

A quick sampling of the some of the area's top eateries

Are you hungry? Or are you just thinking that having meals at regular intervals is the civilized way to live and it's nearly mealtime and you're wondering where you could get a good meal in a nice setting? If you're here on the eastern slope of Alpine County or thinking of heading this way, I have some answers for you.

For breakfast or lunch you couldn't go wrong if you stopped off at Woodfords Station, near the intersection of Highways 88 and 89. Opening at 7 a.m., Dave, Linda, or Terry will serve you a delicious breakfast sandwich or quiche or sweet roll and coffee in the morning. Then again you could be here for lunch, enjoying the delicious deli sandwiches made to order, or the special homemade chili, or one of Linda's pies or gazpacho. Seated there at the counter or at one of the wooden picnic tables, you'd find yourself somehow transported back to a country café of the '50s, rubbing shoulders perhaps with the sheriff or a fish and game commissioner or a county supervisor and catching up with the local news. And Dave Kirby, the proprietor who with his wife Linda has been running the place for 26 years, will give you the latest scoop on where people are catching

ALPINE COUNTY

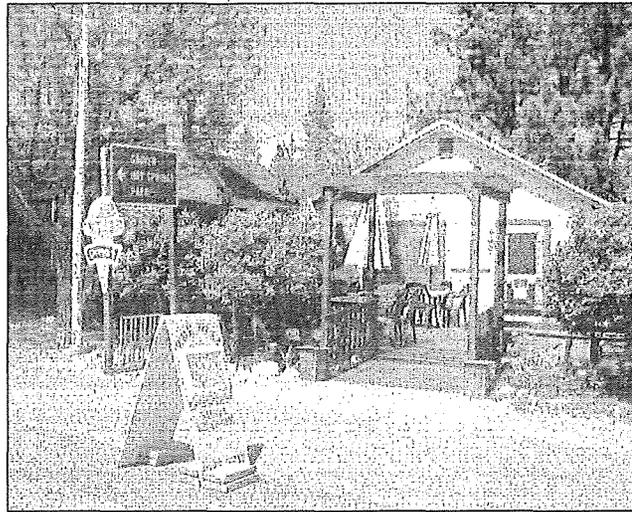
by Bill Morgan

fish, if you ask.

The place closes at 6 p.m., but hang around a bit after and cogitate on the knowledge that you're standing on ground that the '49ers trod. Daniel Woodfords built the first station here and it was an important stop along the old Emigrant Trail. It was also a remount station in 1860 for the famed Pony Express.

If you're seeking a different ambience, you could drive up-canyon five miles to Sorensen's Resort. This scenic gem by the West Fork of the Carson River is the descendant of a place homesteaded in 1876. It also overlooks the Emigrant Trail. In addition to the several rustic rental cabins tucked in among the aspens, the resort serves breakfast from 7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., lunch to 4 p.m., and dinner from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

John Brissenden, who with his wife Patty, has managed this nationally recognized resort for 27 years, describes their offerings as "California Hearty" with full menus at



SPECIAL TO THE R-C
The Deli at Markleeville is one of several restaurants in Alpine County. It is open daily.

each meal. The usual eggs of any style, pancakes, or cereal (hot or cold), or their classic beef Burgundy stew is available for breakfast. For lunch, several soups, salads, or sandwiches are offered along with that Burgundy stew, all special meals.

But the dinners are extra special, ranging from seafood pasta to chicken marsala to grilled rib eye and other delicious entrees. The resort employs six chefs who prepare the meals for those who find their way to that small and intimate café with the extraordinary selection of fine wines.

at 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

One more thing. Even if you've already eaten before arriving here, bet you forgot dessert. Get some of their Dreyer's ice cream to top off the afternoon and chat with some of the travelers who stop by, enjoying the small town atmosphere of Markleeville.

Alpine County, besides being the home territory of the Washoe Indians for eons, is steeped in history from the emigrant days and the mining era that blossomed afterwards. Some miles from Markleeville grew the silver mining town of Silver Mountain City in the 1860s. When mining there became unprofitable, the town declined. Over time buildings were taken down and toted elsewhere. One of those was moved to Markleeville in 1885 and became the Alpine Hotel. In continuous operation there since, it was refurbished seven years ago, is now the Wolf Creek Inn and Bar and has a fine restaurant. Breakfast and lunch are served Thursday through Sunday; lunch Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and dinner every evening till 8 p.m. Sitting in a cozy alcove surrounded by old time photos and wall decorations, polishing off a

rack or half of ribs, with a glass of good wine or a cold draft beer in hand...it doesn't get any better than that.

On Main Street is the J. Marklee Toll Station where starting in mid-June you can have a delicious meal or an espresso from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sandy Matlock has operated this homey establishment since 1991. Stay overnight if you wish. The Toll Station is also a motel. There is history here, too. Sandy's home next door was also moved from Silver Mountain City.

Up the road a piece, on the way to Grover Hot Springs, is the Villa Gigli Trattoria/Galleria where Ruggero and Gina Gigli have attracted people from far and wide to their quaint establishment for 16 years. They are open this year weekends only. Saturday is pizza and Sunday is pasta. Those days you can join others for food and wine, be entertained by a jazz guitarist, and admire Gina's outstanding art work. The views of Markleeville below and the meadow and forest across the way ain't bad either.

There you are. No drive-throughs or slot machines, just good food served in historic surroundings with good people to visit with. That's eating out in Alpine County.

Robin Williams, Senator Feinstein, and Robert Mondavi have all eaten there. Need more be said? Well, yes, reservations for dinners are recommended.

Alpine County has some other eateries to brag about, too. Whether relaxing on the shaded deck or inside at a table near the little kitchen, you will love the scrumptious salads or deli sandwiches made for you by the friendly people at The Deli in Markleeville. DeAnne and Warren Jang have operated The Deli for 16 years. It's open daily at 11 a.m., closing

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

2008 Election

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.

Fuelwood gathering permits go on sale

Staff Reports

Fuelwood permits go on sale June 16 at the Carson Ranger District offices.

Fuelwood cutting and gathering may begin that day and continue through Nov.19.

Cutting areas include National Forest System Lands in the Dog Valley area north and west of Verdi, the Leviathan area west of Topaz Lake, the Hope Valley area west of Woodfords and the Hawken fire burned area west of Reno.

Dead trees or logs less than 2 feet in diameter may be cut. Permits are \$15 a cord, with a two-cord minimum per permit. There is a six-cord maximum per household per season.

When "hoot-owl" fire restrictions are in place, fuelwood cutters will not be allowed to operate a chainsaw after 1 p.m. and there may be temporary restrictions on the use of any motorized equip-

DETAILS

Carson Ranger District
1536 S. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701-5291
Monday - Friday,
8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
(775) 882-2766

Markleeville Chamber of Commerce
No. 3 Webster Street
Markleeville, CA 96120
9 a.m.-4 p.m. daily
(530) 694-2475

ment during extreme fire danger.

Firewood cutting areas are subject to closure due to wildland fire risk or wet road conditions.

Permittees are responsible for obtaining the latest fire restrictions in their chosen cutting area.

Call 882-2766 after 4:30 pm the day before cutting wood to determine if wood-cutting areas will be open or if restrictions are in place.

66 riders participate in annual bike-a-thon

by Joyce DeVore

Biking is big in Alpine County.

The upcoming Death Ride is one of the county's biggest events, but the whole community gets involved for the children and the bike-a-thon.

On May 30, 66 riders gathered at Diamond Valley School.

The youngest bikers rode a safety course on the blacktop behind the school and the older riders pedaled 4 miles to the Hung-a-lal-ti community and back.

The event is a team effort, with over 53 adults assisting. Among the agencies involved are social services, women's center, early learning center, health department, the superior court, library, Alpine kids,

California Highway Patrol, and sheriffs deputies.

Sandy King of social services said that her "goal was to see a sea of children in bright green T-shirts," enjoying a healthy event.

Each child was presented a green T-shirt with the words "Stop the Cycle of Abuse" printed on it, along with a raffle ticket to win one of the 33 new bikes donated by community organizations.

Free helmets were also available.

Sheriff John Crawford said, "We closed the road from the school to the community and posted officers at both ends. Another officer in a patrol car pulls a trailer so the little ones who get tired on the way back can put their bikes on the trailer and ride back in the patrol

car."

The CHP inspected all bikes and provided a training circuit for the youngest riders.

Various groups sponsored tents with free arts and crafts.

Julie Ola said that her favorite part is "watching the volunteers: Judge DeVore and Frank Jacobelli flipping burgers; as well as seeing the kids on wheels."

Nani Ellis thought that the Bounce House looked like the most fun, while her daughter Lauren said that her favorite part was winning a brand new bike.

Liz McGeein told me that the team began "organizing in March. Next year the CHP will be hosting the event,



SPECIAL TO THE R-C

Four-year-old Lauren Ellis waits in line for her green T-shirt at the bike-a-thon.

which is great. Everything is free here today, which is also great."

Two of the older riders, Shaunna Burtz and Mayney Bennett said that they both

like riding bikes the best. "It is good exercise for your legs," said Shaunna.

OUTSTANDING SERVICE



SPECIAL TO THE R-C

Alpine County District Attorney William A. Richmond awards a commendation to Deputy Paul Magdaleno on May 6 at the Board of Supervisors meeting. Magdaleno was honored for outstanding service in a July 2007 domestic violence case that resulted in a felony conviction. Magdaleno was honored for outstanding investigation and commitment. The award was presented on behalf of the Alpine County Victim-Witness Assistance Program.

Low-cost dog vaccinations in Alpine

Staff Reports

Low-cost dog vaccinations are available 4-6 p.m. June 26 at the Woodfords Fire House on Diamond Valley Road.

Dog licenses also will be available with proof of rabies vaccination. County code requires that all dogs be licensed and vaccinated against rabies.

Licenses purchased after July 15 are subject to a late fee.

Information, (530) 694-2231.

What is child sexual abuse?

Special to The R-C

Alpine County Women's Center has served child victims of sexual abuse since 1999.

Those who sexually abuse children first try to gain the trust of their intended victims so that they can groom the child, or try to engage the child in behaviors that will eventually lead to the abusive acts. That means that most sexual abusers are adults that their victims initially know and trust, people who are familiar to them.

Keeping children safe from sexual abuse is everyone's responsibility.

Children are taught through abuse prevention education to "say no, get away, and tell an adult they trust" but it is the adults responsibility to try and protect children from sexual abuse in the first place.

Don't allow children to be alone with any adult you suspect may have a history or inclination toward inappropriate touching and sexual abuse of children.

Ask your children lots of questions.

Educate yourself about the realities of child sexual assault to keep the children living in your community safe.

It is important to understand child sexual abuse/molestation and how it affects victims. Child sexual abuse is defined as any sexual activity with a child. Child sexual abuse can be physical and or non-physical. Physical child sexual abuse is fondling or inappropriate touching of a child, rape or attempted rape and/or using a child to create pornography. Non-physical child sexual abuse consists of indecent exposure, talking explicitly to a child about to spark his/her curiosity, and allowing a child to hear or view sexual acts or materials.

Sexual abusers may often use the internet as a tool to attract children and transmit pornography. Incidents of abuse can occur only once or can be repeated over several years.

The effects of child sexual abuse can be serious or long

lasting for the victim; indicators are often recognizable if you know what to look for.

Emotional indicators of child sexual abuse are behavioral problems, depression, anxiety, and confusion about identity, nightmares or trouble sleeping.

Victims of abuse may have difficulty forming close relationships and often carry guilt or shame.

Physical indicators can be injuries to the genital area, painful urination or stomach aches, and sexually transmitted diseases.

If you are concerned about someone you know, or if you are aware of a child who might be in danger, please call the Alpine County Women's Center's 24-hour confidential crisis line at (888) 750-6444 to discuss your concerns.

You can also call Jennifer Kline at the business center from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday at (530) 694-1853. Alpine County Women's Center is located in Markleeville at 14810 Highway 89.

RC - Fri. June 13, 2008

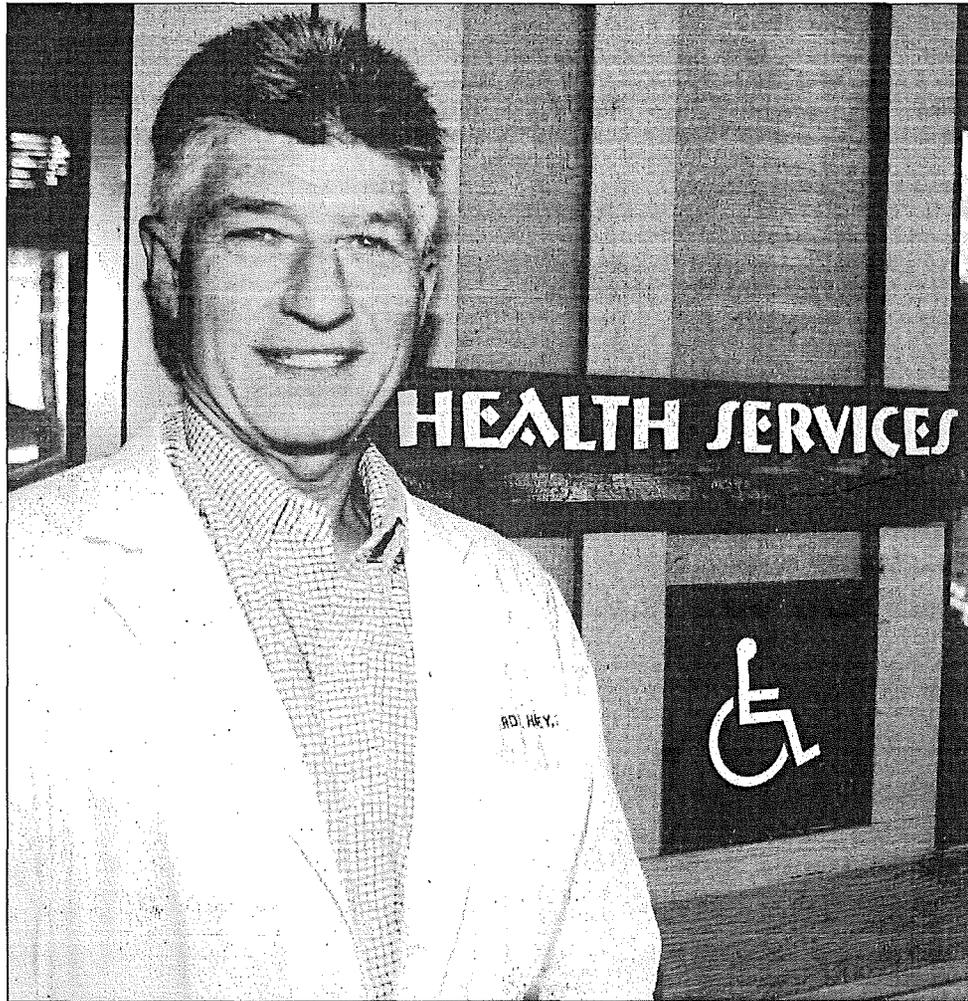
Health officer brings care to Alpine County

by Virginia York

When I was 4-years-old my dad won a rabbit at the Michaelmas Fair. He was a Dutch rabbit of superior intelligence. We called him Harvey. In 1979 when I was signing up for the Alpine County Emergency Medical Technician course I learned that the name of the doctor in charge was Richard Harvey. I was predisposed to like him and was not disappointed.

Recently my daughter was feeling ill. The illness reached a climax one evening so she called our neighbor, Harvey, who said to come over. We knew he'd been eating dinner because he still had a fork in his hand; it stayed there throughout the consultation, diagnosis and prescribing. This is not to illustrate the doctor's absent-mindedness so much as it is to show his total absorption in his work and his availability to his patients.

Harvey grew up hiking in the Sierra Nevada with his family and has always loved the mountains. He and his wife, Kate, and their 2-month-old daughter, Norah, moved to Markleeville 30 years ago. Sarah was born two and a half years later. They left the area for 16 years, living and working in Vermont and Washington state and were glad to return to Alpine County four years ago.



Dr. Richard Harvey in front of his office in 2004.

Harvey first became interested in medicine when he was a sophomore at the University of California, Berkeley. He was working in the evenings

in a sports medicine clinic and was influenced by the team physician. He was a warm-hearted doctor who took Harvey under his wing, explaining

medical procedures and the reasons for using them. He was the best kind of doctor, approaching patients in a holistic way, not just writing

prescriptions. He took time with his patients, exploring what was going on in their lives, noticing stress levels, enquiring about how much exercise they had and the extent of their use of alcohol and tobacco. Harvey learned that by knowing the patient a doctor can provide the best care and avoid ordering excessive, expensive tests.

In today's system most doctors have little time to spend with each patient. Harvey feels very fortunate to work in Alpine County Health Clinic; because of the small population of the county he and nurse Lynette Bennett have ample time to get to know their patients who can relax into their consultations and feel comfortable enough to cry if they feel the need. They benefit from being able to talk about their concerns and feel heard. His goal is that patients leave happier than when they came in. He is especially rewarded when patients start taking responsibility for their own health.

Harvey is board certified in emergency medicine. Four years ago, when he moved back to Alpine County he made the transition to family practice and public health. As an emergency room doctor he saw people coming in with heart attacks and strokes because control of cholesterol levels and high blood pressure

had never been addressed; many patients had neither the money nor encouragement to take care of themselves. Now, as a family practitioner, he works on preventative medicine, educating his patients in better health practices. He says the job of a primary care giver is to get the answer from someone else if you don't know it. He refers his patients to local specialists including acupuncturists and nutritionists.

Harvey is passionate on the subject of health care in the U.S. He says we are in crisis with 45 million people with no health insurance, relying mostly on the emergency room for health care. Taking care of one's health is not a priority in this country even though we are one of the world's richest nations. He cited high instances of diabetes, obesity, heart disease and infant mortality.

He favors a single payer system administered by the government. This system is used by many European countries, including France which has perhaps the best health care system in the world. In the U.S., 25 percent of health care dollars are spent on the administration of multiple health plans, a most inefficient state of affairs. He emphasizes that we need a system that encourages healthful life styles to prevent disease.

South Lake Tahoe's effluent ends up in Alpine County

by Bill Morgan

I once asked a class of junior high students if they knew where the waste water went when they flushed the toilet. The best most of the class could do was say "Down the drain." A few could track the flow as far as the "sewer plant," but that's as far as they could say.

If you were to ask that question of adults in South Lake Tahoe, visitors and residents alike, you would hear many say the same thing and many more say, "It must go into Lake Tahoe from the sewer plant." They would be wrong.

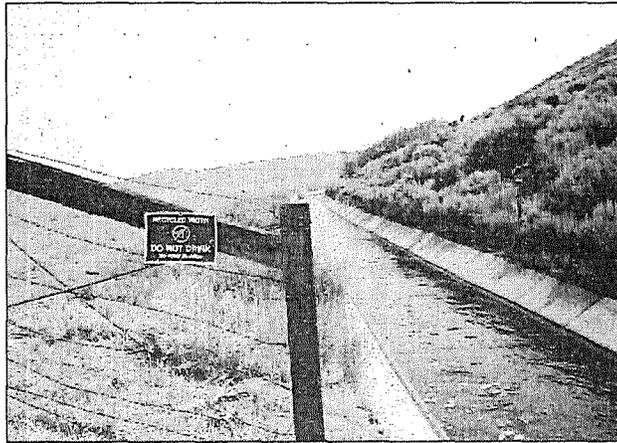
Most people in Alpine County could do better than that, because it doesn't go into Lake Tahoe. South Tahoe's waste water, or more correctly "sewage disposal plant effluent" goes to Alpine County.

But where in Alpine County and why, you ask. Well, I'm about to tell you.

In 1969 the State of California passed a law called the Porter-Cologne Act which required all sewage on the California side of Lake Tahoe to be exported out of the Tahoe basin.

The South Tahoe Public Utility District anticipating that requirement, in cooperation with state and federal officials had already undertaken a program to do that very thing for the area it served at the south end of the Lake.

Early on there was thought given to pumping it out over Echo Summit and into the American River, but politics put the kibosh on that idea. Alpine County, having a smaller population than the counties downstream on the river, and having fewer votes, became the choice to receive the effluent. (There were technical reasons, as well.)



SPECIAL TO THE R-C

One of Alpine County's lesser known bodies of water carries treated effluent from South Lake Tahoe to Harvey Place Reservoir near Indian Creek Reservoir.

Design and construction of a new sewage treatment plant and an underground export pipeline began with the intent being to treat the waste water to a very high degree and then pipe it to a reservoir to be built near Woodfords, in Alpine County.

The effluent was supposed to be of drinkable quality, (at least one employee of the district made the point by publicly drinking a glass of it) so the reservoir, to be called Indian Creek Reservoir, would be a recreation lake allowing fishing, boating, and maybe even swimming.

Alpine County had a few bargaining rights, so the district agreed to pay the county \$100,000 a year and also to pay for 92,000 pounds of fish every year for stocking the lake as well as rivers in the county. Some water was to be released in the spring for irrigation of ranches in the county.

The pipeline over Luther Pass began flowing in 1968, but after several years the idea proved to be impractical.

The expense of treating the waste water to such a high level, called tertiary treat-

ment, was very expensive, and the occasional upset in the sewer plant's operation resulted in pumping partially treated effluent that polluted the reservoir. (Being high in nutrients, the reservoir produced large fish which had a peculiar taste to those who brought them home, hmmm.)

That called for a new solution which involved the construction in 1989 of a new reservoir to be used solely for the storage of sewer plant effluent, highly treated effluent, but not treated at the tertiary level.

