopment of Colorado's Arapahoe Basin, the team finally landed the downhill ski part of Bear Valley last year. Two Silicon Valley venture capitalists joined the team in 2005.

And now, it's off to the races. Visitors this winter may first note subtle changes: The village lodge and the ski area day lodge have been thoroughly cleaned up and nicely redecorated. Then big changes: The cranky (and aptly named) Hiberna-



Chuck Toeniskoetter, above, the new proprietor of Bear Valley, oversees construction of the new Polar Express high-speed quad chairlift, which offers views of the Mokelumne Wilderness, left. The ski resort is undergoing a redesign that will last several years.



tion Chair on the mountain's southwest face has been replaced by a Poma high-speed quad that will zoom from 7,545 feet to the top of the mountain at 8,495. This new lift also has an apt name: the Polar Express. The main ski lodge has a "sprung" — a portable dome— for extra outside seating, and another for child day care. Big new plasma screens will display real-time lift and slope info.

These improvements aren't a patch on what's to come. The old dream of a lift shooting all the way from the village up to the ski runs — a la the gondola at the Heavenly resort on the south shore of Lake Tahoe — should be realized in three to four years. Simultaneously, construction will begin on a remodeled village with a timber-and-stone look inspired by Yosemite's Ahwahnee Hotel. The full complex will have the same footprint as the existing village, but with concealed

parking and pedestrian walkways and bridges designed so snowbanks can be used as natural building insulation. The ultimate build-out scheme — reckoned as a \$200 million investment — appears ambitious, yet tidy and contained. It involves 365 condominiums in several buildings, including a hotel; retail space would expand from 16,000 square feet to around 24,000; clubs of various descriptions would be built; and there would be some employee housing.

Toeniskoetter emphasizes that the pace of development will be gradual, metered by market results along the way.

"This is a small community," he said. "We want to fit into it, not overwhelm it. Above all, we want to shape this as a place for family adventures, winter and summer, as simple as possible to use. Where you'll drive up, then not have to get back in your car for days, not until you leave. Where you can watch your kids run out the door to do stuff, as I once did, and still not worry a bit."

During the long trek from Bear Valley's present knot of modest and rustic structures to the sleek, chateau-like complex in the plans, an area of concern will be what to keep. The big bear sculptures out front? The main building's giant granite fireplace? Pole framing from the rambling old lodge structure?

This is where Toeniskoetter's construction background comes in handy. One of his specialties was restoration, including projects like the 130-year-old Cathedral Basilica of St. Joseph in San Jose.

Petersen, 48, the region's maven of cross-country skiing, went up there in 1975, carrying five pairs of skis to enjoy a year off, and never left.

SFChronicle. Nov. 9, 2006

The Bear facts

Alpine County covers 700 square miles of the Sierra Nevada range. Besides Bear Valley and Lake Alpine, recreational resources include the Kirkwood mountain resort, Hope Valley, Grover Hot Springs State Park and the towns of Markleeville and Woodfords. (530) 694-2475, or alpinecounty.com.

Bear Valley Mountain Resort

Three to four hours from the Bay Area on Highway 4. Route goes through Angels Camp, Ebbetts Pass, east of the resort, closes in winter. The main village and the downhill ski area are linked by regular shuttles. (209) 753-2301, or bearvalley.com; for lodge, (209) 753-2325, or bearvalleylodge.com.

Mountain Adventure Seminars

Located near the entrance to Bear Valley village, this professional climbing and winter sports school offers an array of telemark ski lessons and trips, guided backcountry snowboarding and snowshoeing, and runs an annual telemark festival, as well as the Base Camp lodge and restaurant. (209) 753-6556, ext. 1, mtadventure.com or basecampplodge.com.

Bear Valley Adventure Company

Paul Petersen's cross-country ski empire is headquartered in a building right by the gas station at the entrance to Bear Valley village. Abundant ski and snowshoe touring in winter, lake kayaking and mountain biking in summer. (209) 753-2834, or bearvalleyxc.com.

Tamarack Lodge

On Highway 4, just west of Bear Valley, (888) 753-2038 or tamarackholiday.com.

Bear Valley village cabins

Scores of vacation homes lining lanes of the village are available to rent. Contact: (209) 753-2334, bearvalleyrealestate.com; bearvalleyvacationrentals.com; bigtreesrealty.com; sierravacationrentals.com.

"Bear Valley is a very special place," Petersen said. "I've invested my entire adult life in being up here. I think Chuck (Toeniskoetter) can help bring it to the next level. There haven't been any new condos built here since 1980.

"What he's got in mind isn't some gratuitous 'scrape-and-rape.' If a huge ski conglomerate got ahold of this place, it could be a different story. But Chuck's plan is a good fit. It's more like the original vision of this resort's founding fathers."

E-mail Paul McHugh at pmchugh@sfchronicle.com.

Nov. 9, 2006

Kirkwood plans Nov. 18 opening

Staff Reports

A second storm has brought more snow to Kirkwood Mountain Resort, offering a preview of the season ahead. Anticipated opening date for Kirkwood is the Saturday prior to Thanksgiving, Nov. 18.

Kirkwood's snow and terrain is consistently ranked as some of the best in North America, as it gets the most snow in Tahoe. In the 2005-06 ski season, the resort reaped 857 inches of snow, which was the most snow in North America.

For a current look at what's going on with weather at Kirkwood, visitors can check the live web cam at: www.kirkwood.com.

For those looking to prepare best for their first day on the slopes, purchase your season pass by Oct. 16, and it will be mailed prior to resort opening allowing skiers and riders to head right to the mountain rather than to the ticket office. Call (209) 258-7254 for more information.

The Kirkwood Job Fair is happening on Oct. 21 at the

South Lake Tahoe Golf Course and at the resort on Nov. 4.

For the latest information on snow conditions and opening date, please visit the Web site.

Located at a base elevation of 7,800 feet, Kirkwood Mountain Resort receives more snow than any other Tahoe resort. The three-year mid-mountain average for snow totals 725".

Recognized by SKI Magazine for having the country's best 'corn' or granular snow (April 2006) and also in the top 10 across the nation in three categories: snow, terrain variety and challenge (Oct. 2005), Kirkwood offers an unmatched experience. Skiing Magazine recently named Kirkwood as one of the Top 15 resorts and in the Top 5 for snow quality and Freeskier Magazine picked Kirkwood as a must ski resort.

Unparalleled expert terrain, a USA Today nationally recognized beginner area, no crowds and just 177 miles from San Francisco via Highway 88, Kirkwood is a popular winter destination.

Staffing, fiscal issues prompt cancellation

Staff Reports

The Alpine County Health Education Department staff has canceled the Alpine County Health Festival scheduled for Nov. 4 at the Early Learning Center.

Although extensive planning began in August 2006 for this

annual event, unforeseen staffing and fiscal issues within the Health and Human Services Department have come up that hinder its ability to have this event as scheduled.

Staff members said they intend to reschedule the event, however, at this time no date has been established.

Oct. 13, 2006

Guest book inscriptions abound in Alpine

Over the past weekend thousands of visitors descended, or even more likely, ascended, upon Alpine County to view the spectacular autumn colors. Many of them recorded their brief visitation by signing guest books at the fourth annual Markleeville Artists Autumn Open Studios.

I encouraged gallery-gazers and leaf-peepers to record their impressions of "Autumn in Alpine" in my "open studios" guest book.

Michele Hedebeck, from Reno, writes, "Stunningly beautiful, bursting with colors of yellows and red." Sharon Marie Wilcox of Reno appreciates "the quiet and beauty," while Dan and Gayle Jacquet of Carson City inscribe, "We love Alpine County in the fall for the cumulus clouds and colorful leaves."

Dorothy Jacobs and Jan Wilson from Gardnerville write, "We love the vistas, the scenery, the quaintness and the 'time-warp' of Markleeville." Orita Keebaugh, also of Gardnerville adds, "I love this place!" Joyce Imus from Lake Tahoe pens, "Camera-Crazy!"

Renoites Jack and Jane Sutton write, "beautiful and peaceful area." South Lake Tahoe resident Teresa Bertrand jots down, "wonderful for all of the senses." Serena Zanussi of Sacramento likes "the aspen tree colors." Gardnerville artist Sherry Lugone thinks that, "This year's colors are the most glorious yet!"

Leafing through my guest book, it occurs to me that other folks have signed other types of guest books in Alpine County in the past.

First of all, ancestors of the present-day Washoe Tribe

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

inscribed impressions of their love for nature in the forms of pictographs (painted rock images) and petroglyphs (incised rock images) found in isolated areas of Alpine County.

Along came the emigrants, struggling to surmount the Sierras through deeply-cut and rocky Woodfords Canyon.

These intrepid pioneers sometimes used axle grease from their wagon wheels to record their names and dates upon cliffs in commemoration of their travails, circa 1850.

Author and guide Frank Torrich will be leading his last tour this autumn, called, "Walk the Emigrant Trail," on Oct. 23.

Actual trail evidence at will be revealed at Carson Valley, Carson Canyon, Snowshoe Thompson's cave, three river crossings, Hope Valley, Carson Pass and Caples Lake. For further information, phone Sorensen's Resort, (530) 694-2203.

Basque shepherders were the next folks to sign "guest books-in-the-woods" and leave messages.

Their carvings on aspen trees on high mountain passes signify their need to reflect upon their solitude.

As University of Nevada, Reno Basque historian Jose Mallea-Olaetxe explains, "Trees and leisure time were the raw materials, loneliness supplied the inspiration, and privacy afforded the freedom of expression."

This weekend, naturalist



GINA GIGLI/The R-C

Ramon Borda twice carved this aspen tree; in 1911 with his name and self-portrait and again in 1915.

Chuck Campbell will lead a tour of aspen arborglyphs near Luther Pass.

For more information, phone Hope Valley Outdoors, (530) 694-2266.

Last week, in pursuit of the perfect picnic spot, we inadvertently stumbled into the Borda brothers' grove on Monitor Pass.

Some carvings record just names and dates; others are adorned with Picasso-esque

images of desired females and/or male self-portraits.

My wish is that everyone shall show respect toward these ancient guest books signed by Indians, emigrants and shepherders, and never ever deface or destroy them.

■ Gina Gigli is a Markleeville resident. Reach her at ginaigigli@gbis.com

A true trailblazer



SHANNON LITZ/ R-C photos
Robert Jackson's son, John Jackson, spoke at the dedication ceremony on Monitor Pass in Alpine County on Wednesday. At top, Robert Jackson's daughter, Jeanne Turnbeaugh, listens at the dedication ceremony on Monitor Pass.

