

DATE	NEWSPAPER	HEADLINE	CATEGORY	PEOPLE
1/12/2007	Record Courier	Complaints and compliments circulate around Markleeville	Government	Don Jardine, John Crawford, Brian Peters, Dennis Cardozo, Gunter Kaiser, James Parsons, Gina Gigli, Ruggero Gigli, Ron Mitchitarian, Nancy ThornburgLiz McGeein, Cindy Schemenauer
1/19/2007	Record Courier	Extremely cold weather increases activity in Alpine County	Community	Gina Gigli, Nancy Thornburg, Nani Ellis, Joyce Devore
1/26/2007	Record Courier	Health fair encourages Alpine residents to keep moving	Health	Gina Gigli, Lisa Coburn, Ed Braz, Rachel Brothers, Judy Wickwire, Russell Wickwire, Don Skinner, Gail Day, Cheri Warrell, Irving Krauss, Julie Ola, Skip Veatch, Lynette Bennett, Bernie Combs
2/2/2007	Record Courier	Perseverance pays off for fishing duo	Biography	Paul Washam, Gloria Washam, Gina Gigli, Adam Washam, Paul K. Washam,
2/2/2007	Record Courier	Alpine Notes	Community	Dave Johnston, Jeanie Glover, Amy Broadhurst, Mark Phillips, Dave Kirby, Dave Cooper, Sandy Baenen, Teresa Burkhauser
2/9/2007	Record Courier	Bug no obstacle to meeting coverage	Government/Community	Gina Gigli, Ruggero Gigli, Buck McClland, Dennis Cardozo, Nancy Thornburg
2/9/2007	Record Courier	Alpine Health Fair still fit as a fiddle	Health/Community	Elizabeth McGeein
2/15/2007	San Francisco Chronicle	Kirkwood' growth spurt	Kirkwood	Nancy Thornburg, Tim Cohee, Reid Bennett, Michael Moreno
2/16/2007	Record Courier	You know who your friends are when the pipes freeze	Community	Gina Gigli, Kate Harvey, Rich Harvey, Deirdre Wallace, Sherm Glettig, Fritz Thornburg, Adam Coyan, John Cassidy, Gary Coyan, Steve Martin, Leonard Turnbeaugh, Arnold Rakow, Maynard Rakow
2/16/2007	Record Courier	Homeowner marketing Woodfords property	Real Estate	Steve Jaques

2/16/2007	Record Courier	Woodfords Inn manager honored	Business/Awards	Barbara Rnjak
2/16/2007	Record Courier	Why 1 is man's favorite number	Kirkwood	Ernie Beltran, Allen Cohne
2/23/2007	Record Courier	Historical society hosts Washoe woman	Washoe	Gina Gigli, Dinah Pete, Gary Coyan, Stu Merrill, Grant Merrill, Wanda Coyan, Karen Robinson
3/2/2007	Record Courier	Alpine parents announce engagements	Marriage	Raymond T. Payne, Marilyn Payne, Sari Payne, Edward Montoya, Holly Dressler, Eric Enos, Cheryl Dutchy, Shuman Dressler
3/2/2007	Record Courier	Saturday meeting set in Markleeville	Community/Government	Don Jardine
3/2/2007	Record Courier	Calling all eastern Alpine County residents	Community/Government	Nancy Thornburg
3/2/2007	Record Courier	Alpine may fund fire chief	Government/Fire	Don Jardine, Philip Bennett, David Griffin, Skip Veatch
3/9/2007	Record Courier	Hope Valley is Alpine's shining jewel	Hope Valley	Irving Krauss, Gina Gigli
3/9/2007	Record Courier	Man sentences to prison in Alpine County shootout	Crime	Judge Dave DeVore, William Richmond
3/16/2007	Record Courier	Alpine County tackles its growth issue	Government/Community	Bill Morgan
3/23/2007	Record Courier	Looking for members of Alpine's 'Greatest generation'	Community/History	Bill Morgan
3/23/2007	Record Courier	Indian Creek opens April 2	Recreation	
3/23/2007	Record Courier	Mathletes	Schools/Competition	Kalyn Payne, George Dick, Stephanie Tyon
3/23/2007	Record Courier	BLM seeking public comment on plan	Land use	
3/30/2007	Record Courier	Alpine County struggling to enter the 21st century	Government	Skip Veatch

3/30/2007	Record Courier	Alpine County a hostile workplace	Government/Opinion	
4/6/2007	Record Courier	Kirkwood improves Timber Creek Village	Kirkwood	All on Cohne
4/6/2007	Record Courier	Alpine to pay tribute to emergency responders	Community/Event	Nancy Thornburg, Nancy Richmond, Linda Merrill, Cami Chavez, Kathleen Andrews, Wanda Coyan, Jan Brees, Dave Brees, Katy Harvey, Nancy Specchio, Gail Day, Barbara Howard, Shirley Taylor, Karen Robinson, Roma Morris, Joyce DeVore, Nani Ellis, Gina Gigli
4/9/2007	Sacramento Bee	A forest-size gap	Schools	Justin Dick, Jim Parsons, Syrus Durant
4/13/2007	Record Courier	Nation Library Week celebration set in Markleeville	Library	Gina Gigli
4/13/2007	Record Courier	Responders dinner seeking donations	Community/Event	Gina Gigli, Jeanne Lear, Karen Robinson, Bessie Platten, Charles Muench, Michele Neely, Joni Hill
4/13/2007	Record Courier	Why does date rape happen?	Crime	
4/20/2007	Record Courier	Kirkwood to close April 29	Kirkwood	
4/20/2007	Record Courier	Fishery and forestry discussion April 27	Fishing	
4/20/2007	Record Courier	Washoe Tribe host community beautification	Washoe	
4/20/2007	Record Courier	Alpine County recognizes Victims' Rights Week	Crime	
5/4/2007	Record Courier	Alpine County home to mountain lions	Wildlife	Nancy Thornburg, Russ Wickwire, Maureen Gastonia
5/4/2007	Record Courier	Historic guidelines topic of workshops	Buildings/History	

5/11/2007	Record Courier	Alpine Kids receive donation to make insurance payment	Kids	
5/11/2007	Record Courier	Free Concert	Arts/Library	
5/11/2007	Record Courier	At the lake	Recreation	
5/18/2007	Record Courier	Private observatory to open in Markleeville	Business	Rich Williams
5/25/2007	Record Courier	Markleeville's Villa Gigli reopens for season	Business	Ruggero Gigli, Gina Gigli

5/25/2007	Record Courier	Woodfords recognizes students	Students/Awards	Megan Cruz, Nathan Cruz, Justin Dick, Michelle Minder, Alex Rice, Marcus Rice, Jaileine Salciedo, Gavin Wyatt, Corrie Jackson, Celeste Brown, Ombryann Guerrero, Elsie May Hall, Tristen Dressler, Natane Godowa, Nikolas King, Joy Medicine Crow, Lee Arte Rose, Mauricea Two Eagle, Kohl Barnes, Nicholas Berryman, Thomas Dick, Dashona Godowa, Ubaldo Gomez, Anna Guerrero Beau Medicine Crow, Dion Mortimer, Kendall Ornellas, Kyle Barnes, Tiara Cruz, Sarah Medicine Crow, Leonna Mortimer Tramayne Bennett, Viktoria Burton-Brown, David Brown, Shawna Burt, Jesstyna Dressler, Julia Gomez, Sarah Gonzalez, Stella John, Mikaela Meeden, Dinalyn Skenandore, A.J. Duran, Chelsea Guerrero, Lauryn Mae James, Clinton John Jr., Stephanie Tyon, Cody Vann, Brandon Crawford, George Dick, Rebecca Lewis, Evan Meeden, Kalynn Payne, William Rubino, Josh Townsend, Ridge Cruz, Krystal Erwin, David King, Blessing Bennett, Jessica Burt, Kenneth Christensen, Tatyana Jim, Michael Skenandore, Allison Flood, Salina Guerrero, Desirae Lewis, Georgie Dressler, Josh Horse, Michael Rojas, Emmy Frank, Ben Gonzales, Kaela Horse
5/25/2007	Record Courier	Alpine County vaccination clinic	Public Safety	
5/25/2007	Record Courier	Alpine County Museum reopens on Saturday	Museum	Dick Edwards, Dale Bennett
6/1/2007	Record Courier	Alpine County soldier on leave from Iraq	Community/Washoe	Ray Payne Jr., Raymond Payne Marilyn Payne, Hazel Payne, Joyce DeVore, Gina Gigli

6/1/2007	Record Courier	Responder dinner tickets going fast	Community/Event	Joyce DeVore, Nani Ellis, Nancy Thornburg, Neil Nyswonger, Jackie Nyswonger, Gina Gigli, Charles Meunch
6/8/2007	Record Courier	Hope Valley's always been a place to meet	Hope Valley/History	John Brissenden, Patty Brissenden
6/8/2007	Record Courier	Historic guidelines topic of workshop	Buildings/History	
6/15/2007	Record Courier	First responders dinner shaping up for June 23	Community/Event	Nancy Thornburg
6/15/2007	Record Courier	Moving power underground in Markleeville	Community/Power	Nancy Thornburg
6/22/2007	Record Courier	A talk with Alpine County's tax man	Government/Biography	Irving Krauss, David Peets, Terri Peets, Justin Peets, Dina Raquino
6/22/2007	Record Courier	Chipping crews coming July 9-11	Fire/Safety	
6/29/2007	Record Courier	Surviving Alpine County's seven garden plagues	Agriculture	Joyce DeVore
6/29/2007	Record Courier	BLM seeks comment on plan	Government/Land Use	
7/6/2007	Record Courier	Gunter Kaiser at home in Alpine County	Biography	Bill Morgan, Gunter Kaiser, Lois Kaiser
7/6/2007	Record Courier	Emergency volunteers work 4,070 hours	Community/Safety	David Griffith
7/11/2007	Record Courier	Missed some that deserved thanks	Community/Safety	Ronnie Duncker

7/6/2007	Record Courier	Letters: Lay down the law	Community/Safety	Nancy Thornburg, Joyce DeVore, Nani Thornburg, Cindy Hannah, Bill Morgan, Carole Morgan, Ruggero Gigli, Gina Gigli, Joni Hill, Charles Muench, Neil Nyswonger, Jackie Nyswonger, Rick Dustman, Karen Dustman, Nancy Specchio, Dave Brees, Jan Brees, Shirley Taylor, Forrest Robinson, Karen Robinson, Michele Neely, Rita Lovell, Mary Ellen Zellmer, Rosemarie Sherman, Kim Hunt, Carol McElroy, Debbie Riley, Margarita Chevarin, Gary Howard, Barbara Howard, Doranna Glettig, Evelyn Yonker, Warrem Jang, Dee Jang, Marge Holdridge, Ann jRobinson Molinari, Roma Morris, Dave Kirby, Linda Kirby, Jack Merrill, Kathy Merrill, Melanie Bowers, Dave Mills, Lisa Fontana, Claude Myers, Connie Wenzhou, David Griffith, Scott Tinseth, Chris Gansberg, Jan Lopes, Gail Day, Lisa Cobourn, Bob Rudden, Dee Rudden, Judy Wickwire, Gunter Kaiser, Lois Kaiser, Ida Glazier, Jennifer Thornburg, Carol Harnett, Dawn Riddle, Jerry Andrews, Mike Makely, Dave DeVore, Skip Veatch, Dave Zellmer, Kate Harvey, Wanda Coyan, Kathleen Andrews, Nancy Richmond, Linda Merrill, Cami Chavez, Rosemary Joe-Kinale, Mary Rawson
7/20/2007	Record Courier	Alpine County then and now	History	Irving Krauss, Jerry Sprout, Janie Sprout
7/20/2007	Record Courier	Diamond Valley Road Race on July 28	Bicycles	
7/20/2007	Record Courier	Impact statement out today for new forest road rules	Roads/Land Use	

7/21/2007	Record Courier	Grover Hot Springs' Family returns	Museum	Irving Krauss
7/27/2007	Record Courier	Kirkwood hosts home tour	Kirkwood/Event	
7/27/2007	Record Courier	Kirkwood events set for Sept. 1	Kirkwood/Event	
7/27/2007	Record Courier	Falling Rock Band performs in Alpine	Arts/Library	
7/27/2007	Record Courier	Villa Gigli hosts artist	Arts	Peter Chope, Sandy Baenan
7/27/2007	Record Courier	Sunday the 20th anniversary of Acorn fire	Fire	Nancy Thornburg
8/3/2007	Record Courier	Fire services shine at keeping little blazes small	Fire	Bill Morgan, Nancy Thornburg, Carole Morgan
8/10/2007	Record Courier	Meet the new Alpine Health and Human Services director	Social Services	Hugh Margesson, Joyce DeVore, Richard Harvey, Deanne Roberts, Phillip Bennett, Kathy Kerr, Gail Day
8/8/2007	Record Courier	Sherman 'Sherm' Layne Glettig	Obituary	Sherman Glettig, Doranna Glettig
8/17/2007	Record Courier	Alpine Postmaster receives top honor by national organization	Award	Margaret Daniels, Dennis Daniels
8/17/2007	Record Courier	Thanks to Sherm Glettig's friends for all the support after his death	Obituary	Sherman Glettig, Doranna Glettig, Margaret Daniels, Todd Ellis, Nani Ellis, Kaye Jobst, Chuck Jobst, Judy Molnar, Charlie Dobson, Sharon Jardine, Don Jardine, Ellen Martin, Steve Martin, Carol McElroy, Dave McElroy, Nancy Thornburg, Fritz Thornburg, Tim Scherer, Tina Scherer, Don Skinner, Kim Skinner
8/24/2007	Record Courier	Silver Mountain City comes alive	History/Event	Karen Dustman, Rick Dustman
8/31/2007	Record Courier	Emergency response at the touch of a button	Emergency Services	Bill Morgan

9/5/2007	Record Courier	Woodfords student essayists to be published authors	Schools/Awards	Ridge Cruz, Janean Skenandore, Jim Parsons, Jackie Blaha
9/7/2007	Record Courier	New county administrator in the works for Alpine County	Government	Joyce DeVore
9/14/2007	Record Courier	Alpine auditor an important part of local government	Government/Biography	Randi Makley, Marilyn McKenzie, Matt Makley, Brianna Cross, Irving Krauss
9/14/2007	Record Courier	2007 Tour of the California Alps	Bicycles	
9/14/2007	Record Courier	Ebbetts Pass Scenic Celebration	Arts/Event	
9/14/2007	Record Courier	Artists open house in Markleeville	Arts/Event	Dianna Mitzner, Sandy Braenen, Todd Branscombe, Jan Brees, Jeff Brees, Peter Chope, Debra Esteban, Susan Flakus, Gina Gigli, Kaye Jobst, Charles Muench, Carolyn Vaughn, Mark Vaughn, Jennifer Vaughn, Deirdre Wallace, Evelyn Yonkers
9/14/2007	Record Courier	Aspen exhibit at gallery	Arts/Business	Peter Chope
9/14/2007	Record Courier	Three-day Earthdance begins in Markleeville today	Arts/Event	
9/14/2007	Record Courier	Alpine Exhibit	Awards	
9/21/2007	Record Courier	Alpine residents hand checks to responders	Emergency Services	Lynn Doyal, Rob Levy, Mike Gard, Sl Moss, Joyce DeVore, Nani Ellis, Buck McClelland, Nancy Thornburg, Tom Minder, Ron Michitarian
9/21/2007	Record Courier	Expedition Lodge breaks ground Oct. 1	Kirkwood	
9/21/2007	Record Courier	Grover Hot Springs' family returns	History/Event	Charles Grover, Elizabeth Savage, Nancy Thornburg, Dick Edwards
9/28/2007	Record Courier	Couple operates Alpine Eatery	Business/Biography	Warren Jang, DeAnne Jang

9/28/2007	Record Courier	Alpine Creek Day Saturday	Watershed	Chris Katopothis
9/30/2007	Nevada Appeal	The last word?	Washoe	Ramona Dick
10/5/2007	Record Courier	Family Day Saturday at Turtle Rock Park	Kids/Event	Lynette Potts, Gail Day, Skip Veatch, Tony Galvez, Dan Wilkerson. Gary Howard, Barbara Howard, Edie Veatch
10/5/2007	Record Courier	Markleeville art show is this weekend	Arts/Event	Dale Bennett
10/5/2007	Record Courier	Mountain music at Villa Gigli	Arts/Business	Ruggero Gigli, Gina Gigli
10/5/2007	Record Courier	A look at Alpine County's sheriff department	Public Safety	Bill Morgan, John Crawford, Rob Levy, Ron Michitarian
10/12/2007	Record Courier	Women's center hosts open house	Social Services/Event	
10/12/2007	Record Courier	Counting on the county clerk	Government/Biography	Irving Krauss, Barbara Howard, Barbara Jones,
10/14/2007	Record Courier	Alpine begins water planning	Water	
10/14/2007	Record Courier	Alpine Superior Court	Courts	David DeVore
10/14/2007	Record Courier	Alpine School District	Schools	Jim Parsons
10/14/2007	Record Courier	Alpine Public Works	Government	Julie Ola
10/19/2007	Record Courier	Volunteers ready to protect eastern Alpine County	Fire	Buck McClelland, Rob Levy, Skip Veatch, Jim Haven, Al Moss, Hal Bird, Wes Long, Paul Schlange, John Baker, Dave Woffinden, Tony Galvez, Dave Zellmer
10/19/2007	Record Courier	Kirkwood hosts annual job fair on Saturday	Kirkwood/Event	
10/26/2007	Record Courier	Getting the general lay of the land in Alpine	Travelogue/Hist ory	Joyce DeVore, Nancy Thornburg
10/26/2007	Record Courier	Payne crowned Miss Washoe Teen	Washoe/Compe tition	Kaylynn Payne, Marilyn Payne, Raymond PayneCatherine Walker, Sari Payne, Raymond Payne Jr.

11/2/2007	Record Courier	Kirkwood pushes its master plan	Kirkwood	Bud Klein, David Likens, Gary Derck
11/2/2007	Record Courier	Tour of Alpine Peaks	Geography	
11/2/2007	Record Courier	Alpine County to address growth management	Government/Land Use	Bill Morgan
11/9/2007	Record Courier	Christmas tree permits go on sale	Government/Land Use	
11/9/2007	Record Courier	Diamond Valley School eligible for award	Schools/Awards	Andrew Voss, Lisa Fontana, Jon Paul Embry
11/16/2007	Record Courier	Alpine County locals are talking about...	Washoe/Biography	Hazel Payne, Stuart Merrill, Kathy Payne, Raymond Payne, Judy Payne, Joyce DeVore, Liz McGeein, Veronica Slavic, Hugh Margesson
11/16/2007	Record Courier	Visitor center closed for Thanksgiving holiday	Business	
11/23/2007	Record Courier	How secure was Alpine County?	Gay Liberation Front/Posse Comitatus	Irving Krauss, Chris Smith
12/7/2007	Record Courier	Superior court judges dispense justice in Markleeville	Courts	Bill Morgan, David DeVore, Richard Specchio
12/7/2007	Record Courier	Kirkwood, Heavenly blast environmental scoreboard	Kirkwood	David Likins
12/14/2007	Record Courier	Art brings peace to troubled like	Arts/Library/Biography	Karen Dustman, Tony Long Wolf
12/14/2007	Record Courier	Alpine begins water planning	Water	Joyce DeVore, Gunter Kaiser
12/14/2007	Record Courier	Alpine Superior Court	Courts	David DeVore, Joyce DeVore, Richard Specchio
12/14/2007	Record Courier	Alpine School District	Schools	Jim Parsons
12/14/2007	Record Courier	Alpine Public Works	Government	Joyce DeVore, Julie Ola
00/00/2008	Carson Valley Almanac	Warm and Welcoming	Biography	Greg and Dale Bennett
1/4/2008	Record Courier	Trash talk in Alpine County	Trash	Bill Morgan, Patty DeMaio

1/11/2008	Record Courier	Kirkwood gets 15 feet of frosting for 35th birthday cake	Kirkwood/Event	Daniel Pistoresi, Dick Reuter, Zachary Kirkwood, Dave Myers, Jeff Walters, Alan Plaugher, Bud Klein
1/11/2008	Record Courier	Kirkwood named one of 10 best places to learn	Kirkwood	
1/18/2008	Record Courier	The challenge of keeping up Alpine County's infrastructure	Roads	Irving Krauss, Dennis Cardoza,
1/25/2008	Record Courier	Plan may preserve Markleeville's historic nature	Buildings/Histor y	Bill Morgan
2/1/2008	Record Courier	Hope Valley yurt combines traditional with modern	Hope Valley/Business	Jim Donald, Joyce Coker, Brandon Mayo, Miyshael Gailson, Vince Robertson
2/8/2008	Record Courier	Alpine votes for Obama, McCain	Voting	Irving Krauss, Gail Day, Jim Dunn, Jeanne Lear, Mary Rawson, DeAnne RobertsMike Helms, Jess Sanford, Barbara Howard, Judy Molnar, Corrine Cole, Hal Starratt, Jane Starratt, Sarah Simis
2/8/2008	Record Courier	This may be Alpine museum director's last season	Museum/Biogra phy	Dick Edwards, Karen Dustman, Jim Long
2/8/2008	Record Courier	Villa Gigli offers winter wine tastings	Business/Event	Ruggero Gigli

2/15/2008	Record Courier	Diamond Valley School recognizes students	Students/Awards	Joyce DeVore, Sally Clark, Aspen Smokey, Maya Smith, Patrick Voss, Andrew Voss, Courtney Brothers, Hunter Celio, Jon Paul Embry, Landon Matlock, Emily Slavic, Dashona Godowa, Chey Aaron's, Dion Mortimer, Amanda Process, Ubaldo Gomez, Teddy Doyal, Anna Guerrero, Andi Jo Embry, Leonna Mortimer, Elyssa Galvez, Azriele DeVargas, Julia Gomez, Jack Doyal, Karin Jones, Jenna DeVargas, Taylor Embry, Billy Rubino, Deanna Doyal, Phoebe Hamilton, KayLynn Payne, Tarquinius Baker, Chauncey Bagshaw, Michelle Minder, McKinna Jackson, Nathan Cruz, Ryan Bell, Stormee Smokey, Savannah Green, Alexandria Saleido, Mitchell Levy, Jed Easton, Lauryn Crawford, Tiller Van Doreen, Logic Chernago, Justin Dick, Toria Francis, Hunter Bryant, Ombryann Guerrero, Pierce Bryant, Thomas Dick, Tramayne Bennett, Julia Gomez, Stella John, Rhian Snyder, Lauryn James, Stephanie Tyon, Hunter Czadek, Gabe Merrill, Gavin Wyatt, Austin Process, Isaiah John, Marcus Rice, Elaine Christensen, Mark Francis, Sophie Bell, Jailiene Salciedo, Syrus Durant, Cole Jackson, Celeste Brown, Mulia Gomez, Shaawna Burttt, George Dick, Shirley Butler, Rebecca Lewis, Justina Dressler, Nora Esparza, Robin McCully,
2/22/2008	Record Courier	Skiing the Carson Pass trailhead communing with nature	Recreation	Jim Donald
3/7/2008	Record Courier	Murder mystery solved at Alpine Library	Library/Event	Richard Harvey, Gary Howard, Terrie Peets, Rita Lovell, Jim Dunn, Skip Veatch, Sandy Pritchett, Don Jardine, Virginia York, Mike Makely

3/7/2008	Record Courier	Douglas prosecutor challenges Alpine County judge	Elections	David DeVore, Karen Dustman, Barbara Howard
3/7/2008	Record Courier	Meeting the Alpine County tax collector	Government/Biography	Irving Krauss, Carol McElroy, David McElroy, Marcus McElroy
3/7/2008	Record Courier	Snowshoe to benefit in Hope Valley ski tour	History/Event	Snowshoe Thompson
3/14/2008	Record Courier	Forest Service working on new Alpine fire station	Forest Service	Bill Morgan
3/14/2008	Record Courier	Alpine students sign anti-tobacco petition	Schools/Event	Elizabeth McGeein
3/28/2008	Record Courier	Compromise marks winter recreation plan	Forest Service/Roads	Debbi Waldear, Rob Levy
4/4/2008	Record Courier	Compromise important on public lands	Forest Service/Roads/Opinion	Jim Donald, Nancy Thornburg
4/4/2008	Record Courier	Alpine Democrats attend California convention	Community/Elections	Irving Krauss, Jim Donald, Coreen Cole, Dianna Mitzner
4/4/2008	Record Courier	Alpine Fire Safe Council offering curbside chipping	Fire Safety	Jeff Brees
4/11/2008	Record Courier	Woodfords family there in a pinch	Business/Biography	Joyce DeVore, Nicole Chavez, Cami Chavez, George Chavez, Bobbie Stephens, Margie Stephens
4/14/2008	Record Courier	Planning commissioners to discuss guidelines for historic Markleeville	Buildings/History/Government	
5/2/2008	Record Courier	Alpine to benefit from Web grant	Communication	
5/2/2008	Record Courier	50 Plus Mother's Day luncheon is May 8	Seniors/Event	Jim Clark, Dolores Clark, Ernestine Fogarty

5/2/2008	Record Courier	Former Amador resident to be Alpine's first administrator	Government	Pamala Knorr, Beth Nunes
5/2/2008	Record Courier	Dustman best for Alpine judge	Elections/Opinion	Karen Dustman, Catherine Alsner, David DeVore, Judge Bradford, Judge Specchio
5/6/2008	Record Courier	DeVore wins judges race	Voting	David DeVore, Phillip Bennett, Tom Sweeney, Skip Veatch, Karen Dustman, Gail Day, Jim Dunn, Jeanne Lear, Mary Rawson, Barbara Howard, Sarah Simis, John Crawford,
5/9/2008	Record Courier	Alpine libraries offer many services	Library	Irving Krauss, Bessie Platten
5/9/2008	Record Courier	Temperament vs. the rule of law	Elections/Opinion	Steve Hibbs, Karen Dustman, David DeVore, Judge Bradford,
5/16/2008	Record Courier	College hosts commencement	Schools/Awards	Karen Mortimer, Cheryl Rivera
5/16/2008	Record Courier	Time to take a hike in Alpine County	Recreation	Jim Donald
5/18/2008	Record Courier	A talk with Alpine County's tax man	Government/Biography	Irving Krauss, David Peets, Terri Peets, Dena, Justin Peets
5/23/2008	Record Courier	Alpine County's Gansbergs know their horses	Biography	Joyce DeVore, Faye Gansberg, Pat Rahbeck, Gail Day, Chris Gansberg
5/23/2008	Record Courier	Alpine County Museum opens for season	Museum	
5/23/2008	Record Courier	Emergency services barbecue June 14	Emergency Services/Event	Al Moss
5/30/2008	Record Courier	A quick sampling of some of the area's top eateries	Business	Bill Morgan, Dave Kirby, Linda Kirby, John Brissenden, Patty Brissenden, DeAnne Jang, Warren Jang, Sandy Matlock, Ruggero Gigli, Gina Gigli

6/6/2008	Record Courier	DeVore wins judges race	Elections	David DeVore, Karen Dustman, Phillip Bennett, Skip Veatch, Tom Sweeney, Gail Day, Jim Dunn, Jeannie Lear, Mary Rawson, Barbara Howard, Sarah Similar, Judy Molnar, John Crawford, Pamela Knorr, Joyce DeVore
6/6/2008	Record Courier	Fuelwood gathering permits go on sale	Wood	
6/6/2008	Record Courier	66 riders participate in annual bike-a-thon	Bicycles	John Crawford, Julie Ola, David DeVore, Nani Ellis, Elizabeth McGeein, Shaunna Burtz, Mayney Bennett
6/13/2008	Record Courier	Outstanding service	Government/Award	William Richmond, Paul Magdaleno
6/13/2008	Record Courier	Low-cost dog vaccinations in Alpine	Community/Event	
6/13/2008	Record Courier	What is child sexual abuse?	Social Services	Jennifer Kline
6/13/2008	Record Courier	Health officer brings care to Alpine County	Health	Richard Harvey, Virginia York, Kate Harvey, Norah Harvey, Lynette Bennett
6/27/2008	Record Courier	South Lake Tahoe's effluent ends in in Alpine County	Sewage	Bill Morgan
6/29/2008	Record Courier	In school administration a cushy job?	Schools	Irving Krauss, Jim Parsons, Jim Dice, Kate Harvey, Linda Schshoe, Ann McGinnis, Vaudine Stephenson, Lynn Doyal, Cindy Stevens, Mary Wood, Earl O'Neal, Walter Bell, Tony Holdridge, Beverly Caldera, Janice Doyal, Jim Holdridge, Lori Pasqua, Laura Parsons, Maren Parsons
6/27/2008	Record Courier	Fundraiser	Sheriff	Mike Helms
7/4/2008	Record Courier	Sign-ups sought for annual tour of Silver Mountain	History/Event	Karen Dustman, Rick Dustman
7/4/2008	Record Courier	Alpine watershed group receives \$108,000	Watershed group	Chris Katopothis

7/4/2008	Record Courier	Alpine County hosting raffle for honor guard	Sheriff	
7/11/2008	Record Courier	Alpine County's Dangberg cabin gets new home	Buildings/History	Virginia York, Nick Hartzell, Grant Dangberg
7/11/2008	Record Courier	Alpine highways closed for Death Ride	Bicycles/Roads	
7/25/2008	Record Courier	Silver King Creek fish restoration meeting Tuesday	Fish restoration	
7/25/2008	Record Courier	Airport's future topic of discussion	Airport	Jim Donald, Leonard Turnbeaugh, Jack Doyal, Gary Coyan, Dennis Cardoza
8/1/2008	Record Courier	Alpine administrative officer asks residents for suggestions	Government	Pamela Knorr, Bill Morgan
8/13/2008	Record Courier	Catherine Parker	Obituary	Catherine Parker, Robert Parker, Diana Parker, Gayle Parker, Susan Parker, Rick Parker, Kanani Nahinu
8/15/2008	Record Courier	Alpine County cutting \$585,000 from budget	Government	Bill Morgan, Pamela Knorr, Jim Haven, Mark Vaughn, Nat Whaley, Skip Veatch
8/15/2008	Record Courier	General store a place to gather	Business/Biography	Virginia York, Gary Coyan, Gus Egger, Dave Wood, Vera Wood, Lily Egger, Matt Koenig, Bob Rudden, Dee Rudden
8/29/2008	Record Courier	County wields budget ax	Government	Bill Morgan, Pamela Knorr, Skip Veatch, Bessie Platten
8/29/2008	Record Courier	Kirkwood adds new ski lifts	Kirkwood	
9/5/2008	Record Courier	Officials expect fire containment today	Fire	
9/5/2008	Record Courier	Cables Lake rescue moves 6,300 fish in three days	Fish restoration	
9/12/2008	Record Courier	Markleeville native has lots of stories to share	History/Biography	Virginia York, Gary Coyan, Wanda Coyan, John Robert Ellis, Margaret Ann Jones, George Coyan, Elizabeth Coyan, Norman Green

9/19/2008	Record Courier	A climb on the sentinel that overlooks Markleeville	Recreation	Jim Donald
9/19/2008	Record Courier	Creek Day	Watershed group	
9/26/2008	Record Courier	Different meanings of senior	Seniors	Bill Morgan, Richard Harvey, Stuart Merrill, Eileen Merrill, Jim Clark, Dolores Clark
10/3/2008	Record Courier	Tanker crew raffle drawing Saturday	Fire/Event	
10/3/2008	Record Courier	Complaints sought for Alpine grand jury	Courts	
10/3/2008	Record Courier	Redistricting can be a challenge	Government/Voting	Irving Krauss, Wilma Rule, Zack Woods, Barbara Howard
10/10/2008	Record Courier	International couple finds home in Markleeville	Biography	Virginia York, Ruggero Gigli, Gina Gigli
10/10/2008	Record Courier	Alpine walking tour brochures available	History/Event	
10/13/2008	Record Courier	Anthonee Rueban Washam	Birth	Samantha Washam
10/17/2008	Record Courier	Woodfords Community sports new streets	Washoe	Anthony Smokey, DeAnn Roberts
10/17/2008	Record Courier	Indian Creek campground closes Tuesday	Recreation	
10/17/2008	Record Courier	Alpine crash kills pilot	Accident	Ron Michitarian
10/17/2008	Record Courier	Alpine late-season point-to-point hike	Recreation	Jim Donald
10/24/2008	Record Courier	New Bear Valley project in works	Bear Valley	Bill Morgan
11/7/2008	Record Courier	Diamond Valley hosts fire poster contest	Schools/Awards	Joyce DeVore, Sally Clark, Dawn Riddle, Mark Francis, Grace Processs, Kettja Heiland, Nicole Rodriguez, Andrew Voss, Celeste Brown, Conrad Lundy, Hunter Celio, Amanda Process, Anna Guerrero, Sarah Medicine Crow, Karin Jones, Nani Thornburg

11/7/2008	Record Courier	Alpine residents give Democrats the majority	Elections	Irving Krauss, Jill Wegenstein, Earl O'Neal, Gail Day, Jim Dunn, Leanne Lear, Mary Rawson, Sarah Simis
11/7/2008	Record Courier	Kirkwood preparing to open for winter	Kirkwood	
11/14/2008	Record Courier	Alpine seeking comment on plan	Development	Bill Morgan
11/14/2008	Record Courier	Country lawyer started as sawyer	Biography	Joyce DeVore, Tim Pemberton
11/21/2008	Record Courier	Repairs to Caples dam successful	Dams	Deanne Kloefer
11/21/2008	Record Courier	Forest Service Christmas tree permits on sale Monday	Forest Service	
11/21/2008	Record Courier	Late fall good time to hike in the lower elevations	Recreation	Jim Donald
11/28/2008	Record Courier	Who's best fisher'man?'	Fishing	Irving Krauss
11/28/2008	Record Courier	Grover Hot Springs pulls Markleeville out of	Hot Springs/History	Virginia York, John York, Daisy York, Paula Pennington, John Hawkins, C.H. Kilgore, Alvin Merrill
12/5/2008	Record Courier	Retired Alpine worker admits taking funds	Crime	Will Richmond, Annette Flagg
12/5/2008	Record Courier	Surviving Alpine's long, cold winters	History	Fritz Thornburg, Ben Thornburg, John Thornburg, Walt Thornburg, Frank Kanig, Norman Green, Lou Barker
12/8/2008	CCS	Debbi Waldear Kirkwood's Queen of Cross Country	Kirkwood/Biography	Debbi Waldear
12/8/2008	CCS	Kicking It at Kirkwood Cross Country and Snowshoe Center	Kirkwood	Debbi Waldear
12/8/2008	CCS	Hope Valley outdoor center	Hope Valley/Business	Joyce Coker

12/12/2008	Record Courier	Finding the Web in Alpine	Communication	Bill Morgan, Jack Merrill
12/12/2008	Record Courier	Alpine bids adieu to museum director	Museum	Karen Dustman, Dick Edwards, Don Jardine, Wanda Coyan, Ruth Ann Edwards, Jim Long
12/19/2008	Record Courier	Development director tracks building in Alpine County	Development	Irving Krauss, Zach Woods, Carolyn Vaughn, Tony Creter, Brian Peters, Tom Abdoo, Abbie Peters, Willa Peters, Keaton Peters
12/20/2008	Record Courier	Be safe on that backcountry excursion	Recreation	Jim Donald

Alpine

Complaints and compliments circulate around Markleeville

Alpine County Supervisor Don Jardine, who represents District 1 encompassing Markleeville and Markleevillage, held a town meeting Jan. 6 at the administrative building.

Attending the meeting were area residents, plus Sheriff John Crawford, County Planner Brian Peters and Director of Public Works Dennis Carodoza.

Members of the public felt that diagonal parking on Highway 89/4 and parking too close to the corner of Montgomery and the highway should be not allowed.

The consensus was that, "any one of us could be involved in a T-bone accident at that intersection."

A lively discussion followed about mountain lions lurking in Markleevillage, and of particular concern, near Diamond Valley School. Recent attacks on dogs by lions and repeated sightings have been reported.

Crawford encouraged residents to call California State Fish and Game Wildlife management at (916) 358-2882 or (916) 358-2900, to report sightings and incidences immediately. He said, "Since lions are no longer hunted, they are more prevalent."

The sheriff stressed that children should not be walking to and from school bus stops in darkness, and that the sheriff's office will respond if lives are threatened. Members of the audience expressed the perceived lack of response by Fish and Game representatives.

Jardine responded by informing citizens that chair of the board of supervisors, Gunter Kaiser, and superintendent of schools James Parsons have written letters to Fish and Game to request assessment for potential attacks by mountain lions.

Other complaints involved the appearance of the Markleeville USA project property, with mud, drilling equipment and caution tape strewn

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

around in the aftermath of well tests. One member of the audience asked, "What can we do to make the developer clean up the mess he's made in Markleeville?"

"Nothing," responded county planner Brian Peters. "He's not like your teenage son, who can have his allowance withheld if he doesn't clean up his room."

"My department has not received a new subdivision plan or report about the water situation, and there's no way to tell when these will be submitted."

Markleevillage residents wondered how to interpret the words "voice control," as related to the leash law for dogs, believing that it's not right for anyone to allow their dogs to wander around the neighborhood, if they don't come home when called.

Crawford mentioned that funds are being accrued to move the sheriff's department to another location. Audience member Ruggero Gigli stated, "As long as you build somewhere in Markleeville, because I feel very strongly that you should keep the facility in the county seat," and Jardine nodded in agreement.

Crawford also said that Ron Mitchitarian has been promoted to the position of sergeant, and with more staffing, more coverage of neighborhoods will be achieved. Residents expressed their wish to get acquainted with members of the sheriff's department, and a plan was hatched as Nancy Thornburg queried, "Why don't we residents throw a potluck party in honor of all of our emergency responders, to thank them for their active participation in our community?" Every-



GINA GIGLI/The R-C

Alpine County Supervisor Don Jardine and Sheriff John Crawford share their knowledge with an audience of Markleeville residents.

one agreed upon the merit of her idea.

Residents also expressed their appreciation for the excellent job of sanding the roads by the road crew during the recent icy conditions. Director of Public Works Dennis Carodoza smiled and extended the invitation to attend the Public Outreach Meeting on Alpine County Capital Projects, sponsored by his department and scheduled for Feb. 2, from 5 to 7 p.m., at Turtle Rock Park Community Center.

"The new Markleeville water tank is now on line and in service," Jardine announced. (This is a different tank

from the subject of last week's column, which is located in Alpine Village.)

Residents expressed their gratitude that the meeting was called, which encouraged Jardine to schedule a follow up meeting on March 3.



Is your New Year's resolution all about attaining good health? Then, the eighth annual Alpine County Winter Health Festival is the place for you. This event will occur at the Alpine County Early Learning Center on Saturday, Jan. 20, from 10 a.m. to

2 p.m. Admission is free, and there will be many kinds of services and displays.

Participants include the Alpine County Health Officer, Public Health Nurse, Community Outreach Nurse, and other staff; Stateline Health, Barton Hospital, Costco; all told, 33 booths. Prizes will be raffled every half hour, and the grand prize will be \$100 credit toward an energy bill of choice; electric, propane or wood. For more information, contact Liz McGeein or Cindy Schemenauer by phoning (530) 694-2146.

Jan. 19, 2007

Extremely cold weather increases activity in Alpine County

"Below zero" read our indoor-outdoor thermometer many mornings for the past week. Brrrr - that's cold. At least, we're not having the ice storms experienced by people in the mid section of our country. Our days are crispy cold and clear, making almost every rock and pine tree on the mountain highly visible.

Unbeknownst to us, until we hung a finch feeder sack from our poplar tree this autumn, Lesser Goldfinches are year-round residents instead of just being part of the influx of other summer tourists. In Sierra East, chapter 10, author Diana F. Tomback writes, "Male and female are bright yellow below and greenish on the back and rump; both have black wings with white patches and black

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

tail with white at the base." Her narrative explains that, among other places, they winter in Northern California and Northern Nevada. These delightful little birds have a feeding frenzy in daytime, stoking seeds while they can, so that they'll feel warmer during the cold, cold night.

Other frenzied activities include preparations for the Alpine County Health Fair to take place tomorrow, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Early Learning Center located at 100



GINA GIGLI/The R-C

Lesser Goldfinches flock to a finch feeder.

Foothill Road. The theme of this year's Health Fair is to "Get Moving." That's good.

advice, to keep on moving around with healthful activity, when it's so cold, or for that matter, at any time.

Booths at the fair will include Carson Valley Medical Center Breast Cancer Resource Center, Washoe Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Alpine County Family Support Council, Alpine County Public Library, Horse Feathers Fly Fishing School, Beauty-Control, Alpine Children's Center, First 5 Alpine, Carson Valley Medical Center-Diabetes Clinic, Stateline Primary Care, California Highway Patrol, Carson Valley Swim Center, Alpine County Behavioral Health Services, Alpine County Democratic Central Committee, Choices for Children, Warm Line Family Resource Center,

Alpine County Probation Department, Body Language, Barton Resource Center, Alta California Regional Center and more. Prizes will be raffled every half hour, with the grand prize being \$100 credit toward an energy bill of choice; electric, propane or wood.

As a result of the recent town meeting, a glimmer of an idea is now being polished into a sparkling jewel. Nancy Thornburg had expressed her wish that the community could become better acquainted with our emergency responders, and at the same time, honor them for their dedicated service.

Thornburg now will be joined by daughter Nani Ellis and Joyce Devore in overseeing this unprecedented event. I

would suggest that you circle your calendars on Saturday, June 9, for this special happening, in order to meet and to express your appreciation to members of the Alpine County Sheriff's Department, Woodfords and Markleeville Volunteer Fire Departments, Alpine County EMT and Alpine County Search and Rescue. Turtle Rock Park Community Center will be the setting, and the time will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Dinner tickets will only be \$10 per person, with children younger than 12 being admitted free, and proceeds will go to the volunteer fire departments.

In spite of bitter cold temperatures, residents of Alpine County, feathered or not, continue with their activities.

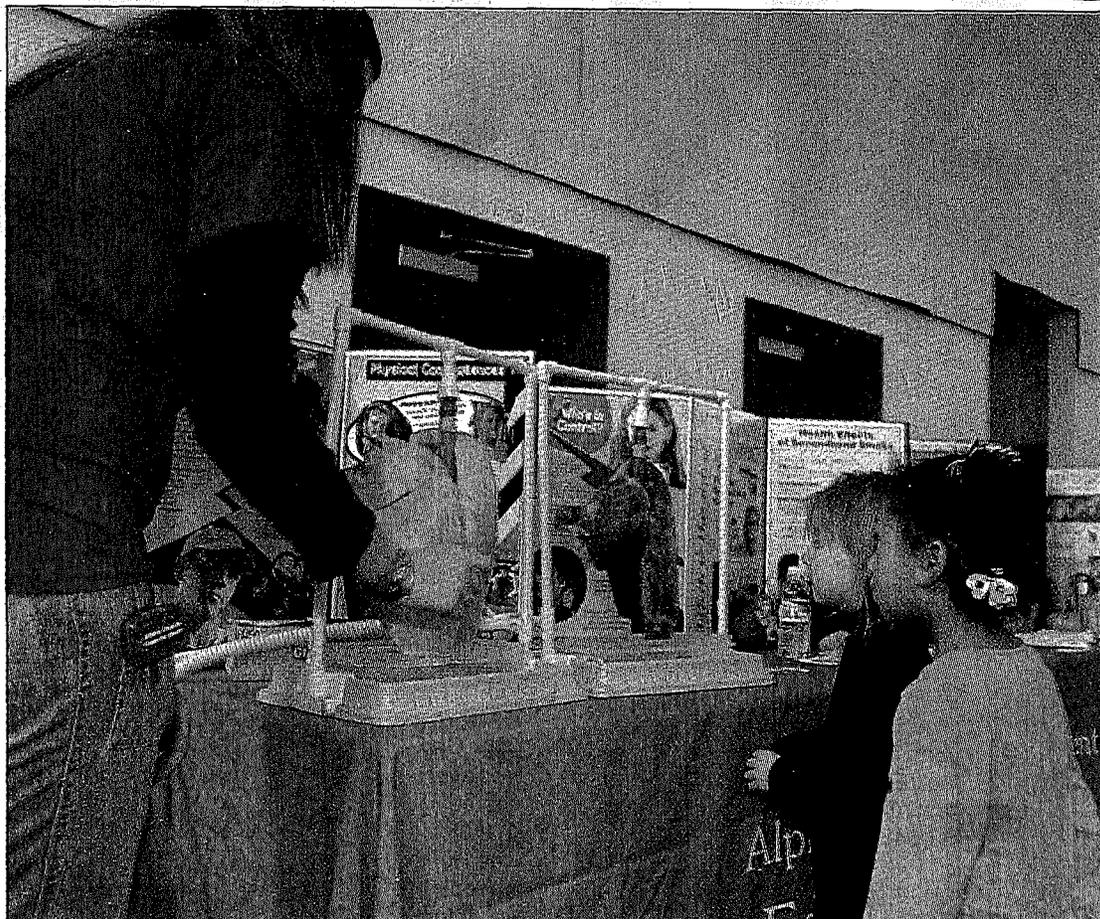
Health fair encourages Alpine residents to keep moving

"Get moving," was the motto-of-the-day last Saturday at the Alpine County Health Fair, organized by the Health and Human Services Department. The multi-purpose room at the Alpine County Early Learning Center was filled with multi-colored displays that attracted young ones and their elders alike.

Freebies kept people eager to get moving from one booth to the next. Pens, mugs, caps, stickers, sewing kits, pedometers, bottles of water and swim passes were proffered, along with a blizzard of flyers, brochures, newsletters and program announcements.

Choices for Children handed out a flyer announcing that a five part workshop series, called Children and their Art, will be taught by esteemed art teacher Lisa Kratt. Children and their adult caregivers will create works of art side-by-side in the multi-purpose room at Hung-A-Lel-Ti. The first session is scheduled for Feb. 28. Since space is limited to 20 people, please phone (530) 694-2129 to reserve a place.

Fair attendees not only had the opportunity to win raffle prizes every 15 minutes, but also to meet interesting people like Loren Nakai, the community relations liaison for the Native TANF Program. Though Navajo himself, he represents the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California. He spoke of the 109 different tribes in California alone and described them as belonging to seven distinct language families. Native TANF provides assistance to needy families, with a goal to end dependence of families for government benefits by promoting work opportunities; to reduce out of wedlock pregnancies and to encourage formation and



NIKI NEWBOLD/R-C photos
Emily Allison, 14, of Gardnerville demonstrates what smoking does to your lungs for Sophie Bell, 4, and Seraina Reid, 4, at the Early Learning Center on Jan. 20. Right, George Dick, 12, and Justin Dick, 6, both of Markleeville make bookmarks at the Alpine County Health Fair.

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

maintenance of two-parent families.

California Highway Patrol trooper Jeff Gartner encouraged people to take bumper stickers against drinking and driving, followed up by donning "legally-drunk" goggles to see how their motor skills are impaired. When asked, "What gets you moving," harking to the theme

of the fair, Gartner replied, "My kids." The same answer was given by Superior Court Officer Lisa Cobourn, Detective Ed Braz and Choices for Children Director Rachel Brothers. Rhonda Medicine Crow has four children, who all play basketball in Indian tournaments, and she plays on the women's team.

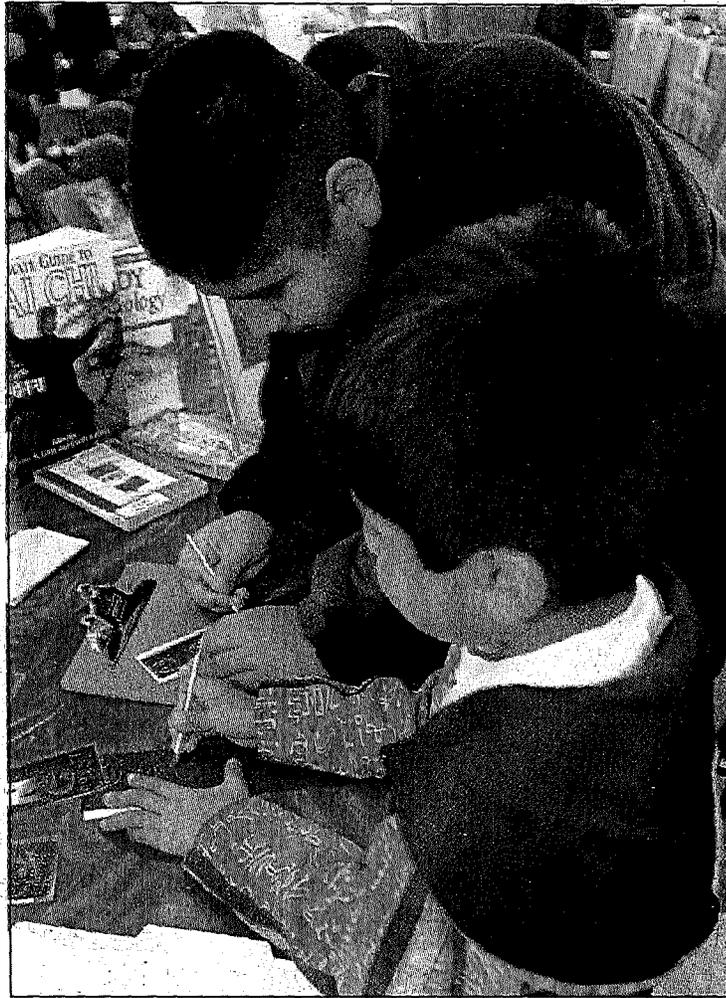
The library display included activities involving crayons and guidance for children to create personalized bookmarks.

Judy Wickwire, who owns Horse Feathers Fly Fishing School, not surprisingly said that fishing is her favorite activ-

ity, and husband Russell, retired fish biologist, nodded in agreement and added, "At this time of the year, I go ice fishing, usually at Red Lake."

Deputy Don Skinner said that his German shepherd dog keeps him moving along. Sherri Smith claimed that, "Music, like the Blues, gets me moving." Office Assistant at Health and Human Services Gail Day also finds "all kinds of music" to be the key to exercising.

"I want to be healthy, so I walk and cross country ski, and now I'm trying to like lifting weights," exclaimed Cheri Warrell.



Retired educator Irving Krauss finds that his participation in political conventions for the Democratic Party and membership in county and state boards keep him active. Public Works employee Julie Ola goes out into nature to pursue her hobby of photography and necessarily "gets moving."

Supervisor Skip Veatch explained, "I really don't believe in New Year's resolutions, but this year I'm resolving to exercise more and to eat less."

As the nurses at the health department were taking blood pressure readings, they commented that they were happy to

see so many residents at the fair. Registered Nurse Lynette Bennett said that she is watching her intake of calories. Public Health Nurse Shelly Taplin said that she has been a member of Curves in Minden for two years and, "I enjoy it very much."

Bernie Combs, School Readiness Coordinator and Director of the Early Learning Center summed up the fair's theme with her quote, "The children of Alpine County keep me moving."

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

Perseverance pays off

On their honeymoon 48 years ago, Paul and Gloria Washam drove from Las Vegas to Bridgeport. Their first night as a married couple was shocking. Why? When Paul was in the shower, he grabbed the water pipe, only to be "thrown flat on my rear," because the electricity shorted. In spite of that misadventure, the Washams embarked upon their long journey involving mountains and waterways of the eastern Sierra.

They returned many times to Bridgeport, Walker and Markleeville. Paul held a high position in the Bay area with Kaiser Hospitals, but in 1984, when he spotted an ad in the San Francisco Chronicle seeking an editor for the now defunct Alpine Enterprise in Markleeville, he accepted the position at a considerably lower salary.

"That was the best move we ever made for our family," Paul said.

Their two sons, Paul K. and Adam, grew up loving the streams and mountains, too. The whole family is fond of the East Fork of the Carson River, where Walt and Virginia Boitano, then-owners of the East Fork Resort, now known as the Carson River Resort, first encouraged their love of fishing.

"I appreciate the scenic views and the good air here in Alpine County," Gloria said. "I can go for a hike right out my back door, and in 10 minutes, I can be at East Fork, my favorite fishing place. I love walking the stream."

"We walk right in the water, trailing our stringer of trout behind us, so as to keep the fish fresh," Paul said.

Their love of fishing has culminated in their publishing "Fishing the California Alps," an annual guide to angling for all Eastern Sierra residents and visitors from Lone Pine to the Oregon state line to read and book-mark information.

The 2007 edition of their fishing guide marks their 14th publication. At present, Fishing the California Alps is a successful family project, but by Paul's own admission, "For the first three years, we just managed to break even."

Their first edition, a four-page supplement about fishing in Alpine County for the Alpine Enterprise, has slowly

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

evolved into a 64-page stand-alone publication, covering not only our county but also Carson Valley, Walker, Topaz, Coleville, Bridgeport, Mammoth Lakes, June Lake Loop, Crowley Lake, Bishop, Big Pine, Independence, Lone Pine, Sierra and Plumas counties.

Even though we don't fish, we appreciate the pull-out centerfold camping section, reading tall and short fishing tales by "Don Q" Don Quilici, Outdoor Editor for the Nevada Appeal, "Wahoo" Paul Washam and by other "fishy" writers. Area chambers of commerce explore historical lore, with ads creating a veritable guide for not just fishing, but also for lodging, dining and special events throughout the season.

We're also looking forward to finding out who will be awarded the third annual "Alpie" trophy, given to an "individual who consistently performs voluntary service to the cause of sport fishing and its environs," when Fishing in the California Alps hits eastern Sierra establishments on May 1.

"We owe our success to our customers, who have become our friends, along with the support given to us by our writers, the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, state and local fish and game boards, and local chambers of commerce," Paul and Gloria Washam said.

■ Would you like to know what could be tacked to the drawing board for Alpine County? Possibilities include future development at the airport, sheriff and court facilities, Turtle Rock Park improvements, Markleeville underground project, sidewalks, river park area and a CDF firefighting conservation camp. Tonight, a public outreach meeting will be sponsored by the Alpine County Public Works Department at Turtle Rock Park Community Center, from 5 to 7 p.m. I predict that a big crowd

for fishing duo



GINA GIGLI/The R-C

Family-oriented Paul and Gloria Washam work from home on their annual fishing guide.

will turn out for this important meeting.

■ When we residents of the eastern slope of Alpine County, dial 911 we always count on the positive reactions of emergency responders, deputies and dispatchers. A community dinner will be held on June 23, to honor these dependable responders, taking place at Turtle Rock Park from 4 until 8 p.m., with the popular Alpine Trio entertaining.

The dinner will include barbecued meat, assorted side dishes and desserts, along with beer, wine and sodas. One

ticket will be \$10, and three tickets will be \$25. Those being honored and their families will be admitted free. Also, children under 12 will be admitted free.

Raffle tickets will be sold at the door, and if you would like to donate something to the raffle, please contact me at 694-2253, or Karen Robinson at 694-2307.

All proceeds after expenses will be distributed among the volunteer groups; Markleeville and Woodfords Fire Departments, EMTs and Search and Rescue.

Volunteers are needed to sell tickets, help set up tables, help with clean-up and contact people about bringing side dishes and desserts.

For more information about the dinner, or how you can assist, please contact one of the organizers; Joyce Devore at 694-1710, Nancy Thornburg at 694-2102, or see Nani Ellis in the Alpine County Administration Building.

■ Gina Gigli is a Markleeville resident. Reach her at ginaigli@villagigli.com.

Alpine Notes

Women's Winter Tour coming Sunday

The 2007 Women's Winter Tour will arrive in Hope Valley on Sunday to raise money for domestic abuse shelters.

Hope Valley Outdoors is sponsoring the skiing event for women with registration beginning 9:45 a.m. at Hope Valley Outdoors at Hope Valley resort. There are events throughout the day including lessons, tours featuring chocolate and snacks, demonstrations, and a sunset tour.

Tonight and Saturday, moonlight tours are being offered.

For more information, visit www.hopevalleyoutdoors.com.