In that reservoir, named Harvey Place Reservoir and located just downhill from Indian Creek Reservoir, water is stored and in the spring is released for irrigation. A system of canals and pipelines delivers that nutrient rich irrigation water to ranches downstream. It's a win/win outcome for the district, the ranchers, and Alpine County.

Indian Creek Reservoir is now maintained as a recreation lake, though at a some-

what lower level, filled by fresh water from the Carson River combined with the flow from Indian Creek.

The fish are still good sized, and you can eat them now. The district continues to pay the county more than \$100,000 a year which the county has cumulated as a fund for future capital investment in county facilities, and the utility district also continues to pay for fish each year for stocking in Alpine County's waters.

A few years ago, the district acquired most of the land in Diamond Valley, which is just below Harvey Place Reservoir.

This was to provide land to utilize more of the irrigation water in the event ranchers currently using the water change uses and no longer maintain irrigated fields.

This property, now known as Diamond Valley Ranch, will remain open space, in perpetuity, as irrigated ranch land or wetlands benefiting wildlife.

So, folks, you can tell your friends in South Lake Tahoe what happens to that waste water that goes down their drains. It's helping grow that fine hay and alfalfa you see growing alongside Highway 88.

My thanks go to District Land Application Manager Hal Byrd, who provided most of the information for this article.

■ Bill Morgan is a resident of Markleeville.

R-C FRI, JUNE 27, 2008
Is school administration a cushy job?

by Irving Kraus

In interviewing Superintendent of Alpine County Schools Jim Parsons that question was in the back of my mind, the result of a seminar on education in a large state university. There were five graduate students, all were principals working for advanced degrees that would qualify them to rise in school administration. Suddenly one asked the rest, "Why do you want to go into school administration?"

The responses were to improve the education of children or variations on that theme. They then turned to the fifth student who was from Southeast Asia, who said "I want a cushy job." To judge the nature of the school superintendent's position it's important to look at the preparation required and the responsibilities of the job and how well they are carried out.

Parsons was well prepared: he received his bachelor's degree and teaching credential from UC Riverside, his first master's degree from the University of the Redlands in counseling, his second master's degree from the University of La Vern and a doctorate in educational administration from Nova University in Florida. That was followed by teaching and administration experience in California schools including a private boarding school in Idyllwild, where he became headmaster, and three years at Selma, first as junior high school and elementary school principal and then as director of curriculum for the school district. He also served as a high school principal in Kerman, Calif.

When Parsons came to Alpine County in July 1988 he was well qualified to take over the reins of the school system. He was interviewed by the board of trustees' Jim Dice, Kate Harvey, Linda Shoshone, Ann McGinnes and Vaudeen Stevenson, who recommended hiring him.

But he soon found that the job was far from a cushy one for the community was in an uproar; the maelstrom was

over dissatisfaction with its schools, principally its administration. Parsons recalls, "Nineteen families came to me over difficulties with their children's education." One of the chief administrators was fired, the other resigned. And in the school board election that followed 13 people ran for the four open seats. The successful candidates were Lynn Doyal, Cindy Stevens, Mary Wood, and I, with Vaudeen Stevenson continuing. Doyal was elected board president.

The current trustees are President Earl O'Neal and Walter Bell, Tony Holdridge and Mary Wood, all elected at large and Beverly Caldera, elected by the Native American community. As school superintendent, Parsons answers to the board of trustees and as County Superintendent of the Alpine County Unified School District to the voters of the county.

Parsons' tenure over the past two decades has been quite smooth, although a couple of years ago there was turmoil.

It was mainly because of budget uncertainty due to increased insurance costs, a drop in enrollment with a decline in state funding and a sudden cut in the state budget.

The result was dismissal notices to two teachers followed by several board of trustee meetings packed with parents and other community members. One of the teachers currently works as a substitute and the other was employed by the county library.

At present funding is adequate although the future situation will depend on passage of the "Secure Rural Schools" legislation now in the U.S. House of Representatives. It would replace revenue lost from the decline in timber cutting.

Parsons has made a number of trips to Washington, D.C. to lobby legislators. The schools' financial officer is Janice Doyal.

While budgeting is always a concern Parsons feels that dealing with personnel is a major activity. Yet he stresses

the importance of educating the young. "I believe," he said, "the learning period for 5 to 7-year olds is critical; if we miss it we struggle to make it up later." I would add that often it's too late.

So how have the county schools fared?

California will award its third Distinguished Schools Award and the graduation rate for Alpine students in Douglas High School is 98 percent. Almost all receive regular diplomas with a few the GED. Moreover, 50 percent of the graduates go on to higher education, either universities or community college. In large part this success reflects the long practice of monitoring the students' progress. Jim Holdridge, who is now retired, was responsible for tracking and counseling the high school students, and this is now done by Lori Pasqua. The Native American community's Indian Education Center plays an important role in this work. In addition Parsons keeps track of the students' grades and attendance.

Finally, it's clear that being a school administrator is not simply a cushy job.

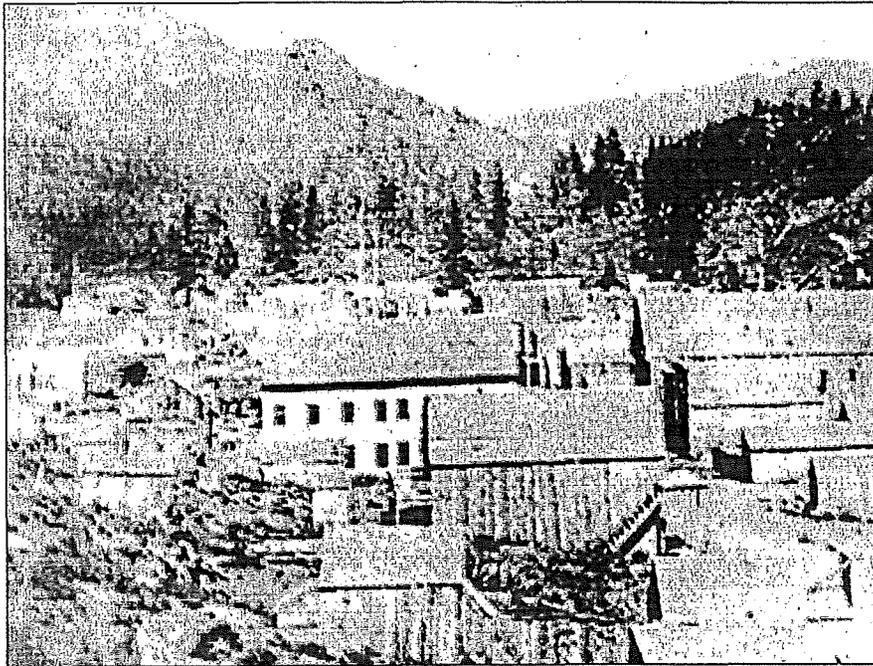
Parsons and his wife Laura, a retired reading specialist, live in Mesa Vista in Woodfords.

Their daughter Maren received her bachelor's at UC Davis and her master's in Psychology from National University, and is studying for a certificate in child family counseling.

FUNDRAISER



SARAH HALL/The R-C
Alpine County Sheriff's Officer Mike Helms with Best Buy manager Jerry Bryant in front of a television similar to the one the winner of the Alpine County Sheriff's Honor Guard raffle will receive. Tickets can be purchased at the sheriff's office or from any deputy.



ALPINE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PHOTO

Silver Mountain City was Alpine County's first county seat in the 1860s. A tour of the site is July 26.

Sign-ups sought for annual tour of Silver Mountain

Staff Reports

Karen and Rick Dustman will host the second annual walking tour of the ghost town of Silver Mountain City on July 26, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

This hour-long guided tour will explore the history of Alpine County's first county seat, introduce you to sites where 1860s-era saloons and livery stables once stood, and recall the lore and legend of this once-bustling mining community from the days when silver was king.

Although the area is flat, the tour will require walking through scrub brush and

DETAILS
What: Walking tour of Silver Mountain City
When: 9:30 a.m. July 26
Info: (530) 694-2317

comfortable walking shoes are recommended. Visitors should expect a stroll of about eight city blocks and back. Light refreshments will be served, including traditional "corn doggers."

The walking tour is free, but donations are requested to help support the activities of the Alpine County Historical Society.

Sign-ups are required. and

space is limited to 30 people.

Call the Alpine County Museum at (530) 694-2317 to sign up, and for directions to the starting site.

For those unable to attend the walk, a "virtual ghost town tour" including illustrations and photographs from the museum's archives will take place at the Alpine County museum beginning at 1 p.m.

Alpine watershed group receives \$108,000 grant

Staff Reports

The Alpine County Watershed Group has received a \$108,475 grant from the California Department of Conservation.

Alpine County is at the headwaters of the Mokelumne and Stanislaus rivers in California as well as both forks of the Carson River in Nevada.

The watershed group was formed in 2004 to monitor water quality in the variety of creeks and rivers in the county.

The grant is one of 43 issued by the state totalling \$9 million to pay watershed coordinators for three years. Chris Katopothis is Alpine County's coordinator.

Watershed coordinators help assess local watersheds – the area drained by a river or river system – and bring together local government, landowners, and community groups

through outreach, education and partnerships in order to improve the health of the watersheds.

"Everyone lives in a watershed, and it's important to foster stewardship of these vital natural resources at the grass-roots level," State Conservation Director Bridgett Luther said. "The management of water resources and the improvement of impaired watersheds is a high priority for the state, and watershed coordinators have shown great success in both areas."

The state received 86 applications for a total of more than \$19 million in funding from non-profit organizations, local governments and special districts. The proposals were competitively scored by an independent committee comprised of individuals from agencies or organizations. The funds used for the watershed coordinator grants program came from Proposition 50 –

the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 – and are authorized for implementation of the CALFED Bay Delta Program.

"There is a tremendous opportunity for the state to work with local watershed efforts to improve the overall quality of water resources for the people of California, the economy and the environment," said Brian Leahy, head of department's Division of Land Resource Protection.

Aside from working to improve the health of watersheds, the state administers agricultural and open-space land conservation programs; ensures the reclamation of land used for mining; promotes beverage container recycling; regulates oil, gas and geothermal wells; and studies and maps earthquakes and other geologic phenomena.

Alpine County hosting raffle for honor guard

Staff Reports

The Alpine County Sheriff's Honor Guard is hosting a raffle.

The funds will go toward uniforms and training. One of many purposes of honor guard is to honor fallen officers and

the presentation of colors at special functions.

The cost is \$5 per ticket or 5 tickets for \$20.

The grand prize winner will receive a 47-inch Toshiba HD Television or a \$1,300 in-store credit at Best Buy in Carson City.

The drawing will be Dec. 1 at 4 p.m. at the Alpine County Sheriff's Office.

The winner need not be present to win.

Tickets can be purchased at the sheriff's office or from any Alpine County sheriff's deputy.

Alpine County's Dangberg



cabin gets

The Record-Courier ■ Gardnerville, Nevada

new home

Logs numbered for reassembly

by Virginia York

The only form of art which we are all exposed to on a daily basis is architecture. Several years ago, with family and friends, I drove up to Alaska and across to New York City in search of America.

Vast, magnificent stretches of wilderness were punctuated by architecturally impoverished little towns whose only redeeming features were the occasional Carnegie library or a proud old town hall that the townsfolk had had the sense to preserve.

In most cases the prevalent practice was: If it's old knock it down and start again. There is, of course, another option: When it's old, repair it.

At the end of the sixties my husband and I used to journey up to Markleeville for hiking and hot springs. As we drove through Woodfords Canyon we would often look over at a solitary old cabin, always in the shade and with never a sign of habitation.

Recently I heard that Nick Hartzell, who has been building in the county for 25 years, was moving the Dangberg cabin from Woodfords Canyon.

It turned out to be that same

cabin. The cabin site was included in the U.S. Forest Service Hope Valley land acquisition in 1990. Since the cabin had not been used for so many years Nick suggested to the Forest Service that he move it and renovate it; they came to an agreement. Nick is committed to recycling building materials and reconstructing interesting old buildings.

In 1992 he supervised the reconstruction at Sorensen's Resort of three log cabins from the defunct Santa's Village in Santa Cruz. I was thrilled that the old cabin was going to be given a new lease on life and went to talk to Nick about the move.

I had imagined that the cabin would be hoisted onto a flat-bed and transported to its new location in Markleevillage. Nick disabused me of this notion.

The cabin has to be taken down and rebuilt, close to its original form but complying with modern codes.

There will be the additions of a bathroom and sleeping loft increasing the space from 600 to approximately 750 square feet. The logs have been numbered and stacked on the new site.

The cabin was built some time between 1928 and 1930

and occupied in the summer by Grant Dangberg, who is related to the Carson Valley Dangbergs. The walls were built of pine logs, apparently local as there are many stumps on the hillside behind the cabin. The logs have V notching made with an axe.

Few nails were used; in those days they were at a premium. The walls have been chinked with concrete mortar backed with chicken wire, probably not the original chinking. The logs have never been painted but the cabin was in very good condition because of the shaded location, good stone foundation and shingle roof.

Nick took me to the cabin's new home in Markleevillage. Late afternoon sunlight was finding its way through the pines onto the forest floor and I smiled to think of the cabin in a sunnier location. We chatted with a neighbor about the project. He commented: "It's more trouble than it's worth." When I was a teacher in Eng-

pg. 1



PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE R-C

Grant Dangberg's cabin was built between 1928 and 1930 and will be moved to Markleevillage in Alpine County. At upper left, notched logs are numbered for reassembly.

RC FRIDAY JULY 11, 2008

land I used to take the children to historical monuments.

Those threads of history had been maintained throughout the centuries. The children could wonder at the beauty of the mosaics which once graced the floors of Roman villas.

Showing them history goes a step further than talking about it. Hats off to Nick and all those willing to take the trouble to preserve this perfume of our past, reminding us that the human race wasn't invented last week.

■ Information on the cabin provided by the Alpine County Museum and U.S. Forest Service.

Alpine highways closed for Death Ride

Staff Reports

Highways all over Alpine County will be closed starting 5 a.m. Saturday for the annual Tour of the California Alps, better known as the Death Ride.

State Route 89 over Moni-

tor Pass, from the junction of Highway 395 to the junction of State Route 89/4 will be closed to traffic from 5 a.m. to noon.

From 5-9 a.m., the road from the Markleeville Courthouse to the junction of Highways 89 and 4 will be closed

to traffic.

State Route 4 over Ebbett's Pass, will be closed to all traffic from 5 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Only emergency, law enforcement and support vehicles will be allowed during the closures.

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pg. 2

Silver King Creek fish restoration meeting Tuesday

Staff Reports

State and federal wildlife officials are seeking public comment on a proposal to remove fish from Silver King Creek in an effort to restore the Paiute cutthroat trout.

As part of the effort, a public meeting has been scheduled for 4-7 p.m. Tuesday at Turtle Rock Park to present the proposal to remove non-native fish from the creek from Llewellyn Falls to Silver Creek Canyon, as well as the accessible portions of three tributaries, Tamarack, Tamarack Lake and Coyote Valley creeks.

Methods being considered for removing the fish include application of fish poison, electrofishing and dewatering, or a combination of these methods, according to officials.

Representatives of the California Department of Fish and Game will be available to answer questions on the proposal at the meeting.

Fish and game, U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the U. S. Forest Service are also seeking written public comment on the proposal.

DETAILS

What: Meeting on Silver King Creek fish removal

When: 4-7 p.m. Tuesday

Where: Turtle Rock Park

On The Web:

www.fws.gov/nevada or
www.dfg.ca.gov/news/silverking

The agencies are preparing a report on the environmental impact of the proposal to restore Paiute cutthroat trout into 9.1 miles of historic habitat currently occupied by non-native trout species.

The meeting is an open house.

Written public comments will be accepted at the public workshop or by mail until Oct. 31.

Comments should be submitted to Stafford Lehr, California Department of Fish and Game, 1701 Nimbus Road, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. More information on the proposed action can be found at the following Web sites www.fws.gov/nevada or www.dfg.ca.gov/news/silverking.

Airport's future topic of discussion

by Jim Donald ^{R-C} JULY 25, 2008

The entry in my logbook reads TVL - AlpineCo - ugCo - TVL, dated of Aug. 1978. Translated it shows that my son and I flew from Lake Tahoe to Alpine County Airport, on to what is now Minden-Tahoe Airport and returned to Lake Tahoe.

The aircraft was a Cessna 150, N66673, and the duration of the flight was 1.5 hours. I flew into Alpine County Airport several times in the two years preceding that date while using the GI Bill to obtain a commercial license with instrument and multi-engine ratings.

Except for minor changes, the airport still looks the same now as it did then. The Airport Facility Directory published by the Federal Aviation Administration gives the following information: airport identifier Q82, which doesn't have quite the same ring as say LAX or SFO, 3 miles north of Markleeville at an elevation of 5,867 feet with a traffic pattern altitude of 6,667 feet, or 800 feet above ground level. The runway, 17 and 35, numbered by magnetic direction with the last digit rounded and dropped, is 4,443 feet long by 50 feet wide, asphalt, with a hill obstructing approach to 17 and right traffic off 35. Unattended, closed winter months and large stones and trees are listed under remarks. Pilots use radio frequency 122.9 MHz to report position and intentions, usually at predetermined reference points on the ground or while airborne. Notices to airmen which outline local temporary hazards, winter closures and special events are on file with the Reno FAA office.

According to county archives, in October 1959, George and Sallie R. Springmeyer signed a grant deed, with conditions, that describes the property on which the airport sits today. Those conditions were: that the grantee (county) establish, construct, perpetually operate and maintain a public airport; that brush

and trees be removed, a fence be built (barbed wire, four-strand, five-high) with gates and cattle guards where necessary; taxes and licenses be paid; and that damages to livestock and property be paid. Failure to meet and adhere to these conditions would void the contract and property would revert to grantor.

On Dec. 11, 1959, Board of Supervisors Chairman Francis Sasselli signed a request for aid under the federal aid for airports program in the amount of \$65,000, showing that \$30,000 would come from unrefunded gas tax revenue and \$35,000 from the feds. These monies would be used for site preparation, paving, lighting and miscellaneous costs to get the airport up and running.

On Jan. 28, 1960, G. C. Hand, the FAA's district airport engineer denied the request stating that due to population density and remote location, Markleeville does not meet the requirements for FAA Part 550.

The grant deed remained unsigned by Alpine County and in December 1960 the same land was deeded to the G. & S. R. Springmeyer Corp.

Things fall into limbo for awhile but the pot of gas tax revenue was still there, the economy was flush, and during the next 10 years practically every small county in California would get an airport.

Local pilot, aviation enthusiast and county Supervisor Jack Doyal enlisted longtime resident Gary Coyan to help with airport site selection. Gary remembers, "We flew around in Jack Doyal's airplane surveying sites and it was so turbulent just west of Turtle Rock that we nearly crashed. It was the same down in the valley where the rivers come together (the confluence of Markleeville Creek and the East Fork) but up above where the airport is now it was much smoother."

Fast forward to April 4, 1967, where records show the United States through the Bureau of Land Management



SPECIAL TO THE R-C
The fate of Alpine County Airport will be discussed 9:30 a.m. Aug. 2.

issued a patent conveying the former Springmeyer land to Alpine County for use as a public airport, and I paraphrase, to be established within three years and maintained as such, in perpetuity; and to grant no one person, firm or corporation exclusive right to use of the same.

By Aug. 28, 1968, R&D Watson, a contractor from Fresno, was issued a certificate of completion for runway construction and paid \$29,910. Leonard Turnbeaugh, who became director of public works (formerly the road department) some 10 years later and whose department assumed responsibility for the airport, relates that the runway was a "1 inch asphalt overlay which is barely more than oil on dirt."

Public works, during Turnbeaugh's 25 plus years, did two more overlays, the last in 1992, and constructed the ramp area with tie downs for 10 aircraft. Routine maintenance such as runway sealing and grading dirt edges was done annually. The wind sock and segmented circle, devices that indicate wind direction and traffic pattern procedures were moved about 2,000 feet northward several years ago.

In 1995, a pavement study showed that the runway was in "excellent" condition with a PCI rating of 100, which is as high as it can get. Runways lose strength with age however and it is due for a slurry seal which may be accomplished this year according to Dennis Cardoza, current director of

public works. Gross weight for landing aircraft is 4,500-pound single-wheel main gear and 9,000-pound dual mains during the dry season which drops to 2,500 and 5,000 pounds respectively when the ground is wet.

Flight operations at the airport are basic and can be interesting. That hill on approach to 17 shouldn't be a problem for experienced pilots but the winds can be. The exposed location is subject to capricious gusts, swirling crosswinds and strong pre-frontal southwesterlies that can make landing an adventure. Hot summer days create high density altitude conditions that can rob engine power and wing lift by making the elevation equivalent to an airport several thousand feet higher. And curiously, that runway is slightly higher in the center than at the ends which can make visual acquisition of aircraft on the opposite end of the runway impossible.

But, on a nice day, in the cool of the morning it's a beautiful place to fly in and out of. Some pilots do just that, camping for a weekend, fishing on the East Fork or Indian Creek, hiking on local trails or just relaxing in a splendid Eastern Sierra setting. Itinerant pilots occasionally use the airport to practice "touch and goes" and the military aircraft very occasionally do a low approach.

Operations per year, pegged at 650, according to state records (a very optimistic figure) in the '90s are estimated

by Cardoza to be "probably 100 or less." An operation is defined as one takeoff, one landing, one touch and go or one low approach.

That the facility has remained undeveloped for so many years is not hard to fathom and it's not for lack of trying. The board of supervisors directed county staff to place ads in the Wall Street Journal and Hong Kong newspapers, during the '80s, looking for interested developers. Cardoza maintains that there are now proposals pending from developers.

