

DATE	NEWSPAPER	HEADLINE	CATEGORY	PEOPLE
1/2/2009	Record Courier	Woodfords couple produce series of trail guidebooks	Business/Biography	Virginia York, Jerry Sprout, Janine Sprout
1/9/2009	Record Courier	Valley rancher honored by antique auto club	Award	Ted Bacon
1/9/2009	Record Courier	Alpine installs supervisors, school board member	Government/Elections	Richard Specchio, Skip Veatch, Phillip Bennett, Tom Sweeney, Earl O'Neal, Barbara Howard
1/23/2009	Record Courier	Alpine soldier off to Iraq	Armed Services	Irene Portillo, Leticia Hansen
1/23/2009	Record Courier	Cycling club and Washoe clean up Diamond Valley	Bicycles/Schools	DeAnn Roberts
1/30/2009	Record Courier	Tales from Alpine's ghostly museum	Museum/History	Karen Dustman, Kim Skinner, Dick Edwards, Wanda Coyan
2/6/2009	Record Courier	A yurt by any other name	Business/Hope Valley	Bill Morgan, Joyce Coker, Miyshael Gailson
2/6/2009	Record Courier	Alpine beauty is the key to its future prosperity	Economy	Irving Krauss
2/6/2009	Record Courier	Alpine OKs changes to general plan	Government/Development	Don Jardine
2/6/2009	Record Courier	Man in Washoe Tribe van theft gets year in jail	Courts/Crime	Brandon Brown, Jr.
2/6/2009	Record Courier	Alpine's beauty is the key to its future prosperity	Economy	Irving Krauss
2/13/2009	Record Courier	Funding sources dry up for Alpine Watershed Group	Watershed Group	Jim Donald, Chris Katopothis
2/13/2009	Record Courier	Tobacco sting clears Alpine merchants	Business/Crime	Elizabeth McGeein
2/20/2009	Record Courier	Alpine searchers find time to practice	Search and Rescue	Irving Krauss, Tom Minder, Lynn Doyal, Janice Doyal, Stacy James

2/25/2009	Record Courier	Services Saturday for native Alpine rancher	Obituary/Biography	Hubert Bruns, Shirley Bruns, Merle Bruns, Vernita Springmeyer Smith, Elmer Bruns, Harold Bruns, Bruce Bruns, Linda Bruns
2/27/2009	Record Courier	A visit to the Jubilee Ranch		Virginia York, Jan Lopes, Bill Shipley, Blanche Shipley, Ted Bacon, Dabert Wyatt, Cecil Dressler, Julian Mastorinno, Eloise Barrett, Ray Koenig, jGary Coyan, Fritz Thornburg
3/4/2009	Record Courier	Alpine	Obituary	
3/6/2009	Record Courier	Summing up the year for Alpine County law enforcement	Sheriff	Christine Branscombe, Bill Morgan, John Crawford, Jema Kimmel, Michelle McLelland
3/27/2009	Record Courier	Members sought for resource advisory committee in Alpine	Forest Service	
3/27/2009	Record Courier	Forestdale Creek a good place for spring skiing	Recreation	Jim Donald
4/3/2009	Record Courier	Alpine holds hearing on MarkleeVillage project	Development	Bill Morgan
4/4/2009	Record Courier	Ditches carry Valley's lifeblood	Water	
4/17/2009	Record Courier	Markleeville craftsman creates knives	Arts	Greg Bennett, Joyce DeVore
4/17/2009	Record Courier	Alpine Fire Safe Council offers curbside chipping	Fire/Safety	Jeff Brees
5/1/2009	Record Courier	Alpine library keeps learning fires burning	Library/History	Joyce DeVore, Lucille Brown Chain, Hubert Bruns, Faye Gansberg, Angie Merrill, Nancy Thornburg, Gary Coyan, Martha Brown, Ilene Long, Mabel Love, Wanda Coyan, Barbara Howard, Rita Lovell
5/15/2009	Record Courier	Alpine women's center provides valuable service	Social Services	Irving Krauss, Jennifer Kline

5/22/2009	Record Courier	Solution to graphic problem	Washoe/Projects	Joyce DeVore, Kevin Jones, DeAnn Roberts
5/22/2009	Record Courier	California budget propositions defeated	Elections	Irving Krauss, Gail Day, Jim Dunn, Jeanne Lear, Mary Rawson, Barbara Howard, Sarah Simis
5/29/2009	Los Angeles Times	In some areas, finding a dentist is like pulling teeth	Health	
6/5/2009	Record Courier	Horsethief Canyon a conditioning hike with a view	Recreation	Jim Donald
6/5/2009	Record Courier	Career Day	Schools/Event	Rick Stephens, John Crawford
7/10/2009	Record Courier	Death Ride is a true challenge	Bicycles	Teresa Burkhauser
7/17/2009	Record Courier	Alpine looking for ways to balance the budget	Government/Economy	Bill Morgan
7/17/2009	Record Courier	Reflective address markers available	Community	
7/21/2009	Calaverass Enterprise	High Country hermit's secrets to be revealed	History/Biography	Monte Wolf
7/31/2009	Record Courier	Alpine chamber helps lost find their way	Business	Teresa Burkhauser, Cody Burkhauser, Joyce Coker, Amy Broadhurst
7/31/2009	Record Courier	Alpine grand jury report made public	Courts	Richard Specchio
8/7/2009	Record Courier	Alpine Museum a portal to another age	Museum	Wanda Coyan, Joanne Oehlerking, Dick Edwards, Rick Dustman, Irving Krauss, Dolores Clark, Ernestine Fogarty
8/7/2009	Record Courier	Caples Lake comes back	Business	John Voss
8/21/2009	Record Courier	Utility district describes plan for future	Sewage	Bill Morgan
8/28/2009	Record Courier	Alpine grand jury report available to residents	Courts	Lila Ellis, Lauren Ellis

9/4/2009	Record Courier	Woodfords Station 4.0	Business/Biography	Virginia York, Willis Merrill, Stewart Merrill, Grant Merrill, Gary Coyan, Dean McKinley, Judy Farnsworth, Dave Kirby, Lynda Kirby, Megan O'Neal, Eileen Merrill, Wanda Coyan, Edie Veatch, Nancy Thornburg
9/4/2009	Record Courier	Alpine County hosts photo contest	Arts/Government/Contest	
9/11/2009	Record Courier	Wirkwood's disc golf course a popular destination	Kirkwood	Ricky Newberry
9/18/2009	Record Courier	Good time to climb Alpine's highest peak	Jim Donald	
9/25/2009	Record Courier	Carson Tahoe offering flu shots	Health	
9/25/2009	Record Courier	Markleeville Creek Day is Saturday	Watershed Group	Sarah Green
9/25/2009	Record Courier	Markleeville Artists Open Studio coming Oct. 3 and 4	Arts/Event	Evelyn Yonker, Ida Glazier, Susan Flakus, Linda Merrill, Dianna Mitzner, Charles Muench, Peter Chope, Sandy Baenen, Jeff Brees, Dave Brees, Jan Brees, Todd Branscombe, Kay Jobst, Carolyn Vaughn, Mark Vaughn, Richard Shokouh, Suzanne Barr
9/30/2009	Record Courier	Markleeville Artists Autumn Open Studio Tour this weekend	Arts/Event	Evelyn Yonker, Ida Glazier, Susan Flakus, Linda Merrill, Dianna Mitzner, Charles Muench, Peter Chope, Sandy Baenen, Jeff Brees, Dave Brees, Jan Brees, Todd Branscombe, Kay Jobst, Carolyn Vaughn, Mark Vaughn, Richard Shokouh, Suzanne Barr, Dale Bennett, Debra Esteban, Russel Ketenjian
10/2/2009	Record Courier	Hope Valley chef cooks her pies to order	Business/Hope Valley	DJoyce DeVore, Leesa Loppazanski, Rita Lovell

10/2/2009	Record Courier	Markleeville art studio brings 'A Concert of Color'	Arts/Event	Peter Chope, Sandy Baenan, Debra Esteban, Charles Muench, Jeff Brees
10/13/2009	Calaverass Enterprise	Bear Valley mitigations addressed	Development/Bear Valley/Roads	
10/14/2009	Record Courier	Pine Grove man killed in Alpine accident	Accident	Ron Michitarian, Ebon Slack
10/16/2009	Calaverass Enterprise	Bear Valley Village plans move forward	Development/Bear Valley	
10/16/2009	Record Courier	Alpine's archivist preserves county's past	Archives	Joyce DeVore, Nancy Thornburg, Inez Prinster, Mary Wood, Rita Lovell
10/23/2009	Record Courier	A fed bear is a dead bear	Wildlife	Virginia York, Chris Branscombe, Marie Bravo
10/30/2009	Record Courier	Attorney to seek Alpine judge's seat	Election	Thomas Kolpacoff, Richard Specchio, Marilyn Kolpacoff
10/30/2009	Record Courier	Deep roots can be found in Alpine pioneers	Biography	Amelia Celio, Joyce DeVore, Shirley Taylor, Frank Celio, George Celio, Hazel Celio Taylor
10/30/2009	Record Courier	Alpine supervisors to discuss guard station	Government/Land Use	Pamela Crowell
10/30/2009	Record Courier	Pedestrian and bicycle plan meeting Wednesday	Roads/Bicycles	
11/6/2009	Calaverass Enterprise	Bear Valley gears up for winter season	Bear Valley/Development	Rosie Sunderland, Paul Peterson, Martin Wegenstein, Jon Ellis
11/6/2009	Record Courier	Grand Jury response finished	Courts	Joyce DeVore, Rob Levy, Carol Morgan, Don Jardine, Kris Hartnett, Tom Sweeney
11/6/2009	Record Courier	Fire safe council honors artists	Fire/Safety/Contest	Joyce DeVore, Al Moss, Julia Gomes, Stella John, Amanda Process, Kendall Ornellas, Hunter Celio, Shirley Butler, Andrew Voss, Courtney Brothers, Toria Franzi, McKInna Jackson, Miles Vann, Arline Dutchy, Lauren Ellis, Isabel Thompson

11/11/2009	Record Courier	Bonanza King subject of historical society's monthly lecture Thursday	History/Event	Michael Makely
11/18/2009	Record Courier	Watch weather on autumn hikes	Recreation	Jim Donald
11/20/2009	Record Courier	Former Alpine museum director honored as pioneer K-9 handler	Museum/Biography	Dick Edwards, Karen Dustman
11/20/2009	Record Courier	Sorensen's gears up for winter	Business/Hope Valley	
11/27/2009	Record Courier	The multi-faceted Debbi Waldear	Biography	Debbi Waldear, Virginia York
11/27/2009	Record Courier	Henderson announces candidacy	Elections	Robert Henderson, J. Hillary Cook, Kris Hartnett, Carol Hartnett, Al Moss, Evelyn Yonker, Buck McLelland, Michelle McLelland, Margo Henderson
12/1/2009	Sunset Magazine	The Sierra resort the crowds forgot	Bear Valley	
12/4/2009	Record Courier	Kirkwood to open today	Kirkwood	Tim Cohee
12/11/2009	Record Courier	Winter a fun time in Alpine	Recreation	Jim Donald
12/11/2009	Record Courier	Cultivating new readers finds new meaning	Biography	Marie Johnson, Donald Romano
12/11/2009	Record Courier	Health care resolution	Health/Opinion	Irving Krauss
12/18/2009	Calaverass Enterprise	Dangerous expedition planned to Wolf's cabin	History	Monte Wolf
12/18/2009	Record Courier	Singer, songwriter performs in Woodfords on Sunday	Arts/Event	Beverly Calders, Dale Bennett
12/23/2009	Record Courier	Results from R-C photo contest	Arts/Contest	
12/25/2009	Record Courier	Diamond Valley School's winter concert 'the best yet'	Schools/Event	Virginia York, Ginger Craik, Janelle Blocher, Ms Ruggero
12/25/2009	Calaverass Enterprise	Peterson reaches pinnacle	Bear Valley/Biography	Paul Peterson
1/1/2010	Record Courier	Lincoln Covington	Obituary/Biography	Elizabeth Covington, Aaron Covington
1/8/2010	Record Courier	Kirkwood employee recounts powerless weekend	Kirkwood	Tim Cohee

1/8/2010	Record Courier	Alpine County remains a relative geographic gem	Geography	Jenny Thornburg, Joyce DeVore
1/10/2010	Record Courier	A final good-bye	Obituary	Hubert Bruns, Hazel Payne, William Schwake
1/15/2010	Record Courier	Preparation the key to winter recreation safety	Recreation	Jim Donald
1/18/2010	San Francisco Chronicle	Hard times even harder in rural counties	Economy	Tiffany Haynes, Bob Williams, Pamela Knorr, John Crawford
1/22/2010	Record Courier	Homeschooling alive and well in Alpine County	Schools	Virginia York, Lenny jSue Tinseth, Eli Tinseth, Derek Rockford, Kim Galvez, Abby Tinseth, Collin RickfordHolly Rockford, Owen Rickword, Dane Rockford, Elyssa Galvez
1/22/2010	Record Courier	Kirkwood adds 18 inches of snow	Kirkwood	
1/27/2010	Record Courier	Sierra Ballet presents dance extravaganza at MontBleu	Arts/Event	Ree a Spansail
1/29/2010	Calaverass Enterprise	High country expedition inspects Wolf cabin	History	Monte Wolf
1/29/2010	Record Courier	Old Alpine County barn finds new purpose as a home	Buildings	Ed Groenendyke, Sara Groenendyke, Lyman Barber, Charlotte Barber, Bruce Bruns
2/5/2010	Record Courier	New Kirkwood generator may be in place by Oct. 1	Kirkwood	David Likens
2/5/2010	Record Courier	Winter safety day is Feb. 20 in Alpine	Public Safety	
2/10/2010	Record Courier	Whittell's Nikles wins Clothier Memorial Race	Schools/Sports	Mason Jackson
2/10/2010	Record Courier	Keeping an eye out for droopy calves	Agriculture	Marie Johnson
2/12/2010	Record Courier	Safety day may keep winter fun from turning tragic	Public Safety	

2/12/2010	Record Courier	Alpine benefit raises \$920 for Haiti	Community/Event	Tom Sweeney
2/12/2010	Record Courier	Faulkner named Woodfords firefighter of the year	Fire/Award	Jay Faulkner, Buck McLellend, Al Moss
2/19/2010	Record Courier	Snowshoe Thompson ski tour in Hope Valley March 6	Hope Valley/Event	Snowshoe Thompson, Frank Tortorich
2/26/2010	Record Courier	Alpine mobile command ready in an emergency	Public safety	John Crawford, Rob Levy, Ron Michitarian
2/26/2010	Record Courier	Fuels reduction meeting March 10	Fire safety	
3/3/2010	Record Courier	Don't name you food, or play catch with it	Agriculture	Marie Johnson
3/5/2010	Record Courier	Fishing should pick up as daylight saving time nears	Fishing	Dave Zellmer
3/10/2010	Record Courier	Women ordered to drug court in lieu of prison	Crime	Stephanie Castillo
3/12/2010	Record Courier	Alpine public defender receives deputies' endorsement	Courts/Award	Edward Braz, Thomas Kolpacoff,
3/12/2010	Record Courier	Time for spring skiing in Alpine County	Recreation	Jim Donald
3/19/2010	Record Courier	Shopping in Woodfords	Business	Dawn Lee, Joyce DeVore
3/24/2010	Record Courier	Marlyn Clifford Johnson	Obituary/Biography	Marlyn Johnson, Kent Neddenriep
3/25/2010	Reno Gazette Journal	Hanging out in Markleeville	Community	Amy Broadhurst
3/26/2010	Record Courier	Fire training makes for smoky time in the old town	Fire	Jeff Brees, Paul Washam, Nick Hartzell, Teddy Carlson Brown, Bo McGilroy, Doug Ford, Billie Ford
3/26/2010	Record Courier	Turtle Rock fuels reduction planned	Fire safety	
3/26/2010	Record Courier	Forest Service proposes Angora reforestation project	Forest Service	