New chamber officers

Bear Valley General Store operator Dave Johnston was elected president of the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce.

Jeanie Glover of Creekside Lodge is vice president, Kirkwood Mountain Resort's Amy Broadhurst was elected secretary/treasurer and representative to the Death Ride Committee, Bear Valley Lodge's Mark Phillips is marketing chairman and Woodfords Station's Daye Kirby is the membership chairman.

Board members will serve until December 2008. The new board thanked outgoing member Dave Cooper of Markleeville Gas, who served from January 2005 to December 2006.

Mural, Web site at Alpine Visitor's Center

A new mural designed and painted by Sandy Baenen, Artwerks and several Alpine County volunteers now marks the outside of the Alpine County Visitor's Center in Markleeville.

The mural features an interchangeable area to advertise county events, businesses and the changing of the seasons in Alpine County. The first banner installed announced Christmas

Tree cutting permits.

Alpine County Chamber Executive Director Teresa Burkhauser thanked the Alpine County Board of supervisors for their financial assistance, the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and members, the Alpine County Design Review Historic Committee and Alpine County

Public works for the installation of the new mural.

Anyone interested in displaying their information on the mural, contact Burkhauser at (530) 694-2475.

The Alpine County Visitor Center's winter hours are Monday through Friday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. The chamber's new Web site is up at alpinecounty.com.

R-C

Feb. 2,
2007



RUGGERO GIGLI/The R-C
Alpine County Director of Public Works Dennis Cardoza leads a public outreach meeting at Turtle Rock Park on Feb.

Bug no obstacle to meeting coverage

Although I really, really wanted to go to the public outreach meeting last Friday evening at Turtle Rock Park, that nasty little viral bug that's been pestering mountain and Valley people, kept me away.

Between coughing spells, I urged my husband Ruggero to take notes and also to take photos in my place. Even when we do go to meetings together, we often sit apart from each other, because I like to sit in the back where I can see everyone, but he likes to sit in the front where he can hear everything.

His assessment of the standing-room-only meeting was that the material was impartially and comprehensively presented by Woodfords Volunteer Fire Chief Buck McClelland, Alpine County Director of Public Works Dennis Cardoza and representatives of the architectural firm, Murray and Downs.

Ruggero encouraged Cardoza to jot down these notes in his book.

"Plus or minus about 100 people... First of many meetings... Letters going out... Three things covered: water tank, airport and capitol improvements."

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

The next day, I e-mailed Nancy Thornburg to ask her opinion of the meeting.

"One of the better meetings I've been to in the last few years," she said. "Well organized (by Dennis Cardoza and his office staff), good turnout, no bickering or whining allowed.

"Buck McClelland started out by describing the need for a big water tank for fire fighting in the mesa area and went on to describe the two main location choices and which one the VFD and AFSC (Alpine Fire Safe Council) preferred," Thornburg said.

"Then Dennis Cardoza made a rapid-fire presentation on airport options which mainly boiled down to: 1) abandon the airport and give the land back to BLM; 2) close the airport and do something else with the land (RV park, campground, etc.); keep and improve it and develop it in some way. To have/improve an airport we must have either a private

developer do it, which would probably go along with starter castles in that area and airport improvements (private hangars, etc.) or maybe have the California Department of Forestry improve it for firefighting and emergency purposes and put a CDF conservation camp there (that's the choice that got my vote).

"Then a firm named Murray and Downs (which designed the Health and Human Services building) made a presentation on Markleeville infrastructure options — basically moving it all to Turtle Rock Park or trying to figure out how to keep it in Markleeville and still meet infrastructure needs for additional space."

Ruggero, with his Italian accent, told me about "the boots" where people voted. Married for 37 years, I did figure out that he meant booths, but still was a bit puzzled about the voting.

Thornburg cleared up my confusion.

"The crowd broke into smaller groups where they could go to various "stations," including those three plus others, ask questions, and, in the case of those three, they could cast their "vote" by putting a sticker on the box with their choice. Only residents and property owners in Alpine could vote."

On Monday, I phoned Cardoza to find out the results of the informal polling. He assured me that this was merely an indication for the directions that his department would be following.

The group was divided about evenly for the location of the water tank; some of the people who thought that the airport should be used by the CDF didn't understand that firefighting inmates would be involved; most citizens prefer trying to keep the infrastructure of the county government in Markleeville, the county seat.

My heartfelt thanks go to three people; my husband, Dennis Cardoza and Nancy Thornburg, who in essence, wrote my column this week.

■ Gina Gigli is a Markleeville resident. Reach her at ginagigli@vil-lagigli.com

R-C
Feb. 9, 2007

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

R-C
Feb 9, 2007

Ne

Minden

Alpine Health Fair still fit as a fiddle

EDITOR:

On Jan. 20, the Alpine County Health Department held its annual health fair at the Early Learning Center in Woodfords, Calif. Over 33 vendors attended. The Alpine County Health Department staff would like to thank the following individuals and businesses for their on-going support, participation, and donations: Amy Broadhurst, Kirkwood Ski Resort, Heritage Makers, Costco, Woodfords Indian Education Center, The Alpine Women's Center, Body Language, Horse Feathers Fly Fishing, Alpine County Library, Alpine County Public Works, Alpine County Superior Court, Alpine County Sheriff's Office, Alpine County Probation Department, Alta Regional Center, Barton Health Resource Center, Beuticontrol, Choices for Children, the

Thanks

Alpine County Democratic Committee, Alpine County Behavioral Health, Carson Valley Swim Center, California Highway Patrol, CAPRI of the Sierra's, Carson Valley Medical Center Breast Cancer and Resource Center, Carson Valley Medical Center Diabetes Clinic, Family Support Council, First Five of Alpine County, Denti-Cal Outreach, Washoe Tribal TANF, Warmline Family Resource Center, Barton Resource Center, Body and Soul Yoga, Teens Against Tobacco, and Holy Grounds Coffee Shop, Mandarin Gourmet, Pizza Factory, Ironwood Cinemas, Sorenson's Resorts, and Paradise Café. Thank you again for all of your help. We look forward to seeing you again next year.

Elizabeth McGeein

Alpine County Health Department

Nancy Thornburg

2/15/07

From: "Reid Bennett" <reidbe@pacbell.net>
To: "Reid Bennett" <reidbe@pacbell.net>
Sent: Sunday, February 04, 2007 2:15 PM
Attach: sfgatologo_xsm.gif; re_kirkwood04_ph_t.gif; re_kirkwood04_ph02_t.gif; re_kirkwood04_ph01_t.gif; re_kirkwood_01_t.gif
Subject: Fwd: S.F. Chronicle article in todays real estate section

SFGate.com [Return to regular view](#)

Print This Article

KIRKWOOD'S GROWTH SPURT

Expansion to be limited, owners say they don't want area to become another Vail

- Kathryn Reed, Special to The Chronicle
 Sunday, February 4, 2007



"Real estate boom" is an understatement when talking about all the hammering going on at this isolated resort.

Unlike the Lake Tahoe Basin, this area doesn't have to contend with numerous constraints and regulations when it comes to building. And developers are taking full advantage with some construction well under way and plans in the works for 1,400 residences, nearly all within steps of fast new ski lifts.

Those who skied Kirkwood 20 or more years ago found a typical day lodge with a cafeteria and slow lifts. It was the mountain people came for. They still come for it, only now they don't have to make the 40-mile trek into South Lake Tahoe to spend the night.

Off Highway 88 where Alpine, Amador and El Dorado counties meet, the Kirkwood Valley is growing up. Whether it grows with grace will be decided in the next few years.

Even with all the hammering and sawing, Kirkwood remains laid-back -- and growth has come relatively slowly. Ten years ago, the first phase of the village opened with 19 condominiums. The resort installed its first high-speed quad chairlift in 2001, with its second in operation last ski season. Dining choices are still sparse, but more diverse. Pretentiousness is unheard of. The 2000 Census tallies Kirkwood's population at 96 and Tim Cohee, president of Kirkwood Mountain Realty, says full-time residents still number fewer than 100.

Kirkwood's biggest asset is the mountain itself. It averages 500 inches of snow a year and is in a bowl surrounded by wilderness that can never be developed. Resort owners say the last thing they want Kirkwood to be is another Vail, Colo.

There's little chance of that. Even at full build-out, expected in about a decade, 1,400 units is a drop in the bucket compared to some of its neighbors to the north. A single project, the Ritz-Carlton that will break ground this summer at Northstar-at-Tahoe near Truckee, will have 1,200 units.

Kirkwood is even off the power grid. Five diesel generators supply electricity for the valley. Kirkwood Public Utility District is the smallest of the six utility districts in California.

"We are paying a lot more for electricity than anybody else is," admitted David Likins, chief executive officer of Kirkwood.

Even in rental units, signs warn guests to keep water and electric use to a minimum.

2/15/2007

2/15/07

"You look at the population of California. Name all the places that in 2020 will remain pretty much the way they are," Cohee said. "This will be a special place and get more so with time."

Now, the overnight capacity is about 3,000 people and will top out at about 6,500, Cohee said.

It's the unreliability of the electricity and the cost that frustrate Reid Bennett.

"With what I know, I wouldn't buy up here," said Bennett, president of Friends of Kirkwood Association. He says he pays about 60 cents a kilowatt and says half that would be reasonable.

He cites traffic, parking and power failures as Kirkwood's negatives. Bennett, whose primary residence is in Santa Rosa, bought at Kirkwood in 1987 for the hiking, road bike riding, back-country experiences, cross-country and downhill skiing.

"They are more interested in short-term real estate profits than the long-term viability of the ski resort," Bennett said of Kirkwood management and owners. His organization keeps an eye on development and the environment in particular.

Cohee and Likins counter his claim by saying that without real estate sales, on-mountain improvements will never come.

"All of our mountain development depends on our continued real estate success," Cohee said. "The ski area itself will never fund all the improvements we want. Kirkwood had record profitability the last three years ... but not enough is left to build \$4 million chairlifts."

Who is buying?

Predominately South Bay residents -- the tech wealthy -- are snapping up the new offerings at Kirkwood. It's a relatively easy drive up Highway 88 through Jackson compared with negotiating Interstate 80 or Highway 50 into Tahoe.

"Kirkwood has been a venture capitalists' market for some time. We represent what they are in their own lives," Cohee said of the Silicon Valley money coming into the mountains. "They were risk takers. They zigged when others zagged."

Mostly families own at Kirkwood. The remoteness and lack of nightlife keep the single person away from the housing market, but not the slopes.

"When you go to Tahoe, you can spend six hours getting home. This is a nice, easy drive," said Janice Moreno, who with husband Michael bought a condo in the 7-year-old Snowcrest complex in March 2005. "People are friendly and talk to you like you're their neighbor."

The Lodi couple likes that activities are always being planned -- such as Saturday night wine gatherings for owners and summer chili cook-offs for anyone staying at Kirkwood.

The Morenos looked at the Marriott-complex at the Heavenly Village in South Lake, but opted for the community setting.

"There's no slot machines, no gambling, no drunkards," Michael Moreno said of Kirkwood. For a couple with three children, not having Nevada casinos nearby was important.

PJ Goodson, 49, of Vacaville bought 16 years ago at Base Camp, one of the original buildings. Her unit is the one Bud Klein, the Stockton businessman who opened the resort in 1972 and who still owns a chunk of it, lived in.

Goodson and her husband were attracted to the area because the ruggedness reminds them of the Rockies -- plus, Squaw Valley and Northstar were out of their price range. With four children, they come up onlt about 30 days a year. Their three-bedroom, 1,600-square-foot condo (which in 1990 cost \$115,000) is on the rental market most of the year.

Goodson sees the growth as a mixed blessing. Her property is worth more and growth brings people to the area, which helps the economy. The flip side is the area is more crowded, she said.

The Morenos paid \$540,000 for the 1,100-square-foot ski-in, ski-out condo with views of runs off Chair 6. A similar condo recently sold for \$775,000.

It costs money to own at Kirkwood. Homeowners' dues (the Morenos pay \$500 per month) are based on square footage. Single-family dwellings belong to the Kirkwood Community Association as well. And most of the condos have a homeowners association specific to their property.

Every homeowner has an additional 3 percent property tax to pay for the recreation center that will be overhauled this summer.

2/15/2007

Size restrictions

2/15/07

When the last nail is driven, about 400 single-family residences will be erected. Some are already topping the \$3 million mark. The Kirkwood Community Association, to which most homeowners belong, but all are regulated by, mandates that no house can be larger than 5,000 square feet after one person built a 7,000-footer.

Changes have occurred through the years to leave less impact on the land. Both the 1977 and 1988 specific plans had more- dispersed development. In 2004, a conservation easement was put over the meadow that helps form the U-shaped valley floor.

"In 2003, we wanted to do the same number of units, but be smarter where we put them," Likins said of the most-recent specific plan. "We brought the residential population into a much tighter urban core. There will be more vibrancy for the village that we are creating. It creates a customer benefit as well; they are closer to the action, to the village, especially with the ski-in, ski-out relationship.

"You park your car and don't get in it until you leave. You don't drive to the resort, ice rink, restaurants or retail."

Types of residences

With a base elevation of 7,800 feet, ski-in, ski-out lodging at Kirkwood is the highest of any Tahoe-area resort.

"Everyone agrees on one thing. The most important thing in ski resort real estate is ski-in, ski-out," Cohee said. "Nothing that gets built from here on out isn't at the base of a lift."

Expedition Lodge is being touted as the granddaddy of the resort's future. Construction of the fractional-ownership private residence club will start this summer, with occupancy likely occurring in summer 2009. Fremont Realty Group out of San Francisco is developing the 22 units, which will be built near the current village.

Red Cliffs Lodge -- the original day lodge -- and two other buildings will be bulldozed to make way for the residence club, Expedition chairlift and the doubling of the village's footprint. People can buy one-eighth ownerships or about six weeks a year.

Owners are not locked into specific weeks and have the chance to stay when a unit is not occupied by another owner. Prices are not set, though the 2,200-2,800 square-foot units are likely to start at about \$400,000, Cohee said. Reservations are being taken now.

Other properties include:

- Timber Ridge: 28 townhomes that start at \$1.2 million. The first residents are expected to move into the three-bedroom units this month.
- Sentinels West: The first phase of the 18-unit, 2,000-square-foot townhomes should be completed by December. Prices are in the \$1.5 million range.
- Thunder Mountain Lodge: At the base of the Timber Creek Express lift, which opened last ski season. Seattle's Paragon Resorts is building the 67 ski-in, ski-out condos that range from 950 to 1,550 square feet. Construction of the \$700,000-to-\$1.1 million units will begin this spring, with occupancy planned for late 2008 or early 2009. They will be full and fractional ownerships.
- The Vilas at Alta Serra: Five duplexes next to Timber Ridge are set to open later this year.
- The Palisades: 48 single-family homes situated between two high-speed chairlifts. Fifteen lots remain. They start at \$650,000 just for the land.
- The Mountain Club: This complex, right in the village, is the least expensive. An eighth ownership starts at \$40,000. Also, already completed are Sun Meadow, The Lodge, Edelweiss and The Meadow. Studio and two-bedrooms range from \$290,000 to \$640,000.

What it all means

The ski resort Kirkwood opened in 1972 -- the same year as Northstar -- with plans first plotted in the mid-1960s. A big day at Kirkwood is 7,500 skiers, which occurs a handful of times a year. With all 10 chairs running, that means about 16,000 people per hour getting off of a chairlift.

The expectation is to increase the number of riders by about 40 percent to approximately 11,000 a day. Lift capacity will increase to 27,000 people per hour.

"Within a few acres we will double the lift-served terrain," Cohee said.

2/15/07

Now, skiers can access about 1,200 acres of developed terrain. The special use permit covers about 2,300 acres on private and public land. Much of the area is in the Eldorado National Forest, owned by the U.S. Forest Service.

Seven new lifts are being proposed. Optimistically, the resort would like a couple of surface tows installed this summer.

The current village has about a half dozen storefronts. At the end of development it might be a baker's dozen.

"I don't foresee a Starbucks," Cohee said, of what seems to be a ubiquitous enterprise at villages throughout the Tahoe area.

His prediction is the only non-winter-related storefront will be a gallery to show off works of local artists.

"Heavenly is the Wal-Mart of skiing," Cohee said. "We are going to be savvy, like a cool boutique. It's always going to be remote."

E-mail Kathryn Reed at tahoekae@yahoo.com.

SFGate.com



You know who your friends are when the pipes freeze

R=C
Feb. 16, 2007

Most of us are aware that Alpine County has the least population of all 58 of the California counties, but does it have the smallest county-wide people-count in the United States?

The least populous county is Loving County, Texas, with 60 people as of 2005. Talk about declining population; at least, we're holding our own with a census count of 1,208 people in 2000.

Small towns like Markleeville, population 165, don't have too many disadvantages.

Yes, we would like to have a few more independent businesses, but we'll leave the megafinances, large corporations and big stores for other places. Anonymity is not possible, but my view is that the same person, with whom you are arguing over an issue, could be the very one who comes to your aid.

Case in point; although they were not in a dispute of any sort, when Kate and "Doc" Harvey and next-door-neighbor Dierdre Wallace discovered that they had no water last week, many Markleeville residents showed up to help them.

"They were amazing," Public health nurse Kate Harvey said. "Along with water company

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

workers Sherm Glettig and Adam Coyan, who dug and dug, Fritz Thornburg showed up with his backhoe, and they all spent much of their precious time to take care of our problem."

First, the determination was made that the houses did not have frozen pipes, nor was the problem located on their properties.

Then, the Markleeville Water Co., volunteers and paid personnel, arrived.

"If we were living in Oakland, we'd probably still be on hold, but these guys responded right away," Harvey said. "John Cassidy climbed right down in our crawl space to find out if our pipes were frozen."

Wallace, also known as the "Wool Lady," not only for the knitted and crocheted garments she creates, but also because she used to own Wild Wools Gallery before it was torn down, further explained the problem with frozen pipes.

"The Harveys and I were

without water from Thursday through Saturday"

Neighbor John Supery connected a hose from his house to ours, and we enjoyed having water for about three hours until his hose froze, too.

"Gary Coyan and water company President Steve Martin stopped by to give advice, and Leonard Turnbeaugh figured out that the problem was in the same location as 30 years ago.

"There have been too many freezing days this winter without the insulation that a covering of snow would provide."

Eventually, Arnold and Maynard Rakow came with Arnold's arc welder to heat up the pipes under the road, and after the ice was melted, water flowed to the two homes once again.

We love living in our village with people really caring for and about each other, and from our home, we can walk to the post office, library and neighborhood grocery.

When we took our two "sabbaticals" from Markleeville in the '80s and '90s, living in Carmel for one year and in St. Helena for four years, we could still walk to the post office, library and neighborhood grocery, and the neighbors were very friendly. Those are my

Continued on
Pg. 2

Homeowner marketing Woodfords property

Staff Reports

Steve Jacques, who used to run Steve's Transmission in Meyers, is using his Woodfords property as the site for a quasi open-house scheduled Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 705 Sunrise Trail.

Jacques, who said he

dreamed up the marketing idea, is trying to sell that house.

The free event is billed as a property trading outlet for those who want to upgrade or downgrade from their current situation in a soft real estate market.

An informational handout dictates it's "a new opportunity to advertise your property for

sale or trade at no expense."

Jacques, who's not a real estate agent or broker but has gained experience investing in property, noted in the information that he invited investors from the San Francisco Bay area.

More information may be obtained at (530) 694-2982.



Repairing frozen water pipes in Markleeville.

GINA GIGLI/The R-C

standards to signify a perfect town.

7 Gina Gigli is a Markleeville res-

ident. Reach her at ginagigli@villagigli.com.

Woodfords Inn manager honored

Staff Reports

Woodfords Inn Resident Manager Barbara Rnjak was recognized by the California Hotel & Lodging Association as one of the industry's outstanding managers of the year.

The stars of the industry award winners at the Fess Parker's Doubletree Resort

Hotel in Santa Barbara, Calif.

The Stars of the Industry awards were given for employee, manager, and general manager of the year, as well as the lodging property achievement awards for community service, guest relations, and the environmental category of good earthkeeping.

The Outstanding Manager of

the Year award recognizes exceptional performance by a supervisory employee to their subordinates, to guests, and to the community.

The California Hotel & Lodging Association is the largest state lodging industry trade association in the country with 1,600 members.

DEEP SNOW

R-C
Feb. 16, 2007



DAN THRIFT/Tahoe Daily Tribune

Chris Nerska telemarks off Chair 5 at Kirkwood Mountain Resort.

Why 1 is man's favorite number

by William Ferchland
Tahoe Daily Tribune

Once a day, and typically more, Ernie Beltran receives a call from someone trying to get directions or information on Kirkwood Mountain Resort.

With the patience of an operator and kindness of country man, Beltran tells the callers they have the wrong number.

But the calls keep coming.

Why? Kirkwood's number is (209) 258-6000. Beltran's cell number is (530) 209-2586.

When people dialing from a 530 area code call Kirkwood and forget to hit the 1 key to call long distance, they get Beltran.

"My initial reaction was 'What the hell?'" he said.

The 34-year-old Red Bluff

resident who works at a Wal-Mart distribution center has thought about including a phrase or two in his voicemail to remind people to dial a one when calling Kirkwood.

He's also considered changing the number he's had for about five months. At this time, it's a short-lived thought since it would be more of a hassle than a comfort.

"I thought about it to tell you the truth but most of the times I'll screen my calls," he said.

Other times he'll pick up and either politely tell people they have the wrong number — even if they'll call back immediately afterward — or even start a conversation. Beltran said most of the calls arrive between the hours of 3 p.m. and past midnight.

He works nights, backing up big rigs to loading docks.

"My phone is always on because I'm outside ... Sometimes it's a good way to stay awake," he said.

Allon Cohné, Kirkwood's director of marketing, suggested people call 1-877-KIRKWOOD, a toll free number.

Beltran said he snowboards at the nearby Mount Shasta, which has three chair lifts and 425 acres of skiable terrain. Kirkwood, by comparison, has 10 lifts and 2,300 acres of skiable terrain.

All the talk about Kirkwood has piqued Beltran's interest in visiting the resort.

"It's just gotten to be interesting," he said. "It's gotten to the point I want to know what the fuss is about."

Historical society hosts Washoe woman

"I was born on the north side of the river in Woodfords," Dinah Pete informed members of the Alpine County Historical Society at their potluck dinner and meeting at Turtle Rock Park on Feb. 15.

"My mother delivered me herself, and then left me in my grandmother's care while she went to work on the other side of the river," Pete said as members gasped collectively.

That's taking work ethics to the extreme, by working the same day as giving birth.

Pete said she regrets having dropped out of Douglas High School during her senior year and now encourages her 28 grandchildren and eight great grandchildren to complete their education.

In that same spirit of education, she agreed to shed some light on Washoe cultural traditions upon being asked by historical society President Gary Coyan.

"I warned my nephew to be careful about what he might say, because some of these people here tonight know Washoe words," she said.

"My mother used to say, 'Huk-A-Des' or 'don't say that' (because you eat your own words)."

In her informal description of times past, she remembered that Stu Merrill's father, Grant Merrill, "often danced our traditional dances with us."

The elders used to hold dances before gathering pine nuts, but now they just go and gather pine nuts, though Pete says that it is her custom to pray before the harvest still.

Pete brought a film, produced by the University of Nevada, showing the ways of the past as demonstrated by Theresa and JoAnn Smokey.

Washoe people believe that animals have occupations, and the job assigned to birds is planting more piñon pines with their sharp beaks.

The tribe gathered at Double Spring for the harvest and danced from dawn to dusk for four days. They used large, conical burden baskets to collect the cones that were removed from the trees with long, hooked sticks.

They knocked the nuts from the cones by holding the cone in one hand while hitting it with a pine branch with the other.

The first roast was accomplished by adding hot coals to the nuts in the winnowing basket and shaking the basket to keep it from burning.

The original coals were carefully picked out, and fresh, hot charcoal was added for the second roast.

After pounding the nuts with a rock, shells and nuts were separated by tossing them in a winnowing basket and subsequently, the pine nuts were ground finely for pine nut soup by mano and metate, oval rock and stone basin.

After the film was shown, Pete said that now she uses a screen to roast the pine nuts and a meat grinder to reduce the nuts to a powder for the soup. Water is added, and the soup is heated, but since the pine nuts were previously roasted, the soup doesn't need more cooking.

Pete explained that the Washoe also like to eat acorn biscuits with their pine nut soup.

They get acorns from the area near Jackson and leach the bitterness out of them with sand, grinding them to powder and allowing the ice-cold river water to gel the powder.

Also, they used to eat young cattails for greens, and they dried chokecherries, elderberries, currants and gooseberries and then ground them as sweet additions for foods.

Long-haired Wanda Coyan asked Pete how to remove piñon pitch from hair and skin. "That's why we wear scarves on our heads, and we used to rub sand and grease to get rid of pitch on our skin, but now

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Feb. 23, 2007

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

we use baby oil," she said. ■ Karen Robinson and I are

in charge of collecting raffle prizes for the big emergency responders dinner scheduled for June 23 at Turtle Rock Park.

Since I'll be on vacation in March, please phone Karen Robinson, (530) 694-2307, with your donations for raffle

prizes.

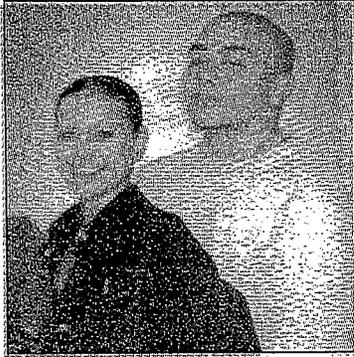
■ While I'm in Italy, a group of guest writers will be taking turns to give their sketches of life here in Alpine County.

■ Gina Gigli is a Markleeville resident. Reach her at gina@villagigli.com



Washoe and Woodfords native Dinah Pete spoke to the Alpine County Historical Society on Feb. 15.

GINA GIGLI/The R-C

**SPECIAL TO THE R-C**

Sari Payne and Edward Montoya are engaged to be married.

Alpine parents announce engagements

Raymond T. and Marilyn Payne of the Hung-a-l-el-ti Community announced the upcoming wedding of their daughter, Sari Payne to Edward Phillip Montoya, son of Gail Sierra and Eddie Montoya of Porterville, Calif.

Sari is a 2001 graduate of Douglas High School and is continuing her education in dentistry, specializing in orthodontics.

Edward is a 2001 graduate of Sherman Indian School in Riverside, Calif., and he's pursuing his doctorate in child psychology.

The couple plans to be married in May.

**SPECIAL TO THE R-C**

Holly Dressler and Eric Enos are engaged to be married.

■ The parents of Holly Dressler announced the engagement of their daughter to Eric Enos, son of Wanda Batchelor and Rocky Jim of Stewart.

Holly's parents are Cheryl Dutchy of the Hung-a-l-el-ti Community and Shuman Dressler of the Dresslerville Colony.

Holly graduated from Sherman Indian School in Riverside and currently works for the Washo Tribe's education department at Hung-a-l-el-ti.

Eric graduated from Carson High School and is employed by the Washo Tribe at Stewart as a youth mentor.

The couple plans to attend Humboldt State University in Arcata, Calif., in the fall, after their marriage at Meeks Bay, Lake Tahoe, in September.

Saturday meeting set in Markleeville

A meeting to gather comment about projects for for underground power conversion, sidewalk construction, light installation and connection costs will be held 9 a.m. Saturday in the Alpine County Administration Building in Markleeville. Alpine supervisor Don Jardine will conduct the meeting.

Calling all eastern Alpine

Friday, March 2, 2007 ■ A7

What do we want eastern Alpine County to look and be like in five, 15, 25 years? Do we want to retain our rural atmosphere with open spaces and scenic views, our small town character and uniqueness with nearby public lands and outdoor recreation opportunities?

Do we want to foster neighborhood communities with diverse business development where both tourists and locals can eat and shop and where tourists can obtain services such as a Laundromat, RV dump station, food and outdoor activity supplies and motels?

Do we want to manage growth in a more intelligent way than so many communities around us, making new growth pay its own way, and avoiding an Aspen-like "destination tourist resort" atmosphere, gated communities with golf courses, "starter castles" and non-resident second home owners?

In 2005, the Alpine County Planning Department conducted a written survey and held a workshop to determine how people in eastern Alpine feel about these and related land use and development issues.

Since that time the planning commission has been grappling with the public input and the three major themes which emerged: community character, growth management policies, and adequate public facilities and services. Coming to terms with these issues will be part of the process of revising the land use element of the county's general Plan for the eastern Alpine area.

Survey results indicated that "Alpine County is first and foremost a rural place and residents overwhelmingly want it to stay that way." The planning commission has concluded that "preserving and retaining a rural community while still allowing for some growth and economic opportunity" is one of the most significant chal-

County residents

lenges facing the community."

A community workshop to review the work done so far and to seek further public input will be held 5:30 until 8 p.m. March 8, from at Turtle Rock Park. Much of the work is still in the concept stage with many details to be worked out before the

concepts are refined and adopted into the general plan to become official county policy.

Written informational packets will be provided at the workshop in three separate sets: a four-page summary of the planning commission's proposals; a five-page planning com-

Alpine Portfolio

by Nancy Thornburg

mission response to the 2005 survey; and attachments with details of the planning commission's proposals.

These packets may be obtained in advance from the planning department (Turtle Rock Park Community Building, 17300 Highway 89, Markleeville) or you may

request that they be sent to you electronically by e-mail by contacting Shelly Jefford at shelly@pd.alpinecountyca.com.

■ Nancy Thornburg is one of several correspondents filling in for Gina Gigli while she is on vacation.

Alpine may fund fire chief

Staff Reports

Alpine County is looking at the possibility of hiring a full-time fire chief.

A presentation was made to county supervisors at their last meeting and supervisors Don Jardine and Phil Bennett expressed support for the plan, according to a memo issued by Eastern Alpine County Fire Services Plan Implementation Committee member David Griffin.

According to Griffin, the county requires \$100,000 a year to fund the position. The Woodfords Fire Department has offered to contribute funds from its training budget and Markleeville's fire department is considering the same thing.

With the contributions, the cost of the county would be reduced to \$60,000 a year.

Supervisors Jardine and chairman Skip Veatch met on Tuesday to discuss the issue and Veatch agreed to consider the position during the budget process.

Griffin said there is no promise Alpine would fund the position, only that if supervisors decide it is a priority, the position could be added to the budget.

R-C March 2, '07

Hope Valley is Alpine's shining jewel

Alpine County is blessed with beautiful lands that are enjoyed by its residents as well as by visitors from Carson Valley, Carson City and other places in Nevada and by travelers from Jackson, Sacramento, the Bay area and other parts of California. Adults and children fish, camp, and picnic in the warmer months and in winter cross country ski, snowshoe, snow mobile, or just play in the snow.

Hope Valley is a shining jewel in the county. It is important not only for its beauty but also because of its history, for it reflects a continuing struggle to preserve pristine recreation areas in the county. Yet not many are aware of how a group of engaged Alpine citizens saved the valley and other places for public use, and their continuing efforts to prevent projects that would destroy their beauty.

Before Hope Valley was opened to the public it was used mostly for grazing cattle and sheep. My first visit, with my wife Wilma Rule was in the late 1950s. As we hiked in a meadow we came across a Basque shepherd with his flock of sheep and a border collie, who rushed toward us, seemingly annoyed by our intrusion. But with a signal from the shepherd the collie reversed course and returned to the flock. And for many years cattle continued to graze the verdant fields.

The first project that would change the landscape was the proposal by the land division of Sierra Pacific in 1985 to establish a gravel pit. The strong protests by a loosely organized group of local residents led the company to abandon its effort. Yet it provided a valuable lesson: Hope Valley was not immune from destructive change; the population in California, as well as in Nevada, was growing, the dirt road over Luther Pass was being paved, and Highway 88 was realigned. As a consequence more people

would be coming into the area. By late 1985 development in Hope Valley seemed imminent; there was interest in subdividing and constructing residences.

Alarmed by the growing threat to the valley some two-dozen concerned citizens formed Friends of Hope Valley in March of 1986 and led the fight to preserve the valley. Their effort resonated among many in the community and in time was joined by the board of supervisors, the planning commission and the ranchers.

However proposals continued to surface that would mar Hope Valley's beauty. In the spring of 1986 the Sacramento Public Utility District wanted to put power lines through the valley. Imagine towers with their cables sprinkled throughout the valley. That effort was successfully fought by the friends. The second major scheme was AT&T's proposal in February of 1987 for a fiber optic line through the valley. The company applied to the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service for right-of-ways that would put a 20-foot-wide swath of gravel over its length, plus maintenance buildings every 500 feet. Again the friends' opposition was successful.

The successful struggle to save Hope Valley raised the sights of Friends of Hope Valley and other residents to preserve scenic and environmentally sensitive areas throughout Alpine County. That effort was greatly helped by California voters' passage of Proposition 70 in 1988.

It provided funds to purchase Picketts Junction, and an additional 2,500 acres in Hope Valley was purchased by the California Department of Fish and Game that included Willow Creek.

Proposition 70 also gave money to buy river bottomland along Blue Lakes Road, and Sierra Pacific deeded additional land along the road to the For-

est Service. The Trust for Public Land was very helpful in the drive to obtain scenic and environmentally important areas,

Alpine Portfolio

by Irving Krauss

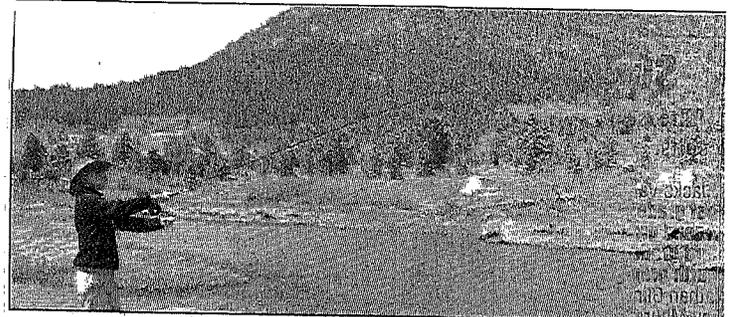
and a \$4 million appropriation by Congress in 1989 added

Faith Valley and parts of the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness. An additional appropriation of \$1.5 million by Congress in 1993 led to the purchase of Bagley Valley. When you drive over Monitor Pass and approach the Nevada border you can see that beautiful valley.

So when you and your family and friends enjoy Alpine County's pristine beauty give a tip of the hat to the folks whose efforts help preserve it.

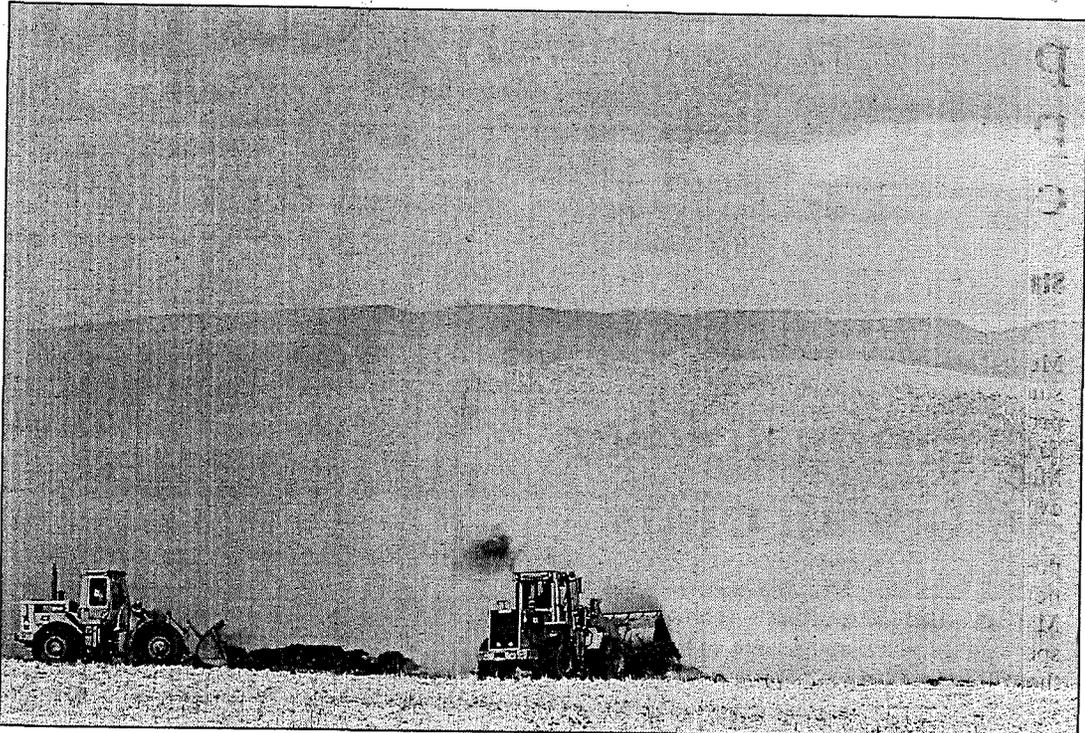
■ Irving Krauss is a Markleeville resident. He is filling in for Gina Gigli, who is on vacation.

Friday, March 9, 2007 ■ A9



BEN MARTIN/Tahoe Daily Tribune:file
Kathryn Fasing of Carson City casts a line during opening weekend for fishing in Hope Valle during the 2004 season.

BRUSH FIRE



SHANNON LITZ/The R-C
Heavy equipment works to move dirt to contain a 9-acre fire in Alpine County on the Néd-denriep Ranch near Highway 88 and the state line on Wednesday afternoon.

Man sentenced to prison in Alpine County shootout

Staff Reports

A Tamarack, Calif., man was sentenced to eight years in prison on Tuesday for attempted murder in an Aug. 2 shootout with his estranged girlfriend in Bear Valley.

John Courtney Cole pleaded guilty to attempted murder and was sentenced by Alpine County Superior Court Judge Dave DeVore to prison.

The victim was also armed

and in the exchange of gunfire both were injured.

Cole was arrested after being taken to the hospital when he arrived at the woman's home on Lombardi in the West Alpine County resort town.

"His injuries proved more serious," according to a statement issued by Alpine County District Attorney William A. Richmond.

"The alert defensive meas-

ures by his intended victim thwarted whatever intentions he harbored, and may have saved him from a death penalty outcome to his plans. The incident was an uncharacteristic breach of the peace that prevails in this Sierra Nevada county, where a courageous victim is now picking up the pieces of a life thankfully saved by her own survival instincts."

Alpine County tackles its growth issue

In Alpine County, public involvement is the norm. Whether by participation in public hearings, public workshops, citizen committees, or by sending letters to county officials and commissions, the people of Alpine County are very willing to offer their opinions and advice to those who are responsible for making decisions about their county.

The planning commission knows how valuable citizen input is and last week sought to involve the public in the development of proposals regarding amendments to the county general plan as a follow up to a previous workshop.

In October 2005, the planning commission had conducted a community workshop regarding the results of its survey on matters pertaining to growth in the area of the county east of the Sierra divide.

In a questionnaire sent out to all land owners in that area of the county, the commission had provided information about the potential development of private land that is provided for in the general plan and asked for opinions regarding the extent and rate of growth they preferred.

There was a remarkable number of responses for a population of the size that live in the county, and opinions were freely offered.

A substantial majority expressed concern about the amount of residential growth that could occur under the general plan.

That information, and knowledge about existing deficiencies in the plan, caused the planning commission to go to work on proposing additions and changes in the plan reflecting the concerns of the citizenry.

One important policy in the existing general plan has to do with the timing of approving zoning changes to reflect the ultimate land uses contemplated under the plan.

Much of the private land in the county has zoning that is more restrictive than the land uses provided for in the plan. For example, some land currently zoned for agriculture is designated residential in the plan.

And, of course, there are always proposals from time to time to change the general plan to permit greater residential use on lands currently designated as open space. To address those possibilities, the planning commission has been putting together policies that spell out the requirements that would have to be met before allowing changes in zoning or the general plan.

For example, to rezone land for residential use, the land would have to be within 1/4 mile of existing residential land.

The commission has also proposed new criteria that would have to be met before approving new subdivisions.

For example, they would have to be within five miles of a fire station and have water storage and delivery systems to meet minimum fire suppression standards.

Another item contained in the current plan is that land uses and densities should not be allowed to occur at a rate or fashion that could be considered disruptive to community character.

No description of what the community character is has been available upon which to make such determinations, so the planning department has produced a comprehensive description of community character for possible adoption by the county.

Another particularly important matter is how much and in what way growth should be regulated.

The commission has been thinking of limiting the number of new residential lots approved in any one year to no more than 10 percent of those that exist today. That rate of development would be applied to each of

Alpine Portfolio

by Bill Morgan

several distinct sub-areas of the county. Regulating the rate of subdivision approvals rather

than the rate of issuing building permits would be an unusual way of regulating growth, but with several advantages over the approach being debated in our neighbor, Douglas County.

Those issues and others were the subjects of a community workshop Wednesday evening, March 8. Over 50 people

attended the workshop and learned about the work being done by the commission.

Many questions were asked and answered and many opinions offered, all of which the commission will be considering in the months ahead.

Of particular interest, by a show of hands, there was much more support for a 5 percent max approval rate for new lots than for 10 percent.

The commission hopes to bring its proposals to the Board of Supervisors for adoption before the end of the year.

Public hearings will take place before anything is adopted, and you can be sure that the Alpine citizens will be there.

■ Bill Morgan is an Alpine County resident and is filling in for Gina Gigli while she is on vacation.

Looking for members of Alpine's

'Greatest generation'

History, a word with a variety of meanings and recorded or related in a variety of ways. History can mean simply knowledge of past events, or it can be part of a retort fired at someone who tries to aggravate another by bringing up some unpleasant and best forgotten event. "Hey, that's ancient history!"

Or it can mean an unusual or significant past, "That house has a history." Whatever the usage, it refers to the past.

In the earliest of times, humans passed on history from one generation to the next in various ways.

Sometimes by the spoken word, sometimes in song, sometimes wordlessly by dance, or sometimes by symbols on cave walls or desert rocks.

Those symbols evolved into written language, and most history today is found in books. However, some of the richest descriptions of history have been, and still are, those which are told by individuals, oral history.

In this age of ours, while most of our time is devoted to the here and now or the near future, much of our greatest resource for history, the deepest, the most valuable oral history, is going, going, nearly gone.

That resource is the memory of those popularly called "The Greatest Generation."

Anyone 80 years or older is part of "The Greatest Generation." Do you know anyone of that age or older?

Those are the people who struggled through the Great Depression and survived the stronger for it. In those days, the only jobs for many men was in the Civilian Conservation Corps, living in government camps and building trails and campgrounds we enjoy today.

Alpine Portfolio

by Bill Morgan

Some people, jobless, had to learn the skills of salesmanship one apple at a time.

Many wives took in laundry and darned socks for their boarders for money to buy sliced baloney so the kids could have some meat to go with the potatoes that they grew in their gardens.

Togetherness was when the entire family spent time on their knees pulling weeds in those gardens. Making ends meet. That was a popular phrase.

Then war fell upon them and they stood up. They are the ones who answered their country's call and plunged into the maelstrom of war to put down Nazism and Japanese Imperialism.

More than 10 percent of the American population served in the military in that war, many experiencing horrors they have been wont to talk about. Some of them would today, but nobody is asking. Most of that generation held things together at home so there would be a home to come back to.

Factories operated round the clock turning out spectacular amounts of arms and equipment. The gardens became "Victory Gardens" and they still had to be weeded, but after attending to "The War Effort." When the war was over, the population was reshuffled.

There were different jobs now. And the GI Bill. Hundreds of thousands became the first of their families to get a college education.

They then became the ones who designed and built the interstate highways we drive today. They are the ones who looked up to the skies above and arranged for mankind to leave the world, literally. They perfected the agricultural systems that feed ourselves and much of the world.

They converted the industrial complex of America that had been kick started during the war years to supply the war machine. Instead, they turned out new Buicks, Fords, Packards, Kaisers, Frazers, and Studebakers. And Jeeps. And bicycles with fat tires. And televisions. And new houses.

That generation is moving on, into history. Before the stories of some of those are lost,

Alpine County's museum staff, with some volunteer help, is carrying out an oral history program.

Some of our 80-plus years citizens are recalling and telling of their experiences, some tales gentled by age, some filled with humor, some seemingly incredible if one didn't know the truth

of them from others of their age, that that's the way it was.

Who laid out Monitor Pass road? Who made the first ski hill in Alpine County? What was it like on the French Riviera in 1944?

How did you get that bad back of yours? And how many

times did that place burn down? Now we know.

Their stories are recorded on tape and transcribed into booklets that are for sale at our museum in Markleeville. It opens Memorial Day.

Do you know anyone over 80?

Sit down and have them talk to you.

Listen closely. You ought to know what they know. It's history.

■ Bill Morgan is a Markleeville resident. He is filling in for Gina Gigli while she is on vacation.

Indian Creek opens April 2

Staff Reports

Indian Creek Reservoir Campground in Alpine County will open at 8 a.m. April 2.

Fees for camping will remain the same as they have been since 2005 and are similar with other comparable facilities in the area.

Indian Creek Campground is one of the best federal campground values in the Sierra Nevada with hot showers, flush toilets, an RV sanitary dump station, paved roads and parking sites as well as bear-proof storage lockers at each site.

A BLM maintenance technician and camp hosts are on-site. Other facilities at Indian Creek Reservoir include a boat launching area, day use picnic area, three loop interpretive trail system and over eight miles of hiking trails.

The main camp area has 19 sites that accommodate RV and tent campers on a non-reservation basis.

Six of these 19 are considered "double" occupancy sites since they have two parking spots, two tent pads and two picnic tables.

The walk-in tent area, located south of the main camp area, has 10 sites that can accommodate up to 15 tents on pads on a non-reservation basis.

Four of the 10 tent sites are considered "double" occupancy sites since they have two tent pads and two picnic tables. Sanitary facilities in the area include vault toilets and potable water.

Bear-proof storage lockers are available at each site.

With advanced reservations, a group of up to 40 people may camp in the group campsite that accommodates tents only.

Golden Age and Golden Access Passports are honored at the campground.

To make a reservations at the group campsite, or for more information, contact the BLM-Carson City Field Office at 885-6000.

FEES

- RV/Tent single site (13)-\$20/night
- RV/Double Site (6)-\$32/night
- Additional Vehicles-N/C
- Tent Area single site (6)-\$14/night
- Tent Area double site (4)-\$20/night
- Group Area-\$50/night
- Showers-For paying customers only
- Sanitary Dump Station-\$10/vehicle/use

MATHLETES



Diamond Valley School Mathletes George Dick, Kalynn Payne and Stephanie Tyon competed in the Winter Warm-ups in Bridgeport on Feb. 3 and the Math Counts Chapter Competition at Sacramento State on Feb. 24.

SPECIAL TO THE R-C

BLM seeking public comment on plan

Staff Reports

The Bureau of Land Management is seeking public comment on an Alpine County plan amendment at an open house during the regular meeting of the Alpine County Board of Supervisors 9 a.m. April 3 at the Alpine County Administrative Office Building, 99 Water Street, Markleeville.

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

As part of the amendment, an environmental assessment has been prepared to analyze designation of public lands suitable

for retention, disposal by sale or exchange, or conveyance for community expansion purpose.

The environmental assessment has also analyzed travel and recreation management by designating road and trail routes on public land and allotments available for livestock grazing.

Copies of the document and

related maps can be accessed and downloaded on the Internet www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson_city_field.html and public comment will be accepted through April 15.

Comments should be addressed to Donald T. Hicks, Carson City Field Office, Bureau of Land Management,

5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, NV 89701.

For further information and/or to have your name added to the mailing list, contact Desna Young, Planning and Environmental Coordinator at the Carson City Field Office 885-6000.

Alpine County struggling

Little Alpine County is wrestling with ways to cope with increasing demands on the meager resources that the board of supervisors currently manages.

There are some parallels with Douglas County of 30 to 35 years ago.

We are finding the need to address current issues and come closer to the 21st century.

Trying to strike a balance between what our residents, taxpayers, employees and visitors need, deserve and want, the board of supervisors is trying to find a way to fund new positions to make fire service and emergency medical services better, bring cohesiveness to county administration and coordinate information technology countywide.

Finding a way to fund any or all of these positions will present a real challenge during our budget process.

Providing emergency services is part of the basic government services we owe our citizens and is what they expect. In addition, since our economy is basically tourist based, our visitors represent a large portion of our calls for service. Presently, our fire departments on the east side of the county, are all volunteers.

Our emergency medical technicians are also volunteers with a coordinator that receives a small monthly stipend.

The Alpine County Fire Safe Council and the Woodfords Fire Department have recommended that Alpine county hire a paid fire chief that will handle things like recruiting, training, maintenance, record keeping, coordination between other county fire departments, budgeting, keeping the board of supervisors apprised of fire department status, possibly combine fire and emergency medical services, working

Alpine Portfolio

by Skip Veatch

toward reducing our fire insurance rating thereby reducing fire insurance premiums and other duties the board determines.

One of the large issues facing Alpine County now is the inability to recruit people for all the programs where we rely on volunteers. The board will look at ways to help in this process. If any Alpiners reading this have the desire to help your communities by volunteering for the fire departments and/or emergency medical services, please contact me at 694-2287, leave a message at county administration and I will get back to you with information on how to join-up.

The board is also looking at funding and establishing the position of county administrative officer.

The workload associated with this position will mean the board of supervisors will be able to concentrate more on the policy aspect of these elected positions instead of the day to day operations of the county and its departments.

Alpine County is one of only two of California's 58 counties that does not have an administrative officer.

As county government gets more complex, having a person at the focal point of important issues becomes more and more important.

The complexity of coordinating programs, many of which are funded by state and federal sources, requires professional leadership.

In this aspect, Alpine County has the same needs as other counties in California.

to enter the 21st century

Typically, in California, an administrative officer may handle duties such as personnel/human resources, budgets in coordination with the auditor and department heads, grant administration, labor negotiations, sometimes in conjunction with a contract negotiator, risk management, purchasing and coordination of appointed department heads.

The administrative officer works closely with county counsel. In addition to the financial considerations, the administrative officer position will be a major policy decision for the board of supervisors.

If the position comes to pass, this person may be asked to help find someone to help Alpine County improve information technology. Currently, information technology is kind of hit and miss in Alpine County.

Different departments hire different consultants to address their own needs.

All of our departments have the need for similar types of information such as budgets, purchasing, inventories, inter-

communication between departments and other needs.

We are striving to get a person that can gather all the county departments together in their computer hardware, software and communication needs. None of these positions will be easy to fund or fill but what better place to face the

challenges before us and to ease us through the growing pains.

■ Skip Veatch is chairman of Alpine County Board of Supervisors, former sheriff, and a 34-year resident of Alpine County. He is filling in for Gina Gigli while she is on vacation.

3-30-07

The Record-Courier ■ Gardnerville, Nevada

ty commissioners and voice your opinion.

B. Anderson
Gardnerville

Alpine County a hostile workplace

EDITOR:

It is hard to imagine what could be so stressful for employees in Alpine County. It is beautiful, peaceful and serene. Or is it? As a person who cares about several of the employees who work for the County of Alpine, I am very concerned about the inability of the county administration to deal with a hostile work environment and low employee morale.

For example, the health and human services department should be a healthy place to work, right? Then why are some of the employees looking for other jobs or are planning to leave? What is making this environment so stressful and hostile? How can the county administration knowingly allow the employees of health and human services to suffer in a hostile work environment?

It seems that the administration's inability to decompress the anxiety and hostility that exists in this department equals some type of neglect or criminal indifference on their part. There have been several workers compensation claims, a large lawsuit is pending and at least four stress-related leaves of absence in the last six months or so. This should have sent a message of change, right?

The administration and board of supervisors should re-examine how they treat their employees, finding a positive way to handle differences, employee anxiety and problems in the work place. The hostile work environment that exists at health and human services in Alpine County seems almost criminal, at least in terms of robbing employees of their mental and physical health. I hope the board of supervisors will change their outlook towards employees, viewing employees as the assets they are to Alpine County.

C. Spassord
Minden

Kirkwood improves Timber Creek Village

Staff Reports

For the past two years, Kirkwood has made significant on- and off-mountain enhancements to its Timber Creek Village area.

The Timber Creek area is the headquarters for all learning programs at Kirkwood including the new Burton Learn-to-Ride program for women.

"This season, we've heard from many families that they've been very pleased with the high-speed chairlift and beginner-friendly terrain at Timber Creek this season," said Allon Cohn, director of marketing for Kirkwood.

New this season are two new tent structures with more than 10,000 square feet of space replacing the 30-year-old Timber Creek Lodge.

The largest tent structure measures 6,300 square feet and is the headquarters for Kirkwood's ski school.

All skier/boarder services including the new Timber Creek Learn to Ski Center and expanded Burton Learn-to-Ride Center are based at Timber Creek.

This larger tent structure houses rentals and tickets providing a fast, convenient way for guests to access everything

they need for riding on the mountain.

The other, smaller tent structure measures 4,300 square feet and is home to Snowshoe Thompson's dining, restrooms and the expanded Kirkwood Mountain Sports, offering a great selection of outerwear, accessories and logo wear.

Future plans for the area include family races, women-specific learning clinics and programs for children. The children's ski and board school has revitalized several programs for young skiers and riders.

"We're turning the Timber Creek area into one of the region's best family learn-to-ski and ride destinations," Cohn said.

Using the \$3.5 million high-speed quad, Timber Creek Express, those learning to ski or ride can access beginner terrain which has been rated as top in the country by USA Today — set apart from the main mountain base area.

The chair services an area that is secluded, providing a place for young families and developing skiers and riders to learn new skills.

The Timber Creek Express provides a quick return from The Palisades, some of Kirkwood's most advanced, fast and steep terrain.

The Timber Creek Village is situated with views of Glove Rock and Martin Point and has two new real estate options with plenty of space for families. Sentinels West's 18 town homes feature three bedrooms, plus loft, and four and one-half bathrooms.

These full ownership residences — with exterior maintenance provided — are more than 2,100 square feet.

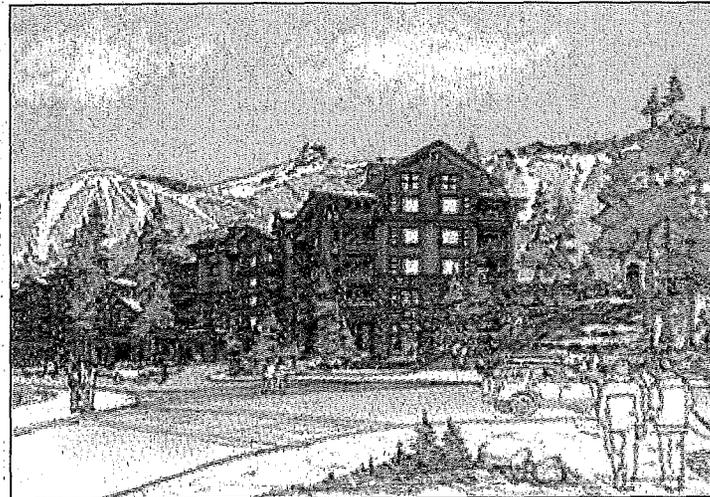
Thunder Mountain Lodge — set to break ground this spring —

recently released its last 10 homes in Phase I, starting at \$695,000.

These homes have two to three bedrooms and bathrooms.

The next residential offering will be this fall; occupancy is scheduled for December 2008.

For those interested in more information on Kirkwood's Timber Creek Village, visit www.kirkwood.com or www.livekirkwood.com



SPECIAL TO THE R-C
An artist's rendering of Timber Creek Village in Kirkwood.

R-C
April 6, 2007

Alpine to pay tribute to emergency responders

Citizens of eastern Alpine County and others will pay tribute to all our emergency responders at a dinner to be held at Turtle Rock Park on Saturday, June 23.

Certificates of appreciation will be presented to all members of the Woodfords and Markleeville volunteer fire departments, volunteer emergency medical technicians, volunteer search and rescue team members, and all deputies and dispatchers at the sheriff's department.