The intervening years between those efforts have seen many proposals, studies and requests. According to county clerk's records, in 1989 the board of supervisors requested that Economic Development Services of Sacramento do an affordable housing study and business attraction plan. In 1995, 1997 and 1998 ideas from light industry to high end housing with personal hangars, shops and a golf course were brought forth. The board, in 2005 decided that a well was necessary for future development while considering a proposal for a fixed base operator and a BLM proposal to base single engine air tankers there.

The airport does see some use, but not as originally intended. Conversations with local residents reveal that hiking, snowshoeing, fishing access, star gazing, playing baseball and bird watching are favorite activities. Many people camp and many ride

OHV's as evidenced by the network of dirt "use" roads expanding in the area. Unfortunately people also drive on the runway and tarmac, a use prohibited by county ordinance, state law and FAA regulations.

In public planning meetings during the spring of 2007, Cardoza outlined six options for the airport, emphasizing that it couldn't stay the way it is, citing runway, fencing, signage and facilities as improvements necessary to reduce liability (to the tune of \$2.5 to \$6 million) and cash flow of up to \$200k per year operating revenue for upkeep. No mention was made, during the presentation of these options, as to whether the county had to legally adhere to the conditions set forth in the original BLM land patent.

County residents split 50 - 50 on whether to keep the airport open in some fashion or get rid of it. Since there was some lack of clarity on the choices, residents again will be asked for their input. Those options are being refined and on Aug 2 at 9:30 a.m., airport issues will be presented and discussed at a meeting in the administration building in Markleeville. Look for meeting notices as the time may change. Board members, administrative staff and planning personnel strongly encourage the public to attend and comment on this important planning process.

■ Jim Donald is an Alpine County resident.

Alpine administrative officer asks residents for suggestions

by Bill Morgan

Pamela Knorr, Alpine County's new administrative officer, came on board May 15.

Though her principal responsibility is the overall supervision and coordination of the several departments not headed by elected officials, she came just in time to tackle the daunting task of putting together a tentative budget for the 2008-09 fiscal year.

The state of California, like Nevada, is facing a sizable shortfall of revenues and has advised California counties to plan for serious cutbacks in funds for the categories of public safety and public works in particular. Other funding sources from the state are

being squeezed, too.

Some of the funds that the county has been getting from the federal government will be cut back also. Her unenviable job is to prepare that tentative budget, making recommendations to the board of supervisors as to where to make the cuts needed to result in a balanced budget. Annual pay raises, existing and proposed positions, favorite community service programs, all those and more are in play. That's not the ideal situation to be in if you wish to win friends and influence people. But Knorr is a team player and is doing her homework.

She's determined to do the best that can be done in a tough financial situation.

In the short time she has



SPECIAL TO THE R-C

Alpine County Administrative Officer Pamela Knorr is inviting residents to discuss the county's financial challenges.

been with the county, she has managed to get around the territory, meeting with the many volunteers, sitting in on meetings of the various commis-

sions and generally getting acquainted. And she is seeking ideas from the community regarding ways to meet the financial challenges. For

example, she is asking interested people to come to the county administrative office building 5 p.m. Monday, for a meeting to discuss how savings can be made in the operation of the library and the museum.

Those are two of the county's best programs and cutbacks in financial support could be painful. Other programs expected to be hard hit are those that have been receiving substantial funds from state or federal sources. The sheriff's department is one such program as is health and human services. The county department heads and the fiscal staff have already been very helpful in identifying possible cost savings in the county's operation. It appears

that Alpine County government is about to experience some significant changes.

Knorr has said that though the most challenging part of her job is that fiscal situation, working with the county staff and the members of the Board of Supervisors is the most pleasurable part of her job. A tall, slender woman, she's comfortable in a board room or on a trail bike. Though she has been working in her office well after dark at times, she has managed to get into the great outdoors of Alpine County with her two boys for some recreation on weekends.

That's good. She's going to need to keep her personal and professional lives in balance in the rough months ahead.

00 8-13-08

Catherine A. Parker

1930-2008

A graveside service was Monday in Fredricksburg Cemetery for retired Alpine County school teacher Catherine A. Parker, 78, who died of causes related to age on July 31, 2008, at Logan Regional Hospital in Logan, Utah.

Born April 27, 1930, in San Francisco to James and Dollie (Dodge) Bowman, she graduated from Palo Alto High School and received her bachelor's degree in elementary education from San Jose State University.

She married Robert Parker in 1960 in Sunnyvale, Calif. She and Robert raised five children together, daughters Diana, Gayle, and Susan; son



Parker

Rick, and granddaughter Kanani.

The majority of her career as an elementary school teacher was spent in Alpine County, Calif., She also taught several years in Camptonville, Calif. She retired in Alpine County after 27 years as a public school teacher in 1987. She and Mr. Parker moved to Idaho in 1996 to be near their son and his family. After his death in September 1997, she remained in Orofino and resided at Brookside Landing for several years. She moved with her son and his family to Logan, Utah, in February 2008.

Mrs. Parker was preceded in death by her husband Robert, sister Patricia, and daughters Diana, Gayle, and Susan.

She is survived by her son Rick (Jenrefer) Parker and three grandchildren in Logan; granddaughter Kanani (Lane) Moskoff of Pennsylvania, grandson Jeremy (Tammy) Parker of Louisiana, grandson Jeff (Jes) Parker of Taiwan, granddaughter Jessica Parker of Hanford, Calif., and seven

great-grandchildren.

Services are under the direction of Walton's Chapel of the Valley, Carson City. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.allenmortuaries.net.

3

Alpine County cutting \$585,000 from budget

by Bill Morgan

Alpine County supervisors convened an emergency session on Tuesday to close a \$585,000 general fund deficit.

The deficit had already been pared down from \$914,000 by the administration.

The remaining amount coupled with anticipated but undetermined cuts in other funds has forced the county to take further measures.

Following presentations from Pamela Knorr, the county

administrative officer, supervisors considered three major items intended to change the way the county would do business in the months ahead.

They affirmed Knorr's decision to cut out all overtime in county departments and to lay off all part-time and temporary employees.

"Overtime will only be expended in emergency situations as declared by the department head or elected official," she said. That action is expected to save a signifi-

cant amount of funds.

Supervisors approved a reorganization of the building department, the planning department, public works department and engineering. Those departments are to be combined into a community development department. Knorr projects a savings of at least \$268,000 by making that change in organization.

A third action was to approve the commencement of a workforce reduction affecting 11 full-time employees.

After giving those employees 60 days notice of the effective date, the county will lay off five positions in the public works department, two deputy sheriffs and two support staff in the sheriff's department, and one each in the auditor/controller's office and the treasurer/tax collector/recorder's office.

There is also consideration being given to cutting the county engineer. Savings expected from the reduction in force action are \$415,530 for

the year, but not all savings will be in the general fund.

Supervisors heard comments and suggestions from the audience, many of whom were employees of the county. Of the private residents in the audience, Jim Haen, a civil engineer; Mark Vaughn, a contractor; and Nat Whaley, a principal officer at Kirkwood; expressed strong support for keeping the building department intact, saying that that department was particularly effective and efficiently

staffed.

At the end of the session, supervisors expressed great concern for the people who were affected by the changes, particularly for those who would be laid off; and Skip Veatch emphasized the need for Knorr and staff to help them find opportunities for work elsewhere. On Tuesday, supervisors will begin a series of budget sessions. The actions and more will be reflected in the tentative budget Knorr will be presenting then.

RC - Fri, August 15, 2008

General store a place to gather

by Virginia York

In the late '60s, during our first visits to Markleeville, my husband and I would stop at the general store to boost our modest supply of back-packing vittles. On one such occasion my husband asked the owner if she could recommend a particular wine to which she replied: "I dunno. I ain't no common sewer." Later that day we discovered that the salami we'd bought was two years past its "use by" date. We had the general impression that our custom was not being courted. However, according to life-long resident, Gary Coyan, the owners at that time, Gus Egger, from Germany, and his wife, Lilly, ran a very efficient store from 1947, when electricity first came to Markleeville, to 1975, taking pains to stock according to the needs of his customers. Gary worked in the store shortly before the Eggers took over when it was owned by Dave and Vera Wood. In those days the store sold gas. Gary used to pump the gas by hand into a 10-gallon glass bowl above his head from where it was gravity fed through a pump into the customer's gas tank. Then he'd have to run inside to serve sundaes at the soda fountain (which was in the far right hand corner as you walk in) then dash off to help customers buying groceries; in spare moments he'd stack the shelves. He recalls washing his hands endlessly between the various tasks.

Gary remembers the Spit and Argue Club (known to some as the Sit and Spit Club) on the store's front porch. Roy



ALPINE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Markleeville General Store.

Price would tip his chair back and tap a rhythm with his foot all day long. Then there was member Matt Konig who for all his 80-odd years had nary a grey hair on his head.

Records indicate that a butcher's shop existed on the site of today's store pre-1879. However that shop burned down along with most of Markleeville in the fire of 1885. The Alpine Argus of Sept. 19, 1805, announces that Rask's New Market Building "is rapidly nearing completion...and will be a fine ornament to the town. The building is one and a half stories high and contains two rooms below. The front room will be used as

a shop and is 16 feet square by 12 feet high...Overhead there will be four rooms, which Mr. Rask intends to fit up for lodging purposes."

The entire original structure was wooden with a tongue-in-groove siding. Gus Egger added the cinder block building to the south side where, down the step, the groceries are now kept. Gus also dug a cellar with his brother who hauled off the dirt with a wheelbarrow and dumped it in the creek. The townsfolk predicted that the building would collapse with so much undermining, but the result was a fine cellar used to this day.

Recently I sat in the

Markleeville General Store's secret garden sipping white wine from the store. Bob says that he and his wife, Dee, don't claim to be connoisseurs but they stock the store mostly with the wine they enjoy; it appears that their tastes are shared by plenty of others. This charming garden, one of the Ruddens' contributions to the general store compound, has a pond with fish and a turtle, trees grown tall now, and a splendid spray of petunias spilling over a broken bird bath. Another major Ruddén contribution, appreciated by locals and tourists alike, is the public restroom, always open, no key required. Bob and Dee have discovered that if they keep the restroom clean most others will follow suit.

One morning in January 1986, while making bombs at Lockheed, Cupertino, a sudden thought occurred to Bob: "This is stupid." That day he and Dee decided to buy the Markleeville General Store. Dee loves the natural beauty of the area. Bob has been deeply touched by the willingness of the townspeople to help each other out. Fifteen years ago Bob became ill one snowy night. The crisis brought neighbors running

through the snow to help. Wayne Thompson, snow equipment operator, heard the emergency call and ploughed the snow at 55 miles per hour to the state line in front of the ambulance.

Last Christmas came upon me much more quickly than expected. With no time to search further afield I hastened to the general store and was delighted at the variety of gifts available in the many tiny departments: Dee's antique alcove, camping supplies,

clothes (I bought myself a bathing suit here!) hand-crafted jewelry, a bin of topographical maps, another of umbrellas... Good use is made of that "16 feet square." I ask you: Where can you buy four oak dining chairs and a six-pack of imported ale? Markleeville General Store, of course. Information on the history of the Markleeville General Store provided by Alpine County Museum and Gary Coyan.

County wields budget ax

by Bill Morgan

On Tuesday, the Alpine Board of Supervisors plunged into the murky waters of public finance, with the objective of coming out with a budget that would keep the county afloat for this fiscal year. Before an audience comprised of county staff and several members of the public, the board reviewed budget requests from the various departments covering 111 categories, many of which contained several line items. For the rest of that day and for the following two days, the board and staff worked to close the shortfall that would remain, even after considering the board's decision to lay off several employees in an emergency session the week before. After some 20 hours of deliberation, preceded by many hours of study of the tentative budget presented by the county administrative officer, Pamela Knorr, they approved a balanced budget. However action on most of the requests from the departments for such special one time requests as

new computers or vehicle upgrades was postponed until a comprehensive review of the collective needs in that category was done.

Members of the board demonstrated a keen understanding of the budget elements and the consequences of their actions, but none were happy with the outcome, knowing that several employees have to be let go in order for the county to operate with a serious reduction in revenues. Supervisor Skip Veatch said "It hurt to have to do that." He said that the board would hold a mid-year review of the county's fiscal situation and make adjustments as needed. He expressed hope that the state of California and the federal government would make more funds available than currently anticipated and that some of the employee cuts could be restored.

During an interview with Knorr, she explained that one position was restored during the budget session, that being a position to be shared between the auditor/controller's office and the treasurer/tax collector/recorder's

office. However Bessie Platten's position as head of the county library was eliminated. Knorr plans to arrange to share library services with another county. The status of the position of county engineer remains unresolved.

Knorr expressed regret for the need to downsize

"Alpine County is not immune to these economic hard times that public and private organizations are facing," she said.

Still remaining to occur is the planned consolidation of the building and planning departments with those departments sharing some support staff with the department of public works.

The three units are expected to be located in the current offices of the public works department, though to this observer, the space needs of the building department and the planning department appear to be greater than would be available.

It will be several weeks before the county organization adjusts to the budget cuts and personnel changes. We will be reporting on this process once

Kirkwood adds new ski lifts

Staff Reports

For the first time in 24 years, Kirkwood Mountain Resort will be adding two new lifts for the 2008-09 season to improve access to its 2,300 acres of terrain.

Additionally, the resort is installing a new Wonder Carpet lift in the Timber Creek beginner's area designed specifically to ease the learning process for those just taking up the sport.

Kirkwood is investing more than \$10,000 in revamping its three terrain park layouts with upgraded features and more progressive elements.

These improvements are the first significant phase in bringing to reality Kirkwood's recently approved mountain master development plan.

"Those familiar with the terrain accessed by our two new lifts understand why our season passholders can't wait for the 2008-09 winter season to get under way," said Tim Cohee, Chief Marketing Officer of Kirkwood/Mountain Springs. "The evidence speaks for itself with a record number of season passes sold to date. Even more exciting, is the fact that these improvements represent only the tip of the iceberg with additional lifts and other on-mountain improvements soon to follow suit."

In addition to the on-mountain improvements, Kirkwood spent the off-season upgrading base area services and resort infrastructure. New programs and events have also been added to the 2008-09 winter calendar including the return of the

North American Freeskiing Championships. And the resort has invested a significant amount of both time and money in upgrading its Web site and online communication channels.

The new surface lifts will provide access to nearly 700 acres and more than 1,350 vertical feet of skiing and snowboarding.

The Lookout Vista lift replaces the hike to the chutes of Thunder Saddle along with access to the snowfields and cliffbands of Sunnyside for those headed to the resort's backside.

The Covered Wagon lift gains access to the highest point crossed on the historic Emigrant Trail along with pristine powder stashes on Fawn Ridge and backcountry access when the gates are open.



HOWARD VENUTO/Special to The R-C
U.S. Forest Service firefighter Howard Venuto took this photo of the Burnside fire in Hope Valley on Sunday. Venuto is stationed at the Topaz Fire Station.

Officials expect fire containment today

Staff Reports

Firefighters expect to have a line around the 216-acre Burnside fire burning in Hope Valley by 6 p.m. today.

The fire started 4:06 p.m. Sunday.

The cause is still under investigation, but it is believed an illegal campfire may have sparked the blaze.

The fire resulted in two injuries to firefighters and the destruction of an outbuilding.

Work on the fire was turned over to ground forces on Thursday, which had a line 65 percent around the blaze.

Eight hand crews, six water tenders and three helicopters are working on the fire.

"Firefighters continue to work on completion of the containment and continue to

mop up and secure the perimeter," Sierra Interagency Dispatch spokeswoman Helen Frazier said Thursday morning.

Firefighters have moved their helitanker base to the Markleeville Heliport. The Alpine County Airport has reopened to nonfire aircraft.

The fire prompted the evacuation of resorts, homes and campgrounds during the busy Labor Day weekend.

While neither Highway 88 or 89 are closed due to the fire, two Forest Service roads, the one to Burnside Lake and the other to Pickett's Peak are closed.

The road to Blue Lakes Road remains open.

In all, 250 people are working on the fire, including the crews of seven fire engines.

Caples Lake rescue moves 6,300 fish in three days

Staff Reports

Nearly 80 volunteers joined California Department of Fish and Game to save more than 6,300 of Caples Lake fish on Aug. 26-29.

The fish were moved to Silver and Red lakes, just a few miles from Caples.

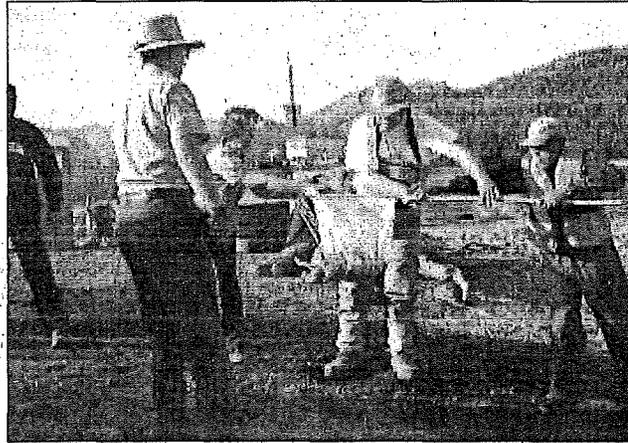
The total includes large fish up to 36 inches in length. Brown, rainbow, and lake trout — the latter also known as Mackinaw — comprised two-thirds of the total fish captured; they were released in Silver Lake. The remaining third were brook trout, and they are now in Red Lake. The fish were separated because brook trout are not part of the mix that is stocked at Silver Lake.

The volunteers were organized by Chris Shutes with the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance and Barbara Bania with Trout Unlimited.

The El Dorado Irrigation District's Board of Directors authorized the rescue and funded it during their Aug. 25 meeting, and the rescue began the next day.

Two board members, George Osborne, who serves as board president, and Bill George, immediate past board president, were on hand for day one of the project to explain reasons for drawing down the lake and thus the need to rescue the fish.

"When we were presented with evidence of badly deteriorated outlet works at the Caples main dam, we knew we



Volunteers haul fish out of Caples Lake.

SPECIAL TO THE R-C

had an emergency on our hands," Osborne said. "We soon learned that to fix the problems, we would need to draw down the water in the

reservoir to protect the repair crews. And we knew that the drawdown could affect the fish populations in the reservoir and downstream of the dam.

So we were very pleased when Fish and Game determined it would conduct this rescue."

Osborne thanked the volunteers for helping to rescue the fish.

"This couldn't have been accomplished without the volunteers," he said. "We thank them very much for working long shifts through the night and for their hours on the fish-net brigade to move the fish from the holding pens to the hatchery trucks as quickly as possible. This helped make sure that countless numbers of fish safely made the trip from Caples reservoir to Silver and Red lakes."

The irrigation district began to drain Caples reservoir in mid-July. Crews are to begin in late September to replace

the two slide gates at the Caples main dam and complete other needed repairs to the outlet works. District officials are proceeding under an emergency declared by the district's board of directors on July 1, after a mid-June underwater investigation revealed major deterioration of the outlet works, including the slide gates.

They propose building a temporary dam, when the water level is low enough, to store some of the reservoir's water while protecting workers. Consultations with fish and game indicate that the amount of water that can be stored behind the bladder dam may not be sufficient to sustain the reservoir fishery over the winter.

SEPT 12, 2008

Markleeville native has lots of

by Virginia York

uring the summer of 1975 my parents came to visit us in Markleeville. One day, strolling through town and hungry, we stopped at The Frosty. I went to order and was greeted by a man with a great big smile. I searched my memory: "Do I know this man?" I was thinking as I returned the smile and gave our order. This was my introduction to Gary Coyan. After lunch my dad, never one to bestow praise lightly, declared solemnly: "That was the best hamburger I've ever had." We felt proud to have such an establishment in our neighborhood.

However, Gary's wife, Wanda, does not have such a glowing report of her initial exposure to The Frosty. She stopped by for lunch and ordered a fish sandwich.

"We're out of fish sandwiches," she was told. "I'll try barbecued beef, then."
"We're out of barbecued beef"

"How about a tuna fish?"

"We're out of tuna."

"Well, what do you have?"

"A hamburger."

"OK, I'll have a hamburger."

As she walked away, she thought: "I will never, ever eat here again," little knowing that three years later, married to the owner, she would be telling people "Sorry, no fish sandwiches."

Gary's grandfather, John Robert Ellis, was born in 1845 in Carnovan County, Wales. He came to this country in 1864, homesteading in Diamond Valley after working in the New York slate quarries, on the Virginia and Truckee Railroad in Virginia City (where he helped during the smallpox epidemic) and in the mines in Silver Mountain City. In 1872, while visiting his family in Wales, he met and married Margaret Ann Jones. John brought his wife, who spoke only Welsh, back to Alpine County. Like many of the Welsh, Margaret had second sight. One day she was

She said it was for John to wear at the funeral of a man, who, as far as anyone knew, was quite healthy. As she ironed she told her husband to hang up the shirt carefully after the funeral because he'd be needing to wear it for hers. The man did indeed die shortly afterwards and two days later Margaret died in childbirth.

After Margaret's death, John bought the Fisk Hotel (now the Alpine) where he moved with his three children. Some years later George Coyan, an employee of Pacific Gas & Electric assigned to Blue Lakes, would come to the hotel trading fish and quail for room and board.