California dedicates highway to surveyor

by Jo Rafferty
People Editor

The man who was largely responsible for the completion of State Highway Route 89 over Monitor Pass in the early 1950s, had a portion of the highway dedicated to him on Wednesday.

Three generations of Jacksons celebrated the life of Robert Milton Jackson, a longtime Alpine County resident who was deeply involved in the development of the county's roads prior to his death May 12, 2004, at the age of 91.

Approximately 30 family members joined California State Sen. Dave Cox, District 1, and Alpine County officials at a spot on Monitor Pass, Highway 89, to dedicate the portion of the highway from the Alpine/Mono County line to the junction of highways 89 and 4.

"There are five generations here today," said one of Jackson's three children, John Jackson, the youngest at 52, standing near his sisters, Judy Currence, 54 and Jeanne Turnbeaugh, 56.

"Two (generations) are here in spirit, three in flesh," said Currence.

The group gathered around a sign recognizing the section of Route 89, overlooking a stretch of valley and mountains sprinkled with pine trees and new fallen snow from the day before, as the "Robert M. Jackson Memorial Highway."

Cox presented the highway dedication bill before the Senate in the summer of 2005, and it was adopted April 17 this year.

"Without Sen. Cox this wouldn't have happened. It had to go through the Legislature," said Gunter Kaiser, chairman of the Alpine



Mason Jackson, 12, looks at the sign dedicated to his grandfather Robert Jackson on Monitor Pass in Alpine County.

County Board of Supervisors.

Jackson's grandfather John Robert Ellis, a piano salesman, moved to Alpine County from Diamond Valley, Calif., with his wife Margaret Anne Jones. He worked at and eventually bought the Alpine Hotel in Markleeville in 1907. Ellis also was the county treasurer.

The Ellises gave birth to their first of three children, Mary Ann Ellis, Jackson's mother, in 1893.

Jackson's mother married Charles Milton Jackson, and Mary Ann gave birth to Jackson in Sacramento on Sept. 21, 1912. Jackson was brought home to Alpine County when he was 2 weeks old.

Jackson lived in Markleeville for most of his life, except for spending the winters during his childhood where his dad worked in Los Angeles and Sacramento and three years and 10 months in the Army from 1942-45 during World War II.

In October 1946, Jackson began work with the Alpine County Public Works Department, where he spent more than 30 years surveying, engineering, constructing and realigning many of the county and state highway routes of today. His most significant accomplishment was the completion of 18-mile Highway 89 over Monitor Pass. Much of his work

See **Trailblazer** on page 2
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page 2 missing

Art among the aspens at Markleeville tour

by Jonni Hill
Staff Writer

It was a beautiful weekend in Markleeville following the snows a few days prior to the annual Markleeville Artists Open Studio Tour which took place Oct. 7 and 8. Tour participants were treated to a diversified range of art from 17 participating artists. Mother Nature didn't disappoint visitors either. Against a backdrop of brilliant blue skies, the aspens seem to revel in their freshly washed "fall finery."

"Attendance seems to be up this year," Gina Gigli said about the steady enter and exit of visitors into the Villa Gigli.

Among the artists new to the event was Debra Esteban with her art that is really food. Although it tastes excellent, it's so amazing to look at, people don't have the heart to destroy the work by taking a bite out of it. Also new to the tour this year was Evelyn Yonkers who lives in Woodfords. Yonkers calls her work "realistic abstract."

"You know what the art is about but there has been a little tweaking with color or style to make it more fun," Yonkers said.

Regulars to the event also included Sandy Baenen who provided a new illustration she called her "Mountain Goddess," complete with Raymond Peak and aspen leaves. Dale Bennett did Washoe Indian beadwork and offered Indian tacos for hungry travelers. Tanya Berger displayed her sculptural pottery and whimsical pen-and-ink drawings while professional photographer, Todd Branscombe offered his latest collection of eagles as well as his wildlife, local bears and their cubs, and a variety of mountain and scenic photos. Jan Brees joined her son Jeff Brees at his Gardenworks studio. Jan has added metal mesh



'You know what the art is about but there has been a little tweaking with color or style to make it more fun.'

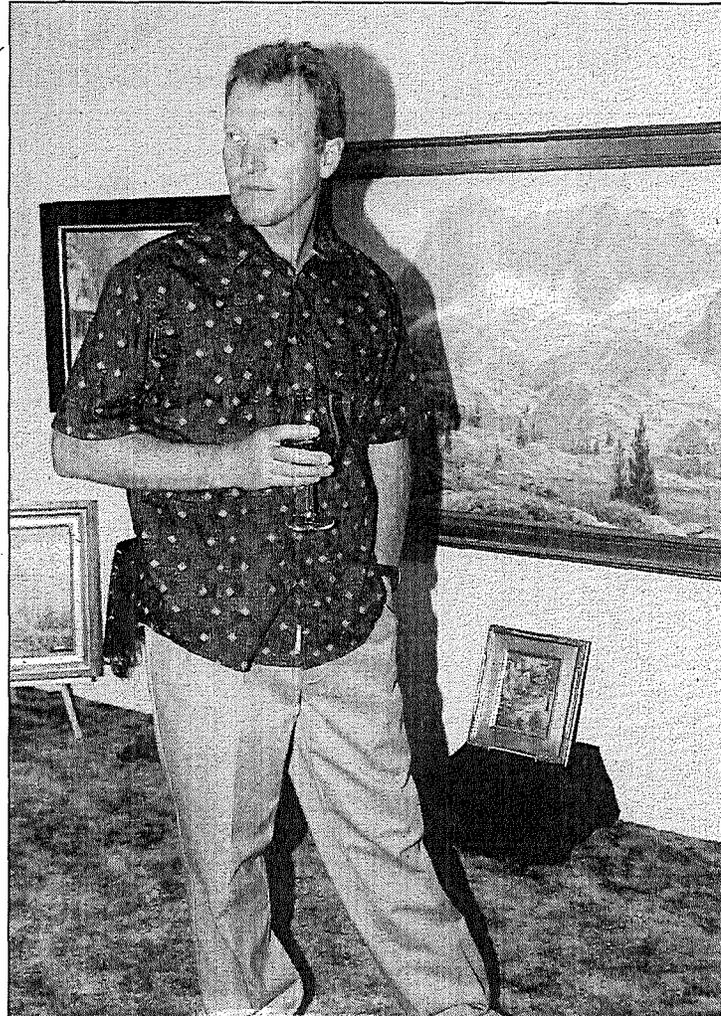
Evelyn Yonkers
Woodfords artist



aspen leaves "The Glory of Autumn" to her collection of oak, sycamore and maple leaves as well as river rock sculpted into birds, each an original. Jeff uses wire and hand-wrought metals to create his topiary and garden sculptures. Peter Chope, recognized by his colorful scenes from Alpine County, turned his talents loose with new paintings of Kirkwood, Mosquito Lake, the Carson River and Arizona. Susan Flakus calls herself the "Steel Magnolia" with good

reason as she works on fine metal art, creating functional art with a whimsical twist. Gourds turned into artwork, intricate pine needle baskets and beaded jewelry were displayed by Kaye Jobst and just up Timber Lane, the studio of Charles Muench revealed new images of Alpine County and the surrounding

Sierra rendered in Muench's warm plein-air style. Linda Lindsay Stallcup displayed her watercolor and oil landscapes of local scenes. Stallcup has been painting for more than 20 years and she exhibits in Laguna Beach, Carmel and Tahoe City galleries. Jennifer Vaughn shared her award-winning pho-



SARAH KING/R-C, Photos

Photographer Todd Branscombe, top, left, with a few of his photos at his home during the Markleeville Artists Autumn Open Studios event on Oct. 7. Also pictured are scarves made by Mary Ellen Zellmer. Artist Charles Muench, above, in his gallery at his home during the open studios event. Artist Debra Esteban, left, shows off some of her creative food candies at her home during the event.

tography at the studio of her parents, Mark and Carolyn Vaughn who create raku pottery which is both functional and artistic. The Vaughns rarely open their studio to the public; so a stop at their studio was an enjoyable experience. The eclectic tour was topped off with Deirdre Wallace, a long-time fiber artist, designer and teacher who displayed a collection of unique crocheted, knitted and felted pouches and hats,

using all natural yarn.

If you missed this fun event, remember, this was the fourth year and plans are already being formulated for same time next year for the fifth annual Markleeville Artist Open Studio Tour. Visit www.charlesmuench.com for more information.

■ Jonni Hill can be reached at jhill@recordcourier.com or 782-5121, ext. 213.

Kirkwood rolls out upgrades

By Susan Wood
Tahoe Daily Tribune

Alpine County's mountain resort will open the 2006-07 ski season with two key markets in mind — women and children.

Kirkwood Mountain Resort is moving mountains for the markets at the former Timber Creek beginner area where two tents are being installed. A year ago, a high-speed chairlift replaced the old version in the area now called Mighty Mountain.

As part of a \$3 million upgrade, one tent will house new rental equipment and ski school facilities for children and Women's Learn to Ride Center. The Burton Snowboards program is designed as a safe haven for adult women learning the art of snowboarding.

"This is a significant improvement — especially for beginners — to improve our service and traffic flow over here," said Kirkwood General Manager Chip Seamans, who knows what it's like to learn — especially on the icy hills of the East Coast.

The 48-year-old ski executive grew up skiing the Pocono mountains in Pennsylvania as early as age 8. And he has children who are working on the snowsports — Malcolm, 9, and Mattie, 10.

Seamans, who said he's

This is a significant improvement — especially for beginners — to improve our service and traffic flow over here.'

Chip Seamans
Kirkwood General Manager

excited about his arrival, joined the resort after spending years in the ski resort industry. He was managing director at Sunday River Ski Resort in Bethel, Maine, from 1998 to 2003. Afterward, he worked as vice president and director of claims and loss control for Willis of New Hampshire.

He strolled the Timber Creek work area going into his first season as chief operating officer.

The small, old building with cramped quarters was torn down in May. In its place, crews are furiously at work getting the tents up. They serve as a two-year solution before a permanent structure is built.

The other tent, which offers retail and a food outlet, is closer to the Palisades, the first of five phases of single family homes for the ski-in, ski-out visitor and resident. Some of the homes will be ready for the upcoming season, adding to a bed base of an estimated 1,500 in 650 units.