3/31/2010	Record Courier	Swim team keeps rolling with win over Lowry	Schools/Sports	Brenda VanDenBerg
4/7/2010	Record Courier	Supporting Kolpacoff	Opinion	Edmond Moore, Tom Kolpacoff, Dolores Clark
4/7/2010	Record Courier	When the backhoe's in trouble, bulldoze	Agriculture	Marie Johnson
4/9/2010	Record Courier	Alpine mixing up cookbook	Library/History	Joyce DeVore, Rosella Jackson, Bernice Dangberg, Vickie Hellwinkel, Elizabeth Coyan, Mina Wood, Marie Sorensen, Claud Harris, Ruby Harris, Waunetta Butterfield, Viola Rieman
4/9/2010	Record Courier	Alpine district attorney seeks seat on bench	Election/Courts	Will Richmond
4/11/2010	Record Courier	Silver Creek fish kill swims closer	Fish restoration	
4/11/2010	Record Courier	California fishing season right around the corner	Fishing	
4/11/2010	Record Courier	Softball	Schools/Sports	Nikki Chavez
4/11/2010	Record Courier	Lady Tigers stop Wooster	Schools/Sports	Nikki Chavez
4/14/2010	Record Courier	Cameron M. Craik	Obituary/Biography	Cameron Craik, Virginia Craik, John Craik, Lorraine Craik, Kelly Meyer, Ethan Craik, MacKenzie Craik
4/16/2010	Record Courier	New courthouse in works for Alpine	Buildings	
4/16/2010	Record Courier	Celebrating spring in the Sierra	Recreation	Jim Donald
4/16/2010	Calaverass Enterprise	Bear Valley High will close its doors	Schools	Lisa Fontana
4/21/2010	Record Courier	Samuel Ovid LeBarron	Obituary/Biography	Yvonne Chen, Samuel LeBarron
4/23/2010	Record Courier	Broadband coming to Markleeville	Communication	Don Jardine, Pamela Knorr, Kris Hartnett
4/23/2010	Record Courier	Kirkwood wraps up season on Sunday	Kirkwood	

4/30/2010	Record Courier	Alpine group watches the county's waters	Watershed Group	Virginia York, Jim Dun, Sarah Green, John Barr
4/30/2010	Record Courier	Alpine's seniors of the year lauded	Seniors	Skip Veatch, Edie Veatch, Jo Daugherty, Sherry Worrel, Susan Lipman
5/2/2010	Record Courier	Lady Tigers come back for win	Schools/Sports	Nikki Chavez
5/5/2010	Record Courier	Lodi a found dead in Alpine	Accident	Ron Michitarian
5/5/2010	Record Courier	Datebook	Community	
5/7/2010	Record Courier	Three good candidates	Opinion/Election	Richard Specchio, Tom Kolpacoff, Will Richmond, Bob Henderson, Irving Krauss
5/12/2010	Record Courier	Of beef, irrigating and men shaving their legs	Agriculture	Marie Johnson
5/12/2010	Record Courier	Elvin A. "Al" Young	Obituary/Biography	Al Young
5/14/2010	Record Courier	Chance Joseph Broadhurst	Birth	Chance Broadhurst, Amy Broadhurst, James Broadhurst
5/21/2010	Calaverass Enterprise	Bear Valley man dies after crash	Accident/Bear Valley	Gregory Peterson, Dennis Stoner, Jema Kimmel, Eric Jung
5/21/2010	Record Courier	Deadly weapon charge filed in Lampe Park stabbing	Crime	Brandon Brown
5/28/2010	Record Courier	High water happening now	Water	
5/28/2010	Record Courier	Preparing for the annual Death Ride	Bicycles	Teresa Burkhauser, John Crawford, Richard Harvey, Dave Zellmer, Amy Broadhurst
5/28/2010	Record Courier	Swift water rescue training	Search and Rescue	Jeff Bennett, Ron Michitarian
5/28/2010	Record Courier	Preliminary hearing set in Lampe Park stabbing case	Courts/Crime	Brandon Brown
6/2/2010	Record Courier	Burger-famous Alpine County store re-opens its doors	Business	Larry Cameron, Oonagh Cameron, Michael Harding
6/4/2019	Record Courier	Grand opening at the Alpine County Museum	Museum	Virginia York, Gary Coyan, Jr., Monty Wolf, Wanda Coyan
6/4/2010	Record Courier	Mono and Alpine vaccination clinics, dog licensing start Saturday	Health	

6/4/2010	Record Courier	Lady Tigers won with defense, chemistry	Schools/Sports	Nikki Chavez
6/6/2010	Record Courier	Lampe stabbing victim displays wounds in court	Courts/Crime	Brandon Brown, Brandon Robertson
6/9/2010	Record Courier	Some wizardry needed to evict barn owls	Agriculture/Wildlife	Marie Johnson
6/9/2010	Record Courier	Pony Express rides out today	History/Event	
6/9/2010	Record Courier	Trial set in Lampe stabbing	Courts/Crime	Brandon Brown, Brandon Robertson
6/11/2010	Record Courier	Alpine schools go out on a musical note	Schools/Event	Janelle Blocher, Lorraine Craik, Virginia Craik, Ethan Craik, , Joyce DeVore
6/11/2010	Record Courier	Alpine Museum displays vintage bread oven		
6/11/2010	Record Courier	Alpine public defender wins Superior Court judgeship	Election	Thomas Kolpacoff, Donald Jardine, Will Richmond, John Jackson, Richard Specchio, Robert Henderson
6/16/2010	Record Courier	Alpine organization sues to open trail to Pleasant Valley	Courts/Recreation	
6/16/2010	Record Courier	Carson Valley Days Sports	Sports	Stephanie Chavez
6/18/2010	Record Courier	Thanks for the help	Opinion	Ginger Craik
6/18/2010	Record Courier	Tobacco control	Opinion	Elizabeth McGeein
6/23/2010	Record Courier	Jasper McCheyne Elliott	Birth	Cassandra Elliott, Erick Elliott, Jasper Elliott
6/23/2010	Record Courier	Artist wins best landscape	Arts/Award	Charles Muench
6/25/2010	Record Courier	Markleeville ART Gallery open for the season	Arts/Business	Evelyn Yonker, Charles Muench, Peter Chope, Sandy Baenan, Ida Glazier, Todd Branscombe, Pam Brekus, Bill Morgan, Carole Morgan, Steve Yonker, Ron Schlarff
6/25/2010	Record Courier	Alpine author issues new book	Arts	Bill Morgan, Gina Gigli
6/25/2010	Record Courier	Art and slide show benefit Saturday	Arts/Event	
6/30/2010	Record Courier	Remembering Auntie M's	Opinion	Marsha Bennett

7/4/2010	Record Courier	Fishing report for Fourth of July	Fishing	
7/8/2010	Record Courier	Alpine couple's granddaughter graduates West Point	Armed Services	Riley Foster Kennedy, Bill Morgan, Carole Morgan
7/9/2010	Record Courier	Hearing set on Kirkwood diesel plant appeal	Kirkwood	
7/9/2010	Record Courier	Dear Alpine County Resident	Opinion	Tom Kolpacoff
7/9/2010	Record Courier	Death Ride Saturday	Bicycles	
7/9/2010	Cycling	Death Ride celebrates 30th year this weekend	Bicycles	
7/16/2010	Record Courier	Upcoming road construction in Alpine County	Roads	
7/16/2010	Record Courier	Turning backyard weeds into dessert	Gardening	Wanda Coyan, Karen Dustman
7/16/2010	Record Courier	Looking back a good way to appreciate the future	Agriculture	Marie Johnson
7/16/2010	Record Courier	Indian Creek campground closing Sunday	Recreation	
7/21/2010	Record Courier	Panel rejects Kirkwood diesel plan appeal	Kirkwood	Tom Henie
7/21/2010	Tahoe Daily Tribune	Tahoe resorts report second busiest season	Kirkwood	
7/23/2010	Record Courier	Death rider describes annual bicycle rally	Bicycles	Nancy Thornburg
7/28/2010	Record Courier	Valley realtor to be featured on outdoor reality show	Business	Teddy Carlson-Brown
7/30/2010	Record Courier	Alpine game warden	Biography	Erick Elliott, Joyce DeVore,
8/6/2010	Record Courier	Time to take a walk through the wildflowers	Recreation	Jim Donald
8/6/2010	Record Courier	Alpine fire closes trails, roads	Fire	
8/6/2010	Record Courier	Project proposals sought for Alpine	Forest Service	

8/11/2010	Record Courier	Ian Manuel Dick Dondero	Birth	Ian Manuel Dick Dondero, Celeste Dondero, Waylon Dondero
8/13/2010	Record Courier	Marijuana grow may belong to cartel	Crime/Forest Service	Rob Levy
8/17/2010	Record Courier	Alpine postmaster receives top honor by national organization	Mail/Award/Biography	Margaret Daniels
8/27/2010	Record Courier	Outdoors woman opens new business in Markleeville	Business/Biography	Joyce DeVore, Teddy Carlson-Brown, Nick Hartzell, Beth Cressaty, John Cressaty
9/22/2010	Record Courier	Markleeville artists host annual open studio tour Oct. 2 and 3	Arts/Event	Suzanne Barr, Sandy Baenen, Jan Brees, Jeff Brees, Peter Chope, Debra Esteban,
9/22/2010	Record Courier	There's someone else out in the woods	Crime/Sheriff	Kaye Jobst, Russel Ketenjian, Dianne Mitzner, Charles Muench, Richard Shokouh, Mark Vaughn, Carolyn Vaughn, Evelyn Yonker
9/24/2010	Record Courier	Diamond Valley's new team	Schools	Becky Ruggero, Chris Etchegoyhen, Howard Bennett, Lisa Fontana
9/29/2010	Record Courier	Authors gathering Saturday at Minden library	Library	Irving Krauss
10/1/2010	Record Courier	Alpine County collecting fuels, hosting cleanup	Fire safety	
10/8/2010	Record Courier	Ninja Anthony	Obituary	Ninja Anthony
10/8/2010	Record Courier	Enjoying fall hiking	Recreation	Jim Donald
10/8/2010	Record Courier	Highway 4 to be closed next week	Roads	
10/13/2010	Record Courier	Intern offices open in Gardnerville, Markleeville	Business	Teddy Carlson-Brown, Beth Cressaty, John Cressaty
10/15/2010	Record Courier	Complaints sought for Alpine grand jury	Courts	
10/22/2010	Record Courier	Suspect pleads guilty to Lampe Park stabbing	Courts/Crime	Brandon Brown, Brandon Robertson

10/29/2010	Record Courier	Didn't require much angling to land beauty of a lifestyle	Business/Biography	Todd Sodaro, Roger Sodaro, Jackie Sodaro
10/29/2010	Record Courier	Complaints sought for Alpine grand jury	Courts	
10/31/2010	Record Courier	Tiger spikers top Damonte Ranch	Schools/Sports	Nikki Chavez
11/1/2010	Record Courier	Donation benefits Diamond Valley School	Schools	Albert Del Masso, Diana Del Masso, Jane Starratt
11/1/2010	Record Courier	Open studio tour this weekend	Arts/Event	Peter Chope, Sandy Baenan, Debra Esteban, Charles Muench, Jeff Brees, Erin Kelly
11/5/2010	Record Courier	Home health and hospice return to Alpine County	Health	Virginia York, Richard Harvey, Kate Harvey
11/5/2010	Record Courier	Clothing exhibit at Dangberg Home Ranch this weekend	History/Event	
11/19/2010	Record Courier	Alpine Caltrans crew reminds motorists to be careful	Roads/Safety	Joyce DeVore, Chris Gremmill
11/20/2010	Tahoe Daily Tribune	Snapshots	Photograph	
11/20/2010	Tahoe Daily Tribune	Lake Tahoe restoration plan gains key approval	Environment/Water	
11/26/2010	Record Courier	Valley rancher killed in So. Cal car crash	Obituary/Biography	Ted Bacon
12/1/2010	Record Courier	Man receives six-year prison term in Lampe Park stabbing	Courts/Crime	Brandon Brown, Brandon Robertson
12/3/2010	Record Courier	Diamond Valley School observes Veterans Day	Schools/Event	Joe Voss, Kendall Ornellas, Dion Mortimer, Katie Hill, Dawn Riddle, Lisa Fontana
12/3/2010	Record Courier	Alpine County avalanche victim recovering in Reno	Accident	
12/10/2010	Record Courier	Fall brings great winter weather to Alpine	Recreation	Jim Donald

12/10/2010	Record Courier	One final gift from someone who gave so much	Biography	Marie Johnson
12/12/2010	Record Courier	Alpine museum officers gather for quarterly meeting	Museum	Richard Specchio, John Super, Irving Krauss, Rick Dustman, Marilyn Kolpacoff, Dolores Clark, Ernestine Fogarty, Karen Robinson, Wanda Coyan, Joanne Ohlerking, Dick Edwards
12/17/2010	Record Courier	Hard rock mining brought supervisor to Markleeville	Biography	Virginia York, Don Jardine, Gary Coyan, Sharon Osgood, Sarah Jardine
12/24/2010	Record Courier	Snowpack up after wet winter	Weather	
1/7/2011	Record Courier	Keeping sharp eye out for the bright side	Agriculture	Marie Johnson
1/7/2011	Record Courier	Julia's Alana Emery	Birth	Julia Alana Emery, William Emery, Shannon Emery
1/14/2011	Record Courier	Why does Minden sewer plant stink?	Sewage/Opinion	Nancy Thornburg
1/14/2011	Record Courier	New deputy working in Markleeville	Sheriff	Joyce DeVore, Tyree Holdridge, Angie Holdridge, Tony Holdridge
1/14/2011	Record Courier	Forest Service closes Forestdale Road in Alpine to snowmobilers	Forest Service/Roads	
1/21/2011	Record Courier	Playing hide and seek, Alpine County style	Search and Rescue	Virginia York, Joyce Coker, Tom Minder, Chris Harootuian, DeAnna Lopes, Lance Lopes
1/28/2011	Record Courier	Nice weather eating away at snowpack	Recreation/Weather	Jim Donald
2/2/2011	Record Courier	Lenore "Lennie" Josephine Olds Bergevin	Obituary/Biography	Lenore Bergevin, Merritt Olds, Martha Olds, Ted Bergevin
2/2/2011	Record Courier	Adventures in bull purchasing	Agriculture	Marie Johnson
2/4/2011	Record Courier	Woodfords firefighter of the year chosen	Fire/Award/Biography	Mike Gard, Janna Gard
2/11/2011	Record Courier	Markleeville courthouse architect announced	Buildings	

2/11/2011	Record Courier	Care Flight trains with avalanche dogs at Kirkwood	Kirkwood/Safety	
2/16/2011	Record Courier	Lorraine Price Kirkpatrick	Obituary	Lorraine Price Kirkpatrick, Gerald Price, Jeannine Price, Gary Price, Greg Price, David Price
2/18/2011	Record Courier	Supervisor session drives lively budget discussion	Government/Economy	Joyce DeVore, Tom Sweeney, Jim Dunn, Sandy Bryson, Brian Peters, Rick Dustman, Don Jardine, Bill Morgan, David DeVore, Sandy Matlock, Gail Day
3/2/2011	Record Courier	Snowshoe Thompson event on Saturday	History/Event	Snowshoe Thompson, Frank Tortorich
3/4/2011	Record Courier	Stonefly: Markleeville's new downtown restaurant	Business/Biography	Ali Bernstein, Nick Hartzell, Linda Merrill, Teddy Carlson-Brown
3/4/2011	Record Courier	Alpine marijuana farmer convicted in federal court	Courts/Crime	
3/11/2011	Record Courier	Introducing the Alpine County auditor	Government	Michele McLelland, Nani Ellis, Sara Center, Buck McLelland, Camryn McLelland, Marissa McLelland, Joyce DeVore
3/18/2020	Record Courier	Elliot Kenneth Knapp	Birth	Elliot Knapp, Gallen Knapp, Danielle Knapp
3/23/2011	Record Courier	Thomas, Tinseth engaged	Marriage	Ross Tinseth, Lenny Sue Tinseth, Scott Tinseth
3/25/2011	Record Courier	Young artist displays work at Alpine County Library	Library/Arts	Reena Spansail, Virginia York, Anna Maria Coletti
3/30/2011	Record Courier	Tiger baseball falls to Manogue softball thumps Hug	Schools/Sports	Nikki Chavez
4/1/2011	Record Courier	Lady Tigers blast Wooster	Schools/Sports	Nikki Chavez
4/1/2011	Record Courier	Turtle Rock Park gets facelift	Buildings	Joyce DeVore, Mark McCreary, Teresa Burkhauser
4/1/2011	Record Courier	Indian students receive awards	Washoe/Schools	