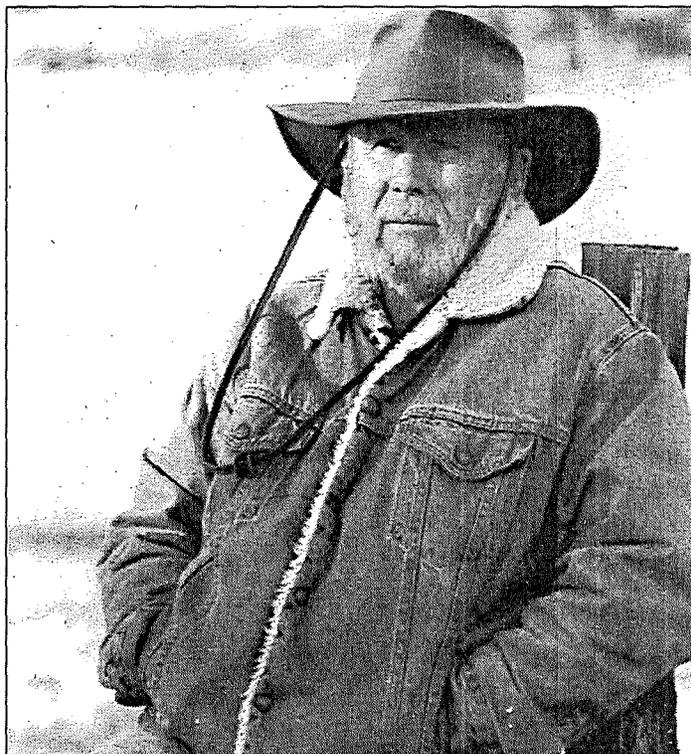
George became acquainted with Elizabeth (one of John's children) who waited on tables in the hotel. They married in 1920 and operated the hotel from 1921 until 1940. Elizabeth was also county treasurer for 50 years.

They grew vegetables and raised meat for the hotel and for their family. People would travel from as far away as Reno for the special Sunday chicken lunches. John and Elizabeth had three children. The youngest of these was Gary, born in 1933.

Gary went to school in the building which is now the library. One day he was going downstairs to go to the bathroom when he noticed a lot of smoke coming from the furnace room. He peeked inside and saw the caretaker, Norman Green, collapsed on the floor, overcome by the smoke. Gary ran for help and Norman was saved.

Gary and his friends built a three-story tree-house with stolen materials. It had a window, spiral staircase and bunk beds. The boys kept their store of cigarettes and whiskey there. The tree-house survived until recently.

In 1947, one of the teams of workers bringing electricity to Markleeville told Gary there was a silver dollar on top of one of the poles. They all helped Gary strap on the



Gary Coyan grew up in Markleeville.

SPECIAL TO THE R-C

stories to share

carried him over to the pole. Here they jammed the spikes into the pole so he couldn't move.

There Gary stayed until they'd laughed their way through lunch and got around to releasing him.

When the owner of the silver dollar went home that evening, however, he forgot his silver dollar so Gary shimmed up the pole, without the aid of climbers, and retrieved it.

The next day Gary teased the man about being a tight wad and only leaving a dollar. The man took the bait and went up the pole this time leaving a five dollar bill.

To the man's amazement, Gary shot up the pole and brought down the bill. Now the joke was on the jokester.

The crew invited all newcomers to leave silver dollars, or more, at the top of the pole

so Gary was kept in business. It was a lucrative summer but at the end of it Gary sported a great many festering wounds from wood splinters in his belly and legs.

Gary has played many roles during his working life including sailor, volunteer deputy sheriff, probation officer, weights and measures officer, game warden, road department worker, restaurant and motel manager, and school bus driver (for 31 years).

He and his wife Wanda now raise goats and chickens. They have four grown-up sons.

One comes away from an interview with Gary Coyan with the impression that one has barely scratched the surface of a vast store of jokes and anecdotes.

Source: Historical information provided by Alpine County Museum and Gary Coyan.

A climb on the sentinel that overlooks Markleeville

by Jim Donald

With cool crisp autumn weather ahead it's time to consider climbing a peak. There is no better time to appreciate the Sierra than in October, when the light is thin and the sky sparkling blue. The majesty of the mountains comes into crystal focus calling us to stand on top and view all that is around. Not to mention that the insects have mostly disappeared (except those pesky yellow jackets), there are fewer people on the trails and it's easier to push muscles at a higher rate in the cool, denser air.

High and jagged Raymond Peak, overlooking Markleeville, is perfect for a fall excursion. If you're com-

ing from the Carson Valley south on Highway 88 it's at 1 o'clock in your field of view. The taller peak that's almost lined up with the highway is Silver Peak. Raymond's easiest route is class 2, so bring gloves and hiking poles — the last 1,000 feet is off-trail. Allow about three hours up for the 2,100 feet of elevation gain and two-and-a-half hours down with adjustments for your fitness level and break times.

Examine Raymond with binoculars or if you're in Markleeville drive up to the museum and take a look. Notice two bands of trees ascending nearly to the top. You'll climb in the leftmost band or better yet in the gully just left of that band.

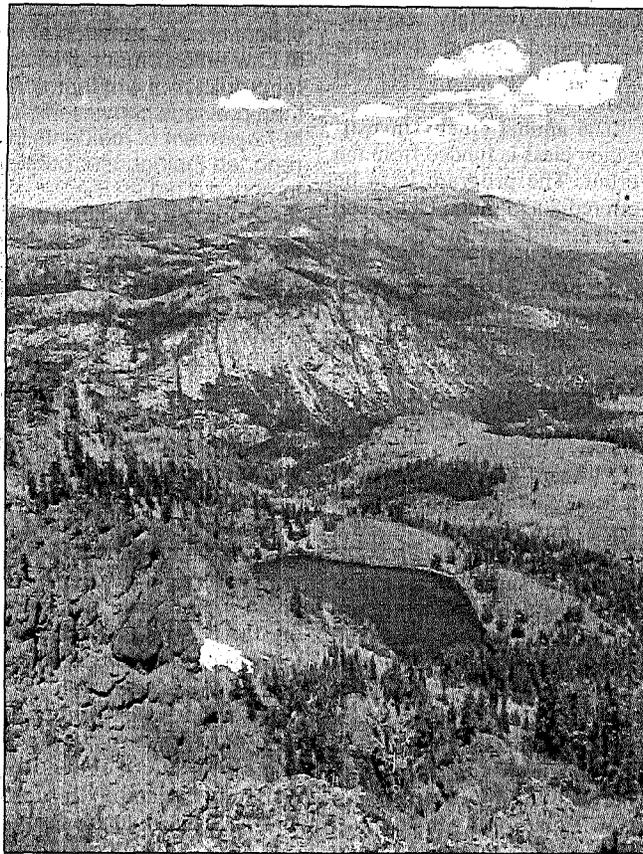
Take the left toward Tamarack Lake off Blue Lakes Road, continue, as the road becomes dirt, to a T, turn right, cross a creek (high clearance recommended), then stay left to the Wet Meadows Pacific Crest Trail parking area. This road has been periodically closed this summer for restoration so check first.

From Wet Meadows take the trail south (actually heading east here), initially climbing easily to a small ridge, then descending to the headwaters of Pleasant Valley Creek, before beginning a series of climbs and levels as it contours steep gullies on the north side of the peak. Enjoy the excellent views of Pleasant Valley and Markleeville. The trail climbs more steeply to a

broad open shoulder where a right turn takes us south to Raymond Lake. Take a break at this beautiful lake tucked in a cirque and then continue the climb, off trail, around the left side of the lake.

Continue climbing, steeply now, through a hemlock band, jog left into a small gully and begin the thigh burning "staircase" portion of the climb. As you stop to catch your breath turn around and notice what a steep slope you're on. This will give you the energy to continue. Nearing the summit, keep left to arc around and climb the last few feet from the south.

At 10,114 feet, the view is superb. Jewel-like Raymond Lake, Pleasant Valley, Markleeville and the Carson



SPECIAL TO THE R-C

The view from the top of Raymond Peak in Alpine County.

Valley stretch northward. Numerous lakes lie to the west and the peaks of the Carson-Iceberg wilderness dominate the south. Cathedral-like Peak 9700 and Reynolds Peak are immediately southwest. Sign the register, do the usual summit things and then figure out how you're going to get down.

Retracing your steps is one obvious solution. Just go back down the stairs or move into the trees part way down and lurch from tree to tree to arrest your descent rate.

Fit climbers without fear can make a loop by going off the southwest ridge. This is easy for about a 1/2 mile until a nearly vertical rock drop-off blocks the way. Go off on the right or northwest slope and gingerly work your way down the very steep loose rock, switch-backing as necessary. Those poles and gloves come in really handy in this section.

Once down in the trees, descend northwest, dip in and out of several small gullies while resisting the temptation to veer northeast down the creek drainages. Keep left, without climbing the lower slopes of Peak 9700, to intercept the Pacific Crest Trail on

that small ridge near Wet Meadows.

The usual precautions apply. Bring clothing appropriate for the weather and check the NOAA's Reno forecast Web site. Thunderstorms cancel, snow on the peak cancels (unless you have the skill and equipment necessary), don't forget the 10 essentials and enjoy the climb.

CREEK DAY

The Alpine Watershed Group's annual Creek Day celebration is Sept. 27 at the Alpine County Library Park. The event gets under way at 9 a.m. with lunch provided at noon.

There will be activities for all ages and physical abilities. Join us to celebrate your watershed. Learn about fly tying, invasive weeds, how to use a GPS, do storm drain stenciling, story time, arts and crafts or some restoration work.

Live music by Acoustic Solution at noon. Bring clothes you can get dirty in, hat, gloves, sunscreen and a GPS if possible. Contact Chris Katopothis at (530) 694-2327 for more information.

Different meanings of senior

by Bill Morgan

What does it mean to be a senior? What advantages are there to reach that status? Well, if you're in high school it means you're probably about to be 18 and about to enter adulthood.

That's no small thing. It means you'll be eligible to

vote. And you won't need your parent's permission to join the military, either.

It also means if you get "busted," your picture might be in the paper. All in all, attaining that status puts you on the threshold of being a fully involved and responsible person in our society. Neat, huh?

If you're a senior in college, it probably means you're 21 and about to step up to another plateau, ready to enter the career world with a diploma to attest to your level of knowledge, sorta like the scarecrow after the Wizard of Oz had done his thing for Dorothy and her friends. And, being 21, you can also order a bottle of

wine to go with your dinner with your senior friends at your favorite restaurant. You might get carded, but you can still have the wine, though it might be a good idea to learn the difference between chardonnay and sauvignon blanc and know that the wine server didn't give you the cork for you to taste. Though you may have some college loans to pay off, you'll be ready to earn real money and make your mark in the world. Great, huh?

If you attain seniorhood in the sense that some young people call you "sir" or "ma'am" and you talk about your grandchildren more than your children, you find yourself with advantages you didn't have before.

For instance, at 50 you can join AARP and get a 10 percent discount at most motels. You have to put on a few more years, though, to really enjoy all the perks that come with age.

Reaching 62, you can start drawing Social Security, cashing in on some of that 7 to 15 percent you've been paying into that federal system.

At 65 (higher for many under current rules) you can receive a greater sum of money from Social Security, if you wait till then to apply for it.



SPECIAL TO THE R-C

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At 63 you can also cut

down on your out of pocket medical expenses with Medicare. And, if you look your age, you might get a free coffee at McDonald's. Likewise, tickets for the movies are less when you're over 65.

So, what does all this have to do with Alpine County? Well, we have our share of seniors and, though Alpine County has no senior center here on the east side of the county we do have the 50-Plus Club.

In 1997, at the urging of the county social services people, a few people, including several seniors, sat down and organized a program for seniors. The gathering place for the activities moved around a bit and finally settled in at the learning center near the junction of Highway 88 and Foothill Road.

Under the leadership of Jim and Dolores Clark, the 50-Plus Club has evolved into a monthly potluck luncheon with a wide variety of programs to benefit the seniors who attend.

The Alpine County Unified School District allows use of the big room at the center at no charge.

The club gets no money from the county, but the social services department is supportive in many ways. Funds to help cover the expenses are earned by the seniors as a result of helping the chamber of commerce with the annual bicycle event called the Death Ride.

The programs at the monthly luncheons include information from a number of county officials, such as the sheriff and the county health officer and his staff, covering such topics as emergency services.

There have been a variety of programs of a different sort, too.

For example, Doc Harvey, the county health officer, presented a hugely entertaining travelogue of his adventures as tour doctor on a trip around the world to several exotic places.

Recently was a celebration of the 60th wedding anniversary of Stuart and Eileen Merrill, long time residents of Alpine County.

Now here's a tip. You don't have to be 50 or over to attend these affairs.

You can be a senior for the day.

The food is good and there's plenty of it. And you'll likely get better acquainted with several of Alpine County's officials.

Call Jim or Dolores Clark at (530) 694-2473 for information about the next gathering.

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Tanker crew raffle drawing Saturday

Staff Reports

A drawing is Saturday on the Alpine County Library lawn in Markleeville for a raffle to raise money for the families of three air tanker crew members killed when their plane crashed on takeoff on Sept. 1.

The P2 had been used earlier to fight the Burnside fire in Hope Valley.

Raffle tickets are \$5 each, or \$20 for five.

Prizes include overnight hotel stays, dinners, breakfast, gifts, artwork, snowshoes and an entry into the 2009 Death Ride.

The drawing will be held Saturday on the Alpine County Library lawn in Markleeville.

For more information contact Joyce Coker at (530) 694-2475.

R-C

OCT. 3, 2008

Complaints sought for Alpine grand jury

R-C
OCT. 3, 2008

Staff Reports

The 2008-09 Alpine County grand jury has convened and residents may submit requests for investigations.

The grand jury is an investigative body created by the Fifth Amendment and the California Constitution, working as a watchdog agency.

Its major function is to examine county government and special districts to ensure their duties are being lawfully executed. The grand jury also has the power, through Superior Court, to prosecute an agency or individual determined to be guilty of an offense.

Any resident may contact the grand jury. They may request the jury to investigate alleged mistreatment by officials, suspicions of misconduct and government inefficiencies.

The grand jury may be contacted by completing and mailing a complaint form to:

Foreperson, Alpine County Civil Grand Jury, P.O. Box 102, Markleeville, Calif. 96120.

Complaint forms are available online at <http://www.alpine.courts.ca.gov> under the grand jury tab.

Forms also are available in Markleeville at the Alpine County Court House, county library and county clerk's office in the administration building; Kirkwood Public Utility District, Kirkwood; Alpine County Sheriff's Substation, Bear Valley.

The grand jury is required by law to operate in secrecy. All complaint forms and investigations are secret and confidential.

The 12-member grand jury is in session until June 30, 2009.

Redistricting can be a challenge

by Irving Krauss

Nov. 4 is Election Day when people will decide who will represent them, from the nation's president to local officials. We believe, or at least hope that the elections will be fair, that every eligible voter will be able to cast a ballot and that his or her vote will count. We know from history that it is not always so, especially as experienced by some minorities.

The 1982 Voting Rights Act as amended addressed the problem, and played an important part in a redistricting in Alpine County as we shall see.

Most voters will make their choices in polling booths while a growing number will use mail-in ballots. In Alpine County, because of its small size all the voting is by mail. However a touch-screen

machine is available for the disabled.

Throughout the nation people vote in the district where they live and in Alpine it will be in one of five districts, that are determined mainly by population and to a lesser degree by natural boundaries, such as rivers or mountains. The ideal is to have an equal number of eligible voters in each district. But in some places populations increase, in others they decline and district lines often need to be redrawn.

The U.S. Constitution deals with this problem by requiring a census every 10 years to make sure that districts fairly represent population size, and that is the responsibility of the Alpine County Board of Supervisors. The board sets up a committee to look at the boundaries and propose changes if warranted. It is assumed that the lines will be



SPECIAL TO THE R-C

Wilma Rule prevented Alpine County's American Indians from being split into two supervisor districts.

drawn fairly and not to benefit any officials or special interests.

But we all know about gerrymandering that doesn't occur in Alpine — at least it's rare. There was the time, not so long ago, when a supervisor who was at odds with other board members returned from vacation only to learn that he was no longer in his original district, which meant that his chance of being re-elected were nil.

Another case that came to the fore involved the American Indian vote. A member of the 1991 Redistricting Committee was the late Wilma Rule, whose scholarly research and writings dealt with the election of women and minorities. She found that the committee's proposed districting split a substantial number of American Indians

between two districts. In the view of the Voting Rights Act their vote was diluted, and thus the arrangement was illegal. After several hearings the board accepted the committee's revised boundaries that set up the present District 3 that includes most of the county's American Indians.

Following the 2000 Census district lines were adjusted with the major change placing Bear Valley and Kirkwood in one district. After the 2010 Census there will likely be changes, especially because of the large population growth in present District 5. Zack Woods of the planning department, an expert in population analysis will provide input. And, as in the past County Clerk Barbara Howard will notify those residents who may find themselves in a different district.

International couple finds

Friday, October 10, 2008 ■ A9

home in Markleeville

by Virginia York

When Ruggero Gigli was growing up in Italy he used to dream that one day he would take the train to Russia then cross over to America on a raft. It turned out that on Jan. 7, 1959, when he was 26 years old, he was on the first Pan American flight from Rome to New York drinking free champagne.

Ruggero was born in 1932 in Borgo San Lorenzo, near Florence. When he was 8 years old the Americans started to bomb an important half-moon shaped railroad junction near his town. They never hit it; the Germans did that later on. Ruggero's brother was camping in the hills above the town with the partisans, Italians who were on the side of the allies. Ruggero used to go up there and help wash the dishes. During the war, Ruggero's father died of diabetes just before the Americans arrived with medicine.

At 11, Ruggero took a job at the local bakery to help support his extended family. Every day from 3 a.m. to 7 a.m. he used to bake for no pay because he was learning. From 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. he was paid for delivering the bread on a tricycle. When he was 15 he was moved to the Florence branch of the bakery and within two years he became head baker.

On Sundays, housewives were permitted to use the bakery ovens to cook their pigs and lambs and other large pieces of meat for the big meal of the week. Ruggero would inhale the savory aromas and ask how they had made these delectable dishes. Some of the women were reluctant to part with their secret family recipes but when Ruggero teased them saying "No



SPECIAL TO THE R-C

Gina and Ruggero Gigli at home in Markleeville. At right, The Green Man, one of the masks that Gina has created.

recipes, no oven," they relented, probably omitting important details.

When Ruggero came to New York he wanted to divorce his wife in Italy from whom he was legally separated. A New York lawyer advised him to go and see a lawyer friend of his in Carson City. When the plane landed in Reno Ruggero beheld the Nevada landscape. He supposed that a great fire had swept through eradicating all signs of greenery.

As he was waiting for the bus to Carson City he tried his hand at the slot machines. Suddenly there was a big noise and red lights started to flash. He could only imagine he'd done something wrong and was horrified when a uniformed gentleman strode towards him.

As Ruggero spoke no English, the "policeman" beck-

oned him to follow to an office where he was presented with 150 silver dollars. After he'd been granted the divorce he returned to New York with a fondness for Lake Tahoe and an incipient appreciation for the desert that would draw him back in 1961.

In 1962 Ruggero met his future wife, Gina, at a party in

Carson City. When the time arrived to ask Gina's father for his daughter's hand in marriage the older man said, in so many words, that to take on her boys, aged 11, 12 and 15, would be nothing less than foolhardy. Ruggero took the risk and, throughout the subsequent years has nurtured a good relationship with his

by Virginia York

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SPECIAL TO THE R-C

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R-C OCT. 10, 2008

Alpine walking tour brochures available

Staff Reports

The Historical Society of Alpine County and the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce have re-published the historic walking tour brochure of Markleeville.

Available at the Alpine County Museum or at the chamber of commerce office. Brochures are \$3.50 each.

For more information contact the museum at (530) 694-2317 or the chamber (530) 694-2475.

Development director tracks building in Alpine County

by Irving Krauss

Alpine County Director of Community Development Brian Peters has a critical role in planning and monitoring the county's growth.

He is responsible for planning, working with staff planner Zach Woods, for building construction, aided by Carolyn Vaughn and Tony Creter, for engineering, which is contracted out, as well as for transportation planning.

Peters emphasized that not only is it necessary to coordinate undertakings but also to ensure that procedures are followed consistently and that the requirements of state laws are met.

The key decision-making groups are the planning commission and the board of supervisors, both of which rely on the planning, building, and engineering departments.

Planning commissioners look to the planning department for details on proposals for growth and change, and

how they conform to zoning and the county's general plan.

Commissioners also receive citizen input at public hearings, and make recommendations to the board of supervisors.

The board has the final say and is guided by the planning staff's report that provides information, helps frame issues, and presents alternatives.

Much of the work of the departments that are overseen by Peters is providing information to individuals on zoning requirements, building codes and on timelines for the construction process.

Peters said that the planning, building, and engineering units have two large projects before them.

One is a 500-unit development in Bear Valley and the other is Tom Abdoo's project in Markleeville.

That proposal has been resubmitted and is presently undergoing internal review, and there will be public hearings in 2009.

The current economic condition of the nation came up in the interview for this article and Peters noted that building permits in the county are down, but that Kirkwood and Bear Valley is the key to future growth.

He observed that the past three to four years was a boom period for the county and that future development will depend on the economy.

Peters said he became interested in planning during his studies in natural resources and forest management at Colorado State University, and went on to receive his master's degree in regional planning from Washington State University.

Before coming to Alpine he spent 14 years as a planner in Summit County, Colo., a resort community west of Denver.

Brian Peters and his wife Abbie live in Mesa Vista with their 16-year-old daughter Willa and son Keaton who is 13.