At full capacity, Kirkwood

may accommodate 6,500 people in the valley.

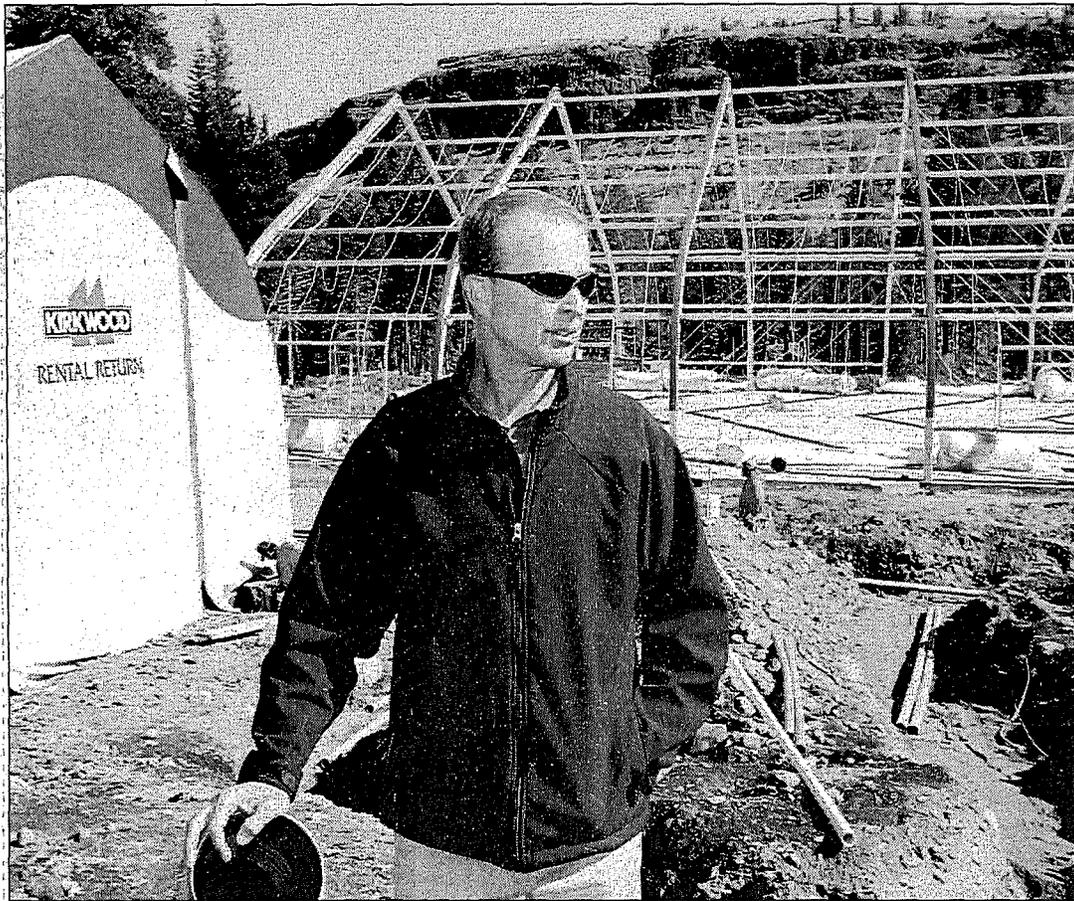
Kirkwood management has many plans for the future of the resort, including the replacement of at least one chairlift.

But in the grand plans for a remote ski area, amenities and programs are the name of the game for the destination traveler seeking a place to settle for longer than overnight stay.

Kirkwood goes into the season with more programs including practical clinics designed to hone skills and find new ones. The clinics, which are run out of an office in the Kirkwood plaza, were established by women for women because the burgeoning market is known to learn better outside a competitive male arena. Gear specifically designed for women will be available for demos.

Snowcat skiing will return to the mountain. In the coming years, skiing the craggy Martin Point is one option that's part of a future plan.

Oct. 20, 2006



JIM GRANT /Tahoe Daily Tribune

Chip Seamans, general manager and chief operating officer at Kirkwood Mountain Resort, looks over the improvements being worked on at the Timber Creek beginner ski area.

Darting fish and tumbled stones

Reviewing my notes taken at the new gift shop, the Odd Pony, in Woodfords reminds me of the party game where the hostess displays a selection of items on a tray to all guests for a brief amount of time. After the tray is whisked out of sight, the guest who lists the most objects is declared the winner and is awarded a prize.

I feel like I am a winner, and I came away with a prize, even though I can't remember all of the items displayed in the Odd Pony.

If you walk into the shop from the door by the kitchen counter of Woodfords Station, a large aquarium with darting fish is captivating. If you enter from the front door on the porch, real leaves that have been alchemized magically into gold or ruby-red catch the eye. If you walk past the frog fountain, the tiny fairy sculptures, the stuffed "night mares" or the knobby-knitted long and narrow scarves, the tie-dyed silky dresses and skirts, you might focus on the tumbled-stone bracelets in the basket on the back counter.

This was the first time that I met the Odd Pony owner Roma Morris, and I was struck by her platinum hair, flowing aquamarine dress, tumbled-stone necklace and bracelet and quiet demeanor.

Even though this resident of Woodfords only has had her shop open for a month, she told me that she's been on a long quest to seek out the most unusual, reasonably-priced gifts. Above all, her wish is to provide a friendly and comfortable place to relax. Roma is planning to host small workshops in her place and explains, "I don't have any firm dates so far, but there seems to be interest in stones and crystals and their properties, drumming, and personal awareness and development. I look forward to any suggestions that the locals



GINA GIGLI/The R-C
Roma Morris inside the Odd Pony.

might have."

She likes meeting the people who come into the Odd Pony and says, "You never know who will stop in! The slow pace of Woodfords, and the nature of a gift shop, provides me with the opportunity to not only get to know my neighbors, but also to speak with many visitors from other areas and even other countries. I consider myself a lifelong learner and am fascinated by the differing perspective and experiences of all the people that I meet."

Women may describe their favorite treasures in a handmade "wish book" and before birthdays or anniversaries, when friends or family members are drinking coffee or buying lottery tickets in Woodfords Station, they can then peek into the book to have ideas revealed. As Roma says, "This makes it painless for guys to shop for their loved ones."

Roma is embarking upon her third career. She was first in real estate and then was co-founder of an investment analysis firm.

"Although those occupations brought a certain sense of satisfaction and prosperity, I never really felt like I was making much of a difference. When people come into the Odd Pony,

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

they always seem happy. Happy to have found something unusual for a loved one that is hard to shop for, happy to have found something that makes them laugh, or simply happy to have found an unexpected treasure that brings them joy or comfort personally. I feel really good about that, and no longer lay in bed at nights wondering if what I do is worthwhile (which is something that often plagued me before)."

Roma expresses gratitude to those who have contributed toward making her gift shop a reality.

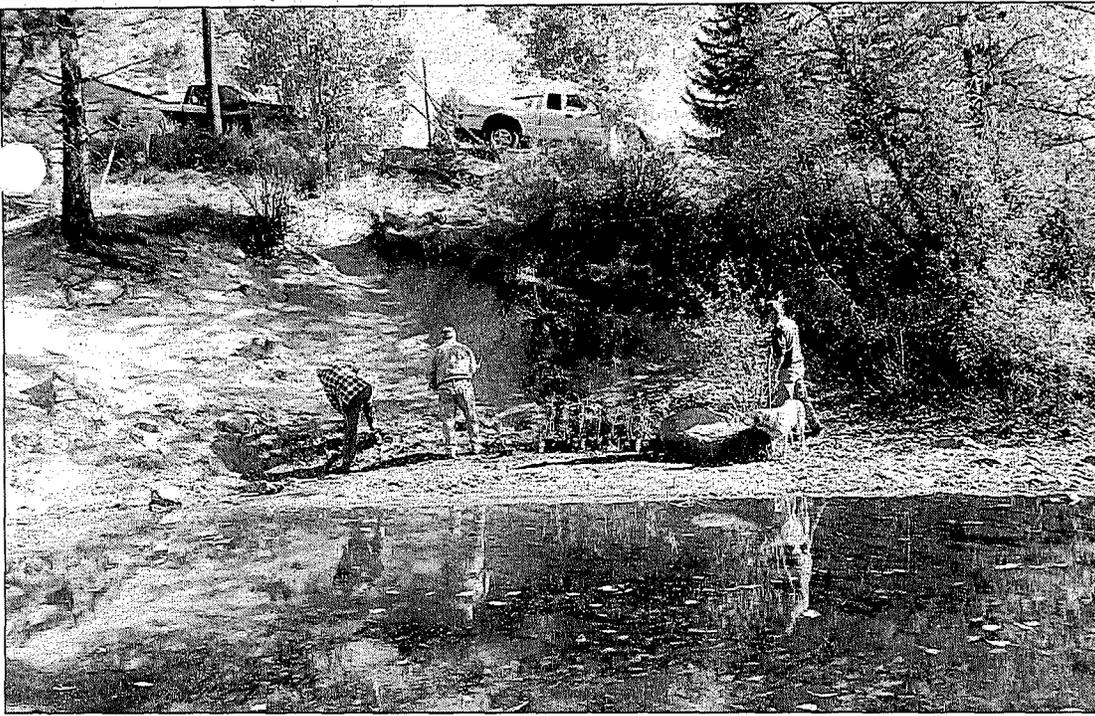
"Dave and Lynda Kirby not only have provided the space, but have been a source of inspiration and knowledge and put up with all the frou-frou that now is attached to their general store. Also, I appreciate my significant other, Ed, who has donated countless hours of labor, remodeling, display design and incredible faux painting, my son Ian and his friends for all their labor, my daughter Brandy, who covers for me on occasion and has an incredible flair for decorating and Missy Wolf for providing many of the display cabinets."

In case you're wondering what prize I won from my "remembrance game" notes, it's my new friendship with Roma.

The Odd Pony is located on Old Pony Express Road in Woodfords and is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day, except for Tuesdays and Wednesdays "when the pony has to graze." The phone number is (530) 694-2605.

■ Gina Gigli is a Markleeville resident. Reach her at ginagigli@vil-lagigli.com.

R-C
Oct. 27, 2006



GINA GIGLI/The R-C

High Sierra Flycasters Club members assist Alpine Watershed Coordinator Laura Lueders in re-vegetating and restoring the deeply eroded bank of Markleeville Creek in front of Markleeville General Store.