4/1/2011	Record Courier	Alpine resource council seeking proposals	Forest Service	
4/6/2011	Record Courier	Tigers hold on against Wooster	Schools/Sports	Nikki Chavez
4/20/2011	Record Courier	A season of records for Kirkwood Mountain Resort	Kirkwood	
4/22/2011	Record Courier	Early Learning Center bringing the magic	Schools/Event	Bernie Combs, Kelly Rauhut, Natalie Ritter, Angel Gabriel-Rey, Amber Bennett, Amanda Craft, Paula Rose, Joyce DeVore, Michele McLelland, Camryn McLelland, Marissa McLelland
4/22/2011	Record Courier	Carson River tour May 16-17	Water/Event	
4/29/2011	Record Courier	Indian Creek Reservoir campground opens today	Recreation	
5/4/2011	Record Courier	Alpine burn starts today	Fire safety	
5/6/2011	Record Courier	Alpine volunteers learning to prepare for emergencies	Emergency Services	Joyce DeVore, Richard Harvey, Lynn Doyal
5/6/2011	Record Courier	The road less traveled	Travelogue	
5/11/2011	Record Courier	Your poor, your hungry, your huddled masses	Biography	Marie Johnson
5/13/2011	Record Courier	Alpine County's keeper of the books	Library	Virginia York, Rita Lovell, Andy Lovell, Lisa Gavon, Nancy Thornburg
5/13/2011	Record Courier	Kirkwood founder dead	Kirkwood	Bud Klein
5/25/2011	Record Courier	Kirkwood fire under investigation	Kirkwood/Fire	
6/3/2011	Record Courier	Plain Air event comes to Markleeville	Arts/Event	Joyce DeVore, Evelyn Yonker, Charles Muench, j Lady Jill Mueller, Sandy Baenen, Peter Chope, Ida Glazier
6/8/2011	Record Courier	A word for graduates: Bend, don't break	Opinion	Marie Johnson
6/10/2011	Record Courier	Book signing at Dangberg Home Ranch this weekend	Arts/Event	Henry Dangberg
6/10/2011	Record Courier	Kirkwood offers snow cat skiing	Kirkwood	Dave Likins

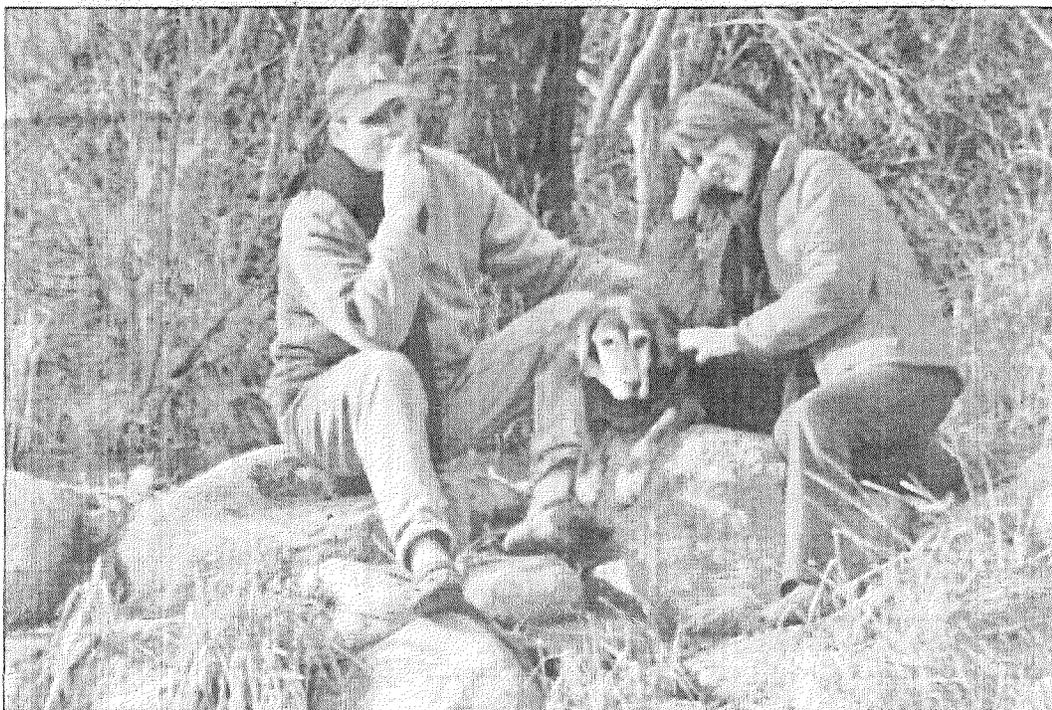
6/10/2011	Record Courier	Alpine County pet vaccination clinic Wednesday	Health/Safety	
6/15/2011	Record Courier	Experiencing Valley ranching history	Agriculture/History	Henry Dangberg
6/17/2011	Record Courier	Douglas rescuers receive calls on two incidents	Search and Rescue	
6/22/2011	Record Courier	Douglas High School awards announced	Schools/Awards	Nicole Chavez,
6/22/2011	Record Courier	Plei Air event this week	Arts/Event	Charles Muech
7/1/2011	Record Courier	Into Plein Aire	Arts/Event	Erik Holland
7/1/2011	Record Courier	Plein aire painting	Arts/Event	Kit Night, Bonita Paulis, Randall Tillery, Evelyn Yonker, Mike Bagdonas, Ron Schlorff, Emma Auriemma-McKay, Erik Holland
7/8/2011	Record Courier	Pau-Wa-Lu Middle School spring honor roll announced	Schools/Awards	Tyler VanDenBerg
7/8/2011	Record Courier	Spring arrives just in time for summer	Agriculture	Marie Johnson
7/13/2011	Record Courier	Report for high altitude spots in Alpine County	Fishing	
7/22/2011	Record Courier	Memorial for Kirkwood founder is Aug. 6	Obituary/Biography	Dick Reuter, Jeanne Reuter, Dave Myers, Eric Reuter, Carolyn Cooper, Ernest Reuter, Sheila Reuter
7/29/2011	Record Courier	Douglas High senior honor roll	Schools/Awards	Reena Spansail, Nicole Chavez
7/29/2011	Record Courier	Grover Hot Springs finds some friends	Hot Springs	Virginia York
8/3/2011	Record Courier	Careful with those camp fires in the wilderness	Fishing	
8/3/2011	Record Courier	Gerald "Jerry" Price	Obituary/Biography	Jerry Price, Jeannine Price, Gary Price, Greg Price, David Price
8/5/2011	Record Courier	Hope Valley	Hope Valley	
8/7/2011	Record Courier	Woodfords Canyon		

8/10/2011	Record Courier	Like some cows, rustling to always black and white	Agriculture	Marie Johnson
8/17/2011	San Francisco Chronicle	Riders retrace the famous mail route	History/Event	
8/19/2011	Record Courier	Open house for Sierra photographer	Arts/Event	Steve Bradley, Close Bradley, Janet Bradley
9/2/2011	Record Courier	Former Alpine resident earns doctorate	Schools/Awards	Josh Coyan, Wanda Cousin, Gary Coyan, George Coyan, JoJo Daugherty, Patti Away, Jan Alesia, Catherine Parker, Sharon Osgood, Jerry Price
9/2/2011	Record Courier	Ebbetts Pass festival Sept.10	Community/Event	
9/7/2011	Record Courier	Some things can wait, but others you need to fix	Agriculture	Marie Johnson
9/9/2011	Record Courier	Better firefighting through cooperation	Fire	Joyce DeVore, Buck McLelland, Mike Gard, Terry Hughes, Al Moss, Patty Moss
9/9/2011	Record Courier	Markleeville Creek day is Sept. 17	Watershed Group	Dan Kaffer, Lorraine Craik
9/14/2011	Record Courier	Clare Lovell	Photograph	Clare Lovell
9/16/2011	Record Courier	Grand Jury: Alpine needs jail	Courts	
9/16/2011	Record Courier	Curbside chipping coming to Alpine	Fire safety	
9/18/2011	Nevada Appeal	Death toll mounts in Reno	Accident	
9/21/2011	Record Courier	Account set up for victim in race crash	Accident	John Craik, Lorraine Craik, Ethan Craik, Virginia Craik, Jack Merrill, Teresa Burkhauser
9/23/2011	Record Courier	Memorial service set for John Craik	Obituary/Biography	John Craik, Lorraine Craik, Virginia Craik, Cameron Craik, Ethan Craik, Mackenzie Craik, Kelly Meyer
9/23/2011	Record Courier	Luetta Bergevin celebrates 90th	Seniors/Biography	Luetta Bergevin

				Sandy Baenan, Peter Chope, Debra Esteban, Brenda Lockie, Charles Muench, Russel Ketenjian, Richard Shokouh, Dave Mills, Lindsay Stallcup, Mark Vaughn, Carolyn Vaughn, Tanya Berger
9/23/2011	Record Courier	Artists Studio Oct. 1-2	Arts/Event	
9/23/2011	Record Courier	Man accused of threatening brother	Crime	Marvin Dressler
9/28/2011	Record Courier	Part fell off plane before air race crash	Accident	John Craik
10/7/2011	Record Courier	Kirkwood sees 10 inches of snow	Kirkwood	Michael Dalzell
10/7/2011	Record Courier	New Markleeville courthouse may face budget cuts	Buildings/Economy	
10/14/2011	Record Courier	Alpine seeks support for reduced courthouse project	Buildings/Opinion	Nancy Thornburg
10/26/2011	Record Courier	Panel pans Alpine courthouse	Buildings	David DeVore
10/28/2011	Record Courier	Fire Safe council poster contest educates children	Fire safety/Contest	Joyce DeVore, Dawn Riddle, Madeline Moody, Kate Easton, Crystal Bennett, Leo Coyan, Mercy Medicine Crow, Jed Easton, McKenna Jackson, Chantel Bagshaw, Courtney Brothers, Cole Jackson, Hunter Celio, Landon Matlock, Ubaldo Gomez, Dion Mortimer, Shirley Taylor, Kris Hartnett
10/28/2011	Record Courier	Fall Colors	Photograph	
11/2/2011	Record Courier	Services Friday for last constable of Alpine County	Obituary/Biography	Ed Schalbert, Mary Schalbert, John Crawford

11/4/2011	Record Courier	Alpine Kids celebrates 30 years of family fun	Kids/Event	Joyce DeVore, Harriet Kelly, Sandy Jockey, Edie Veatch, Dorothy Johnson, Dave Zellmer, Barbara Howard, Jeanne Lear, Dave Kirby, Lynda Kirby, Larry K�hl, Sandy King-Prince
11/16/2011	Record Courier	Reasons to be thankful down on the ranch	Agriculture	Marie Johnson
11/18/2011	Record Courier	Volunteers ready to protect eastern Alpine County	Emergency Services	Joyce DeVore, Buck McLelland, Rob Levy, Skip Veatch, Jim Haen, Al Moss, Mike Gard, John Baker, Dave Woffinden, Tony Galvez, Dave Zellmer
11/18/2011	Record Courier	Dresslerville man pleads guilty to assault charge	Crime	Marvin Dressler
11/18/2011	Record Courier	Saying 'Hi' to Mother Christmas in Markleeville	Community/Event	Virginia York, Dale Bennett
11/25/2011	Record Courier	Kirkwood Mountain Resort to open today	Kirkwood	
11/25/2011	Record Courier	Markleeville Christmas Faire set for Dec. 4	Community/Event	Joyce DeVore, Nancy Thornburg, Joyce Coker, Dianna Mitzner, Evelyn Yonker
11/30/2011	Record Courier	Learning about horses	Opinion	Julia Joldersma
11/30/2011	Record Courier	Woman helicoptered in 88 crash	Accident	Teresa Grabham
12/2/2011	Record Courier	Kirkwood Mountain Resort opens for '11-12	Kirkwood	Dave Likins
12/7/2011	Record Courier	Alpine seeking sources pot trash	Crime	
12/9/2011	Record Courier	Alpine sheriff warns of e-commerce scams	Crime	
12/9/2011	Record Courier	Man arrested in Markleeville burglary	Crime	
12/28/2011	Record Courier	A Christmas treat	Opinion	Karen Dustman
12/9/2011	Record Courier	Former Alpine Judge Cook remembered	Obituary/Biography	J. Hillary Cook, Virginia Cook, Cris Etchegoyhen, Tim Cook, David Cook

12/9/2011	Record Courier	Sometimes you find the Christmas tree in your heart	Opinion	Marie Johnson
12/14/2011	Record Courier	Bennetts celebrate 60 years of marriage	Marriage	Darlene Bennett, John Bennett, Dan jBennett, Kathy Bennett, Jeff Bennett
12/16/2011	Record Courier	State overrules Alpine courthouse	Buildings	David DeVore
12/16/2011	Record Courier	Kirkwood Mountain Resort opens Saturday	Kirkwood	



**SPECIAL TO THE R-C**  
Jerry and Janine Sprout with their dog in Alpine County. Below, the cover of the 'Alpine Sierra Trailblazer.'

# Woodfords couple produce series of trail guidebooks

by Virginia York

What are the most satisfying accomplishments of your adult life?

Who are the most important people in your life?

What are the biggest turnoffs about a place to live?

What are life's greatest pleasures?

This is a sampling from a questionnaire Jerry and Janine Sprout designed for themselves in 1997 with the intention of figuring out where they wanted to be and what they wanted to do. From the completed questions they created a story about their lives ending with the statement: "Jerry and Janine are going to write guide books." Two years later friends, John and Patty Brisenden of Sorensen's Resort, encouraged Jerry and Janine to write a guide book to Alpine County. The idea appealed.

Janine settled in Woodfords in 1972 and Jerry in 1978. During the 20 years before starting the guide book they had hiked thousands of miles of trails in the Sierra.

Janine thrived on entrepreneurial ventures: she had marketed her homemade cookies in the Markleeville General Store, had created her popular aerobic classes in Carson City and Alpine County and had worked as a stone mason.

She also had experience in graphics and layout, cutting her teeth under the tutelage of Irene Gurley and Joyce Hollister in the graphics department of The Record-Courier when Sheila Gardner was editor.

She was an accomplished photographer, winner of several competitions including the Bay Guardian Black and White Competition and AAA's photographic contest.

When the guide book concept arose Janine was an information officer for the Nevada Department of Museums and History.

Before coming to Alpine County, Jerry worked as a newspaper reporter in San Raphael.

When he first came to the county he was writing a novel about Snowshoe Thompson and earning his living as a car-



enter.

Later, drawing on his experiences working for Rite of Passage, he wrote a novel, "American Boys' Camp," which he sold to Universal Studios. Both felt qualified to undertake the new project. So, with house paid off, sons Matt and Michael grown up and enough in the bank to live frugally for several years, they embarked on the production of the Alpine book, anticipating the process with joy rather than speculating on success and profit.

The book thrived on the combined, complementary talents of the two. Janine became the photographer and took charge of the production, involving layout, graphic design and all things technical. Jerry's role became researcher and writer.

They never read other guide books on the areas they explore. Jerry's sources are primary.

Jerry and Janine support a tourism which has the least environmental impact.