BIRTHS

Mia Tiare Leeper

Zephyr Cove residents Bronwyn and Michael Leeper are the parents of a daughter, Mia Tiare Leeper, born Sept. 24, 2010, at Barton Memorial Hospital.

Elysia Jade McCoy

Zephyr Cove Stephanie and James McCoy are the parents of a daughter, Elysia Jade McCoy, born Sept. 18, 2010, at Barton Memorial Hospital.

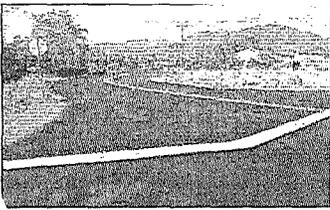
Wed, Oct 13, 2010 R-C,

Hunter Anthony Fickers

Gardnerville residents Aimee and James Fickers are the parents of a son, Hunter Anthony Fickers, born Oct. 8, 2010, at Carson Tahoe Regional Medical Center. Hunter weighed 8 pounds, 4 ounces at birth.

Anthonee Rueban Washam

Gardnerville residents Samantha Washam and Martin Castellano are the parents of a son, Anthonee Rueban Washam, born Sept. 20, 2010, at Barton Memorial Hospital.



PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE R-C

Above, the new streets in the Woodfords Community. At right, Project Manager Anthony Smokey, Western Regional Officer (Phoenix Office) Steve Slade, Western Regional Officer (Phoenix Area Office) Dave Smith Senior Field Inspector Nicky Rogers.



Woodfords Community sports new streets

Staff Reports *R-C*
OCT. 17, 2008

It took nearly three decades, but the roads in the Washoe Tribe's Woodfords Community have been repaved.

Project Manager Anthony Smokey said the last time the roads in the Alpine County

colony were paved was in the early 1980s.

"We've been working on getting this community updated for seven years and now it's finally done," Smokey said.

Local contractor Wilson Construction did the work.

"It was a very professional job and well done," Smokey

said.

In addition to Smokey, Senior Field Inspector Nicky Rogers and Community Chairwoman DeAnn Roberts were both involved in the project.

"We would like to thank the Bureau of Indian Affairs for their time and patience," Smokey said.

Indian Creek campground closes Tuesday

Staff Reports

This is the last weekend that the Indian Creek Reservoir campground will be open.

The campground, managed by the Bureau of Land Management's Carson City District-Sierra Front Field Office, closes noon Tuesday, according to spokesman Mark Struble.

The campground closes for the season every fall, but Struble said it's being shut down a few weeks earlier this year for repairs.

"The campground is being closed a few weeks earlier than originally scheduled this year so that repairs can be made to the drinking water system before serious winter weather limits access to the

facility," he said.

Other facilities at Indian Creek Reservoir that will remain open include access to the east side of the reservoir, a loop interpretive trail system, and over eight miles of hiking trails.

The campground will reopen for the summer season in April 2009.

Alpine crash kills pilot

by Scott Neuffer
Staff Writer

A pilot was killed Thursday when a Piper Cherokee aircraft crashed about two miles from the Alpine County Airport near Woodfords.

Authorities have withheld the pilot's name pending notification of

next of kin.

At about 11 a.m., Alpine County received a call that a small aircraft had radioed and reported it lost power and was in distress, according to Sgt. Ron Michitarian.

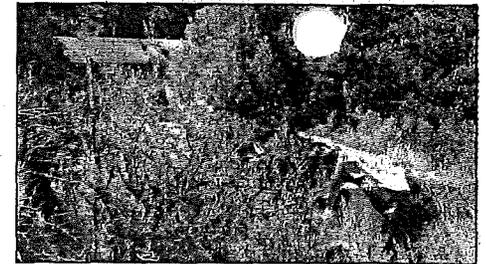
The pilot was apparently trying to make it to the Alpine County Airport but crashed in some trees on land

belonging to the South Tahoe Public Utility District.

A district employee spotted the aircraft lying on its top and contacted authorities.

Alpine and Douglas emergency personnel responded to the scene of

See **Crash** on page 8



SCOTT NEUFFER/The R-C

The scene of a Piper Cherokee aircraft that crashed into timber on Thursday about two miles northwest of the Alpine County Airport.

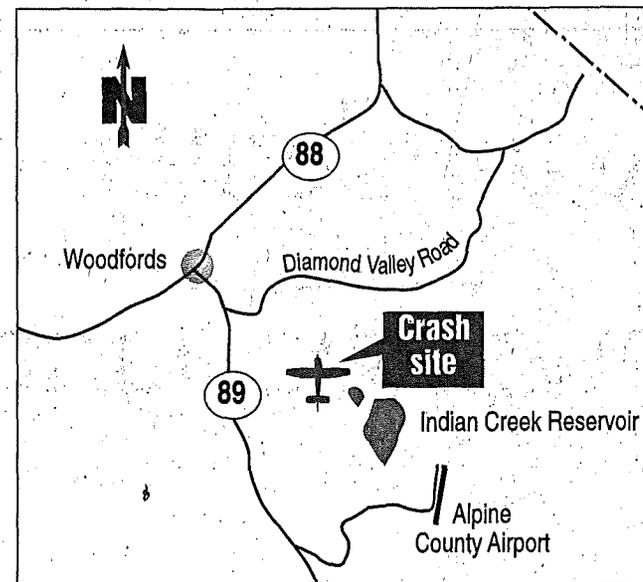
A8 ■ Friday, October 17, 2008

From

Crash

Continued from page 1
the crash. A search was conducted to determine if there was another occupant of the aircraft, but no one was found. Representatives of the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board arrived at the crash site on Thursday afternoon and began their investigation.

Firefighters stood by the aircraft, which was leaking fuel. However, no fire started.



Alpine late-season point-to-point hike

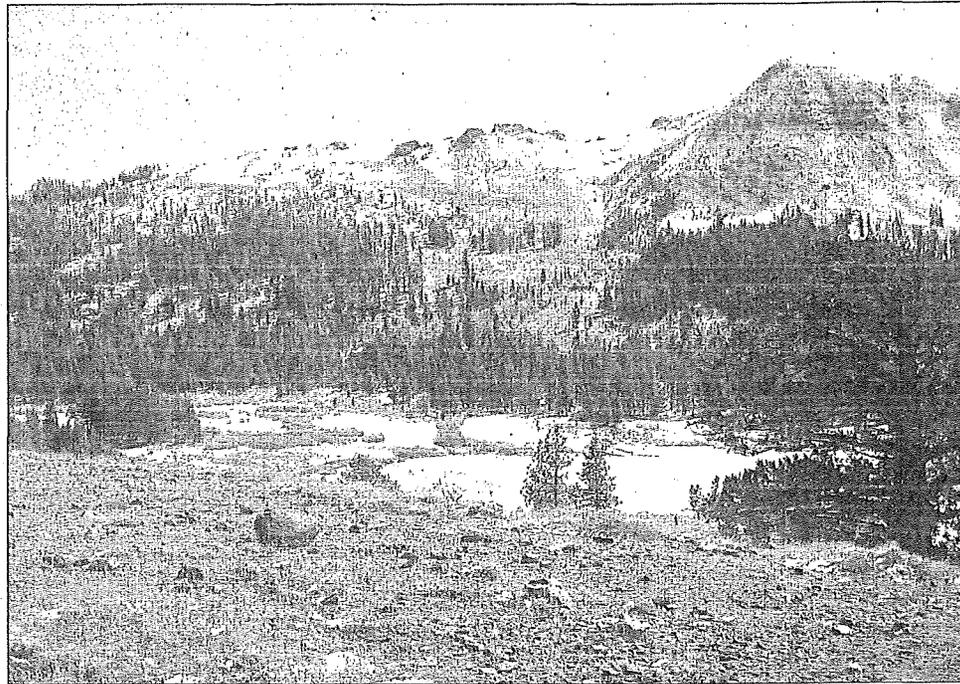
by Jim Donald

This hike is essentially a long downhill with good views and the possibility of nice fall colors in the scattered aspen groves along the way. It's a good late season hike but it's always possible that snow may close access to the upper trailhead by the time you read this. If that's the case just do the hike in reverse as an in-and-out.

About five miles in on Blue Lakes Road as you climb out of Faith Valley and approach Charity Valley, you'll find a wide spot with lined paved parking on the west side of the road. This replaces the off road parking at the trail about one-quarter mile further. Start here at 7,840 feet by hiking south on the dirt road, parallel to the main road, stay left at the fork and turn east on the

trail. You'll end the hike in about seven miles at just under 6,000 feet, so you'll need good knees. And, unless you're climbing back out, leave a vehicle at Grover Hot Springs for shuttle purposes.

Pass through a cattle gate with a hiker's zigzag (avoid the barbed wire) and continue as the trail contours northeast on open slopes with great views of the Sierra crest behind you. Undulate in and out of small gullies on mostly volcanic sediments covered in season with mule ears, sagebrush and sego lilies. To the right is Charity Valley, much of it private property, and Markleeville Peak. Pass scattered lodgepole pines and junipers, ascend to garage sized volcanic rock on the right which is the highpoint for this trek. A scramble up to the ridge to the left would provide good views toward Hope



SPECIAL TO THE R-C

The trail between Charity Valley and Grover Hot Springs in Alpine County.

Valley and the Carson Range.

Descend as the valley narrows and parallels Charity Valley Creek amid an increasingly dense mixed conifer forest of lodgepole, western white pine, white fir, Jeffrey pine and lower, incense cedar with occasional aspen stands. Notice how, in the forest, alders replace the willows in the riparian (streamside) zone and manzanita dominates the sagebrush. The substrate turns granitic here for the rest of the journey.

More steeply now the trail descends north around granitic outcroppings on the right and

at about four miles meets the trail and creek coming down from Burnside Lake, roughly 800 vertical feet and 2-1/2 trail miles above. At this confluence the trail turns east; continues the descent with occasional switchbacks and good down-valley views and the creek becomes Hot Springs Creek.

Nice old growth trees mingle with younger trees in this section and as you get lower notice the many cedar trees. The steep south wall of the canyon with imposing granitic rock topping it comes closer. Through the forest admire the

many granite benches between Charity Valley and Sawmill Creeks. There's some good scrambling there.

The trail and the creek diverge and nearing the canyon floor, with about a mile to go, you'll merge with the well used waterfall trail leading to the falls a half-mile upstream. The falls are barely a trickle now but in early season are quite impressive.

Continue downstream the last mile though forest, meadow areas, scattered aspens and increasingly numerous cottonwoods. The meadows are golden now and in the warmth of the late afternoon sun smell quite nice. You'll be ready for a soothing, relaxing dip in the hot springs about now but if you stay too long in the hot pool you'll be as limber as a fricasseed chicken. In that case morph to your vehicle and return to the start point.

Grover Hot Springs charges \$5 to park but this is good as a pool pass also. The pools are closed on Wednesday and prior to 11 a.m. in which case you can park at the Charity Valley East trailhead on Hot Springs Road. The park is open until 7 p.m. Seasonally this schedule may change so it's wise to check first. Their phone number is (530) 694-2249

The usual precautions apply. Even though it's mostly downhill it does require a certain level of fitness. Carry the 10 essentials and leave only footprints.

New Bear Valley project in works

Bill Morgan

draft environmental impact report discussing the effects of changing the county general plan to accommodate a proposed project in Bear Valley in western Alpine County released for public comment on Sept. 22.

Bear Valley is a town on the edge of the county that is nestled 7,000 feet up in a forested canyon next to the ski resort of Bear Valley Mountain Resort on Highway 4. The town in its current form began in 1968 and today consists of 426 single-family lots, with 271 homes, 160 condo units, and the Bear Valley Lodge, pool, and commercial center having been constructed. The master plan for the town, which was approved in 1978, allows up to 100 residential units and an undefined amount of commercial floor space. That master plan is part of the county general plan.

The proposed Bear Valley Villages I and II, the project proponent, includes the ski resort and 14 lots in Bear Valley and plans to develop a village consisting of 15 separate buildings containing 64,000 square feet of retail and community space (day care, ski

club, lockers, etc.); 486 residential units; and housing for 50 employees. The existing lodge, pool, and commercial center would be removed and replaced with new buildings and a new indoor pool. The street and snowmobile trail system would be modified as well as the parking arrangements. These features would be somewhat different than what the current master plan contemplates.

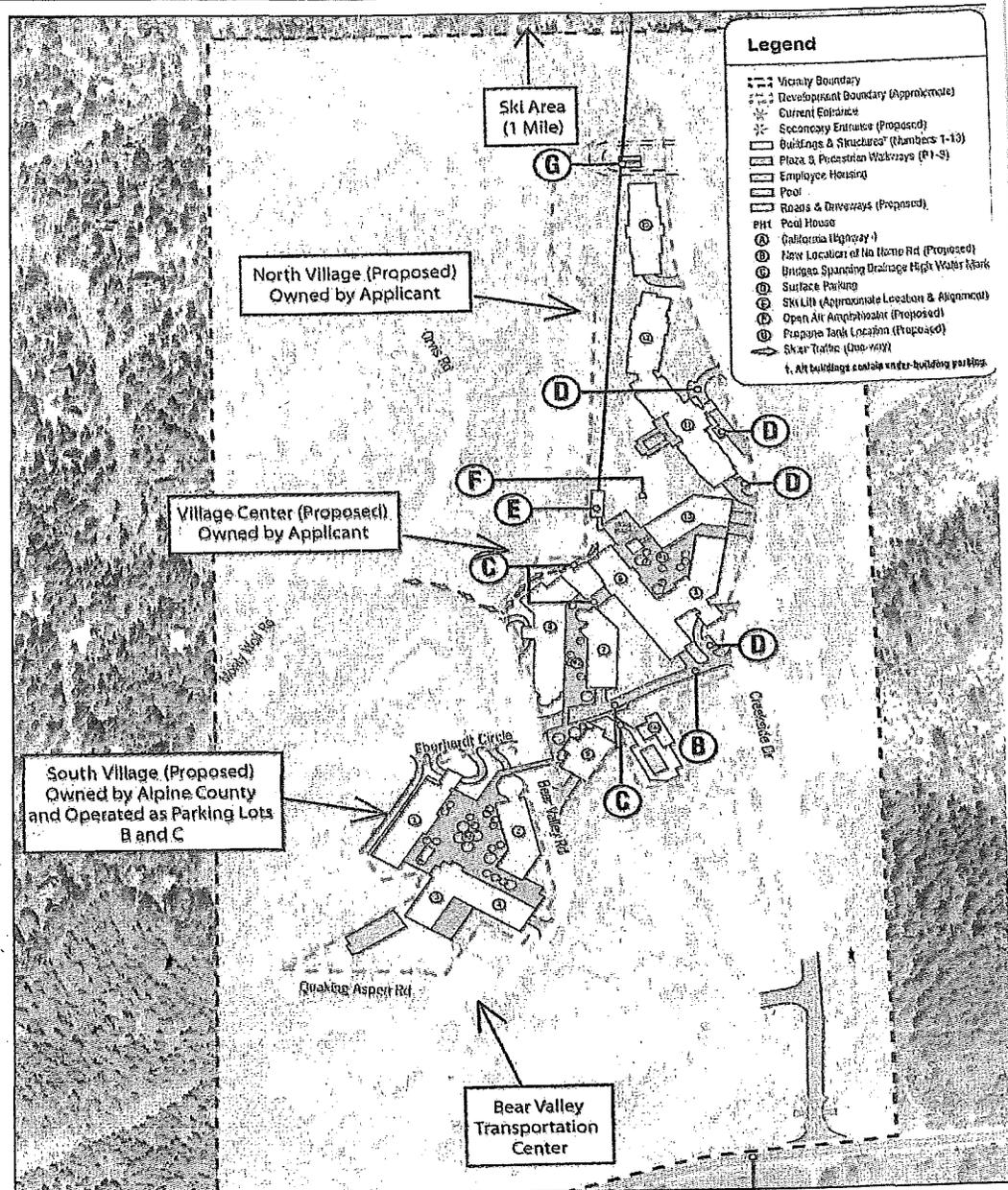
The project also includes a 1.5 mile long high speed chair lift to connect the village with the ski area plus some new ski runs back to the village. At the ski area, which is on U.S. Forest Service land, there would be some new or modified runs as well. The whole project would be done in phases, beginning in 2010.

The mode of living in Bear Valley in the winter is unusual to say the least. Snow at this elevation in the Sierra is extremely deep. It's not practical to remove the snow on streets where there are few full-time residents, so in the subdivision of single family homes as well as on most other roads, the snowmobile (Sarah Palin calls them snow machines) is the mode of travel.

Even so, there are parking lots kept open for the day skiers and other visitors. Designing a project for a town where snowmobiles are a principal means of travel is quite a challenge as is analyzing the effects of such an atypical development.

The proposed project cannot change the dependency on snowmobiles, but it would improve the circulation patterns and continue to provide for parking of snowmobiles. The new condo units would be served by plowed streets and parking under the structures. Parking of autos would still need to be provided for visitors, but a planned parking structure would replace some of the existing surface parking. The new lift connecting the village with the ski area would reduce car traffic between the two areas but could increase demand for in-town parking, however. A good parking management plan would be needed.

"OK," you say. "The connecting lift sounds neat and housing for employees is a great idea, but what's the effect on the environment? More building means more land impacts and more residential units means more peo-



SWCA ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT

The proposed plan for Bear Valley in western Alpine County. The plan shows the layout of buildings, roads, and parking areas, and the impact on the environment and traffic. What're the impacts?"

Good questions. That's what the draft environmental impact

report is for, to answer those questions and many more and to describe what measures are needed to minimize or eliminate the impacts that would follow if the master plan is changed. Though some states, including Nevada, have no laws requiring evaluation and reporting on the whole range of possible environmental impacts of decisions by public agencies, including counties, California does. The law is called the California Environmental Quality Act. Before a public agency can approve a project or take other action with potential for creating environmental impacts, it must satisfy the requirements of the act. In many instances an EIR is required, meaning a report that describes the project or action, analyzes impacts, compares possible alternatives, and presents measures to mitigate impacts. The report is released in draft form by the agency chiefly responsible for making the decision to allow an action of some sort, such as approving a change in the master plan for Bear Valley.

The public and other government agencies are invited to review and make comments or ask questions regarding the document. After allowing a 45 day period for making comments, the agency reviews the comments, prepares responses, modifies or adds to the report and issues a final environmen-

tal impact report. The agency can then decide to approve, deny, or approve the action with conditions.

While the decision in this case is whether Alpine County should approve the change in the master plan, each subsequent project or phase would be subject to discretionary approvals by the county. It's the county's intent to rely on the impact report, to the extent appropriate and allowable under the law, for environmental review of such projects and phases. Other agencies are expected to have jurisdiction over some of the projects. Such agencies as the U.S. Forest Service, the Corps of Engineers, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, the California Division of Occupation and Health, the California Department of Fish and Game, and Caltrans have some jurisdiction.

The public review period for the Bear Valley Village master plan change closes Nov. 7. The impact report can be viewed at the Alpine County Library or at the Community Development Agency headquarters at 50 Diamond Valley Road near Woodfords, or can be downloaded from the county's Web site at www.alpinecounty.ca.gov. For further information, contact the Community Development Agency at (530) 694-2140.

R-C

Diamond Valley hosts fire poster contest

by Joyce DeVore

Diamond Valley School children in grades 1-6 created posters for the Fire Safe Council's contest. This year's theme was "Never Feed a Wildfire."

The Fire Safe Council's primary focus is to educate residents as to what they can do to protect themselves and their property from wildfire. The children illustrated many of the defensible space principles.

Some of the most significant ideas illustrated were raking pine needles near homes, removing dead limbs from trees, taking green waste to Turtle Rock Park fuels reduction center, keeping driveways and roadways clear and passable for fire equipment, posting large house numbers for easy identification in an emergency, as well as fire safety issues inside the home.

Principal Sally Clark was enthusiastic about the project. All teachers were provided materials from the Fire Safe Council, but the teachers devoted class time to teaching the fire safe principles and guiding the students to produce colorful and attractive art work. "The posters are wonderful," remarked Clark.

Diamond Valley School students, administration, and staff were cooperative and appreciative of community involvement in the school. The school is ranked as a Distinguished School, with high academic achievement and parental and community support. Dawn Riddle, assistant, remarked "Many of the students have artistic talent and are encouraged to develop that in the after school program."

Prizes will be awarded to the first and second place in each grade level. The prizes are \$15 of credit for first place



SPECIAL TO THE R-C

The students of Diamond Valley School hold up their fire awareness posters.

and \$10 of credit for second place. The credit may be used toward the purchase of books and educational games from the Scholastic classroom catalog. Prize money and supplies were donated by the Fire Safe Council.

All of the posters will be on display in Markleeville. The posters will be divided between the administration building, the library, and the courthouse. Please visit the displays during the work week.

Poster contest winners:

Grade 1: Mark Franzi, first place, Grace Process, second place

Grade 2: Ketya Heiland, first place and Nicole Rodriguez, second place

Grade 3: Andrew, first place and

Celesse Brown, second place

Grade 4: Conrad Lundy, first place and Hunter Celio, second place

Grade 5: Amanda Process, first place and Anna Guerrero, second place

Grade 6: Sarah Medicine Crow, first place and Korin Jones, second place

Other School News:

The Early Learning Center Parents Group is selling homemade tamales to raise funds for the school. The cost is \$20 per dozen of your choice, chicken, beef, or pork tamales. For more information and to place an order, call Nani at (530) 694-2284 or Stacy at (530) 694-2235.

Alpine residents give Democrats the majority

by Irving Krauss

With a large turnout, 85.6 percent of Alpine County voters favored Democrats with Barack Obama's vote of 61 percent over John McCain's 36 percent.