Emergency responders and their immediate families will be guests. Tickets are being sold to others wishing to attend. Tickets sell for \$10 each or three for \$25.

Donations are being sought in addition to ticket sales.

Ticket sellers include Nancy Richmond, Linda Merrill, Cami Chavez, Kathleen Andrews, Wanda Coyan, Jan

and Dave Brees, Kate Harvey, Nancy Specchio, Gail Day, Barbara Howard, Shirley Taylor, Karen Robinson, Roma Morris (at The Odd Pony at Woodfords Station), Joyce DeVore, Nani Ellis and Nancy Thornburg.

All of these emergency responders undergo rigorous training which must be constantly kept up to date to comply with legal requirements.

They attend meetings and practices and are on call day and night. Anyone with a scanner knows how busy these people can be, how call-outs interfere with family dinner time or come in the middle of the night or come in a rapid-fire series.

Firemen train to handle both wildland and structure fires. They are also often called out to assist with highway accidents as are deputies and EMTs. EMTs answer calls for heart attacks, falls and other injuries, and all manner

Alpine Portfolio

by Nancy Thornburg

of medical incidents. Search and rescue responders are called out to find lost cross country skiers or snowmobilers, hikers, rock climbers and just people who don't show up back home when they are expected.

Many of these calls happen during blizzard conditions when driving is hazardous and speed of response is critical.

And all the coordinating that happens during an "incident" is handled by the capable dispatchers in the sheriff's office.

When someone calls 911 they want

someone to respond. And these wonderful people do.

The event will be held at Turtle Rock Park, between Markleeville and Woodfords, from 4 until 8. From 4 to 5 there will be a no host bar with wine and beer and an opportunity for the public to meet the responders and personally thank them.

From 5 until 6 there will be presentation of certificates of appreciation to the responders.

And from 6 to 8 the dinner will be served. Responders and their immediate families are honored guests.

Children under the age of 12 will be admitted free.

Dinner will consist of barbecued chicken and tri-tip, beans, salads, other side dishes and desserts. Contributions of food – side dishes, appetizers, and desserts – are welcomed.

Please notify Joyce DeVore (530)

694-1710 or Nancy Thornburg (530) 694-2102 if you plan to bring something as it will help us know how much food to buy.

The Alpine Trio will provide entertainment.

There will be a raffle (tickets will sell for \$1 each or six for \$5 and will be sold at the door) and a silent auction.

If you would like to donate something to either the raffle or the auction please call Joyce DeVore at (530) 694-1710 or Gina Gigli at (530) 694-2253.

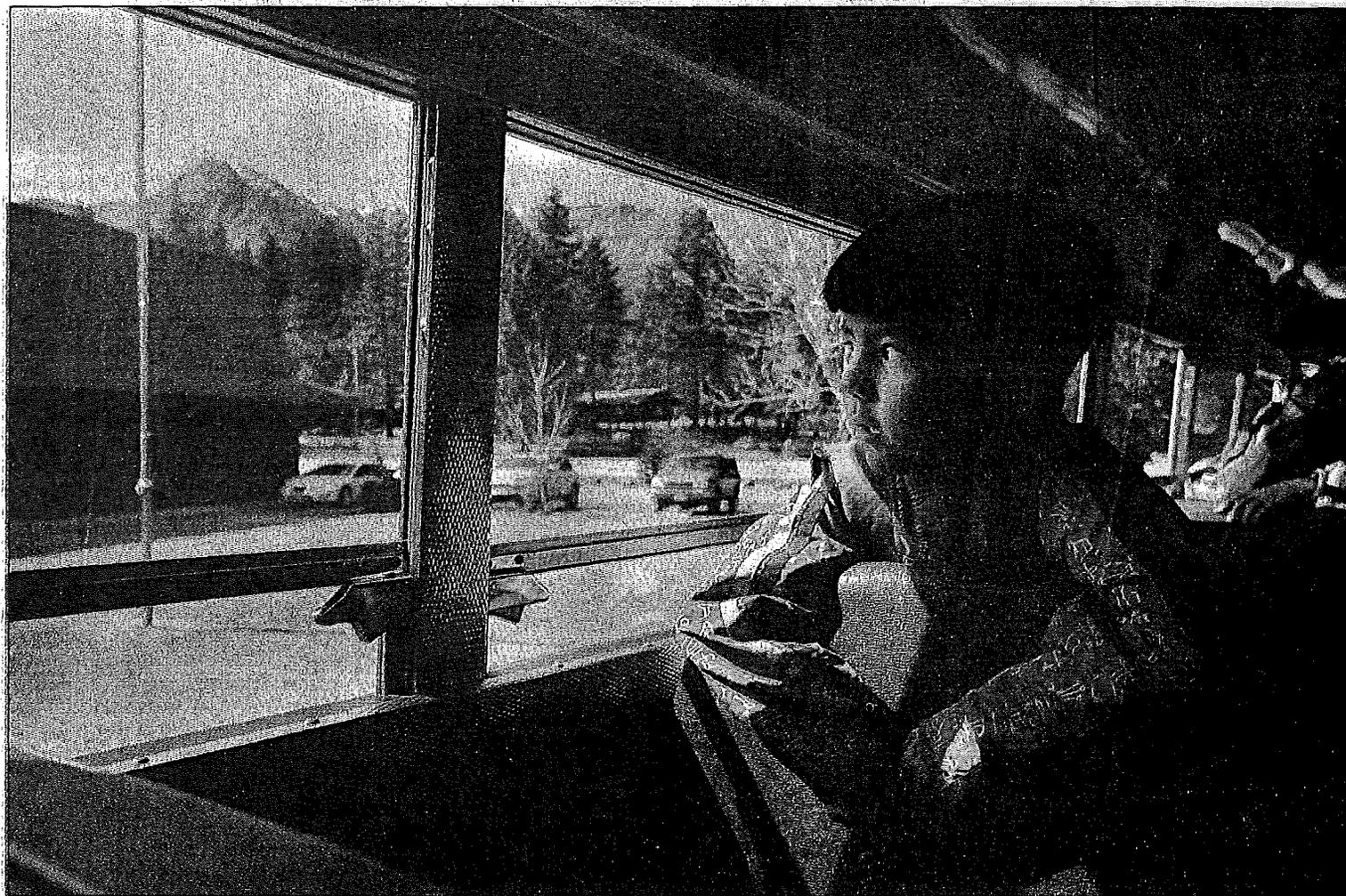
We would like as many donations as possible as all proceeds after expenses will be given to the four volunteer groups.

■ Nancy Thornburg is a Markleeville resident and is filling in for Gina Gigli while she is on vacation.

A FOREST-SIZE GAP

Sac. Bee

April 9, 2007



Justin Dick, 6, leaves on a bus outside Diamond Valley School in Markleeville, in Alpine County, at the end of the school day. Alpine is one of the mountainous counties where schools could be facing big budget cuts with the expiration of federal timber harvest funds. A bill to extend payments is pending in Congress.

Sacramento Bee/Bryan Patrick

pg. 1

In counties where timber used to be king, schools look to Congress to restore lost funding



Jim Parsons, superintendent of education in Alpine County and principal of its six schools, is among the regional leaders urging Congress to extend the Secure Rural Schools program for five years.

By Dorothy Korber
BEE STAFF WRITER

Up in Alpine County, they know an abyss when they see one. This winter, because of a stalemate in Congress, the rugged county found itself on the brink of a financial abyss that threatened to close schools and lay off teachers.

Alpine County only has six small schools.

"And 16 teachers," says Jim Parsons, superintendent of education. "And we need every blinking one of 'em."

In September, the departing 109th Congress let the sun set on a law that sent federal aid to rural counties with vast tracks of national forest. That aid was a stopgap measure to replace an older program that gave them 25 percent of the timber harvest money from forests in their boundaries.

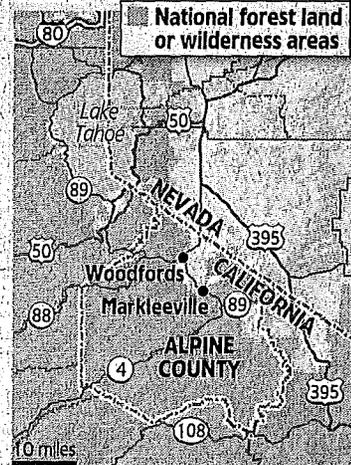
When the stopgap expired last year, counties like Alpine — where 92 percent of the land is national forest — found themselves short by \$425 million nationwide.

That translates into a 20 percent cut for schools in California's least populated county, which has 1.6 people per square mile and wasn't named Alpine for nothing. Several other Northern California counties

► RURAL, Page A11

Quiet county

Only 4 percent of Alpine County's 738-square miles is in private hands — 92 percent is national forest, and the rest is under state or tribal control. With just 1,180 residents, Alpine is California's least populated county — that's 1.6 persons per square mile. Sacramento County has 1,266 people per square mile.



Map data: ESRI, TeleAtlas, USGS, BLM

Sacramento Bee

Sac. Bee
April 9, 2007

Rural: Schools face special challenges

► FROM PAGE A1
faced similar crises, among them Siskiyou, Plumas, Sierra, Trinity and Tehama.

Today, things are looking a little better for California's 39 national forest counties, thanks to a band of effective (and desperate) local leaders who took the fight from the mountains of the West to the halls of Congress.

But the abyss still yawns – and an impending presidential veto over Iraq could push them back to the brink.

That's why a grass-roots fellow like Parsons – who is not only Alpine County superintendent but principal of all six schools – became an expert on the nuances of legislation passed March 29 by the U.S. Senate: the \$122 billion Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill.

Along with money for the war and Katrina's aftermath, the bill includes \$5 billion for a five-year extension of the Secure Rural Schools program for forest counties.

It also sets a timeline for withdrawing from Iraq, drawing President Bush's ire and promise of a veto.

Probably this was not the ideal time for rural counties to come to Washington hat in hand, acknowledges Bob Douglas, superintendent of Tehama County schools and head of the National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition. He says they had no choice.

"It's been a very tough year to gain the attention of the U.S. Congress when they're dealing with monumentally huge issues for the country and the world," he said. "People asked us why we tacked our money onto the Iraq bill. The answer is simple:

It's moving through Congress. We're facing our own crisis, created in part because Congress failed to act in the last session."

Both Douglas and Parsons credit California Sen. Dianne Feinstein for pushing for the five-year extension of the Secure Rural Schools act. Feinstein staffers, for their part, praise the rural superintendents as effective and tireless advocates.

Over the next few weeks, Douglas and his counterparts are watching to see how the Senate bill fares in a conference committee as it is meshed with a House budget bill. And then they hope it escapes Bush's veto – and they escape the abyss.

That's the chaotic political scene in 2007. But this is a story that begins in 1908.

That year, the federal government, led by the always enthusiastic President Theodore Roosevelt, agreed to give 25 percent of the revenues from national forestlands to the affected counties. The idea was to offset the effects of removing immense federal forests from local economies and tax rolls.

For eight decades, the counties shared the receipts generated by logging, grazing, and mining in the national forests – typically splitting their money between public schools and public roads.

But in the 1980s, federal forest policy shifted away from logging, and timber sales plummeted. Between 1986 and 2006, the counties' forest receipts declined 85 percent – plunging the schools and road systems into a crisis.

"The forests were essentially closed down as a result of environmental litigation," Douglas said. "Our revenues went down the tubes. The contract the

federal government made with us in 1908 was broken."

In 2000, to help ease the loss, Congress passed the Secure Rural Schools & Communities Self Determination Act, which sent billions to 780 counties across the nation. The idea was to buy time until Congress came up with a long-term solution, but the act expired first.

Jim Parsons says his Alpine County, located on California's empty eastern border between Lake Tahoe and Yosemite, is a case study. Like many other forest superintendents, he is charged with educating a handful of kids in a vast and challenging landscape.

It's a landscape with no economic engine, now that logging is virtually gone.

"The feds took 92 percent of my county for their forests, OK?" Parsons said. "Back then, the way to fix it was to give us 25 percent of the forest receipts. That doesn't work anymore."

For Alpine County schools, federal timber receipts peaked in 1993-94 at \$532,248 – contributing about a third of the total education budget. Just three years later, the annual forest receipts plunged to \$148,085.

In 2000, with passage of the stopgap Secure Rural Schools act, federal funding climbed back to \$408,211.

Parsons spoke as he drove his truck along a stretch of Highway 88, heading across the sagebrush flats toward the Nevada state line. Job's Peak, a 10,633-foot crag of bald granite, loomed over the Carson Valley.

Job – now there's someone a rural school superintendent can identify with. Especially a superintendent who must safely transport 200 schoolkids over miles and miles of icy mountain roads.

"Up here, the distance is one issue," Parsons said. "The winter is the other. Safety is a constant worry. I wrecked my own pickup on my trip before last to Bear Valley – I hit a patch of ice I didn't see, but there it was."

The district's Bear Valley site has a dozen pupils in kindergarten through eighth grade and another four in high school. It lies over a high pass from the rest of Alpine County – a pass that's closed by snow from October until late spring.

At an altitude of 7,200 feet, there are no "snow days" per se at Bear Valley. The kids, who arrive on skis or snowmobiles, enter the school through a tunnel, since the whole first floor is buried in snow. Those who wish to attend a full-fledged high school are bused 50 miles each way to Angels Camp.

On the county's eastern slope, 40 high school students ride a bus each day across the Nevada border to Minden.

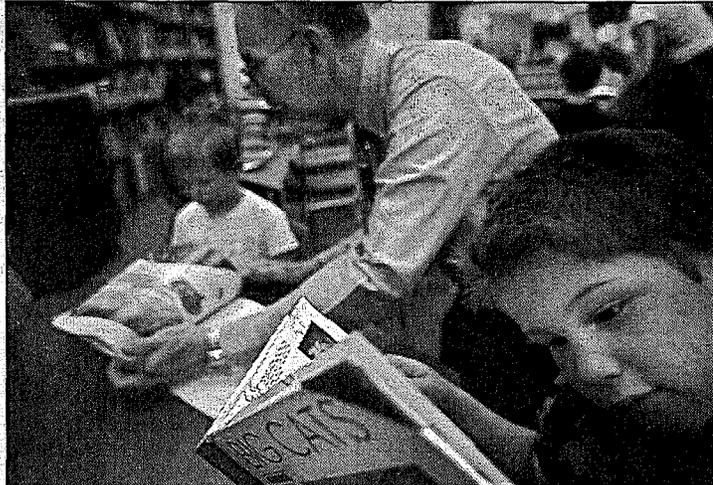
There are challenges beside geography in Alpine County. Outside the classroom, there are mountain lions and bears.

But the real challenges are inside.

Because of the low enrollment, teachers juggle multiple grades. Many children come from needy families. Fully a third of the pupils are "special education" children with physical or emotional needs that require individual learning plans.

"That's three times the normal rate of special ed kids," Parsons says. "Primarily, it's because we're in a community with significant substance abuse."

"So, think about it. A third of our kids are special ed. The teachers teach two or more grade levels. We have a school



Sacramento Bee/Bryan Patrick

Syrus Durant, 6, right, intently studies his book, while Jim Parsons, Alpine County's superintendent of education, helps another student in a Diamond Valley School kindergarten class in Markleeville.

in a place that gets 28 feet of snow a year. We have to bus children for miles. And we still have to meet all the same state standards in the same 180 days that every other California school district meets."

For all these reasons, the Secure Rural Schools money is very much needed in Alpine and the rest of California's national forest counties. Without its extension, the abyss is very real.

In California alone, \$69 million is at stake this year, as well

as the jobs of 900 teachers and 1,200 county workers, according to Douglas, the coalition president and Tehama superintendent.

"Losing this money would be a huge hit," he said. "You can see why all of us are working so hard. We live in these places - we know the impact. We're saying to Washington: Resolve this. We need to get it done now."

■ ■ ■

The Bee's Dorothy Korber can be reached at (916) 321-1061 or dkorber@sacbee.com.

National Library Week celebration set in Markleeville

The Sixth Annual Teddy Bear Parade will be held on Saturday in the Alpine County Library. Through the years, this has become a very popular library event, held in conjunction with National Library Week, sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Registration for the Teddy Bear Parade begins at 10 a.m. Children are requested to bring their own teddy bear or favorite stuffed animal. A few teddy bears will be available for those who do not have one to bring.

Several county and state agencies serving children have joined forces with the Friends of the Library to coincide their celebration with the Teddy Bear Parade. The Family Support Council will host a free barbecue lunch at noon in the community park adjacent to the library. The Early Learning Center, Local Child Care Planning Council and the Woodfords Indian Education Center will help with the food and activities. There will be story time, face painting, seed planting, beading crafts, water bubbles, bookmark making and games.

Smokey Bear from the National Forest Service will lead the parade at

Alpine Portfolio

by Gina Gigli

11:50 a.m. Live music will be provided by Acoustic Solutions from 11 a.m. to noon. Children of all ages will have a chance to participate in karaoke singing after lunch. Story time will start at 10:30 a.m. Families, adults and children are invited to the barbecue lunch at noon.

This year, Library Week falls on April 15-21. April is also the Month of the Young Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month.

National Library Week celebration continues into the next week. On Tuesday, the Friends of the Library will host their traditional potluck luncheon at noon in the library. The public is invited to bring dishes to share in this celebration. For the Alpine County Library, this will also be the day that the new bookmobile will be displayed in front of the library



SUBMITTED TO THE R-C

Many children brought their parents to the teddy bear parade at the Alpine County Library in Markleeville on April 9, 2005. National Library Week is April 15-21.

for the public to see.

The new bookmobile will hit the road for the first time on Wednesday headed towards Kirkwood and Hung-A-Lel-Ti; its usual Wednesday stops.

The film, "The Librarian: Quest for the Spear," an Indiana Jones-style adventure story will be shown in the library on Thursday, April 19 at 6:30 p.m. The movie review states, "The

April 13, 2007

librarian in the movie did not want to be a hero, he only wanted a job." Please join the library staff for an evening of entertainment, complete with door prizes.

■ This is my opportunity to thank the guest writers who filled in so admirably while we were on vacation, visiting with our kids in Italy and Maryland. I do appreciate their willingness to step in, and I admire their journalistic abilities.

The day we left on our trip, we got an offer on our property, so we have leased a waterfront Chesapeake Bay place in the town of Deale, Md. Yes, we can walk to the library and the post office, my hallmarks for small town excellence. I've spotted swans on the bay, so this is my "Swan Song" to you, my readers and friends. You have been helpful and supportive, and I will miss writing this column.

■ Gina Gigli is a soon-to-be former Markleeville resident. Any Markleeville resident interested in taking over for her should contact Editor Kurt Hildebrand at (775) 782-5121, ext. 215.

Responders dinner seeking donations

Staff Reports

The Eastern Alpine community is planning a dinner to honor all of their emergency responders June 23 at Turtle Rock Park.

The cost for the dinner is \$10 per person (12 and younger, free).

Responders and their families will be free.

The dinner will not only honor emergency first responders but it will be a fundraiser with money donated to the volunteer fire departments, search and rescue as well as the EMTs.

There will be a raffle and a

silent auction.

Organizers of the dinner are looking for donations for the raffle and the silent auction.

Currently the following items have already been donated to the event:

Douglas Disposal - 6-yard dumpster by Jeanne Lear; Barbecue in Hope Valley for 6 Adults by Marlena Hellwinkel; Baked goods, three different (cake, pie or bread) by Karen Robinson; Framed Alpine Etching, value \$600 from Villa

Gigli by Gina Gigli; Denim tote bag and vehicle license plate holder from the Friends of the Library and Bessie Platten; one-hour massage from Alpine Massage by Michele Neely; A giclée print "Digging Out" by Charles Muench; Two limited edition prints "Grandpa's Hands" by Jonni Hill.

Anyone who wishes to donate items for the raffle or the silent auction, contact Karen Robinson, (530) 694-2307.

Why does date rape happen?

Alpine County Women's Center

Date rape is when two people are seeing each other in a dating situation and one person forces the other into sex. The force could be threatening to hurt you, holding you down, or deciding to force sex on you when you are passed out. It is more common for a girl to be raped by someone she knows than by a stranger.

WHY DOES IT HAPPEN?

Typically, boys are taught to make the decisions, be in charge, and take control. Boys may learn that girls are supposed to do what they want.

So, in dating situations, a boy may feel he has the right to control the situation and a girl should do what he wants. Girls may also learn that they are supposed to do the things boys want to do, even if they really don't want to. (The boy says, "What do you want to do?" and the girl says, "Whatever you want to do is alright with me.")

Date rape is an issue of power and control. The dating relationship seems to set up a power imbalance. Boys are expected to ask girls out, decide what the date will be and pay for the date. Girls are expected to be "nice," "ladylike," go along with whatever he wants, and set limits on his sexual behavior. If he thinks he has certain rights and privileges with the relationship, she may think she is supposed to give up certain rights and privileges within the relationship. The stage is set for rape.

HER STORY...

"We went parking after a party. We'd both been drinking a few beers. We started kissing. It was really nice at first. We'd come pretty close to going all the way before but I didn't want to. I was really scared of getting pregnant and felt kind of sick. I pushed him away and told him no. But he wouldn't listen to me, and didn't stop like he usually did.

"Then I could tell he was getting mad. I started crying, but it seemed like he didn't even care about my feelings. I feel terrible. I thought he was a nice guy. What happened?"

HIS STORY...

"I don't understand why she won't talk to me. She avoids me in the halls at school and her friends say she doesn't ever want to see me again.

"We've been dating for about three months. Friday night we went to a party and had a few beers. Later we were kissing and I know she wanted it too. Sure I had to persuade her a little. Sometimes girls think they have to act shy. They're supposed to. Besides, we've come as close as you can without going all the way before. I took her home and thought everything was OK. She knows she's my girl. I mean it's not like I'm using her or anything. But ever

since then she's been acting weird."

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Society sets up gender-based power imbalances, which are reinforced by media, relationships and life experience. Communication can help us break down the power imbalance that can lead to sexual assault. Be clear with your partner about what you want and what you don't want. Discuss your feelings and limits before things become serious. If your partner does not listen to, or respect your feelings, reconsider whether you really want to continue the relationship.

If you are sexually active, take responsibility and commu-

nicate. Look into ways to protect your partner and yourself from unwanted sexual assault, unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Seek resources from your medical provider and call the Alpine County Women's Center at (530) 694-1853 to learn more about how to protect yourself from sexual assault.

It's important that you understand your rights in a dating relationship. It might help to find an adult who can help you understand and learn about your rights. For more information call Alpine County Women's Center (530) 694-1853 or our 24-hour crisis line (888) 750-6444.

Kirkwood to close April 29

Staff Reports

Kirkwood Mountain Resort will close for the season on April 29, even though it is still receiving snow.

Kirkwood received 6-8 inches of fresh snow Tuesday and overnight adding to the deep-packed season total of 273 - 361 inches.

Adult full day lift tickets

will be reduced to \$59 per day until April 29.

All lift tickets purchased will be valid for two days of skiing or riding.

Consistently recognized by national media outlets for its quality snow and terrain variety, this storied resort offers an unmatched experience.

Ski Magazine recently rated Kirkwood as "the country's

best 'corn' or granular snow."

On April 22 at 11 a.m., spectators can watch the Kirkwood Cup Series — Rail Jam from the Plaza where jibbers run Jam format, hitting different rails as many times as they can in a 20 minute session.

Participants can register for \$20 between 8 a.m.-10 a.m. in the Village Plaza.

Fishery and forestry discussion April 27

Staff Reports

An open round table discussion on Alpine County's 2007 fishery and forestry program is set for 10 a.m. April 27.

The program is sponsored

by the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce and will be held at Turtle Rock Park located along Highway 89 on the way to Markleeville.

For more information, contact the chamber at (530) 694-2475.

Washoe Tribe hosts community beautification

The Washoe Tribe will host a fair, fun run, community beautification project, booths and barbecue 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the Indian Educational Center, 96 Washoe Blvd., Markleeville.

Information, Topher Marlatt, 265-8683.

A10 ■ Friday, April 20, 2007

Alpine County recognizes Victims' Rights Week

Special to The R-C

The U. S. Department of Justice launched National Crime Victims' Rights Week in Washington, D.C., with its fifth annual National Candlelight Observation Ceremony on Thursday and its awards ceremony today, to honor extraordinary and programs that provide services to victims of crime.

Alpine County commemorates National Crime Victims' Rights Week with a resolution of support from the Alpine County Board of Supervisors.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week is April 22-28, a time for all Americans to learn about victimization, reflect on the cost of crime to our society and promote laws, policies and programs to help victims of crime rebuild their lives. This year's theme, "Victims' Rights: Every Victim, Every Time," envisions a strengthened national commitment to the nearly 24 million Americans harmed by

crime each year.

During the past three decades, the United States has made dramatic progress in securing rights, protections and services for victims of crime. Every state has enacted victim's rights laws; law enforcement agencies give victims greater protection; and more than 10,000 victim assistance programs have been established throughout the country.

Every state has a crime victim compensation fund and powerful federal laws, such as the Violence Against Women Act and the Crime Victim's Rights Act, to help protect victims and fund needed services.

Yet many crime victims have not experienced the promise of such progress.

Only a fraction of victims report the crimes against them and participate in the criminal justice system.

Victims' rights vary from state to state and not all protections are enforced.

Services are sometimes not available, or they may not meet the physical, financial and psychological needs of victims or their families.

Particularly vulnerable populations — the elderly, persons with disabilities, ethnic and racial minorities, or residents of rural areas — may not receive the support they need to rebuild their lives.

Community members are encouraged to get involved in helping victims of crime, be aware of victims in the area, volunteer or become an advocate.

For additional information about National Crime Victims' Week and ideas on how to serve victims in Alpine County, contact the Alpine County District Attorney's Office, Victim/Witness Coordinator at (530) 694-2971 or visit www.crimevictims.gov for additional information about national resources available to help crime victims.

May 4, 2007

Alpine County home to mountain lions

by Kurt Hildebrand
Editor

Last November, Markleeville resident Nancy Thornburg heard a single bark from her Queensland heeler, Joey, and then nothing more. The next morning she found hair and blood where Joey used to be.

Joey was a 13-year-old watch dog who had once treed a bear for two days.

"We heard his bear bark," Thornburg said. "Then nothing. We found out what happened the next day."

A mountain lion is prowling the eastern Sierra and has taken several dogs Russ Wickwire said at last week's 2007 Fishery/Forestry program in Markleeville.

Wickwire said a mountain lion had been sighted near Dia-

mond Valley School and that residents don't let their dogs out for fear they will become prey.

Maureen Gaston, a Woodfords resident, who was representing the U.S. Forest Service at the session, said it's important not to overreact to the presence of a mountain lion.

"Mountain lions have been in existence in these parts before people were here," she said. "It's important to keep this in perspective. Usually when there is an attack it is a juvenile. But I'm definitely concerned seeing this in our community."

Mountain lions that attack humans are tracked and killed.

"There are thousands of mountain lions and attacks are relatively rare," Gaston said.

According to the California Department of Fish & Game, there have only been three fatal

attacks in California on humans in the last 13 years. There have been 13 mountain lion attacks in California over the past 21 years, the most recent on a 70-year-old man in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park in Humboldt County.

There are an estimated 4,000 to 6,000 mountain lions in the state. During 2002 13 lions were killed because they are a menace to public safety.

Mountain lions chief prey are deer and they tend to be very shy, according to fish and game's Web site.

But the department is getting more reports of lions preying on pets and livestock.

DETAILS

LIVING IN MOUNTAIN LION COUNTRY

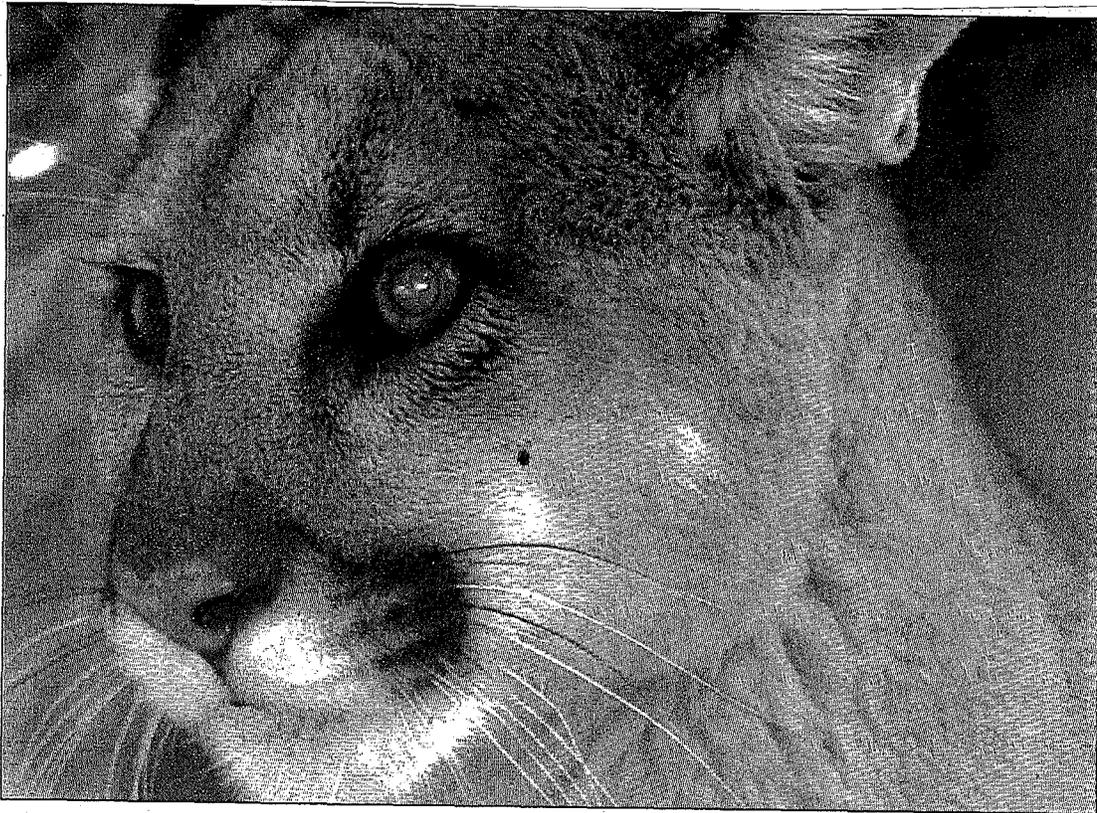
- Don't feed deer; it is illegal in California and it will attract mountain lions.
- Deer-proof your landscaping by avoiding plants that deer like to eat.
- Trim brush to reduce hiding places for mountain lions.
- Don't leave small children or pets outside unattended.
- Install motion-sensitive lighting around the house.
- Provide sturdy, covered shelters for sheep, goats, and other vulnerable animals.
- Don't allow pets outside when mountain lions are most active—dawn, dusk, and at night.
- Bring pet food inside to avoid attracting raccoons, opossums and other potential mountain lion prey.

WHILE ON FOOT IN MOUNTAIN LION COUNTRY

- Do not hike, bike, or jog alone.
- Avoid hiking or jogging when mountain lions are most active—dawn, dusk, and at night.
- Keep a close watch on small children.
- Do not approach a mountain lion.
- If you encounter a mountain lion, do not run; instead, face the animal, make noise and try to look bigger by waving your arms; throw rocks or other objects. Pick up small children.
- If attacked, fight back.
- If a mountain lion attacks a person, immediately call 911.

Source: California Department of Fish & Game

R-C
May 4, 2007



NEVADA DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Mountain lions live in the Sierra, but are rarely seen by people due to their camouflage.

Historic guidelines topic of workshops

Staff Reports

The first in a series of community workshops was held April 24 to begin development of historic design guidelines for downtown Markleeville.

The guidelines are being developed by Alpine County with the assistance of the Sierra Business Council, a non-profit regional organization.

The next workshops are 6 p.m. May 16 and 6 p.m. June 13 at Turtle Rock Park, 17300 Highway 89, Markleeville.

"A high level of public participation is one the most important features in developing guidelines which embrace the historic character of a downtown," said Nancy Richards, Program Director with the Sierra Business Council. "The guidelines are built on what local residents think is special about Markleeville. At

the May 16 workshop, we will be discussing in detail the big-picture issues and opportunities that have been identified by participants so far. We need to hear from residents, business owners, property owners and historians."

Markleeville is known as a town of the 1800s mining era, and those roots are apparent in the historic Sierra town pattern developed when walking was the dominant mode of transportation.

The purpose of the design guidelines is to direct the town's future character.

The current ordinance applies design review to commercially zoned properties along Main Street and Montgomery Street in the townsite of Markleeville.

One of the main topics identified for the May 16 workshop will be if those boundaries are appropriate.

Alpine Kids receive donation to make insurance payment

R-C
May 11, 2007

Staff Reports

In April, Alpine Kids received a donation from Albert and Diana Del Masso, owners of Bay Cities Produce Co. Inc. in San Leandro, Calif.

Alpine Kids will use the money to make up the difference towards this year's liability insurance. During 2006 the Del Massos donated funds that were used for cash flow.

The tobacco settlement grant that Alpine Kids is funded out of, is a reimbursement grant.

This means everything must be paid for first and then submit a claim to the county the following month for payment.

Alpine Kids serves families

living or working in Alpine County. Alpine Kids also has a program for teens ninth grade through 21 years of age. Teens go bowling twice a month and participate in additional activities during the month. Families are able to participate in monthly family outings.

Families pay \$25 a year to participate in Alpine Kids. In return, they have an opportunity to spend time with other families, attend monthly functions and eat a meal with their children. Alpine Kids pays for admission and food for the families.

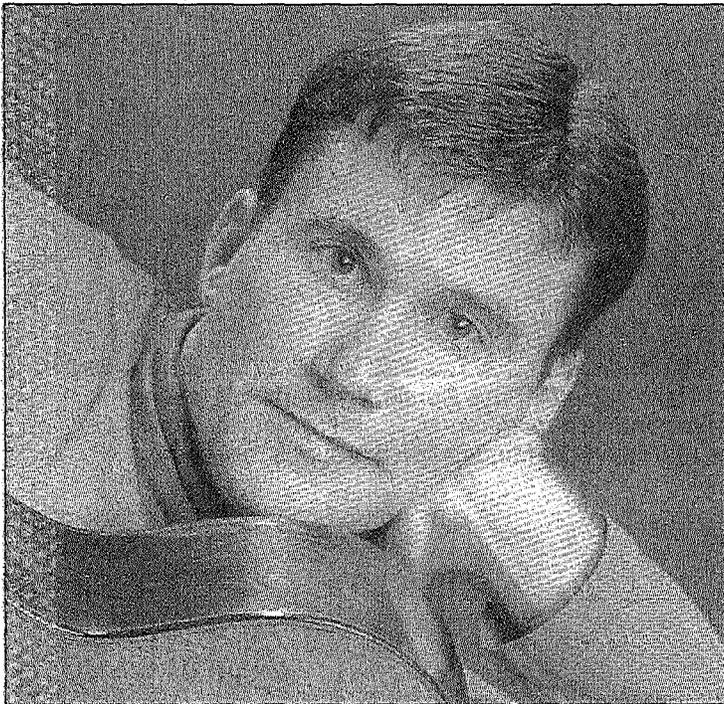
Activities for 2007 include: Bowling and spaghetti dinner; Swimming and pizza; Monster Trucks and dinner; Hunk-Ta-

Bunk-Ta music presentation and enchilada dinner; dinner at Sierra Pines; Guided rafting trip; fishing day at Indian Creek; Barbecue pot luck dinner at Sand Harbor; Wild Waters and mini-golf; family day at Turtle Rock Park; movies, community New Year's Eve party for families.

Alpine Kids also coordinates three blood drives a year at Turtle Rock Park. The next blood drive is Friday, June 1 from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Donors are needed.

Alpine Kids is funded by Alpine County Tobacco Settlement Funds, memberships, fundraisers and donations. Information contact Edie Veatch (530)694-2934.

FREE CONCERT



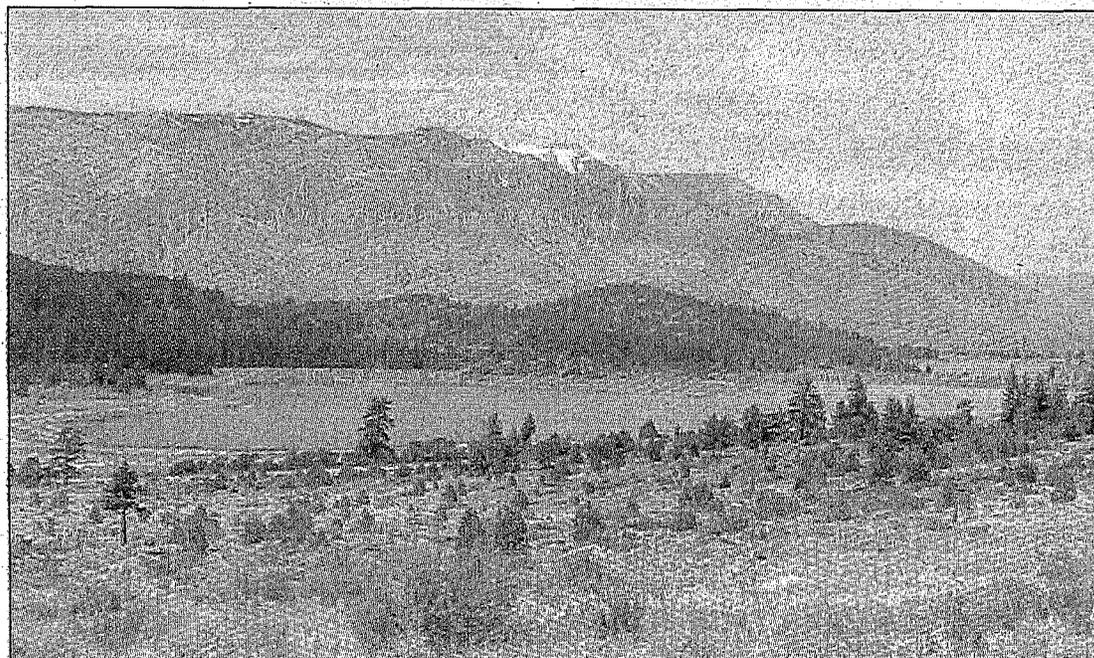
SPECIAL TO THE R-C

Award Winning Classical Guitarist Peter Fletcher will perform for the second time in Markleeville. He performed at the Alpine County Library in May 2005 on Mother's Day. This time, the concert will be held at Turtle Rock Park 7 p.m. Thursday. The concert is free to the public. Donations will be accepted. There will have a no-host bar starting at 5:30 p.m., followed by a potluck dinner from 6-7 p.m., jointly sponsored by the Alpine County Friends of the Library and the Alpine County Historical Society.

R-C

May 11, 2007

AT THE LAKE



KURT HILDEBRAND/The R-C

Indian Creek Reservoir is open to camping and fishing. Operated by the BLM, the reservoir is located in eastern Alpine County. For information call 885-6000.

Private observatory to open in Markleeville

R-C

May 18,
2007

by Tom Meyer

North Lake Tahoe Bonanza

Galaxies far, far away will become closer to North Tahoe — and the rest of the world — once a private observatory in Markleeville begins operations next month.

Unlike almost all telescopes of its caliber, the Sierra Stars Observatory will be available not only to doctoral candidates and professional astronomers, but to everyone with an Internet connection and \$100.

“Astronomy isn't a very applied science at the undergraduate level,” said Rich Williams who owns, manages and designed Sierra Stars. “What we're offering is a real opportunity for regular people to be able to actually experiment in astronomy themselves, and not simply go onto a Web site and download photographs that somebody else took.”

Though Sierra Stars boasts an incredibly powerful and sensitive telescope — which has a 24-inch aperture and a sensitive time-lapse digital camera — what makes it different is not so much what it does, but how it does it. Because the telescope is completely robotic and controlled by software Williams helped design, Sierra Stars will be accessible over the Internet to anyone anywhere.

“When I first started designing robotic telescopes, I realized they could be accessed online,” said Williams, who left a lucrative position at Microsoft

to start a high-end telescope optics company. “At one point... my partners and I were trying to do the software to

develop that kind of access, but it never quite came to fruition. Then I decided, “The hell with it, I'm doing this on my own,”

and built Sierra Stars.”

For \$100, anyone can purchase enough time on the Sierra Stars to take approximately 30

photographs of deep-sky objects of their choice. The customer can then download the pictures to use for everything

from professional research, to college undergraduate classes, to high-end amateur use, to living room decor.

Markleeville's Villa Gigli reopens for season

Villa Gigli Trattoria/Galleria at 145 Hot Springs Road in Markleeville is reopening on Saturday.

Owner Ruggero Gigli will initiate a new concept this year, starting Saturday and Sunday.

"First come, first served,"

said Gigli. "No reservations will be accepted this year. We'll open the door at 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday evenings and close it for new customers just after 8 p.m. I'll still be making pasta, pizza and bread from scratch; now people can order

them a la carte."

Artist Gina Gigli said, "My work is also alla carta — with paper, in Italian — etchings, collages, posters, cards, papier-mâché masks and books."

For information call (530) 694-2253. *R-C Fri, May 25, 07*

Woodfords recognizes students

by **Sharlene Irete**
Staff Writer

More than 60 students from kindergarten to high school were recognized at the Indian Student Awards at Diamond Valley School in Woodfords on Monday.

Students received plaques, pats on the back and applause for being good citizens, having outstanding attendance, for academic effort and for being excellent athletes. High school students were also noted for participating in youth council, for tutoring other students and showing leadership and service.

The gym was filled with about 100 supporters. After the award ceremony, the crowd was treated to a dinner provided by the Woodfords Education Center and were entertained by singer Martin Montgomery of Dresslerville and the Sage Spirit Dancers from Fallon.

Woodfords Indian Education Center Awards ■ Kindergarten through eighth grade:

Megan Cruz
Nathan Cruz
Justin Dick
Michelle Minder
Alex Rice
Marcus Rice
Jaileine Salciedo
Gavin Wyatt
Corrie Jackson
Celesse Brown
Ombryann Guerrero
Elsie May Hall
Tristen Dressler
Natane Godowa



Sharlene Irete/The R-C

Douglas High School senior Kaela Horse, Pau-Wa-Lu freshman T.J. Jim and Douglas junior Georgie Dressler with their awards at the Woodfords Indian Education Awards on Monday.

Nikolas King
Joy Medicine Crow
Lee Arte Rose
Mauricea Two Eagle
Kohl Barnes
Nicholas Berreman
Thomas Dick
Dashona Godowa
Ubaldo Gomez
Anna Guerrero
Beau Medicine Crow
Dion Mortimer
Kendall Ornellas
Kyle Barnes
Tiara Cruz
Sarah Medicine Crow
Leonna Mortimer
Tramayne Bennett
Viktoria Burton-Brown
David Brown
Shawna Burt
Jesstyna Dressler
Julia Gomez
Sarah Gonzalez
Stella John
Mikaela Meeden
Dinalyn Skenandore
A.J. (Alfred) Duran
Chelsee Guerrero

Lauryn Mae James
Clinton John Jr.
Stephanie Tyon
Cody Vann
Brandon Crawford
George Dick
Rebecca Lewis
Evan Meeden
Kalynn Payne
William (Billy) Rubino
Josh Townsend
Ridge Cruz
Krystal Erwin
David King
■ **High School:**
Blessing Bennett
Jessica Burt
Kenneth Christensen
Tatyana (T.J.) Jim
Michael (Mikie) Skenandore
Allison Flood
Salina Guerrero
Desirae Lewis
Georgie Dressler
Josh Horse
Michael Rojas
Emmy Frank
Ben Gonzales
Kaela Horse

Alpine County vaccination clinic

Staff Reports

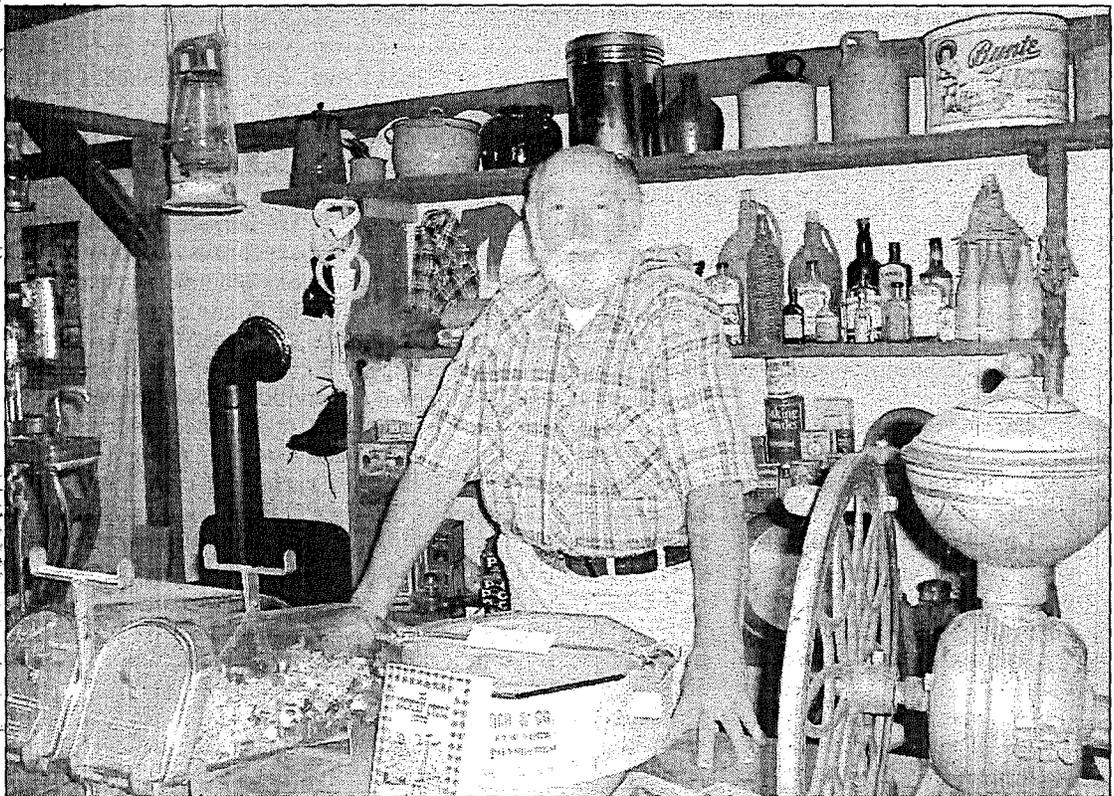
Alpine County Animal Control will host its annual vaccination and licensing clinic 3-6

p.m. June 14 at the Woodfords Firehouse on Diamond Valley Road.

Low cost vaccinations will be available and the required

Alpine County dog license will be available with proof of rabies vaccinations.

For more information, call (530) 694-2231.



GINA GIGLI/R-C file photo

Dick Edwards, director of the Alpine County Museum. Below, restored planks from the Exchequer Mill are a backdrop to an Irish cart in the carriage house exhibit at the museum.

Alpine County Museum reopens on Saturday

Staff Reports

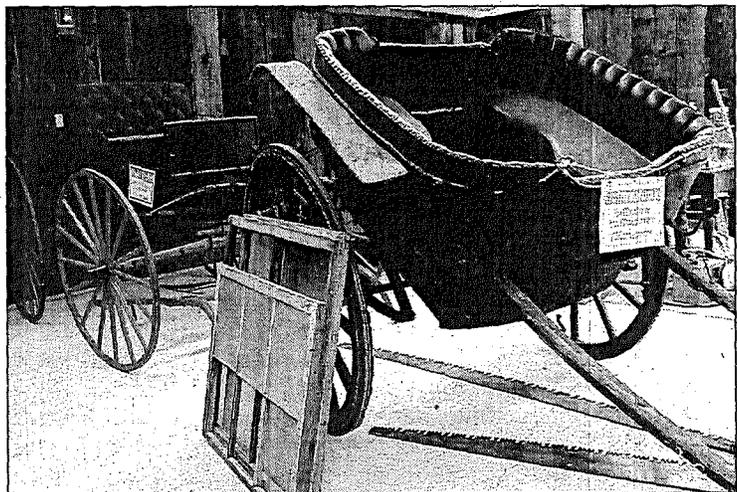
The Alpine County Museum on top of the hill at the end of School Street in Markleville is reopening for the season on Saturday, with festivities from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Indian tacos will be sold by Dale Bennett, classes in Indian beading will be offered, the carriage shed will be open and the stamp mill will be fired up for the event.

"The stamp mill historically crushed the silver ore before it was refined," said museum director Dick Edwards. "This is the only one on the eastern side of the Sierras that's operational. They're few and far between."

Edwards said he acquired an engine for the mill last year, restored it and got it running.

A new carriage shed was



JONNI HILL/R-C file photo

added to other existing exhibits last year.

"Our small museum is noteworthy for featuring exhibits on the Washoe native people and mining and cattle ranching in

Alpine County," said Edwards.

The museum is open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday through Monday. For more information, call the museum at (530) 694-2317.

The Record-Courier ■ Gardnerville, Nevada

Alpine

Alpine County soldier on leave from Iraq

by Joyce DeVore
Special to The R-C

The quiet man with bulging biceps turning hamburgers at the grill was Sgt. Ray Payne Jr.

It is Memorial Day, blue skies, snow-capped peaks, and lush Lampe Park as the Washoe soldier cooks for his family.

A Markleeville resident, Payne is home on two weeks leave from his second of tour of duty with the U.S. Army in Iraq.

His extended family gathered to thank him for his service to the county.

"My skin is light," he said, "because I am inside 14 hours a day. Otherwise I would be dark like them."

He points to his Wahsoe family, parents Marilyn and Raymond, grandmother Hazel, and dozens of cousins. Payne would rather talk about his family or his bride, Maria, but he was willing to answer a few questions about his life in Iraq.

Payne commands a jailing facility in the green zone. His title is senior sergeant of the guard.

He said his platoon was trained for Special Weapons

YOU CAN HELP

Anyone interested in writing Payne, or sending donations to his unit's adopted family may do so at:

Sgt. Ray Payne Jr.
HHC 2BSTB2BCT1CD
FOB Prosperity
APO AE 09358

and Tactics duties. He spent months alongside FBI agents learning sharp shooting and specialized military techniques, including recovering evidence.

The platoon was then assigned to the jailing facility.

The elite training and his integrity allow him to handle criminals from third-country nationals, which include Al Qaeda infused countries such as Lebanon and Iran.

He said he knows the "cases," the crimes the accused have committed. He spent his first tour in Iraq watching similar crimes wound and kill his countrymen.

Yet he may not touch the inmates. He does not tell the two dozen men under his com-



SPECIAL TO THE R-C

Maria, Raymond Sr., Raymond Jr. and Marilyn Payne at a Memorial Day barbecue at Lampe Park in Gardnerville.

mand anything about the crimes.

If an inmate was mistreated, Payne explained, "it would come back on me."

So, he behaves like a drill sergeant. He has help from an interpreter, but knows the Arabic for commands such as "quiet" (spelled phonetically Escoot), "get up," and "face the wall."

The prisoners are allowed to keep religious traditions, such as praying five times daily and have clean or pork-free meals. Payne spends 14-hour shifts reviewing detailed records of the inmates and supervising a minimum of eight soldiers each shift.

At night, Payne and his platoon sleep in a palace that Saddam Hussein built for his

wife. There is a gym in the basement and showers with filtered water. He can stay in touch by e-mail.

He said he feels pretty safe there.

Outside of the palace, there is a mud hut inhabited by a family of 20 Iraqis.

The platoon has adopted the family, sharing the food they are sent and bringing toys for the children.

There is little education, he explains, and the country is so poor.

Payne said he intends on leaving the service in the next year and hopes to find work in law enforcement.

■ Joyce DeVore is one of four columnists taking over for Gina Gigli on the Alpine County page.

Responder dinner tickets going fast

Staff Reports

Tickets are going fast for the Emergency Responder Dinner to be held 4-8 p.m. June 23 at Turtle Rock Park between Markleeville and Woodfords.

The dinner is being held to honor all the emergency responders (volunteer firemen, EMT's, search and rescue, and deputies and dispatchers) on the east slope of Alpine County.

The coordinating committee, Joyce DeVore, Nani Ellis and Nancy Thornburg, are expecting to feed about 400 people including the responders and their families. Tickets are \$10 each or three for \$25.

Dinner will consist of barbecued tri-tip and chicken, salads, rolls, fruit, soda pop, coffee and dessert.

Neil and Jackie Nyswonger have volunteered to barbecue the tri-tip, and chef Patrick Henry has volunteered to barbecue the chicken and help with preparation and serving of the dinner.

Some in the community have offered to bring various dishes as well.

There will be a no-host bar of beer and wine. The Alpine Trio will provide music for the dinner.

There will also be a raffle and a silent auction, and some wonderful prizes have been donated. Raffle prizes include a microwave, several massages, a facial, gift certificates at various restaurants, gift baskets, and wine. Silent auction items include a barbecue for six in Hope Valley, an antique rosewood upright piano, a two night stay at a cabin at Lake Tahoe, a gourmet dinner for four prepared in your home by Henry, a sewing machine, use of a 6-yard Dumpster for a week, a magnum of Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon, a case of Villa Gigli wine, an etching of Silver Creek by Gina Gigli, a giclee on canvas by Charles Meunch, a cord of tamarack, a water-colored print, "Grandpa's Hands" from a pencil drawing by Jonni Hill, and a telescope.

All proceeds after expenses will go to the volunteer groups.

Raffle tickets may be purchased at the door.

If there are dinner tickets left that night they will be sold at the door for \$10 each.

To purchase a ticket, donate an item, make a monetary donation, or for questions, contact Joyce DeVore, 694-1710, Nancy Thornburg, 694-2102 or Nani Ellis.

Hope Valley's always been a place to meet

by Joyce DeVore

Highway 88 leads from Carson Valley through a steep canyon to Hope Valley, elevation 6,900 feet. The highway runs fairly close to the Washoe Indian trade route. The Washoe exchanged pine nuts and fish for goods the Miwok tribe brought from the other side of the Sierra. They camped along the river and Indian artifacts are still being discovered there today.

So, before adventurers like John Fremont "discovered" the way across the Sierra, Hope Valley was a gathering place. White settlers used the area to rest and repair wagon wheels after the grueling climb through the canyon.

The first recorded owner of land in Hope Valley was also interested in trade but of a different kind. John Allen bought 169 acres where Sorensen's is located in 1876. Since the Comstock Lode demanded timber, Allen profited from cutting the forests of tall pines on his property and sending them downstream on flumes. Lumber was milled at Cary's Mill, which is now called Woodfords. Most people at the time would not have considered living year round in Hope Valley because of the extreme weather in winter. Fluctuations in the timber market and weather challenges caused Allen to sell and repurchase the property several times. The property was in Andrew Beck's name when Martin Sorensen first came to

the area.

At age 18, Martin Sorensen left Denmark to work for live-stock ranchers in Carson Valley. Wool and mutton were valuable commodities to the miners and many Europeans, including the Basques and Scandinavians, came here to find jobs. In just nine years, Sorensen homesteaded property in Markleeville and then married Irene Rajah of Virginia City in 1902. The couple ran sheep in the Carson Valley in winter and herded them into Alpine County for spring and summer. It was a demanding life because sheep require constant attention. One of the Sorensens' five children remembers bringing lambs into the cabins to warm them during cold snaps. The wool market took dramatic ups and downs, making it a challenging profession. Still, the Sorensen's expanded their real estate by purchasing more land near Grover Hot Springs and the Beck property where they would build Sorensen's Resort.

The first cabin they built was to hold sheepherding supplies. With the coming of affordable autos and roads, the Sorensen's built small square cabins as informal rentals for those fishermen and friends who stopped by. In 1926 the resort became a true business with a gas station and store. Shortly thereafter, the Sorensens quit the sheep business and waited out the Depression. In the late 1940s and 1950s, Sorensen's Resort was a popular gathering spot. Indoor plumbing and electricity came

to Hope Valley. There was a dance hall, a store which sold ice cream, and unlimited stories about fishing and local news.