Their guide books show where to hike, stroll, bike, roll, snorkel, paddle, surf, ski and enjoy other activities that can be done under one's own steam.

In the guides consideration is always given to safety issues such as currents, rip tides and volcanic activity. There are no comprehensive lists of hotels and restaurants. Jerry mentions only their favorite places to stay and to eat.

When Wilderness Press of Berkeley accepted Alpine County Trailblazer for distri-

## Alpine Portfolio

bution there ensued the question "What else can you do?" Jerry and Janine said they had lived in Kauai for 6 months, so Kauai Trailblazer emerged in 2000.

Golden Gate Trailblazer, published the following year, is a homage to where they had both grown up. Jerry researched the area in the greatest detail, visiting every historical society, every city, county and state agency that governed open spaces and every private organization interested in the preservation of the wild. The list of acknowledgements in the book tells a tale of vigorous foot work.

Guides to the other Hawaiian Islands followed at the rate of one per year culminating in the synergistic: No Worries Hawaii, published in 2008. All seven books are revised frequently with updated information.

Since the beginning of the Hawaii books Jerry and Janine have been visiting the islands annually, renting out their house as a holiday rental to offset the travel expenses.

On their travels they enjoy such contrasts as being guests in a glamorous hotel in Honolulu to finding themselves in a timeless river valley of tropical jungle, inhabited by wild horses and pigs and encountering extraordinary individuals.

The breadth and depth of their experiences translate into a vibrant energy that pulsates through their books. It is not surprising that on the Internet all their books are in the top three of their respective categories.

What next? For Janine it will probably be a guidebook on her beloved Paris; and for Jerry? Well, remember that questionnaire? Jerry would like to incorporate that into a guide to life, helping people to fathom what they would love to do and to find the courage to do it.

RC-Fri. Jan 2-2009

## Valley rancher honored by antique auto club

### Staff Reports

The Santa Barbara Chapter of the Antique Automobile Club of America honored Carson Valley rancher Ted Bacon for 50 years of membership at its annual Christmas dinner meeting Dec. 22.

Chapter President Dana Newquist pinned a 50-year diamond membership pin on Bacon's lapel as about 50 members and guests applauded. Bacon joined the Santa Barbara chapter in 1958 after his first antique automobile, a 1912 Cadillac he had found abandoned in a Minden ditch, was restored in Santa Barbara, according to the club.

Since then, Bacon has purchased and restored 90 "beautiful antique automobiles," many of which he found in Southern California,



SPECIAL TO THE R-C

Ted Bacon and Dana Newquist at the Antique Automobile Club of America annual dinner meeting Dec. 22 in Santa Barbara, Calif.

and which are now housed in a private museum in Minden.

"Ted is one of the outstanding collectors of antique cars in the West," Newquist said in presenting the award.

"We recognize him tonight for his dedication to our club and to the AACA over his half-century of membership in the Santa Barbara chapter."

Bacon initially began collecting antique cars after meeting William Harrah, owner of Harrah's Casino and founder of the Horseless Carriage Club in Reno, in the mid-1950s.

Bacon has been a member of the board of trustees of the National Automobile Club (The Harrah Collection) for 25 years.

Bacon and his wife, Lee, who was born and raised in Santa Barbara, have resided on their Jubilee Ranch on Foothill Road south of Muller Lane since 1953, when they were married.

The family owns other ranches in Markleeville and in Antelope Valley.

## Alpine installs supervisors, school board member

by Irving Krauss

Alpine County's historic courthouse in Markleeville was the scene Monday morning for Superior Court Judge Richard Specchio's adminis-



Veatch

It was a festive gathering as people from the community, family members, a number with small children, and friends gathered outside the courtroom waiting for the trial in progress to finish. At its conclusion they

tering the oath of office to Henry "Skip" Veatch, Phillip Bennett, Tom Sweeney and Earl O'Neal.

### Alpine Portfolio

filed into the chamber and occupied the spectators' seats while Veatch, Bennett, Sweeney and O'Neal sat in the jury section.

County Clerk Barbara Howard opened the session by giving a learned account of the origin of the oath of office that was instituted at the founding of the nation.

The oath calls for the individual to agree to support and defend the United States Constitution, and Howard brought the practice up to date. She noted that in California those who take the oath also agree to support and defend its Consti-

tution.

Specchio first called Veatch to the center of the court, asked him to raise his right hand, and administered the oath. Veatch was re-elected to the board of supervisors representing District 2, Woodfords. Bennett, who was also re-elected to the board, was next.

He represents District 3 that comprises the Native American community.

He was followed by newly elected Sweeney as representative of District 5, mostly Markleeville.

The oath was then given to O'Neal who was re-elected to the school district's board of trustees. O'Neal has held that office for a number of years, most recently as chairman.

There was applause as each candidate finished taking the oath of office.

# Alpine soldier off to Iraq

## Staff Reports

Army Reserve Sgt. Irene M. Portillo, daughter of Markleeville resident Leticia T. Hansen has been mobilized and activated for deployment overseas to a forward operating base in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Portillo, a military police member with six years of military service, is regularly assigned to the 266th Military Police Company, Manassas, Va.

Operation Iraqi Freedom is the official name given to military operations involving members of the U.S. armed forces and coalition forces

participating in efforts to free and secure Iraq.

Mission objectives focus on force protection, peacekeeping, stabilization, security and counter-insurgency operations as the Iraqi transitional governing bodies assume full sovereign powers to govern the peoples of Iraq.

*RC - Fri, Jan 23, 2009*



PETER COSTA/Special to The R-C

The Alta Alpina Cycle Club and the Woodfords Washoe Community at the Diamond Valley Road clean up on Sept. 27.

## Cycling club and Washoe clean up Diamond Valley

by Peter Costa

AACC Adopt-a-Highway Coordinator

On a beautiful September Saturday morning, Alta Alpina Cycling Club members and the Woodfords Washoe Community met and got acquainted over Starbucks coffee, juice, muffins and fruit. Woodfords Washoe Community chairman DeAnn Roberts welcomed AACC to the community and thanked all in attendance for lending a hand to keep Diamond Valley Road clean. We then broke up into small groups to "pick up" three miles of the north end of Diamond Valley Road.

In response to several AACC members' recommendations to spread our club's Adopt-a-Highway program to other roads, I identified Diamond Valley Road as a good

candidate. Diamond Valley is a road we all ride and race on, and share with the local Washoe Tribal community.

DeAnn Roberts was more than enthusiastic to my invitation to the local Washoe Tribal community to join us in our litter pick-up effort. She offered the community fire house as a gathering place with a light breakfast. The club offered to bring the coffee and we had an event. What a great way to meet and form a connection with some of the people who pass us on that road.

The Diamond Valley Road pick up was also made possible through special consideration by CalTrans to substitute this event for our autumn clean up of Highway 89.

Approximately 30 volunteers collected 30-40 bags of litter. That's a lot of stuff for a

roadside that many thought "didn't look that bad."

Special thanks go to everyone who showed up. All in attendance agreed that the event was a success in many ways and we made some new friends in the Woodfords Washoe Community.

"The Woodfords Washoe Community is very much appreciative of AACC for coming out and helping beautify the local area, this type of collaboration is what community is all about," Roberts said.

So the next time you're riding your bike on Diamond Valley Road, take a minute to enjoy the beautiful scenery, give a little wave to one of our new friends who pass you on the road, and if you happen to spy a wayward can, bottle or wrapper don't hesitate to pick it up. It's all good.

## Tales from Alpine's ghostly museum

by Karen Dustman

Kim Skinner, a former assistant at the Alpine County Museum, recalls the day her young son ran screaming from the building.

"Nobody ever told me there was a ghost at the museum," said Skinner. "He had been sitting at the front desk, and said he saw a ghost in the security monitor." After firmly reassuring him there was no such thing as a ghost, Skinner sat down in front of the screen herself. "I said 'show me.' And sure enough, a white mist floated across, stopped in the middle, and then went away. I said, 'Show me again.' And the mist came across the screen again, then floated away. I just closed up the museum and went home."

A visitor from Mexico also encountered the museum's ghost, Skinner said. "She walked through the door and exclaimed, 'Oh, we're

not alone!'" Skinner recalled. "The lady told me she was a psychic, and there was a ghost trying to hide in the corner by the fireplace. Strangely enough, right about that time, some of the postcards fell off the rack onto the floor. 'See?' she said. 'But he's not here to hurt you.'"

Skinner isn't the only employee who experienced the museum's ghostly presence. Former director Dick Edwards has had his own unusual encounters.

"We used to keep a model of a bald eagle on a display case," recalled Edwards. "Late one evening, I was working in the back room and heard a noise. My dog Buddy growled and ran out. I came to the front and there was that eagle on the floor — at least 8 feet away from where it would landed if it had just fallen off the case. The front door was locked. I never could figure out how the heck it got there."

### Alpine Portfolio

Voices from the front room also frequently interrupted Edwards' work in the back room. But when he got up to check, no one was there. "I would hear two or three people yakking back and forth," he explained. "It was like you could hear conversation, but couldn't make out words. It got kind of eerie."

Wanda Coyan, the current museum assistant, has had her own ghostly encounters. One afternoon, she recalls, she was working in the back office alone, with the front door shut and locked. "I heard papers rattling, so I walked out to the front," Coyan said. "And as I went around the corner, I could see the pages on the guest register turning, all by themselves.

There was no open window, no open door, no furnace running. I just picked up my purse, turned off the light, and almost ran out of the building. It took me over an hour to compose myself enough to go back and set the alarm."

According to Coyan, objects at the Museum would also mysteriously appear out of place. "One day I came in and one of the little mice was out of the mousetrap display, next to the trap. How it got there, I don't know, because it is not easy to get him out! Another morning, I found a little box of rocks from the mining exhibit sitting out in the walkway, with a crystal next to it," Coyan said. "I had been working at the museum all day the day before, so if those had been there the night before, I'd have seen them."

Construction workers at the museum, too, have reportedly experienced ghostly goings-on. According to

Coyan, one contractor repairing a pressure tank was anything but surprised to hear the museum was haunted. When told about the ghost, he simply exclaimed, "Is that what's going on here! I keep hearing people talking out in the front room, or I'll hear the front door open and close — and nobody's there."

Just who could the museum's mischievous spirit be? Legend has it that Jacob Marklee was buried on a hill behind the long-gone courthouse, a description some believe matches the Museum's hilltop location. Or perhaps some early Alpiner remains attached to his or her worldly goods that now inhabit the museum's displays.

Coyan has tried unsuccessfully to get the register-turning ghost to identify itself. "Since the ghost was obviously able to turn pages, I left it an ink pen and asked it to sign its name," she said. "It never did."

# A yurt by any other name

by Bill Morgan

At the junction of highways 88 and 89 in Hope Valley, Alpine County, stands a curious structure. It's a portable, insulated, fabric covered, wood lattice framed structure much like those used by nomads in the steppes of Central Asia and is called a yurt, or gher, or jirga, or kherga, depending on one's country of origin. Joyce Coker, of Hope Valley Outdoors, calls it a yurt and erects it in the early winter, smack dab on the Burnside Lake Road once the road is closed by snow.

The yurt houses a cross-country skiing and snow shoe operation where Joyce and her staff provide a variety of experiences for the snow loving public. Besides offering top quality skis, boots, and snow-



SPECIAL TO THE R-C

Joyce Coker and Miyshael Gailson by their yurt in Hope Valley.

**ONLINE**  
[www.hopevalley  
outdoors.com](http://www.hopevalleyoutdoors.com)

shoes to rent, Hope Valley Outdoors provides ski and snowshoe lessons and guided tours over 60 miles of trails for all levels of experience. For those forgetful among us, gloves, caps, and mittens can be purchased, and some of their equipment can be purchased, too. Maps of the area are also available. Because the facility is not set up to process credit cards, customers must pay with cash or check.

Ski tours in the moonlight are featured as well as a tour in March commemorating the legendary Snowshoe Thompson and his exploits. Back in the 1800s, that one-of-a-kind man delivered the mail over Carson Pass, on skis, in the dead of winter. Also featured, with some perverse pleasure experienced by the participants I believe, is the Women's Winter Tour which

is scheduled every year on Super Bowl Sunday. Proceeds from that tour go to the local women's centers.

Because of the yurt's location, the operation needs the approval of the Alpine County public works department which has joint jurisdiction with the U.S. Forest Service over the Burnside Lake Road. The commercial use occurring there also requires a special use permit from the county planning commission. And, because the trail system lies on national forest land, with some on California State Fish and Game land, permission is required from the forest service and fish and game.

When snow closes the road and she is cleared to go, Joyce and her crew can erect the yurt in about a week. With no power or telephone lines and no cell phone coverage in the area, this location is truly an outpost for those seeking winter fun.

Joyce points out the features of her operation that reflect her environmental awareness.

Solar panels provide the power for the minimal demands for electricity, she provides a portable toilet for those using the area, the skiing and snow shoeing experience she provides leaves no impact on the land, and when the snow disappears, so does the yurt.

Visit [www.hopevalleyoutdoors.com](http://www.hopevalleyoutdoors.com), for additional information.

RJ 1

# Alpine OKs changes to general plan

## Staff Reports

Changes to Alpine County's version of a master plan were approved by supervisors at their regular meeting on Tuesday.

Alpine supervisors adopted amendments to the county's general plan including the land use element, and addressed community character; public facilities/services and growth management.

The board's action capped a three-year effort that was spurred by community concern with potential future growth on the east side of the county including the Markleeville, Woodfords, Mesa Vista/River Ranch, and Hope Valley areas.

County staff estimated a potential for more than 4,000 dwelling units in this area. This compares to a population of more than 1,200 people today and about 1,700 dwelling units in all of Alpine County including Bear Valley and Kirkwood on the county's western boundary.

Three community workshops and multiple public work sessions with the Alpine County Planning Commission to hear the public's concerns and draft the amendments were held beginning in the fall of 2005.

This culminated in the planning commission's unanimous recommendation to adopt the amendments on Dec. 4, 2008. Following the

board's action, Supervisor Don Jardine of Markleeville thanked the community, planning commission and community development staff for their efforts and perseverance.

The new community character section of the plan emphasizes maintaining the rural nature of the county and ensuring that new development is compatible with existing communities. The public facilities/services section sets minimum requirements in key areas including fire protection, emergency response, water supply and wastewater treatment.

As an example, most new subdivisions will have to provide at least 30,000 gallons of water storage for fire-fighting.

Under the plan, most new development must be within a quarter mile of existing communities. The plan also limits the number of new subdivision lots that can be created on an annual basis. A new county ordinance will be required to put the subdivision lot limit in place.

The community development staff expects to begin working on this ordinance in the next few months. The public can obtain information on the adopted amendments and when to expect public hearings on the ordinance by contacting the Community Development Department in Woodfords at (530) 694-2140.

## Feds seek comment on permit

### Staff Reports

Two public meetings regarding a proposal to reissue a special use permit for guided snowmobile tours and trail grooming in Alpine County will be next week.

The project area is located off Highway 89 and Blue Lakes Road in the area of Charity Valley, Faith Valley, and Blue Lakes Road.

The permit covers tours that occur on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

U.S. Forest Service officials will be hosting a meeting 6 p.m. Tuesday at Turtle Rock Park Community Center at 17300 State Route 89, Markleeville.

The second meeting will be 6 p.m. Thursday at the CVIC Hall in Minden.

# Man in Washoe Tribe van theft gets year in jail

## Staff Reports

A 21-year-old man who pleaded guilty to possession of a stolen motor vehicle in the theft of a van that belonged to the Washoe Tribe was sentenced Jan. 27 to three years probation that includes one year in Douglas County Jail.

Senior Judge Robert Rose, filling in for District Judge Dave Gamble, told Robert Antone he was concerned about the Arizona man's record and urged him to "turn your life around."

"You've got to be strong enough to resist those old friends and that bad environment," Rose said.