Some things never change

“Should we change the name of the new bookmobile to ‘bookmobile library?’” asked Alpine County Librarian Bessie Platten at a recent meeting of the library commission. Even though the new vehicle will be stocked with audio visual material as well as books, reflecting the multi-dimensional aspect of contemporary libraries, the consensus of the commission was negative for the name change. As commission president Barbara Howard summed it up, “People would still call it the ‘bookmobile.’”

We all resist name changes. Having lived in Markleeville for 33 years, I’ve had a difficult time switching from “the Alpine” to “Wolf Creek,” referring to the restaurant on the corner. Ditto with “Browns”—“J. Marklee Toll Station;” “East Fork”—“Carson River Resort;” “Alpine Motel”—“Creekside Lodge.”

Some things never change. The names of Grover Hot Springs and Markleeville General Store have been the same in my lifetime. I remember the hot springs from the age of two

We were friends with the family of Judge Price, and we would visit them in Markleeville each summer from southern California and soak in the hot springs. In those days, we did call the pool “Grover’s.”

You might say that the mountains and rivers are never-changing, but that wouldn’t be true. Annual, cyclical snowfalls change the appearance of our county and affect the flow of our rivers.

Catastrophic events, such as fire and flood, have wiped away trees covering slopes and diverted waterways, but the structure of our mountains and the direction of our rivers remain constant.

Hoping to create small changes by repairing damage to the Markleeville Creek steep bank in front of Markleeville General Store, a group from the High Sierra Flycasters Club met this past Saturday morning and transported plants down to the edge of the water.

Tranquil weather and water marked the occasion. Golden leaves floated slowly over rounded river rocks, as the Fly-

casters dug holes in the loamy soil.

Under the direction of Alpine Watershed Coordinator Laura Lueders, the group broadcast 5 pounds of native grass seeds and planted coyote willows, wild rose, bitterbrush and rabbit brush in order to halt erosion.

If the vegetation takes hold this winter, Lueders plans to install signage directing human water-waders to enter the creek via downstream Elisabeth Cohan Park. This action alone would serve to insure that further erosion of the creek can be avoided.

In the old days, this section of the creek below the eroded bank was the site of the town swimming hole. Gary Cohan says, “In the days before TV and organized sports, the kids would spend all day swimming in the creek. One year, my Dad even bulldozed a deeper hole in the creek, and we would while-away hours piling up rocks in

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

order to dam the water deeper. Now and then, beavers inadvertently helped us with their dam-building.”

Our daughter and our grandsons enjoyed the swimming hole when they were kids, but times have changed, the creek has become shallow at that spot and today’s children “have other fish to fry.”

■ Gina Gigli is a resident of Markleeville. Reach her at ginaigigli@gbis.com

Outdoor center may move

by Susan Wood

Tahoe Daily Tribune

The owner of the Hope Valley Outdoor Center wants to take her retail and outfitter business out to the Burnside Lake trailhead across from Pickett's Junction where she's led many outings.

If all goes as planned, the move would place two outdoor stores within a half mile of each other.

Joyce Coker is proposing a move to Alpine County, which includes a 21-foot yurt with insulation at the base of the road flanked by California Fish and Game land and, farther up, U.S. Forest Service property. From there, she expects to rent cross country ski equipment, snowshoes, tours, lessons and guided trips — like she does at the building she leases from Sorensen's Resort southeast of it on Highway 89. The lease expires August 2008.

Meanwhile, Sorensen's co-owner John Brissenden said he's accepting proposals from other outfitter professionals with proposals to take over the building from Coker. He claims she's "got challenges" ahead of her.

But Coker is going full steam ahead.



DAN THRIFT/Tahoe Daily Tribune

Joyce Coker walks the area along Burnside Lake Road at Pickett's Junction, where she would like to move Hope Valley Outdoors into a yurt where she can rent skis and winter equipment.

"A lot of people show up and say, 'We can't ski here,'" she said of her current operation.

She aims to have a location where people can ski from. She likes the location of Burnside Lake Road because of its visibility.

"Could you imagine how many more people would see me, being here?" she said Sunday, pointing to the Pickett's Junction traffic. Fall is a busy time in Hope Valley for foliage lovers.

She would like to sell retail

items in the yurt — a removable, dome-style structure — as well as pre-packaged food. She circulated a petition to gain support from the community for her proposal. When some people realized she wouldn't be baking pies anymore, supporters joked they couldn't sign off on such a proposal.

Since she took over the business from Steve Lannoy three years ago, Coker has found she's spent much time baking pies to go with other homemade foods such as soup.

Like bears, Markleeville goes into semi-hibernation

After the hoopla of Halloween, a few Markleeville entities shut down completely for the winter. Just as the slumber patterns of the black bear (*Ursus americanus*) vary, so do the hours of the little town of Markleeville change. Some businesses limit their hours during cold weather, while still others plod ahead in their normal gait.

Closed for the season are The Deli, Carson River Resort, Villa Gigli Trattoria and the Alpine County Museum. The Deli and Carson River Resort will re-open when fishing season opens; Villa Gigli when the first weekend in May rolls around; and the museum when Memorial Day weekend occurs.

The Deli owners, Warren and Deanne Jang, are in Cancun, Mexico, for a much-needed vacation. If we don't sell our place, we'll be re-opening Villa Gigli as usual, after spending our winter accomplishing art projects and traveling.

Alpine County Museum Director Dick Edwards is proud of getting the stamp mill going and finishing the carriage shed exhibits this year, and he is determined to complete the blacksmith shop next season. Alpine County Historical Society President Gary Coyan announces that there will be a

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

Thanksgiving feast and general meeting for members 6 p.m. Nov. 16 at Turtle Rock Park. Tom Turkey will be provided by the society, but members are asked to contribute salads, vegetables, bread or desserts to the feast. A special treat is that the Alpine Trio will be playing for musical entertainment and dancing.

Winter hours for Grover Hot Springs State Park Pool have been cut back to 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. every day, except Wednesday when the pools are closed. Prices remain at \$5 for adults and \$2 for youths younger than age of 16.

The Wolf Creek Restaurant and Bar are now under the management of ever-popular Joely Abdo, who explained their winter hours, "Monday and Tuesday, we're planning to be open for lunch from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and we'll continue the tradition of Taco Tuesday by serving tacos at the bar from 3-9 p.m. On Wednesday, the restaurant will be open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Thursday



GINA GIGLI/The R-C

Children gather in the Alpine County Library parking lot for the Halloween parade led by volunteer firemen, EMS and sheriff department members.

through Sunday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m."

Sandy Matlock will open the door of her café at the J. Marklee Toll Station at 8:30 a.m. each Friday, Saturday,

Sunday and Monday.

The Visitor Center will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily until Dec. 26, when it goes into weekend hibernation.

"We have some great books

and other items for sale that would be wonderful Christmas gifts for folks who are fond of this area," said Teresa Burkhauser. "We also issue snow park permits and Christ-

R-2
Nov. 3, 2006

mas tree-cutting permits.”

The Alpine County Library, administration offices and courthouse, plus the Markleeville Post Office, will retain regular hours, as will the motels and vacation rentals.

Halloween not only marks the time for semi-hibernation, but also is a time for kids of all ages to celebrate in a glorious parade through town. Led by fire engines, EMS truck and sheriff vehicles, sirens sounding at full decibel, children and parents first gather in the library parking lot at 5 p.m. and then march through downtown Markleeville to “trick or treat” businesses and residents.

After the parade, costumes are judged, the haunted house is visited, games are played, friendships renewed, and free hot dogs and hamburgers and candy are provided to everyone at the party at Diamond Valley School. Sponsors for this jubilant carnival are: Alpine County Behavioral Health, Sheriff Deputies Association, Alpine EMS, and Markleeville and Woodfords Volunteer Fire Departments.

■ Gina Gigli is a Markleeville resident. Reach her at ginagigli@gbis.com.

Kirkwood job fair is Saturday

Staff Reports

Kirkwood Mountain Resort is hosting a job fair 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday.

Full-time and part-time resort staff positions are currently needed for both on the mountain and in the valley. Kirkwood gets more snow than Lake Tahoe and features 2,300 acres of terrain and corduroy steps.

There are positions available in every department and applicants should go to Red Cliffs Lodge

For information, log on to www.kirkwood.com/winter/jobs.php for detailed information.

Health Fair set for Jan. 20

The Alpine County Health Fair has been rescheduled for Jan. 20.

The theme of this year's health fair is to “Get Moving.”

The health fair will be at the Early Learning Center, 100 Foothill Rd., Woodfords. Time is still scheduled for 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Fire Safe Council meets Nov. 27

The Alpine Fire Safe Council meets the last Monday of each month at 6 p.m.

The next meeting is Nov. 27 at the Woodfords Fire Station. Information, Kerry Radelfinger at (530) 694-2767.

Strolling around Markleeville

Election Day at last – no longer do we have to endure this election's strikingly negative commercials, advertisements and unsolicited phone calls. In Alpine County, since we have such a small population, we all vote via absentee ballot, and most of us cast our votes some time ago.

This also is a day to celebrate and appreciate the glorious sunny weather bestowed upon us. Yesterday we walked around the meadow at Grover Hot Springs State Park, and today we strolled through town. We walked down the hill to the library, making note of the spiffy new pergola, wrought iron fence, playground equipment, landscaping and curving stone walkways in Markleeville Park.

We crossed Markleeville Creek at the "library bridge," rounded the curve of Laramie Street, and stood in awe at the handsome, almost-completed home of John and Kim Jackson. Their large post-and-beam house is constructed with wood from British Columbia, milled by Vermont Timber Frame and shipped from Vermont to Markleeville.

The Jackson's first floor is paved with slabs of Rocky Mountain quartzite and the fireplaces are built with a thicker version of the same type of rock. One year has passed since the initial construction started, but the Jacksons are counting on occupying the house by December. Meanwhile, their three children, Mason, 12, Cole, 7, and McKinna, 5, enjoy going to Diamond Valley School and according to their mother, "They cry when we have to return to the valley at night, because they love playing in the creek, and they have good friends here."

John and his two sisters, Jeanne Turnbeaugh and Judy Currence, lived with their parents, Robert and Rosella Jackson, on the same site by-the-creek where the new house is now standing.