Dr. Johan Hultin was the next owner of Sorensen's. His vision was to build a Norwegian style resort and offer both downhill and cross country skiing. It was an ambitious project for someone running a full time medical practice in San Francisco. There were many problems with developing his plans. The Norway House with its sod roof is the sole standing remainder of his dreams.

John and Patty Brissenden were honeymooning nearby when they spotted the small cabins for sale in Hope Valley. They had both accomplished creative community work in Santa Cruz, including jobs with California state legislators. The newlyweds saw the resort as an opportunity to build their life together and develop community at the same time. The Brissendens had no idea of the work necessary to restore and develop the property. Today the property is immaculate, each cabin is tastefully decorated and comfortable. There is a wonderful restaurant, classes in birding, fishing, photography, rafting and more, as well as a gift shop stacked high with books on the area and local souvenirs. The Brissendens hire local people and maintain a cozy atmos-



PATTY BRISSENDEN/Special to The R-C

Sorensen's is a resort located in Hope Valley along the west fork of the Carson River.

phere. Their reputation is now nation wide.

Fishing is still popular in Hope Valley and Sorensen's sponsors a national fishing program called Casting for Recovery. Cancer survivors spend a few days at Sorensen's, fishing, relaxing and sharing recovery. As John and I were discussing Casting for Recovery, an attractive woman with a fishing license around her neck walked out of her cabin. She seemed to be walking on air. When I asked her about her stay, she smiled and told me that it was "magical."

The Brissendens have battled against development and for protection of the natural resources in Hope Valley. The resort and the valley are treasures in Alpine County. One upcoming public event is a bluegrass concert at Sorensen's on June 10, from 1-6 pm. There is music, barbecue, and a beautiful setting — all for \$10. For more information on the concert or other events, call (530) 694-2203.

Source: 'They Came Every Summer' by Arthur W. Ewart

Historic guidelines topic of workshop

Staff Reports

A draft of historic design guidelines will be presented to Markleeville residents 6 p.m. Wednesday at Turtle Rock Park.

The draft was prepared by Alpine County with the assistance of the Sierra Business Council, a non-profit regional organization, based on information gathered workshops held April 24 and May 16.

"The guidelines are built on what local residents think is special about Markleeville," said Nancy Richards, Program Director with the Sierra Business Council.

Markleeville came into being during the 1800s mining era, and those roots are apparent in the historic Sierra town pattern developed when walking was the dominant mode of transportation.

The purpose of the design guidelines is to direct the town's future character.

The current ordinance applies design review to commercially zoned properties along Main Street and Montgomery Street in the townsite of Markleeville.

First responders dinner shaping up for June 23

Nancy Thornburg

There has been great public support for the plan to honor our emergency responders at a dinner to be held on June 23. Our ticket sellers have been busy and successful, and donations for the raffle and silent auction keep coming in.

Some of the new raffle prizes include meals for two at the J.T. Basque Bar & Dining Room, Sorensen's Resort and the Deli in Markleeville; a Love Ride 22 (Harley-Davidson) baseball cap; a Valley II Water Saver two-handle washerless faucet; a turquoise nugget bracelet and a turquoise stretch silver bracelet; a patriotic table runner; two large pizzas at Nik-N-Willies in the Ranchos; gift bags from the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce; two

hand knit afghans; and a carrying case for a laptop computer. Raffle tickets will be sold at the dinner.

Additional silent auction items include an instant hot water dispenser for under the sink; a Harley Davidson Love Ride 14 brand new denim jacket (large) valued at over \$100; a gift basket from Starbucks valued at \$100; and a juvenile print.

The auction will close at 7 p.m.

The event will be held at Turtle Rock Park between Markleeville and Woodfords and will start at 4 pm.

All east-slope emergency responders (volunteer firemen, EMT's, Search and Rescue, deputies, and dispatchers) will be honored and presented with certificates of thanks.

The Alpine Trio will provide the entertainment.

Dinner will be served around 5:30 and will consist of barbecued tri-tip and chicken, salads, rolls and bread, fruit, soda pop and dessert.

There will be a no-host bar with wine and beer.

All proceeds after expenses will be divided among the volunteer groups.

Dinner tickets will probably be sold at the door and cost \$10 each or three for \$25.

Children 12 and under, and all responders and their immediate families, are free.

If you want to buy a ticket in advance or would like to make a donation, send a check made out to Emergency Responder Dinner to PO Box 156, Markleeville, CA 96120.

Moving power underground in Markleeville

At long last the unsightly overhead power and telephone wires strung throughout downtown Markleeville are going underground.

WES Construction Company out of Reno has been busily cutting through asphalt and digging trenches one section at a time, burying pipe and vaults, and covering everything up, including placing a layer of blacktop, each day before quitting time so no open holes or trenches have been left overnight.

The crew has been efficient and friendly and sensitive to both locals and those traveling through the area.

The area of undergrounding is Main Street (aka Highway

4/89) from the Chamber of Commerce to below the Courthouse and back to the Administration building, and a short way up Montgomery Street.

The project is being funded by Rule 20 money (a California law which requires that the power company set aside a certain percentage of our power bill into a fund for this purpose for each county) and Road Funds for the electrical and by Verizon for the telephone portion.

Alpine County is also paying for some work in preparation for underground street lighting at some point in the future.

In addition, each property owner must pay \$500 to bring the lines underground to the structure.

Also a contribution of

\$15,000 has been committed by Tom Abdoo and Markleeville USA to coordinate further extension west on Montgomery St.

It is hard to imagine a project of this magnitude in such a small area having been carried out with so little impact on local businesses and residents and travelers through the area.

Both the contractor and the Department of Public Works are to be congratulated.

■ Nancy Thornburg is a Markleeville resident.

A talk with Alpine County's tax man

by Irving Krauss

Alpine County's low population and small-scale government provide an excellent window on how its officials make it work. I plan to write about its elected officials — going down the list alphabetically; therefore this first account is about David Peets who heads the assessor's office.

Peets was an appraiser in San Luis Obispo County when he visited Lake Tahoe on a skiing vacation. He had seen a flyer that Alpine County was looking for an assessor and ventured into the county to inquire. He was surprised to be selected over the 27 that had applied, mainly, he feels, because of his varied experience, not only as an assessor but also because of his eight years in building construction. That work included custom homes, apartments, and other structures. Following an injury he was retrained as an assessor. That ski vacation was in 1986, and since then he's been Alpine County's assessor.

The assessor's work is essential for it provides the basis for taxing property that raises their money for essential services

such as fire suppression, policing, roads, health and welfare. While most accept the services not everyone is happy paying for them; some, it would seem, are against being taxed at all. This can make the assessor's work quite stressful as he assesses citizens' real and personal property. He finds that some people, although a minority, take umbrage and get quite personal with expressions such as "You'll ruin me!" or "You'll make me move!" But the assessor must follow the law, without favoritism. Peets sees that as his responsibility, and he is highly respected in the county. He has been re-elected to office five times, four without opposition and the fifth no serious challenger.

The assessor is required to inventory all real and personal property in the county and decide what is taxable and its worth. Because of California's Proposition 13 the basic assessment is made when the home is first built or resold. Real property includes homes and land while personal property covers such things as boats, airplanes, and mobile homes (but not cars or motorcycles). He then determines the property's value

based on what comparable homes or personal property are selling for. In any event, once assessed, the initial tax can only be raised 2 percent per year, unless of course, if the property is resold. If a homeowner makes an improvement, for example a small building for wood or tools, the whole property is not reappraised; only the value of the improvement is added to the person's tax.

Figuring out how to assess property is complicated because the assessor must know the tax laws, both California's and the federal government's. They are complex and there are constant changes. If state taxes are not paid he can have a lien placed on the property and it can be sold.

An assessor must pass an appraiser's certification test, and Peets has been certified as an appraiser for 25 years and

holds an advanced certificate. The State's Board of Equalization audits the assessor's work every four years.

Peets and his wife Terri live in Markleeville. They have a daughter Dena in Santa Rosa, Calif., and a son, Justin who will be a junior at Douglas High School in the fall.

We tend to take government for granted and don't give it much thought except when things go awry or when we feel our interests are threatened. Yet things do work; just think of countries where laws are not followed, where it is understood that the purpose of governing is for officials to pad their pockets. We are fortunate that most of our officials are honest and dedicated, and things get done.

■ Irving Krauss is a Markleeville resident.

Chipping crews coming July 9-11

Staff Reports

The Alpine Fire Safe Council is offering a grant-funded chipping program to help clear brush from around homes and outbuildings.

State law requires 100 feet of defensible space around buildings to help protect firefighters and property. To schedule a fire safe review to prepare for the chipping crew arrival call (530) 694-2791.

Chipping will be July 9-11 or until finished in Markleeville, Woodfords Colony and Hope Valley.

Material for chipping should be natural green vegetation only with limbs and brush no larger than 6 inches in diameter. Material should be left on

the property near the road side but clear of the road ditch or roadway and should have "butts" facing the road, if possible. Pine needles won't be accepted.

To sign up, call (530) 694-2791 and leave a name, phone number, street address, state whether the chips should be left in a pile or spread out, request for brush clearing will also be scheduled for \$85 an hour. Sign up by e-mail to jeffbrees@yahoo.com with the information listed above.

Residents will get a confirmation call with an estimated arrival time for the chipping crew. For more information visit www.alpinefiresafe.org or call (530) 694-2791.

Surviving Alpine County's seven garden plagues

by Joyce DeVore

Sawflies are nibbling the pines in Alpine County at this moment. They are the larvae stage of an insect that resembles a wasp. The larvae destroy the old growth of certain pines, leaving a tree with pom-poms of new growth at the end of each branch. There is another generation of sawfly larvae that destroys the new growth, thus killing the tree. There are over 700 varieties of sawflies, each one favoring a few varieties of pine needles. Common pine sawfly is the variety we have in Woodfords, Alpine County. The larvae have unusual behavior: they are gregarious and they arch, wiggle, and spit when disturbed. They look like plump hairless caterpillars with stubby legs and no foot or hook. The most effective way of eliminating any pest is to keep the tree healthy with loamy soil, water, and sun. If there is a tell tale yellowish needle followed by a wiggling bunch of needle eaters, the gardener must rid the tree of the larvae or risk losing the tree. Hand picking is one method of eliminating the sawfly larvae, but a strong jet of water from the garden hose is



Sawfly larvae feed on pines in Alpine County.

SPECIAL TO THE R-C

Sources: "Garden Insects of North America" by Whitney Cranshaw and "Cold Climate Gardening" by Lewis Hill.

■ Joyce DeVore is a Markleeville resident.

R-C June 29, 2007

also effective. Alpine residents who garden call the sawfly the first of seven plagues.

The second plague is a group of ground animals. We have ground squirrels that burrow and destroy roots, moles and voles that tunnel in the lawn and also eat roots. Rabbits devour annuals and perennials, and not always the same variety as the last year. Pine trees can be killed in a severe winter by hungry rabbits that strip the bark and eat needles that are close to the ground. Wire mesh around young trees protects bark and wire mesh around a root ball can help prevent the root destruction. The most dangerous one in the group is the rattlesnake. Gardeners appreciate that the snake controls the above rodent population, yet must keep a wary eye and ear to detect the poisonous snake near a house or barn.

The third, fourth, and fifth plagues are related to climate. Wind tops the list. Winds occur every season in Alpine, especially on the mesa district of Woodfords. Gusts of over 100 mph desiccate all plant life. In spring the winds can tear blossoms off the fruit trees, ruining the chance for a crop of apples, peaches, or cherries. Winds blow away valuable topsoil and spread hardy native seeds throughout the county. Sage and tumbleweed sprouts are best tended to before the earth becomes hard in late spring. The fourth plague is the scorching sun. Due to our high elevation, the sun has increased

power to dry organic material in the soil. It is imperative to keep organic material added to the soil and to protect the enriched soil with layers and layers of mulch around plants, shrubs, and trees. The fifth plague is the tendency to have frosts late in the spring and in late summer, causing a very short growing season. A growing season is the average length of time between the last frost of spring and the first frost in fall. The short length of growth season classifies Alpine County as a zone 1. Only the hardiest of plants thrive in our climate. Gardeners love to gamble with a new plant, and sometimes the result is a surprising success. The plagues three, four and five are simply extreme climatic conditions. Those conditions help produce a clear and blue sky. The colors that one can see in our atmosphere are simply not available in fog or overcast climates. Foliage and flowers contrast with the blue sky and shine in an atmosphere almost devoid of humidity.

Plague number six is the demand on our water supply. It challenges all residents to be smart about using this valuable resource. As more people move to the area and the earth's climate becomes warmer, understanding the proper use of drip systems, sprinklers, and other irrigation is imperative. Knowing which plants are drought-tolerant increases success for a gardener.

Clay, hardpan soil, and Volkswagen-size boulders are

plague number seven. Clay soil is tightly bonded fine particles that do not allow drainage. Root rot is a risk if one does not enrich the clay with organic matter, such as pine needles, weathered manure, or hay. Nursery owners warn people who purchase trees not to stomp on the ground after planting. All plants benefit from aerated soil. Beneath the clay there can be a layer of rock hard soil called hardpan. With patience and a crow bar, the hard pan can be broken up. Water and mulch will eventually amend even hardpan into a rich soil, complete with earthworms. It takes more than a crowbar to extract boulders from the

ground. Since the area was formed mostly by volcanic action, the erupting peaks caused giant rocks to tumble downhill. Residents chose to build or buy homes in the area because living on such a hill provides beautiful views of Silver Mountain, Raymond Peak, the Sierra, and the Pine Nut Range. Backhoes can extract the boulders and rocks, which are frequently an integral part of the landscaping in Alpine County.

Friends, neighbors, local garden shops, and library sources are available to help gardeners with the challenges and victories over the seven plagues of gardening in Alpine County.

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June 29, 2007

BLM seeks comment on plan

Staff Reports

The Bureau of Land Management, Carson City Field Office, has released the Alpine County Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment for public view.

As part of the proposed plan amendment, an environmental assessment has been prepared to analyze designation of approximately 19,000 acres of public land suitable for retention and conveyance for community expansion purposes, trails and travel management on public land and allotments available for livestock grazing.

A public open house will be held during the regular meeting of the Alpine County Board of Supervisors, 9 a.m. Tuesday.

The Alpine County Administrative Office Building is located at 99 Water St., Markleeville.

Public comments will be accepted through July 18. Comments should be addressed to Donald T. Hicks, manager, Carson City Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, NV 89701.

For more information 885-6000.

Gunter Kaiser at home in Alpine County

by Bill Morgan
Special to The R-C

From time to time in these columns about Alpine County, that California county that rests comfortably on the upper reaches of the Carson River drainage, you'll hear about some of its citizens. With the smallest population of any county in California, Alpine County is unique and so are some of the people who live there. Actually, if you think about it, everyone is unique in his or her own particular way, but Gunter Kaiser, a member of our board of supervisors, is unique in more ways than most.

His name tells you something about him. There is a lot of German in this guy and why not? He was born three years before the start of WWII in a region of Europe that was part of Germany at the time. His life as a child during and immediately after the war years was chaotic as the German nation first aggressively expanded its orbit, then retreated back toward its borders under the Allied assault, and succumbed at last in 1945. He and his family were forced to move to East Germany from their home town after the area was transferred to Poland following war's end. All their belongings were left behind. His birthplace, Beuthen, Germany, is now Bytom, Poland. Uprooted once, the family moved again, to West Germany, before the new communist government of East Germany got around to closing its borders. There, with the best of the old fashioned Germanic values still intact in his psyche, Gunter undertook the challenge of

making up for three lost years of elementary school education and of learning a trade, a way to make his way in the world.

At the age of 20, seeking adventure and at the urging of a brother-in-law who had immigrated to Canada, Gunter crossed the Atlantic to the United States' northern neighbor. He had learned the trade of tool-maker and acquired a pilot's license before he left Germany, but he still had not found a home, that place where a man settles down, where his dreams can be realized and his talents put to good use, where a man can be comfortable with the land and the people. But, no matter, he was still on an adventure at the time.

After three and half years, he came to the U.S., with a green card, and followed the lure of California, like a latter day 49er. Before he could really get his bearings, he was drafted into the U.S. Army. And where was he assigned? Germany. A German national in the U.S. Army. The Army wisely assigned him to teach German to the American soldiers.

Back in the U.S., he became an American citizen and set about furthering his education and utilizing his skills as a tool-maker to begin a long climb into the upper levels of manufacturing. After attending Fullerton Junior College and Cal State University at Fullerton, he graduated with a degree in...philosophy? Becoming a college professor was not to be, but work in manufacturing a variety of mechanical and electronic devices, including bio-

medical devices, brought him eventually to the position of manager of a large plant in Tijuana, Mexico. He got a master's degree in management along the way, and met his lovely wife, Lois. And, oh yes, also a license to fly gliders.

At retirement he sought out a good place to enjoy his hobby of soaring in his glider. He found that to be Carson Valley, so he and Lois moved north and settled in Alpine County.

Gunter is a hard working member of the Alpine County Board of Supervisors and applies his management skills to good effect.

The county has no county manager, so the board members divide up the responsibilities of keeping track of the various departments. Gunter is liaison with seven different departments and serves as a director on the Carson Water Subconservancy District and the Great Basin Air Pollution Control District. Here are some of things he told this columnist:

The board's biggest challenge is managing the county's financial affairs and its employees.

The county government's greatest assets are its employees, the volunteers that serve the community, and the environment.

He doesn't think the county will experience significant growth in the next 20 years, except for that occurring in Kirkwood and Bear Valley.

If he wasn't working as a county supervisor he would be doing more flying in his glider and be developing his skills fur-

ther in woodworking and traveling around the U.S. with Lois.

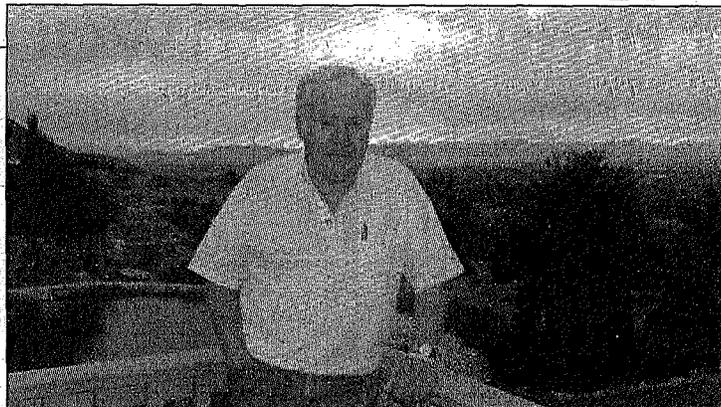
He would tell someone who is thinking of moving to Alpine County that "it would be the greatest lifetime experience ever."

And his proudest achievement? "After 60 years of moving from place to place, I've found a place I can call home."

■ Bill Morgan is a Markleeville resident.

R-C

July 6, 2007



Gunter Kaiser at his home in Alpine County.

July 6, 2007

Emergency volunteers work 4,070 hours

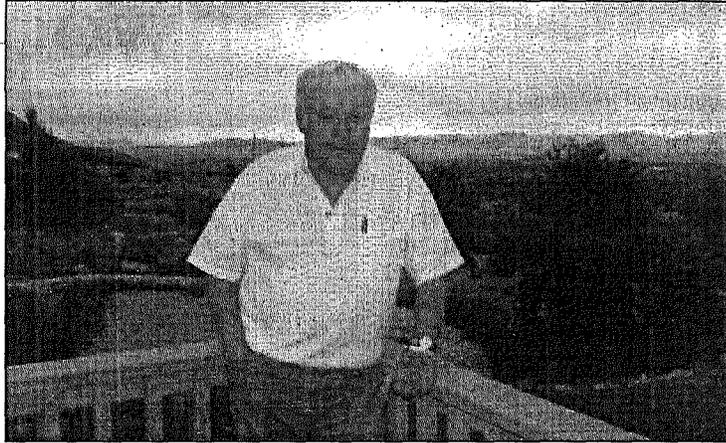
Staff Reports

Eastern Alpine volunteer emergency responders contributed about 4,070 hours of their time in training, responding to people in distress, and routine maintenance and administration during 2006, according to information compiled by David Griffith, using data supplied by the volunteer groups.

Using the national volunteer rate of \$18.77 an hour to value their time, they made a contribution of \$76,000 that year.

Between 2002 and 2006 calls varied from 150 per year to 250 per year according to data from the Markleeville and Woodfords fire stations, emergency medical services, and search and rescue.

Call-outs tended to be heavier on weekends and between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.



Gunter Kaiser at his home in Alpine County.

SPECIAL TO THE R-C

Pg. 2

RC 7-11-07

Missed some who deserved thanks

EDITOR:

I regret the oversight in thanking all those who helped with our Emergency Responder Dinner here in eastern Alpine. Three additional donors/helpers were Ronnie Duncker, the 50+ Club, and the Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California. Our apologies, and our thanks.

**The Emergency Responder
Coordinating Committee**
Alpine County

July 11, 2007

Letters: Lay down the law

Responders dinner a big success

EDITOR:

More than 400 people turned out for the dinner on June 23 to honor all Alpine County east slope emergency responders, and they were generous in their donations and raffle and silent auction purchases.

The crowd enthusiastically applauded as each responder received a certificate of appreciation from the community.

Unfortunately, some volunteer firemen and deputies were still on the fire north of Markleeville which had broken out at 3 a.m.

But fortunately, they kept that fire small, and there was no threat or damage to structures. It was a real reminder as to how much we owe these great men and women.

The coordinating committee, Joyce DeVore, Nani Ellis and Nancy Thornburg, would like to thank the following people and businesses who donated money, time and/or talent to this worthwhile enterprise:

Cindy Hannah, Alpine County Chamber of Commerce, Marlena Hellwinkel, Bill and Carole Morgan, Ruggero and Gina Gigli, Jonni Hill, Charles Muench, Barry Jobe, Patrick Henry, Neil and Jackie Nyswonger, Rick and Karen Dustman, Nancy Specchio, Dave and Jan Brees, Douglas Disposal, Swanson Vineyards, Shirley Taylor, Ed and Bonnie Senior, Forrest and Karen Robinson, Friends of the Library, Michele Neely, Rita Lovell, Mary Ellen Zellmer, Rosemarie Sherman, Kim Hunt, El Charro Avitia, Carol McElroy, Carson Valley Country Club Restaurant, Rosy's Mexican Restaurant, Carson Valley Inn, Kim Hurst, J.T. Basque Bar and Dining Room, Oliver Shokouh, Marilyn A. Aversano, Nik-N-Willies in the Ranchos, Sorensen's Resort, Trader Joe's, Debbie Riley, Kent Neddenriep, Margarita Chevarin, Barney and Debbie Esteban, Christine Ambrose, Gary and Barbara Howard, Doranna Glettig, Evelyn Yonker, Starbucks in Carson Valley Business Park, Nyona Lang, Warren and Dee Ann Jang, Marge Holdridge, Robinson kids, Ann Robinson Molinari, Roma Morris, Dave and Linda Kirby, Jack and Kathy Merrill, Alpine Sportsman — Melanie Bowers, Dave Mills, Lisa Fontana, Claude Myers, Connie Wentz, David Griffith, Scott Tinseth, Chris Gansberg Jr., Alpine County Fire/Rescue Auxiliary, Jan Lopes, Kirkwood Mountain Resort, Gail Day, Superior Court of Alpine County, Lisa Cobourn and the court staff, Alpine County Probation Department, Markleeville General Store — Bob and Dee Rudden, Coldwell Banker Realty — Teddy and Beth, Judy Warren Wickwire, Gunter and Lois Kaiser, Ida Glazier, Jerard Trombka, Jack and Maria Martin, John Baeta, Becky Ali, Jennifer Thornburg, Eastern Sierra Feed, Laxague Feed and Supply, The Washoe Tribe, Carol Harnett, Connie Sheltren, Dawn Riddle, Jerry Andrews, Mike Maklex, Dave DeVore, The Alpine Trio — Skip Veatch and Dave and Mary Ellen Zellmer, Kate Harvey, Wanda Coyan, Kathleen Andrews, Nancy Richmond, Linda Merrill, Cami Chavez, Rosemary Joe-Kinale, Mary Rawson, and all the ticket purchasers.

The dinner event itself, including ticket sales and donations, silent auction and raffle, brought in \$6,100.

The net from ticket sales, donations, raffle and silent auction, is \$15,164.

This money will be evenly divided between the four volunteer emergency responder groups: Emergency Medical Technicians, Woodfords Volunteer Fire Department, Markleeville Fire Department and search and rescue.

We offer our heartfelt thanks to all who supported this important event.

Nancy Thornburg
Markleeville

Alpine County then and now

by Irv Krauss

Most of the people in Alpine County know about its history, especially the members of the county historical society. This overview is addressed to more recent residents and visitors.

Eons ago tremendous geological forces thrust the land upward to create the magnificent Sierra Nevada and in time streams, rivers and lakes formed, including Lake Tahoe. Much later humans came to this area. The first to call it home were the Washoe Indians whose presence goes back at least 1,000 years.

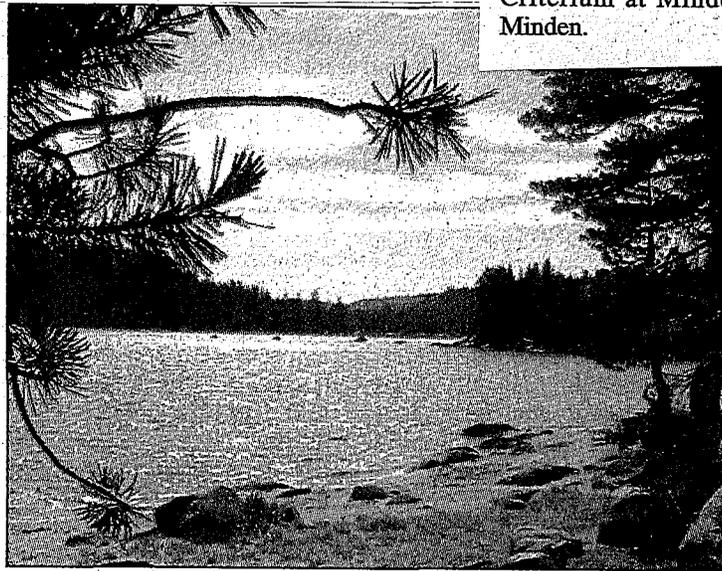
They lived in what is now Alpine County during the winter months and at Lake Tahoe during the summer, and subsisted by hunting large and small animals, fishing, and by gathering edible plants and bulbs, with acorns and particularly pine nuts that were an important staple of their diet.

Evidence of their earlier culture is found in some of the fields, and include grinding stones used in preparing the pine nuts, and arrow heads and stone tools for scraping animal skins.

The Washoe's contacts with Euro-Americans may have been as early as 1826 when Jedediah Strong Smith traveled through the area, and then in the 1840s when Kit Carson and the Fremont Expedition traversed Hope Valley, led by Washoe guides.

Initially in the Utah territory, Alpine was made part of the Nevada Territory. The Ives border survey in 1863 found the area part of California.

Many more contacts occurred after the middle of the 19th century following the discovery of silver and gold, with the influx of large number of prospectors and others. Sizeable communities were established; for example in 1864 Silver Mountain City's population was estimated at between 2,500 and 3,500, and Markleeville had 2,620 people. But as the precious minerals gave out or their price fell, the Euro-American population plummeted. The county's voters declined from 1,160 in 1864 to 172 in 1875.



KURT HILDEBRAND/The R-C

Twin Lake sits near the Pacific Crest Trail in Alpine County.

Alpine Portfolio

In recent years the economy was ranching and sheep herding.

Around 1958 my wife and I were walking along the West Fork of the Carson River in Hope Valley when we came upon a Basque shepherd with several hundred sheep and a border collie, who rushed toward us apparently annoyed by our intrusion. But with a signal from the shepherd the collie reversed course and returned to the flock. Basque shepherders were common in earlier years in Alpine County as well as in nearby Nevada. In Alpine their carvings on Aspen trees may still be found, with messages attesting to the loneli-

ness of their work.

The county's economy is based on tourism, with fishing and camping in the summer months and cross country and downhill skiing and snowmobiling during the winter. The 2007 population is 1,300 people with slightly under 800 registered voters.

This overview concentrates on the eastern section of the county that has the majority of the population and the county's governing body. A mountain range bisects the county and Highway 4 leads to the smaller but vibrant community of Bear Valley. Some readers may have experienced the torturous route between the two sections.

Source: Alpine County Historical Society, Alpine Heritage, rev. ed. and Images of Alpine County and Jerry and Jenine Sprout, Alpine Sierra Trailblazer.

Diamond Valley Road Race on July 28

R-C
7-20-07

Staff Reports

Racers will vie for a championship title in the Diamond Valley Road Race 8 a.m. July 28, in Woodfords.

Sponsored by the Alta Alpina Cycling Club, the road race is the first part of an annual two-day cycling event, the Masters District Road Championships.

The races continue Sunday with the Carson Valley Classic Criterium at Minden Park in Minden.

July 20, 2007

Impact statement out today for new forest road rules

Staff Reports

A draft environmental impact statement on the Eldorado National Forest's system of roads for motorized vehicles is scheduled to be released today for a 45-day public review.

Alpine County residents will have a chance to share their views of the plan with the forest service 7-9 p.m. Thursday at Turtle Rock Community Center.

Five alternative ways to manage existing roads run the gamut from continuing the present use to limiting use to 751 miles of roads and 136 miles of trails, prohibiting cross-country travel and limiting access in winter.

A preferred alternative would allow use on 844.3 miles of roads and 217 miles of established trails. At present there are about 2,200 miles of roads and trails available to off-highway vehicles. Any change would cut the number of miles available nearly in half.

The impact statement examines five alternative ways to manage a designated system of existing routes running throughout the Eldorado National Forest. The statement describes these alternatives and the public input used to develop them, the analysis of the alternatives and the effects of

PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

July 24 — Placerville at the Marshall Building, El Dorado County Fairgrounds, 100 Placerville Drive, Placerville, Calif.

July 25 — Jackson at the Civic Center, 33 Broadway, Jackson, Calif.

July 26 — Markleeville at the Turtle Rock Community Center, 17300 State Route 89, Markleeville, Calif.

July 31 — Folsom at the Lake Natomas Inn, 702 Gold Lake Drive, Folsom, Calif.

Aug. 2 — Concord at the Pleasant Hill Recreation Center, 320 Civic Drive, Pleasant Hill, Calif.

ON THE WEB

www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado/projects/route

Info: eldoradoroutes@fs.fed.us or (530) 621-5276.

implementing each one. The Eldorado National Forest supervisor's preferred alternative is also identified.

"This is an important step in our ongoing public involvement process," said Ramiro Villalvazo, Eldorado National Forest supervisor, who will make the final decision. "It's my desire to balance the need to provide a diversity of road and trail riding opportunities with the need to protect forest resources."

Following the analysis of public comments, the Forest Service will create a final environmental impact statement and make a final decision.

The decision is scheduled to be made before the end of the

year. Public information meetings are scheduled later in July and early August.

Villalvazo says that the travel management project is part of a forest service initiative designed to address the impacts of unmanaged recreation on the health of national forests. The statement proposes to regulate and manage wheeled motor vehicle use in the Eldorado National Forest and to identify roads and trails where this use will be allowed.

It also addresses seasonal closures of wheeled motor vehicle routes, and wheeled over-the-snow travel.

Other national forests in California are developing similar management direction.

7/21/07, As

Grover Hot Springs' Family returns

by Irving Kraus

What's in a name? Shakespeare asked. Names in Alpine County, as in other places, signify individuals and families who first settled and helped build its communities. Among familiar names in the county are the Barbers, Bloods, Chains, Coyans, Grovers, Hawkins, Jims, Marklees, Merrills, Monroes, Neddenrieps, Prices, Ruperts, Thompsons, Thornburgs, and Woodfords.

Many of them have been honored by the county museum in Markleeville in its exhibitions and publications and a few when their descendants visited the museum. The Grover name is an important part of Alpine County's history, and on the weekend of Sept. 15, 20 members traveled to Markleeville from many places in the United States and overseas to learn about their family history and to provide new information.

Grover Hot Springs is familiar to many residents in Carson Valley and elsewhere. Its history dates to the late 1800s when Charles Grover and his bride Elizabeth Anne Savage initially had a home in Markleeville and then in the valley known as Grover Hot Springs. The hot springs, heated by fissures deep in the earth were resting stops for the Washoe Indians long before prospectors passed through what is now Alpine County on their way to the California gold fields. According to legend the explorers Kit Carson and John C. Fremont found the hot springs a welcome respite on their travel across the Sierra.



The Grover family gathers in front of the Webster School where Charles Grover's wife, Elizabeth Savage, taught before they were married.



ALPINE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PHOTOS

Sheriff Charles Grover on horseback in 1900.

The large white building at the corner of Main and Montgomery streets in Markleeville was first known as the Grover House, next as the Hot Springs Hotel and then the Alpine Hotel. Originally it was the Fiske House in Silver Mountain

City when Grover moved it to Markleeville in 1883.

Charles Grover was the county sheriff and tax assessor. Grover was an imposing figure upon his horse, named Luck. But "...maintaining order," it was noted, "was not an easy

job, especially when miners and rough-and-tumble ranch hands decided to liven things up."

Charles married Elizabeth the schoolteacher at the Webster School that is at the museum. However, she had to resign because state law prohibited married teachers. Years later she became superintendent of schools.

The members of the Grover family at the reunion sat at the desks in the old Webster School and listened to stories about the history of the county, the school, and the Grover family by former Museum Director Nancy Thornburg and current Director Dick Edwards. Following lunch they met with Thornburg at the county library to view records of their family and Alpine County.

Sources: Alpine County Historical Society 'Images of Alpine County,' 2005, p. 71 and 'Alpine Heritage,' rev. ed., 1987 and Dick Edwards.

Kirkwood hosts home tour

Staff Reports

Kirkwood Mountain Resort will highlight some of its luxury homes during its fifth annual home tour, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sept. 2. Homeowners and real estate specialists will be on hand to talk about Kirkwood and the second home market.

The home tour will start in The Palisades located on the slopes of Kirkwood.

Located between two high-speed quad chairlifts and two pedestrian-friendly villages, The Palisades home sites are in the sixth and final phase with 21 lots left. Guests touring The Palisades will be served a light lunch and beverages from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Visit www.kirkwoodpalisades.com for more information.

From 2-5 p.m. the event continues with a tour of five contemporary homes near Kirkwood's East Meadows. Immediately following the home tour, there will be a reception with live entertainment near the East Meadows entrance from 3-6 p.m.

Kirkwood is set at 7,800 feet in a box canyon surrounded by 10,000-foot mountains and national forest.

"With build-out guidelines in place, we are committed to the intimacy that makes Kirkwood unique," said Tim Cohee, president of Kirkwood Mountain Realty and resort president for the past 13 years. "In fact, the percent of growth terrain is larger than the allowable number of residents."

The upcoming ski season marks the resort's 35th anniversary.

Most recently, the resort has

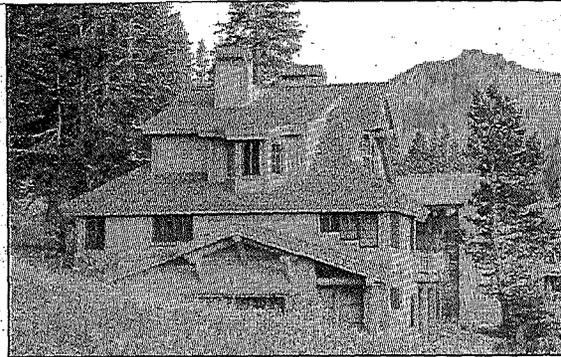
included many on-mountain enhancements, including \$10 million in new chair lifts; \$4 million in snowmaking operations; \$4 million for infrastructure; and plans to make current hike-to terrain accessible via new chairlifts. The resort also features on-site restaurants,

lodges, swimming pools, fitness centers, an ice-skating rink, entertainment and boutique retail shops.

Those attending the home tours are also invited to a complimentary reception featuring Amador County vintners pouring their wines, hors d'oeuvres

and live music from 3-6 p.m. where a Kirkwood season pass will be raffled.

A \$15 donation from attendees will benefit the Alpine Watershed toward the preservation of headwaters on the Carson, Mokelumne, Stanislaus, Truckee and American rivers.



LARRY PROSOR/Special to The R-C

A custom home located in East Meadows at Kirkwood Mountain Resort.

R-C
July 27, 2007

Kirkwood events set for Sept. 1

Kirkwood has a variety of activities scheduled for Sept. 1:

■ Lift ride on chair no. 6, the Cornice Express.

■ Annual Kirkwood 5k/10k Run starting at 8:30 a.m. For more information, visit www.tahoemtnmilers.org.

■ Mountain bike clinic for beginner through upper intermediate riders, focusing on improving skills and efficiency and equipment education. Cost is \$55 per person and includes instruction and lift ticket. Call (209) 258-7360 for more information or reservations.

■ Thin Air Chili Cook-Off with chefs competing with their top-secret recipes along side live music and wine tasting from 1-3 p.m. To reserve a booth or enter the chili Cook-off, call (209) 258-7386.

■ Annual Ski Swap from 9 a.m. - noon on the Village Plaza. To reserve a table, call (209) 258-7386.

Falling Rock Band performs in Alpine

Staff Reports

The Falling Rock Band from Humboldt County, Calif., will be playing at the Markleeville Community Park, (next to the library) on Sunday from 4 p.m. until sundown.

Bring a picnic basket, a blanket or folding chairs and dancing shoes.

The musicians say they will keep on playing for as long as the people are having fun and dancing to their tunes.

Event sponsor, The Friends of the Library, will sell bottled water.

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

Villa Gigli hosts artist

Staff Reports

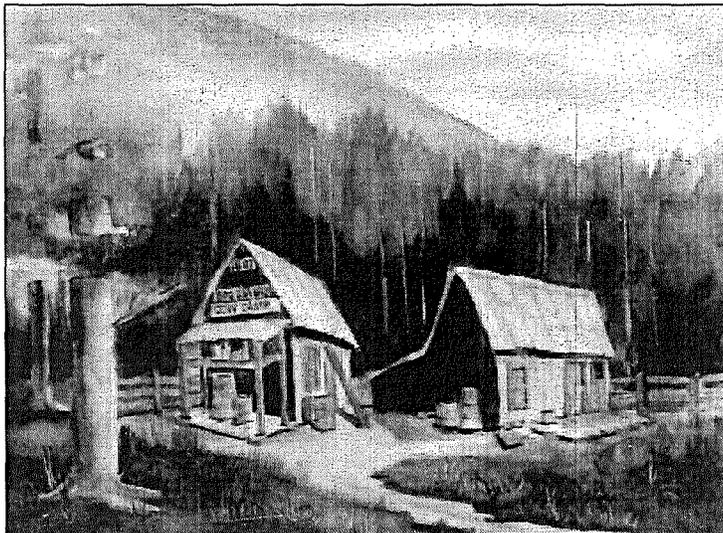
Known for his vibrantly-hued watercolors, Markleeville artist Peter Chope will display his artwork 4:30 to 8 p.m. Sunday outdoors at Villa Gigli in Markleeville.

Easels will be set up under the shade cast by a large poplar tree and Chope will be on hand to answer questions about locations of his subject matter and the techniques he employs.

"I start each painting by going out to observe the landscape and either sketching or photographing a location," he said. "Then I lay down the background washes, and when those colors dry, I add the details."

Chope and his wife Sandy Baenen, a graphic designer and artist, live in Markleeville most of the year, interpreting alpine scenery, but in deep winter they're basking in the desert sun of Tubac, Ariz., as signified by Chope's cactus watercolors.

The exhibit will be on dis-



Cow Camp by Peter Chope.

play at Villa Gigli at 145 Hot Springs Road in Markleeville.

George Hanepen will perform on guitar.

SPECIAL TO THE R-C
R-C Fri. July 27, 2007

Sunday the 20th anniversary of Acorn fire

by Nancy C. Thornburg

Almost 20 years ago ...
Fire danger had been extreme for five days prior to ignition. On July 29, 1987, at about 11:30 a.m. a thin wisp of smoke in Woodfords Canyon was spotted and reported. The fire was located in Acorn Canyon north of Crystal Springs. Cause of the fire was never determined but the U.S. Forest Service stated that it was man-caused.

Forest service personnel called it a "textbook fire" and advised the Alpine volunteers to stand down.

The fire burned in duff and litter 6-9 inches deep and surrounded by scattered manzanita, mahogany, chinquapin, Jeffrey pine and white fir. Around 12:45 p.m. the fire was about 1/4 acre, and it remained small until about 1:30 p.m. when the usual afternoon down-canyon winds came up at about 25 miles per hour.

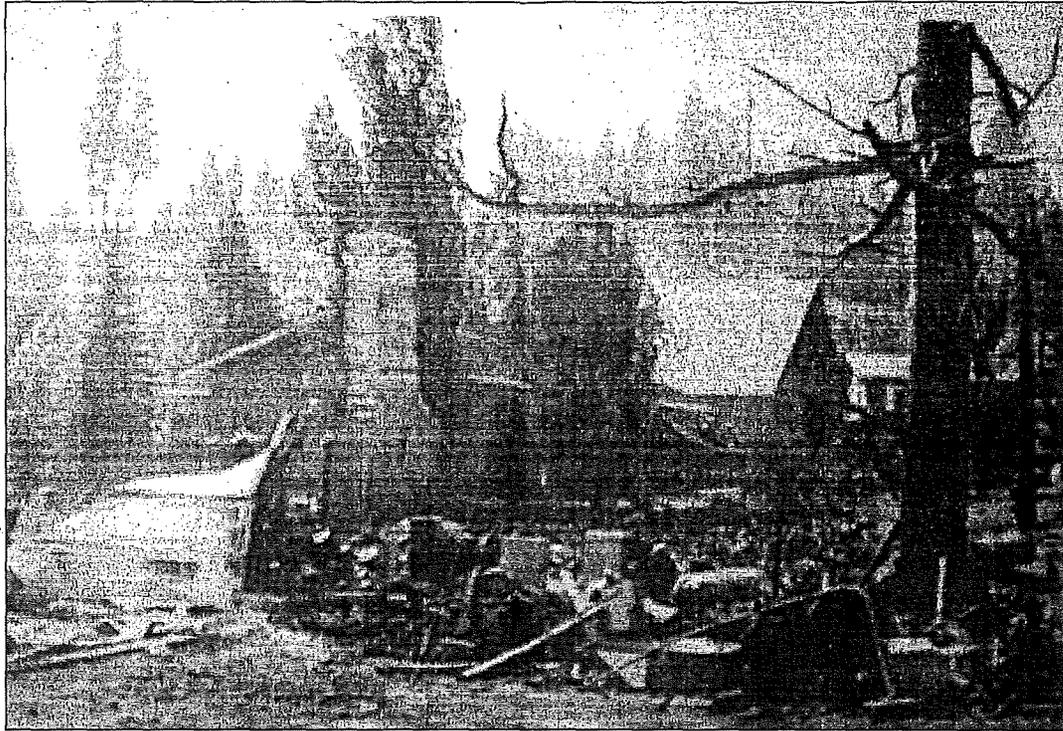
Around 2:15 p.m. the blaze escaped initial attack and started spotting far ahead of the main fire. Winds continued to increase in intensity, up to 50 mph, and the fire crossed Highway 88, and formed two heads: one moving northeast toward Mesa Vista and the other toward Crystal Springs, the Woodfords Inn area, Alpine Village, and north and west of Upper Manzanita Lane.

At 3 p.m. Alpine Village residents were warned of possible evacuation, and at 4 p.m. the evacuation took place as the fire moved in. By 4:30 p.m. it had burned about 500 acres and by 6:30 it was about 2,000 acres and still growing. The major advance occurred in a matter of six hours.

"Eyewitness accounts report flame lengths from 60 to 100 feet, fire whirls, houses bursting into flames, fire-generated winds of 50 mph, and blinding smoke — literally a fire storm of awesome proportions." (Bjomsen Report, Oct. 1987)

By dawn July 30, the threat to life and property had largely passed.

The fire was basically stopped in its northeasterly direction when it ran out of fuel



The wreckage of a home burned by the Acorn fire in the summer of 1987. Below, Markleeville residents pack up their belongings to evacuate.



in the area where the Fredericksburg fire had started the previous year. North and west of the Upper Manzanita Lane area it was stopped by a combination of a bulldozer-cut fire line and an area of controlled burn which had happened the previous year and which reduced fuels in the burn area.

All together it burned 6,550 acres, destroyed 24 homes (estimated to be about one quarter of the homes in that area at that time), and damaged another 56 buildings. There was no loss of life and no serious injury.

Resources included many agencies and fire departments through mutual aid. There were

about 1,500 firefighters, six borate bombers, eight dozers and several helicopters.

About two weeks later many wildland fires raged throughout California and the west. Had the Acorn occurred then, there would have been far fewer mutual aid resources available.

The U.S. Forest Service conducted an internal investigation following the Acorn and determined that their crews had not made any serious errors. The county commissioned an independent analysis by R.L. Bjomsen of FMA International of Boise.

This report, in part, stated that "Fire danger buildup, incomplete intelligence on burning conditions, and lack of

full commitment of planned resources contributed to the fire escaping initial attack." It went on to say, "Access, readily available water, and non-fire safe prevention measures contributed to the loss of structures."

Some recommendations from this report were implemented by the county. Many have not been. This fire resulted in prolonged litigation brought by victims who had lost homes and other property together with insurance companies, which had paid claims.

The litigation was based on the allegation that the U.S. Forest Service had been negligent in its initial attack. Historically, the courts had taken the posi-

tion that firefighters should not be held liable for negligence because, of necessity, they made very difficult decisions under very stressful conditions and that it was unfair of others to look back and claim that things should have been done differently. So the court directed that first the plaintiffs must prove that the forest service was, in fact, negligent. It took about five years but they did prove to the court that there was negligence. After about five more years of court involvement, the plaintiffs won their case.

And, it appears to me, from observation, at this point in time the forest service changed their initial attack strategies on wildland fires to be much more aggressive.

This had been part of the problem during all these fires of the 1980s (the Fredericksburg and both Indian Creek fires). But at the same time it must be pointed out that on hot, windy summer and fall days in eastern Alpine, once a wildland fire gets going it is extremely difficult to contain and extinguish.

It will most likely be controlled and contained either when it runs out of fuel or when the weather or wind change.

Fuels in the Markleeville and Woodfords areas now are much like they were in the 1980s. In Woodfords and Markleeville there are more trees and more ladder fuels in the form of grasses and brush. In the Mesa Vista and Upper Manzanita Lane areas the brush is probably about the same as it was in the 1980s. And there are many, many more homes in all these areas than there were in the '80s.

A copy of the Bjomsen report and other information about the Acorn fire, including newspaper articles, are available in the library in Markleeville

R-C Fri. July 27, 2007

Fire services shine at keeping little blazes small

by Bill Morgan

Special to The R-C

I've just finished reading last Friday's column by Nancy Thornburg. It was an excellent, objective, and matter-of-fact account of the Acorn fire in 1987 and its aftermath. That fire was one of the worst wildland fires in Alpine County, ever. If it hadn't escaped initial attack, you might never have heard about it.

The column prompted me to reflect on the many fires I became familiar with, either during my 26 years with the U.S. Forest Service or while living here in Alpine County.

Some have been covered well by the news media. Some news reports were no more than a list of statistics: acres burned, structures burned, numbers of people, tractors, air tankers, helicopters, and engines on the fire.

Some were never even mentioned in the news reports. But there is a story underlying every fire, even those not mentioned. I'll tell you about one of them that never made the papers.

On July 7, around 7:30 p.m., a fire began next to the Carson River Road near Woodfords in Alpine County and climbed quickly up slope to a low ridge while at the same time spreading north along the slope, carried by a steady breeze from the south. It was on some of the same terrain that burned during the Acorn fire, and the brush that had grown back was dry as dust. Here's how it went for me, up close and personal, in real time:

The evening meal is over. Dishes stacked for washing. But my wife and I choose to go for a stroll around the place and enjoy the evening breeze. Ten steps later, off to the east, we see the smoke.

Fifteen foot tongues of flames are lapping up and over a long length of ridge that over-

looks the West Fork of the Carson River. A quick assessment tells us that the wind direction will move the fire front toward the north, away from us, but the west flank is moving directly towards us and the neighbor's place below us. The sound of a siren from the highway to the west of us tells us that the fire has been reported; but there is no sign of anyone being on the fire yet. It's only a few hundred yards away and is advancing steadily in our direction.

An Alpine County sheriff's deputy arrives and says "Yours is one of places we need to protect." I thank him and point out the easiest route for engines to take to get to this side of the fire. He goes off to check it out. Carole and I hook up some hoses just in case, but I'm not one to stand and wait.

I think I can slow the advance of the flames near the tail end of the fire, so I don my boots and old forest service hardhat, grab a shovel and set off. As I'm making my way across acres of brush to the fire line I see someone well ahead of me, on foot, running toward the fire. I guess it's someone from my neighbor's, down slope and south of our place. I'm not running. Flinging shovels full of dirt at flaming grass and brush is hard work and I don't want to arrive at the fire line all tired out. Nearing the flank, flames burning high and hot, I'm able to get the attention of the fellow who got there first.

"Come with me to the tail end of the fire!" I shout and he does. We then hurry to the tail of the fire dragon and commence tossing dirt. The taller brush is spaced out enough that we can stop the spread of the fire by squelching the low flames of the grass and shrubs between. We're steadily moving along, but from where we're working, we still see no one else on the fire. Two light retar-

dant planes show up and circle the fire to determine the best line of attack.

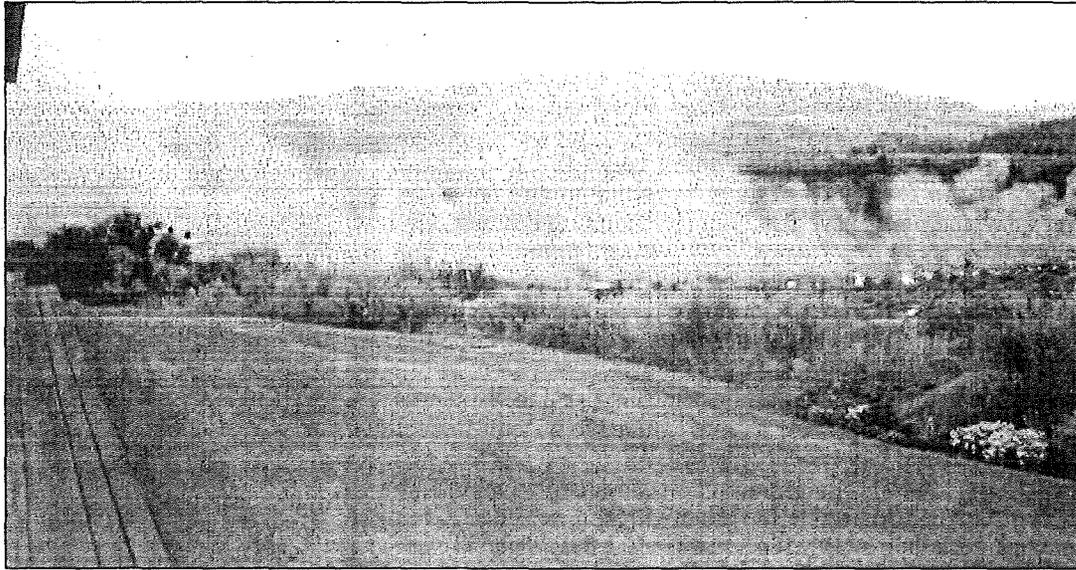
We back off to avoid being bowled over by the force of the aerial drop. Zoom and zoom. The single engine craft shoot through the smoke and lay down strips of pink goo.

At nearly the same time, a yellow shirted and helmeted fireman appears from down the slope, dragging hose and flushing the flames away as he came. I back off, call my erstwhile companion to do likewise, and let the engine crew carry on. Having parked their engine on the road below, they have been working their way up the slope, hosing down the fire, with the wind at their back. It's not the time to get in front of the fire. Work the tail and the flanks, pinch that baby down.

In minutes, other engines arrive, some crunching their way cross country to the high side of the fire line by way of the cleared pathway under the nearby power line. In a short time, the fire is corralled and the crews are mopping up, working from the edges in. The sun has set. I walk around the fire area, chatting with the

crews. The smell of a wet-down fire hasn't changed.

One yellow-shirted gal, a bandanna holding her hair under her hard hat, says she just loves her job. I can tell from her expression that she really means it. Later she and others will dig a hand line completely around the fire to prevent anything hot from creeping under the surface to the unburned fuel outside the fire line. They'll be there all night until they're sure the fire is controlled. I return



A little fire on July 7 in Alpine County that could have been much worse.

SPECIAL TO THE R-C

home, smelling of wood smoke and pleased with the thoroughness and professionalism of the firefighting force still on the fire.

Back home, I meet some of the men from the Markleeville Volunteer Fire Department who, with their engine, had been assigned to stand by at our place in case they were needed to protect our house. Another engine and crew from Markleeville are standing by at a neighbor's house to the north.

The neighbors weren't home. They've missed all the action.

An epilogue of sorts: The fire burned about five acres, small in relation to the conflagrations of the past in this area. That's a tribute to the speed and effectiveness of the firefighting force, but the work was not done. The engines had to be made ready for the next call. There were water and gas tanks to refill, fresh crew members to bring on, hoses to clean and dry, tools to clean and sharpen, clothing to air out and wash, trash to dispose of, and reports to fill out.

On that fire were a dozen engines and crews from the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the East Fork Fire District, Nevada Department of Forestry, and the Woodfords and Markleeville volunteer fire departments. The Alpine County Sheriff's Department handled road controls and provided other support.

Dave Easton of the forest service was the incident commander. Together they controlled the fire in the initial attack. They weren't about to allow another Acorn fire. By writing this column, I'm tipping my old hardhat to them all.

Meet the new Alpine Health and Human Services director

by Joyce DeVore
Special to The R-C

Hugh Margesson is the new director of Alpine County Health and Human Services.

Originally from Canada, Margesson came to California for graduate work at California State University at Long Beach. He has lived in the United States ever since.

After nearly two decades of living in the states, he met and married a Nebraska girl named Marlene. They have one son Rob, who is completing his dissertation in Colorado and teaches at Regis University.

Rob is married to Shawna and they have two daughters. Margesson turned down a job offer in Colorado, which would have given him proximity to his grandchildren, to accept his job in Alpine County. The Margessons are in the process of selling a home in San Clemente, Calif., and perhaps building a home here in Alpine County.

His office is located at the Health and Social Services Building on Diamond Valley Road and he has an open door policy for all residents. His job includes overseeing the medical clinic, the mental health clinic, and social services.

The medical clinic always has nursing staff available during business hours, and a physician, Dr. Richard Harvey, is available three days a week.

All those in need of medical care are treated at the clinic. The clinic accepts Medi-Cal, Medi-Care, private insurance, and provides free services for people with minimal income. Julie Ola is currently in charge

of the Emergency Medical Technician team. The mental health department's director is Franck Jocabelli. Among the services offered are marriage and family counseling and recovery programs for drug and alcohol addiction. Currently, there is an opening for a clinician to work with children at Diamond Valley School. Staff members at Margesson's department also support the Over 50 Club and other services for senior citizens.

He called his job "both a passion and a calling."