Antone, Brandon Brown Jr., 19, and three juveniles were arrested late Nov. 11, 2008, after the van crashed into a tree near Westwood Park in Minden following a pursuit from north Douglas County where they were suspects in car burglaries.

In addition to Douglas deputies and tribal officers, the pursuit involved Carson City sheriff's deputies and the Nevada Highway Patrol.

The tribal officer was originally following the van because the five were suspects in a vehicle burglary in Carson City earlier that day.

Rose sentenced Antone to four years in Nevada State Prison, suspended, for pleading guilty to possession of a

## Court report

stolen motor vehicle.

He was ordered to pay \$1,500 restitution for damage to the vehicle and may not have contact with the co-defendants. Antone must abstain from drugs and alcohol during probation.

He is subject to search and seizure for stolen property, alcohol or controlled substances.

■ A 41-year-old Carson City woman who admitted taking nearly \$6,500 in checks and cash withdrawals from an 82-year-old woman for whom she worked was sentenced Jan. 27 to five years probation.

Senior Judge Robert Rose ordered Danah C. Cain to pay

restitution at \$125 per month. He also forbid her from gambling or entering a casino for gambling during probation.

"You committed a serious crime of breach of trust that is unbecoming to you," Rose said.

She pleaded guilty in November to grand larceny.

The victim's daughter told investigators her mother suffered from dementia and Alzheimer's disease. The younger woman said discrepancies began showing up in the victim's bank accounts after Cain went to work as her caregiver.

The thefts occurred between May and July, 2008.

According to reports, Cain told investigators she was traveling between Dayton and

Gardnerville and gas mileage ate into her finances. She said she had no child support from her ex-husband and lost her house. Cain said she began gambling and lost \$3,000 which she attempted to repay through the victim's money.

She was ordered to abstain from drugs and alcohol and may have no contact with the victim.

She is subject to search and seizure for stolen property or the presence of drugs and alcohol and must notify any employer of her conviction if she works with money.



Antone

Record Courier Fri., Feb. 6, 2009

# Alpine's beauty is the key to its future prosperity

by Irving Krauss

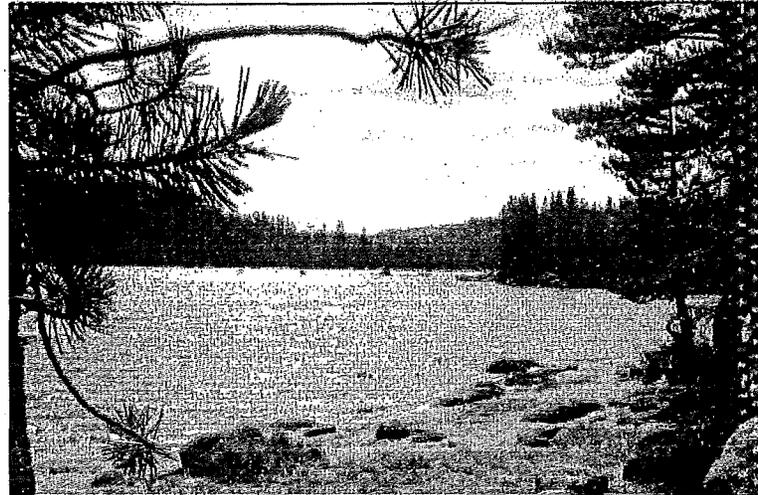
As an undergraduate and then graduate sociology student it was drilled into me that social scientists don't predict, they forecast. Although I really don't see the difference I will forecast what I think the future for Alpine County will be, in the near term and for the longer time.

For the next couple of years we may expect more belt-tightening as the overall economy continues to decline with growing unemployment and reduced consumer spending. This is on top of the massive deficit resulting from the Iraq War and our involvement in Afghanistan. Paying interest on the deficit let alone reducing it will be a drag on the economy for years to come. At present the limited lending by financial institutions, despite government cash infusions, adds to the faltering

## Alpine portfolio

economy. Contributing problems such as the housing bubble and unregulated speculation in so-called toxic securities are well known.

Alpine's million-dollar deficit that triggered reduced department budgets and loss of jobs is a harbinger of what to expect, certainly for the near future. Already the decline in home construction has meant fewer fees for permits and fees for other services that go with new structures. Should the value of existing homes drop significantly there will be pressure to lower assessments that in turn will mean loss in property tax revenue.



KURT HILDEBRAND/R-C file photo

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

Our county does not live in isolation and we are obviously affected by what happens at the state level as well as the national. We will be impacted by California's \$40 million budget deficit

by less money from the state treasury and the requirement to pay for state unfunded mandates, as well as by trying to maintain

R.C. - Fri., Feb. 6, 2009

See **Alpine** on page 5

# Alpine

Continued from page 4

needed service such as police and fire protection.

Hopefully help will come from the promised financial stimulus by funding of "shovel-ready" jobs although a significant increase in employment is not likely in the short run in view of the high loss of jobs. There will probably be greater funding for welfare such as extended unemployment benefits and food stamps and other aid for families in distress.

A bright spot I see is the push for universal health care especially by the growing number of middle class families whose job loss includes loss of health insurance. In turn health care should be an important source of job growth. Now what about the long term? Historically our economy has been "boom and bust"—periods of economic growth followed by recessions. The question is how long it will be before the present economy improves. As regards the current recession or depression—take your choice—economists do not expect a turn around until at least 2011 or 2012. So what can be done locally to make the best of a bad situation?

1. Careful and frugal budgeting by the county together with strict monitoring of department spending to avoid their going over their budget.

2. Use Alpine's scenic and recreational attractiveness to increase tourism. Because of the present economic situation families will be less likely to take expensive trips, cruises, etc. and efforts should be made to bring them here by advertising our attractions and undertaking efforts to provide good restaurants and motel/hotel accommodations. Preservation of the county's scenic and recreational environment is essential.

**Sources:** Stiglitz and Blimes, The Trillion Dollar War; Galbraith, A Journey Through Economic Time; Phillips, Bad Money; Reich, Supercapitalism.

■ Irving Kraus is an Alpine County resident.

*Friday  
R-C Feb 6, 2009*

# Funding sources dry up for Alpine Watershed Group

by Jim Donald

The Alpine Watershed Group faces severe funding cutbacks that will all but stop the group's ability to effectively monitor and quantify data from Alpine County's watersheds. The state of California, hamstrung by its inability to pass a budget and unable to sell bonds that support voter approved propositions to support such groups, has shut off all grant funding, effective Dec. 17.

The Alpine Watershed Group is a 501(c)3 nonprofit stakeholder organization, incorporated in 2005 from an earlier ad hoc group, whose mission is to support and enhance the natural system functions of Alpine County's watersheds. This is done using an evolving strategic plan based on current watershed assessments, previous impact studies and criteria developed by the California Department of Conservation and other state and federal scientific agencies.

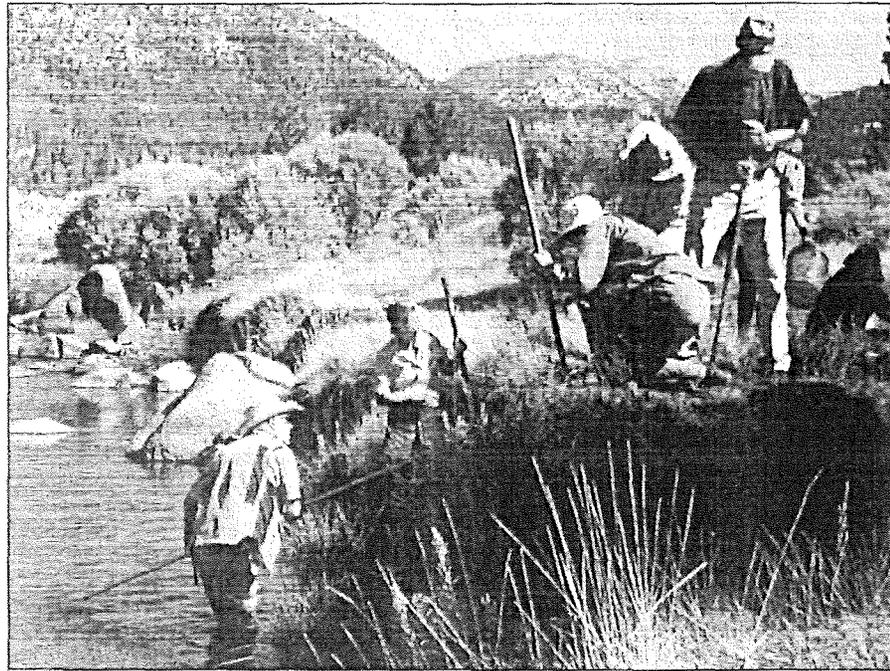
The group consists of a full time paid coordinator, stakeholders (anyone who lives or recreates in Alpine County),

volunteer citizen water quality monitors, a volunteer board of directors (full disclosure, this columnist is chair of that board) and partnerships with Alpine County, and state and federal agencies that have jurisdiction over watersheds.

Since 2005 citizen water quality monitors, of which there are 16 to study eight sites, meet quarterly on Saturday mornings to collect scientific data that includes physical, chemical and biological assessments. This data is useful to decision-makers at all levels of government as well as to local residents by identifying potential impacts from various land use practices.

Central to this effort and collecting additional scientific data is coordinator Chris Katopothis. Chris, who has been with the group for a year and a half, has expanded previous efforts at collecting bacteriological and bio-assessment data ("bugs," specifically benthic macro-invertebrates which are indicator species) to include nutrient sampling (nitrogen, phosphorus), high and low flow turbidity data and increased habitat studies.

Chris has extensive experience in stream studies. He did



SPECIAL TO THE R-C

Members of the Alpine Watershed Group work on the bank of one of the county's many waterways.

anadromous fish (steelhead, salmon) studies on north coast streams and watershed impact studies for Cal-Trans before coming to Alpine County. With an environmental science degree from Sonoma State, Chris rapidly became familiar

with Alpine County's unique watersheds, potential problem areas and quickly expanded the protocols and criteria necessary to find solutions.

The group has numerous and varied outreach programs that involve local schools,

training, community group and supervisor meetings, coordination with neighboring watershed groups as well as working with the many jurisdictional agencies. The annual creek day event (last Saturday in September) is a yearly highlight. Restoration projects such as the Markleeville Guard Station and smaller scale efforts in Hope Valley are an ongoing process.

Grant writing is important to the viability of the group and it is these grants, funded under propositions 50 and 84 that dried up. California is unable to sell bonds to fund the grants or pass a budget. So,

as well as the consistent scientific monitoring necessary to protect public resources.

AWG will soon exhaust its funding. Remaining funds, from the Carson Water Sub-conservancy District and the Rose Foundation provide a cushion through March. After March AWG will be unable to pay the salary of its coordinator or the lab fees associated with bacteriological, nutrient and bug data. Funds for events like Creek Day will be gone and various outreach programs will cease.

Alpine County has some of the finest watersheds in the country but there have been impacts from past mining, grazing and logging practices. Currently such uses are, for the most part, much more enlightened and therefore better controlled. Wildfires and development can have significant water quality impacts. Climate change will affect future water availability and quality. Remember that watersheds are defined by ridgelines and that the water flowing down that creek, stream or river measures the health of the entire ecosystem. It's crucial that we keep data on water. It is, after all, some 70 percent of us.

What you can do: Volunteer, volunteer, volunteer. Monitor, assess, do outreach, attend meetings, develop a Web site, write copy for the newsletter, donate (tax deductible), brainstorm funding ideas.

Call or write to our legislators and urge them to pass a budget. Call Sen. Dave Cox (916) 651-4001 and Assembly

## Alpine Funding - - - -

under propositions 50 and 84 that dried up. California is unable to sell bonds to fund the grants or pass a budget. So, while well paid lawmakers in Sacramento fiddle and fuss, hundreds of organizations are laying off employees or folding altogether due to lack of funding.

Those affected range from watershed groups, county departments, university study projects, the Coastal Commission as well as a host of others. Years of data could be lost of

Call or write to our legislators and urge them to pass a budget. Call Sen. Dave Cox (916) 651-4001 and Assembly Member Ted Gaines (916) 319-2004.

The success of the Alpine Watershed Group depends in large part on its diversity. Citizen participation is the key.

The next meeting is 6 p.m. March 10 at the Alpine County Library in Markleeville. Call Chris at (530) 694-2327 or via e-mail at watershed@alpinecountyca.com for more

## Tobacco sting clears Alpine merchants

### Staff Reports

Under a 110-year-old California law, it is illegal to sell tobacco to anyone under the age of 18. No Alpine County tobacco retailers were stung in a survey conducted in the county to see if that law was being obeyed.

The periodic survey is a cooperative effort, which combines the talents of the Alpine County Sheriff's Department, the Alpine County District Attorney's Office and the Alpine County Health Department.

"These survey results are encouraging," stated Elizabeth McGeein of the Alpine County Health Department.

"These survey results dovetail an onsite store front assessment and educational packets provided to our tobacco retailers. What this still comes down to is good training and the individual clerk's use of the ID to determine and the decision to sell."

This is the first year that on

site decoy purchases was attempted within the county.

Decoy storefront assessments, including licenses, signage, and proper retailer requirements were assessed by youth in July 2006 and January 2007.

Retailers were advised that an undercover sting of some type would be done within the year.

"We don't want anyone to fail, get fined, or sell tobacco to minors," McGeein, stated. "This is a win-win for all of us. Alpine County tobacco retailers do a great job in keeping our youth free from purchasing tobacco."

The Alpine County Health Department used youth trained in tobacco decoy purchases that are active at Douglas High School in the Students Working Against Tobacco club.

This club is a collaborative effort of the Alpine County Health Department and the Partnership for Prevention of Douglas County. RC, Fri, Feb. 13, 2009

## Alpine searchers find time to practice

by Irving Krauss

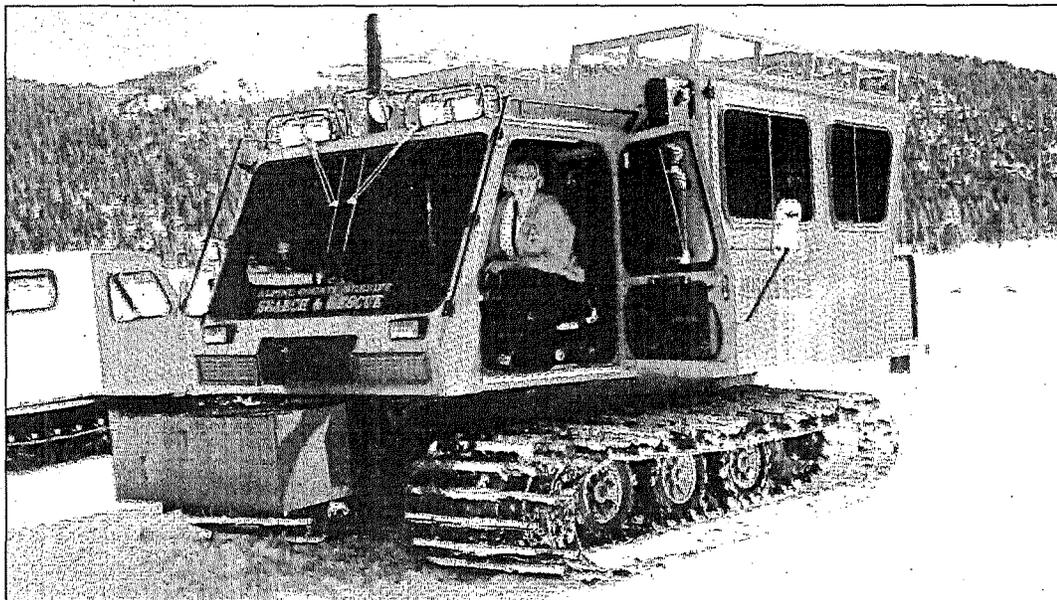
Alpine's beautiful meadows, streams and majestic mountains beckon the hiker, the angler and others to enjoy the outdoors. Winter brings the cross country skier, the snowshoer and snowmobiler. But mishaps do occur and the county's search and rescue team is ever alert to find and bring back the lost or injured as quickly and as safely as possible.