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

were teeny red bugs that caused rashes on some people. When I

John and Kim Jackson, who bought the sisters' share of the property after their father died in 2004 at the age of 91, found that they had to tear the house down, because it would have been impossible to bring it up to code. "It was a miracle that the house hadn't burned down, because most of the wiring was 'fried,'" declared Jackson.

The Jacksons and their family of three younger and two older kids and four grandchildren are looking forward to spending many happy days in the new house. John Jackson says, "I want to bring back the love I felt growing up here. I like living in our small town where everybody helps everyone."

In the 1980s, his father, Bob Jackson, told me, "On Laramie Street, the land where I live now was owned by my grandfather. There was one house close to the creek, and owner Louis Bergevin had a plank to cross the creek so it was easy to get to the store."

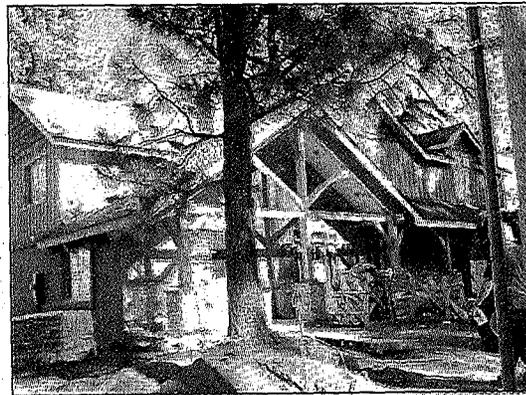
In that same interview, I had asked Bob Jackson about Grover Hot Springs, because he spent so much time soaking and sunning in the pool. "I remember going there as a little kid and my dad teaching me how to swim. There was just one dressing room, on stilts, over a very hot 'holding' pool. There was a rickety ladder going down into that small pool and a rickety fence going around the pools. In the winter, we'd ski up from town. We had to watch out for leeches lurking in the mud. In the summer, there

was about 18, owner Charles Scossa offered free swims to us if we helped him enlarge the pool. We did dig it out, and we tore down the old fence, using the boards for forms to make a cement wall around the pools. But it was always more fun to sneak in!"

On Oct. 11, Monitor Pass

highway was dedicated to Robert Milton Jackson, who was largely responsible for the completion of the road connecting Alpine and Mono counties.

■ Gina Gigli is a Markleeville resident. Reach her at ginaigigli@villagigli.com



The Jackson House is located in Markleeville. Robert Milton Jackson surveyed the highway over Monitor Pass.

GINA GIGLI/Photo

Alpine Events

■ **Fire Safe.** The Alpine Fire Safe Council meets the last Monday of each month at 6 p.m. The next meeting is **Nov. 27** at the Markleeville Fire Station. Information, Kerry Radelfinger at (530) 694-2767.

■ **Turkey Bingo.** A turkey bingo benefit for the Alpine Children's Center is 7-10 p.m. **Nov. 18** at Turtle Rock Park. Participants must be 18 to play. Information, (530) 694-2934.

Friday, November 17, 2006 ■ A9

Kirkwood celebrates Thanksgiving holiday

A number of family festivities are on tap for the Thanksgiving holiday weekend at Kirkwood.

The annual frozen turkey bowling event will kick off at the ice-skating rink on Thanksgiving Day at 10 a.m. Prizes will be given for those who can knock down some pins with their gliding and sliding turkeys.

The Wall Bar & Grille will be offering a Thanksgiving buffet, featuring turkey, prime rib and a variety of trimmings. Space is limited and reservations are recommended.

On Nov. 24, the Kirkwood Recreation Center and Pool will be open 3-8 p.m.

Red Cliffs Lodge is hosting the community tree trimming plus a fashion show, spotlighting winter apparel, from 3-5 p.m.

Kirkwood Mountain Sports will host its annual sale for

Black Passholders only from 6-9 p.m.

A movie and pizza night for kids will cap off the day's activities at Monte Wolfe's from 6-8 p.m.

The next day, Nov. 25, Gingerbread house decorating will be held in the Red Cliffs Lodge from 3-5 p.m.

That evening, the Tahoe Adventure Film Festival, hosted by local television personality and adventurer, Todd Offenhacher, will be held at the KCA Red Cliffs Club at 7 p.m.

He will also provide a preview of the 2006 Tahoe Adventure Film Festival set for Dec. 15-16.

Children will have a movie and pizza night at Mini Mountain from 7-9 p.m.

For more information about all these events and the latest snow report, visit www.kirkwood.com or call the resort at (209) 258-6000.

Christmas tree permits available

Christmas tree permits go on sale at the Alpine County Visitor Center, 3 Webster St., in Markleeville.

The center is open 9 a.m. to 4

p.m. Cost is \$10 per tree with a two-tree limit.

The center is closed Thanksgiving day. Information, (530) 694-2475.

Nov. 17, 2006

Markleeville couple pulling up stakes

Why is the big yellow house, with three dormer windows, in Markleeville for sale? The owners of the house, Dean and AnnaLee Swaim, appear to be so content in their picture-perfect home.

I regret that I've never learned American Sign Language, because the Swaims are deaf, but we have communicated over the years by writing notes and now, by e-mail.

The Swaims have lived in Alpine County for 16 years, retiring from their work in deaf education when they lived in Concord, Calif. Actually, their resumes depict a wide swath of places where they've taught.

They met while they were undergraduate students at Gallaudet University in Washington, DC. Upon being asked his opinion of the recent Gallaudet students' protests against the board of regents' choice of president, Swaim replied, "I don't think much of the way that the campus police are handling this mess."

Students went on hunger strikes and marches and stayed away from classes, ultimately leading to the resignation of the new president of the university.

"However, along with the bad, I see a good side of the matter," Swaim said. "More people have become aware of our university, the only college for the deaf in the world."

Dean and AnnaLee Swaim each received a bachelor's of science degree from Gallaudet in 1953. He earned a master's degree in 1972 and she in 1974, from California State University, Northridge.

They have taught at schools for the deaf in Wisconsin, Maryland, West Virginia, Iowa and California. In the deaf community, they are well known for their teaching,

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

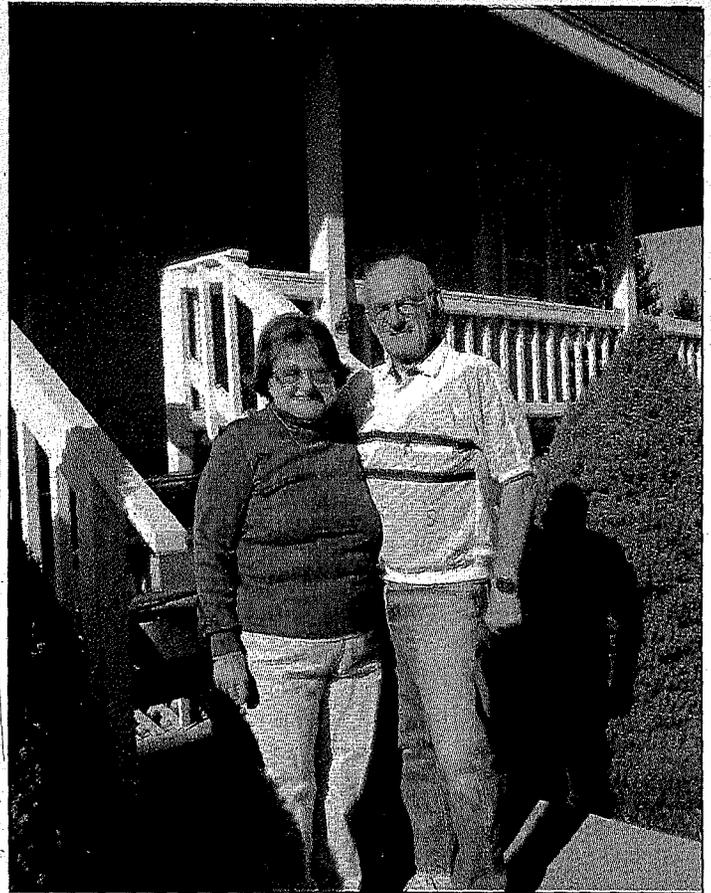
coaching and administrative skills. Once, when Ruggero and I were having breakfast at Tia Sophia's Restaurant in Santa Fe, we started "conversing" with a family at the next table and found that the gentleman was the superintendent of the New Mexico School for the Deaf.

"Of course I know Dean and AnnaLee Swaim, and they are

marvelous educators," he said. "Dean has also coached football, basketball, wrestling and track."

The Swaims put heart and soul into their work, but found it more difficult to commute to their schools as cities grew and congestion took hold. And so, they retired to Markleeville. Dean is an outdoor person and a fly fisherman, while AnnaLee appreciates the scenic view from their house and working on cross-stitching. They both enjoy reading, golf, bowling, bridge and traveling. Parked in their driveway is a large motor home which they use for visits to their three adult children who live in Arizona, Washington and San Jose, Calif.

I'm thinking that the sturdy structure of their big yellow house signifies their determination to succeed in this world despite being deaf, and the



GINA GIGLI/The R-C

Dean and AnnaLee Swaim have put their Markleeville home up for sale.

three dormer windows represent their three offspring.

Why are they thinking to move from this perfect house?

"We really want to stay in Markleeville for a longer time, but our medical service provider is in Sacramento," Dean Swaim said. "We will

have to think ahead and make plans for ourselves in case of immobility. Thus, we may need to live near Sacramento."

■ Gina Gigli is a Markleeville resident. Reach her at ginagigli@vil-lagigli.com

Friday, November 24, 2006 ■ A9

Kirkwood Resort growing toward original plan

Staff Reports

Kirkwood Mountain Resort is moving toward completion of its original development plan from the early 1970s with its most significant improvements since the opening of Wagon Wheel Bowl in 1984.

"We are bringing to life resort improvements that will take Kirkwood to an entirely new level of mountain experience," said Charles "Chuck" Cobb, the resort's major shareholder and chairman for the past 12 years.

Kirkwood was named 12th best resort in the country in this month's edition of Skiing Magazine.

The resort also earned a spot in the magazine as a 'Top 5 Powder Stashes You Must Visit' and 'No. 1 in California.'

"While the overall plan will take place over the next several years, each year will see significant improvement," said David Likins, chief executive officer for Kirkwood.

Timber Creek Express was installed last year and the 30-year-old Timber Creek Lodge was replaced with two modern tent structures during the summer.

Work is scheduled to begin

next summer on Emigrant Basin improvements with installations of two surface lifts to new lift accessed terrain, Lookout Vista and Fawn Ridge.