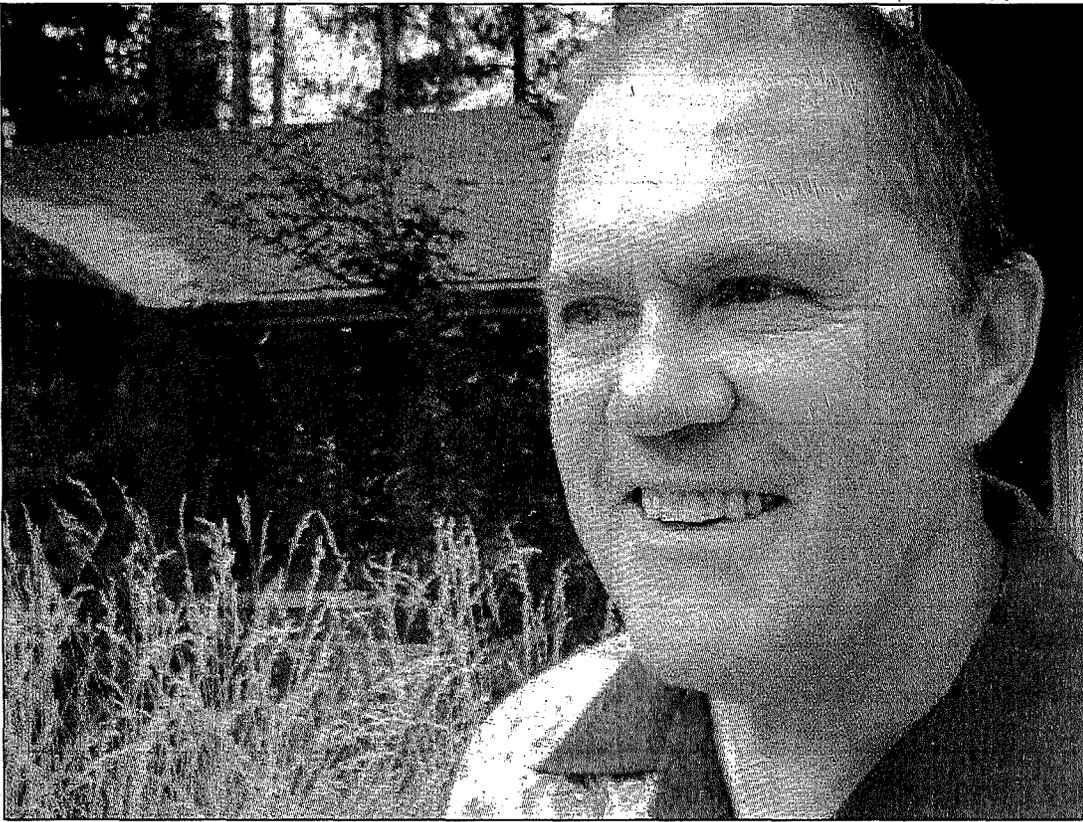
His background in social services includes creating foster family and residential treatment programs. In addition he has created non-public school programs. Margesson created and administered a non-profit organization in Irvine, Calif., called "Walking Shield." That non-profit's goal was to improve the life of indigenous people and it reached out to 14 reservations in seven states. He also worked with a non-profit foundation established by actor Jamie Cromwell that brought the arts to impoverished people.

He said his "work with abused and neglected children, indigenous people, and struggling people allows him to see the complexities of our society."

All of his experience in the field of social work confirms his belief that each individual deserves equal opportunity. He said his passion is finding ways to overcome various challenges people have so they may have equal access.

Alpine County is home to Washoe people, who make up

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New Health and Human Services Director Hugh Margesson.

SPECIAL TO THE R-C

18 percent of the population. Margesson said he envisions his role with the Washoe as a facilitator in a reconciliation process.

He has begun dialog with Deanne Roberts, a Washoe, to formulate definitions of what kind of relationship the Washoe would like to have in the community. The new director shared an interesting conversation that he had with Phillip Bennett, the board of supervisors member representing the

Washoe people.

Bennett voiced a concern that the Washoe are asked to "move into" the lifestyle of Alpine County, but that Alpine County residents are not asked to "move into" the Washoe culture.

Margesson is open to such dialog and very interested in solving problems. He and some of the staff will attend a conference given by UC Davis on the topic cultural humility, which

addresses the concerns addressed by Bennett.

At a recent county assessment meeting, Margesson said he was pleasantly surprised that representatives from many levels of county government attended and voiced strong community support for healing the various rifts within the department of social services and the community as a whole.

He said it is his goal to help the staff recover from a difficult

time by helping staff members to become all that they can be. He said his motto underscores his compassion: "Working together, not individually, at creating a work environment to help the greatest number of people in greatest need."

Since his son has a doctorate in speech and communication, his daughter-in-law is finishing her doctorate in social work, and his wife is a licensed clinical social worker, the whole family is focused on helping others.

Margesson said his family taught him an important lesson in getting along with people. That lesson is the power of forgiving and forgetting after discord.

Margesson is also an accomplished cyclist, and one lesson he learned from that sport is that difficulties at work are like pedaling uphill. They are challenges and they can be overcome.

Last weekend, Margesson spent one day hiking into Horse Thief Canyon and restoring a wooden elephant statue that honors the memory of former director Kathy Kerr.

The next day he joined the 50 Plus Club on a trip to Bear Valley for an afternoon symphony performance.

A staff member at health and human services, Gail Day, was also on that trip.

"I think we all want to keep this one," Day said. "He is good."

to take place at FitzHenry's Crematory in Carson City. The family requests memorial donations be made to Skin Cancer Awareness Foundation, 2685 Billy's Road, Minden, NV 89423.

Sherman 'Sherm' Layne Glettig

1942-2007

A get-together is 10 a.m. Saturday at Turtle Rock Park for Sherman "Sherm" Layne Glettig, 65, who died on July 27, 2007, at his home in Markleeville.

Light refreshments will be served, and everyone is invited.

Mr. Glettig was born Jan. 25, 1942, in Stockton, Calif., to Herman and Gwendolyn McDowell Glettig. He worked as a copy machine technician for Xerox for 20 years and retired in 1984.

In 1976 he built a home in Markleevillage, and in 1984 he moved permanently to this home. He met Doranna Tognotti, a long-time local resident, and in 1985 she moved in with him. In July 1994 they were married.

Mr. Glettig served as vice president of the Markleeville Water Co. and, as water plant operator since 1985, was the life blood of the system watching and helping its infrastructure to grow and to meet ever-escalating state demands and the problems and issues that confront any water treatment and distribution system.

He also served on the county fish and game commission.

Mr. Glettig spent his time fishing, working on his boats, tinkering, and helping friends and neighbors with an assortment of projects.

He is survived by Doranna and by a daughter from a previous marriage who lives in the Bay area.

Following cremation his remains will be buried at Fredericksburg Cemetery.

Fri. Aug. 17, 2007

The Record-Courier ■ Gardnerville, Nevada

Thanks to Sherm Glettig's friends for all the support after his death

EDITOR:

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the many, many friends who came to Turtle Rock Park this last Saturday to "Remember Sherm."

I was deeply touched, and I know that Sherm would have been, too, by the expressions of love and friendship and humor and appreciation which were shared.

And these thanks include all those who helped set up, prepare and serve the luncheon, and clean up.

Special thanks for donations toward the food go to the Markleeville Volunteer Fire Department, Margaret Daniels,

Kudos

Todd and Nani Ellis, Kaye and Chuck Jobst, Judy Molnar and Charlie Dobson, Sharon and Don Jardine, Ellen and Steve Martin, Carol and Dave McElroy, Nancy and Fritz Thornburg, Tim and Tina Scherer, and Don and Kim Skinner.

And thanks also to the county for the donated use of Turtle Rock Park and for setting up the chairs.

It is deeply moving to know how many friends Sherm had.

Doranna Glettig
Markleeville

Alpine postmaster receives top honor by national organization

R-C Aug. 17, 2007

by Kurt Hildebrand
Editor

Longtime Gardnerville resident Margaret Daniels set out to be a flight attendant and even had a job with Continental Airlines before she got married and started her life with Dennis.

What the Markleeville postmaster never expected was to be named postmaster of the year by the National League of Postmasters.

The Daniels arrived in Carson Valley in 1973, fleeing the smog of



Daniels

L.A.," she said. "We had friends in Yerington so we decided to come up here."

Los Angeles for the sake of their 4-year-old son Craig's health. Dennis went to work for the Douglas County Sheriff's Office and she got a job at Contel.

"Dennis was a policeman in L.A.," she said. "We had friends in Yerington so we decided to come up here."

After a few years at the phone company and a short stint at Bently Nevada, Margaret was hired by Gardnerville Postmaster Dale Bohlman for a part-time position in 1977.

"I worked there for almost 10 years and as things progressed, I ended up running the office in Dale's absence."

She was hired to take over the Markleeville Post Office in 1986 and remembers her first day was

See **Alpine** on page 9

Alpine: Postmaster honors

Continued from page 1

Oct. 31, Nevada Day on this side of the state line, but Halloween in California. In those days Northern Nevada would celebrate Halloween a day early and take the 31st off for the annual parade in Carson City.

"The first day I didn't realize what was going on," she said. "We'd had Halloween the night before. I had to send my husband to the store to buy candy for the trick or treaters."

In the 21 years since Daniels took over the Markleeville post office, she has seen the town's children go from strollers to weddings.

"I've watched the children grow up," she said. "I've seen lots of people come and go. People become like family to you."

Margaret received her award on July 27 in Las Vegas. She points out that the national league doesn't represent all the postmasters in the nation, just about 50,000 of them.

"It is quite an honor," she said. "I feel like over the years I've been given some jobs to do, given some chores to do and some responsibilities. I feel that God gave me the strength to do this."

Daniels was named California Postmaster of the Year at the

state convention in May, the second time she's received the honor. She said it was the first time in the history of the league that the national postmaster of the year was picked on the first ballot.

"I'm just dumfounded by it," she said. "It says a lot that your peers would think that highly of you."

Daniels said she had 30 years with the post office on June 17, but she's not quite ready for retirement.

"I'm a little more active than a lot of people and I come from a family of long livers," she said. "My father didn't retire until he was 82. I don't think I'll stay quite that long."

Daniels has been a member of the league for 20 years. She has held several positions in the organization. While serving on the national membership committee, she received its highest honor, the MB Morrison Blue Blazer. During her service on the national legislative committee, Daniels traveled to 30 state conventions helping members with issues and raising funds for the political action committee. Daniels also received the First National Spirit Award, The Airlines Advisory Branch Leadership Award and a National Editor's Award for best state

convention program.

She served as a Little League coach, and participated in Cub Scout Pack 195, youth soccer, organization committee of the Douglas County Fair Board, founding member of the Douglas County Parent Faculty Club, chaperone for the Douglas County Ski Club, Beta Sigma Phi Laureate Omega chapter, National Association of Retired Federal Employee, Alpine County Chamber of Commerce, California State Fair representative, Friends of the Library, Historical Society and was nominated Alpine Woman of the Year in 2004.

Daniels holds many Postal Philatelic Station events in the Markleeville area and is known internationally for the "Death Ride Station." Postal awards also include many certificates of appreciation, many outstanding merit evaluations, perfect attendance awards, western area award for performance, Nevada Sierra District Snowshoe Thompson Award, Pacific Area Top Performer for years 2005 and 2006.

Daniels survived a bout with cancer 12 years ago. Her husband Dennis ran for sheriff against Jerry Maple in the 1980s and served governors Robert List and Dick Bryan.

Silver Mountain City comes alive

by Irving Krauss

The ghostlike locale of Silver Mountain City came to life Saturday morning, as historical researchers Karen and Rick Dustman led the Alpine County Museum tour through what remains of the once-thriving mining community.

The Dustmans' descriptions of the long-gone businesses, buildings, streets and the colorful men and women who toiled there filled the imaginations of the 42 visitors.

Many were from Alpine County, some from other places in California including Placerville and Ripon, with several from Carson Valley.

Karen's words in the brochure that was handed out at the beginning of the tour set its tone: "...stand beside old Main Street (today's Highway 4) and close your eyes," she wrote, "and you can almost imagine the clink of glasses in the saloons and hear the thunder of Giant Powder exploding in the mines."

Karen and Rick certainly brought the old community to life.

Located off California Highway 4 and a 20-minute drive from Markleeville, Silver Mountain City is now covered by trees and bushes. Once a bustling community, its thousand residents were mainly miners seeking their fortune. Many labored in the mines for \$4 a day.

The streets were carefully laid out in a grid pattern and contained a jail, hotels, retail establishments, livery stables, and a large number of saloons. Hogs had the run of the streets.

When Alpine County was formed in 1864, Silver Mountain City was its county seat but the seat was subsequently moved to Markleeville.

The tour visited the sites of the long-gone structures and Karen and Rick described what they were like.

Most of the buildings were hastily built with whatever material was at hand yet they managed to withstand the harsh winters. Rick passed around a piece of metal sheathing from the side of one—a flattened tin can with nail holes.

He noted the importance of not removing things of historic interest, and that he would return the item to where he found it.

Remnants of the jail built in 1867 remain. It had six cells, two of which are now in the jail at the Alpine County Museum in Markleeville. Other sites visited included Ryan's Exchange Saloon, Swinerton's Hardware Store, Betschmann's Stable that also had a blacksmith's shop, and the Fisk Hotel.

Built around 1863, it boasted oyster dinners, and Rick passed around a plastic bag with oyster shells found at the site. They too would be returned to where they were found. The hotel was disassembled in 1883 and moved to Markleeville where it still stands at Main and Montgomery streets.

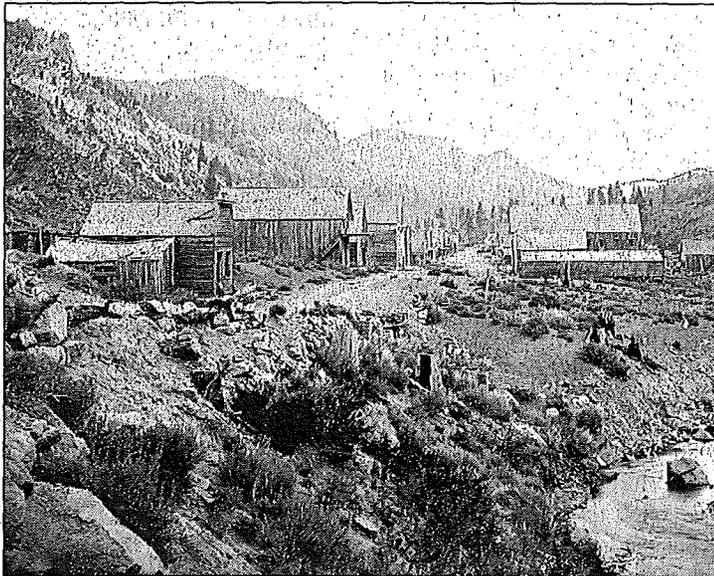
Powers' Store, which advertised groceries, dry goods, and clothing, was also noted. The original sign for that store is in the Alpine County Museum and includes a display of some of the items that were likely sold by Powers.

The site of the Silver Mountain Bulletin was pointed out. After it folded in 1867 its place was taken by the Alpine Chronicle that originally began publication in Markleeville in 1864. Also visited were the sites of the Ogden Saloon that had a section for court hearings and county offices, and Errickson's Hotel.

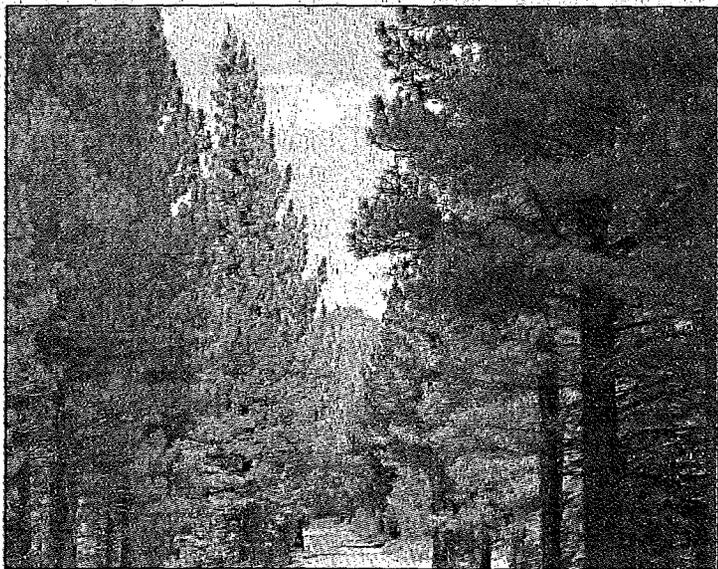
Errickson had an affair with the wife of Ernest Reusch, who shot him dead.

A band of masked men seized Reusch as he was being taken to Mono County for trial and hanged him from Hangman's Bridge, just outside Markleeville.

But in spite of the riches



SPECIAL TO THE R-C
 Silver Mountain City in its heyday. The former Alpine County seat's remnants can be found along Highway 4. At left, visitors toured the site of the town. Below, it's current site.



envisioned by those who trekked to Silver Mountain City and great speculation in mines and other property, little money was made for the ore was too hard to work and Silver Mountain City faded.

Being at Silver Mountain City had special meaning for several of the participants who had family ties there.

Among them were Dennis Nelson and his wife from Ripon. Dennis' great-grandparents lived there; Annie Hay

gave birth to a daughter Mary Hay in 1869.

Marian and Doug Liesz who live in Placerville told of their great grandfather Hiram Scott who came to Silver Mountain City in 1863 and brought his wife there a year later. He invested in the Mamouth and Yreka mines.

Following the tour and lunch at the museum, a slide show was presented depicting some of the Silver Mountain City buildings and people.

A second tour is planned for September.

For information call the Alpine County Museum at (530) 694-2317.

Karen has written three books and she and Rick are completing "Silver Mountain: Ghost of the Sierra."

For information, contact Karen at (530) 694-2122.

Karen Dustman is an attorney in the Douglas County District Attorney's Office.

Aug. 24, 2007

R-C

Emergency response at the touch of a button

by Bill Morgan

"Clancy! Fred fell off our roof and landed on the wood pile! He hurt his back real bad and he can't move! What should I do?"

"What was he doing up on the roof?"

"Trying to put out the fire in the chimney? What should I do? Can you run over?"

"Well, I don't know much about putting out a chimney fire."

"Dang the chimney fire! My husband's hurt! What should I do?"

"Maybe you should call the fire department anyway. What do you think?"

"Geez, Clancy, you're no help! Hang up your phone! I'm gonna call the McFaddens! They'll know what to do."

I hope they're home.

Well, what should you do? Think fast, that's a real emergency.

Call 9-1-1. That's nine-one-one. Even in rural Alpine County, call 911. Help will come. Yes, help will come.

Alpine County, like nearly all areas in the country, is set up to respond to 911 calls. Have you ever thought what kind of planning, organizing, training, and staffing is required to respond to the full range of emergencies that come with a 911 call? Just how does

Alpine County

that work?

Here on the east side of the Sierra, in Alpine County, it goes something like this:

A 911 call, whether by cell phone or land line, is answered by the dispatcher at the Douglas County Communications Center. Yes, our neighbors in Nevada provide that service for the Carson Valley and the surrounding area. That dispatcher takes down the relevant information and, if the emergency is in Alpine County and is during the hours our sheriff's dispatcher is on duty, the call is immediately transferred to the Alpine County dispatcher who initiates the response. During off duty hours, the Douglas County dispatcher initiates the response. For Fred's situation above, a signal is sent to the pagers of the volunteer firefighters for the station that covers that area. A tone signal is also sent to all five of the emergency medical technicians on the east side of the Sierra. If the emergency is up county, the five at Kirkwood are contacted. All 10 are volunteers. An ambulance is automatically

dispatched from the East Fork Fire District in Douglas County. The nearest sheriff's deputy heads to the scene.

One or more of the EMTs responds to the signal, gets the information, hops into one of the Alpine County ambulances, and heads to the scene. If they don't know the location of the emergency from personal knowledge, they depend on the dispatcher having obtained good information from the caller.

It is really important for people to have signs out in front of their houses showing the street addresses.

Fire engines from the volunteer fire department are on the way in minutes. The sheriff's deputy is probably there first because he is probably in or near his vehicle.

The EMTs immobilize and treat the victim, and the fire department douses the fire. The EMTs, all trained and certified, apply the protocol that governs their actions and determines the method of transportation to a medical facility. If the nature of the injury warrants a helicopter, one is requested and arrangement is made as to where the transfer from ambulance to helicopter is to take place. Medical personnel talk about the "Golden Hour," the fact that for many injuries or situations, like a heart attack, chances for recovery are

R-C 8-31-07-Fri.

greatly enhanced if the proper treatment is begun within the first hour. So, for the example above, response was quick enough to put out the fire and the victim was safely on his way to a hospital, all happening about as quickly as would occur in a city.

What if the emergency is much more serious, much bigger, an airliner crash for instance?

Alpine County has an emergency preparedness plan for such things, too. An emergency field operations guide put together by the sheriff's department contains detailed information and procedures to follow in the event of those more serious situations, including evacuation plans. All the fire, EMT, and sheriff vehicles are equipped with copies. If the county needs more resources to help, it can draw on assistance from neighboring counties. Cooperation among the various fire, police, and search and rescue organizations is the norm in this region and helping out one another occurs routinely. The county can also get help and equipment from the California Office of Emergency Services, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The county has an emergency preparedness coordinator, Julie Ola, who was recently assigned to the job. She is

also the emergency medical system coordinator. Lynn Doyle, the most experienced EMT in the county, was the coordinator for many years, but last June he stepped down to give someone else a chance to carry on the responsibility. Lynn still responds to 911 calls as a volunteer EMT.

Working closely with the sheriff's department, the EMTs, the fire departments, the county health department, and other entities, the coordinator arranges training, provides equipment, assures that the supplies of emergency food and pharmaceuticals are kept current, and keeps track of the capabilities of the various organizations that may be involved in emergency situations. She represents the county on disaster and anti-terrorist councils also.

Julie has set up a meeting with Red Cross representatives on Sept. 14, to be attended by emergency responders and suggests that others who wish to be part of that meeting call her at (530) 694-2235. If you want some advice about what to have on hand for emergencies, she'll be happy to provide that. For Alpine people, it should be comforting to know the county is organized and responds well to a wide range of emergencies including those personal emergencies, such as Fred getting hurt falling off a roof.

R-C 8.31.07 - Fri



SHANNON LITZ/R-G Photos
Freshman Ridge Cruz and senior Janean Skenandore on Friday, Aug. 31.

Woodfords student essayists to be published authors



'Native pride is giving assistance and showing kindness whenever needed.'

Ridge Cruz, 15,
Woodfords Community Day School freshman

'Meth is Death' and 'Native Pride' essays to be part of student anthology

by Scott Neuffer
Staff Writer

Two students of Woodfords Community Day School are having their school work published in the upcoming anthology, *Celebrating What's Important to Me*.

Woodfords Community Day School is a small program of the Alpine County Unified School District that works in conjunction with both Woodfords and Douglas high schools. The school was designed to assist students struggling at larger schools, providing a smaller, more personal environment where curriculum is formulated around each student's special needs.

According to Jim Parsons, superintendent of Alpine County Unified School District, nearly all of the school's older students in the last few years have gone on to graduate from Woodfords High School or Douglas High School.

The Woodfords Community Day School has two different branches: Its K-6 program and its 7-12 program.

Jackie Blaha has been teaching the latter for two years. Before Woodfords Day, she taught at Diamond Valley Elementary School. Last spring, Blaha assigned personal, one-page essays to her two students, 11th-grader Janean Skenandore, and eighth-grader Ridge Cruz. Impressed with the results, she sent the stories to Creative Communications Inc., a student-based publishing firm in Logan, Utah. Creative Communications accepted both students' essays.

Skenandore's essay, "Meth is Death," details various facts about methamphetamine use, and describes her encounter with a former user, an Indian woman who had horrifying stories to tell, including one incident when spider webs seemed to come alive and move towards her.

"The things that really got me were the pictures of meth users

before and after using and how parents use it while their babies are in the home," Skenandore wrote in her essay.

Skenandore said she became interested in meth after viewing "Crystal Darkness," a film about the destructiveness of methamphetamine. Skenandore became so interested she later attended a drug-awareness conference in Reno, The Effects of Meth, where she met the former users she describes in her essay.

Skenandore, now a senior, plans on finishing high school and possibly going to college. She said she would like to become a pediatrician.

Cruz's essay, "Native

Pride," is a reinvention of what it means to be Native American. As a Washoe-Paiute Indian, Cruz criticizes the derogatory things he's seen on Indian reservations, such as domestic abuse. He even criticizes some of the things he himself has participated in, like tagging public buildings. Cruz argues that real Native Pride comes from helping others and taking responsibility for one's actions.

"Native Pride is giving assistance and showing kindness whenever needed," Cruz wrote in his essay.

He said that writing the essay helped him grow up and see his own mistakes. He explained that when he was younger he hung out with the "cooler-looking people who did bad things" and got himself into trouble. Cruz said that he is trying to be a better person, and set a better example for his younger peers who now look up to him.

Cruz, now a freshman, plans on finishing high school and possibly pursuing a career in video game programming.

Both Skenandore and Cruz's essays will appear in the student-written anthology *Celebrating What's Important to Me*, set for release sometime next spring.



'The things that really got me were the pictures of meth users before and after using and how parents use it while their are in the home.'

Janean Skenandore, 17,
about her essay, 'Meth is Death.'

New county administrator in the

by Joyce DeVore

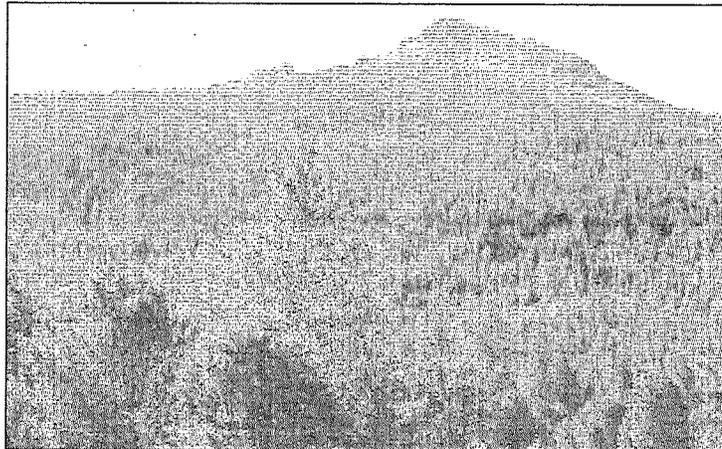
The newly approved budget provides for a new position in our county government. The position of county administrative officer shall be the administrative head of the county government, under control of the Alpine supervisors. Among the responsibilities are helping with the preparation of the annual budget, overseeing development of a long-term plan of capital improvements and financial plans for their accomplishment, personnel director and purchasing agent and giving direction and support to all department directors. The Alpine supervisors hopes to have the position filled by January 2008.

■ Funds have been allocated to upgrade the volunteer fire departments and fire engines and District 5 has water storage on Foothill Road for use by the fire departments. Coordinating with public works, the board directed monies for a 54,000 gallon water tank behind Woodfords Volunteer Fire Station. The sheriff's department will hire a new deputy sheriff, purchase three new vehicles and new equipment for the dispatcher. A communication tower will be installed on Hawkins Peak, which will allow the deputies to have communication with Bear Valley as well as improved communication with the Eastern Slope.

■ The Ebbetts Pass Scenic Celebration will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 15.

■ The public is invited to participate in events from Markleeville, through Bear Valley and to Highway 4 in Arnold. There will be free fly fishing lessons, live music, barbecues and prizes. For more information, contact Tom Manning (209) 795.2468.

Source: Supervisor Gunter



SPECIAL TO THE R-C

Hawkins Peak will be the site of a new communications tower.

Kaiser and Sgt. Ron Mitchitarian

Alpine County Superior Court

There are two misdemeanor criminal trials scheduled for two weeks, beginning Sept. 10. Trial jurors received notice to serve in early August, allowing approximately five weeks for each member to arrange for possible jury duty. The rules of court provide that a pretrial readiness conference be held within one to 14 days before a scheduled trial. Frequently, that conference results in a resolution of the matter that removes the need for trial. The pretrial readiness conferences were scheduled for Wednesday. The jurors will be notified immediately if their appearance is not necessary.

■ Free legal services are offered at the court on the first Friday of each month, from 9 am until noon. Attorney Julie Bachman is working under a state-wide action plan for serving self-representative litigants. She is available to help individuals with marriage dissolutions, landlord-tenant issues in California and Nevada, child-spousal support issues, child visitation issues, as well as assistance or referral for general legal services. The service is provided on a walk-in basis, but

Bachman is available for telephone conferences outside of her Friday schedule. Call the court clerks to arrange a specific appointment (530) 694.2311.

■ The court will sponsor a community outreach event this fall. Court-related information and lunch will be provided. Scheduling is pending the trial procedures.

Source: Presiding Superior Court Judge David DeVore, Court Executive Officer Lisa Cobourne

Alpine Planning Department

In September and October, the planning department will be looking at a new ordinance for guest houses or second-unit dwellings on a single parcel in order to rectify existing conflicting ordinances. The downtown design or historic guidelines is an ongoing project. In addition, there is an update process for the county's general plan or land use. Within a year's time, there will be a community survey and presentation of possible concepts for policies that will determine future development in the county. Regular meetings are held the last Thursday of the month at Turtle Rock Park.

Source: Planning Department Zach Wood

works
for
Alpine
County

Department of Health and Human Services

■ Stacy Olson began her job as the new staff services fiscal manager on Tuesday. There is a job opening for a Health Services Coordinator. For more information, contact Beth Nunes at (530) 694-2287.

■ Several family oriented events are on the calendar this fall, including the Bear Valley Community Health/Child Faire on Sept. 13. For more information, call Susan Lippman at (530) 694-9118

■ A three-day music and peace festival "Earth dance" will take place at Turtle Rock Park from Sept. 14-16. For more information, go to Earth dance.com.

■ A conference "Bridges Out of Poverty" will be held on Oct. 15 at the Alpine Learning Center (for more information, call (530) 694-1148. A CPR & first aid class will be held on Saturday. Information, (530) 694-2129 and the annual Watershed Creek Day will be Sept. 29 at the Library Park. For more information, call (530) 694-2327.

■ Students Working Against Tobacco will be one feature of the annual Alpine County Health Fair on Nov. 3. Watch for details in the newsletter.

Source: Director of Health and Human Services Hugh Margesson

Alpine County Public Works

The underground utilities project is well underway. Removal of the poles, wires and cobra street lights is the next step. A waterline replacement project is expected to be completed before the sidewalk/street lighting project.

■ There will be a county clean-up event this fall. Check for dates in the next edition of Alpine Public Works. The community recycling center at the public works yard is open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

■ Public works assisted renovating the Library Park, a project spearheaded by Judy Molnar.

Source: Jule Ola, Information Officer for Public Works

Alpine County Unified School District

Diamond Valley School has a new principal, Sally Clark and the new assistant-principal is Katie Quinlan. There are four new teachers, Cindy Edwards at Bear Valley School, Dannielle Doucette and Alan Harvey at Diamond Valley School and Marge Gabor in the Before-School Kindergarten Program. Three new instructional aides,

Melissa Bushway, Jeannie Gailardetz and Brandy Thompson, also began this year. Lisa Fontana is the new director of instructional services

The school year is under way with 100 students and many activities are planned. The traditional grandparent's luncheon will be held at Diamond Valley School on Sept. 14. Back to school night is scheduled for Sept. 25, featuring a fundraising dinner provided by the student council; and as October begins, the eighth-grade class will travel to Washington, DC to experience the nation's capitol firsthand. A Halloween carnival closes out the first quarter of school.

Source: Superintendent of Schools Jim Parsons

Other news:

■ The Alpine Artists Open Studio Tour is Oct. 6 and 7.

■ Grover Hot Springs Pool will be closed for repairs from Sept. 15 to Dec. 15.

■ Since Gina Gigli left the position, four community members have been writing the Alpine column in The Record-Courier. If you know of an event, situation, or person of interest, contact Joyce DeVore, Irving Kraus, Bill Morgan, or Nancy Thornburg.

RC Fri. 9-7-07

For some the word "auditor" raises hackles, for others it instills fear. But not in Alpine County where it is an important and respected position in county government.

For many of us the way government works is a mystery; our main interest is that it provides the services that we expect and does so in a fair and efficient way. It's only after one delves into what the people behind the desks do does one get an appreciation of how complex the business end of government is, even for a small county such as Alpine. The work of the auditor furnishes a window on how it's done.

Alpine County's Auditor is Randi Makley. She serves as a bridge between the assessor and the treasurer/tax collector. The assessor determines the value of people's property and the auditor computes the tax bill, at the rate of 1 percent of the property's value. That holds for most of the county unless there is a special assessment, as in Bear Valley for fire protection or in

Kirkwood for paying off bonds. In turn the auditor passes the information on to the treasurer/tax collector who sends out the tax notices and sees that the taxes are paid. No one is joyous about paying taxes but we view it, or at least should, as a duty of citizenship. In turn those taxes pay the county's bills for services and supplies.

But Randi's responsibility is much wider and affects all aspects of county government.

Working with the treasurer/tax collector she must estimate revenues and expenditures for the coming budget year. She also audits each department's finances and must stay abreast of changes in laws and practices and regularly receives CDs from the State Board of Equalization on changes. Her work is monitored by the board and there is an annual audit of her department by an outside accounting firm.

Ms. Makley noted that financial requirements are more strict since the illegal and other questionable practices by Enron and other companies. The changes are for greater trans-

Alpine auditor an important part of local government

by Irving Krauss

parency and accountability; for example it will be necessary to show how funds will be put aside to pay for employees' retirement, which at present is not mandatory.

However Randi's biggest job is preparing the yearly county budget. Each department submits its proposed budget and the Board of Supervisors holds two to three days of hearings. The proposed county budget is available to the public for two weeks with copies in the county library in Markleeville, at the one in Bear Valley, in the county clerk's office and in the Indian colony. Individual departments may request revisions but the supervisor's decision is final.

Like the assessor whose story was previously in the Alpine Page the auditor is also an elective office, and Makley is in her second term. Her first one, in 2002 was won by three votes but in 2006 it was by two-thirds. In both elections Randi was opposed by Marilyn McKenzie the previous auditor.

This is Randi's first experience in elective politics, and she feels her greatest challenge is seeing that changes brought about by new laws are adopted in all departments.

"Success," she said, "requires that one be a good diplomat."

Makley has a background of 25 years in public accounting including 19 years teaching business and finance to high school students and adults. She and her husband Mike have lived in Woodfords for 17 years. Mike has just retired after 34 years teaching history and English to children at risk. Their daughter Brieanna Cross is a three-year medical student in Denver. Randi's stepson Matt recently received his Ph.D. from Arizona State University and teaches in the history department of a state college in Denver, specializing in Native American studies.

■ Irving Krauss is a Markleeville resident. He, Joyce DeVore, Bill Morgan and Nancy Thornburg share this space *R.C., Fri. Sept. 14, 2007*

DETAILS

When:

Today 6 p.m.-2a.m.
Saturday 10a.m.-2a.m.
Sunday 10a.m.-???

Where:

Turtle Rock Park,
Markleeville

Cost:

Friday \$15 admission
\$10 16 & younger
Saturday \$25 admission,
\$15 16 & younger
Sunday \$15 admission,
\$10 16 & younger
Three-day pass, \$50 gen.
admission,
\$25 16 & younger

LINE UP

Friday

6 p.m. Round Dance with Native Peoples
6:30 p.m. Liz Broscoe with Java Djembe
7 p.m. Ancient I's
8:30 p.m. Planting Seeds
10 p.m. M O2
Midnight Absynth

Saturday

10 a.m. Round Dance with Native Peoples
11 a.m. OneVoice
12 p.m. Permagryn
1 p.m. Grand 58
2 p.m. 10 Cent Lure
4 p.m. Prayer for Peace & Global OM
4:30 p.m. Montana Slim
6 p.m. Ancient I's
7:30 p.m. Absynth
8:30 p.m. Planting Seeds
10 p.m. Mama's Cookin'
Midnight M O2

Sunday

10 a.m. Round Dance with Native Peoples
12:22 p.m. Huayllipacha
2:22 p.m. Blue Turtle Seduction

Alpine items

2007 Tour of the California Alps - Death Ride

The Alpine County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, members, staff and the Alta Alpina Cycling Club are thanking everyone who supported the 2007 Tour of the California Alps-Death Ride.

The 2008 event will be held July 12. For information contact the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce at (530) 694-2475.

Ebbetts Pass Scenic Celebration

The Ebbetts Pass Scenic Celebration is 10 a.m - 4 p.m. Saturday at the Alpine County Museum.

Hosts for Saturday's event are the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and staff.

Entrance to the museum is free. Music is provided by the Alpine Trio. Dale Bennett will make Indian tacos.

Markleeville artists will conduct a demonstration and crafts will be available for purchase

Alpine County Visitor Guide and County maps will be free while supplies last

Parking is available at the Counties Administration building and shuttle service to the

R-C-9-14-07

Sept. 14, 2007

ople

The Record-Courier ■ Gardnerville, Nevada



Markleeville artists open their studios to visitors Oct. 6 and 7.

SPECIAL TO THE R-C

Artists open house in Markleeville

Staff Reports

Eighteen Markleeville artists open their studios to visitors 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 6 and 7.

October in Alpine County finds the aspen trees awash in a sea of autumnal coloring. Along with glittering incandescent yellow leaves, iridescent hues of gold, orange, and russet can be seen set amidst dark pine trees.

The event is a gift from the artists to the public. The map and guide to each artist's studio may be picked up at the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce in the Visitor Center, in Markleeville, six miles from Woodfords on Highway 88.

Celebrating its fifth year, the Markleeville Artists Autumn Open Studios welcomes the addition of more local sponsors and new artists.

New sponsors are Carson Ridge, Indian tacos, Kyle's Kabin and Odd Pony, along with

The Deli, Hope Valley Outdoors, Markleeville Grocery, Sunrise Construction, Villa Gigli, Yonker Construction and Wolf Creek.

Joining the other 15 artists are Suzanne Barr with clay sculptures often reflecting female roles in the world; Russel Ketenjian who creates music, high-fired pottery and paintings and Dianna Mitzner with wearable art and original clothing design.

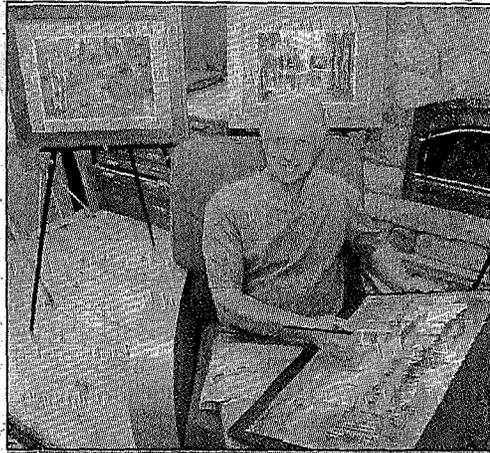
Designer Sandy Baenen will be unveiling her 2007 Mountain Goddess, photographer Todd Branscombe will show new portraits of bears and cubs, Jan Brees has created unusual leaves of metal mesh. Sit in Jeff Brees' stargazer chair or see his topiary sculptures at the Community Park. Peter Chope's watercolor landscapes are inspired by his surroundings. Stop by Debra Esteban's studio to see her chocolate creations. Admire feminine forms sculpted in

metal by Susan Flakus, aka the Steel Magnolia. See Gina Gigli's new traveling trunk show. Kaye Jobst will have new painted gourds and pine needle baskets. Oil painter Charles Muench will display paintings from his recent Sierra pack trips. Visit the Vaughn studio where Carolyn and Mark have their kiln for raku pottery and daughter Jennifer shows her imaginative photos. Fiber artist Deirdre Wallace has designed hats and pouches and Evelyn Yonker creates realistic abstract clay sculptures and paintings.

Since one of the goals of the Markleeville Artists is to provide scholarships for emerging artists, this year they are offering Native Americans the free opportunity to display their crafts at the Markleeville Community Park adjacent to the Alpine County Library. Dale Bennett will be selling Indian tacos at the park.

Sept. 14, 2007

The Record-Courier ■ Gardnerville, Nevada



Peter Chope is among the artists whose paintings will be displayed during the 'Aspens — A Different View' exhibit at Artisans International Gallery beginning Sept. 25.
SHANNON LITZ

Aspen exhibit at gallery

Staff Reports

Artisans International Gallery presents "Aspens — A Different View," an exhibit of work by local area artists beginning Sept. 25. An artist reception is 4-6 p.m. Oct. 6 where visitors may meet many of the artists featured in the exhibit.

"We have so much natural beauty in the Carson Valley and aspens are a perennial favorite subject with their seasonal col-

ors and shapes," said Bronwyn Mason, owner of Artisans International Gallery.

Among the artists exhibiting work are Peter Jarvis, Peter Chope, Nanette Oleson, Janice Powell-Shedd, Ulla Warner, Anne Armijo and Anna Louise Darden. The exhibit runs through Nov. 3.

The gallery is located in Minden Village at 1653 Lucerne St., Suite B. Information, 783-8881.

Three-day Earthdance begins in Markleeville today

by Tim Parsons

South Lake Tahoe Tribune

By the time Jimi Hendrix closed out Woodstock, most of the crowd was either exhausted or absent. That scenario is unlikely this weekend at Turtle Rock Park when the closing band will be, most appropriately, Blue Turtle Seduction.

Earthdance will feature 12 bands over three days, Friday, Sept. 14 through Sunday, Sept. 16 on Highway 89, four miles north of Markleeville. The 11th annual event runs simultaneously in 60 countries and 360 locations and is highlighted by Saturday's 4 p.m. Prayer for Peace lead by an elder from the Washoe tribe. It will be followed by a 12 minute om.

"We're here to synchronize good energy," said Tahoe organizer Jennifer McLevis, who anticipates 800 to 1,000

festival-goers.

There will be vendors from all parts of the globe and cuisine options naturally will be entirely organic. A beer garden will be up the hill, next to a the county planning building, which will be a musical venue after the sunsets.

"This mega-event's mission is to foster an environment of peace and harmony throughout the global sphere while supporting nonprofit humanitarian charities and peace-related causes," McLevis said.

Most of the bands are from Tahoe.

Ten Cent Lure and Montana Slim, respectively, are happy to be performing just before and after Saturday's 4 p.m. Prayer for Peace.

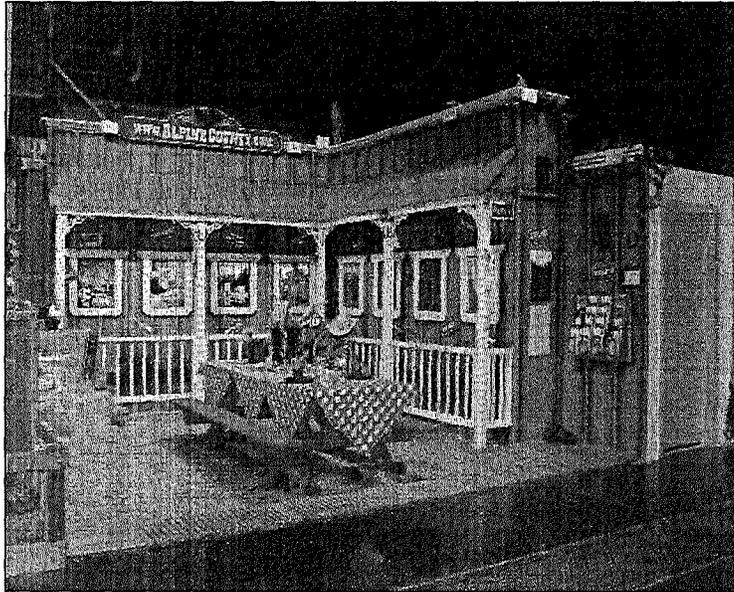
"To be playing at the pinnacle, it's really sweet," said Chad Oleson, the Ten Cent Lure bassist and a former Woodfords

resident. "It's a really cool thing to be a part of and we're pretty stoked about it."

Montana Slim, named after a character in Jack Kerouac's "On The Road," is a year-old electric string band playing in its first outdoor festival.



SPECIAL TO THE R-C
Earthdance Markleeville kicks off 6 p.m. today at Turtle Rock park and will continue 10 a.m. Saturday and Sunday.



ALPINE EXHIBIT

Alpine County won the silver at the 2007 California State Fair – Counties Exhibit. The Alpine County Chamber of Commerce thanked the Alpine County Board of Supervisors and the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and members that provided financial support and the volunteers who built, staffed and tore down the exhibit.

RC - Fri, Sept. 14, 2007



SPECIAL TO THE R-C

Emergency responders received checks from a fundraiser held June 23. Pictured are Lynn Doyal, Rob Levy, Mike Gard, Al Moss, Joyce DeVore, Nani Ellis, Buck McClelland, Nancy Thornburg, Tom Minder and Ron Michitarian.

Alpine residents hand checks to responders

Staff Reports

Joyce DeVore, Nani Ellis and Nancy Thornburg handed \$3,879.76 checks to Woodfords Volunteer Fire Department Emergency Medical Services, Alpine Search & Rescue and the Markleeville Volunteer Fire Department.

The money was raised at the

emergency responder dinner, which on June 23. DeVore, Ellis and Thornburg organized the dinner.

The total net proceeds from the event was \$15,519.05.

The purpose of the dinner was to afford eastern Alpiners the opportunity to thank volunteer emergency responders and sheriff's department personnel.

Expedition Lodge breaks ground Oct. 1

Staff Reports

Kirkwood's Expedition Lodge is expected to break ground on Oct. 1.

"South Shore's only slope-side luxury private residence club" is expected to be completed in December 2009, according to a press release from the resort.

Located in the Mountain Village near five lifts, it will host an adventure outfitters store with gear, apparel and backcountry programs.

■ Timber Creek Family Center will offer ski and ride

schools, a rental center, ticket windows, restaurant and sports shop this year.

■ A Burton Women's Learn-to-Ride program will provide snowboarding of all skill levels exclusively to women at the resort this year.

Burton will also offer a powder progression program at Kirkwood.

■ Kirkwood will be offering snow camping lessons in which guides teach proper gear selection, efficient ways to pack, pros/cons of shelters, cold-weather cooking and more.

R-C Fri. 9-21-07

Alpine

Grover Hot Springs' Family returns

by Irving Kraus



The Grover family gathers in front of the Webster School where Charles Grover's wife, Elizabeth Savage, taught before they were married.

What's in a name? Shakespeare asked. Names in Alpine County, as in other places, signify individuals and families who first settled and helped build its communities. Among familiar names in the county are the Barbers, Bloods, Chains, Coyans, Grovers, Hawkins, Jims, Marklees, Merrills, Monroes, Neddenrieps, Prices, Ruperts, Thompsons, Thornburgs, and Woodfords.

Many of them have been honored by the county museum in Markleeville in its exhibitions and publications and a few when their descendants visited the museum. The Grover name is an important part of Alpine County's history, and on the weekend of Sept. 15, 20 members traveled to Markleeville from many places in the United States and overseas to learn about their family history and to provide new information.

Grover Hot Springs is familiar to many residents in Carson Valley and elsewhere. Its history dates to the late 1800s when Charles Grover and his bride Elizabeth Anne Savage initially had a home in Markleeville and then in the valley known as Grover Hot Springs. The hot springs, heated by fissures deep in the earth were resting stops for the Washoe Indians long before prospectors passed through what is now Alpine County on their way to the California gold fields. According to legend the explorers Kit Carson and John C. Fremont found the hot springs a welcome respite on their travel across the Sierra.



ALPINE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PHOTOS

Sheriff Charles Grover on horseback in 1900.

The large white building at corner of Main and Montgomery streets in Markleeville was first known as the Grover House, next as the Hot Springs Hotel and then the Alpine Hotel. Originally it was the Fiske House in Silver Mountain

City when Grover moved it to Markleeville in 1883.

Charles Grover was the county sheriff and tax assessor. Grover was an imposing figure upon his horse, named Luck. But "...maintaining order," it was noted, "was not an easy

job, especially when miners and rough-and-tumble ranch hands decided to liven things up."

Charles married Elizabeth the schoolteacher at the Webster School that is at the museum. However, she had to resign because state law prohibited married teachers. Years later she became superintendent of schools.

The members of the Grover family at the reunion sat at the desks in the old Webster School and listened to stories about the history of the county, the school, and the Grover family by former Museum Director Nancy Thornburg and current Director Dick Edwards. Following lunch they met with Thornburg at the county library to view records of their family and Alpine County.

Sources: Alpine County Historical Society 'Images of Alpine County,' 2005, p. 71 and 'Alpine Heritage,' rev. ed., 1987 and Dick Edwards.

Couple operates Alpine eatery

by Nancy Thornburg

Consistency is the philosophy underlying the management of The Deli in Markleeville according to owners DeAnne and Warren Jang. Consistency of hours; consistency of food quality; consistency of service. Long-time local support, also consistent, shows that it is effective. And it is not only locals who consider The Deli a favorite – they even have a family from Holland in which every member has been to The Deli at different times.

The Deli opened in May 1993 in a building leased by the Jangs from DeAnne's parents, Bob and Dee Rudden, who own the Markleeville General Store almost next door. The store under Ruddens' proprietorship has been another local business operated successfully on the principle of consistency.

There had been another deli in the building under the previous tenants but when the Jangs took over they gutted the building and installed new equipment and made numerous improvements. Over the years additional improvements have been made including new floors and walls and deck, replaced plumbing, and replaced windows (broken more than once during the night by intruding bears).



SPECIAL TO THE R-C

Warren and DeAnne Jang operate The Deli in Markleeville.

The Deli generally opens in late April every year. The Jangs try to open when the weekend fishing season opens but it is weather related. And it generally stays open through October, once again a weather related issue.

Both Jangs came to the business with prior restaurant experience. DeAnne grew up in the South Bay area in California and started in the business with a job at McDonald's. She quickly became experienced in the bookkeeping end of the business which has been a huge asset in managing The Deli.

Warren's parents immigrated from southeast China and first lived in the Delta area where his father was a fruit picker. They lived for awhile during the 1930s in Reno where his father worked for awhile in a Chinese restaurant. They then bought an existing restaurant in Berkeley which became the Golden Rose and where Warren, his parents, and all his siblings worked. Warren remembers that at the age of six he deep fried his first chicken leg.

Warren moved to Alpine County in 1974 and lived in Bear Valley. He and DeAnne were married in 1995 and for six years split their time between Bear Valley and Markleeville until DeAnne's daughter, Rende, graduated

from high school. Nine years ago they moved to the east slope and, more recently, to Gardnerville where they care for DeAnne's grandmother.

In addition to co-managing The Deli, Warren works full time for Costco in Reno and travels one (long) day each week to the Bay area to pick up supplies for The Deli.

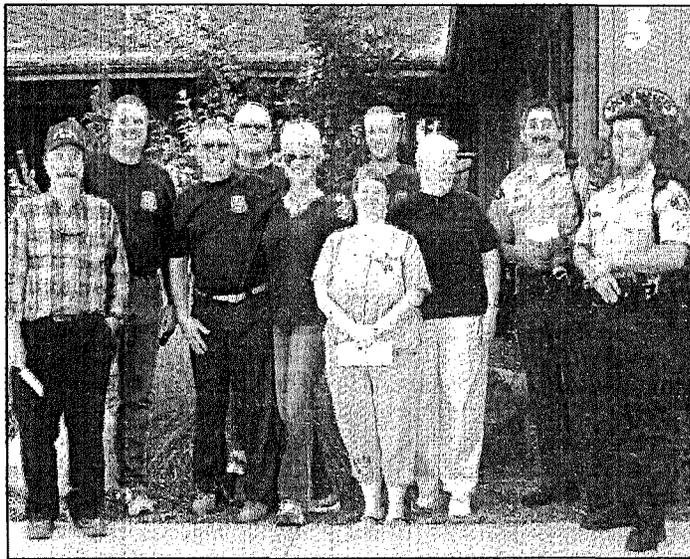
They are hoping to purchase the restaurant property in the near future and remodel and expand. They say the business has tripled since they opened.

The Deli is located on Main Street (Highway 4/89) in the center of Markleeville and is open every day from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The menu features very generous sandwiches with many choices of bread, cheeses, meats, and other items; a daily special; soups and several types of salads, drinks, and ice cream.

Fall colors are beginning to turn and The Deli is located in the middle of all this beauty – Highways 4 (Ebbetts Pass), 4/89 (Monitor Pass) and 88 (Carson Pass).

For additional information call (530) 694-9595.

FIRST RESPONDERS



SPECIAL TO THE R-C

Emergency responders received checks for \$3,879.76 from a fundraiser held June 23. Pictured are Lynn Doyal, Rob Levy, Mike Gard, Al Moss, Joyce DeVore, Nani Ellis, Buck McClelland, Nancy Thornburg, Tom Minder and Ron Michitarian. The money was raised at the emergency responder dinner. DeVore, Ellis and Thornburg organized the dinner. The total proceeds from the event was \$15,519.05. The purpose of the dinner was to afford eastern Alpiners the opportunity to thank volunteer emergency responders and sheriff's department personnel.

Alpine Creek Day Saturday

Staff Reports

The Alpine Creek Day will be 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. Alpine Watershed Group will host the annual community watershed stewardship program.

There will be creek side restoration and clean-up as well as activities and crafts that will help participants learn why keeping rivers and streams healthy is important. Organizers will be conducting water monitoring training and enlisting new volunteers for the citizens monitor program.

Those interested in participating in restoration project meet at the Alpine County Public Library located at 270 Laramie St. in Markleeville. Lunch will be provided.

Open to all ages. For more information contact Chris Katopothis, (520) 694-2327.

R-C 9-28-07-Fri.

The last word?

Nevada Appeal Sun. Sept. 30, 2007



They hope not

Professor, elder document Washoe language

BY LARRY GORDON
Los Angeles Times

WOODFORDS, Calif. — An unlikely duo sit across from each other and conjugate the verb "to sleep." They are working in Washoe, a language with, at best, an uncertain future.

"Elshim," to sleep. "Lelshimi," I am sleeping. "Elshimi," he is sleeping. "Shelshimi," they are sleeping.

On one side of a yellow plastic table sits Ramona Dick, a 74-year-old elder of the Washoe tribe, a great-grandmother and retired cook whose formal education ended at the eighth grade but who has a deep knowledge of the American-Indian language she learned as a child.

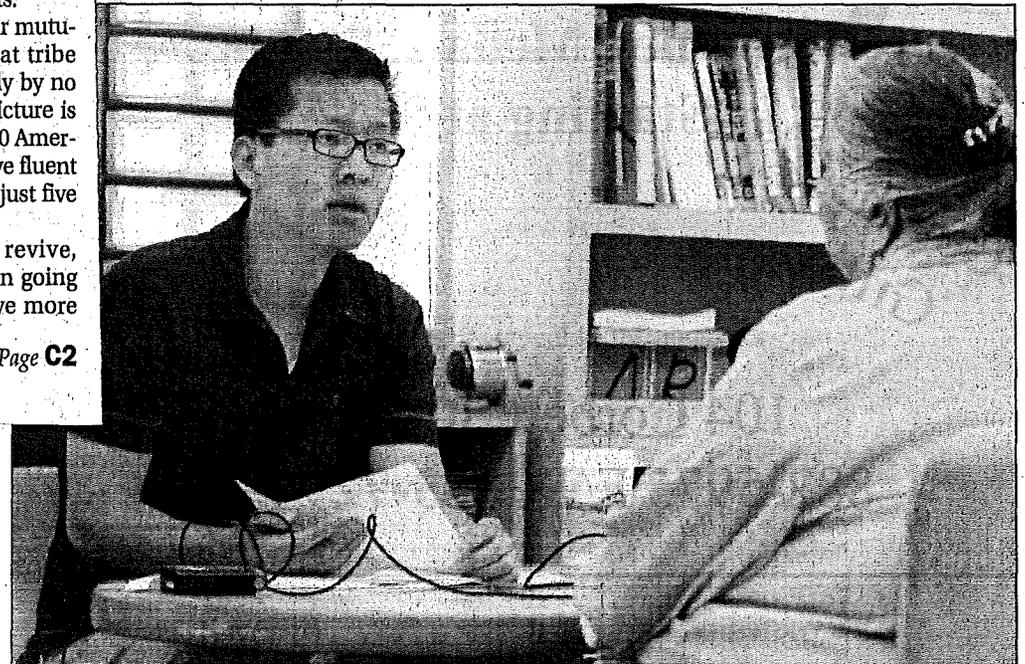
Facing her is Alan Yu, 30, a Hong Kong-born linguist who immigrated to California as a teenager, earned a doctorate at the University of California, Berkeley and now is an assistant professor at the University of Chicago.