In the race for the House of Representatives Bill Durston received 54 percent of the vote compared to Republican incumbent Dan Lungren's 41 percent.

In the state senate race the vote for Democrat Anselmo Chavez was 50 percent, for incumbent Dave Cox 49 percent. Republican Ted Gains who ran unopposed for the state assembly seat received 92 percent.

The two positions in the nonpartisan school board election went to Jill Wegenstein, 43 percent, and incumbent Earl O'Neal, 40 percent.

At this writing only, Proposition 8 that prevents same-sex marriage was approved statewide, with 56 percent of Alpine voters favoring the restriction.

The only other propositions Alpine residents voted for were 9, victim input on sentencing and 12, veterans' bonds.

Alpine residents voted against 1A, high speed rail; 3, childrens' hospitals; 4, waiting period for minor's abortion; 5,

nonviolent drug rehab; 6 law enforcement funding; 7 renewal energy; 10, alternate fuel vehicles and 11, redistricting.

Tallying of the 694 ballots in the supervisors' boardroom began shortly after the 8 p.m. voting deadline.

The four-person crew, Gail Day, Jim Dunn, Jeann Lear, and Mary Rawson, first checked the name and signature on each envelope that held a ballot against the voter registration list.

They then literally tore into their work with special knives that slit each envelope, and removed its ballot.

The few spoiled ones were evaluated by Assistant County Clerk Sarah Simis and one of the four workers.

Then County Clerk Barbara Howard placed the ballots in the counting machine that listed the voters' choices, which were printed by Simis with copies for the half dozen observers.

The process was repeated for the remaining four voting districts.

The counting device from Premier Electronics performed faultlessly, monitored by Kathy Pal of Premier Electronics.

All the work was completed by 11:50 p.m.

Kirkwood preparing to open for winter

Staff Reports

Kirkwood is preparing to open for the 2008-09 season as soon as conditions permit.

With recent snowfall of 10-26 inches and additional accumulations likely, the resort is optimistic for the likelihood of a mid- to late-November opening.

The resort will assess conditions after this storm cycle and supplement natural snowfall with snowmaking efforts

as needed, according to www.kirkwood.com.

Weather forecasts are calling for snow for the next two weeks with significant accumulations possible as multiple systems are lined up over the Pacific and tracking towards Kirkwood.

The resort is scheduled to have its two new lifts open for the season.

It is also revamping its terrain park layouts and investing over \$10,000 in new features.

Kirkwood has once again been chosen as the host resort for the North American Freeskiing Championships in March.

Season pass prices will increase Dec. 15.

Tickets are available online or by calling the season pass office at (209) 258-7254 or by e-mail at seasonpass@kirkwood.com

Alpine seeking comment on plan

by Bill Morgan

The Alpine County Community Development Department recently released two related documents that address proposed changes in the county general plan. They are draft amendments to the land use element of the plan and the accompanying initial study of the possible environmental impacts of those amendments.

The county is seeking public comments on the material in those documents by Dec. 3, following which the county planning commission will hold a public hearing on 6 p.m. Dec. 4 at the Turtle Rock Park community building.

The proposed amendments to the general plan are to add specific policies and standards to the existing policies relating to growth management.

The topics include: protection of wildlife habitat; scenic highway corridors; avalanche zones, seismic fault eas, and 100-year flood plains; proximity of proposed development to existing residential or commercial zones; retention of agriculture and timber production lands; underground utilities; necessary standards of public service; retention of community character; and rate of growth.

The necessary standards of public service include such matters as police and fire protection, water supply, sewage disposal provisions, and road capacity. Proposals for changes in the existing general plan land uses or for changes in the zoning, and for proposed subdivisions would be required to meet those

IF YOU GO

What: Alpine County General Plan

When: 6 p.m. Dec. 4

Where: Turtle Rock Park

Info: www.alpinecountyca.com/departments/planning/environmental-review

standards, in addition to other identified concerns, in order to be approved.

One particular standard not yet included in the existing plan is a specified rate of water flow for fire protection that would be required for subdivisions. Now you may think that such issues are already being addressed when a subdivision is considered for approval and you'd be correct.

The planning commission and county staff consider such matters, but the specific requirements haven't yet been incorporated in the county's general plan or its ordinances.

So there shouldn't be anything controversial about those standards, you say. Well, probably not, except possibly for the fire flow requirements.

You see, not many subdivisions on the eastern portion of the county have been required to meet such fire flow standards in the past, and there is no network of water supply systems now in lands currently zoned for residential use.

Considering the growing losses of homes in the west due to wildfire in the past few years, though, the county planning people feel such requirements are

overdue.

Now there are a couple of features in these proposed amendments that are particularly interesting.

One is that land use changes would have to be shown to be compatible with and not have a significant adverse effect upon existing community character. And what is the existing community character? That's described in the proposed plan amendments.

Read it, you'll like it. It was an ambitious undertaking, but it's very well done. Perhaps the feature that will draw the most attention is the proposal to regulate the rate of growth.

Just how that would be done is to be covered in a related ordinance and can be described briefly this way: On the east side of the county, no more than 48 new subdivision lots could be created in any given year.

This is an unusual approach and not at all like the growth controls established for Douglas County or at Lake Tahoe. That ordinance would be subject to separate public hearings in the future.

Those who are interested in obtaining the proposed general plan amendments and the environmental document can purchase them from the Community Development Department, 50 Diamond Valley Road, Woodfords, CA, 96120, at 25 cents a page. They can also be viewed at that department, or at the Alpine County Library, or at the county clerk's office. They can also be viewed at the following Web site: www.alpinecountyca.com/departments/planning/environmental-review.

2008

Country lawyer started as sawyer

by Joyce DeVore

Logs brought Tim Pemberton to Alpine County and law practice kept him here. Pemberton was born in Whittier, Calif. He moved to South Lake Tahoe to cut firewood, which allowed him to put himself through University of Nevada, Reno.

His first experience in Alpine County was also with lumber. The BLM had cut trees near Airport Road and left them. Pemberton got



permission to use them for lumber: he brought his portable sawmill to Alpine County and he has been here ever since.

He ran the sawmill with five employees.

They milled and sold miles of cedar fencing, made shake shingles, and took thousands of Christmas trees to Southern California when the mills couldn't operate. Pemberton also built a log home for himself during that time.

His legal career came about

because of back problems and severe allergies to cedar dust, which made the sawmill business impossible.

Pemberton graduated from Lincoln Law School in Sacramento in 1981.

For the past 27 years, he has been a country lawyer in Markleeville.

"The lucky thing about being a country lawyer is that you are almost always riding the right horse," he said.

Nearly half of his clients are fighting for fair payment in cases where a governmental agency has condemned his/her land for infrastructure or other development. Many other of his cases involve fraud, especially in the building trades.

"The building boom from 2002 to 2006 and the easy loan situation attracted under-qualified contractors to our area," Pemberton said.

Pemberton's background in lumber and building allow him to tackle difficult and involved construction cases.

Some cases reach the federal court, since the issues between California and Nevada residents must be resolved in those courts.

Other cases grow complicated when experts from cities advise landowners about development, not considering the local rural culture.

Pemberton believes that every community needs a "thoughtful general plan."

"When a community grows to a certain size, with the arrival of a large number of new people in a short amount of time, the newcomers usually are not absorbed into the local culture. Instead, they change it. Newcomers to rural areas typically bring a desire for nearby conveniences, such as hospitals and large department stores."

Pemberton believed that the distance between Markleeville and major conveniences will keep the county's population from exploding like El Dorado County's population is right now.

Repairs to Caples dam successful

Staff Reports

R-C
NOV. 21, 2008

Repair of the outlet works at the Caples Lake main dam drew to a close at the end of October, according to El Dorado Irrigation District senior engineer Jake Eymann, who managed the project for the district over the past several months.

Eymann said with repair successfully concluded, it is time to look forward to the fish restocking program that

will start in spring 2009.

The district will fund the restocking program that includes releasing 31,200 pounds of trophy rainbow and brown trout — approximately 12,400 fish — into the lake along with 9,000 pounds of catchable rainbows, or about 18,700 fish.

By autumn 2009, some 175,000 fingerling and sub-catchable rainbows and 50,000 fingerling mackinaw will join the larger fish.

Nine years of additional stocking will begin in 2010.

Details of the long-term program are being worked out by district staff, the state Department of Fish and Game, and potential partners.

For more information on this emergency program, we invite readers to review all of the updates included on the district's Web site at www.eid.org or call Deanne Kloepfer at (530) 622-4513.

Forest Service Christmas tree permits on sale Monday

Staff Reports

Approximately 4,000 permits to cut Christmas trees will be available starting Monday from the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, according to the U.S. Forest Service.

Cutting permits are issued on a first-come, first-serve basis for \$10 each in designated cutting areas for white fir, Jeffrey pine and incense cedar trees. Only two trees may be cut per household, permits are non-refundable, and are valid through Dec. 25. All stations will be closed Thursday for Thanksgiving.

Permits for forest service trees, white fir, Jeffrey pine, and incense cedar, must be purchased in person with cash or checks.

Tree permits are available at

the Carson Ranger District Office, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 1536 S. Carson St., in Carson City.

Tree cutters should have their own saws, warm clothing, a first aid kit, extra food and water, heavy rope or chain, shovel and tire chains,

in the event of bad road conditions or inclement weather. Some cutting areas may be inaccessible after snowfall, so it is advisable to cut trees early in the season.

For further information, contact the Carson Ranger District at 882-2766.

ate fall good time to hike the lower elevations

Donald

etween seasons again, then happens at this year. Up high there's ough snow to ski, but ch to hike. As I write eek before publication, egresses out with no sig- storm systems in With that in mind I'll e a relatively easy low n local hike that's open early and late in the

onto Airport Road off y 89 about midway n Markleeville and rds. Just past Curtz most a meadow now, into a small dirt park- . Use caution — the is rough and it's on a visibility curve where, le traffic there is, goes gely fast.

y crossing Airport nd the trail marker and t on an easy descent a thin mixed conifer white fir, Jeffrey pine lone incense cedar. erstory is fairly thick ta, bitterbrush, sage- d rabbitbrush. This ends 800 feet to the on — in a little over s you'll arrive at Fre- crossing of the East he Carson River. lv rod. Some of the

and then contours to a tight southeast to northerly switch-back in a wooded ravine. On this shady slope of white fir and Jeffries you'll step over several deadfalls and climb up and around three that are too big to step over.

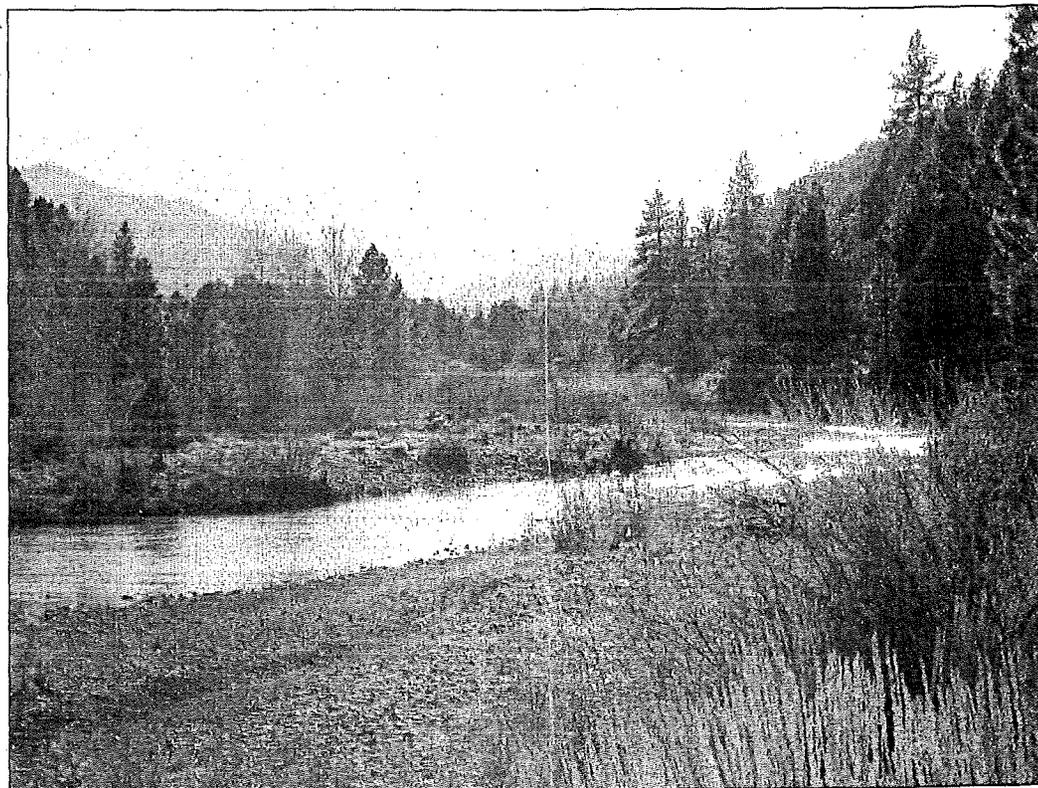
The trail turns east again as the tree cover thins and drops down to intersect with a double track coming down from Alpine County Airport. Some users park at the airport because it shortens the distance and elevation loss/gain. But hey, we're here to hike.

Piñons are now more numerous, especially on the sunny slopes to your left while Jeffrey pines and white firs populate the northfacing slope to your right. Consider that this is the transitional zone between the Sierra and the high deserts to the east and you'll have a feeling for the plant and animal communities that exist here. Large animals include deer, bear, coyote, mountain lion, and bobcat while overhead you may see seasonally numerous species of hawks, eagles and vultures. Quail and many songbirds populate the forest and nighthawks are summer residents. Underfoot, during warmer weather, you may see garter snakes, Common King Snake, Great Basin Rat-

mixed with sagebrush and thin grasses. The canyon opens to wide alluvial deposits near the bottom. Pass a sign denoting the route of the Fremont/Carson party of 1843/44 and a register on a post (the register was missing the day I was here). The expression scratched in the wood proves that not everyone likes to hike in the woods.

The forest gives way to streamside brush as the river comes into view but it's still several hundred feet to the water. The footing is cobbles and mud or dry silt, depending on the season. Explore this relatively flat area and find a good place for a break to relax and enjoy the soft flowing sounds of the water. When well rested retrace your steps to the trailhead.

There's an option at the river. Head downstream (north), to the next westbound canyon where a steep trail switchbacks up to the east side of the airport. Initially weave through brush and small trees, scramble up some volcanic rocks, traverse northeast on a steep slope above the river where a fall can put you in the water (with no immediate options for exiting — getting wet at this time of year can be life threatening), continue as the terrain levels to the afore-



SPECIAL TO THE R-C

The East Fork of the Carson River in Alpine County is a good place for a late autumn hike.

Record Courier, 11/28/08, P. A-1

Who's best fisher'man?'

by Irving Krauss

This item is different from the usual story I write for it deals with stereotypes and tests the reader. Are you game?

A stereotype is a shorthand way we identify others, especially individuals we're not too familiar with. Stereotypes are often based on others' gender, race or occupation.

The following tale is of three people who lived in Hope Valley in Sorensen's Subdivision, across the road from Sorensen's Resort, and a forest ranger. The narrator Ed and his wife and their neighbor Bobby became friendly with the forest ranger, whose job was to patrol that section of the national forest on horseback. On the ranger's day off the four of them decided to have a picnic in Charity Valley, at some 8,000 feet elevation.

They had all the ingredients for the picnic except for the trout that

Alpine Portfolio

were in the fast moving stream. The plan was for Ed, his wife and the ranger to hike upstream and fish until each got their limit. They would then return to the meadow and barbecue the trout. Since Bobby had difficulty walking she would wait in the meadow with her book and the picnic supplies. So Ed, his wife and the ranger headed for the stream. After quite some time Ed and his wife caught their limits and returned to the meadow, only to find that the forest ranger had been there for some time with the limit of trout.

All agreed that the person best at fishing was the forest ranger, that she was really good. So did you assume that the forest ranger was a he and thus were you taken in by a stereotype?

Grover Hot Springs pulls Markleeville o

by Virginia York

"Where do you live?" one is asked. "Markleeville," one replies. A faraway look appears in the eyes of the interrogator then suddenly the light dawns, "Oh yes! The hot springs." Grover Hot Springs rescues Markleeville from obscurity.

Grover Hot Springs is a significant place in our family. In the late '60s my husband John and I were arrested there for skinny dipping. In those days, when there was only the hot pool, the area was monitored only sporadically and we were taken by surprise. The employee was driving us into town in a park pickup to introduce us to the sheriff when my husband managed to talk him out of it.

In 1989 John died at the pool, one of his favorite places. Six weeks later our daughter Daisy was born in the employee house at the park entrance, with Paula Pennington, our friend, ranger and occupant of the house and two midwives in attendance.

Hot springs usually occur where molten rock exists at relatively shallow depths. Water from melted snow seeps into the earth's crust where it meets molten rock thousands of feet below the surface. There it absorbs minerals from gases released by the liquid rock. When the water is heated, it bubbles back to the surface often along an earthquake fault, as at Grover's, dissolving more minerals along the way. The mineral composition of the thermal water depends on the rock it passes through. At Grover Hot Springs the mineral content is 14.4 grams per gallon. The water contains traces of about 50 minerals but mostly sodium carbonate, sulfate and chloride. The springs have very little sulfur content so they do not exude the rotten egg smell often associated with hot springs.



PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE R-C

Grover Hot Springs draws its water from a series of six springs at 140 degrees.

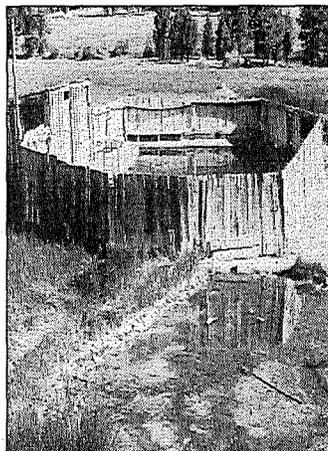
Alpine Portfolio

The healing waters emerge from six springs at 140 degrees and are channeled to the pool where the temperature is cooled down to 102-104 degrees.

It is assumed that for centuries the Washoe visited the springs in the warm weather. They may have used the water for such activities as cooking, bathing and curing hides.

Some sources maintain that the first white men to see the hot springs were the members of the Fremont-Carson expedition, who camped there in a blizzard on Feb. 2, 1844. The following day Fremont wrote in his journal that they camped under the largest incense cedars he had ever seen which were near some springs, though it does not say hot springs. Supposedly John C. Fremont carved his name on one of the incense cedars. In 1915 the tree was cut down, badly damaged by fire from the burning of an adjacent house.

Ten years later, John Hawkins, a farmer from Vermont who lived in Woodfords, homesteaded Hot Springs Valley. He had a ranch house built where the parking lot is today.



He also had a hole dug 8 feet deep and 12 feet in diameter to catch the hot water for bathing.

In 1866 Hawkins leased the valley to C.H. Kilgore who ran a dairy business with a Dan Hawkins. In 1873 loggers, who had for years been cutting down the trees of Alpine county and floating them down the Carson River to the Nevada mines, logged the hillsides of Hot Springs Valley. A local editor of the time reports: "The blight is rapidly devouring this fairest spot within or county, rendering desolate the tract that left alone or improved upon, would in a few years have been one of the favorite summer resorts of the coast."

In 1874 Alvin Merrill Grover went into partnership with Hawkins. He built a bathhouse and enclosed the

Over Hot Springs pulls Markleeville out of

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PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE R-C

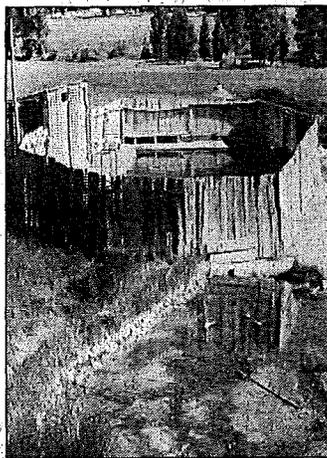
Grover Hot Springs draws its water from a series of six springs at 140 degrees.

Alpine Portfolio

The healing waters emerge from six springs at 140 degrees and are channeled to the pool where the temperature is cooled down to 102-104 degrees.

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RFC CARITE 12-5-08

Retired Alpine worker admits taking funds

Staff Reports

A retired Alpine County employee was sentenced to pay restitution and was fined \$800 in lieu of doing community service in Alpine County Superior Court.

Annette Flagg of Minden admitted Nov. 10 to unlawfully taking \$8,500 from the Alpine County Employees

Association between January 1999 and December 2005, a misdemeanor.

Flagg worked as an administrative assistant in the Alpine County Health and Human Services department from 1993 to 2008 when she retired. She was also secretary for the employees association from 1999 until 2005. The theft was not discovered until March 3, 2007.

Under a plea bargain with District Attorney Will Richmond, Flagg is required to pay \$4,100 by Dec. 15.

She was also sentenced to do 100 hours of community service time but she asked to pay \$800 instead. The Alpine County Probation Department has requested that the \$800 be distributed to the Alpine Family Support Council.

Surviving Alpine's long, cold winters

by Joyce DeVore

In November, Sierra Pacific sent a brochure with tips for winter weatherization: "...it is time to seal up those cold winter drafts and turn down that thermostat when the home is not occupied or you are sleeping," reads the "Conservation Corner" section. We are concerned with our electric bills and electric supply and should be prepared for winter emergencies. However, what seems to be extreme winter conditions in Alpine County today are mild compared to the daily rigors of our electric company workers and other mountain men who built and maintained the dams that provided our electricity.