A new power line for the Sunrise Express High Speed Quad, is anticipated in the summer of 2008 along with the Caples Crest lift from the Mountain Village to the top of the ridge where the existing Chair No. 2 now unloads.

"We will continue to make improvements each year well into the next decade, as Kirkwood takes its place among the best regional resorts in North America," Likins said.

Kirkwood General Manager Chip Seamans said there will be plenty of terrain available for future visitors.

"Kirkwood has always been about world class snow and terrain, and we are doing what few resorts in the nation can do - adding lift service to terrain currently within our U.S. Forest Service boundary but accessible only by hiking," Seamans said.

Kirkwood is located along Highway 88 in the far west Alpine County.

Nov. 24, 2006

Woodfords Inn run by Alpine family

Barbara Rnjak, whose last name is phonetically pronounced Ren-jack, is the manager of Woodfords Inn, her son Craig Rnjak is the landscaper and maintenance man and Cannon Rnjak is the official greeter and also is in charge of security.

All three share optimistic outlooks of life, but I am especially smitten with Cannon's penchant for chasing soccer balls on the lawn and his enthusiastic fondness for Milk Bones. Cannon is a seven-year-old golden retriever, who is as important as his human counterparts in the management of the 20-room Woodfords Inn. When the snow is deep, guests are often amused to see Cannon eagerly greeting them from a low-hanging roof.

Since shortly after the untimely death of Woodfords Inn owner Garth McCormack, Barbara Rnjak has managed the inn. She has always loved this area, and when she answered the ad placed by new owner Ted Chavez in *The Record-Courier* six years ago, she was ecstatic to be selected for the position of manager.

Self-described as a "mountain person," Barbara likes to fish and snowshoe. While she's waiting for guests to arrive, she attends to indoor hobbies of knitting and crocheting and taking care of house plants luxuriating in the office and lobby. She enjoys "interacting with guests, on the phone and in person."

She raised her two chil-



GINA GIGLI/The R-C

Craig and Barbara Rnjak operate the Woodfords Inn in Alpine County.

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

dren, Craig and Suzanne, at South Lake Tahoe. There, she held a variety of jobs, including driving the city bus and trolley and giving tours of the scenic area. On those tours, she often met foreigners who didn't speak English. "With gestures and smiles you can still communicate," she claims.

Mother and son have a combined total of almost 50 years in the hospitality business, with experience in both lodging and restaurant.

Craig Rnjak is an accomplished cook, having been a professional chef in hotel restaurants, and along with his

maintenance work at the inn, he occasionally ventures forth to cater parties.

Another person on the Rnjaks' team is room-cleaner Vonda Guthrie, who in Barbara's words, "works with me, and I couldn't do without her."

Guests at the Woodfords Inn usually hail from Sacramento or the Bay Area, but Rnjak says they have their share of "locals." She defines "locals" as being residents of Carson Valley, Carson City, Lake Tahoe and Reno. These folks come for the same reasons as other guests — for the peace and quiet, to get away from phones, faxes and emails; for the numerous outdoor activities that Alpine County has to offer, for a special event and for government conferences.

Woodfords Inn offers a 15 percent discount on regular room rates for county, state or

federal employees and for locals. It's true that the rooms are without phones, but each room has TV with cable, VCR and a video and book library in the lobby.

The outdoor spa is a welcoming spot whether in summer or winter, but perhaps it's appreciated the most when the lawn is covered with snow, and the wind is howling through the tall pines.

■ Gina Gigli is a Markleeville resident. Reach her at ginagigli@vil-lagigli.com.

Markleeville - the way it was

A couple of weeks ago, I wrote in this column about John and Kim Jackson's home being finished on Laramie Street on the site of Bob Jackson's old house. I quoted Bob Jackson telling me in the 1980s about his home by the creek. Fortunately for all of us interested in Markleeville's past, he related even more information about the town's appearance in the early teens of our past century.

"Coming into town, instead of the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce building, there was the two-story Alpine County Courthouse, with a social hall on the second floor," Jackson described the main street. "I remember when I was very young being brought to dances by my parents. When the children got sleepy, our folks would take us to the cloakroom, put bar chairs together for cots and cover us up with coats. We'd fall asleep happily, knowing that they would wake us up in time for midnight supper."

Continuing his narrative, Jackson described Webster Street with the old log jail, then Koenig's meadows, barns and corrals. Koenig's residence was on the site of the current J. Marklee Toll Station Café; the Exchange Saloon was next in line; and across Montgomery Street and on the corner was the old Alpine Hotel, owned by Jackson's grandfather, John Ellis. Now, this building is named Wolf Creek, and Tom Abdo is the owner.

Jackson said that there was an oil house across from the general store and down from "the crossing" there were some sheds. Since there was not a bridge at the crossing of the creek yet, travelers on the "Big Tree Road," present-day Highway 4/89, had to go up Montgomery Street to Laramie Street to cross the only existing bridge.

On the east side of the

entrance to town, the first building was a butcher shop and residence; then a big barn and a couple of little sheds; the residence for the general store; the Markleeville General Store, and a rental house. When Jackson was 16 years old, he was hired to help tear that house down.

"The highlight of the job was finding my mother's and aunt's report cards in some old records left by a former teacher-tenant," he said. "I held those report cards over them for years."

The house was demolished so that Welsh stonemasons could construct the "new" Alpine County Courthouse in 1928. At the end of Water Street was a two-story residence that ultimately was torn down also to provide space for the Alpine County Administrative Building.

"On the north side of Montgomery Street was the 'pink house' (now a vacant corner lot), where ranger Bill Clark lived; a rental house owned by the Koenigs; two old sheds and Judge L. T. Price's house, (now owned by his grandsons, Jim and Bob Long)," Jackson said. "To the west of Hot Springs Road was the Thornburg's blacksmith shop, tool sheds and house, and the two-story Barrett

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

house.

"Next to the Alpine Hotel were the Lone Star Stables and Corrals, where the hotel guests kept their horses; next was the Matt Koenig residence; then a warehouse with thick walls where Julian Masterini stored grain for his livestock."

Jackson said that on Laramie Street, Judy Farnsworth's house was the site of a big barn and corrals belonging to the Barretts, and Virginia York's house was also owned by the Barretts.

"As you can see," Jackson explained, "most of the property was owned by the Barrett, Koenig, Ellis, Thornburg and Masterini families. I should also add that all of these places had numerous outbuildings and out-houses."

Jackson's favorite memory of yesteryear Markleeville was the sound of singing carried on the soft summer breeze emanating from the Masterini Ranch at the end of the street. For many

years, this ranch has been owned by Ted Bacon as the summer pasture for his cattle.

"Just before dark," Jackson said, "after the Basque sheepherders finished eating and they were doing chores, like putting the chickens to bed, their voices could be heard in harmony. My sis and I loved to go over there and eat with them. I still remember the good bread, salami and wine.

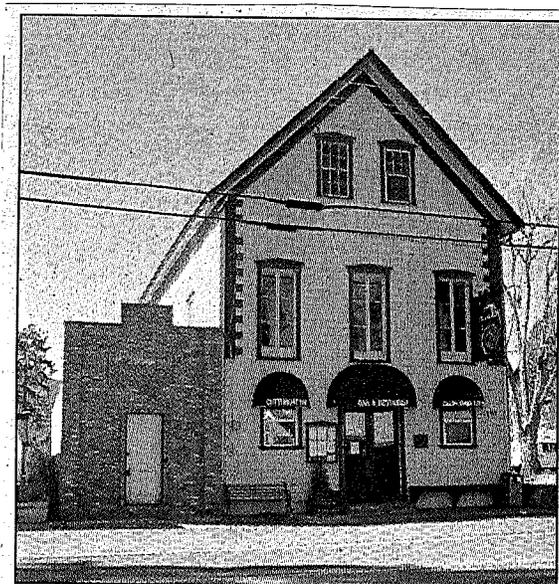
"You could tell when the first snow was coming, because Julian Masterini always drove his sheep to their winter pasture in time," Jackson said. "Almost always. One time he got caught by an early snowfall. When I was very young, he drove them all the way to Los Banos, and they just ate grass as they moved along. Later, Julian drove them down to the V&T

depot in Minden. V&T stood for Virginia and Truckee, but we called it the Very Tired railway."

Even though I know that today it would be impossible to drive sheep to Los Banos or even to Minden, and I wouldn't like having to trek through

snow to reach the out-house, Bob Jackson's recollection makes me wish that I had experienced Markleeville - the way it was.

■ Gina Gigli is a Markleeville resident. Reach her at ginigigli@vil-lagigli.com



Wolf Creek was once the old Alpine Hotel in downtown Markleeville.

GINA GIGLI
/The R-C

Markleeville shows the Christmas spirit

The Christmas season, at its best, is all about giving. Here in Markleeville, the art of giving takes many forms, and the gift of time is one of the most precious arts.

Santa's helpers come in many guises. On Dec. 1, the Alpine Early Learning Center was graced by the pro bono appearance of Nevada orthodontist Dr. Vincent D'Ascoli, who administered dental screenings for 27 of the county's children.

"It is very important for these young ones to see the dentist at an early age," D'Ascoli said. "Not just for preventative reasons but to establish a good relationship and a positive first contact, so they will not be afraid of the dentist when they get older."

D'Ascoli has lived in Northern Nevada for 25 years and is board certified specializing in orthodontics and practices in Gardnerville, Carson City and Incline Village.

The organization known as the First Five Alpine is working to ensure that all children begin school ready to learn and stay healthy. School Readiness Coordinator Bernie Combs expressed her gratitude as she watched the children get the dental checkup.

"It is crucial that all kids get an early, healthy start and be ready to learn," she said. "This is another piece of the puzzle completed for these kids."

The Alpine Learning Center is located on Foothill Road, north-east of Woodfords Station. The infant and pre-school programs are currently accepting applications on site. Contact Combs at (530) 694-1159 for more information.



SPECIAL TO THE R-C
Dr. Vincent D'Ascoli visits the Alpine Early Learning Center.

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

As in past Decembers, swags of greens tied with red bows magically appeared this past Saturday on almost every post and tree in downtown Markleeville. Who were these elves and why do they do this? They are Gary and Barbara Howard and Ron and Beth Andrews, and they do it to brighten up the town at holiday time. They buy the red bows in post season sales and stash the ribbons in boxes the rest of the year. Gary Howard goes to Christmas tree lots, Home Depot and Lowe's to secure their sawed-off tree trimmings, and when he tells them that the greens are for Markleeville decorations, the businesses donate the cuttings. The crew of four then spends a day assembling the swags, plus another day to fasten them to sign posts, fences and trees.