A practice session of the Alpine County Search and Rescue volunteers was held Jan. 31 near the parking section off Highway 88 adjacent to Blue Lakes Road.

The event provided an opportunity to observe how the team worked and the training of its less experienced members. However, as the reader shall shortly see, what was planned as a practice event turned out to be a real rescue.

Blue Lakes Road was closed because of the snow that surrounds the area.

Alpine and Douglas County volunteers work together, and later in the day Douglas County rescue vehicles joined those already there that included Alpine's snowmobiles, a snow cat — a vehicle with treads like on an army tank, and a



SPECIAL TO THE R-C

An Alpine County searcher drives the search and rescue snow cat.

covered trailer for transporting injured.

A little later Alpine's heavy rescue vehicle, driven by Paul Nielsen of Mesa Vista arrived. Its contents include massive cutting implements for extricating people from damaged vehicles as well as other rescue tools and large fire extinguishers.

It was a clear, beautiful day, not too cold, just perfect for the snowmobilers whose parked vans and trucks with trailers lined both sides of the parking area. The license plates revealed that almost all were from Nevada, with most probably from Douglas County.

The planned search and rescue session began with Alpine Deputy Sheriff Tom Minder who is in charge of the Alpine unit gathering together the first arrivals, Matt Star, Ryan Brown, George Christensen

and Lance Lopez, all of Gardnerville. Minder discussed the plans for the day that included Lopez training volunteers to use their beacon device to take them to a buried mannequin and then to use long probes to locate it.

Shortly afterward Alpine volunteers Lynn and Janice Doyal of Alpine Village arrived. Both are certified emergency medical technicians and Lynn was in charge of the county's EMTs for many years. He is also a highly experienced search and rescue volunteer and explained to me the procedures to locate someone, the danger of avalanches and how to survive if caught in one, and the importance of carrying equipment such as a beacon and snow shovel when in snow country.

But suddenly there was a report that a snowmobiler had crashed into a tree and that blood was spurting from his leg, apparently from an artery. Immediately the volunteers were mobilized, mounted their snowmobiles and sped to the crash site. One of the riders was Stacy James whom I had met previously.

The report was that the victim was about a mile away and was quickly located with a tourniquet placed on his leg to stop the bleeding. That was

replaced with a pressure bandage, and as it was applied a small piece of tree bark fell out of the wound.

The injured rider was transported back to the parking area, and although offered to have an ambulance or helicopter take him to a hospital he decided to seek medical care on his own. In any event, hats off to the search and rescue volunteers from Alpine and those from Douglas County.

Even though accidents do happen, most visitors and residents take care not to get lost or injured. Yet the scenic vistas may induce a sense of freedom that leads some to avoid necessary precautions such as notifying friends or relatives of where they plan to go and trekking through the wilderness alone.

The seasoned outdoor person ventures into unfamiliar places with a map, compass canteen or other items to insure a safe trip. And winter conditions call for special equipment that some are not aware of or neglect. Especially important is a safety kit that includes a beacon that directs rescuers to the person's location and a snow shovel.

■ Irving Krauss is an Alpine County resident.

2-25-09

[www.recordcourier.com](http://www.recordcourier.com)

# Services Saturday for native Alpine rancher

## Staff Reports

Born with the help of Nevada's first licensed female doctor, Alpine County rancher Hubert Bruns, 95, lived his entire life in the farming community of Fredericksburg, located along Foothill Road.

Mr. Bruns died Feb. 18, 2009, in the home where he was born. A memorial service is 1 p.m. Saturday at Carson



**Bruns**

the one-room elementary school in

Valley United Methodist Church, 1375 Centerville Lane in Gardnerville.

Born Sept. 22, 1913, to Fred and Eugenia May Bruns, his birth was attended by Dr. Eliza Cook. He attended

## DETAILS

**What:** Memorial service for Hubert Bruns

**When:** 1 p.m. Saturday

**Where:** Carson Valley United Methodist Church in Gardnerville

Fredericksburg. A member of the Douglas County High School class of 1931, he joined his father in running the family dairy.

His daughter, Shirley Bruns, said that his enthusiasm for milking cows at 3 a.m. waned, so after he took over the ranch from his father in the 1940s he switched to raising beef cattle. He never fully retired, but his son, Bruce,

See **Rancher** on page 9

# Rancher

Continued from page 1

joined him after graduating from college and continues to raise black Angus cattle.

Mr. Bruns married Merle Sheppard, a member of a pioneer Amador County, Calif., family, on April 16, 1939, in Sutter Creek, Calif.

"He was an honest, generous and modest man who was deeply grateful for the privileges and opportunities afforded him by his community, state and country," his daughter said. "He believed in giving back through public service."

A longtime public servant, Mr. Bruns was elected to the Alpine County Board of Supervisors in 1940, and served for 32 years. He was a trustee of the Clay School District for 17 years and was active in the Alpine Volunteer Fire Department for 27 years. He was the first president of the Carson Valley Dairy Herd Improvement Association and was on the boards of directors of the Minden Butter Manufacturing Co., the Carson Valley Farm Bureau and the Bishop Tri-County Fair.

A respected authority on water issues, he was appointed to the California-Nevada Interstate Water Compact Commission in 1955. He served as chairman of the commission for seven years. The commission was responsible for the division of the waters of the Walker, Carson and Truckee rivers, and Lake Tahoe between the two states.

He was a member of the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board from 1973-1984. As a member of

the board he helped protect the quality of water in Lake Tahoe and other regions throughout California. His daughter estimated he donated more than 5,000 hours to various boards and commissions through his life.

In 1963, he was named Alpine County Soil Conservation Farmer of the Year. A past president of the Carson Valley 20-30 Club, he was named Carson Valley Man of the Year in 1973.

Mr. Bruns became a charter member of the Snowshoe Thompson chapter of E Clampus Vitus in 1956. He was the first grand noble humbug of the new chapter.

He was a past president and longtime member of the Minden Rotary Club. He was a Paul Harris Fellow, and enjoyed his standing as an honorary Rotarian until his death.

"He was always, above everything else, a man of his word," his daughter said. "He left a legacy to his family, his community and his country and he will be deeply missed."

Family members thanked the staff of Barton Hospice and Dr. Richard Harvey for their care and compassion. Donations in Mr. Bruns' name may be made to any charity.

Mr. Bruns was preceded in death by his wife on June 4, 2005; his parents; sister Vernita Springmeyer Smith and brothers Elmer and Harold.

He is survived by daughters Shirley of Sacramento, Linda of Citrus Heights, Calif.; son Bruce (Ida) Glazier of Dutch Valley in Alpine County; sisters-in-law Audrey Sheppard of Sutter Creek and Elva Busher of San Francisco; numerous nieces and nephews and Dixie, his border collie,

RE 2-25-09

# A visit to the Jubilee Ranch

by Virginia York

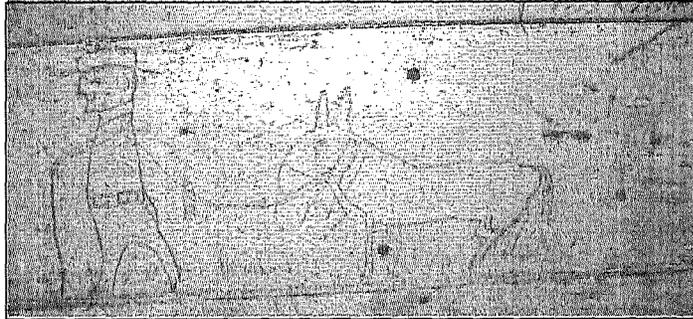
In 1991, shortly after moving to Laramie Street, my children and I found a border collie puppy playing merrily in front of our house. He was a friendly little fellow so we invited him in to meet our dog. Children and dogs had a grand old romp ending in a bath for the mud and dung-coated puppy.

We had been enjoying his company for a couple of days while trying to find his owner when a woman drove up in an all-terrain vehicle. She said the pup belonged to John Baeta, manager of the five Jubilee Ranches (well-known for raising very fine quarter horses). She gave the children some money, a gift from John in appreciation for the care they'd given his little dog. This was our introduction to Jan Lopes. I asked her about her job and during the course of our conversation Jan said: "I'd rather work outside than sit in an office."

When Jan was 11-years-old her parents moved from the suburbs of Chicago to a rural area near San Jose. Her brother bought horses and Jan taught herself to ride. From that time she's always had horses.

In 1965, Jan moved to Carson Valley and became friends with the previous residents of her house on the ranch, Bill and Blanche Shipley. She used to come up to Markleeville to help them gather the cattle. In 1978 the Shipleys left the ranch and Jan was asked to move into the house with her children in exchange for irrigating. Later that year she started to work at the ranch full-time.

Two Washoe brothers, Warren and Jim Fillmore have worked on all aspects of the ranch for 38 years. Jan's job includes irrigating 590 acres, maintaining the ditches, cutting willows and raking out



A Basque carving found on the Jubilee Ranch. At right, Alpine County's Jubilee Ranch house in winter 1986.

pine needles and pine cones, and, on horseback, helping with the cattle, keeping an eye out for sick or injured cows.

In the late spring or early summer, depending on the weather, the bulls come up to Markleeville and stay for three months with the cows, who start breeding at two years old. In fall the cows go to Smith Valley, another part of the Jubilee Ranch (the main part of the ranch is on Foothill Road, where the owner, Ted Bacon, lives with his wife, Lee) and here the calves are born after a pregnancy of nine months.

When the calves are 1-3 months old they are branded, vaccinated and the males are castrated. This event brings many flatland spectators. Jan's sensitivity keeps her away. Calves and mothers return to Markleeville and stay in their pairs until the calves are weaned at 6 or 7 months.

The steers are then sold to feed lots where they stay until they reach a certain weight and are then slaughtered. The beautiful Angus cattle of the Jubilee Ranch are very much in demand. Replacement heifers are kept at the ranch.

Jan gives many examples of the intelligence of cows, which she has come to respect over the years. My favorite illustration is that when cows butt heads, apparently fighting, they are deciding which one will be the baby-sitter for the next few hours. The winner is free from calves for that

time.

The original part of the house at the Markleeville outpost of the ranch was built in the mid-1940s. Locals remember that two Washoe men worked on the project. Dabert Wyatt was a ranch hand in charge of the construction, assisted by a friendly one-armed Washoe, possibly called Cecil Dressler. At that time a German called Klaus worked on the irrigation. Unfortunately, while the slab was still wet, Klaus watered that part of the property washing the concrete down the hill and into the creek.

Recently, I visited Jan at her house. Two border collies, ranch workers, form the outside guard; once past the threshold one is greeted by Weena, a friendly 13-year-old Australian kelpie.

Clown pictures of Red Skelton smile from the walls. The comedian, a good friend of John Baeta, used to visit the ranch with his wife Lothian and would sometimes help with the cattle. Jan's house is decorated in Western style.

She has taught herself sewing and woodwork and the fruits of her labor include leather curtains, bed frames, a cupboard made from the wood of an old barn and an ingenious coffee table made out of an irrigation box.

The house looks out onto Markleeville Creek and evidence of energetic beaver activity. On the property is a hay shed where a previous



Basque owner, Julian Mastorino, used to slaughter sheep. In another outbuilding graffiti date back to "Eloise Barrett and Ray Koenig, 1926."

There are many Basque contributions including the beautifully printed "Martin Etcheverry ano 1930" and Basque art which speaks of

**JAN LOPES**/Special to The R-C ranch scenes of bygone days.

■ Thanks to Jan Lopes, Gary Coyan and Fritz Thornburg.

MAR. 4, 2009

# Alpine

Continued from page 1

of God Church, Native Sons, Alpine County seniors' program and Living Word Fellowship Church.

She was preceded in death by her mother, husband and daughter Rose.

Mrs. Payne is survived by her son Raymond Payne Sr. of Markleeville; daughters Mary Klemish of Winnemucca, Betty Machauer of Califon, N.J., Katherine Rakow of Markleeville and Judy Duryee of Homedale, Idaho; 16 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Arrangements were entrusted to FitzHenry's Carson Valley Funeral Home.

# Road

Continued from page 1

between \$1 a square foot for a warehouse with little traffic to \$13 a square foot for restaurant.

"It's going to change," he said of the estimates. "Right now the numbers are based on traffic estimates and project cost estimates. Those estimates are changing, so the figures are pretty rough."

Foltz said the fee would only apply to new construction, not renovations or rebuilding a destroyed structure.

In a report to planning commissioners, Foltz said that a number of projects were identified in the master plan to maintain an acceptable level of service on the county collectors and arterials.

"Currently the county has no funding for these projects," he said.

"The transportation plan identifies a number of potential funding sources for these projects and among those is the implementation of regional traffic

impact fees."

The slow down in home building may have contributed to a delaying of a deadline to finish Muller Parkway, but if the impact fee is approved, it would also reduce the amount of money coming in to build the road.

Foltz said the requirement that Muller Parkway be built by 2012 had multiple triggers, some of which have not sprung.

It has been a year since the county began work of a \$463,500 contract with Stantec Consulting to engineer the route.

When completed, Muller Parkway will stretch from Highway 395 north of Minden to Toler Lane in southern Gardnerville.

According to the Douglas County Capital Improvements Plan, the two-lane road will reduce traffic on Highway 395 through the towns.

■ Kurt Hildebrand is editor of The Record-Courier. Reach him at khildebrand@record-courier.com or 782-5121, ext. 215

# Summing up the year for Alpine County law enforcement

by Bill Morgan

Several articles and books have been written with the intention of "summing up" a collection of thoughts or events or both, the most noteworthy being "The Summing Up" by W. Somerset Maugham, published in 1938. This column will attempt to sum up the activities of the Alpine County Sheriff's Department during 2008, but it will be neither as long or as erudite (look it up) as Maugham's.

To find out what Alpine County's small sheriff's department was engaged in during 2008, this columnist visited Sheriff John Crawford and several of his staff in their cramped and nearly subterranean offices in Markleeville. To start with, I was interested in reviewing their uniform crime report for 2008, a report required annually by the State of California in a format established by the FBI. The person who is responsible for collecting, maintaining, and reporting on the several categories of crime in the county is Christine Branscombe, a seventeen year veteran of the department. She's quick and efficient and produced the material I asked for in a jiffy. Of course, not every piece of information is available to the public; and I knew better than to ask.

For example, only a limited amount of information is available

about matters under investigation. What I did learn was that the department and Christine in particular are engaged in a surprising variety of activities, pretty much the same range of activities of every sheriff's department plus some.

Christine's duties include being the dispatcher for the 40 hours of her regular shift, plus handling 9-1-1 calls during that period. When she's off shift, she hands those duties off to the Douglas County Sheriff's Office, a reliable cooperator. That means she must be trained for a variety of responses to those 911 calls, including advising on first aid measures, fire hazards, safety and security measures. She dispatches fire departments, EMS personnel, deputies, ambulances or helicopters, if needed. And she needs to know the territory she's dealing with. And of course, she's the voice of home base to the deputies in the field.

She also fingerprints and takes palm prints and DNA samples of suspects arrested for felonies and convicted felons who are arrested for any reason. She also sees that court issued arrest warrants are circulated widely and ensures that summons and subpoenas are put in the hands of the right people for action.

Christine tells me she now has the means to issue emergency calls, such as evacuation orders, simultaneously to all affected parties over the telephone lines on the east side of the



**SPECIAL TO THE R-C**  
Alpine County Sheriff's Department Support Services Coordinator Christine Branscombe at her post.

county. This is called the Reverse 911 program.

In Bear Valley on the west side of the mountain, Jema Kimmel carries out the same duties as those of Christine's, except for fingerprinting, palm printing, and DNA collecting.