Fritz Thornburg of Markleeville is the son of one of those men who worked the gates to allow water-generated electricity around 1915. His father Ben and uncles, John and Walt, spent many years as caretakers of the lakes: Blue Lakes, Meadow Lake, and Little Twin Lake.

Since these years were well before Fritz was born, he learned the history from family and has catalogued a huge number of photographs from his father, two of which are



Walt and John Thornburg ski down the trail through Thornburg Canyon in Alpine County. John Thornburg, Frank Kanig, Walt Thornburg fish below Blue Lakes Dam.

shown above.

To back up a little further in history, Western States Power bought the property around the three lakes and built the dams in the early 1900s.

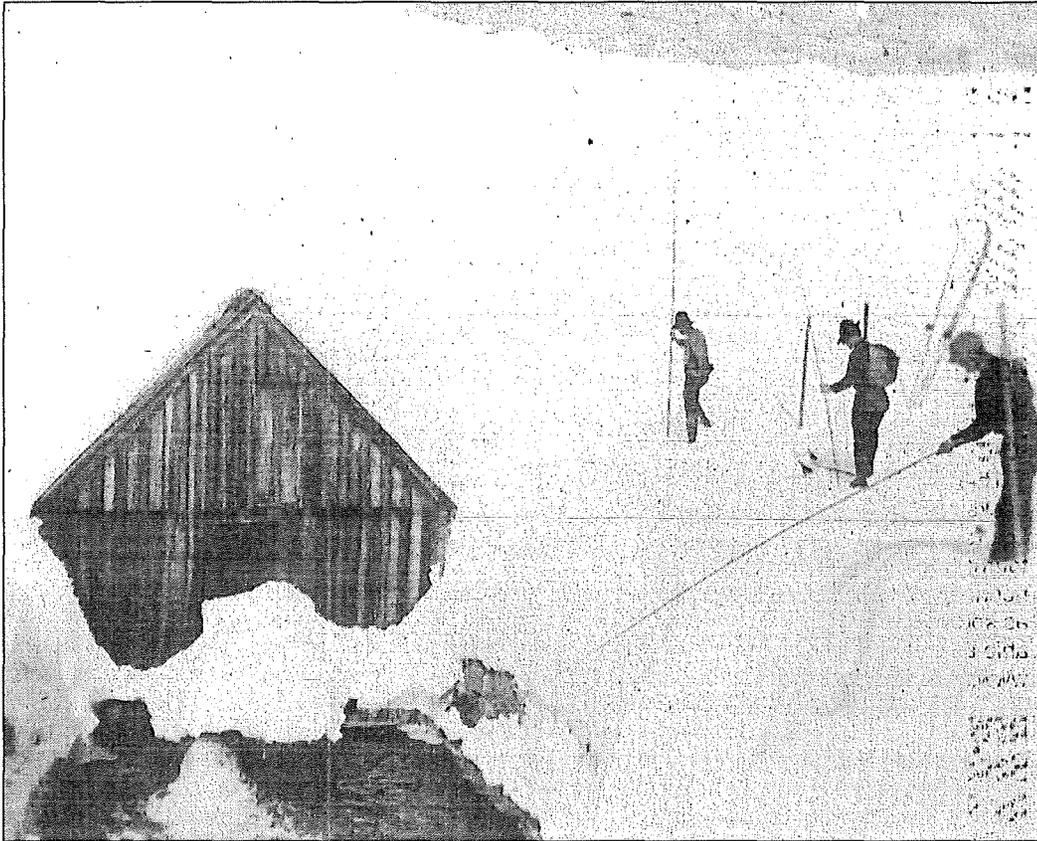
Layers of enormous boulders were dragged by horses to build the foundations of the dams. Earth was packed on top of each layer.

The following years, as the lakes rose to the level of the first layers of boulders, "They dragged the rocks in on stone boats.

"That way they could drop

the rocks to make the next layer instead of lifting the rocks overhead from the other side of the dam," explained Thornburg. The dam gates were iron plates with a heavy screw to lift and lower the gate. Iron pipe on the lower end of the dam allowed the water to feed the electric generators.

Western States employed at least 50 men to build the dams. There was a large cook house and bunk house, a drug store and a log house. Pacific Gas and Electric purchased the



property and dams from Western Electric and continued to use them for the same purpose. It was especially important to regulate the water flow in winter, late summer, and fall when the natural creek flows were low. The gates were closed in spring because snow melt could provide the needs of the company and the lakes were filled.

That fact meant that someone had to care take the gates all winter long: men were hired by PG&E to spend the winter at those lakes, checking in monthly with an agent who

met them in Markleeville. At the monthly briefing, the caretaker may be told, "water is low, so we need 50 cubic feet a second. Then he'd go back and adjust it," said Thornburg.

The trip to and from the lakes to Markleeville by way of Thornburg Canyon is 28 miles (round trip). The route was accomplished on homemade, hardwood skis. Thornburg has kept a pair he used as a child, explaining that "the groove in the bottom kept them from slipping sideways. And pieces of burlap were used to make traction for the uphill parts."

The trip could take a day or two, depending on the weather conditions. The men used a cabin near Jeff Davis Peak as a midway stop.

Thornburg recalls that his father worked there, "a whole lot and it was probably a good living for the time." His Uncle Walt worked there for 19 years. Besides working the gates and watching the property, the men cut their own firewood: nine or 10 cords for the winter. They also carried in groceries and supplies in the early fall to last through the winter. The men hunted, trapped, and fished to supplement their diet.

Norman Green, from Edmonton, Canada, took over as sole caretaker of the lakes. In 1947, 12-year-old Thornburg spent a week in August with Norman at the lakes.

Thornburg said, "I tagged along while Norman was fixing the telephone line. The line

went down every winter, with the heavy snow. One night we noticed a red glow in the sky to the east. The next morning when we got into Thornburg Canyon, we could see just where the forest fire was—near town—and I walked home.

The forest fire burned close to Markleeville and left a scar on the east side of town."

The winter of 1948-49 was very cold, and people were not surprised that Green was a little late arriving for the February monthly check-in with the PG & E agent.

After spending a few days in town, Green headed back—but this time he took the hot springs/Charity Valley route. Soon, Green's dog appeared in town, starving and exhausted.

A search ensued, and in a few days he was found at the cow camp in Charity Valley.

"Apparently, he started a fire and put the kettle on for his usual cup of tea and he laid down in his sleeping bag," Thornburg said. "The fire went out and he froze to death. The dog broke through a window to escape and return to town."

Lou Barker from Volcano, Calif., took over the job after Green's death.

He stayed several winters, then PG & E started using helicopters to bring in a gatekeeper during winter.

That was the end of the Alpine County gatekeeper story.

Thanks to Fritz Thornburg for the interview and for the photographs.

FIRESIDE

by Ron Bergin

Debbi Waldear Kirkwood's Queen of Cross Country

12/18/08 ccs - '08
Pg. 1

Although today she's all about Nordic skiing, Debbi Waldear wasn't always a cross country skier. In fact, up until 1980, she was mostly a downhill skier. That's when she arrived at Kirkwood Cross Country, near South Lake Tahoe, California, with the intention of spending a year and learning about cross country racing from Kirkwood founder and Olympic biathlete Glenn Jobe. "I picked a good place to start and never left," she reflected.

Waldear has now been in the Nordic ski industry for 28 years. She holds a degree in recreation management from Sacramento State and, before coming to Kirkwood, wanted to work with troubled kids in a wilderness setting. While she did a little of this type of work before Kirkwood, her career focus shifted to Nordic skiing.

During Waldear's first few years at Kirkwood, she was literally an on-snow ambassador traveling and racing around the U.S. and in Europe representing Kirkwood. Her role then involved marketing and pre-season work, as well as organizing events.

She also raced in the Great American Ski Chase — predecessor to the American Marathon Series. The Chase required that racers do one event in each region of the country. Sponsored by Rossignol, Waldear traveled the country, frequently taking top honors and, in 1987, won the overall Great American Ski Chase title. "It was a great experience to see all the great cross country areas in the country," Waldear recalled of her time on the GASC circuit. She has particularly fond memories of Blueberry Hill in Vermont and Kincaid Park in Anchorage.

When her mentor, Glenn Jobe, moved on to start another resort in Truckee, Calif., Waldear was faced with the choice of continuing racing or becoming the Nordic director at Kirkwood. She quickly realized that there were not a lot of positions out there that fit her profile, so it made sense to step into a ready-made career. Eventually the cross country ski center was purchased by the adjacent Kirkwood Mountain Resort.

Today, Waldear is the director of the Kirkwood Cross Country Ski Center where she oversees the ski patrol, ski school, retail shop, grooming and manages a staff of about 12 people.

Since the center is now part of the larger ski resort, Waldear provides a liaison between the resort and the cross country center. She likes that arrangement, as the center is a bit removed from the core resort area and she "doesn't have to be involved in drama of the downhill area."

With a long history at Kirkwood, Waldear enjoys her varied duties and finds working with her staff, many of which have been there off and on for years, the most fulfilling. The staff are not all youngsters as might be found at many ski areas; many are retired and only work part-time. Otherwise, she's



quite happy attending to the trails, making sure that everything is up to standard.

Kirkwood Cross Country is located at 8,000 feet. At that elevation in the Sierras, there tends to be a lot of snow. One of her biggest challenges is just digging out after big storms. She lives about 20 miles away and must drive over Carson Pass to get to and from work. This in itself can be daunting; sometimes requiring unscheduled overnights at the center when the pass is closed.

In addition to cross country skiing, one of Waldear's other passions is llamas. While she used to own more, she now has "only" five. These animals are older and more or less retired from the days when she used to do commercial pack trips throughout the Sierras. Llamas are easily trained, she related, and they'll just jump in the back of her truck. Once one is trained, the others follow.

In addition to her victories on the Great American Ski Chase circuit, Waldear has also had great success at the World Masters level. Since 1992 Waldear has raced World Masters events in Alaska, Italy, Sweden and Lake Placid, where she brought home eight gold medals and a couple of silvers. "It's been really fun," Waldear said. In those days, her biggest contender was Maria Canins, a past champion of the women's version of the Tour de France, called the Tour de Feminin. Unfortunately, an injury prevented Waldear from competing in the recent Masters World Cup in McCall, Idaho.

She's also had a pretty successful running career, entering a number of marathons and winning both the San Diego and Golden Gate marathons. Her best time was 2:48, but injuries began to take a toll, so now she does more road cycling instead. Besides cross country, Waldear also enjoys backcountry and telemark skiing.

She's still racing, but is now doing more coaching and works with the elite kids of the Far West Nordic Team. "I find it very rewarding and a great way to contribute back to sport," she says. "Getting young kids into cross country skiing is so important. They all live in a winter environment. It's a shame for them to miss out. There's no sense living in the snow and just being frustrated."

Her season at Kirkwood starts October 1 and runs through the end of April — the cross country center usually opening at Thanksgiving. Now that she's no longer doing llama trips, she picks up odd jobs, does her trips and travels during the off season.

She's also president of Friends of Hope Valley, an environmental group and does a lot of advocacy

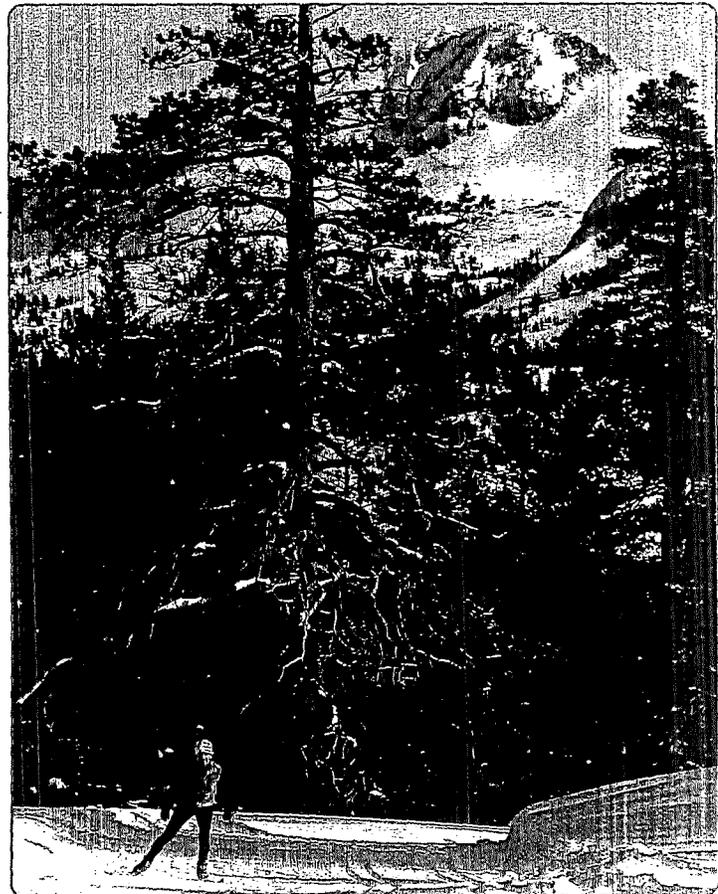
work in the summer. Her home area is in one of last undeveloped valleys in the Sierras. Its alpine setting has come under threat of development as many ranchers have considered selling their property. Waldear worked to help get funding appropriated to convert some of these lands into national forest.

More recently, there's been conflict over motorized use. Working with the local snowmobile organization, she was able to help negotiate a plan for Hope Valley and Alpine County to determine where everyone could go.

"It was a pleasure to get to know the snowmobilers," she said. "We ended up enjoying each other. We went out in the woods together and I realized that they appreciate things as much we do."

She is now working on summer issues, particularly the impact of ATVs. While there is not as much use as snowmobiling, there are some pristine meadows and other places where she feels it would be good to keep ATVs out. She expects this to be even easier and has been working with the local sheriff who is willing to close down roads and take a lead in this initiative.

Waldear summed up her life and philosophy. "I am a skier, I love skiing, I've skied for over 40 years. During the winter I track ski every day at work; on my off days I ski tour and telemark in the mountains around home. In May, when we close at Kirkwood, I usually go up to Alaska to ski on the glaciers. I just can't get enough of it. I think the world is so much more beautiful coated with a blanket of snow."





Kickin' It

at Kirkwood Cross Country and Snowshoe Center

By Ron Bergin

Driving through the mountains over Carson Pass, my journey to Kirkwood began to take on a Shangri-la-esque feeling. Winding and descending into the valley, suddenly there it was, Kirkwood Mountain Resort and the Kirkwood Cross Country and Snowshoe Center.

Located about 30 miles south of Lake Tahoe in California, Kirkwood Village, the base of Kirkwood Mountain Resort, is the hub of snowsport activity here. The cross country center was originally established as an entity unto itself, and there is a distinct separation between the village and the center. All lodging and most restaurants are centered in the village. It's a remote location, so much so that the village must generate its own power.

Kirkwood Cross Country began in 1972, about the same time the alpine resort got started. Prior to that time, Kirkwood was just a quiet undeveloped valley. The original trail system, created by former U.S. Olympian Glenn Jobe, was only 15 km and based in Kirkwood Meadow. Jobe had just graduated from the University of Reno, where he was a standout on the cross country ski and jumping team. His success there encouraged him to continue in the sport. And having grown up on a ranch in northern California where shooting was a part of the lifestyle, he was attracted to biathlon. He was a very good shot which, combined with his skiing talents, earned him a spot on the 1980 Olympic Team in Lake Placid.

Following his Olympic experience, Jobe started to work on further developing the cross country center at Kirkwood. Within a few years the center had grown to 80 km. The challenging terrain made the area unique, as the trails follow the natural topography, climbing over granite domes, twisting through the forest and crossing open bowls. The trails are not superimposed on existing roads — more aptly, they're like roads created with the snow.

Today, eight-time World Masters Champion Debbi Waldear

HOPE VALLEY OUTDOOR CENTER

An easy hour and 15 minute drive from Reno, a stop at the Hope Valley Outdoor Center while en route to or from Kirkwood will provide a highly contrasting, while still complimentary, experience for cross country skiers of all callings.

Operated today by Joyce Coker, it was originally known as Hope Valley Cross Country and based out of a cabin at Sorenson's Resort just up the road. In 1997, the shop moved down the road to Hope Valley Resort where, with a partner, Coker operated a café/grocery store as well. She assumed sole ownership in 2003.

Coker's pies became a big hit at the café, including such favorites as apple, peach, sourcream apple, blueberry and boisenberry. The Black and Blue (combination blackberry and blueberry) was particularly popular. When a Bay-area newspaper wrote about it, people came flocking; she went through 20 pies in a single weekend. Coker also makes one-pound chocolate chip cookies. If Hope Valley Outdoor Center were to adopt a marketing slogan, it might easily be: "Come for the pie; Stay for the skiing."

Although Coker owned the business, Sorenson's Resort held the permit for U.S. Forest Service land. Her 10-year lease was soon to expire, so she decided to leave the café and relocate up the road closer to the trails. But the café continues to function as a combination pie/coffee shop/grocery/gear rental/art gallery.

Last year Coker moved the whole operation down the road and set up shop in an open meadow. She bought a new yurt that serves as the trailhead and base for rentals and gear. This turned out to be a strategic business move, as the new location provided significantly increased visibility; so much so that people have commented that they didn't even know the center existed at the previous location. It's a very simple operation and is entirely off the grid, with much of her energy supplied by solar power. The cash register is battery powered. There is no phone service or cell phone coverage, so she must rely on an answering machine system at home.

The trails at Hope Valley Outdoors are mostly ungroomed, though Coker has a snowmobile and tracksetter. She will set a track around the meadow as a warm-up loop, as well as part way out the Burnside Lake Trail. There are no fees to ski the trails.

The area on which the Hope Valley trails sit is in a non-motorized area on Humboldt-Toiyabe and El Dorado National Forests, as well as

California Department of Fish & Game lands. Within this area, there is one large in-holding of private land with a cabin. Coker had thought of trying to set up other yurts or warming huts. Although she was able to produce 400 signatures in support, the Forest Service is waiting to be sure there is sufficient demand, so she's taking it step by step.

The trails are mostly on forest roads and some old logging roads, with the main trail running seven miles from the yurt out to Burnside Lake. It starts in the meadow, climbs gradually, levels off and climbs some more.

Most routes are out-and-back with a couple of side trails – Hope Valley Trail and Sawmill Trail – which spur off and return. The Indianhead Trail forks to the north and climbs, then drops steeply down to Sorenson's Resort. Because the descent is somewhat precipitous, this is often used as snowshoe route.

Another set of backcountry touring trails can be found across the highway, ranging from easy touring to those that traverse more challenging terrain, opening up additional vast acreage for exploration.

The trails traverse stands of conifers including lodgepole pine, juniper and white fir; with occasional aspen groves and unforested openings.

On the trail from Hope Valley Cross Country, Basque shepherders once drove their flocks. Along the way they left carvings on many the large and very old aspen trees; some of these historic carvings – from simple dates to nudes – still remain today; as does an impressive, historic Basque oven. Coker takes snowshoers on tours to visit a grove of trees with many of these carvings.

Coker offers a variety of programs at the center. She found that people actually wanted to take snowshoe lessons. "But it didn't seem right," she said, "so I offered a skills tour where I take them out on a tour and offer tips and other insights to nature." She also offers full moon tours and, on Super Bowl Sunday, a women's weekend that includes snowshoeing, skiing and, of course, chocolate.

Hope Valley Outdoors is located at Pickett's Junction/Hwy 88 and 89, Hope Valley, California. For more information: 14655 Hwy 88, Markleeville, CA 96120; 530/694-2266; www.hopevalleyoutdoors.com. Sorenson's Resort www.sorensensresort.com.

oversees the Kirkwood Cross Country and Snowshoe Center (see Fireside in this issue for a more detailed profile on Waldemar). Perched on a hillside and set back from the road, the center overlooks the Meadow Trail System to the south. A few steps up the hill, a set of stairs leads to the cozy center. A small retail operation, rentals and a warm woodstove comprise the nerve center of Kirkwood Cross Country and Snowshoe Center. In addition, the cross country ski school offers a full array of professional instruction, including the Ski and Skills Tour for those just learning the sport or needing a refresher.

The Kirkwood Trails are organized into three distinct trail systems, each progressively higher up the mountain. The Meadow System is at 7,800 feet elevation. The Caples Creek Trail System provides the most diversity of the three systems. The Schneider Trail System starts at near 7,900 feet and climbs to more than 8,400 feet, affording panoramic views of the surrounding wilderness areas.

The Meadow System provides some of the best novice skiing in the region – the perfect spot for children, elders and those who just want an easy cruise. Two five-km loops, Meadow Trail and Dog and Pony (a dog-friendly loop), meander through meadow. As the focal point for the cross country side of the skiing at Kirkwood, the meadow helps elevate the profile of Nordic at Kirkwood. Waldemar likes this layout. "It provides good visibility for the sport," she says.

Gently rolling, easy skiing on the meadow makes cross country extremely accessible for guests at the resort; although to access the core trail system, they need to ski two kilometers over to the cross country center. Alternatively, one can simply drive the mile or so to the center.

The meadow itself is over two miles long and is one of the last undeveloped high-altitude meadows of its size in the Sierra. When heading south on the trail from the center, you are enveloped by

panoramic views of the downhill ski slopes and lava sentinels along the spine of the Carson Spur. Numerous condo and lodging facilities surround the meadow, all adopting a variation of the "meadow" theme: The Meadows, Sun Meadows, Meadow View and the like.