Along with her helpers, chamber of commerce Director Teresa Burkhauser hangs lights on most of the businesses around town, except those whose owners decorate.

At the visitor center, permits for Christmas tree cutting are issued by the U.S. Forest Ser-

vice, \$10 for each tree, with a limit of two trees per household. Accompanying the permit are maps of the designated tree-cutting areas and regulations that should be read and followed. The folks at the visitor center serve free hot coffee, chocolate and cider to would-be tree-cutters and browsers of the displayed local-lore books, cards, maps and art objects; in essence, a veritable gift store.

Additional people who give time during this holiday season are leaders of the Fifty Plus Club, who are planning a Christmas potluck lunch at the Early Learning Center on Thursday from noon to 2 p.m. Ernestine Fogarty, 694-2288, or Dolores Clark, 694-2473, will be happy to answer any questions about the lunch. Alpine County Public Health Officer Dr. Richard Harvey will present a slide show, "My 2006 Trip Around the World (Almost)."

The people who volunteer their time for committees, boards and emergency services year after year also deserve our gratitude. For example, just to keep the Alpine Children's Center Preschool open twice a week, teacher Jo (Jo-Jo) Daugherty works without pay.

The gift of time is really special.

■ Gina Gigli is a resident of Markleeville. Reach her at ginagigli@villagigli.com

Alpine County ready to start plowing snow

by April Epps
Staff Writer

The weather is getting colder, the expectation of snow is in the air, and Alpine County is ready for it, according to the Alpine Public Works newsletter "In the Works."

It suggests that residents plan ahead and inform their children not to play in the streets or on snow berms.

Also, do not park in restricted areas of county parking lots, do not play, ski, toboggan, sled or snowmobile on roadways or snow berms, do not shovel or put snow from driveways in the roadway, do not clear your driveway until after the road has been plowed, do not park vehicles on roadways or along the edge of roads (county code chapter 10.12 says that all vehicles must park a minimum

of five feet from the roadway), and do not park on Montgomery Street from Highway 89 to Laramie Street in Markleeville on Tuesday and Friday from 8 a.m. to noon.

Snow removal begins when there is 3 inches of snow.

Snow will be plowed to both sides of roadways, except in high drift areas where it will be plowed to the downwind side of the road.

Some roads in the county are classified as last priority due to the snow removal plan.

If the road needs to be closed, the sheriff's department, fire departments, the school, and the people living on that road will be notified.

If there is an emergency, residents can contact the sheriff's department by calling 911, the sheriff will radio snow removal crews, and an opera-

tor will respond to the emergency.

Placing sand on the roads will be done on steep hills and sharp curves only.

Obey all chain and snow tire requirements. Legal snow tires must have a minimum of 3/16 inch of tread.

County policy states that driveway berms will only be plowed after a storm, and not on weekends or holidays. Any road that is to be plowed must be considered safe for snow removal equipment.

A copy of the Alpine County snow removal operations policies and list of priority areas can be found at the Alpine County Department of Public Works Office, (530) 694-2140. It can also be found on their Web site www.alpinecounty-ca.gov/departments/public_works

Markleeville volunteers to receive new wildland engine

Staff Reports

The Markleeville Volunteer Fire Department will receive a wildland fire engine from the Bureau of Land Management at the Carson City Field Office 11 a.m. Wednesday.

BLM Field Office Manager Don Hicks will present a 1997 Ford F-450 Type VI fire engine to Assistant Chief Jeff Brees of the Markleeville VFD. This engine comes from the BLM-Ely Field Office after being determined to be excess to agency needs.

Hicks will also pass the keys to a 1993 Navistar Type IV wildland fire engine to Chairman Richard Black of the Fal-

DETAILS

What: Presentation of fire engines

When: 11 a.m. Wednesday

Where: Carson City Field Office, 5665 Morgan Mill Road

lon Paiute-Shoshone Tribal Emergency Response Commission.

This engine is coming out of the BLM-Carson City Field Office's fleet after being replaced with new equipment.

"Both of these fire engines are currently valued at \$20,000

apiece and are being provided as part of \$566,000 in 2006 BLM-Nevada Rural Fire Assistance Program funds being distributed to rural and tribal departments around the state," said Hicks. "I expect these four-wheel drive fire trucks will enhance the capabilities of both fire departments for years to come."

The BLM-Nevada Rural Fire Assistance Program, a result of the National Fire Plan passed after the 2000 fire season, has distributed over \$5.2 million in equipment, supplies, training and fire prevention materials to 135 rural/tribal volunteer fire departments in Nevada in the last four years.

A walk in a Markleeville meadow revisited

by Dick Edwards

It has been over two years since last I spoke of the meadow that my golden Retriever Buddy and have loved for the past 10 years. The years have been kind to this old man and his dog; although Buddy has grown gray around his nose and eyes he still finds wonder in the sights and smells of the environment around the museum. But there has been a change in the meadow, one that I never thought I would see, the backhoe and skip loader have invaded the fragile home of the meadow creatures and the plants that set the area apart from all the other tracks of vacant land.

This change came quickly in the fall of 2006 with workers arriving here at the end of Schoolhouse

Guest opinion

Road and within a few hours they had dismantled the museum's rail fence and began to drive onto the meadow. As director of the museum I called those within county government responsible for issuing permits to tear down the museum's fence, drive upon the fragile meadow, drive giant drilling rigs across the meadow grass and Great Basin sages, rabbit brush and the lowly blue dicks lily. I was told that permits had been issued and what was happening was all legal and proper and part of the development group

known as "Markleeville USA's" quest for adequate water for their project. After all, the meadow and pine covered hills beyond are private land and no business of the museum's or the members of the community.

Over the next weeks, Buddy and I watched the meadow scarred beyond repair. Holes were dug to receive run off from the well digging, the meadow grass and the limited topsoil removed to make a level base for the drilling rig. Truckloads of machinery arrived unloading the equipment needed to drill for the water needed to feed and fill the proposed condos, hotel, spa and the hotel's swimming pool. Soon the drilling rig was set up and Markleeville's peace and quiet was shattered, as the drill beat it way

through the clay and basalt that forms the understructure of the area. Drilling hundreds feet into heart of Markleeville is a 24 hour job and with generators and light towers providing workers an environment they needed, at the expense of the community member unlucky enough to live and work in the area, especially the Alpine County Museum.

But then, where dollar signs mean more than meadow grass and field mice, the sacrificing of a meadow is a cheap price to pay for development. Oh, the developers have vowed to reseed the area with wild flowers and grasses. Of course they have no realization of what makes a meadow tick. They think that come spring the area they

RC. Fri, 12-15-06

See Meadow on page 5

Meadow: Only a memory

Continued from page 4
scarred will be covered with new grass and blooms, what they don't understand, is that the worst thing that can happen to a meadow environment is to introduce foreign grasses and flowers. But then I don't think that they really care beyond what will buy them a pass with the county.

This fall is but a precursor of what is to come as the chain saw and bulldozer eat away at the meadow and hills beyond. Of course this is private land and no one in the community really has a say in what will transpire. I know that future members of the community will look upon the development and probably say "How grand." They will carry no memory of how Markleeville used to be, no memory of a meadow that once nestled next to their museum, of

the coyote, cottontail, quail and meadow mice and all creatures big and small that called the meadow home.

Nature is a gentle soul, confining change to a long and thought full process that passes un-noticed in the life of we inhabitants of this thing we call Earth. Oh yes, nature does have a thing called catastrophe that causes rapid change, but that is nature's way and should not be the provenance of mere mortals.

Buddy and I no longer set foot in the meadow area, it can never be the same for either of us. I realize that I have spent a lifetime as a fisheries biologist, park ranger and finally museum director, and have no vision of the world of development and finance. My vision comes from a little book called "A Sand County Almanac" by Aldo Leopold, first introduced to me

as an undergraduate in the early 1950s by my mentor Dr. Harold Lint. Aldo Leopold was not a wild-eyed zealot, but someone who had spent a life in the conservation of the environment, from his humble beginnings as a U.S. Forest Ranger to professor and department head at the University of Wisconsin. I would like to end with a short passage from "A Sand County Almanac."

"There are some who can live without wild things, and some who can not. Like wind and sunsets, wild things were taken for granted until progress began to do away with them. We in the minority see a law of diminishing returns in progress; our opponents do not."

■ Dick Edwards is director of the Alpine County Museum and a Markleeville resident.

R.C. - Fri, 12-15-06

Cowboys and cowgirls celebrate Christmas, too

Last week we were once again honored to be invited by Jan Lopes to view her annual Cowboy-Christmas tree. Greeting us first were her three dogs, Weena, Annie and Bear, followed by her horses, Sutter and Rosie.

Perched high above Markleeville Creek, her little house belongs to the Jubilee Ranch owners Ted and Lee Bacon, but Markleeville resident ranch foreman Jan Lopes has turned it into a cowgirl's dream house. Every inch is decorated with the Cowboy-Christmas theme.

Her Yuletide tree is truly amazing, not just for an abundance of red bows and balls, but more for the predominance of western-style ornaments. There are cowboy Santas, cows and horses, boots and spurs, lariats and Stetsons; everything that goes into the life of a rancher.

"It takes me several days to place all of the lights and ornaments on this tree," Lopes said. Indeed, there are literally hundreds of cowboy ornaments on this tree, along with decorations handmade by her kids, Lance and Laurie.

In summertime, Lopes is charged with irrigating the pas-

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

tures of Jubilee Ranch's Markleeville holdings, tending the cattle and repairing fences, but yearly, after the roundup, when the cattle leave for warmer climates, she turns to decorating and re-decorating her house.

Tools of choice are saws, planes, hammers and nails, along with sewing machine, scissors, needle and thread. When she isn't building furniture, she's sewing curtains. Lopes built her canopy bed, and she's saved old cabinets from being relegated to the scrap heap by carefully sanding and varnishing worn surfaces. She constructed her coffee table, which doubles as a magazine library, from an old irrigation box.

Lights over the kitchen counter are shaded with baskets that are draped with suede cloth, fringed by her scissors and tied with red paisley bandannas. Curtains are also fringed and tied in western



style. Swags of greens and red bows are interspersed with cowboy boot stockings hung with care. Images of cows are everywhere.