Despite differences in age, culture and education, the two have bonded in a way that they hope will yield lasting results.

What brings them together is their mutual interest in Washoe, a tongue that tribe members estimate is spoken fluently by no more than 20-30 people. The big picture is even grimmer: Half of California's 100 American-Indian languages no longer have fluent speakers and many of the rest have just five or six hanging on, experts say.

Attempts to document, if not revive, many of those languages have been going on for years. The goal is to preserve more

See **Washoe**, Page C2



PHOTOS BY CATHLEEN ALLISON/NEVADA APPEAL

University of Chicago Professor Alan Yu learns Washoe words and phrases from Washoe Elder Ramona Dick, 74, also shown at top, on Aug. 23, at the Woodfords Indian Education Center in Alpine County. Yu received a federal grant to study and document the Washoe language.

Nevada Appeal Sept. 30, 2007, Sunday

WASHOE

From Page C1

than just conversation and literature; a vital part of cultural identity — what it means, for example, to be a Washoe — slips away when a language becomes extinct.

Now, Yu and Dick are part of newer efforts applying contemporary technology worldwide.

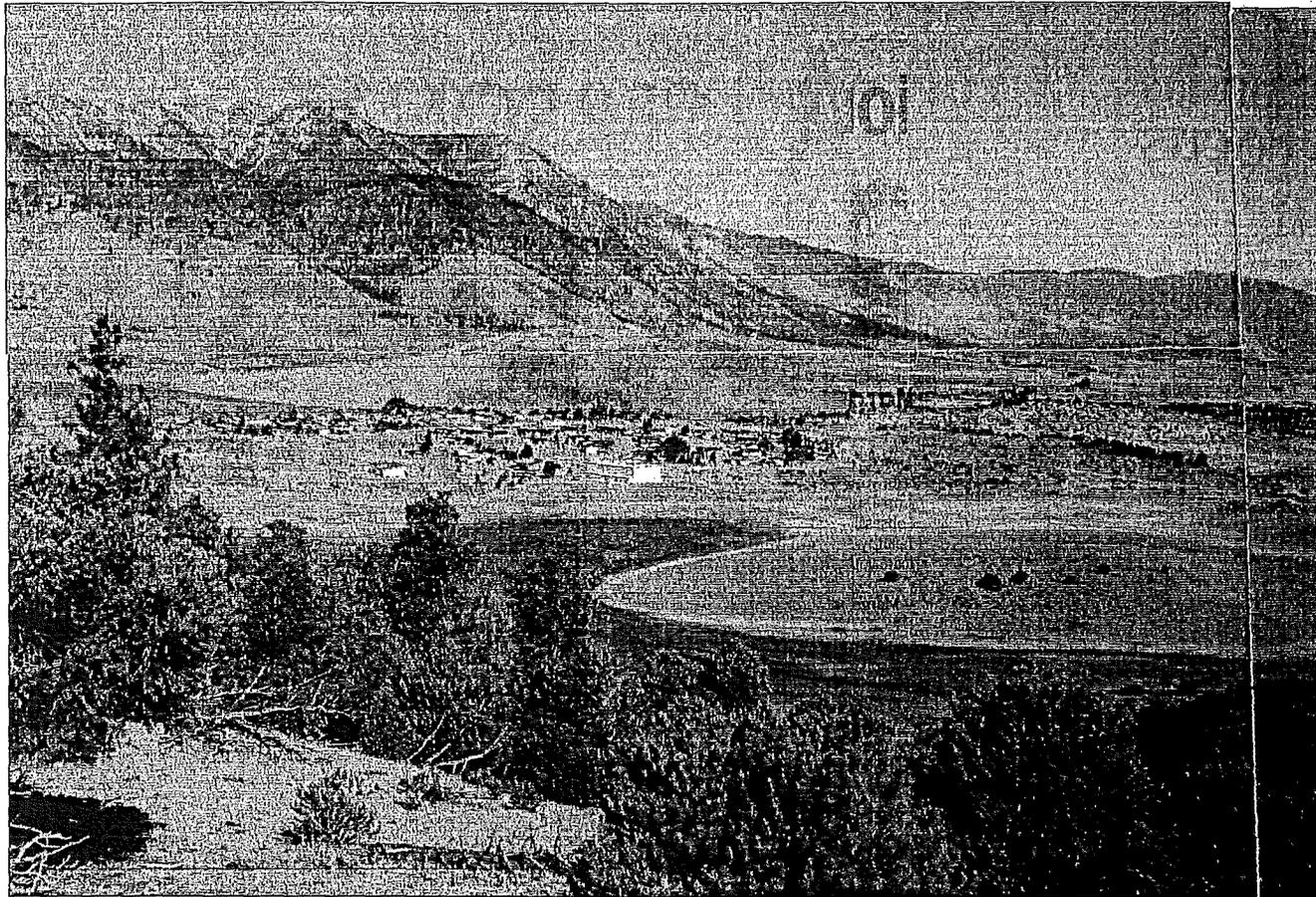
Last year, Yu was awarded a \$160,000 federal grant to compile an online dictionary of 5,000 Washoe words and phrases, complete with the digitally recorded pronunciations by Dick and other Washoe elders. Scheduled to be finished in 2009, the dictionary is designed partly as a tool to help younger Washoes learn the language — even if just a few words, such as “da’aw” (Lake Tahoe), “gewe” (coyote) and “gu’u” (maternal grandmother).

“It’s going to be lost, I think, if nobody tries to teach them,” Dick said of Washoe, which had no written form until 20th century scholars began transcribing it phonetically. “If the young people could learn, maybe they can tell their children down the line a bit that it’s important to our tribe. Because we are not a very big tribe.”

Washoe (some spell it Washo) leaders estimate that there are about 1,500 tribal members, mainly in the eastern Sierra region. Dick lives in Woodfords, in an isolated Washoe community known as “Hung-a-lal-ti” (Southern Washoes) on rolling ranchland with stunning mountain vistas. Its 350 or so residents can walk to the lime-green education center, where Yu and Dick meet, but must drive 10 miles north into Nevada for most shopping.

Dick learned the language from a grandmother and great-grandmother, neither of whom had a full grasp of English. A widow, Dick says that none of her five children, 18 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren really speak Washoe, although some are trying to learn and most understand when she speaks at home or at a class she is leading.

During her sessions with Yu,



The Hung-a-lal-ti Indian colony, in Diamond Valley, Calif., south of Gardnerville. A professor from the University of Chicago is using a federal grant to study, document and help preserve the Washoe language.

CATHLEEN ALLISON/NEVADA APPEAL

Dick sometimes gently corrected his backward word order or mangled pronunciations. Sometimes Yu pushed her into shades of meaning, like the difference between shooting something and trying to shoot it.

Yu has posted a preliminary Washoe pronunciation guide at <http://Washoe.uchicago.edu> and has compiled about two-thirds of the words he needs before he makes the dictionary and its voicing technology available to the public late next year. That progress is “very impressive,” according to Douglas Whalen, a

program officer at the National Science Foundation’s program known as Documenting Endangered Languages.

The program, which also involves the National Endowment for the Humanities, is funding Yu’s dictionary and similar work in about 60 other languages worldwide. “Language is part of our human heritage, it’s part of what makes us human. Not having any record of what’s gone on in a language is regrettable,” Whalen said.

William H. Jacobsen Jr., a professor emeritus at the University of Nevada, Reno, said that he too

is compiling a Washoe dictionary, albeit a print one. But he is gloomy about Washoe’s future, although he said he hopes his work, language classes and Yu’s dictionary will help young people learn a few words and phrases. “Even though they don’t know the language or the grammar, there is some value in this,” he said. “It gives them some identity and they can say, ‘I’m a Washoe.’”

Yu became fascinated with Washoe when he was assigned to help out at a conference. Former UC Berkeley linguistics professor Leanne Hinton, who taught Yu,

described him as a good match for the Washoe elders.

“He is extremely competent as well as being good with people. He is a very patient person.”

Besides Cantonese and English, Yu can speak Mandarin and has a rudimentary knowledge of Turkish and Russian. He has a grasp of some Washoe vocabulary and grammar but is not fluent.

“I am picking it up slowly. In general, I’m not a very good language learner. That may seem odd for a linguist to say, but linguists are not necessarily polyglots,” said Yu, whose new book

on linguistics was recently published by the prestigious Oxford University Press.

Last month, the Chicago professor went public with his own Washoe abilities. The tribe held a special luncheon for anyone involved in learning the language. Yu prepared a brief speech in Washoe but was clearly nervous.

So he first ran the speech past Dick: I’m happy to be here today. “Wading ebe dihamu angawi wa’ le’ga a’alu.”

“As I do not speak Washoe very well. “Washiw di’wagay angaweisinga.”

Family Day Saturday at Turtle Rock Park

Staff Reports

Alpine Kids will be hosting a free family day for Alpine County families and their guests from 2-7 p.m. Saturday at Turtle Rock Park.

The theme is "Family Dinner Together." Activities include story time and pictures with Mrs. Potts (Lynette Bennett) and Chip. Girls may want to wear their Disney Princess dresses for pictures taken by Gail Day. Families will be able to jump together as a family in the bounce house furnished by Kirkwood Mountain Resorts.

The Markleeville Library, First 5, The LPCC, the Women's Center and Choices for Children have crafts and other projects to help families create special dinners at home. Skip Veatch will be doing a sing-a-long. Alpine Children's Center will have music making and dancing for families. There are a lot more games and fun planned for the whole family to enjoy.

Tony Galvez and Dan Wilkerson will be barbecuing hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers and beef tri-tip for the family dinner being served from 4-6 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to run the sack races, bounce house, limbo dance, set up and clean up and other miscellaneous tasks.

There will be some door prizes, but no prizes for the games. The games are just for families to have fun together.

To help offset the cost of the free dinner, cash donations for food have been received from Gary and Barbara Howard and the Alpine Family Support Council. Other donations are welcome.

Like all Alpine Kids' events, family day is drug and alcohol free. Smoking is not permitted inside or around the Turtle Rock Park Building.

For more information, contact Edie Veatch at (530) 694-2934.

Markleeville art show is this weekend

Staff Reports

Eighteen Markleeville artists will open their studios to visitors 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday for the Markleeville Artists Autumn Open Studios.

The event is free.

A map and guide to each artist's studio may be picked up at the Alpine County Chamber

of Commerce & Visitor Center in Markleeville.

New sponsors are Carson Ridge, Dale Bennett's Indian Tacos, Kyle's Kabin and Odd Pony, along with The Deli, Hope Valley Outdoors, Markleeville Grocery, Sunrise Construction, Villa Gigli, Yonker Construction and Wolf Creek.

R-C 10.5.07



SARAH HALL/The R-C

Acoustic Solution was the entertainment at the Alpine County Creek Day on Saturday.

Eddy Street Book Exchange,
1225 Eddy St., Gardnerville,
782-5484

Mountain music at Villa Gigli

Jazz guitarist George
Hanepen will be on deck for

dinner guests Sunday at Villa
Gigli, 145 Hot Springs Road,
Markleeville. Owners Gina and
Ruggero Gigli no longer accept
reservations, and they now offer
an a la carte menu. Guests may
arrive anytime between 5 and 8
p.m. Pizza is featured on Satur-

day and pasta on Sunday
evenings.

■ Sharlene Irete is People editor
of The R-C and can be reached
at sirete@recordcourier.com or
782-5121, ext. 210.

A look at Alpine County's sheriff department

by Bill Morgan

In Alpine County, a person from out of the county often sees a sheriff's vehicle cruising along one of the highways in the county; or a visitor tipping a few in a pub in Kirkwood one night might see one of the deputies stopping in briefly to say hello, his presence conveying a message that the law and the associated protection is not far away.

Is that what we get here in Alpine County from the sheriff's department, just a presence here and there of the sheriff's star, reminding us to behave on the road and in the bars? Is that all?

Most of us who have lived in the county for any length of time know that there is more than what a visitor might see. Recently I made a point to find out how much more.

Looking at records of the state of California, one can compare levels of staffing with other counties.

Sheriff John Crawford has a staff of 16, including himself, 12 uniformed officers and four support staff. Part of his staff is located in Bear Valley, on the other side of the mountain. That's essentially the minimum number of personnel a county in California needs to have these days to man three shifts, seven days a week, for the territory involved and the wide-spread population centers. That and the attendant day in day out responsibilities that go with the office of sheriff. No other county has a smaller sheriff's department. Base staffing is not dependent on the number of residents in a county nor on the crime rate.

Counties in California report annually the number of crimes in several categories and the state compiles the statistics. The state, in turn sends them to the FBI.

The reports are called the Uniform Crime Reports. Crawford's department also keeps statistics by specific areas in the county. Those statistics show that Alpine County has a considerably higher incidence, expressed as crimes per 100,000 population, than the state average in the categories of aggravated assault and larce-

ny. And why is that? Part of the answer lies in the proportionately higher number of visitors in the county in the two ski areas and the many campgrounds. In particular, that explains the higher rate of larcenies. Stealing skis and snowboards is an unfortunately common occurrence in ski areas. And it's difficult to catch the thieves, too. Mono County with Mammoth Mountain has a higher rate of larcenies also.

Alpine County's rate from 2000 to 2005 was more than twice the statewide average. Remember, rates are expressed in crimes per 100,000 population. Our population is about 1,300. The visitor population, especially in the winter, is much higher.

Looking at the locations where these assaults occur, one sees that the Native American colony near Woodfords has a disproportionate number of such incidents. Most are in the category of domestic violence. This is troubling to Crawford, a

Native American himself. The rate is much lower than it was 10 years ago, and that's encouraging. The sheriff's department works with the Alpine Women's Center and finds that very helpful in lowering the rate of spousal abuse and family disputes.

Crawford said he believes very strongly that having a high visibility of uniformed officers is important in keeping crimes in check, and his people are out and around, day and night. Like I said, that is what a visitor sees.

There's a sense of security that goes with it. And just as

important is that his people attend various public meetings, regularly present programs for the schools, senior gatherings, and other organizations.

Many of the deputies take part in community affairs on their own time, though about half of his people live in Douglas County, where housing is more readily available. Most of the time the off duty officers keep their pagers on so they can respond quickly to a nearby problem without even having to be called by the dispatcher. The officers will keep an eye on homes if requested while residents are on vacation.

Nearly half of the sheriff's department annual budget of \$3,285,722 is funded by state and federal grants which bring with them special responsibilities. Two positions are funded by the state to concentrate on looking for and rooting out meth labs, and one is funded by the state to work on all the drug problems. The department is part of interagency and interstate drug task forces that combat drug problems throughout the region.

The department has a program funded by the Office of Emergency Services. The department has created a com-

prehensive Emergency Field Operations Guide, which is used by the fire departments and the emergency medical technicians as well as the deputies in relation to wildfire response, highway accidents, structure fires, and any incident that involves emergency services, including those that require evacuations.

The department is responsible for search and rescue, with 15 to 30 volunteers ready to help with the 15 to 20 searches a year. They have over-the-snow vehicles for searches in snow areas.

And the department is helping upgrade the access to and the technical capability of the repeater facilities on Hawkins Peak. When done, there will be greatly enhanced communication throughout the county and beyond. The site is shared with state and federal agencies and is on U.S. Forest Service land.

The deputies respond to traffic accidents to back up the CHP which is stretched thin in the area. They and the volunteer fire departments respond to dozens of such incidents a year.

Yes, there is a lot more going on than meets the eye.

Oh, yes, did I say that Under-sheriff Rob Levy is also one of the Woodfords volunteer firefighters when off-duty?

I was at that station a week ago when he and Buck McClelland rolled out to a vehicle accident. There was a lot of help that joined them at the scene — sheriff's deputies and emergency medical technicians. The wife of one of the deputies is one of our EMTs.

And who comes if you've got a bear in the house with you? You guessed it, one of the sheriff's staff, maybe the sheriff himself.

And so folks, in Alpine County, what you get from the sheriff's department is a lot more than what you might see.

R-C
Oct. 5, 2007



SPECIAL TO THE R-C
Sgt. Ron Michitarian, Sheriff John Crawford and Undersheriff Rob Levy make up a large proportion of the Alpine County Sheriff's Department total force.

Women's center hosts open house

Staff Reports

The Alpine County Women's Center will be having an open house, at its new location, downstairs from their old location, 14810 Highway 89, downtown Markleeville from 3-6

p.m. Tuesday. Information on the services provided for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse will be available.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

The Alpine County Women's

Center offers counseling, shelter, food, clothing, transportation and accompaniment to court or doctors appointments and basic needs.

For more information call (530) 694-1853 or (888) 750-6444.

Alpine Calendar

■ **Clean Up.** The Fall 2007 Alpine County Clean-up & Surplus Sale Weekend is from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Saturday** and **Sunday** at the Alpine County Department of Public Works yard in Woodfords, 50 Diamond Valley Rd. There will be drop-off locations for trash, recycling and saleable items to be donated to the surplus sale that benefits the Alpine Children's Center. No charge to Alpine County residents. Information, (530) 694-2140.

■ **Fire Safe.** Turtle Rock Park Fall 2007 burn pile for Alpine County residents, ongoing each **Saturday** and **Sunday** 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. through **Oct. 28**, weather permitting. This free service is provided by the Markleeville and Woodfords volunteer fire departments. They will be accepting all natural vegetation, shrubs, pine needles, grass, leaves and limbs only. No

stumps, treated wood, wood with nails or any non-vegetation items.

■ **Conference Planned.** Bridges out of poverty, a conference with Jody Pfarr, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Oct. 15** at the Alpine Learning Center, 150 Foothill Road, Woodfords. Information, (530) 694-9118 or childcare@gbis.com.

■ **Open House.** The Alpine County Women's Center will host an open house from 3-6 p.m. **Oct. 16** in their new location, 14810 Highway 89, Markleeville. Office staff will give information on women's center services. Information, (530) 694-1854 or (888) 750-6444.

■ **Library Events.** Archives open house 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Markleeville Autumn Splash, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Oct. 20.** Walk from the library to Grover Hot Springs and back. Pets on leash welcome. Beverages and lunch

provided. Cost is \$15 per person. Call the library to sign up; Story Hour with Miss Sonja is 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. **Nov. 27.** Information, (530) 694-2120.

■ **Winter Closure.** The Alpine County Museum closes for the season **Nov. 2** and will be closed until Memorial Day weekend 2008. There will be an end of season sale in the museum gift shop **Oct. 20-21** during regular museum hours. Information (530) 694-2146 or ACM@gbis.com.

■ **Health Fair.** Alpine County Health & Human Services annual Health Fair, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Nov. 3** at the Alpine Learning Center, 150 Foothill Rd., Woodfords. Learn more about disaster preparedness from one of the many booths with this years theme, Don't Let Winter Slow You Down. Information, Julie Ola, (530) 694-2235.

R.C., 10.12.07

Counting on the county clerk

by Irving Krauss

Businesses that are large, with many units, usually have a chief executive officer. In Alpine County's government, the person closest to a chief executive officer is Alpine County Clerk Barbara Howard. Elected unopposed in the June 2006 primary, she began her four-year term in January 2007, bringing to the office nine years experience as assistant to her predecessor, Barbara Jones.

Her responsibilities seem overwhelming; yet, in her quiet, efficient way she is clearly a "can do" person, overseeing the issuing of marriage licenses, passports, filing fictitious business statements and insurance surety bonds for businesses and determining who is their authorized representative. She also issues permits for bingo.

Howard also serves as clerk for the Board of Supervisors and its agenda and minutes and attends to board members' correspondence. The board also sits as the board of equalization and the local transportation agency, and on occasion, as the water agency, each of which, requires additional

work for her office.

As records manager, she oversees county records and decides which documents to retain, archive, put on microfilm, or shred. Her goal is to set up a public record monitoring system that will provide easy access to county records, correspondence, marriages and other information.

Election time calls for a major undertaking. The Alpine County Clerk is responsible for voter registration, compiling a list of registered voters and preparing the mail ballots. Because of Alpine County's small population it is permitted to use voting by mail. She must check that the optical scanning machine, provided by Premier Election Solutions that counts the ballots, is working properly and recruit persons for election night to prepare the ballots for the device. She monitors the counting and, when it's completed, she selects one precinct at random and has its ballots counted by hand. In her experience there has never been a discrepancy with the machine count.

Howard said she is proud of how open the process is, as citizens, and often candidates, watch the counting in the

Board of Supervisor's chamber. She noted that in other counties observers watch the counting on a television screen in an adjacent room. When asked her opinion on voting by mail versus in the polling booth, that used to be the case, she replied that she favored the mail ballot because it is more private and is easier for the disabled. Moreover, she added, the turnout is greater. Howard said that the county pays the return postage, which is not true for other counties.

Howard said that the most rewarding part of her work was helping people obtain the information they need; the negative aspect is the lack of time in the day; yet, she concluded, each activity has its challenges and rewards.

Howard grew up in Tahoe City but she and her husband Garry have lived in Markleeville for 21 years. Garry retired in 2004 after 30 years with the California State Park system, including 18 years at Grover Hot Springs.

The Alpine County Clerk's office is the face of the county and residents and visitors receive a warm reception from the county's "C.E.O." and her staff.

R-C, 10-12-07

Alpine begins water planning

by Joyce DeVore

How much groundwater do we have in Alpine County? Where is the water? Are we protecting the resources we have? The board of supervisors sought to answer these timely questions by formally adopting a resolution to develop a countywide groundwater management plan. The board is working with other state agencies to obtain funding and expand the monitoring network. The plan has four sections:

- It summarizes the regulatory requirements for groundwater.
- It provides a description of the physical conditions in Alpine County, including climate, hydrology, groundwater levels and quality.
- It describes specific plans for implementation of management.
- It requires all references to be cited in the plan.

There are plans to construct between four and six monitoring wells in the greater Mesa Vista area.

The State of California mandated that new International Building Codes, including the new California Fire Code, shall be implemented. The new rules will be in effect in our county beginning January 2008. The staff of the building department has attended several training sessions in order to become familiar with the new, complex requirements. Workshops for building professionals and other interested residents shall be announced soon.

Source: Gunter Kaiser, Supervisor District 5

ALPINE SUPERIOR COURT

At the Nov. 8 meeting of the Alpine County Board of Supervisors, Judge David DeVore reported on changes, modernization, and improvements made at the court during his 3 1/2 years tenure as presiding judge.

The changes he initiated and implemented include revision of the method and forms for keeping official records of criminal court proceedings

(known as minutes) creation of orders for imposing judgment and sentence or probation in criminal matters revision of policies and procedures in traffic matters creation of policies and procedures for case management of civil matters.

LOCAL RULES OF COURT

Many changes were required to ensure compliance with a state-wide case management system, which is expected to be in place by 2009.

DeVore also reported that in the last year the court completed the transition to a state-wide uniform financial record keeping and reporting system, giving greater supervision and control of all 58 county courts to the Judicial Council of California, Administrative Office of the Courts.

Most small courts rotate presiding judge duties at one or two-year intervals to allow all judges the benefit of participating in court reforms. Since DeVore has been presiding for over three years, Judge Richard Specchio will assume the role of presiding judge in the coming year.

ALPINE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Jim Parsons, Alpine County Superintendent of Schools, has made four trips to Washington, D.C., since the school year started to promote the reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Communities Act.

It is anticipated that Congress will pass the bill in December or January. The bill provides about \$1 million to Alpine County annually.

CALENDAR EVENTS

■ Diamond Valley School Christmas program will be held at the school on Dec. 20, at 6:30 p.m.

■ The preschoolers will perform a Christmas program for parents on Dec. 21, at 11:15 a.m.

■ In January, the sixth grade class will spend a week at Sly Park Environmental Science Camp. Students will learn about the flora and fauna of the Sierra Nevada, as well as some of the

Native American cultures in the area.

■ February is awards month. The mid-year school awards assembly will be held on Feb. 8, and the Block DV awards dinner will be on Feb. 12. Block DV is Diamond Valley School's highest student award given to fifth through eighth graders who make good grades, serve their community, and maintain good citizenship.

■ There will also be a special assembly about Thomas Edison in February.

Source: Jim Parsons, Alpine County Superintendent of Schools.

ALPINE PUBLIC WORKS

The road crew spent several months repairing our local roads from previous storm damage. The crew did patching and filling in Markleeville, Woodfords, and Bear Valley. Our road crew does a fabulous job keeping the county roads cleared of snow and ice, and as a reminder, please slow down and allow safe passing room when they are working on or alongside the roads — especially during winter storms.

The public works department anticipates further work to upgrade pedestrian facilities along various locations in town, which include the addition of low level street lights.

The new lighting plan is generally the same as depicted in the Markleeville town plan prepared by the county planning department.

Sidewalk work is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2008, assuming the funding can be raised through grants approved by the board of supervisors.

MISCELLANEOUS

Alpine County offices will be closed during the afternoon hours on Dec. 24 and all day on both Dec. 25 and Dec. 26 in observance of Christmas.

Grover Hot Springs reopened on Dec. 1, and plans special movie showings the evenings on the weekend of Dec. 14-16.

Source: Julie Ola, Alpine Public Works

“Besides responding to fires, traffic accidents, and other emergencies, the men volunteer countless hours to work on the station...”

Buck McLelland
Woodfords Volunteer Chief

Volunteers ready to protect eastern Alpine County

by Joyce DeVore

How did our tiny Woodfords Volunteer Fire Department become a state-of-the-art facility with more than 20 vital and energetic firemen? Volunteer Chief Buck McLelland has a way of making this miracle sound simple.

“Besides responding to fires, traffic accidents, and other emergencies, the men volunteer countless hours to work on the station and the county government supports us,” he said.

There is nothing simple about the operation of the Woodfords Volunteer Fire Department. McLelland commands respect because he works shoulder to shoulder with the men and logs countless hours behind the scenes.

Rob Levy writes grants for funding and facilitates leveraging county funds with grant funds to purchase the best equipment on the market.

He beams with pride as he explains that the county got, “two for one” value on the Squad 1 and Brush 1 trucks by having “Burtons (fire truck manufacturers) reuse a storage box on one truck, and add new pumps to another.”

Alpine County Supervisor Skip Veatch attends meetings once a month to understand and help the volunteers’ policy makers, which includes McLelland,

Levy, Jim Haen, and Al Moss.

“The board recognizes McLelland and his operation as a gift of gold and we’d never want to lose that,” Veatch said.

Three of the department’s new members, Hal Bird, Wes Long, and Paul Schlange, engineered an agreement with their employer, South Tahoe Public Utility District, to be on duty volunteer firemen while working for the district in Diamond Valley.

“Everyone put two and two together to realize that it is a beneficial arrangement,” Schlange explained.

Since most volunteers work day jobs, there was a very short daytime crew to respond to calls.

All three district employees are familiar with Alpine County, operation of water trucks, and Schlange has served on hot shot crews, heli-tech crews, and earned Firefighter 1 status in San Bernardino.

Each volunteer brings strength to the unit.

Mike Gard dished up steaming bowls of chicken and dumplings while he told the details of an earlier emergency.

“There it was on the ground, the smoldering brake drum from a truck, burning up,” he said.

John Baker showed up because his “papa” Al Moss wrangled him into volunteering.



SPECIAL TO THE R-C

Members of the Woodfords Volunteer Fire Department gather to eat, meet and train.

Dave Woffinden joked with Tony Galvez, who tried on a brand new turn out suit. In 15 minutes, dinner is over and the crew disappears upstairs for training.

I was grateful to McLelland and Levy for taking a few more minutes to show me the new Americans with Disabilities Act compliant showers, set up to allow either firefighters or groups of citizens quick decontamination from chemical poisoning.

The lockers are squared away, with turn-outs, boots and air tanks for each member. A sparkling new two-ton air machine fills tanks for these men and other county emergency groups.

Dave Zellmer designed the firehouse as a drive-through, and eventually the overhead

pipes will be pressurized to fill the trucks with water as they drive through the firehouse.

A new water tank is installed outside the firehouse and is almost ready for operation. Gard is putting the final touches on the new kitchen.

Right in the middle of the fire house sits five gleaming fire and rescue vehicles.

Three years ago the department had old equipment and four volunteers.

The community effort behind the growth is a credit to Alpine County.

In order to support this excellent group of volunteers, there will be a fundraiser dinner and dance next March.

Those wishing to volunteer should contact Gard at (530) 694-1976.

Kirkwood hosts annual job fair on Saturday

Staff Reports

Kirkwood Mountain Resort is hosting its annual Job Fair Saturday at the Lake Tahoe Golf Course in Meyers from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. This year the resort is throwing a "Pray for Snow" party to gear-up for Kirkwood's 35th season.

Managers will be interviewing for all positions Saturday with job offers made on the spot.

Openings are available in the following departments: lift attendants, parking attendants, shuttle drivers, ticket checkers, rental attendants, ticket sellers/concierge, housekeepers, food and beverage cooks, lodging front desk attendants, ski patrollers, lodging reservationists, trail maintenance and groomers food and beverage cashiers, food & beverage servers and bussers, food and beverage kitchen utility workers, guest service staff and facilities maintenance staff.

In addition to a competitive salary, seasonal employee benefits include: Kirkwood season pass, discount lift tick-

ets for family and friends, retail and rental discounts, food and beverage discounts, ski and ride breaks, flexible scheduling, carpool reward program, and a free employee shuttle from South Lake Tahoe and Gardnerville. Limited employee housing available.

The "Pray for Snow" Party will take place in the Lake Tahoe Golf Course clubhouse and will include showings of ski and snowboarding films along with plenty of giveaways.

Festivities commence at 4 p.m. with special prizes for the first 100 in attendance.

For those who missed the season pass price increase deadline, Kirkwood will be offering pre-Oct. 15 pricing on location this Saturday only.

This is the final opportunity to buy a full-season pass for \$499 or a midweek value pass for \$199.

For more information, check out our Web site at www.kirkwood.com or call 1-877-KIRKWOOD.

Alpine County

The Record-Courier Friday, October 26, 2007

Getting the general lay of the land in Alpine

by Joyce DeVore and Nancy Thornburg

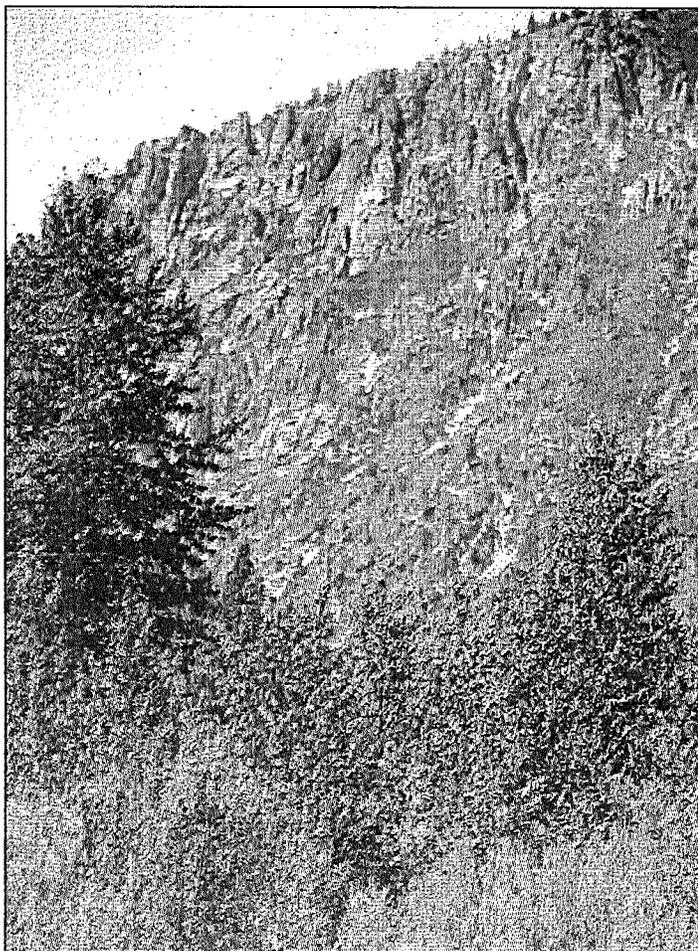
Buckle your seat belt. We're going to take a drive on the information highway from Woodfords to Markleeville.

The route the wagon trains followed in the great migration west in the 1840s enters Alpine County near the current state line on Foothill Road. From there it slowly climbs the mesa and joins the present Emigrant Trail somewhere around Nevada Road. At the corner of Emigrant Trail and Highway 88, just east of Woodfords, there is a trail marker for Carson River Route 24, CRR24. After passing where Woodfords Station now stands, going west, the trail became a nightmare of repeated crossings of the river and giant boulders in the canyon leading to Hope Valley.

In 1847 a Mormon named Samuel Brannon came through this area on his way from the West Coast to join Brigham Young in Utah. Religion, not gold, was the purpose of the trip. He left a cache of supplies near a spring and a couple of men to guard them and this site became known as Brannon Springs.

Cary Peak stands behind the Woodfords Station and has an elevation of 8,727 feet. John and William Cary (or Carey) built a sawmill nearby, and one traveler in 1855 reported that he had a good meal there. Daniel Woodford became owner of the mill in 1869 and established a hotel, Sign of the Elephant, perhaps a reference to the gigantic mountains rising behind his new business.

Use the Woodfords intersection of highway 88 and 89 as mile marker 0. Traveling south on Highway 89 toward Markleeville, at about 1.4 miles there is a peak on the far right which looks like it could be a plug volcano although



SHANNON LITZ/R-C file

Alpine County boast several distinctive geographical landmarks.

apparently it is not. At 10,024 feet, Hawkins Peak is one of the tallest mountains in the Mokelumne Wilderness area of Alpine County and was named for John Hawkins who squatted on a ranch east of the peak in 1858.

On the left is a restored home (1 on the map) that formerly belonged to Harry Hawkins.

At mile 1.9 on the right there is a corral and behind it a couple of old buildings (2), known as the sawmill. It used to be the Cohen Sawmill in the 1800s.

At mile 2.5 on the left is the prairie (3), a large open expanse of meadow. Just

beyond that is the foot of the summit where the road starts climbing for a short distance.

Just beyond the Turtle Rock Park entrance, as the road begins to descend, on the right at mile 4.7 are the remnants of Turtle Rock (4) which was blown to smithereens by some unknown person and for (officially) unknown reasons during construction of the new highway.

The flat area just south and on the right, at mile 4.8, is known as Boiler Flat (5), where there were reportedly many boilers, probably steam boilers, using water from Millberry Creek and used in logging.

At about this point, to the south, is Silver Mountain, elevation 10,772, where rich silver deposits were discovered about 1860 and where the town of Silver Mountain City was established. This peak is distinguished by the notch in its summit.

Once in Markleeville, three peaks can be seen off to the west. From left to right they are Raymond Peak, Thornburg Peak and Markleeville Peak.

Raymond Peak is close to Hawkins in height, at 10,014 feet and has a jagged, Alpine appearance. Rossiter W. Raymond was a U.S. mineral examiner and commissioner of mining statistics and also surveyed and wrote mine reports.

Thornburg Peak is notable for its distinctive shape and connection to present day. The Thornburg family has been active in the county for more than 100 years. Rising 8,636 feet above Pleasant Valley, the summit has a projection that nearly matches the shape of the Thornburg nose, according to Fritz Thornburg. The mountain was known locally as Thornburg Peak for decades but was officially designated in 1998 through efforts of the Thornburg family and others in the county including the board of supervisors.

Markleeville Peak is named for Jacob J. Marklee who came from Ohio and claimed 160 acres along the river in 1861. Although he registered the property in Nevada, boundary lines put him in California and in the path of the California Gold Rush. The mountain bearing his name is also in the Mokelumne Wilderness and stands at 9,415 feet.

Sources: "1,000 California Place Names" by Erwin G. Gudde; Pioneer Record Card File, CA State Library; "Alpine Heritage," Fritz Thornburg.



SPECIAL TO THE R-C

Kaylynn Payne was crowned Miss Washoe Teen.

Payne crowned Miss Washoe Teen

by Irving Krauss

Kaylynn Payne, the youngest daughter of Marilyn and Raymond Payne and the granddaughter of Hazel Payne, was crowned Miss Washoe Teen by the Washoe Tribe, Sept. 26, at the Alpine Learning Center on Pony Express Road in Woodfords.

The four contestants were required to give a 10-minute speech on why they sought the title and a performance such as a song. Kaylynn's speech emphasized that young girls can do anything they set their sights on and stressed the importance of activities that support Washoe cultural traditions. Her song was a Washoe lullaby.

As Miss Washoe Teen she will represent the tribe at social

functions such as powwows.

Kaylynn's blue and white gown and crown were embroidered with blue flowers and were made by Washoe tribal member Catherine Walker. Kaylynn wore earrings of abalone shells.

An eighth-grade honor roll student at Diamond Valley Elementary School, Kaylynn will attend Pau-Wa-Lu Middle School in the Gardnerville Ranchos. Her long-range goal is law school and has hinted that after practice as an attorney she might consider a judgeship.

Kaylynn's family includes older sister Sari.

Her brother Ray is in Iraq and has re-enlisted for two more years to attend college and train to become a warrant officer.

Kirkwood pushes its master plan

by Adam Jensen
Tahoe Daily Tribune

As development of its valley floor moves forward — much to the dismay of an environmental group — officials at Kirkwood Mountain Resort believe they've struck the right balance of development that will ultimately retain the resort's character.

Going to a ski resort should not be like watching a Tennessee Volunteers football game, according to Bud Klein, a founder and principal shareholder of Kirkwood.

Neyland Stadium, where the Volunteers play, seats more than 100,000, but Klein sees Kirkwood's overnight capacity peaking at less than a tenth of that number.

"I think its good for 8,000 to 9,000 people, after that ... we're done," Klein said at the Oct. 12 groundbreaking of Expedition Lodge, a new luxury three-

four-bedroom condo complex.

Although David Likens, CEO for Kirkwood Mountain Resort, estimates the total number of residents on the valley floor at buildout at closer to 7,000, any of these numbers is too high, according to Chris Wright, executive director for the Foothill Conservancy.

In June, the environmental group launched an unsuccessful appeal to the Amador County Board of Supervisors hoping to block the development of 33 homes in the Martin Point subdivision.

"They don't need to keep expanding," Wright said last week. "Unfortunately it's hard for them to realize there's going to be a limit on how big they can get that, I think they've reached that."

Wright shudders at the idea of 7,000 residents in the valley, a number that would make Kirkwood the biggest settlement in Amador County,

according to 2006 U.S. Census Bureau figures.

He cites traffic concerns and the resort's dependence on diesel engines for power as reasons for his opposition to a greater number of residents.

Resort officials say day parking issues at the ski area have been addressed and talks with regional energy suppliers about getting Kirkwood connected to the power grid are under way.

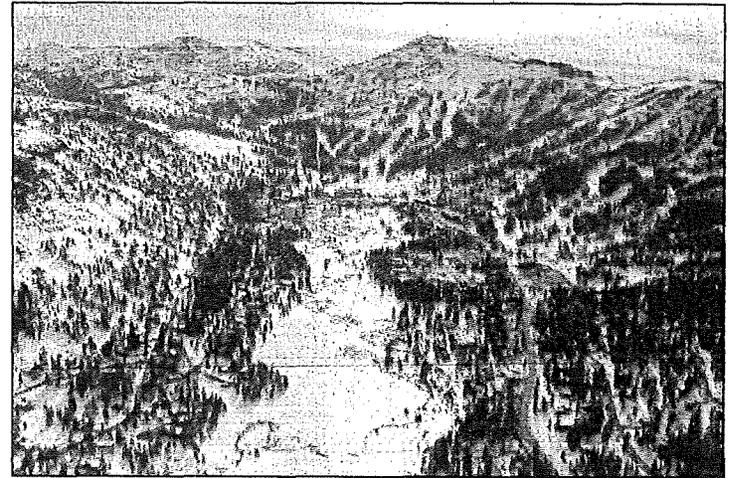
Although the total number of people living in Kirkwood will increase, resort officials point to the possible expansion of lift accessed terrain at the resort as proof an expansion of the number of residents will not harm the area's character.

"At build out, we'll have less skiers per acre than we do now," said Gary Derck, chief executive officer for Mountain Springs Holding Company, the owner of Kirkwood. "The idea is keeping everything in balance."

El Dorado National Forest staff is nearly finished completing an Environmental Impact Statement for Kirkwood Mountain Resort's Master Plan, which could allow significant on-mountain development to begin as early as the 2008-09 ski season.

"It is at the moment, a work in progress," said Sue Rodman, the project's manager for the U.S. Forest Service. "We're doing the devil part of the details. We hope to have it out by Thanksgiving at the latest."

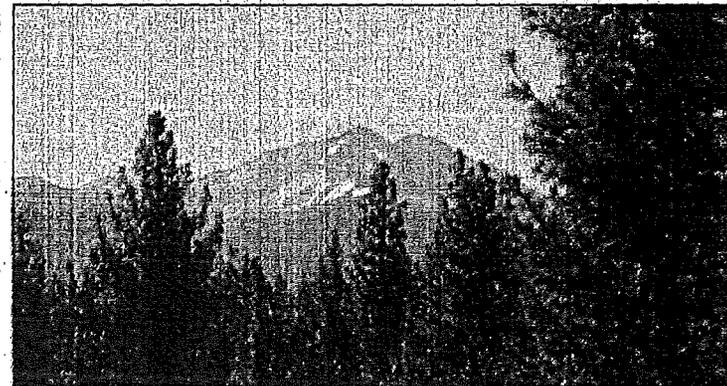
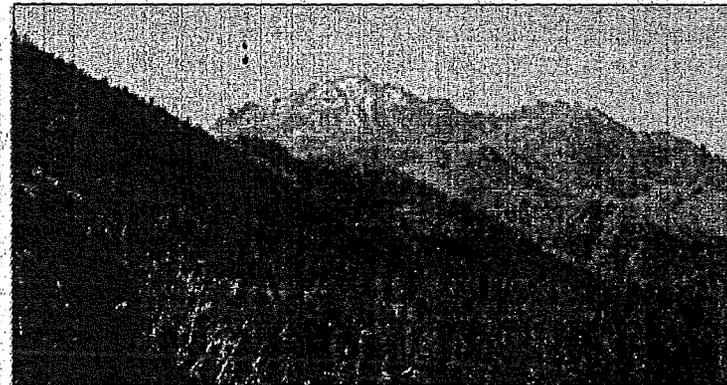
Four alternatives are expected to be included in the final statement.



JONAH M. KESSEL/Tribune file photo

An aerial photo of Kirkwood Mountain Resort shows the terrain around the resort where the Martin Point subdivision will be built. Kirkwood Mountain Resort is south of Lake Tahoe off Highway 88.

TOUR OF ALPINE PEAKS



Paynesville and Fredericksburg areas. In addition to single family residences, many lots include outbuildings and areas for horses or other livestock. Most of the residential development in the Mesa Vista/River Ranch area dates from the 1970s and later. Building types include ranch style and more contemporary styles typical of many suburban areas. Large custom designed homes are present in many of the rural subdivisions."

The socio/economic and human elements of the community character of the region are also described. Here's another excerpt: "With a permanent population density of less than two persons per square mile, Alpine County is clearly a rural community. Counties with population densities of less than two persons per square miles are often characterized as 'fron-

tier counties.' These frontier counties usually have very low populations, minimal services and businesses available locally, and are usually distant from major metropolitan areas and other significant population centers. This description fits Alpine County."

Other key topics are: public facilities/services, growth management policies, and rate of growth implementation.

What would you think of a policy that would limit the creation of new residential parcels to no more than 5 percent per year of the current number of parcels in the county? That's up for discussion.

What policies would have to be satisfied to get a change in zoning? That's part of the collection of policies that will be discussed, too.

Be there. It will be interesting, I guarantee it.

R-C 11.2.07

PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE R-C
These photos of Markleeville and Raymond peaks and Silver Mountain were to accompany the Oct. 26 Alpine column.

Alpine County to address growth management

by Bill Morgan

The Alpine County Planning Commission is holding a public workshop to discuss proposed changes in the county general plan 6 p.m. Nov. 8 at the Turtle Rock Community Center.

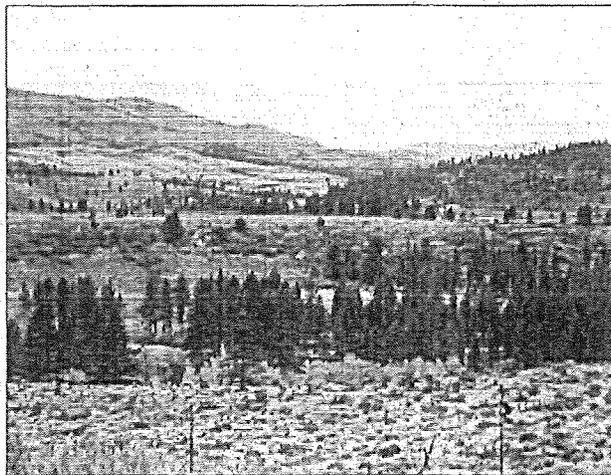
So why should you be interested in that? Well, if you're interested in growth management in the upper Carson Valley you might come for that reason, whether you're a resident of the county or not. If you're familiar with the beauty and character of eastern Alpine County and would like to see that beauty and character protected, you might come for that reason. If you or someone you know has in mind to develop some of the land in that area for a residential subdivision, you might come for that reason, too.

Or if you just want a bit more education and have no other

plans for an otherwise slow Thursday night, you might come to Turtle Rock Park on Highway 89, about four miles south of the intersection of Highways 88 and 89 at Woodfords.

One of the key topics of the workshop is community character. The county wants to protect the community character, but what exactly is the community character?

In an excerpt from the package of information available at the workshop, the physical character of the Mesa Vista/River Ranch area is described this way: "This area is located northeast of Woodfords along the Highway 88, Emigrant Trail and Foothill Road corridors. The area is dominated by brush covered alluvial fans, mesa or bench land areas and valley bottoms that extend from the base of the



SPECIAL TO THE R-C

Lands along the West Fork of the Carson River in Alpine County.

Carson Range to the West Fork Carson River. The defining development character elements of this large area are low density, rural subdivisions inter-

spersed with agricultural lands and undeveloped areas. Residential lot sizes typically range from 2 to 20 acres with some smaller lots, particularly in the

Paynesville and Fredericksburg areas. In addition to single family residences, many lots include outbuildings and areas for horses or other livestock. Most of the residential development in the Mesa Vista/River Ranch area dates from the 1970s and later. Building types include ranch style and more contemporary styles typical of many suburban areas. Large custom designed homes are present in many of the rural subdivisions."

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Christmas tree permits go on sale

Staff Reports

The Bureau of Land Management, Carson City Field Office, and the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Carson Ranger District, will sell Christmas tree permits beginning on Nov. 19 and ending Dec. 21 at a variety of locations across western Nevada and eastern California. All stations will be closed on Thanksgiving.

The agencies conduct Christmas tree sales to thin small trees in overstocked areas and to provide recreational experiences for residents. Some cutting areas may not be accessible after snowfall so it is advisable to cut trees early in the season. The non-refundable permits from both agencies are valid through Christmas.

In all, 3,500 permits will be available from the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest for \$10 each in designated cutting areas for white fir, Jeffrey pine and incense cedar trees. There is a limit of two trees per household. Permits are non-refundable.

Piñon pine trees will be available from BLM for \$5 each, primarily on forested BLM lands in the Pine Nut Mountains between Carson City and Yerington, the Clan

Permits for forest service trees (white fir, Jeffrey pine and incense cedar) must be purchased in person at the following locations:

■ Alpine County Chamber of Commerce
3 Webster St, Markleeville
(530) 694-2475
9 a.m.-4 p.m. seven days a week

■ Carson Ranger District
1536 S. Carson St.
Carson City
(775) 882-2766

Alpine and Desatoya Mountains east of Fallon, and the Excelsior Mountains southeast of Hawthorne. Maps and directions are available with permit purchase. There is a limit of two permits per household, although you may purchase permits for another household.

Permits are non-refundable.

This year the BLM has provided two special Christmas tree areas in the Pine Nut Mountains south of Dayton. Thousands of good quality young piñon pines will be

8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

■ BLM's Carson City Field Office
5665 Morgan Mill Road
Carson City
(775) 885-6000
8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Monday-Friday
8 a.m.-4 p.m. Nov. 24,
Dec. 1, 9 and 15

■ BLM's Nevada Office
1340 Financial Blvd., Reno
8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Monday-Friday
(775) 861-6500

removed from these units to restore important sage grouse habitat.

The BLM will allow commercial tree cutting in these two areas to anyone for retail sale or organizations for fundraising.

The two-tree limit will not apply in these units this year.

Both the Interagency Information Center in Reno and the BLM-Carson City Field Office will accept phone credit card orders, or check/credit card mail orders.

DETAILS

Diamond Valley School eligible for award

by Lisa Fontana

Diamond Valley School in Alpine County is eligible to apply for the distinguished school award, an honor given to schools exhibiting educational excellence by the state of California. Schools are eligible to apply only if they meet several criteria including making adequate yearly progress toward federal student achievement guidelines.

The state additionally requires that schools make progress along a continuum from 200 to 1,000 points with the goal to reach and remain above 800. Diamond Valley has made steady progress toward target goals and is, for the third time, eligible to apply for recognition for their improvement efforts. The school received the award in 2000 and 2004.

Diamond Valley School, located at one end of Diamond Valley, along a popular bike loop beside the Carson River, is home to about 100 kindergarten through eighth-grade students. These children live in the communities of Woodfords, Hope Valley, Hung-A-Lel-Ti Washoe Community, Mesa Vista, Markleeville, and Kirkwood in the vast, but sparsely populated, Alpine County.

The school's staff consists of six classroom teachers, who work alongside a speech pathologist, a special education teacher, reading specialist who



SHANNON LITZ/R-C file photo

Preschooler Andrew Voss gets help with his crayons from Jon Paul Embry, a kindergartner at Diamond Valley School during a 2005 event.

also teaches music, a band teacher, instructional aides, after-school program leader, before-school kindergarten teacher, new principal, and also new this year, a physical education teacher.

A technology department, cook, activities director, librarian, district office and secretarial staff, and bus drivers (who double as the maintenance crew) support classroom instruction. With a student population as small as this one, staff members know all of the students.

They work together to help every student succeed, consistently discussing the needs of the children and trying whatever it takes to improve learning.

Another key to the success of Diamond Valley School is the central role the school plays in the community.

Kindergarten children are provided a place for a transition into their school day, which doesn't start until 10:25 a.m., in a Montessori environment, allowing them to catch the morning school bus, eat breakfast at school, and enjoy a few stories and self-selected activities before their kindergarten class starts.

This program is coordinated

with the curriculum of the school and the Early Learning Center. All students are invited to remain after school (and a third or more do remain each day) to complete their homework, receive tutoring, play a spatial relationships computer-based math game, study dance or art, and even learn to ride a unicycle. They are also taught about leadership with a program called Peace Builders that is an integral part of both school and after school hours. A late bus takes the children home at 5 p.m.

The school's computer lab offers access to students and staff. The library, where pictures of native elders watch over the children, is the heart of the school.

A close partnership with the county brings a part time nurse and counselor to the school.

Young adults from the Woodfords Indian Colony provide needed aide and tutoring support.

Students from Woodfords High School, housed in a portable building on the lower field, walk up to help out in classrooms or raise funds at movie nights.

Alpine County locals are talking about ...

by Joyce DeVore

Hazel Payne and her extensive family celebrated Hazel's 90th birthday on Nov. 10 at the Payne residence.

Hazel Eva Phillips was born to a Washoe couple in Coleville and moved to Alpine County as a young girl. She attended school locally, and fondly remembers "walking 2 1/2 miles to school, and sometimes my uncle would give me a ride." Her classmates include Stuart Merrill, retired Alpine County Sheriff.

As a young girl, she married Frank Payne, 60-year-old merchant and later Justice of the Peace. In 1936, they bought an acre of land for 50 cents and built the home where she still lives room by room, as they were given building supplies from various projects around the county. After her husband's death, Hazel "kept busy" raising five children. Judy, Kathy, and Raymond all remember Hazel being involved in every classroom party. Raymond told me, "She was known for her baking, there were donuts, pies, and cookies for after school

treats."

Kathy remembered that, "Our mother drove us to high school football games and dances, then walked around town for hours until time to take us home."

Betty chimed in, "We never felt deprived, although we didn't have indoor plumbing until 1960."

Raymond, the only son of five children, carried water from the river for household needs. Hazel remembers having around seven cars in her life, and the kids remember that she drove downtown and spun several full circles in the snow, and she kept on going. Judy wishes she had kept some of Hazel's sewing because, "The Barbie doll clothes that mother made were detailed and beautiful."

Three of the daughters have baskets that Hazel made. Betty said, "They are all water-tight and beautiful." When her son was serving in Vietnam, Hazel wrote often and sent packages with baked goods and pine nuts.

All five children graduated from high school, and Hazel is proud that, "All of them turned out to be good people, and none



SPECIAL TO THE R-C
Hazel Payne's family gathers around her for her 90th birthday party.

of them caused any trouble."

After raising the children, Hazel has adopted several community groups. She has awards on her living room wall for

"Senior Citizen of the Year," and sewing projects abound for her loved ones. She is active in her church and in the 50 Plus Club in Alpine County. At 90,

she is the second oldest person in Alpine County and one of the few surviving widows of the Spanish-American War.

The family gatherings, like the one for her birthday, are most important to Hazel. Four of her five children, and some of the grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild arrived from New Jersey, Idaho, and Wyoming to honor the woman every Alpine resident holds in awe.

Teenagers: Liz Mcgeein at social services works with local teens in a variety of programs. Living in a rural county can be a challenge for our most social age-group.

Veronica Slavik, 14, was insightful when she recognized that, "I like living here because it is beautiful and I don't have to deal (with peer pressure and

violence)."

What she doesn't like is that Markleeville doesn't have pizza joints and strip mall hangouts.

Beauty: Hugh Margesson is a new resident who is trying to protect the beauty of our open lands. While hiking off Highway 29, he came across a huge pile of spent shot-gun shells.

How could anyone who uses our back country be so thoughtless?

We have open space and some would use it as landfill. Many of us locals stop and pick up the litter, especially the ubiquitous plastic. Remember to reuse and recycle to keep our county green.

Holidays: Alpine County Family Support is sponsoring a drive to collect money to buy gifts for children. Call Susan Lippman at (530) 694-9118 for more information.

Visitor center closed for Thanksgiving holiday

Staff Reports

The Alpine County Visitor Center will be closed Nov. 22 and 23 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. The center, which also houses the

chamber of commerce, will reopen Nov. 24.

For Christmas tree cutting permits U.S. Forest Service in Carson City, 1536 S. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701, (775) 882-2766

R-C FRIDAY, NOV. 16, 2007

How secure was Alpine County?

by Irving Krauss

Today one can hardly avoid news of a committed group of people trying to take over another country, province, or other area in order to impose their own ideas.

Yet the image of Alpine is one of tranquility, where most of its inhabitants feel secure about their governing body, have many local elections with candidates that are unopposed, and exhibit a strong sense of community.

While there are differences among its population there are none of the deep divisions associated with attempted takeovers of government. But almost four decades ago Alpine County faced such danger.

The first attempt to take over the county was in the Fall of 1970. Militant homosexuals of the Gay Liberation Front in the San Francisco Bay area announced that they would move to Alpine County to cre-

Alpine Portfolio

ate a "Gay Mecca." Disguised as fisherman and tourists they visited the county and after surveying it concluded that it was ripe for a takeover.