Well, back to the annual uniform crime report, the UCR. Comparing the record for 2008 with those of the last few years, I found there has been almost the very same incidence of crimes in the various reporting categories as there has been for the last four years. In 2008 they included: 26 assaults of which 11 were aggravated assaults and seven were domestic violence cases, some aggravated; two rapes; 14 burglaries of which nine were from residences; 59 cases of larceny; no robberies; and no stolen cars. The value of stolen property was estimated at \$54,670; property

recovered so far was worth \$7,619. The seemingly high incidence of larcenies and assaults were mainly due to the large numbers of visitors at the two ski areas, Bear Valley and Kirkwood. Our neighboring county to the south, Mono County, has a similar situation with Mammoth Mountain ski area serving very large numbers of visitors. Ski and snowboard thefts and sometime out of control tempers at the crowded bars account for most of the reported incidents in the ski areas. There were 17 felony arrests made in 2008, including felony drunk driving and drug arrests, though those latter cases are not included in the UCR.

In the field, besides enforcing the laws, the sheriff and his deputies are the coroners for the county, a task that larger counties handle by separate offices. Similarly, where many counties have animal control officers, this responsibility is handled by the sheriff's office. The deputies are all trained as first responders, knowing at least advanced first aid. All these diverse skills are essential in responding to the wide range of incidents that occur in the county.

They work in close cooperation with all emergency service organizations in the area and when necessary can turn to those cooperators for help in dealing with special problems such as suspected bombs or hazard material spills.

The sheriff's office is also in

charge of search and rescue. There were 19 search and rescues conducted in 2008 and one plane crash incident was responded to.

Sheriff Crawford emphasizes the importance of maintaining high visibility of the uniformed officers throughout the county. He believes that doing so reduces the incidence of crime as well as adds to the sense of security that we in Alpine County enjoy.

Another accomplishment indirectly involved in the security of the county is improving the communication systems. Last year the sheriff's office, under the leadership of Undersheriff Rob Levy and in cooperation with the forest service, improved access to Hawkins Peak and is nearly ready to have a new communication system installed there that will replace the current installation on Leviathan Peak. When that project is complete, the forest service and Golden State Cellular will have installations there also. That cellular capability will greatly improve the coverage for Verizon cell phone users.

All the people power and resources of the sheriff's department depend on a well run financial department and that is a department of one, Michelle McLelland. She handles the several accounts that fund the operation of the department.

To sum it up, what you see is not what you get from the sheriff's department. You get more.

# Members sought for resource advisory committee in Alpine

## Staff Reports

Alpine County and the U.S. Forest Service are seeking nominees for a 15-member resource advisory committee to recommend projects and funding for watershed restoration, road and facility maintenance, and forest health on the Humboldt-Toiyabe.

Current vacancies exist in all three categories that include industry, environmental groups, recreation groups, elected officials, and local residents on the following page. Nominees will be evaluated based on their training and experience working with the interest they represent, their knowledge of Alpine County, their demonstrated commitment to collaborative decision-making, and their contribution to the balance and diversity of the committee.

Members must reside within the state of California and to the extent practicable, within Alpine County, must be able to commit the time necessary to carry out the committee responsibilities of at least several meetings each year, be

officially appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture for a term of four years. Members are not paid.

Category A is represented by five regular members and one replacement in one or more of the following interests:

- Organized labor
- Developed outdoor recreation, off-highway vehicle users, or commercial recreation
- Energy and mineral development
- Commercial timber industry
- Federal grazing permit holders or land use permit holders within the RAC area

Category B is represented by five regular members and one replacement in one or more of the following interests:

- Nationally recognized environmental organizations
- Regionally or locally recognized environmental organizations
- Dispersed recreation activities
- Archaeological and his-

torical interests

- Nationally or regionally recognized wild horse or burro groups

Category C is represented by five regular members and one replacement in one or more of the following interests:

- State-elected office holders or their designee
- County or local elected office holders
- American Indian tribal representatives from tribes within or adjacent to RAC areas
- School officials or teachers
- Citizens representing the affected public at large

Anyone interested in serving on the committee for Alpine County, call Marnie Bonesteel, RAC Coordinator, at 884-8140, email her at mbonesteel@fs.fed.us, or send mail to Carson Ranger District, 1536 S. Carson St., Carson City, Nev., 89701.

Nominations are being accepted until all positions are filled.

RC 3/27/09

# Alpine

## Forestdale Creek a good place

Friday, March 27, 2009 ■ A13

## for spring skiing



Forestdale Creek is a good place to take the skis.

SPECIAL TO THE R-C

by Jim Donald

With the vernal equinox behind us and spring skiing ahead Forestdale Creek area is a good choice for an outing. Situated just east of the Sierra crest this region gets heavy snow even in drier years.

Park at Red Lake off Highway 88. Heed signs and try to keep vehicles on one side of the spur road. This area is popular for ice fishing, skiing, snowshoeing and snowboarding and gets crowded on weekends. This area is closed to snowmobiles when there is sufficient snow for them at Blue Lakes Road.

Ski south, descend to a meadow on the left, as the road meanders, then begin a gentle uphill climb, wind in and out of a gully and continue on an easy ascent. The road levels for a while — this is a good time to turn right into Forestdale meadow — then drops to a bridge crossing Forestdale Creek at 1.6 miles.

Here, either before or after the creek, turn right into a beautiful meadow framed by cliffs, snow and sky. The slopes on the north and south side of the meadow provide a good skiing experience for people of all abilities.

More adventurous skiers can continue on the road and gain Forestdale Divide, also known as Summit City, about

1.5 miles further and 1,000 feet higher. Spectacular vistas and great slopes just west of the road await. You'll be skiing over the unseen switchbacks of the Pacific Crest Trail which descends to the west of

the meadow and then climbs to cross the crest just north of Elephant's Back.

Snow conditions can be highly variable at this time of year. Storms usually bring heavy wet powder that forms a

crust rapidly. Best conditions can be found just after storms before the crust forms or after the snow settles and is warmed by the sun which allows the top few inches to soften and provide an excellent turning surface.

Cold weather periods can bring powder but also can ice up old snow making skiing difficult. Bring the snowshoes if the snow is rock hard.

Warmer weather may soften

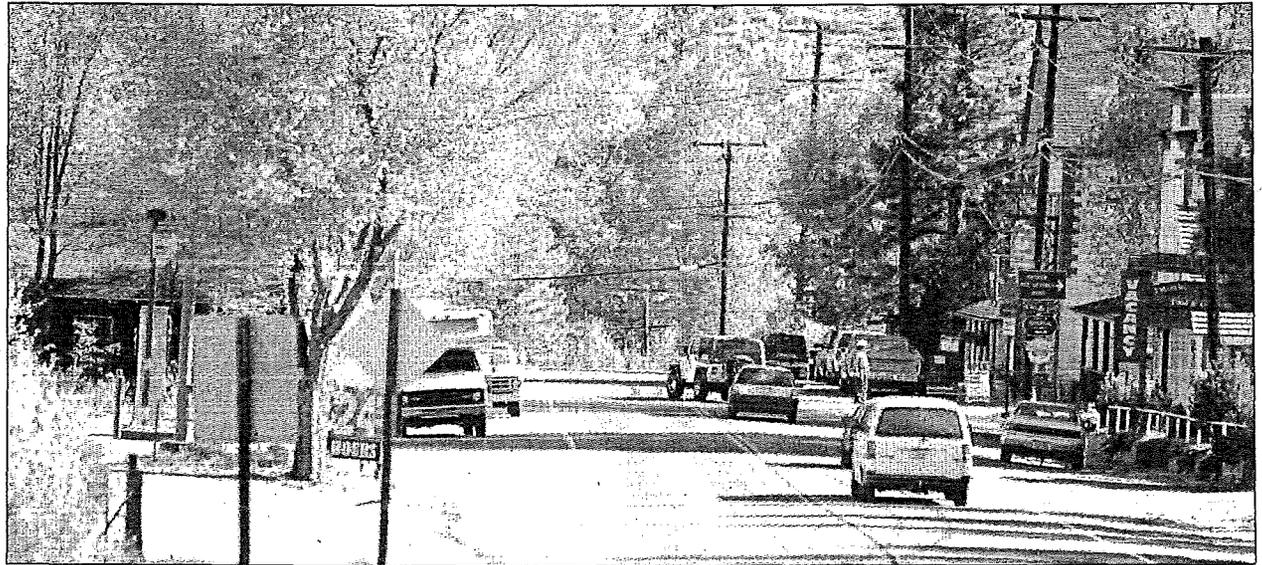
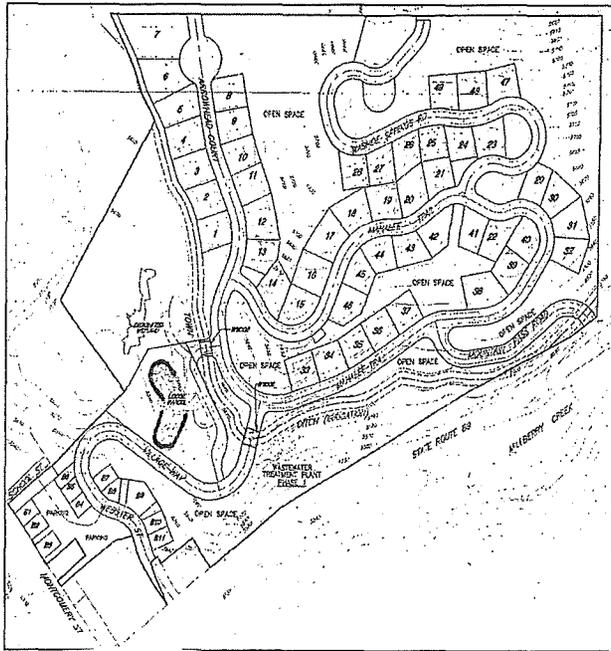
the snow to a point where skiing requires lots of effort. It can also increase avalanche danger. The rule of thumb is that if you step on old snow without skis and your boot sinks to ankle height or more then get off the slopes. A heavy wet snow avalanche is something to avoid. This rule of thumb is not a substitute for training, carrying proper equipment and checking the avalanche Web site however.

On the way in you'll be in mixed conifer forest consisting of lodgepole, western white pine, hemlock, juniper, Jeffrey pine, red fir and white fir. Numerous aspen groves line the road. You'll see early songbirds, nutcrackers, jays and possibly various hawks. You may see a white rabbit but other large mammals like deer and mountain lion are at lower elevation getting ready to migrate up as the snow disappears. You could encounter a bear, just out of hibernation, but they are elusive and only seen occasionally.

Reverse course and ski back on the road to return to the car. Or explore the slopes to the west of the road. A ski to the meadow and back is suitable for all abilities. Bring a picnic lunch and something to sit on. And don't forget the 10 essentials in addition to checking the weather and the avalanche Web site the morning of your trip.

FRID 3/27/09 P.C.

# ALPINE Markleeville Village project



Jessica Monson/R-C file photo

Downtown Markleeville in fall 2004 hasn't changed much in the past few years. At left, a map of the project.

# Alpine holds hearing on Markleeville Village project

by Bill Morgan

The Alpine County Planning Commission held a public hearing March 26 regarding the proposed Mahalee Lodge and Markleeville Village project. About 50 people were in attendance, and it was déjà vu all over again. Well, almost.

A somewhat different version of this project was submitted to the county five years ago. As a member of the planning commission then and now, this columnist has been keeping track of its status ever since.

If it finally clears all the hurdles and becomes reality, the project would bring about the most significant change to the town of Markleeville since much of it burned down in 1885. The proposal is to build a 25-room lodge, 10 buildings for mixed commercial/residential uses and 49 residential lots.

The commercial development would be in the town proper and would front Montgomery Street, the street that leads to Grover Hot Springs. The lodge and the residences would be upslope to the north, with the residential lots lining a looping system of streets that begin on Highway 89 in front of the chamber of commerce building with an outlet also on Highway 89 some 1,300 feet north of the entrance.

The lodge, with an indoor swimming pool and other amenities, would occupy a part of the open meadow that overlooks the center of the little town and the museum which is located on a small flat area at the base of the meadow. Some of the lots, to be occupied by small residences no larger than 1,600 square feet and called "cabins" by the developer, would be mainly in the trees above the meadow with the rest in the trees upslope and to the west of Highway 89.

The Mahalee Lodge and Markleeville Village (note the redundancy) is planned as a high end resort type complex, with the ownership of the cabins held in fractional shares of 10 to a cabin. A water system, a sewage treatment and disposal system, and vehicle parking are also parts of

the project.

The déjà vu aspect of the public hearing is that the major elements of concern were the same ones discussed in 2004 and 2005 at which time a zoning change to accommodate those uses was considered.

Those elements are the adequacy of the water supply and the feasibility of the sewage disposal system. Those two concerns among others, including aesthetics, the impacts on a historical irrigation ditch, effect on public services, and the street design stirred considerable controversy back then.

The environmental impacts of the proposal had been considered by the planning department as required by the California Environmental Quality Act, and a document addressing the possible impacts had been certified by the board of supervisors in December 2004.

The change from the existing residential and commercial zoning to planned development was considered and approved by the supervisors in March 2005. A group of individuals known as the Friends of Markleeville filed a lawsuit against the county regarding the adequacy of the environmental impact document; and the matter entered a period of negotiation, following which a settlement agreement was reached, and a focused environmental impact report was prepared. That report was certified in June 2006.

The developer proceeded to drill two wells to serve the project, and his consultants refined and improved the project layout and design to address the conclusions of the EIR. Financial problems later developed and progress leading to the preparation of a tentative map and accompanying material slowed down until the developer presented it to the county several weeks ago.

At the recent hearing, comments were received from members of the public and the developer's representatives along with additional information from county staff and some state agencies and then considered by the planning commission. Water supply remains an issue because of conflicting

conclusions about the capacity of the principal well serving the project. The California Department of Health Services, which must ultimately decide the adequacy of the supply for the water system, reported that it could not make such determination based on the information it had.

Similarly, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, which has approval authority over sewage disposal systems, hasn't indicated its satisfaction with the proposed system. In fact that agency had objected to the adequacy of the EIR when it was approved by the board of supervisors.

Those two issues, along with a few less vexing matters led the planning commission to continue the matter to another meeting to be held April 17 in anticipation of receiving more information on those issues.

It should be understood that controversy over the project is not only based on technical or even potential environmental matters. People with interest in the town of Markleeville are divided on the desirability of having the development for other reasons. Some don't want to see that kind of change in the town; some see an opportunity to revitalize the economy and the physical appearance of the place. Let's face it, they say, the town is slowly deteriorating. Others have doubts about whether the project, once started, would be completed. Some people simply don't like the developer.

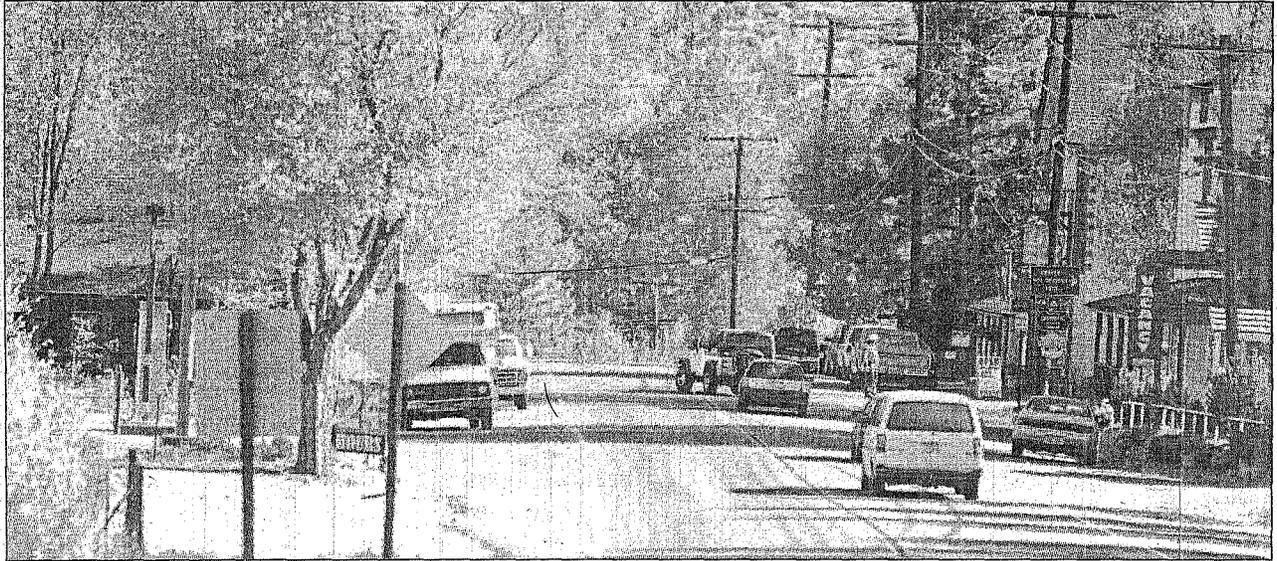
The developer, whose name won't be included in this article, has been active in the town for several years, having purchased and renovated one town landmark (the Alpine Hotel and Cutthroat Saloon), purchased and demolished several old decrepit buildings, and removed some of the junk that had accumulated on some of those properties. His companies own a considerable amount of the town and have attempted to buy more property adjacent to the land upon which the subject project is located.