Lopes, who has lived in Markleeville since 1978, claims to "love being outside with the cows and calves," and is shy about being with people, proving that our town contains a few hidden-from-view treasured personalities.

If anyone is interested in purchasing western-style ornaments, they can be found at the Odd Pony gift shop at Woodfords Station, along with unique Christmas bears, angels, fairies,

decorations and stocking stuffers.

Alpine County Public Works employee Russell Wood has hung lights on a conifer tree in the newly renovated Markleeville Park and strung lights on the new ramada in the park. There is some discussion about the name of this structure. I would love to collect opinions from readers. Do you think that it should be called the ramada, pavilion, gazebo, bandstand, pergola or some other name?

■ Gina Gigli is a Markleeville resident. Reach her at gina@villagigli.com

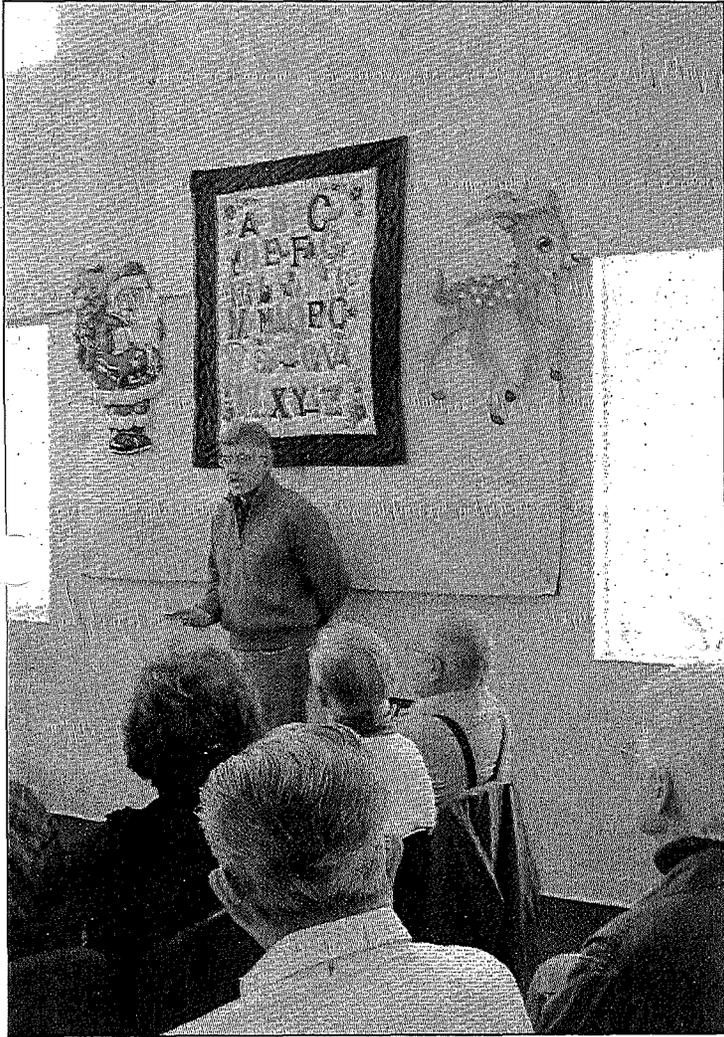
R-C
Dec. 15, 2006



GINA GIGLI/R-C photos
Jan Lopes' Cowboy-Christmas tree. At left, the interior of Lopes' house.

Alpine

Friday, December 22, 2006 ■ A9



GINA GIGLI/R-C photos
Alpine County Public Health Officer Dr. Richard Harvey shows the Fifty Plus Club photos of his trip to legendary places. At left, Alpine County Librarian Bessie Platten, Information Access Coordinator Rita Lovell, Archivist Nancy Thornburg and Library Commissioner Irving Krauss share food-for-thought at library luncheon.

Snow opening new terrain at Kirkwood

Staff Reports

Last weekend's snowstorm has given Kirkwood Mountain Resort the green light to open black diamond terrain. Resort managers announced the opening of Cornice Express, Chair 6 that will take guests to the top of the mountain.

"Snow conditions are primed and ready for skiers and riders," says Chip Seaman, Kirkwood's general manager and chief operating officer. "Our higher elevation allows us to open expert terrain and we're expecting up to 9" of snow by tonight."

Kirkwood's Chair 6 Cornice Express was ranked by Powder Magazine as one of America's top 10 chairlifts. It accesses Kirkwood's most desired terrain.

Kirkwood guests can plan holiday activities at the resort as snow conditions continue to improve. Snow is forecast this week meaning the potential opening of additional terrain. Kirkwood has a snow base

depth of 18-36" with season-to-date total snow of 35-44."

The resort also will offer ice skating, tubing, hill, cross country facilities and village entertainment.

Stomping Ground Terrain Park is open with five rail features, and the new Timber Creek Day Lodge is open with ski school headquarters, ticket services and dining. Dining is available at Monte Wolfe's, Kirkwood Inn, Bub's, Red Cliffs Cafeteria, Outdoor Barbecue at Timber Creek and The Wall Bar.

Season passes are still available. Kirkwood's value pass will be on sale for the next seven days. The adult value pass price is \$349.

After Christmas, guests will be able to purchase a full season pass. Kirkwood's current full pass price for adults is \$549 and is subject to change for the new year. Guests can purchase passes online at www.kirkwood.com or at the pass and ticket office at (209) 258-7254.

Dec. 22, 2006



Christmas wreaths and social circles overlap in Alpine

Alpine County's librarians and their supporters gathered on Saturday for their annual holiday party.

"We are a library circle; a circle composed of library staff, library commissioners, the county archivist and officers of Friends of the Library," said Alpine County Librarian Bessie Platten.

Platten's words conjured up visions of circles of Alpiners who gather together for various reasons.

Alpine County officials and employees serving on various boards and commissions are entwined with citizens into social circles that function as an additional form of government.

While my husband was hanging our Christmas wreath, images of wreaths of people overlapping in their holiday activities flashed through my mind.

The potluck lunch last Saturday of the library circle celebrated the season and the anticipated arrival of the new bookmobile in January.

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

■ Gina Gigli is a Markleeville resident. Reach her at www.villagigli.com.

The Fifty Plus Club also celebrated the season with a potluck lunch in the multipurpose room at the Early Learning Center on Dec. 14.

Alpine County Public Health Officer Dr. Richard Harvey entertained the circle of friends by presenting a slide show of his travels with Starquest Expeditions.

The travel company had asked our "Doc" Harvey to be the physician on a tour that highlighted trade crossroads of the world.

The motto of the touring company is to provide "innovative journeys to legendary places," and as we followed his airborne trail from Iceland to Armenia, Mongolia, Cambodia, Bhutan, India, Ethiopia, Mali, Libya, Malta and back to Iceland, these ancient marketplaces were brought to life.

After the tour-talk, Alpine County Director of Health and Human Services Cindy Hannah formed a gift-exchange circle and read a story about "Lefty" to the amusement of all participants.

Whenever the words left or right were spoken by Hannah, the gifts were shifted to the left or right so that the gifts were circumnavigated anonymously.

Often I hear people speak of coming full circle. Does that mean doing a turnaround? Whatever it means, we're doing it.

Our place was for sale, and we were trying to be brave about moving to the east coast where some of our kids live.

But we've lived in Markleeville for a long time — 33 years — and we don't want to leave this beautiful mountain community.

We're decided to stay and keep on participating in the social circles that shift and swirl around us.

We'll continue to wonder how the winter willows flock themselves with snow, appreciate the spring budding of the aspens, enjoy the sight of the verdant summer pasture and be awestruck by the spectacular autumn colors.

Alpine County residents make resolutions for new year

R-C
Dec. 29, 2006

"Let's try having it once more," said Human Resources specialist Beth Nunes at the Dec. 5 meeting of the Alpine County Board of Supervisors. She was expressing her wish for a renewed holiday potluck lunch to mark the last Board of Supervisors meeting of the year.

Several years had elapsed since the celebratory lunch was held, but employees at the county administration building wanted to host the potluck again.

On Dec. 19, after the supervisors meeting, the normally quiet and formal foyer of the administration building was transformed into a party place, as board members, county employees and members of the community sat down at tables and shared food and lively conversation. County employees resolved that this jubilant get-together will become a tradition again.

Since resolutions for the New Year are traditional, I persuaded some of the party organizers to divulge their personal pledges.

Carson City resident Beth Nunes, who works at the county administration building on per-

riage licenses, passports and fictitious business name statements. She has her own version of a New Year's pledge, explaining that she intends to be "more mindful that each day we are given on earth is precious; enjoy life."

Deputy auditor Jeanette Millar, who lives in Gardnerville and handles payroll, intends "to be more consistent with my physical exercises."

Gardnerville resident and administrative assistant Deb Goerlich does tax collection, recordings and treasury and vows "to be content with what I have and count my blessings."

Ed Daley, who lives in South Lake Tahoe and is senior appraiser, wants "more fitness and sleep."

Markleeville resident and Alpine County Assessor Dave Peets explains his work, "My office arrives at a value for your property for tax purposes." His

resolution is to show more patience with his family.

Assistant to the supervisors Judy Molnar humorously gives her job description as being "juggler, jester, analyst, catalyst, antagonist, scapegoat and magician." Molnar declares that in the New Year she will "work hard, play harder and go more places."

According to legend, Janus, a mythical king of early Rome, initiated the custom of making resolutions for the New Year in 153 B.C. Janus was represented as having two faces; therefore, he could look back at the past and forward to the future.

I do believe that it's important to balance the knowledge of history with hope for a better future. If only we would all learn more about historical events and why they occurred, and then shape the future harmoniously, the world would be a better place, wouldn't it? Happy New Year!

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sonnel and the safety program, resolves to "spend more time with my family and be nicer to myself."

Auditor/ Controller and Woodfords resident Randi Makley plans to "fit in more exercise, including yoga."

Markleeville resident Barbara Howard, who is the county clerk elect replacing soon-to-be-retired County Clerk Barbara Jones, takes charge of minutes and agendas for the supervisors, oversees elections, mar-



GINA GIGLI/The R-C

Alpine County administrative employees, from left, Barbara Howard, Randi Makley, Beth Nunes, Deb Goerlich, Judy Molnar, Donald O'Connor, Kim Skinner, Ed Daley, Jeanette Millar and Carol McElroy helped host a festive holiday luncheon for the board of supervisors, other county employees and members of the community on Dec. 19.