Their plan was to register to vote, then recall the elected officials and vote themselves into office. They would then establish a gay civil service and construct housing from state and federal funds for gays that would flock into the area. Another of their proposals was to build a museum of gay arts, sciences and history.

A takeover was not far fetched because at the time the county had only 384 registered voters and a recent California Supreme Court Ruling eliminated the one-year residency requirement. After ninety days in Alpine a person could go to

the polls.

My wife and I were here at the time and my impression was that the attitude of Alpine residents was "ho hum"; they did not take the threat seriously. However, a few street signs were altered with anti-gay messages. Nevertheless, residents' discussion centered on the belief that the lack of jobs and severe winters would discourage a takeover.

But not everyone was so sanguine. A delegation of Board of Supervisors members rushed down to Sacramento to meet with Governor Ronald Reagan's Assistant Legal Affairs Secretary Richard Turner. Turner advised the Supervisors that there was nothing they could do as long as the gays complied with the law.

The proposed takeover was picked up by the media and in short order reporters and television crews arrived. The event was featured on television, in the newspapers including The

San Francisco Chronicle, The Los Angeles Times, and in Time magazine. Sheriff Stuart Merrill became a celebrity and was featured on newscasts as a spokesman for the county. However, probably because of the lack of jobs and the winter conditions, a takeover never came about.

Yet almost a decade later there was a second major event that might have changed the character of the county. It involved armed militants.

Several families and individuals bought 600 acres and sought to set up a "Constitution City" that would be independent of the American government.

Depicted as an ultra-conservative libertarian group they called themselves the Posse Commitatus, which means an armed body with legal authority, a concept from Sixteenth Century England.

Their idea was to establish a mini-nation with its own bank and currency. They planned to

gain political power through the ballot box, which was not impossible given the small number of registered voters. A resident at the time recalled Posse members' bumper stickers that read "God, Guns, Country, and the American Flag" that caused concern, and a Posse member who ran for sheriff, but was defeated. But before they got too far along they ran afoul of the law, principally voter fraud.

The District Attorney at the time, Christopher Smith, found that Posse leaders were registered to vote in other counties. He obtained indictments of felony voter fraud and a jury sent two to prison and the Posse leader was sentenced to a term cleaning county parks. Most of the original 30 Posse members left the county.

Sources: Time, 11/2/70; San Francisco Chronicle, 11/10/70; San Jose Mercury News, 5/25/80; Reno Gazette Journal, 2/17/85.

Alpine

Superior court judges dispense justice in Markleeville

by Bill Morgan

A person visiting the Alpine County Superior Court would find the visit very enlightening. The courthouse itself, a picturesque rock building erected in 1928, anchors one end of the town of Markleeville. On a sunny December morning that person might rest on one of the benches at the foot of the stairs leading to the entrance of the courthouse and imagine having been translated into another era, a peaceful and uncomplicated time where the only sounds are the rustle of the fall leaves drifting across the walkways and the faint gurgle of stony Markleeville creek across the road.

Quaint? Yes, but what's it like inside the building?

Mounting the stairs and into the entry, one is not confronted by an armed guard or metal detector, just a modest atrium, an office with frosted glass windows on either side of the atrium, and about 10 strides across the floor to the old fashioned glass and wood double doors that open to the courtroom. A hall to the left leads to the chambers of the two judges who serve here. The hall to the right passes by the coffee pot and water cooler to offices of the support staff and to a narrow stairway leading down to one of the two bathrooms in the building and close to the nether reaches adjacent to the sheriff's office, which is in the basement of the courthouse.

Antiquated? Maybe, but a court is



Alpine County Superior Court judges David DeVore, left, and Richard Specchio preside over Markleeville's courts.

SPECIAL TO THE R-C

more than a building.

Inside the recently renovated courtroom are several rows of comfortable seats; a jury box; the court clerk's alcove; cases of law books along the back wall; pictures of the judges who have served in the past; a couple of substantial wooden tables aligned before the bench; and, a few feet higher than the rest, the judges' bench itself. Though smaller, the courtroom is pretty much like any other.

If court is in session, one of the two Alpine County Superior Court judges will be seated, Judge David DeVore or Judge Richard Specchio, both of whom have broad experience in criminal and civil matters.

At a criminal trial there would be a court reporter, a defense attorney (maybe a public defender), the District Attorney, a bailiff, the defendant, and maybe a jury. At a civil trial the DA

and defense attorney would be replaced by opposing attorneys and the defendant by the parties to the lawsuit. That's the set up. How does it work?

In California, superior courts are part of the state judicial system, a branch of state government, and no longer closely connected to the county for funding and administrative support. However here in Alpine County we consider the court ours and the judges ours.

Though they're paid by the state, they're elected by the residents of Alpine County and are as much a part of our community as our next door neighbors.

Besides the two judges, there are four clerks and the executive officer/jury commissioner who are part of this judicial unit.

Our two judges demonstrate consideration for the circumstances of all

who are brought before the court and in a criminal case, if a person is found guilty, consider a variety of alternatives before imposing sentences. Alternatives include prison time, jail time, probation, fines and financial restitution, and community service. Since most of the offenses are by non-residents, appropriate sentencing sometimes gets complicated.

When asked what is the most rewarding part of his work, Specchio said, "When I apply an alternative sentence (other than jail time) and the person responds successfully. That's very rewarding"

DeVore has also applied alternatives to jail time.

There are a number of instances where a person convicted of a felony or misdemeanor, has been sentenced to work painting or repairing county facilities for example, instead of spending time in jail.

Having no jail, Alpine County uses the El Dorado County jail at South Lake Tahoe and that's an awkward arrangement for both counties.

Of course there are times when the bad guys need to be imprisoned. The highways and neighborhoods are safer for that.

DeVore says that helping ensure the public's safety in addition to the several other elements of serving the public are most rewarding to him.

Other responsibilities of the judges include convening and guiding the grand jury. Each year a group of citi-

R-C 12.7.07

Alpine

The Record-Courier

A10 ■ Friday, December 7, 2007

Superior court judges dispense justice in Markleeville

zen volunteers are brought together as a grand jury, their mission being to review the activities of the county government, including any special districts of the county. In addition to making recommendations, they are empowered to investigate and to bring charges against county employees and private persons alike. Their findings are presented as a report to the public, and county officials are obliged to respond to matters that are directed to them. Last year's report is posted on the court's Web site, www.alpine.courts.ca.gov.

Civil cases are also brought before the court. Such cases are often far more complex to adjudicate than felony or misdemeanors. Judges may spend much more time researching the law in such cases than hearing testimony from the bench.

Though the case load in Alpine County is quite low, the two judges are busy handling cases in other counties when those courts are overloaded or one of their judges is unavailable. The courts of Amador, Calaveras, Mono, Inyo, and El Dorado counties all practice reciprocal assignments with Alpine County.

Alpine County's courthouse may be aged and lacking some features considered important today, but the people and the system within are more than capable of meeting the judicial needs of the county.

■ Bill Morgan is a Markleeville resident.

R-C 12.7.07

Kirkwood, Heavenly blast environmental scorecard

by Adam Jensen
Tahoe Daily Tribune

South Shore ski resorts are criticizing the results of an annual environmental scorecard released by conservationists.

The Ski Area Citizens Coalition, comprising Colorado Wild, the Crystal Conservation Coalition, Friends of the Inyo and the Sierra Nevada Alliance, gave Kirkwood Mountain Resort an "F" grade for the second straight year.

Heavenly Mountain Resort remained at a "C" for the year, and Sierra-at-Tahoe dropped from an "A" to a "B" since last year.

Kirkwood Chief Executive

Officer David Likins excoriated the report, saying, "There is a very strong bias against growth."

He and other local operators contend the coalition punishes resorts that attempt to improve and remain competitive.

Kirkwood recently took steps to cut energy consumption by reducing lighting, promoting carpooling, reducing landfill waste and conserving water, Likins said.

But he said those efforts receive little attention in the scorecard ranking, largely because the resort is expanding lifts and snowmaking and is building condominiums.

"Kirkwood has done an exceptional job at taking steps toward

addressing environmental concerns," Likins said. "The question is, 'Is the resort taking steps to preserve the environment?' And the answer for Kirkwood is a resounding yes."

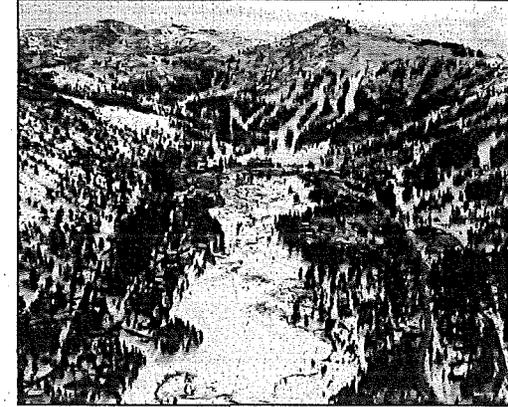
The coalition ranks resorts on a numerical basis. Points can be lost for resorts that expand ski runs or build new lifts, snowmaking systems or condominiums. Points can be added for resorts that recycle, support renewable energy and expand mass transit.

Sierra lost points for its plans to include 322 acres of an area known as Huckleberry Canyon into its patrolled boundary this season. The terrain previously has

been accessible through backcountry gates. Officials at the U.S. Forest Service have yet to approve the possible change.

"Booth Creek does not support the SACC report card," said Kirstin Cattell, spokeswoman for Booth Creek, which owns Sierra-at-Tahoe and Northstar-at-Tahoe. "We feel it is biased against any resort development."

— *The Associated Press*
contributed to this report.



JONAH M. KESSEL /Tahoe Daily Tribune

Kirkwood Mountain Resort was given a grade of 'F' in environmental practices in an annual report released by a coalition of conservationists.



Tony Long Wolf with one of his drawings. His arts is on display at the Markleeville Library. SPECIAL TO THE R.C.

Art brings peace to troubled life

by Karen Dustman

Tony Long Wolf's smile is as warm as the sun on the South Dakota plains, and his voice still carries the lilt of his first language, Lakota. But when he speaks about art, his face becomes quietly intense.

"Value, composition, shading — those terms were all new to me," said Long Wolf, describing his first art class last year at Lake Tahoe Community College. "My teacher gave me a crash course by explaining them, and suggested I practice seven or eight hours a day."

Practice he did, working as much as 16 hours a day straight and surprising himself and others with the results. "My teacher said I had this knack," he said.

His portfolio speaks for itself, showing a progression from simple objects — a bottle, a rock — to the nuanced colors and patterns of a faded Indian blanket hanging in a summer window. Many of the images reflect pride in his heritage as a member of the Lakota Tribe.

In addition to his new-found skills with ink, pencil, and gouache, he is adept at horse-hair weaving, a traditional art

form taught to him by his father. "At first, my fingers were clumsy, not nimble," he recalls. "It was time-consuming to clean the tail and pluck the hair. But the first hat-band I made was beautiful. And I realized my father was teaching me patience."

Born on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in 1951, Long Wolf was sent away to a Bureau of Indian Affairs-run boarding school at the age of 6. There, like many members of his generation, he was forced to learn English through pure "intimidation and humiliation."

"If you couldn't say at least a few words of English, they made you stand on a wooden box with a sign reading 'I'm a dumb Indian,'" he recalls. Even at that young age, however, Long Wolf was a fighter. With a few friends, he snuck into the school building late one night, and the humiliating sign mysteriously disappeared.

Long Wolf dropped out of school after eighth grade and drifted through the tumultuous '70s among a hard-living,

hard-drinking crowd. "I was walking in darkness," he said of that period. Now sober for more than 20 years, Long Wolf is taking courses towards his associates of arts degree. He hopes to use his own life experience and his art to help other Native Americans struggling with drugs, alcohol, and depression.

Long Wolf found the courage to exhibit his paintings recently at the Markleeville Library, after nearly a year of encouragement from a friend who had seen his work. He hopes some day to market his work, perhaps through lithographed prints.

Always a fighter, Long Wolf is struggling now with recent health challenges and the ongoing challenge of affording expensive art supplies. Still, he hopes the coming year will bring him an opportunity to continue formal art training. "When I finish a piece, it is a delight," he smiles.

■ Karen Dustman is a Markleeville resident and freelance writer.

Alpine begins water planning

by Joyce DeVore

How much groundwater do we have in Alpine County? Where is the water? Are we protecting the resources we have? The board of supervisors sought to answer these timely questions by formally adopting a resolution to develop a countywide groundwater management plan. The board is working with other state agencies to obtain funding and expand the monitoring network. The plan has four sections:

■ It summarizes the regulatory requirements for groundwater.

■ It provides a description of the physical conditions in Alpine County, including climate, hydrology, groundwater levels and quality.

■ It describes specific plans for implementation of management.

■ It requires all references to be cited in the plan.

There are plans to construct between four and six monitoring wells in the greater Mesa Vista area.

The State of California mandated that new International Building Codes, including the new California Fire Code, shall be implemented. The new rules will be in effect in our county beginning January 2008. The staff of the building department has attended several training sessions in order to become familiar with the new, complex requirements. Workshops for building professionals and other interested residents shall be announced soon.

Source: Gunter Kaiser, Supervisor District 5

ALPINE SUPERIOR COURT

At the Nov. 8 meeting of the Alpine County Board of Supervisors, Judge David DeVore reported on changes, modernization, and improvements made at the court during his 3 1/2 years tenure as presiding judge.

The changes he initiated and implemented include revision of the method and forms for keeping official records of criminal court proceedings

(known as minutes) creation of orders for imposing judgment and sentence or probation in criminal matters revision of policies and procedures in traffic matters creation of policies and procedures for case management of civil matters.

LOCAL RULES OF COURT

Many changes were required to ensure compliance with a state-wide case management system, which is expected to be in place by 2009.

DeVore also reported that in the last year the court completed the transition to a state-wide uniform financial record keeping and reporting system, giving greater supervision and control of all 58 county courts to the Judicial Council of California, Administrative Office of the Courts.

Most small courts rotate presiding judge duties at one or two-year intervals to allow all judges the benefit of participating in court reforms. Since DeVore has been presiding for over three years, Judge Richard Specchio will assume the role of presiding judge in the coming year.

ALPINE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Jim Parsons, Alpine County Superintendent of Schools, has made four trips to Washington, D.C., since the school year started to promote the reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Communities Act.

It is anticipated that Congress will pass the bill in December or January. The bill provides about \$1 million to Alpine County annually.

CALENDAR EVENTS

■ Diamond Valley School Christmas program will be held at the school on Dec. 20, at 6:30 p.m.

■ The preschoolers will perform a Christmas program for parents on Dec. 21, at 11:15 a.m.

■ In January, the sixth grade class will spend a week at Sly Park Environmental Science Camp. Students will learn about the flora and fauna of the Sierra Nevada, as well as some of the

Native American cultures in the area.

■ February is awards month. The mid-year school awards assembly will be held on Feb. 8, and the Block DV awards dinner will be on Feb. 12. Block DV is Diamond Valley School's highest student award given to fifth through eighth graders who make good grades, serve their community, and maintain good citizenship.

■ There will also be a special assembly about Thomas Edison in February.

Source: Jim Parsons, Alpine County Superintendent of Schools.

ALPINE PUBLIC WORKS

The road crew spent several months repairing our local roads from previous storm damage. The crew did patching and filling in Markleeville, Woodfords, and Bear Valley. Our road crew does a fabulous job keeping the county roads cleared of snow and ice, and as a reminder, please slow down and allow safe passing room when they are working on or alongside the roads — especially during winter storms.

The public works department anticipates further work to upgrade pedestrian facilities along various locations in town, which include the addition of low level street lights.

The new lighting plan is generally the same as depicted in the Markleeville town plan prepared by the county planning department.

Sidewalk work is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2008, assuming the funding can be raised through grants approved by the board of supervisors.

MISCELLANEOUS

Alpine County offices will be closed during the afternoon hours on Dec. 24 and all day on both Dec. 25 and Dec. 26 in observance of Christmas.

Grover Hot Springs reopened on Dec. 1, and plans special movie showings the evenings on the weekend of Dec. 14-16.

Source: Julie Ola, Alpine Public Works



Dale Bennett in the warm kitchen of her home in Woodfords, where she beads, makes Indian tacos, and cares for foster children.

WARM AND WELCOMING

Woodfords artists Dale and Greg Bennett give foster kids space in their home

by Gina Gigli | Photos by Shannon Litz

Dale Bennett acknowledges where she's been, and she knows where she's going.

She and seven siblings were placed in various foster homes when they were young, and she had seven sets of foster parents in five years.

She said, "Of those seven homes, five were bad. I don't know how I would have survived without my one sister and my one brother being with me."

That was then. Now, she and her husband, Greg, welcome a constant stream of foster children into their Woodfords home.



Dale Bennett makes Indian tacos at the Carson Colony gym for the Nevada Day festivities.

Last October, at the Markleeville Artists Autumn Open Studios event, Saturday morning turned out to be too cold for Dale's taco dough to rise in the tent she had planned to pitch at the Markleeville Community Park. Tourgoers were redirected to the Bennetts' home, where they were enchanted by Indian tacos served at the large table in the homey kitchen with its warm fire and by the Bennetts' artwork.

When asked the secret of her success with Indian tacos, Dale replied after a pause, "Maybe it's because I learned how to flatten the fry bread from the Pima tribe, but everyone makes them different."

She sets up her screened tent, with her production line, five or six times each summer, and Alpiners eagerly line up. Dale is in charge of the dough making; Greg cooks the chili beans and hamburger; their nephew makes the salsa; and tomatoes, lettuce, onions and cheese are added. Sometimes the Bennetts make tacos to raise money for various causes.

Both Bennetts have other jobs. He works in construction and also is a truck driver. She is the recreation director for the Wellness Center at Hung-a-lel-ti, where she oversees sports and self-improvement classes. Her priorities are, first and foremost, to care for her foster kids, followed by recreation director, artist in beads, taco maker and participant in community proj-

ects — Alpine Kids, Family Support Council and Police Athletic League.

When most Alpine residents speak of "the community," they specifically mean Hung-a-lel-ti community, but when Dale Bennett speaks of "the community," she is referring to Woodfords, Sierra Pines, Markleeville, Kirkwood and Hung-a-lel-ti. She is tough when it comes to ensuring that all children are being given the same community gifts, not just Native American kids.

Dale not only believes in giving kids happy childhoods, but also teaching them to pay respect to elders. She feels that everyone should "adopt" a senior. There are several elderly women whom she watches over, on her own time. "I know that they're lonely, but they have such interesting stories to tell, and it's easy for me to take them on errands. They just need someone to check in with them from time to time."

Dale loves living in Alpine County "because it's a small community. It's near Lake Tahoe. The surrounding areas are beautiful, and we can enjoy skiing, swimming, hunting and fishing here."

While admitting to mistakes made in her youth, Dale Bennett now is an energetic, wise Washoe woman, and we of the Alpine County community just might think to follow in her footsteps.

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Trash talk in Alpine County

by Bill Morgan

Today's subject, folks, is trash. That's right, trash, or that stuff known by the more informed as waste material. I'm not talking about garbage; I'm talking about cardboard boxes, old newspapers, cans, bottles, broken TVs, Christmas trees, light bulbs, worn tires, used motor oil, all that stuff that we, in our consumer society have bought, but now want to get rid of. In the old days, 50 years or so ago, that stuff was just hauled away and ended up in an open dump or the junk yard or, in more advanced localities, all together in a land fill.

Except in the World War II days, the notion of recycling was an abstract idea. The war years had their scrap metal drives and paper drives, as they were called; but after that, the country went back to the same old practices.

It's not that way anymore. In a country with a population twice the size as in the 1940s, with far more waste material being generated per individual, and with a wide range of wastes having to be disposed of; things had to change.

In California, local government is charged with manag-

ing such materials. Starting in 1989, the state enacted a series of laws dealing with recycling and the safe disposal of hazardous materials. There is even a law regarding the recycling of cell phones. Targets were set for each county to recycle up to 50 percent of the waste generated in the county and to implement programs for disposal of hazardous wastes and what's called "universal waste." Elaborate systems developed as a result.

Here in Alpine County, we've attacked the problem from all angles. Under the leadership of county employee, Patty DeMaio, we carry out 22 programs ranging from public education to special collection events. Twice a year the Department of Public Works hosts a weekend community event at which residents can bring in, for free, just about anything they don't want anymore. Some things are placed in a "garage sale," a form of recycling. Other things are collected for safe disposal, including electronic equipment, used motor oil, and batteries. And tons of general waste like broken furniture, bent pipes, and worn rugs are hauled to the transfer station in Douglas County for consolida-

tion and then taken to a carefully designed and operated landfill at Lockwood near Reno. Hazardous wastes, like paint, antifreeze, and pesticides, after being shrink wrapped for safety, go to other specially designated disposal sites. Universal wastes, which include radios, TVs, batteries, and florescent tubes are segregated also and transported to sites where they can be recycled or disposed of safely.

In the fall, the county provides space near Turtle Rock Park where residents can bring tree trimmings, brush, and yard waste to be piled and burned under controlled conditions.

Throughout the year Patty manages a recycling center at the public works yard in Woodfords where people are encouraged to bring in bottles, cans, paper, cardboard, and magazines for recycling. Much of that material is taken to the South Lake Tahoe facility where it is combined with recyclable material from that area. Some material, like cardboard, goes to Douglas County for recycling.

Sometimes Patty finds strange stuff being left at the recycling center. Once someone dropped off a cracked



SPECIAL TO THE R-I

Recycling bins lined up at the Alpine County yard in Woodfords.

windshield. Other than during the two special weekend events, the county doesn't handle such things. Individuals on the east side of the mountains must take them directly to the Douglas County transfer site.

Patty says if a person has a question about what to do with waste material, they can contact her at the public works office (530) 694-2140.

She's dedicated to the con-

cept of intelligent waste management and enjoys being a resource for others seeking answers about the disposal of waste material.

Asked what message she'd like to pass on to others, she said, "Shop smart. Buy things that last."

Bear Valley and Kirkwood, both part of Alpine County, have their own programs and work with neighboring coun-

ties to accomplish their recycling goals and hazardous waste disposal.

It has been said that one person's trash is another person's treasure.

It can also be hazardous or it can be recyclable. Whatever it is, see that it is disposed of properly.

■ Bill Morgan is a Markleeville resident.

Kirkwood gets 15 feet of frosting

by Joyce DeVore

The management at Kirkwood gleefully postponed man-made events, including a Subaru Masters of the Mountain Race, premier films and demonstrations that were scheduled for last weekend to honor the 35th anniversary of Kirkwood.

"The mountain threw its own Kirkwood Mountain Festival; what else do you call a major storm, a flawless grooming and snow removal system, followed by blue-bird ski days?" said Kirkwood Marketing and Commercial Manager Daniel Pistoresi.

A record-breaking four day storm dropped over 15 feet of snow at the resort, which is located off a breathtaking stretch of Highway 88 in Alpine County. •

"The location of Kirkwood which allows storms to channel in is called the 'K factor.' Other ski resorts just do not have the same snowpack that we do," Pistoresi added.

One of the most celebrated personalities in Kirkwood is Bud Klein, who embarked on the development of Kirkwood in the 1960s. Among the obstacles Klein overcame were no power, water, or sewer lines in the area and strict adherence to U.S. Forest Service plans for development.

With the help of a group of prominent Stockton, Calif., businessmen and avid skiers, the resort opened in 1972.

Under the supervision of Mountain Manager Dick Reuter new chair lifts and other improvements were added.

In 1995, the Telluride Group with former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Arvida/Disney Charles E. Cobb, purchased a large interest in Kirkwood.

for 35th birthday cake

Klein remained a major investor.

High speed quads were installed, a terrain park built, the village ice rink opened, and a swim and fitness center was added: the resort reached world-class status. USA Today ranked Kirkwood as one of the top 10 places in the world to learn to ski.

Besides beginner slopes, there are four huge bowls for extreme skiing, terrain parks, and 80 kilometers of groomed trails for cross-country skiing.

Shops and restaurants abound.

There are modern sports bars, a bar and grill, as well as lodge cafeterias.

American-Western style dining is available at a historic log cabin named The Kirkwood Inn. It was built in 1864 by Zachary Kirkwood and served travelers and cattle ranchers.

Along with the famous Bud Klein and Dick Reuter, many of Kirkwood's management team are more like a Kirkwood family, rooted in the resort. In 2007, Vice President of Mountain Operations Dave Myers, replaced Jeff Walters who was a 29-year veteran in the position.

Ski Patrol Director Alan Plaughter is another accomplished long-term resort manager.



Kirkwood named one of 10 best places to learn

Staff Reports

Kirkwood has received more than 15 feet of snow over the past week and has been 100 percent open since mid-December.

The Timber Creek Base Area was recently named Top 10 Places to Learn to Ski by USA Today, offers some of the best conditions for beginner skiers, according to Kirkwood.

Expedition: Kirkwood is California's only education program designed to take skiers and riders beyond their boundaries and teach them new ways to navigate the mountain. The program is taking advantage of conditions to offer a Burton Learn To Ride Powder Clinic.

One of only two such programs nationwide, Kirkwood is teaming up with Burton to offer this program designed to capture the euphoria of riding powder.

This program provides an insider's perspective on powder-specific equipment, where and how to find the powder stashes and teach the skills and abilities necessary to feel confident in the deep stuff.

For more information, log onto www.kirkwood.com, contact expedition@kirkwood.com or phone (209)-258-7360.

JONAH M. KESSEL/Tahoe Daily Tribune

Garrett Multon, 23 of South Lake Tahoe flies through the air completing a switch 360 at Kirkwood on Jan. 2.

The new general manager and chief operating officer, Chip Seamans, has also been extremely involved with addressing ecological issues.

The management takes its responsibility seriously, and is

moving forward with creative solutions such as retrofitting electrical equipment to reduce power usage, and a new car-pool forum.

The U.S. Forest Service has approved the Mountain Master

Development Plan.

Kirkwood is called a mountain, when it is truly a self-contained community that recreates in a vast stretch of high country.

There are at least five

mountain peaks within its boundary: Thimble Peak, the Sisters, Martin Point, Red Cliffs, and Glove Rock.

■ Joyce DeVore is a Markleeville resident.

The challenge of keeping up Alpine County's infrastructure

by Irving Krauss

The roads we drive on, the community water systems, and the facilities that protect us from fire and flood are part of the county's infrastructure that is overseen by Director of Public Works Dennis Cardoza.

Relatively new to Alpine County, Cardoza took over the department reins on Nov. 16, 2005, following the retirement of Leonard Turnbeaugh who had been the director for more than 21 years.

I asked Cardoza how he happened to come to Alpine County and he replied that he was at a workshop, also attended by two people from the Alpine County administration, who urged him to apply for the position. At the time he was working in Mammoth Lakes in Mono County on their proposed airport but there were legal and environmental issues, the project was going nowhere, and he decided to apply to Alpine.

When I asked what his responsibilities were his reply was akin to open-

ing a floodgate; maintaining the roads, the snow plowing, flood protection, monitoring building and other projects, compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the bus service. These were only among the major ones.

The roads are his primary responsibility, something that residents are immediately aware of, especially during the winter months, and in the spring when the snow melt raises the danger of flooding. The road crew remains on call when snow is predicted and its members put in many hours, including much overtime to keep the roads clear.

I used to live in Illinois and you don't want to know what poor winter maintenance is like. In the spring the road crew removes debris from the culverts to avoid flooding.

The department's responsibilities are countywide and include Bear Valley and Kirkwood, and even Blue Lakes where there are five full-time year-round residents.

In Bear Valley, trails are groomed

so homeowners can get out on their snowmobiles, while Kirkwood maintains its own roads. At Blue Lakes, Alpine County contracts with the state forest department to clear a section of snow for the residents' parking.

Road work is year round and includes contracting out for paving, as well as maintaining dirt roads such as Poor Boy, Burnside and those at Highland Lakes and Leviathan Mine. And public works activities go beyond the county, through Alpine's participation in the Tri-County transportation arrangement with Amador and Calaveras, the department negotiated with them for state funds for major projects that also benefit Alpine.

A major undertaking is monitoring construction contracts, such as the relay tower on Hawkins Peak and the water tanks for fire suppression. Public works' engineering department oversees the development of a new real estate property that will provide property taxes and temporary occu-

pancy taxes. The department is also involved in the placing of electric lines underground in Markleeville.

Public works is paving the walkways at the county museum and making its buildings ADA compliant. Because of delays, it is critical that the work be completed by April 1 when the grant will run out.

Cardoza emphasized the importance of planning, pointing out that Alpine's road system and subdivision standards are 30 years old. Yet change is often controversial as, for example, possible development of the county airport.

He feels it is important to involve the citizens when there are major proposals.

"I believe very strongly about the necessity for their participation," he stated, adding that it's well worth the extra work and time required to set

up the community workshops.

Cardoza's background includes six years in the United States Air Force as an instructor of pilots, and he was also deployed to NATO to help solve

problems of integrating the equipment of the different countries' military forces.

He and his wife Susan live in Mesa Vista in Woodfords, and they have two grown sons in Orange County. Both work as guards, reflecting the family's military history.

The last two questions I posed to Cardoza were his satisfaction in the job and his concerns. To the first he replied, "I'm very happy with the enthusiasm and high morale of the hard working people in public works, including the road crew and those who work in the office." He added that he is very satisfied with the detailed and tight accounting system

that has been set up.

As to his concerns, he said he is very worried about a possible decrease in funding for the public works department as well as for the county.

Learning of his rigorous work schedule I would add a likely additional concern — that there are only 24 hours in the day.

Plan may preserve Markleeville's historic nature

by Bill Morgan

Markleeville is the county seat of Alpine County, with a somewhat dilapidated town center and no coherence in the assemblage of buildings that make up the town as a whole. The town's economy is based on tourism and is in a state of malaise.

But the town is historic, and other than its small town ambiance, that may be its one redeeming feature at present.

Before I go any further, let me share with you a brief history of Markleeville included in a recent document prepared by the county planning department.

"Markleeville's mining era history began in 1861 when Jacob J. Marklee placed a land claim on a 160-acre tract of land along the Middle Fork of the Carson River, not because he had discovered silver, but to set up a toll crossing of the river. This quarter section of land became the townsite of Markleeville, and the river is now called Markleeville Creek. The town is unincorporated and has served since 1875 as the seat of Alpine County, which was created in 1864 from parts of adjacent counties. The county had grown to a population of more than 11,000 people by 1864, but much of the population left as the nearby silver mines failed. By 1875 the county population had dropped to barely 1,200. Markleeville developed as a government and trade center for the ranching and lumber businesses supplying the booming Comstock Lode mines. In 1885, much of the town was lost to fire, and it was only partly rebuilt. Surviving the fire was the Webster School built by volunteers in 1883. A number of historic mining era structures built after the

fire stand today along Main and Montgomery streets. A few buildings were moved from nearby Silver Mountain City, including the Fisk Hotel and the log jail (now located at the museum next to the Old Webster School). Several shops and markets were rebuilt in 1885 and a few more by 1900. Due to its 19th century history and buildings, Markleeville is known as a historic mining town.

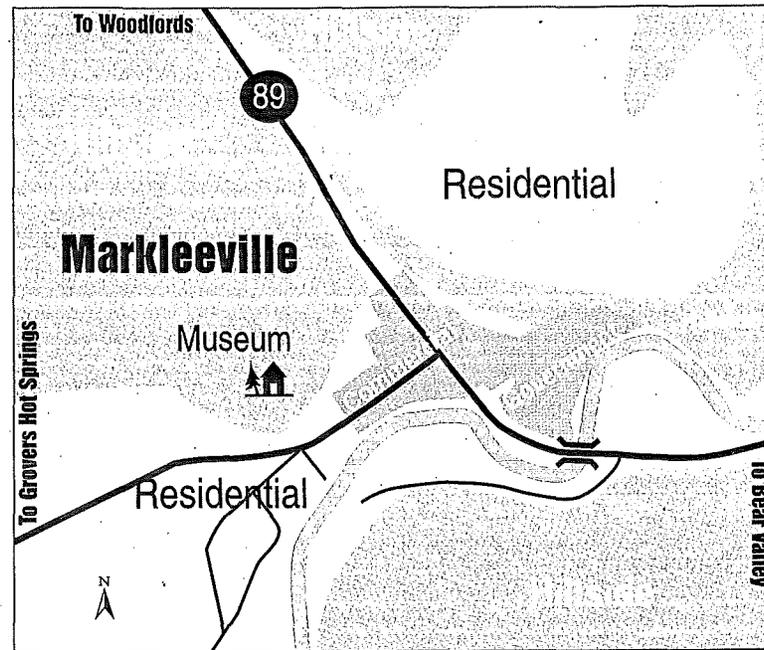
"In the several decades following the end of the mining era, a number of significant structures were built, including several residences in 1920s and 1930. Two civic buildings designed by architect F.J. Delongchamps were built in 1928. Additions were made to several of the mining era buildings, some of which have become historic in their own right.

"All these structures, built between the 1860s and the 1930s are the landmarks of Markleeville's historic character."

So what's to be done about the current situation, the economic malaise and the gradual change of its historical character? How should Markleeville make the most of its good points so it doesn't backslide any further? And what is the county's role?

Well, to begin with there has to be a zoning plan of the town, so that what development occurs in the future is sensible. There needs to be an economic development plan, too. And to capitalize on the most important feature of the town, its historic value, there needs to be good design guidelines to apply to future development.

The basics of a plan exists in the county general plan and zoning ordinance. Areas within the townsite are



zoned commercial or residential or institutional and some were zoned to accommodate a particular proposed development which included a variety of commercial and residential uses. That project is currently on hold and whether it comes to pass is anybody's guess, but the overall zoning situation is OK.

Some vague design guidelines based on the historic mining era have been in place for some time that apply to a few blocks at the center of the little town. For several reasons, people have been unhappy with the ordinance that established the guidelines and the guidelines themselves. For one thing, those guidelines, however vague, applied only to those few blocks. Most of the townsite is not subject to any special design guidelines, and that's led to the incoherence.

There is no economic development plan in place at the present time, though there have been two studies done in the past 17 years regarding revitalization of Markleeville, with an emphasis on the town's appearance, so as to be more appealing to tourists. The county department of public works has begun to implement some of the recommendations, but as yet there is no program to attract that one main ingredient needed for economic revitalization, private money.

The pending project involving some 32 acres of the townsite served as a catalyst to cause the county to revisit its zoning ordinances as they apply to Markleeville and to overhaul the design guidelines.

So, several months ago, with assistance from the Sierra Business Council, the planning department began a program to develop new guidelines

DETAILS

What: Alpine County Planning Commission hearing on historic zone and guidelines

When: 6 p.m. Jan. 31

Where: Turtle Rock Park

and a new ordinance that better addresses the notion of Markleeville's being an historic town. A series of three workshops involving county staff, interested citizens, and the planning commission gathered information and advice. As near as possible, a consensus was reached on what needed to be done. The result is new design guidelines and a change in the makeup of the committee charged with reviewing projects in the historic zone.

Perhaps the most significant change is to apply the guidelines to the entire 160-acre townsite, making it all a historic zone instead of the roughly 5 acres presently covered.

The planning commission will hold a public hearing regarding the Markleeville Historic combined zone and the proposed historic design guidelines 6 p.m. Jan. 31 at Turtle Rock Park along with the accompanying environmental document. If the commission believes the package is ready for adoption, it will send it to the board of supervisors for another public hearing prior to final adoption.

If approved, it will be a step in the right direction. It will serve to protect the historic nature of the town, but revitalization of the town's economy is far from assured.

■ Bill Morgan is a Markleeville resident

Hope Valley yurt combines traditional with modern

by Jim Donald

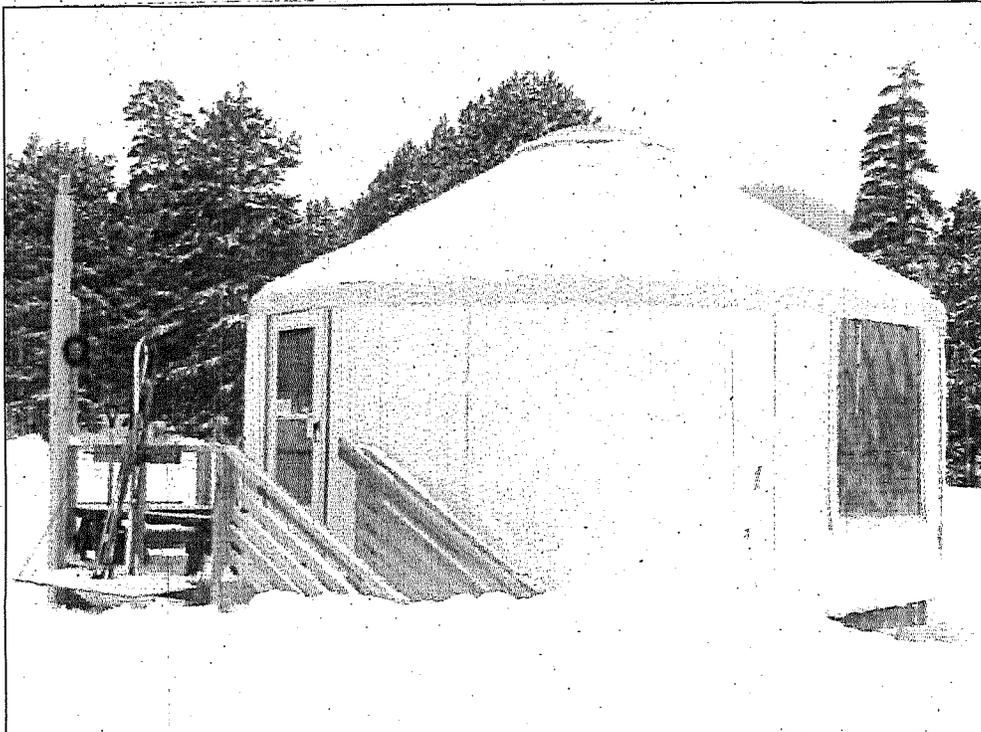
Humans like variety. Our food, our vehicles and our structures reflect that trait. That is why there is a yurt in Hope Valley. Look to your left as you go by Pickett's Junction, where highways 89 and 88 intersect and you'll see it about 100 yards south of the intersection.

A yurt is the basic shelter of the nomadic peoples of Mongolia and Siberia where they are fashioned, even today, from animal skins and a lattice framework bound together with leather thongs. These traditional yurts are, of necessity, portable yet warm enough to provide comfortable living space in those severe climates. They are cylindrical in shape of varying diameters with a conical roof and a small dome at the center. The one you'll see in Hope Valley differs from traditional yurts in that it is made from weather resistant materials and offers a very strong yet semi-traditional framework.

Why choose a yurt? Joyce Coker, longtime resident, who owns and operates Hope Valley Outdoors, chose a yurt for her business because they are "portable, unique and different."

The eye-catching design is immediately apparent and invites closer inspection so turn into the parking lot on the south side of the highway, climb the stairs and step inside.

Immediately one notices the amount of space and light. Tall walls with three large windows, a large lexan dome at the apex of the roof as well as a storm door provide all the light necessary. This particular yurt exceeds Alpine County code for snow load in this area and will support 250 pounds per square foot. It came



SPECIAL TO THE R-C

Hope Valley's yurt is home to Hope Valley Outdoors.

through the big storm of early January with barely a shudder and more than 2 feet of snow on the roof. Much like a metal roof, snow tends to slide off quickly, so seasonal buildup does not appear to be a problem. On a recent stormy day with strong gusty winds, there wasn't so much as a ripple in the walls or roof and the tongue and groove flooring didn't transmit any vibration.

Sunny days warm the area with passive solar heating and plans are to have a small stove for evenings and cloudy day backup. A photo-voltaic panel is ready to be installed on the south side to provide lighting and charge auxiliary batteries. This low impact essentially green design is versatile and adaptable to a wide variety of needs. Google yurts and you'll find them at resorts, parks, in backyards, as second homes and as primary homes.

Joyce operates Hope Valley Outdoors as a full-service Nordic ski and snowshoe center providing rentals, groomed trails, lessons and guided tours.

You'll find Brandon Mayo, Miyshael "Misha" Gailson or Joyce at the yurt. Joyce has a U.S. Forest Service outfitters

guide permit and will take you on a moonlight ski or into the numerous aspen groves to view Basque carvings. Brandon is both an experienced Nordic and Alpine skier who occasionally winter camps on

Pg. 1

higher peaks for fun. Misha, a former Nordic ski racer of the "classic" or kick and glide style, adapted to skate style racing, is training for a 42km event. Vince Robertson, an experienced skier, hiker and mountain biker rounds out the crew. Lessons are available at Hope Valley Outdoors and Joyce also teaches beginning and intermediate cross-country skiing at Lake Tahoe Community College.

A recent Friday at Hope Valley Outdoors found disabled youngsters from Douglas County schools enjoying a day of snow play on sleds, snow shoes and skis followed by a bonfire. Super Bowl Sunday will feature the Women's Winter Tour, one of a series of events that celebrates women, winter and chocolate and features a day long schedule of fun activities and fundraisers to help end domestic violence.

Whatever your level, you'll get good advice here and have a variety of trails to choose from. Step out the door and there are miles of choices. The first 3.5 miles of the Burnside Road are groomed as are two tracks around the meadow;

one wide enough for skating. The upper slopes of Hawkins Peak beckon as do the spacious flats and rollers of the local meadows.

Yurts in the backcountry could serve as shelters for ski groups much like those that exist in other parts of the Sierra and in the Colorado Rockies. They could be used in the summer as nature learning centers by educational and environmental groups. This could be one way to bridge the extreme disconnect between nature and young people so evident today.

In a curious administrative overlap, the U.S. Forest Service provides the permit for the ski operation while Alpine County permitted the yurt. This is because the county maintains Burnside Lake Road (the yurt is right in the middle of the road and will be removed in the spring) while the grooming is done on forest service land.

Additional information can be found at hopevalleyoutdoors.com. Open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

■ Jim Donald is a Markleeville resident. R-C FEB. 1, 2008

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Alpine votes for Obama, McCain

by Irving Krauss

In California's Feb. 5 primary election Alpine Democrats favored Barack Obama over Hillary Clinton 54 to 37 percent while the Republicans gave John McCain 43 percent of the vote to Mitt Romney's 25 percent, followed by Ron Paul with 11 percent.

The county's voting is by mail with drop boxes in Bear Valley and in the Indian colony in Woodfords, with the ballots counted Tuesday night in the Board of Supervisors' chamber in Markleeville. Upon the 8 p.m. deadline vol-

unteers Gail Day, Jim Dunn, Jeanne Lear and Mary Rawson began checking the signature on each envelope, then removed the ballot and compared the person's name against the list of registered voters.

The turnout in the county was 61 percent

The box with the Indian colony ballots was lugged in by DeAnne Roberts, Washoe chairwoman and tribe representative at 8:35 p.m. And just before 10 p.m. sheriff's deputy Mike Helms arrived from Jackson with the Bear Valley ballots. Sheriff's deputy Jess Sanford had ferried the drop

box from Bear Valley to Jackson.

Once the ballots for each of the five districts were checked County Clerk Barbara Howard shepherded them through the counting machine, Judy Molnar recorded the totals and distributed printouts to the small group of observers, including myself, Corrine Cole and Hal and Jane Starratt. Assistant County Clerk Sarah Simis helped with various tasks.

By 11:30 p.m. the work had been completed, and the volunteers and county officials were tired, yet they earned the citizens' gratitude for their essential service.

This may be Alpine museum director's last

season

by Karen Dustman
Special to The R-C

For more than a decade, museum director Dick Edwards has devoted himself to Alpine County – and the love affair has been mutual.



Edwards

Visitors to the well-stocked museum atop Schoolhouse Hill have come to expect Edwards' smiling welcome, and his expert renditions of Alpine County history. It's difficult to picture the museum without him, but the coming year may well be Edwards' last in his post as museum director.

Born in Glendale, Calif., in 1934, Edwards grew up in an extended family household that included grandparents and an uncle.

"This was the middle of the Depression, so we all had to live together," Edwards noted. "The good part was, my family was from Idaho and every summer from the time I was six until I was 15, I would go back with my grandparents to a little town called Ashton. I

spent my days roaming the country, fishing the Snake River, and picking up arrowheads."

After high school, Edwards studied ornamental horticulture at California Polytechnic Institute and formed his own landscaping company, before being drafted by the Army in 1955. He returned to Cal Poly for a degree in Biological Science, working for two years as a fisheries assistant at the Chino Fisheries Base and Mt. Whitney fish hatchery. But a different sort of future was calling.

"Somehow I blew the fisheries statistics exam, but passed high on the park ranger exam," Edwards noted. "Within a couple of months, they offered me a job at Leo Carrillo State Beach in Malibu as a park ranger. And that started my career."

Edwards' early ranger posts included a stint at Torrey Pines Reserve in San Diego, and another as the first dog patrol ranger at Big Sur State Park, in 1970.

"That was the era of unrest in the country," Edwards explained. "Big Sur was a mecca for kids acting out with drugs and alcohol, and the dogs were a better way to handle things than shooting some-

DETAILS

Alpine County Museum is located in Markleeville and re-opens on Memorial Day weekend May 24 (530) 694-2317

body."

Two years later, Edwards became a ranger-historian at La Purisima Mission State Historic Park in Lompoc, California. "We lived at the restored mission amid a 1,100-acre historic park," Edwards recalled. "I started their first docent program, which is still going strong today, and planned to stay there until retirement, but they promoted me – jumped me two pay grades and made me Regional Interpretive & Exhibit Specialist for the Southern Region of the State Parks, from Santa Barbara to San Diego."

Among Edwards' many accomplishments for the Parks Service was a special documentary project on Yosemite ranger-naturalist Carl Sharsmith.

"Sharsmith was a ranger-naturalist before I was born," Edwards said. "Over a period of three summers, Jim Long

and I collected some 5,000 photographs and four oral histories. He was a great naturalist and a grand gentleman."

It's a phrase that today describes Edwards himself.

Edwards finally retired from the California State Parks service after 34 years of dedicated service. California's loss would be Alpine County's gain.

"I had been coming to Alpine for a number of years with Jim Long, and the County was thinking of closing the museum down to save money," Edwards recalled. "I told them I'd work for a small salary and didn't need benefits. I got a call the next day. And it's been a long and loving relationship."

During his tenure as museum director, Edwards is proud to have completed three projects: a carriage shed exhibit, a working stamp mill, and plac-

ing the Old Webster Schoolhouse on the National Register of Historic Places. Under his guidance the museum has also adopted a professional curatorial program, combining a database with photographs of each artifact. And Edwards has been instrumental in expanding the Museum's photographic collection and obtaining significant donations, including works by early mining capitalist Lewis Chalmers. Works in progress include a photographic exhibit of the work of Nacho Bravo, and completion of a blacksmiths' shop exhibit.

Still, the tug of retirement seems to be getting stronger. Edwards says he may retire after the coming summer season – or perhaps he may stay on another year. He still has dreams he'd like to see accomplished.

"The county really should acquire the land west of the

museum to keep as a buffer zone and to help keep the vista pristine and preserve the ambience," he said. "Perhaps a nature walk could be put through the area. And before I leave, I'd like to see a working blacksmith's shop exhibit completed."

Whenever he does retire, Edwards hopes future directors will be given appropriate resources to build on his successes. "I would hope the County would never feel they have to close the museum down again, because it is an important storehouse of Alpine County history," Edwards noted. "Visitors constantly tell us they can't believe what a great museum this small county has. We have been so lucky that the people who came before us had the foresight to create such a wonderful resource here in Alpine County."

Record Courier

Friday, Feb. 8, 2008

Villa Gigli offers winter wine tastings

Staff Reports

Starting Saturday, Ruggero Gigli, co-owner of Villa Gigli Trattoria and Galleria in Markleeville, will be pouring Pedroncelli wines from 2 to 5 p.m. each Saturday and Sunday afternoon.

Participants will be able to taste and compare different

varietals of red and white wines, but they also can sample some of Gigli's homemade antipasti.

The fee for sampling wine is \$5 per glass and includes

three tastes of antipasti.

Villa Gigli is located at 145 Hot Springs Road (on the way to Grover Hot Springs) in Markleeville.

Diamond Valley School recognizes students

by Joyce DeVore

Diamond Valley School in Woodfords works diligently to prepare 100 students in grades kindergarten through eighth, for active and responsible citizenship. On Feb. 5 the school held its All School Awards Assembly to recognize students' achievement and performance with presentation of certificates. Each recipient was also rewarded with enthusiastic crowd applause. Principal Sally Clark presided over the ceremony and advised me "the student council chose this Friday to be Pajama Day in keeping with Spirit Day." Into the gym walked almost one hundred princesses and super-heroes, pajamaed and slippered, together with several smiling teachers.

The children acted with respect and almost perfect citizenship during the presentation, despite the pajama costumes and the fact that it is Friday afternoon. The school is very much in order, from top to bottom.

The Super Student this year was Aspen Smokey, who met the end of year state standards for kindergarten before the end

ALL SCHOOL AWARDS ASSEMBLY

OVERALL EXCELLENCE

Kindergarten: Aspen Smokey
First: Maya Smith, Patrick Voss
Second: Andrew Voss, Courtney Brothers
Third and Fourth: Hunter Celio, Jon Paul Embry, Landon Matlock, Emily Slavik, Dashona Godowa

HONOR ROLL

Third and Fourth: Chey Aarons, Dion Mortimer, Amanda Process, Ubaldo Gomez, Teddy Doyal, Anna Guerrero
Fifth and Sixth: Andi Jo Embry, Leonna Mortimer, Elyssa Galvez, Azriele DeVargas, Julia Gomez, Jack Doyal, Korin Jones
Seventh and Eighth: Jenoa DeVargas, Taylor Embry, Billy Rubino, Deanna Doyal, Phoebe Hamilton, KaLynn Payne

BRINGING UP GRADES AWARDS

Writing

Kindergarten: Tarquin Baker
First grade: Chauntel Bagshaw, Patrick Voss, Michelle Minder, McKinna Jackson, Nathan Cruz, Ryan Bell
Second grade: Stormee Smokey, Savannah Green, Courtney Brothers, Andrew Voss

Spelling

First grade: Michelle Minder, Chauntel Bagshaw, Maya Smith

Reading

Kindergarten: Alexandria Saleido, Mitchell Levy, Jed Easton, Lauryn Crawford, Tiller Van Doren, Logic Chernago
First grade: Michelle Minder, Patrick Voss, Nathan Cruz, Justin Dick, Ryan Bell, Toria Franzl, Hunter Bryant
Second grade: Ombryann Guerrero, Savannah Green, Pierce Bryant
Third and Fourth: Met or exceeded reading goal: Jon Paul Embry, Ubaldo Gomez, Landon Matlock, Cheyenne Aarons, Emily Slavik, Hunter Celio, Amanda Process, Dion Mortimer, Anna Guerrero, Thomas Dick
Sixth, seventh and eighth: 1,000 plus pages of reading: Tramayne Bennett, Jack Doyal, Elyssa Galvez, Julia Gomez, Stella John, Rian Snyder, Deanna Doyal, Phoebe Hamilton, Lauryn James, Stephanie Tyon, Hunter Czadek, Jenoa DeVargas, Taylor Embry, Gabe Merrill, KaLynn Payne

Math

Kindergarten: Logic Chernago, Lauryn Crawford, Jed Easton, Gavin Wyatt, Mitchell Levy, Austin Process, Isaiah John, Grace Process, Marcus Rice, Tiller Van Doren, Elaine Christensen, Mark Franzl, Sophie Bell



SPECIAL TO THE R-C

Diamond Valley students with their certificates.

First Grade: Patrick Voss, Jaillene Salciedo, Nathan Cruz, Maya Smith, Justin Dick, Syrus Durant, Ryan Bell
Second Grade: Cole Jackson, Celesse Brown, Pierce Bryant
Fifth and sixth grade: Mulia Gomez, Andi Jo Embry, Deanna Doyal
Science
Fifth and sixth: Leonna Mortimer, Elyssa Galvez
Sly Park Naturalist: Shawna Burt
Ancient Civilization
Fifth and sixth: Azriele DeVargas, Shawna Burt
Academic Improvement
Seventh and eighth: George Dick, Hunter Czadek, Lauryn James
100 percent attendance: Shirley Butler, Anna Guerrero, Dion Mortimer, Kendall Ornellas, Rebecca Lewis, Billy Rubino, Jenoa DeVargas, Cody Vann, Leona Mortimer, Azriele DeVargas, Jack Doyal, Julia Gomez, Justina Dressler
Citizenship Awards: Nora Esparza, Azriele DeVargas, Andi Jo Embry

of the second quarter.

The number of high achieving students is a reflection of the quality and dedication of teachers, staff, and the positive involvement of families in our tiny community.

The teachers at Diamond Valley School include Robin McCully, Ashley Barker, Sharon Osgood, Danielle Doucette, Anna Maria Coletti and Kathy Curry.

The school has another human asset in the Administrative Assistant to the Principal, Dawn Riddle. Riddle explained that she "coordinates student safety, leadership, and activities for the school's 100 students."

Riddle incorporates the PeaceBuilders activities into the each school day as well as into the after school leadership program.

Although the leadership program has no academic requirements, the principles of good citizenship are taken seriously.

Riddle aspires to "help students to be more respectful, and help further improve the tone at Diamond Valley School."

Skiing the Carson Pass trailhead

by Jim Donald

I am drawn to this place. Regardless of snow condition, whether it be powder, heavy wet, crusty, icy hard, corn or mashed potato snow, I come here for spiritual rejuvenation and solitude. The mountains become my cathedral, the wilderness my church, and oh, did I mention fun. Yes, fun. In this place of spectacular beauty and magnificent mountains it is possible ... no, even likely that fun will occur. I suspect, judging by the number of users, that others feel that way too, although it's not often put into words. People allude to it and do little verbal dances around it but the hymns are silent and no one is standing on a rock sermonizing. The place speaks for itself.

This is the best back country skiing in Alpine County and perhaps one of the best in the Sierra. We've parked at Carson Pass trailhead and placed our snowpark permit on the dash (available locally at the Alpine Chamber of Commerce). Boots on, skis in hand and packs secured we climb up on the snow and step into our skis.

This trail is suitable for beginners who feel comfortable on their skis as well as advanced skiers who can choose more challenging routes and slopes. The first 200-foot traverse a steeply treed slope, usually with a slight down and up — it depends on snow depth and who makes the trail first. I've seen people look at this section and announce that they're going somewhere else. Persevere, it gets easier and if you're on snowshoes you'll have no problem. The trail continues, trending south, climbing slightly through a mixed conifer forest and then descending to a drainage thickly forested with mountain hemlock.

Communing with nature



JIM DONALD/The R-C

Roundtop and her sisters above Carson Pass in Alpine County.

Begin climbing, southwest now and re-enter a mixed forest of lodgepole, western white pine, hemlock and whitebark pine. Note the difference in bark between young trees and older trees. Older conifers acquire a tinge of orange or red and the bark becomes furrowed or plated. Lodgepoles, however, maintain their fine textured bark with only a hint of orange to go with the yellow-gray while old hemlocks are a deep reddish brown. Up slope, climbing out of the drainage, are fine examples of western white pine with spreading crowns and cinnamon bark divided into large plates. According to the forest service the largest western white pine in the U.S. is growing just a few miles from here.

As the trail jogs south, unseen beneath our feet lies the Mokelumne Wilderness boundary sign, continue climbing, level, then descend slightly to an open area, up a switchback and contour south for a long gentle route to a divide north of Winnemucca Lake. We have been following the Pacific Crest Trail, buried beneath many feet of snow, but earlier, as we climbed out of the hemlocks, the Pacific Crest Trail diverged up and to

the east eventually crossing the crest just north of Elephant's Back, that dark mound to the left that looks, well, like an elephants back. We are now on part of the old Tahoe-Yosemite Trail, which may or may not have actually existed, depending on who you ask. A dedicated bushwhacker could still band-aid together a patchwork of trails and get to Yosemite this way but the Pacific Crest Trail is a better choice.