At the Cross Country and Snowshoe Center, you can just step out the door, click into your skis and head off into a system of 80 kilometers of winding, looping and very fun trails. The mostly one-way trails are heavy on the intermediate; 20 percent of Kirkwood's cross country trail system is beginner terrain, with 20 percent advanced and 60 percent intermediate. With a few good climbs, the otherwise flowing trails provide access to some of the most beautiful mountain scenery you could ask for.

With over 4,000 acres of terrain, an ideal location, unique terrain features and renowned snow quantity and quality, the Kirkwood Cross Country and Snowshoe Center is a top choice of locals and visitors. The trails climb to within a few feet of the Sierra Crest, affording expansive views of the Kirkwood Valley and the surrounding High Sierra. Additional trails meander through serene meadows, along scenic ridgelines and beneath volcanic lava cliffs. There are three warming huts sprinkled along the trails.

Close to the lodge there's the Kiddie Kilometer. This short, easy loop for the younger set has large animal cutouts that kids can ski through and around. Some have interpretive signs with the respective animal tracks on the back side of a flip-up display.

From the cross country center, you can access the Caples Creek Trail System via a long rolling descent to Caples Meadow, where the trail follows the flow of Caples Creek. This tranquil meadow is dotted with beaver ponds and populated by hawks, owls, ducks and herons among other small critters that stay active in the winter. Several side loops twist through forested areas, up and down granite domes, making for some exciting skiing. Further along the trail, the spectacular presence of Round Top, at 10,381 feet, looms large over the area.



Two linear trails, Agony and Ecstasy, link to the upper trails of the Schneider System. As the names imply, one goes up; the other goes down. And while Agony does require a lot of climbing, it's mostly gradual with occasional short, steeper pitches. Returning on the Ecstasy, is just that — a sweet, sweeping downhill ride; the kind of trail that, once you get to know, you can just "let 'er rip."

The Schneider Trail System starts at near 7,900 feet and climbs to more than 8,400 feet, affording panoramic views of the surrounding wilderness areas. The elaborate trail system crosses open bowls, winds through the forest and climbs along ridges. Skiers can also access these trails by car, with parking at the Schneider trail head, not far from Caples Lake Resort. This avoids both the Agony and the Ecstasy.

On a clear day, these upper trails afford views of Caples Lake and the surrounding mountainscape, including Desolation Wilderness, the Coastal Range and a panoramic view of the Sierra Crest. The trails lead up toward the Schneider Cow Camp, with the remnants of an historic old barn in the meadow. Beyond the camp, climb Sierra Vista and on to Coyote Pass, high above the Kirkwood Valley and Caples Lake.

Once you attain the upper trails, you are skiing at over 8,000 feet. Reaching the upper level gradually, I didn't really feel overly out of breath. Having spent a few days in the region no doubt helped, but for a flatlander coming to the mountains, I was able to ski more or less at a normal pace. I just had to pause a little more frequently on some of the steeper climbs. Throughout the upper trails, skiing is very enjoyable, with plenty of gradual climbing and nice descents and nothing wickedly steep. The return ski is exciting and mostly downhill. But be sure to stop while descending the high ridge and crossing the open bowl to take in the views.

Kirkwood Cross Country is also a relatively dog-friendly ski center. In addition to the Dog and Pony Trail in the Meadow, a second more challenging dog-friendly trail is the High Trail, a five-kilometer loop in the Schneider system. Dogs are allowed on these trails with a \$20 season pet pass.

Although the Kirkwood Cross Country Center is part of the larger downhill resort, the physical separation makes it feel like its own entity; and it functions, more or less, on its own. According to Waldear, as a business, it meets its goals, though she feels that the center is underutilized.

The trails are groomed almost every day with the heavy equipment from the resort. Fortunately for the cross country center, Jeff Eckland, head of

the grooming department at Kirkwood Mountain, is also an avid Nordic skier. This season a new grooming machine has been added to the Kirkwood fleet, allowing more than one trail system to be groomed at one time. During lean snowfall years it has been impossible to groom the Schneider Trail System, as the connecting trail requires five feet of snow. Now, with one snowcat located at the Schneider trail head, this system can be groomed as soon as there is a foot of snow on the ground. All trail systems are groomed by the first of December, often with a Thanksgiving opening.

As far as local color goes, there is nothing more colorful than the Kirkwood Inn. This historic building was originally on the other side of creek, but was moved next door to the cross country center. Though funky looking, it serves stylishly prepared food as well as general pub fare. Other restaurants, from cafeteria-style to sports bar to fine dining, can also be found in the village.

It's not all cross country skiing at Kirkwood, as there's a full menu of snowshoe trails, instruction and events, as well. The center has several models of high-tech snowshoes available for rent and, this year, a new daily snowshoe technique tour is scheduled for noon. This introductory class covers equipment use, technique and trekking on the trails accompanied by a guide. Each month the Kirkwood Cross Country staff lead guided snowshoe Full Moon Treks under the light of the full moon. Plus, there's Soup and Shoe, a guided snowshoe hike to the crest of the Sierra Nevada above Kirkwood. The guides carry hot soup and bread for all to enjoy at lunch. This hike, suitable for snowshoers of all levels, takes a relaxed pace, allowing time to enjoy the surrounding area. It includes a leisurely walk along the crest, providing fantastic views of Lake Tahoe and the surrounding peaks.

Kirkwood Cross Country and Snowshoe Center is located on Route 88,

near Carson Pass. Kirkwood is a three hour and 15 minute drive from the San Francisco Bay Area and 90 minutes from Reno/Tahoe International Airport.

For more information:

Kirkwood Cross Country
and Snowshoe Center
209/258-7248;
Lodging 800/967-7500,
www.kirkwood.com. 

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Finding the Web in Alpine

by Bill Morgan

Here on the east side of Alpine County the one subject of discussion that rivals the state of the economy and the continuing saga of the Obama phenomenon is Internet access. Now, if you don't have a computer, or don't care to expose yourself to the dangers of being connected to the Internet and are just satisfied with using your computer as a very expensive typewriter or a game device, you may not benefit from what I have to say. Nevertheless, I continue.

People here in Alpine County with dialup communicate to and from the Internet over the phone lines through a company that provides Internet service. That's considered a very slow system these days. These people have been lamenting the long, long waits to download messages from inconsiderate friends with high speed internet service who keep sending groups of photos or videos via email, sometimes several a day. Holy cow, some people have prepared, cooked, and eaten dinner while waiting for a message to download! Many others have been quietly obtaining high speed internet service through one system or another for themselves. So you will know about these things, I, who am barely computer literate, am about to tell you what your options are for connecting to the Internet, assuming you have a fairly recent computer.

First, anyone with a telephone line can get dialup service. Here in the (530) 694- exchange, you can arrange for service from Great Basin Internet Services that you can connect to by dialing a local telephone number. Their business phone number is (702) 348-7299. That service costs about \$22 a month, or less if you pay for a year in advance or if you are a senior. If you don't

mind paying long distance charges or have a phone plan that charges a flat rate with no extra charges for long distance, then you have a large number of internet service providers you can hook up to with costs as low as \$10 a month. Those are still dialup, however, and slow. Some of those offer programs with an "accelerator" that they claim can boost the speed of download as much as seven times faster than basic dialup. Now here's where I'll get a bit technical.

Speed of connections is expressed in bytes per second, a byte being one of those digital things that contains parts of information. A basic dialup would download information at a max rate of 56,000 bytes per second or 56 kbps. Over a long distance from the server you'd be happy to get 45 kbps. A video has lots of bytes. Good luck on getting the latest video of Britney Spears in less than a half hour.

There are other options for most of us, however. There is high speed satellite service for anyone with a good view of the southern sky. Wild Blue offers three plans with download speeds ranging from near 512 kbps up to 1.5 mbps, that's 1.5 million bytes per second. The cost ranges from \$50 a month to \$80 a month, with an initial connection fee under a two year contract of \$150. You may also have to pay for the hardware.

HughesNet offers six plans with download speeds by satellite ranging from up to 1 mbps to up to 5 mbps. The cost ranges from \$60 a month to \$350 a month plus installation charges of about \$400 (sometimes less with a promotional rebate). There is an option to pay only \$100 for installation by adding \$10 per month to the base cost. Download speeds are not usually possible at the maximum advertised rates and upload speeds for messages you send are significantly lower. GBIS

can arrange for you to get HughesNet satellite service or you can contact HughesNet directly over the Internet.

Verizon broadband wireless is another option that is available to those with a good line of sight to Gardnerville. If you can get three bars of signal strength on your Verizon cell phone, you can probably get that broadband service. The speed of download can exceed 2 mbps depending on your distance and your sightline to the base facility.

Marginal signal reception can be improved with a small portable antenna and a router. One advantage of this service is that you can carry the plug-in device that communicates with the server and plug it into any computer in the Verizon broadband coverage area, if those computers have the necessary software. The software is provided with the setup. The cost is \$60 a month, with a two contract, and, if an antennae and router is required, could cost around \$650 for the hardware and connection fee. Verizon is being pressed to improve its signal strength which could expand the area of coverage. To find out if you could obtain the Verizon broadband service, call Jack Merrill, Broadband Specialist, at (530) 694-2221.

There are other systems in use on this side of the county. The county administrative offices, sheriff's office, and library use a dedicated phone line called a T-1 line which is available to government offices and some businesses. That service can provide speeds up to 1.5 mbps. The general public can access that system by going to the library, which has several computers available on the T-1 line. A person with a laptop can go to the library and connect also. No charge.

Some people in the valley have DSL or know about it. That service allows use of the telephone for high speed transmissions without inter-

fering with the use of the phone line for regular phone use. It's very inexpensive, but, alas is not available to those of us on the (530) 694- phone exchanges. We don't have cable internet service either, which is an option in much of Carson Valley.

Another wireless system available in the valley is Clearwire. Though the company Web site doesn't indicate it can serve anything in Alpine County, it's been reported that some in the River Ranch area have been able to receive service.

If you want more information, don't call me. Call an

Alpine bids adieu to museum director

by Karen Dustman

More than 70 people turned out at the historical society's November meeting to bid a fond farewell to Museum Director Dick Edwards, who is retiring in December.

County Supervisor Don Jardine presented Edwards with a proclamation recognizing his nearly 12 years of service to Alpine County, and expressing warm wishes to Edwards and his wife, Ruth Ann.

Museum Assistant Wanda Coyan also presented Edwards with a commemorative plaque, and the historical society awarded him the honorary title of Director Emeritus.

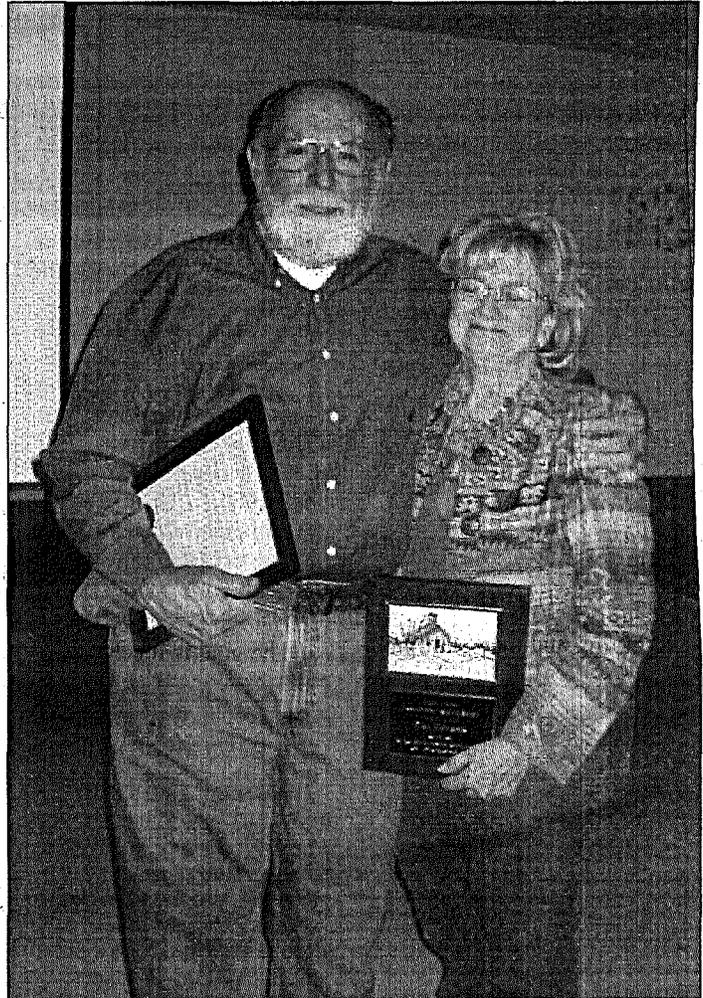
Under Edwards' devoted stewardship, the Alpine Museum successfully accomplished several important milestones, including completing the carriage shed and related exhibits; finishing the working stamp mill; and creating a historically-accurate blacksmith shop exhibit.

He also brought the museum into the 21st century by implementing archival software to access photos and artifacts.

Of all his accomplishments, however, Edwards takes the most pride in his role in ensuring the Markleeville schoolhouse received historic recognition.

"Getting the schoolhouse placed on the National Register of Historic Places was the first thing I wanted to do as director," Edwards recalls. "We not only accomplished that, but recently were able to repaint the schoolhouse inside and out, helping ensure this landmark building remains in good condition for years to come."

Edwards has been instrumental in expanding the museum's local photograph collec-



DETAILS

Alpine County Museum
(530) 694-2317
Schoolhouse Hill
Markleeville

The museum expects to re-open Memorial Day Weekend, 2009.

tion and obtaining significant artifact donations, including hoisting wheels from the I.X.L. Mine and the copy-books of early mining capitalist Lewis Chalmers. He also created or upgraded a number of the museum's intriguing

local-history exhibits.

All that hard work has not gone unrecognized. "Visitors constantly tell us they can't believe what a great museum this small county has," Edwards observed with pride. "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."

A former park ranger and ranger-historian at La Purisima Mission State Historic Park in Lompoc, Calif., Edwards assumed the directorship of Alpine County Museum in 1997, after 34 years of service with the California State Parks Service.

"I had been visiting Alpine County for a number of years



PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE R-C

Retiring Museum Director Dick Edwards holds his plaques at his farewell dinner. Below, he hugs wife Ruth Ann.

with my friend, Jim Long," Edwards recalled.

"They were looking for a museum director, and I told them I'd work for a small salary without benefits. That must have sealed the deal; I got a call the next day."

For more than a decade, visitors to the museum atop Schoolhouse Hill have come to depend on Edwards' knowledgeable dissertations on Alpine County history, accompanied by a tail-wagging welcome from his canine sidekick, Buddy.

It is difficult to picture the museum without them. But Edwards won't exactly be idle in retirement. He has already been asked to volunteer for the Poway Historical Society in Southern California.

Luckily for Alpine County, their new "emeritus" director plans to hitch a ride back with friend Jim Long for frequent return visits.

"We're counting on it, Dick.

Development director tracks building in Alpine County

by Irving Krauss

Alpine County Director of Community Development Brian Peters has a critical role in planning and monitoring the county's growth.

He is responsible for planning, working with staff planner Zach Woods, for building construction, aided by Carolyn Vaughn and Tony Creter, for engineering, which is contracted out, as well as for transportation planning.

Peters emphasized that not only is it necessary to coordinate undertakings but also to ensure that procedures are followed consistently and that the requirements of state laws are met.

The key decision-making groups are the planning commission and the board of supervisors, both of which rely on the planning, building, and engineering departments.

Planning commissioners look to the planning department for details on proposals for growth and change, and

how they conform to zoning and the county's general plan.

Commissioners also receive citizen input at public hearings, and make recommendations to the board of supervisors.

The board has the final say and is guided by the planning staff's report that provides information, helps frame issues, and presents alternatives.

Much of the work of the departments that are overseen by Peters is providing information to individuals on zoning requirements, building codes and on timelines for the construction process.

Peters said that the planning, building, and engineering units have two large projects before them.

One is a 500-unit development in Bear Valley and the other is Tom Abdo's project in Markleeville.

That proposal has been resubmitted and is presently undergoing internal review, and there will be public hearings in 2009.

The current economic condition of the nation came up in the interview for this article and Peters noted that building permits in the county are down, but that Kirkwood and Bear Valley is the key to future growth.

He observed that the past three to four years was a boom period for the county and that future development will depend on the economy.

Peters said he became interested in planning during his studies in natural resources and forest management at Colorado State University, and went on to receive his master's degree in regional planning from Washington State University.

Before coming to Alpine he spent 14 years as a planner in Summit County, Colo., a resort community west of Denver.

Brian Peters and his wife Abbie live in Mesa Vista with their 16-year-old daughter Willa and son Keaton who is 13.

Be safe on that backcountry excursion

by Jim Donald

At all times of the year getting in and out of the Alpine County backcountry safely requires a certain amount of preparation and planning. Now, with cooler weather, certain contingencies need to be taken into consideration. Equipment appropriate to con-

ditions, proper mindset and good physical condition will enhance your chances of survival should a mishap occur.

There is now enough snow to ski but not enough to eliminate rocks and other obstructions. Hopefully predicted storms will deliver sufficient snow to ski the backcountry with a reasonable degree of predictability.

Readers of this column have heard me mention the 10 essentials. Here they are again in case you haven't checked at the Sierra Club Web site. Map of the area, compass, extra food and water, flashlight with spare battery, sunscreen and sunglasses, extra clothing, waterproof matches or other fire starter, candle to aid in fire starting, pocket knife, first-aid kit. A signal mirror (some compasses come with one) and a whistle are other lightweight items you might carry.

The map should be a 7.5 or 15 minute topo that you know how to interpret. Your com-

pass work should include the ability to shoot a heading to a landmark, adjust for declination (the angle between true north and magnetic north) and plot a course, as well as triangulate a position from three landmarks. Carrying a GPS is a huge help and a satellite tracker can be a lifesaver. Cell phones often don't work in the wilderness so don't count on that being a lifeline. Fresh batteries for any electronic device are an absolute must.

Clothing needs to match conditions and multiple layers of breathable wicking fabric with a backup waterproof outer layer is the way to go. A space blanket or large garbage bag offers added protection in your snow cave (know the details of various shelter construction).

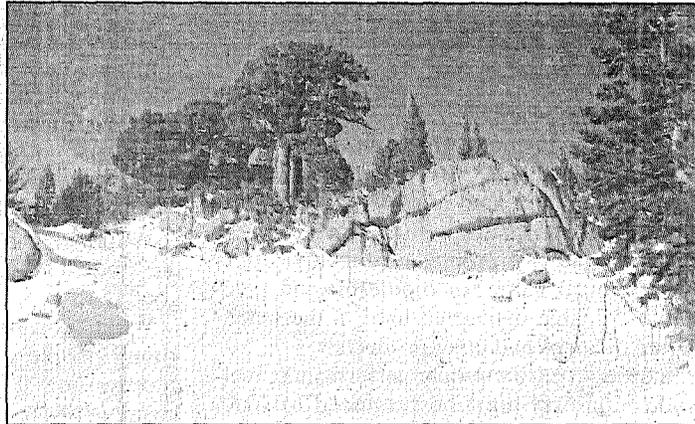
Food should be high energy low volume items but remember that water is more essential. Try not to eat snow. It lowers your core temperature thus hastening the onset of

hypothermia.

So go to your daypack now, take everything out, including that 2-pound flower book, and put back in the 10 essentials. Then make adjustments for each outing based on weather, length of trip and personal preferences.

Speaking of weather, you'll need an accurate forecast for the day(s) of any outing. This is available at the NOAA'S National Weather Service Qeb site for Reno. Click on the map for your intended route or nearest town, click on the backcountry forecast for expected conditions at various altitudes and visit the forecast discussion page which will provide a detailed synopsis of current weather plus what is expected in the coming week. Except for the satellite picture, don't rely only on the Weather Channel – it's simply not precise enough for local conditions.

Recent incidents in Utah point to the need to check the avalanche website that's linked to the weather service page. It details conditions for various slope aspects and altitude. Keep in mind that roughly 50 percent of all avalanche fatalities are due to trauma. That means even if your friends watch you get swept



SPECIAL TO THE R-C

Snow piles up at the base of a rock formation in Alpine County. Exploring the high country in winter can be very dangerous.

down the slope and dig you out right away your chances are only one in two of surviving. Avalanche beacons will improve your chances.

Assess your physical condition and plan trips to match. Fatigue can accelerate hypothermia a condition that, once the body's core temperature drops below 95 degrees F, renders you unable to help yourself and results in your demise unless help is already on the way.

Studies have shown that those who survive back country mishaps often have a positive mental outlook or "will to survive." Fear is normal but panic will kill you. Oh, go ahead, let it out. If you're out in a driving snowstorm, off-trail, it's getting dark and you

can't move due to a knee injury, scream words that would make a logger blush. A minute of irrational behavior will make you feel better, warm you up and provide the energy to start on that snow cave. Be sure to bring back rationality — you're much more approachable if you're yelling "help."

Since this column only touches the surface of many complex issues a mention of resources is in order. Local people experienced in the area are an invaluable resource. Talk to them. Talk to search and rescue personnel who, by the way, are always in need of volunteers. Lake Tahoe Community College offers a variety of wilderness courses ranging from avalanche certification, first aid, navigation, survival and backcountry snowboarding. Visit their Web site. Books are available from the local library. Make use of these opportunities.

Nothing compares to finding solitude and magnificence in the winter backcountry. Being miles from the nearest road clears the mind and rejuvenates the spirit. It is vital to being human, an adventure. It makes one acutely aware that humans are relatively insignificant specks in the vast realm of nature and that we are fortunate to be able to witness such grandeur.