On this gently ascending traverse, we swish between isolated clumps of whitebark pine, a major food source for Clarks nutcrackers who cache the seeds in thousands of different sites and actually remember where they put them. Caches that are unused may sprout and form new trees — this symbiotic process is the

usual way in which these trees reseed. Whitebarks are easy to identify — a short, 20-30-foot tree, often growing in clumps, with light gray to whitish bark, short green needles, and like other white pines, in bunches of five. In the Alpine County Sierra, whitebarks are the high altitude tree, generally growing only above 8,500 feet on up to the treeline where they become dense isolated waist-high thickets in response to severe conditions.

Ahead, Round Top, with serrated ridges extending east and the Sisters to the west, presents a magnificent view. Further west is the Carson spur, showcasing Thunder Mountain and Thimble Peak along its northwest-southeast axis. Volcanic eruptions beginning 20 million years ago deposited much of this darker

and reddish rock, mostly andesite, between here and Sonora Pass to the south. Contrast this rock with the occasional granitic type rock you've been skiing over. North through Meiss (say mice) Pass is Mt. Tallac on the southwest shore of Lake Tahoe. Nearby Red Lake Peak and the Freel Peak formation are part of the Carson Range that forms the eastern divide of the Tahoe Basin.

A short climb to the crest would reveal numerous peaks and ranges stretching around to the east and southeast, including Hawkins Peak, Markleeville Peak, Silver and Highland peaks as well as Mt. Patterson in the Sweetwater Range and Mt. Grant on the southwest shore of Walker Lake. Back to the west, on a clear day, the coast ranges are visible and on a recent outing snow could be seen on the highest peaks.

Over the divide and at about two miles is Winnemucca Lake; frozen and snow-covered, lying in splendor beneath Round Top. It's a good place for lunch. From here there are many choices depending on your ability, snow conditions and weather. Tracks of other skiers will point the way to the most popular spots but feel free to explore in any direction that looks inviting. Or, just retrace the route to the trailhead - it's mostly downhill (how many times have you heard that before?) and a pleasant run on skis.

Several points of informa-

tion: the steeper slopes, especially northwest through easterly aspects, are avalanche prone.

If you plan to be on these slopes, carry beacons, ski in a group, know the snow and check conditions prior at www.sierraavalanche.center.org.

During the days ahead, avalanche hazards will shift around to more southerly slopes in response to solar radiation and warmer temperatures. Bring the essentials. Map, compass, water, food, shelter (space blanket or large garbage bag), wet weather gear, signaling device (whistle, mirror), sunscreen, sunglasses, knife, first aid kit, waterproof matches and candle are some suggestions.

Know how to use each of these items: A GPS is fine if you really need to know exactly where you are but won't point rescuers to you, whereas a relatively new lightweight satellite tracker called Spot will. Check the weather the morning of your trip. It's available online at the NOAA's Reno site. Click on the backcountry link in the forecast section. Lastly, leave no trace. Pack out everything you bring in and be considerate of other wilderness users. And mostly, enjoy a section of high country that is so different from everyday experience that you may find yourself spontaneously smiling.

■ Jim Donald is a Markleeville resident.

MURDER MYSTERY SOLVED AT ALPINE LIBRARY



SPECIAL TO THE R-C

The cast of 'Murder at the Library,' a play by Tom and Penny Warner, pose after performances at the Alpine County Library on Feb. 29 and March 1. Richard Harvey is Sgt. Joe Friday, Terrie Peets as Alexa Dynasty, Rita Lovell as Lotta Books, Gary Howard as Dalton B. Walden, director Jim Dunn, Skip Veatch as Sam Slayed, Sandy Prichett as Page Turner, Don Jardine as Ron Bonzo, Virginia York as Agatha Mystry and Mike Makey as Dell Doubleday.

Douglas prosecutor challenges Alpine County judge

by Kurt Hildebrand
Editor

Alpine County Superior Court Judge David DeVore is facing a challenge from Douglas County Deputy District Attorney Karen Dustman in the upcoming election.

DeVore, 63, was appointed to the bench in 2001 and won a contested election in 2002.

In Alpine County, local races are resolved during the June primary unless there are more than two candidates for a seat and no one candidate wins more than 50 percent of the vote.

Dustman, 55, is being backed by former presiding Judge Harold Bradford, who served for a dozen years before DeVore took over.

Dustman worked for the Alpine County District Attorney's Office from 2003-06. She graduated from University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law, and has practiced in both California and Nevada. Dustman is the author of a number of pro-

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Election
08

fessional legal articles, and has taught as an Adjunct Professor at Loyola School of Law.

DeVore has been an attorney in the area since 1997 when he was running the El Dorado County District Attorney's Office branch at Lake Tahoe.

"I worked closely with Alpine County prosecutors and judges then," he said.

He went into private practice in 1980 and continued to practice in front of Alpine County judges until he was appointed.

"In order to be appointed, I went through a rigorous screening process," he said. "I received the highest possible rating in the report to the governor."

If elected, Dustman, would become Alpine County's first female judge. Her goals for the bench include improving community access to the courts through regular community forums and greater outreach to



DeVore



Dustman

the Bear Valley area.

She also hopes to implement a drug court program for Alpine County.

"I've seen firsthand in Douglas County the positive impact that a drug court program can offer. It's an option that I hope to make available when I'm on the Alpine County bench as well," Dustman said.

DeVore said he plans to continue the modernization of the court and its blending with the state's other 57 courts.

"The courts in California during the last several years have become more of a statewide branch of gov-

ernment," he said. "Before that there were essentially 58 stand-alone courts. Now we have greater requirements of uniformity and record-keeping. There has been a great deal of work to bring us up to current standards. It's a work in progress and there's more yet to be done."

DeVore said making the transition has almost entirely disengaged the courtroom from the county administration and shifted oversight to the state.

"For the Alpine County Superior Court this has meant that we have had some difficult times adjusting to the new and increased procedures and technology in virtually all aspects of our operations," he said.

Dustman said she has the endorsement of Alpine's other Superior Court Judge, Richard Specchio, as well as Bradford and Douglas County Sheriff Ron Pierini.

Dustman and her husband were married in Carson Valley in 1993 and purchased property in Alpine County in 1997. They helped design and

build their home.

DeVore said he hopes his work with the court system will carry weight with the voters.

"I always thought hard work and good work was its own reward and that will be recognized, I hope that will carry the day here. I've worked very hard to modernize this court to reform it and bring it up to the requirements. I have high standards of professional conduct and a strong work ethic. We do serve the public, the courtroom is the people's justice."

Alpine Clerk Barbara Howard said there are 787 registered voters in Alpine County, though the number has been as high as 900.

She said 482 voters participated in the mail-in presidential primary in February.

"I'm hoping for a bigger turnout for the direct election," she said. "We are an all mail-in county and I pay the postage on all returned ballots."

Howard said she hopes to host a candidates night before the June 3 election.

Meeting the Alpine County tax collector

by Irving Krauss

The old saying that the only certainty is death and taxes may be true. Nevertheless tax collection is an important function in the running of a county such as Alpine.

And the person responsible for that is Treasurer and Tax Collector Carol McElroy. Important as tax collecting is, she is also responsible for investing the money until the board of supervisors authorizes its use for county expenses, and she is required to post the daily cash balance. McElroy is also county recorder and must keep record of property deeds and other documents of land ownership. She is also the registrar and issues birth and death certificates.

In addition to collecting property taxes she also collects the taxes on unsecured property such as a boat or mobile home as well as the transient occupancy tax, an important source of funds from the county's ski resorts. McElroy said the most

difficult part of her work is constantly changing hats—talk about multi-tasking.

As residents know taxes are due in December and April, and she noted that the rate of delinquency in the county is very low. If there is failure to pay she places a lien on one's secured property, such as land and house. That makes it nearly impossible to obtain a loan or sell the property.

For other property, such as a boat or mobile home, the lien is placed on the owner.

Undoubtedly, people are not joyous about paying taxes but most take it in stride. That's true of 99 percent of taxpayers according to McElroy, and when I asked if anyone ever raised a fuss and held her responsible for a tax burden, she thought for a while and replied that there was only one incident when an irate taxpayer blamed her.

"You're taking the food out of my child's mouth!" She shouted.

McElroy tried to calm her and realized

that a change in the auditor's assessment of the person's property had raised her taxes, and directed her to that office.

McElroy reflected on her work and commented, "It's hard but rewarding." She and her husband came to Alpine in 1989 from Milpitas, Calif. and she had been in accounting in Silicon Valley.

She and her husband live in Mesa Vista and husband David is a machinist at General Electric, formerly Bently Nevada, in Minden, since 1990. David has a part-time business, "Helping Hands," and has been doing a great deal of hauling. He's looking forward to working on fuels reduction.

Their son Marcus attended Diamond Valley Elementary School and Douglas High, and majored in Business Administration at the University of Nevada.

He works at Tyco Electronics in Reno as a sales analyst and does a great deal of traveling, having recently returned from China.

Snowshoe to benefit in Hope Valley ski tour

Staff Reports

Famed Sierra skier Snowshoe Thompson will be remembered on Saturday during the ninth annual Snowshoe Thompson Cross Country Ski and Snowshoe Tour.

The tour starts 9 a.m. at the Hope Valley Outdoor Center, 14655 Highway 88.

Historical guide Frank Torrich will discuss Snowshoe while skiing guide Nina MacLeod will provide tips during the event.

The ski tour will be 5 kilometers and the snowshoe tour is 2 ½ kilometers.

The day also includes a longboard demonstration and light lunch. The cost is \$10.

The event is sponsored by



KURT HILDEBRAND/R-C file photo

The statue of Snowshoe Thompson in Mormon Station State Historic Park is covered with snow in this Feb. 28, 2007, photo.

the Hope Valley Outdoor Center and Friends of Snowshoe Thompson.

Proceeds from the event got to help maintain the statue of Thompson in Mormon Station State Historic Park, located in Genoa.

For information call (530) 694-2266. RC 3-7-08

Forest service working on new Alpine fire station

by Bill Morgan

If you happened to have driven into the Turtle Rock complex off Highway 89 in Alpine County within the last several months, you might have noticed there is some kind of construction project going on there. So what is it? Well I'm going to tell you. Bear with me, though, there's a long history behind this project.

In 1933, the U.S. Forest Service purchased a piece of ground along Markleeville Creek in Markleeville from Alpine County upon which was built the Markleeville Ranger Station, headquarters for the district ranger. This was the third ranger station built in the Markleeville area, the first two thought to be too distant or too small to meet the needs. This third station, a big upgrade, consisted of a couple of residences, garage, warehouse, office, and some out-buildings. In 1937, a major flood inundated the station. Other floods in 1950, 1953,

and 1963 did the same. No doubt there were some regrets about picking that location for a ranger station.

More recently, the flood of 1997 did it again. Okay, that was enough. Something had to be done.

Beginning in 2003, under the leadership of Leonard Turnbeaugh, former Alpine County director of public works, and Herman Zellmer, member of the board of supervisors, with able assistance from Assistant to the Board Judy Molnar, the county committed to working in close coordination with the Forest Service people in Carson City and Reno to replace the station. It took a while to get the attention of the forest service's regional office in Ogden, Utah, to give the project some priority and even longer to find the funds. No doubt replacing the station wasn't a high priority because the ranger headquarters had been moved to Minden in 1939 and the Markleeville Station was downgraded to a guard station,



SPECIAL TO THE R-C
This field near Turtle Rock Park will be the new site of the U.S. Forest Service station.

though it remained of considerable importance to people in the area. The current station is a base for two engines and their crews, a warehouse and shop for storage and maintenance of fire fighting gear, and the local point of contact with the forest service.

Turtle Rock Park was selected as the best place to

locate the new station. One problem was that there was no national forest land there. The county owned the preferred site, having long ago acquired it from the Bureau of Land Management, another federal agency. So the county gave some of its land back to the BLM which in turn transferred it to the forest service. That

process was a bit complicated, but it happened and the funds became available, too.

Design of the station commenced, and last summer a contract was let by the forest supervisor in Reno for the first two phases. These phases consist of a 10 person barracks, an access road, electrical supply, a sewage disposal system, and a water supply system that utilizes the well and storage tank built by the county some years ago.

Today, under a blanket of snow, one can see the beginning of the building foundation. A third phase, to follow the completion of the barracks this spring, will be a building for offices, shops, warehouse, and engine bays.

The chosen site is high and dry and enjoys an outstanding view of the forest and the nearby mountains. According to Charley Dobson, the assistant fire management officer of this area of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests, his people are excited at the

prospect of working out of a modern facility, where the bays are large enough for their engines (the current garage is not big enough), crew quarters will be comfortable, and stories of flooded stations will be for the history books.

And what's to be done with the current station? The county intends to get the property back after the forest service cleans up the site, and then it will take the lead in restoring the streambeds of Markleeville Creek to a more natural condition. Some of the property could be used for public parking during the summer.

The story of forest service stations in Alpine County continues with the new station at Turtle Rock Park. Those involved in making this new station happen can be justifiably proud of themselves and the cooperation that has made it happen.

■ Bill Morgan is a resident of Markleeville.

Alpine students sign anti-tobacco petition

Staff Reports

The Students Taking on Prevention Club a collaborative of the Alpine County Tobacco Education Department, and the Partnership of Community Resources, has joined the Teens Take on Tobacco in

Hollywood campaign which is a campaign to reduce the impact of tobacco in movies, according to Alpine County Tobacco Education organizer Elizabeth McGeein.

On Feb. 22, the club held a movie night for junior high and high school aged youth, which was coordinated, and

facilitated by Douglas High School students, who provided a short workshop on how the tobacco companies market and target youth in movies a petition to encourage movie studios to remove tobacco from youth related movies, or provide an "R" rating to any movie with smoking.

Compromise marks winter recreation plan

by Jim Donald

On March 1, the Carson Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest closed Forestdale Road to snowmobiles in the first implementation of the winter recreation plan. The closure extends from Red Lake to the Forestdale Divide and will be in effect until Blue Lakes Road has insufficient snow for snowmobile use. Enforcement actions by the U.S. Forest Service and Alpine County began March 3.

The plan for Alpine County is an agreement hammered out by motorized and non-motorized users in a series of consensus-building meetings during 2006. These strategy sessions resulted in a plan that would define areas of use, establish new routes and areas, create future campsites and provide relief for the congested parking along the shoulder of Highway 88.

Before the population explosions of the '90s, there was little need for a plan. User conflicts were few and each group had their "own" areas. Forestdale Road, which starts at Red Lake, was typically a non-motorized area while Blue Lakes Road was considered a motorized area. The groups often mingled with little conflict.

But use increased dramatically. For example, the adjacent Eldorado National Forest estimates that motorized use in their forest rose by a factor of 15 between 1992 and 2006, the last year for which statistics are available. Conflicts between users, wilderness

incursions, environmental concerns and dangerous free-for-all parking became the norm.

In early 2006, Debbi Waldear, a former world-class cross country skier, and Alpine County Undersheriff Rob Levy, a dedicated motorized user, got together at the suggestion of District Ranger Gary Schiff and talked about conflict issues. These talks yielded a set of potential solutions that might be embraced by both groups.

The national forest, with the help of grant money from Friends of Hope Valley, hired a facilitator, lead both groups through the consensus process. Dialog guidelines that made the process manageable were agreed to at the outset. Marnie Bonesteel became team leader for the Humboldt-Toiyabe on the project and played a pivotal role in the discussions. Alpine County representatives took part. Between July 2006 and January 2007 the plan was discussed, debated and refined in a series of remarkably civil meetings.

The plan evolved around equal opportunity, a quid pro quo method whereby each group gained from each facet of the plan. Each group made concessions as well and each group benefited from the plan.

Highlights for motorized users include improved parking, restrooms and a camping facility at Blue Lakes Road as well as similar improvements at Centerville Flat for accessing Highway 4. A section of Forest Road 112 would be improved to avoid the avalanche prone "Flintstones" area along Highway 4. A slid-

ing staging area for Highway 89 over Monitor is proposed subject to Caltrans ability to plow the road and California Department of Fish and Game and forest service lifting the wildlife closure (this area is winter deer range) on Leviathan Peak.

Motorized users would also benefit from a well marked corridor from Armstrong Pass through fish and game land to Blue Lakes Road which would permit access from the Tahoe

Basin. Another corridor from Blue Lakes Road through the Deer Valley to Highway 4 would permit access to Bear Valley (Bring some extra fuel).

Non-motorized users gain; the closure of Forestdale Road to snowmobiles in midwinter when sufficient snow cover at Blue Lakes Road allows their use at that location; improvements to the Red Corral on Highway 88, including parking and restrooms and possible similar improvements at Burnside Lake Road. The areas northwest of Highway 88 would be closed to snowmobiles. Highway 4 and Monitor Pass remain open to non-motorized users.

Existing agreements for snowmobile grooming at the dog sled area and Burnside Road would not be affected and property owners would be able to access their land by snowmobile regardless of location.

Implementation is taking place on a stepped basis depending on funding and approval by other agencies. Monies have been approved for Centerville Flat restrooms and grant applications that would cover partial expenses submitted for the Blue Lakes and Red Corral areas. Alpine County has set speed limits of 15 mph within .1 mile of the staging area at Blue Lakes Road and 35 mph for the next mile.

Bonesteel commented that "the forest service doesn't have the funds to fully implement the plan and this is where 501c3 organizations can help by applying for grants for various aspects."

pg. 1



SPECIAL TO THE R-C

A view of Red Lake looking east to Hawkins Peak. Forestdale Road from Red Lake to the divide is closed to snowmobile use while Blue Lakes Road is open to them.

It's true. No one gives money to the government and non-profits are much more likely to receive grant money. Bonesteel said, "the jump from planning to implementation always contains an element of surprise and it takes time to get used to change." Waldear emphasized that "user groups and others affected need to see what the future benefits will be." Indeed.

While not everyone is happy with every element of the plan that has been laid out is far better than the chaotic conditions existing pre-plan.

On two recent visits to Forestdale Meadow and the divide, only traces of old snowmobile tracks could be seen and the quiet serenity was remarkable.

This beautiful area can again be enjoyed without the constant buzz of machines and the wonderful north facing slopes from the divide to the meadow can be skied on any route without the jolts of numerous tracks left by out-of-bounds machines.

I think too that one day soon someone on a snowmobile can pull up to an isolated overlook

off Highway 4 and say similar things.

We all venture into the wild places for the same reasons. With respect for the land and a

leave-no-trace ethic we can continue to do that with a minimum of control for some time to come.

■ Jim Donald is a Markleeville resident and was a member of the ad-hoc planning group as a representative of the non-motorized community.

Compromise important on public lands

R-C
4-4-08

EDITOR:

I would like to thank Jim Donald for his informative article "Compromise marks winter recreation plan" bringing us all up to date on the long-standing conflict involving cross-country skiers and snowmobilers in the eastern Alpine County area. We had not heard any news on this subject for a long time and are pleasantly surprised to learn that the issues have been resolved to the apparent satisfaction of most everyone involved.

Feelings were deep and emotional on both sides. Facts were voluminous supporting the claims of each side. It seemed that the quarreling would never end.

But apparently it has, and that is a good thing.

I would like to take (minor) issue with one statement Donald quoted Marnie Bonesteel of the Humboldt-Toiyabe national forest as having said, namely that "the forest service doesn't have the funds to fully implement the plan..." I believe that the national forest does have the funds; they simply choose other priorities in their budgeting process. It's a matter of choice and almost surely involves where the political pressure is coming from.

One final thought. If these groups can work together and with the Forest Service and others to resolve these deep-seated differences, I would like to hope that similar compromises can be reached among the various groups concerning forest management, including thinning and fuels reduction, before the entire east slope is consumed by catastrophic wildland fire. And that then the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest would make a priority of truly being responsible stewards of our forest.

Nancy Thornburg
Markleeville

Alpine

A8 ■ Friday, April 4, 2008

The Record-Courier ■ Gardnerville, Nevada

Alpine Democrats attend California convention

Staff Reports

Alpine County Democratic Central Committee Chairman Irving Krauss of Woodfords, Secretary Jim Donald of Markleeville, and Members-at-Large Coreen Cole also of Markleeville and Dianna Mitzner from Woodfords jour-

neyed to San José for the Democratic Party State Convention March 28-30.

As delegates they participated in several caucuses including the rural whose focus is the mountain counties. At that meeting emergency physician Bill Durston, a candidate for the U.S. House seat currently held by Rep. Dan Lungren

commended Alpine for the strong vote it gave him during his 2006 run.

Alpine's delegates were among the 2,018 at the convention. Among its highlights were the reception for U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and speeches by Lt. Gov. John Garamendi, State Attorney Jerry Brown, and Superinten-

dent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell and the newly elected Speaker of the State Assembly Karen Bass.

At the concluding General Session, Sunday, decisions were made on ballot propositions for the November election and the 2008 state party platform was adopted. Meanwhile the packed hall of dele-

gates eagerly-awaited the speeches by the supporters of Democratic presidential contenders Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. San Francisco District Attorney Kamala Harris urged support of Obama, and she was followed by former President Bill Clinton who spoke on behalf of former first lady Hillary Clinton.

As the Alpine members filed out of the packed convention center to return to the mountains they reflected on the large number of young delegates and the great enthusiasm of the participants. Krauss remarked that his ears were still ringing from the noise level of the cheering.

Alpine Fire Safe Council offering curbside chipping

Staff Reports

The Alpine Fire Safe Council will offer a free defensible space curbside chipping program to residents of Woodfords, Markleeville, Hope Valley and the Woodfords Colony.

Funding for this program is provided by a National Fire Plan grant from the U.S. Forest Service through the Cali-

fornia Fire Safe Council.

Designed to assist area residents with the creation of defensible space around their homes, crews will chip timber slash and brush back onto participant's lots for use as mulch and landscaping material.

Coordinator Jeff Brees encouraged residents to participate in this opportunity to reduce the intensity and impact of wildland fires on

their homes. The program is slated to begin May 12 and continue until finished. Flyers will be mailed outlining the rules and will include resources available to assist in

cutting and hauling the fuel to the roadside.

For more information visit www.alpinefiresafe.org or call Jeff Brees at (530) 694-2791.

Woodfords family there in a pinch

by Joyce DeVore

Woodfords Auto is much more than a towing company. It is a family business, a community church, and historical buildings.

Bobbie and Margie Stephens began the business as an auto repair shop in 1980. Within four years their newlywed daughter Cami and her husband George Chavez joined the Stephens in the auto repair business. George and Cami completed several terms of college in Modesto before Cami convinced George that she "had family here, grew up here, and that the whole world is here in Alpine County."

The young couple moved into the log cabin across from the business, "with no running water in winter and snakes in the water," added Cami.

Chavez was approached for a contract with AAA for towing, and the business evolved into more of a towing operation with some repair jobs. The Stephens and the Chavez family became partners in the business in 1994.

The Woodfords Auto property is located on 2 1/2 acres on Old Pony Express Way, at the junction of Highway 88 and the turnoff to Markleeville. The stone wall around the property and all buildings within were built by Caltrans in 1920. Where the shop is today was the original Caltrans storage and mechanics shop. The small white house at the entrance was the kitchen/dining room for Caltrans workers. The larger white house served as home for the Caltrans foreman.

The Stephens and Chavez families donated the foreman's house to Alpine Christian Community Church in the late 1990's. For 25 years, the church members had met in various homes and schools. The church used its building fund to transform the house into a tasteful modern facility, complete with kitchen and modern plumbing.

The church yard and shop enjoy a park-like setting, with



SPECIAL TO THE R-C

Woodfords Auto owners Nicole, George, and Cami Chavez.

Alpine Portfolio

lawn and mature chestnut trees. It is a perfect place for a customer to relax while waiting for a vehicle, and Cami told me that, "one time a man had nowhere else to go so he camped on the lawn for a few days."

Bobby Stephens retired in 2001, but remains a guiding influence on the business. Today the business runs a fleet of four modern tow trucks, two flat beds and two recovery vehicles. The latest purchase was a 2007 International extended cab truck. Chavez explained that "because we operate in a rural area with no taxis, an extended truck is necessary to transport people from the tow scene."

All drivers, including Dave Woffinden and Jason Lyons, are trained to handle accidents and emergency road service. Most have completed emergency responder courses.

Besides towing for AAA, Woodfords Auto tows for the California Highway Patrol, Alpine County Sheriff, Geico, All-State, Farmers, USAA, as well as Cross-Country — an agency associated with new car towing coverage. The service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and

365 days a year. Auto repair is available 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Services include tune-ups, brakes, tires, and engine services. The telephone number for towing or repair is (530) 694-2916.

The entire Chavez family pitches in to help with the business. Cami is the dispatcher and bookkeeper, and mother of four: Rose Marie, 22, Stephanie, 19, Tyler 17, and Nicole, 15.

From time to time, each family member has been asked to help with the labor involved with retrieving cargo from a truck accident. Cami remembers, "hauling 700 bags of decorative bark up a steep embankment." Truck roll-overs frequently happen in the mountains, leaving cargo such as heavy pipes or bales of hay at the bottom of a steep slope.

The Chavez family holds high expectations for their children. Each child is required to adopt a highway for clean-up duty when they reach the age of 16.

All four children can jump start a car, change a tire, and manage the essentials of auto maintenance.

The family is part of the church and part of the community. Other family hobbies include horseback riding, volleyball, snowboarding, mountain biking, boating and wake boarding, and Frisbee golf.

Planning commissioners to discuss guidelines for historic Markleeville

Staff Reports

A set of historic guidelines for the town of Markleeville will be go before Alpine County Planning Commissioners on April 10.

The meeting starts at 6 p.m. with a public hearing on the guidelines.

Among the items on the agenda are draft revisions to the Alpine County Code defining the confines of the town's historic design combined zone and the historic designe guidelines.

The meeting will be at Turtle Rock Park, 17300 Highway 89.

Markleeville, the Alpine County seat, is known as a town of the 1800s mining era, and those roots are apparent in the historic Sierra town pattern developed when walking was the dominant mode of transportation.

The purpose of the design guidelines is to direct the town's future character, according to the Sierra Business Council, which helped prepare the draft.

The ordinance in effect requires design reviews to commercially zoned properties along Main Street and Montgomery Street in the townsite of Markleeville.

The question is whether those boundaries should be expanded to include residential and institutional areas.

Historically, Sierra down-towns mixed residential and commercial uses.

The historic period of architecture defined in the existing ordinance is "that style of architecture generally used in the Alpine County area in the state of California, in the period of 1850-1900" (Chapter 18.56 of Alpine County's Zoning).

Workshops held last year addressed if this time period and architectural style is appropriate or if it should be redefined to protect and enhance later styles of architecture. Discussions also focused on whether architectural features of other historic Sierra communities, outside of Alpine County, should be con-

sidered.

Other topics identified in the workshops were the design review process; architectural details and materials; mass and scale of new construction; signs and lighting; and focus on the river.

RC Fri. April 14, 2008

RC FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2008

Alpine to benefit from Web grant

Staff Reports

Alpine County is expected to benefit from a \$250,000 grant from the California Emerging Technology Fund to help five rural Sierra counties improve high speed Internet access for households and businesses.

The one-year project was kicked off with a community forum in Sonora on Wednesday

The Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency Central Sierra Connect, involves Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa and Tuolumne counties.

It is part of a statewide effort to help rural counties gain 100 percent coverage for high-speed Internet and encourage wider use of technology by all residents. The

fund, created as part of private telecommunication company mergers, is charged with helping rural areas "catch up" to urban areas of the state.

"Ultimately, we all want high-speed Internet to be as universal as telephone service and is easy to use for all residents including low-income, senior and disabled people," said Project Coordinator Michelle Shelton.

Over the next 12 months, the group will:

- Map current high-speed Internet coverage and detail the region's telecommunication "backbone," identify gaps and recommend a variety of projects that will help each county reach 100 percent coverage. Currently, project leaders estimate about 45 percent of households in the region have access to high speed

Internet, and many areas have only high-priced options available.

- Survey residents to identify interest and demand for high tech services, and use results to market and call for bids for the most promising projects and services.

- Recommend public policies for each county to help reach 100 percent coverage.

- Identify ways to increase access to technology for disabled, low income and senior residents, and increase their use of Internet services in the region. An action plan will outline a variety of projects including adding more Neighborhood Information Centers at libraries and other public sites, expanding telemedicine and improving the region's Web sites for online "information and referral" services.

RC FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2008

50 Plus Mother's Day luncheon is May 8

Staff Reports

The 50 Plus Club luncheon on May 8 is in recognition of Mother's Day.

The event will include the reading by Ernestine Fogarty of a poem dedicated to mothers.

Guests will also vote for "Senior of the Year" that will

honor the person's contributions to the community, and the recipient will receive an official commendation by the Alpine County Board of Supervisors.

Ballots will be included in the mailing and additional ones will be available at the luncheon. The ballots will be counted by Jim and Dolores

Clark who often act as masters of ceremony. They urge seniors to vote, but, they advise, "It should not be 'Chicago style', where it is alleged, one is expected to vote early and often."

The luncheon will be held at the Early Learning Center, 100 Foothill Road, Woodfords, noon to 2 p.m.

Former Amador resident to be Alpine's first administrator

by Bill Morgan

Changing a county government organization often is a tricky proposition, complicated by financial limitations, incumbency of current employees, available office space, divergent opinions of members of the boards of supervisors (called commissioners in Nevada), and institutional inertia. Such is, or has been, the case in Alpine County. Nevertheless, some badly needed changes in the makeup of our county organization have recently been implemented or are in the offing. Foremost among those is the establishment and hiring of a county administrative officer.

On May 15, Pamela Knorr will assume that position, taking on a long list of duties on behalf of the Board of Supervisors, including coordinat-

ing the work of all county offices and departments, preparing annual budget recommendations, monitoring expenditures throughout the fiscal year, and supervising the non-elected department heads.

Knorr, comes here from her current position as a regional administrator for the Texas Attorney General's Office. She previously held administrative positions in Placer and Napa counties.

Knorr said she is "looking forward to working with the Board of Supervisors and employees and residents of Alpine County on the challenging issues facing the county. It's a privilege to be Alpine County's first county administrative officer and I'm excited to accept this position."

Besides the challenge of the position, she was attracted by the quality

of life of the area.

"This area (the central Sierras) is home," she said, having grown up in nearby Amador County. She's an outdoor person, who with her two young sons enjoys skiing and boarding, trail riding, and canoeing. Seems like she'll fit right in.

Now to some of you readers, creating such a job sounds pretty much like a routine matter. Not so! For nearly 20 years the issue of having an administrative officer, similar to a county manager, has been batted around among the citizens and the boards of supervisors. As a matter of fact a county grand jury highlighted the need for the CAO position back in 2001, but the Board of Supervisors at that time wasn't persuaded to change the status quo.

Then and until now the five mem-

bers of the board collectively supervised the non-elected department heads and tried to coordinate those people along with the elected officials such as the sheriff, county clerk, and assessor in addition to their own policy and decision making responsibilities. That has been difficult, to say the least. Difficult for the board members, difficult for department heads.

The current board saw things differently and has been working to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the county's organization, starting with setting up a human resources (personnel) officer as a separate department a couple of years ago. That person is Beth Nunes. And recently has been the creation of the county administrative officer position which Knorr is taking.

Another position, an Assistant Director of Public Works, has been advertised. It's expected that person will, among other tasks, help expedite the review of projects that must gain the approval of that department before commencing. A recently recognized financial crunch may postpone filling that assistant job for a while, though.

The county also has tentatively planned to establish a part time position, possibly to be filled by contract, to inspect properties for compliance with state and county fire safe requirements for providing "defensible space" around homes.

Well, there you are, a bit of information about what's going on in Alpine County government.

RC 5-2-08

Dustman best for Alpine judge

12-2-08

EDITOR:

This letter is in strong support of Karen Dustman for Alpine County judge. Karen brings to the table exactly the qualities we need in this county.

She has much stronger legal, academic and business credentials than her opponent.

Karen has more balanced and broader experience, not 25 years of personal injury law, which is based on finding someone other than yourself to "blame" and a win/lose mentality. Karen's experience includes a much more sensible approach of finding consensus and negotiating successful resolutions.

Repeating "high standards" and "integrity" as slogans does not make them true. And they are not true in Dave's case. It is extremely unusual for a judge to come out openly against another judge. Yet during Dave's brief time in office, he's managed to earn active opposition from not only one but two judges who worked with him on a day-to-day basis and saw firsthand what he was really about. It is very courageous of Judge. Specchio and Judge Bradford to stand up and speak out in opposition of Dave's re-election.

Please vote for Karen Dustman. She brings quality and true integrity to our county.

Catherine Aisner
Woodfords

Alpine

DeVore wins judges race

Staff Reports

Alpine County voters gave Superior Court Judge David DeVore a second six-year term and supervisors Phillip Bennett, Tom Sweeney and Skip Veatch four more years each.

The race for the Superior Court position was contested by challenger Douglas County prosecutor Karen Dustman.



DeVore

There were posters, mailings, and home receptions for both candidates plus a candidates night sponsored by the Washoe Tribal community that attracted a large crowd.

DeVore edged out Dustman with 284 votes to her 211, 57 percent to 43 percent.

None of the supervisors had opponents on the ballot although there were write-in votes for other candidates.

Bennett won with 56 percent in District 3 that represents the Indian community. Forty-four percent were write-in votes. Sweeney's first-time run garnered 86 percent of the votes in District 5, Markleeville with write-ins 14 percent.

Veatch was re-elected by 87 percent



with 13 percent write-in votes. His total contrasts with his first election four years ago where he won by one vote, although a recount provided a second. Veatch represents District

2, Woodfords.

Of the county's 783 registered voters 499 mailed in their ballots for a turnout of 64 percent. District 2, Woodfords, had the highest participation with 80 percent. Because of its small population all Alpine's voting is by mail.

Ballot counting took place in the Board of Supervisors' Chamber.

Election workers Gail Day, Jim Dunn, Jeannie Lear and Mary Rawson began the task at precisely 8 p.m., the deadline for submitting ballots.

They first checked signatures on the ballot envelopes against the voters' list, and then turned each envelope over to hide the voter's name and deftly removed the ballot.

County Clerk Barbara Howard placed each district's in the ballot counter from Premier Electric Solutions.

The device is owned by the county. Standing by was company representative Eric Lubliner in case problems occurred. But there were none.

At each stage of the operation Howard explained the procedure.

Other officials included Assistant County Clerk Sarah Simis who judged the validity of the 10 ballots with improper markings. Assistant to the Board of Supervisors Judy Molnar provided printouts of each district's totals, plus the final summary.

About 14 citizens observed the counting including candidates Sweeney and Veatch, Sheriff John Crawford, the new County Administrative Officer Pamela Knorr and her young son, and Joyce DeVore.

The yellow tape that is often seen at crime scenes or construction sites, that previously cordoned off the counting area was replaced with a line strung with twisted foil pieces that made for a more festive atmosphere, that was enhanced by the bright red T-shirts worn by all the workers.

The tally was completed by 10:15 p.m., by far the earliest over the past several elections, largely because the Bear Valley ballots were mailed to the County Clerk's office.

In the past a deputy sheriff brought them by snowmobile over Ebbetts Pass or through Jackson if the pass was closed.

Alpine libraries offer many services

by Irving Krauss

In the long history of humans two important developments stand out: one is the emergence of language and the other is the arrangement to preserve it—the library. In modern times the library has taken on many tasks and opened its doors to the wider community. This is evident in Alpine County's libraries with the main one in Markleeville and the smaller one in Bear Valley.

"My vision," said Bessie Platten, director of Alpine County's Library and Archives, "is to make them an important part of the life of the community." She observes that while management is an important task — staff plan-

ning, budgeting, publishing the newsletter, dealing with vendors, preparing the annual report to the state library, and regularly reporting to the county board of supervisors — her major focus is on programs for the community.

Their number and breath is unusual for a small library system. Among them is the Early Literary Computer Station that appeals to children, Parents and tots story time and story time in the park (that is adjacent to the library in Markleeville), the summertime reading program, the book club for adults and the children's summer book club and the documentary film series.

There is even hot cider and cookies during the week before Christmas, and a

changing collector's exhibit. An outstanding feature is the new bookmobile that makes it easy to obtain and return books at its stops in the Woodfords and Markleeville areas and in the Indian colony.

The Bear Valley library has similar features and programs but on a smaller scale. Platten's visits to that library are usually during the summer.

Relatively new and popular in both the Markleeville and Bear Valley libraries are the high speed internet access and wireless access for laptop owners. Assistance to patrons is available on a one-to-one basis.

Platten points to the strong support from the Friends of the Library. Its 31 individuals and families sponsor a number

of events and contribute between \$8,000-\$10,000 a year. She is active in the community and is a board member of the Alpine County Historical Society and participates in the local Child Care Planning Council.

Platten, who lives in Mesa Vista, came to Alpine County from the University of Nevada Library where she was in charge of acquisitions. Prior to that she was at the Arizona State Library in Phoenix. Platten was born in Luna that is on the main Island of Luzon, 375 miles from Manila. She obtained her bachelor's degree at the University of the Philippines and her master's in library science at the University of Arizona.

Temperament vs. the rule of law

EDITOR:

At the Alpine County Candidates' Night on April 30, the following question was read to Karen Dustman and incumbent Judge David DeVore, candidates for the contested seat of Superior Court Judge: "In 1780, in the uncertain times before there was a U.S. Constitution, founding father John Adams coined the famous phrase, a government of laws, not of men.

"He was advocating limits on the arbitrary use of government power by individuals in positions of government authority, including judges.

"Yet former Alpine County Judge Bradford has written, 'judicial temperament' — the capacity to relate to every person in the court with understanding and courtesy ... is as important, if not more *important* [emphasis added], as the judge's legal skills... thereby appearing to place 'judicial temperament' above the law itself. Which of these should govern your performance as a judge, and why?"

Dustman characterized this as an "attack question" and never meaningfully addressed its content. (The condensed quote from Judge Bradford appeared in her campaign literature.) It was lengthy and she would have done well to have it repeated before reacting in apparent anger.

Is this the "judicial temperament" she would display on the bench? In so doing, she missed the crucial point, which is: If "judicial temperament" can be more important than the judge's legal skills, we have "a government of men (or women)" not of laws, and that is contrary to Adams' concept, which has been enshrined in judgments of no less an endorser than the U.S. Supreme Court.

Government of men is government by personality. Historically, it almost always becomes abusive of our liberties. Our government of laws is designed to prevent that abuse, but it can only do so if we refuse to elect those who align themselves with government by personality.

Judge DeVore, the knowledgeable legalist,

Continued from page 4

characterized the question as the contrast between competence and contentment in the court, leaving no doubt that if he must choose, he chooses competence. Yes, he may sometimes be uncomfortably demanding of his staff. But achieving consistent excellence is not consistently comfortable and a good leader's staff shouldn't expect it to be. His unswerving adherence to the law, encyclopedic knowledge, and refusal to overlook details are my last bastions of protection if I am ever the accused before the court, and that raises my comfort level.

If miscarried, justice may not be recoverable. Ms. Dustman speaks confidently of her ability to make the tough decisions. She has yet to make one from the judge's side of the bench. Judge DeVore has made more than he can remember and none has been successfully challenged. Who would you have as your judge?

What qualifies me, a legal layman, to judge the qualifications of judges? My vote. Maybe it shouldn't be that way, but since it is, the candidates must convince me of their fitness for the bench.

Only Judge DeVore has succeeded.

RC 5-9-08

Steven Hibbs
Markleeville

College hosts commencement

Commencement ceremonies for Western Nevada College are 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Carson City Community Center. The commencement speaker is Executive Vice Chancellor Dan Klaich of the Nevada System of Higher Education.

MARKLEEVILLE
Associate Of Applied Science - Early Childhood Education
Karen Mortimer
Associate Of General Studies
Cheryl Rivera

GARDNERVILLE
Associate Of Applied Science - Accounting
Rhonda Holley
Associate Of Applied Science - Criminal Justice
Greg Rooney
Associate Of Applied Science - Early Childhood Education
Rebecca Dee Koepnick
Associate Of Applied Science - General Business
Stephanie Jane Haskins
Associate Of Applied Science - Management
Wendy A. O'rouke
Kim Renee Sagers

Associate Of Applied Science - Nursing
Elizabeth C. Aldax
Nichole Kathryn Knowles
Megan McKenzie
Rachel H. Rose-Gantner
Suzanne Thun
Melissa Anne Ward
Kimberly J. Woffinden
Associate Of Applied Science - Paralegal Studies
Laura Wickham
Associate Of Applied Science - Real Estate
Wendy A. O'Rourke
Associate Of Arts
Catherine Elaine Corliss
April Dawne Crandall
Shannon L. Davis
Kandice Chere Gau
Katherine M. Jordan
Ellie Marie Keene
Brittany Ann Larmee
Chad W. Linderman
Andrea L. Lindsey
Shannon Lyn Lovell
Hope C. Manzano

Laurie Susan Mitchell
Rebecca Marie Nielsen
Emily Magdelenna Nunez
Savannah L. Ohl
Nati Ordas
Elizabeth Ann Ridgel
Darla D. Roberts
Delinda J. Roberts-Hamilton
Amber Denise Rodarte
Romaine Thomas
Smokey III
Joseph Thomas Spencer
Paul James Stufkosky
Rhonda Lee Vega
Regina L. Ward
Katrina Lynnette Willis
Associate Of Arts - Deaf Studies
Sarah Christine Cale
Paulette Irene Young
Ferrando
Associate Of Arts - Musical Theatre
Paul James Stufkosky
Associate Of General Studies
Antoinette Leiona Braga

Charles Scott Fraser
Roseann Kizer
Carmen Corina Skelton
Jason William Smith
Associate Of Science - Engineering Science
Adam Keith Roney
Jared Jacob Trask
Associate Of Science - Geosciences
Leanne Solberg
Associate Of Science - Mathematics
Adam Keith Roney
Certificate Of Achievement - Early Childhood Education
Lorie Powell
Certificate Of Achievement - Surgical Technology
Jolene D. Daphne
Rebecca Anne Fejer
Caleb A. Joyner

MINDEN
Associate Of Applied Science - General Business
Gavin Cernusak
Hollae Eckenrode
Associate Of Applied Science - Geographic Information Systems
Lindsay Marie Dugas
Associate Of Applied Science - Nursing

Jill A. Claridge
Associate Of Applied Science - Paralegal Studies
Kathern M. Sterchak
Associate Of Arts
Shawn Derek Anders
Dillon Barber
Jessica Johnson
Amber Satterfield
Steven Sayre
Steve Vadenais

Nicole Villoria
Kaitlyn Rose White
Associate Of General Studies
Kristen Kay Acharya
Vicki Jean Beavers
Laurie Burke Layton
Staci Ann Lonnegren
Kirsten Pieters
Ashley Nicole Rund
Brian Shepard
Associate Of Science -

Engineering Science
Kathleen Louise Nelson
Associate Of Science - Mathematics
Gabriel B. Herz
Austin Ronald Scott
Certificate Of Achievement - Business
Jessica Marie Allen
Staci Ann Lonnegren
Certificate Of Achievement - Network

Support Technician
Brian J. King
Michael R. King
WELLINGTON
Associate Of Applied Science - Welding Technology
Billie Sutton
Certificate Of Achievement - Medical Transcription
Susan J. Dechambeau

Time to take a hike in Alpine County

by Jim Donald

Although there's still sufficient snow up high, skis have been put away and it's time to start hiking again. But with so many snow patches still around the question of where to go invariably comes up.

Unfold a topo or a wilderness map and take a look. Many trails are open but whether you walk on bare ground, mud or snow will be determined by elevation, aspect and soil type. Below 7,000 feet trails on south facing sunny slopes are generally open while north slopes are still snowbound. Distance from the Sierra crest will also play into that equation. Further east equal less snow. It's a good time to get out though — less bugs, less people, high sun angle and relatively cool mornings make for an enjoyable outing.

Early flowers are forcing their way into the world. Phlox, sulfur flowers (Eriogonum), death camas and manzanita are in bloom while at higher elevations things

may not happen for months.

Death camas bears little resemblance to blue flowered edible camas, a staple food of the Nez Percé and other tribes, but it can resemble a certain subspecies of wild onion (Allium textile) before flowering. Onions smell like onion, death camas does not. Down lower bitterbrush is in full bloom and might be contributing to that itch you feel in your nose.

Birds are in full song and breeding plumage. Now is the time to see them the way they look in your bird book. Mountain chickadees do a sing-song version of the word "cheeseburger" while blue grouse boom during their display rituals and red-winged blackbirds have a three-part call followed

by a trill. Bring the binoculars and a camera with a good telephoto.

Streams will approach or often reach maximum flow during this month,

which, unless we get more precipitation will be somewhat lower than average. But the water will be rushing through glades, over rapids and down falls under the inexorable force of gravity propelling it toward the Carson Sink.

So where to go? Well, just pick a place. There are nice trails in Woodfords Canyon, at Grover Hot Springs and along Airport Road. The road to Wolf Creek is open, as is Ebbetts Pass. Blue Lakes Road will open this month making many more choices available. Note elevation and aspect. Bring the usual stuff; water, food, clothing appropriate to the weather, map, first aid and survival kits. Check the Sierra

Club Web site for a complete list of the 10 essentials.

Sierra Nevada Lobby Day

Alpine Watershed Coordinator Chris Katopothis and I recently did some lobbying for the Sierra Nevada and Alpine County at the Capitol Building in Sacramento. Appointments and routines were set up by the Sierra Nevada Alliance and the Sierra Fund which gave us a chance to visit numerous legislators' offices. In our rounds we urged legislative staff to keep our region in mind, pointing out that 60 percent of California's drinking water comes from the Sierra; that the region is an important recreation area for all state residents and protecting the resource from potential

impacts should have priority. We reminded legislative staff that budgeting is in place for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and asked for their continued support.

We discussed local issues such as maintaining water quality, wildlife habitat, restoration efforts and reducing wildfire danger in mountain communities.

The Markleeville Guard Station restoration is one of 12 featured projects compiled by the Sierra Fund and was showcased in our discussions.

The Alpine Watershed Group meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. in the Alpine County Library basement. All are welcome.

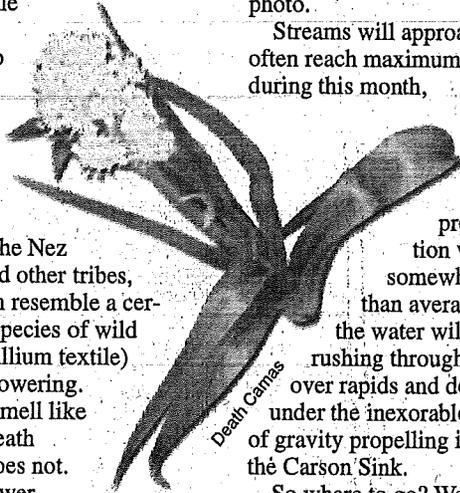
Our purpose is to preserve and enhance the watersheds of Alpine County by developing strategies and policies through

stakeholder consensus building.

Friends of Hope Valley Workday

Friends of Hope Valley are having a workday 9 a.m. May 24 at Pickett's Junction which is the intersection of highways 88 and 89 in Hope Valley. The group will have the three usual work parties — fences, willow planting and general cleanup/trash removal. Dress appropriate for the weather; bring work gloves, shovels and fencing pliers plus water to drink.

Lunch will be provided at about noon. This may sound like work (it is) but the workplace is one of the most beautiful in the Sierra and a prize will be given for the Best Never Heard Before Exclamation while wrapping up barbed wire.



Death Camas

Alpine

A talk with Alpine County's tax man

by Irving Krauss

Alpine County's low population and small-scale government provide an excellent window on how its officials make it work. I plan to write about its elected officials — going down the list alphabetically; therefore this first account is about David Peets who heads the assessor's office.

Peets was an appraiser in San Luis Obispo County when he visited Lake Tahoe on a skiing vacation. He had seen a flyer that Alpine County was looking for an assessor and ventured into the county to inquire. He was surprised to be selected over the 27 that had applied, mainly, he feels, because of his varied experience, not only as an assessor but also because of his eight years in building construction. That work included custom homes, apartments, and other structures. Following an injury he was retrained as an assessor. That ski vacation was in 1986, and since then he's been Alpine County's assessor.

The assessor's work is essential for it provides the basis for taxing property that raises their money for essential services

such as fire suppression, policing, roads, health and welfare. While most accept the services not everyone is happy paying for them; some, it would seem, are against being taxed at all. This can make the assessor's work quite stressful as he assesses citizens' real and personal property. He finds that some people, although a minority, take umbrage and get quite personal with expressions such as "You'll ruin me!" or "You'll make me move!" But the assessor must follow the law, without favoritism. Peets sees that as his responsibility, and he is highly respected in the county. He has been re-elected to office five times, four without opposition and the fifth no serious challenger.

The assessor is required to inventory all real and personal property in the county and decide what is taxable and its worth. Because of California's Proposition 13 the basic assessment is made when the home is first built or resold. Real property includes homes and land while personal property covers such things as boats, airplanes, and mobile homes (but not cars or motorcycles). He then determines the property's value

based on what comparable homes or personal property are selling for. In any event, once assessed, the initial tax can only be raised 2 percent per year, unless of course, if the property is resold. If a homeowner makes an improvement, for example a small building for wood or tools, the whole property is not reappraised; only the value of the improvement is added to the person's tax.

Figuring out how to assess property is complicated because the assessor must know the tax laws, both California's and the federal government's. They are complex and there are constant changes. If state taxes are not paid he can have a lien placed on the property and it can be sold.

An assessor must pass an appraiser's certification test, and Peets has been certified as an appraiser for 25 years and

holds an advanced certificate. The State's Board of Equalization audits the assessor's work every four years.

Peets and his wife Terri live in Markleeville. They have a daughter Dena in Santa Rosa, Calif., and a son, Justin who will be a junior at Douglas High School in the fall.

We tend to take government for granted and don't give it much thought except when things go awry or when we feel our interests are threatened. Yet things do work; just think of countries where laws are not followed, where it is understood that the purpose of governing is for officials to pad their pockets. We are fortunate that most of our officials are honest and dedicated, and things get done.

■ Irving Krauss is a Markleeville resident.

Alpine County's Gansbergs know their horses

by Joyce DeVore

When we first moved to Alpine County, I was an enthusiastic new horse owner. People I grew to respect told me that the best horses were the Gansberg horses. Then Pat Rahbeck and Gail Day told me that Faye and Chris are the hardest working ranchers in the county, and that "Faye can really ride." I knew that Chris Gansberg was an Alpine County supervisor, but the family is neither political nor public about their accomplishments.

Ranching and farming are second nature to the Gansberg family. Chris and Faye Gansberg run cattle, breed and train horses, and maintain a close family life with their lively grown children and growing grandchildren. The family history goes back three generations, when Chris's great grandfather arrived in Carson Valley from Hanover, Germany and soon after sent for his family.

Ever since, the Gansbergs have ranched in Alpine County. Chris, Sr., was a natural horseman and rancher who taught his children and troops of 4-H members the care and respect of animals. Chris, Jr., attended UC Davis to study agriculture. There he met his future wife Faye.

Faye is from a farming family in Los Banos, so when she told her parents about, "love at first sight with a rancher," everyone was pleased. Faye's parents were both educators and her father invented a honey extractor that he marketed in Australia. Faye grew

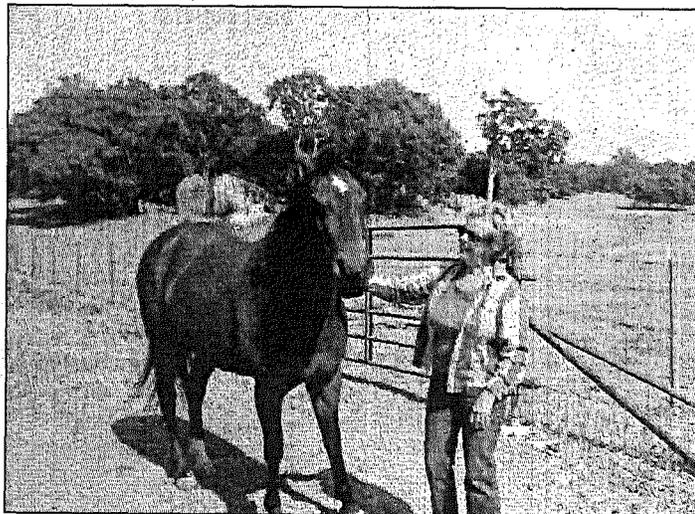
up with horses in Los Banos, "riding bareback and never taking any kind of lessons." She told me, "I grew up in the country and was used to being outside and the getting along with boys as well as girls."

Faye's horsemanship took on new dimensions after she married Chris. "He is a perfectionist," she added and "riding with a Gansberg is a whole different story." She started riding quarter horses Spider, Joe, and Brownie. When the children came along, she sat them in the saddle in front of her and took them for pleasure rides. Riding was so much an integral part of the cattle industry that Faye's husband couldn't believe that she "would ride for fun and not to get the job done."

But Faye had a true love for the horses. She knew that her riding skills were much improved when Chris Sr. told her that she could ride his horse Baby Doll whenever she wanted.

At that time, many of the Gansberg horses were not registered and some were Mustangs. Chris and Faye began watching the breeding lines of quarter horses and fell in love with a Texas breeding line from a horse named Colonel Freckles. In 1986, a Federal tax law changed which forced many oil producing ranches to downsize their breeding stock. When Colonel Freckles passed away, the owner L.A. Waters decided to sell some of the offspring.

Faye had a vision to bring home a yearling stallion from the Colonel Freckles line to breed with the Gansberg



SPECIAL TO THE R-C

Faye Gansberg with a 3-year-old named Bay.

mares. Chris initially said, "No way," thinking that the cost would be prohibitive. Faye replied, "We have to try," and the rest is a huge success story. The Gansbergs have a famous line of quarter horses known first for their disposition, but equally renown for working cattle and showing.

Faye stated, "The quarter horse is an all around horse. It was originally used for racing 1/4-mile sprint. The horses we have now have won cutting competitions and reining which includes stopping, lead changes, spinning, and fence work."

Faye attributes the disposition to breeding, and she gives Chris the credit for training the horses to be gentle, responsive, and supple. The foals are halter broke at weaning time, and then allowed time to develop socialization skills with the other horses and with humans. The Gansbergs start training the horses at age 2, using a round pen and the flag technique to signal the horses to turn, stop, and move without any pressure on the horse's mouth.

An intense love is the main ingredient in Faye's success with horses. She knows every horse and marvels at the magic of foaling time, the pleasure of watching the young horses run

and play, and the amazing results of good training: a trustworthy companion.

All of the Gansberg children ride and share the family love of ranching. Chris and Faye run a commercial cattle business, using several of the horses on a daily basis. Chris and Faye work every day. They do sell some of the horses, but have no need to advertise. Chris explained, "It is all word of mouth." When I asked Chris if he ever took a month away from the ranch, he smiled and looked a little puzzled, then replied simply, "No." The family, the ranch, the animals are home and happiness to the Gansbergs.

■ Joyce DeVore is an Alpine County resident.

Alpine County Museum opens for season

Staff Reports

The Alpine County Museum is opening for the season 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

The museum will remain open at the same hours Thursday through Monday until the end of October.

A new photo exhibit fea-

turing Washoe children in the 1930s will be on display during opening weekend.

In July, a blacksmith exhibit will open, with events featuring real blacksmiths. The museum is located at 101 School Street in Markleeville. Call (530) 694-2317 for more information.

Emergency services barbecue June 14

Staff Reports

The second annual Alpine County Emergency Services fundraiser barbecue is 4-9 p.m. June 14.

Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$15 for children and on sale and must be purchased by June 6.

In addition to the barbecue, there will be no-host beer and wine and soft drinks

along with dancing by the Fabulous Riptides.

The barbecue is raising money for the Woodfords and Markleeville volunteer fire departments, Alpine County Search and Rescue and Alpine County Emergency Medical Services.

For tickets, contact Al Moss at (530)694-2508 or Jim Haen at (530) 694-2167.