Will the saga of the Mahalee Lodge and Markleeville Village project continue? Stay tuned.

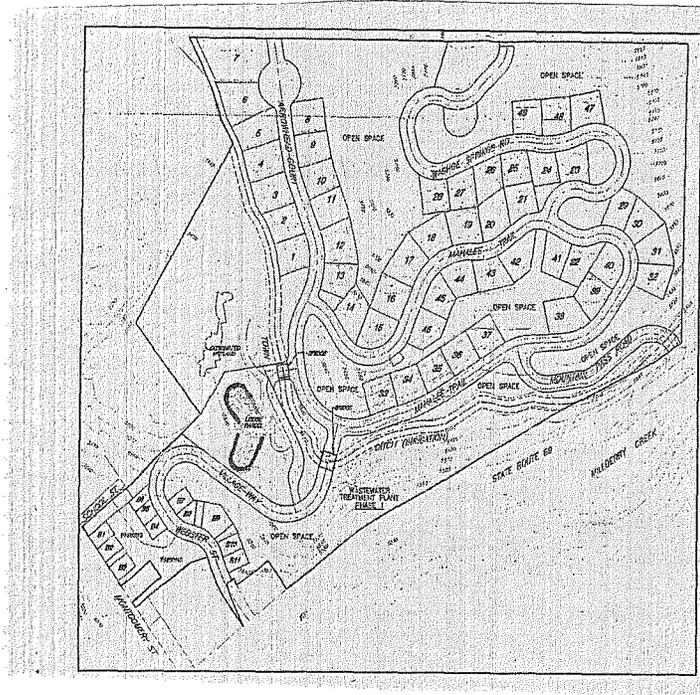
RC 4/3/09  
Pictures on back

# ALPINE

R-C APRIL 3, 2009



Jessica Monson/R-C file photo



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RC April 3, 2009

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Will the saga of the Mahalee Lodge and Markleeville Village project continue? Stay tuned.

Pictures on back

R-C APRIL 4, 2009

OUR TAKE

# Ditches carry Valley's lifeblood

**M**onday's failure of two irrigation ditches illustrate how it's not enough to have adequate moisture in the mountains.

The network of ditches that stretch across the irrigated fields of Douglas and Alpine counties are our agricultural circulatory system.

Without the lifeblood of water, the green fields that make Carson Valley so attractive would be brown. Without the ditches it wouldn't matter how much water was in the river, it would never make it to the fields.

When a ditch fails, as the two did above Woodfords, it causes far more damage than whatever flooding might have resulted.

Even in the best years irrigation water only flows for so long. Once the first part of summer is gone, so is the supply of water. That means timing is critical to getting the fields irrigated.

The longer a ditch is out of commission, the less water there is to make the grass grow.

The issue is so important that Douglas County has a water conveyance advisory committee made up of representatives from the community's prominent ranches.

We encourage residents to show respect toward the Valley's ditches, because they are in large part responsible for the beautiful green fields we're famous for.

## Markleeville craftsman creates knives

by Joyce DeVore

Greg Bennett handcrafts beautiful knives that have practical uses. Since he is an avid fisherman and hunter, he designs knives that perform on the job.

He explained that he never studied the correct terminology for each part of the knife, nor did he use precise patterns for the balance or weight of a knife. So, why are his knives so great?

Bennett has a natural feel for knives and an unusual talent for adding beauty.

"I remember my dad talking about steel from saw blades making good knives," he said.

In 2000 and 2001, Bennett worked in Susanville with a cousin, who raised cattle on land that had an old sawmill.

The land owners told Bennett that he could help himself to the old saw blades. Some of the blades were cut into strips and some of the smaller ones were still in rounds.

He begins making a knife by cutting a pattern out of cardboard. A pattern for a boning knife has a longer blade, designed to be flexible for cutting meat from a curved bone.

A field knife, for cleaning large animals, has a stouter and stronger blade.

He uses a torch to cut the knife blade from the saw blade.

The importance of the steel is its composition.

A good saw blade is made from tool steel, which is distinctively hard, resistant to abrasion, able to hold an edge, and resists deformation at high temperatures.

The carbon content is carefully controlled and manganese is usually kept low to prevent cracking under high temperatures.

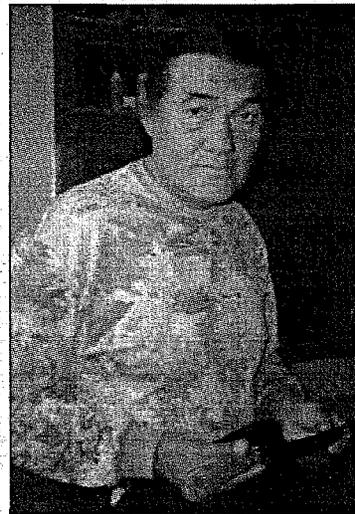
Bennett uses L-6 grade steel, a special purpose low-alloy variety. If the steel wasn't superb, it would not withstand the tempering steps and sharpening processes that Bennett uses.

After the blade is cut, Bennett "anneals the blade in red hot coal, slowly. I work it and shape it and reharden the steel. Then I dip it in transmission fluid to harden it more."

Next he shines the blade with a sander, using 300-420 gauge sandpaper.

Color is the key to using the soldering torch in the next step.

Bennett heats the blade until the top of the blade turns from



Special to The R-C  
Craftsman Greg Bennett holds one of the knives he created from scratch.

straw-yellow to plum-blue, while keeping the edge a straw color. He explained that "people talk about a knife holding its edge. What they mean is really that the edge needs to be straightened out." If the edge is properly made, a few swipes of the sharpener will straighten out the edge, but if the edge is too hard then the knife will lose the edge.

There are catalogs with pre-shaped and edged blades, but

Bennett believes that using L-6 steel and his experience creates a superior product.

"The blades you buy are already hardened and tempered which are difficult things, so the blades sometimes break," he said.

Because Bennett's blades are custom made, he also has to buy brass and custom fit each knife with a bolster, which is a narrow band between the handle and blade that keeps a hand from sliding onto the blade.

The handles of the knives are made from a variety of natural products that Bennett finds when hiking or hunting.

The manzanita handle is from a burl he discovered while hiking near Turtle Rock Park.

He also looks for interesting formations, like knots, of hardwoods like maple and oak to make the knife handles.

Using a table saw, Bennett "cut(s) the wood into strips while it is still green. Then I use linseed oil to cure the wood and clamp down the strips to let them dry through the summer."

The polished wood handles shine liked granite. He has deer antler sheds that were given to him and elk antler sheds that he

has found while hunting. Both types of antlers make uniquely attractive handles.

Beauty is not the most important factor to Bennett, however. He relates a hunting story, "Once I found a good brand stainless knife.

"It looked great and it felt sharp, so I took it on an elk hunt. After I got an elk, the knife would not work. I ended up cleaning the elk with my Leatherman tool."

His own knife has a 4-inch handle and 3 1/2 inch blade, which is comfortable for his hand and "can clean an elk, no problem," he stated. According to the Bennett, he gets the most satisfaction from "taking a discarded steel saw blade and making a practical knife."

Bennett says that "all knives get dull and it is important to clean the knife after using it. Use a little oil on the blade to store it because any amount of moisture will pit the blade."

For more information about his custom knives come to the Markleeville Open Studio Tours in October. Last year he sold out the first day, so plan to come early if you'd like one of his knives.

## Alpine Fire Safe Council offers curbside chipping

### Staff Reports

The Alpine Fire Safe Council will offer a free defensible space curbside chipping program to residents of Woodfords, Markleeville, Hope Valley and the Woodfords Colony.

Funding for this program is provided by a National Fire Plan grant from the U.S. Forest Service through the California Fire Safe Council.

Designed to assist area residents with the creation of defensible space around their homes, crews will chip timber slash and brush back onto participant's lots for use as mulch and landscaping material.

Residents are encouraged to participate in this opportunity to reduce the intensity and impact of wildland fires on their homes. The program is slated to begin June 1 and continue until finished. Flyers will be mailed outlining the rules and will include resources available to assist in cutting and hauling the fuels to the roadside.

For more information visit [www.alpinefiresafe.org](http://www.alpinefiresafe.org) or call coordinator Jeff Brees at (530) 694-2791.

RC April 17, 2009

# ALPINE

## Alpine library keeps learning fires burning

by Virginia York

"The health of our civilization, the depth of our awareness about the underpinnings of culture and our concern for the future can be tested by how well we support our libraries."

**Carl Sagan**

American astronomer, astrochemist and author

In the beginning there was a 13-foot Gerstenlager van and the people rejoiced. It was March 1967, and library service had come to Alpine County.

Lucile Brown Chain,

thanks to her political contacts and vision, investigated the Library Construction Act of 1957 and made local citizens aware of its implications for Alpine County. The act allocated money for libraries in small, rural counties. As a result of Lucile's efforts, on Oct. 3, 1966, Louise Stubblefield, a state library representative, told county supervisors that the state library had budgeted \$50,000 to fund a two-year library demonstration project in Alpine County.

The money would be used to purchase, maintain

and staff a bookmobile and to buy about 3,500 books. Alpine would contract with El Dorado County for the professional services of their librarian, who would supervise the whole operation. Alpine would not be required to contribute any money towards the project. The bookmobile would divide its time between Markleeville and Woodfords. This project was intended to show whether Alpine County had an interest in library services.

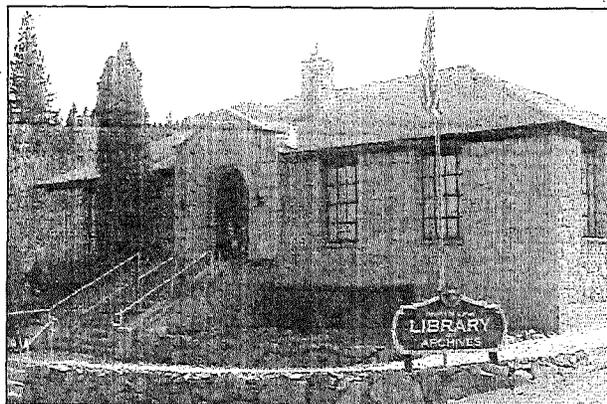
The Oct. 20, 1966, issue

of "The Alpine Newsletter" declared that the board "enthusiastically supported" the proposal of a county library.

On Nov. 7, the contract was signed by the Chairman Hubert Bruns. On Dec. 5, the supervisors appointed Faye Gansberg, Angie Merrill, Nancy Thornburg and Gary Coyan to the Library Advisory Board.

In the March 1967 issue of the newsletter, there was this happy announcement: "Alpine Bookmobile Now Open." Whether or not we are allowed to keep it will depend entirely on how much it is used." It was used, zealously. When the two year period came to an end the contract was extended to June 30, 1970.

The courthouse annex became its new headquarters, sharing space with the justice court and the health department. This building, on Montgomery and Laramie streets, today occupied by the library and archives, was originally the New Webster School, designed by the renowned architect Frederick J. De Longchamp and built in 1928 of the rhyolite tuff, quarried near Silver Mountain City; the stones not used for the courthouse were donated to the school. On Jan. 13, 1970, there was an open house in the courthouse annex "for the purpose of acquainting everyone with the various services, equipment and materials available through the library." On Feb. 2, a resolution was passed establishing the Alpine County Library Commission, appointing the five current



Alpine County's library in Markleeville.

Special to The R-C

5/1/09



advisory board members:  
Lucile Chain, (Chairperson)  
Martha Brown, Ileen Long,  
Mabel Love and Nancy  
Thornburg.

Acquisitions, apart from  
the books, included 247  
phonograph records, 19-  
magazine subscriptions, a  
16 mm projector screen and  
table, a typewriter  
and stand, 15-unit  
card catalog and  
shelving. Films were  
available from the  
Mountain Valley  
Library System and  
The Educational  
Guide to Free Films.

There were 187 regu-  
lar borrowers and in  
1969 5,730 books circulat-  
ed, \$10,000 remained  
in the budget. At this  
meeting supervisors  
voted for a perman-  
ent county library  
and on April 6,  
1970, an ordinance  
was passed estab-  
lishing the Alpine

County Free Library.

The library benefited  
greatly from the  
encouragement and  
guidance first from  
El Dorado County  
Library then, starting  
in 1973, from  
Dorothy Sanborn of  
Placer County  
Library. In 1981,  
Dianne Deadrich was

named county librarian. Last  
August, as a budgetary  
measure, the county librari-  
an was laid off. In order to  
retain the title of county  
library, the library is again  
contracting with another  
library for professional serv-  
ices. In those budget cuts  
80 staff hours per week

were lost. The library  
is now run by two  
valiant and opti-  
mistic women, Rita  
Lovell and Dinette  
Greenwood, and a  
team of volunteers.

They have plans for  
when funds are  
increased including expand-  
ing library services to  
Kirkwood (we have a  
branch in Bear Valley). But  
the first priority is to rein-  
state the position of county  
librarian.

When the board voted  
for a permanent library  
Mabel Love, secretary of the  
commission, wrote: "We feel  
we have made a great stride  
here in our county."

Let us continue to make  
great strides, in the  
right direction.

Thanks to Wanda Coyan,  
Barbara Howard, Rita  
Lovell and Nancy  
Thornburg for their help  
in research. Deep grati-  
tude to the original members  
of the Library Advisory Board  
and Library Commission.



RC / 5/1/09

# ALPINE

## Alpine women's center provides valuable service

by Irving Krauss

Do we need a women's center? Not if we lived in an ideal world where loving couples live happily ever after, where all children are reared with love and kindness, where people regardless of gender are respected and where no one lays a hand on another person.

But that's not always true in the real world in which we live: there's spousal abuse, children are molested, women are attacked and, as we learn from the media institutions such as schools and the workplace are not immune from sexual harassment and violence.

Many of these circumstances are found in cities as well as in small communities — yes, also in

Alpine County. While we might like to reform human nature it is necessary to be aware of human failings and to provide protection and help for families, children and individuals. That is the purpose of the Alpine County Women's Center that is staffed by Jennifer Kline and located near the junction of Highways 88 and 89 in the building that also houses Woodfords Station.

Kline sees her role as an advocate for local survivors of child and spousal abuse and sexual assault and encourages people who encounter such situations to come to the Women's Center. It's open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. She can be telephoned at 694-1853 or the 24-hour crisis line can be contacted at (888) 750-6444. Kline

responds to cases uncovered by law enforcement, the District Attorney, the courts, the probation department, the medical providers and Child Protective Services. She notes that the Washo Tribe has a domestic response team for situations affecting its members.

Alpine County's Women's Center is funded by grants from nonprofit groups and from state and federal sources and is administered through the South Lake Tahoe Women's Center.

Kline hopes grant money will be found to provide a part-time assistant for her in the Alpine Center.

The services she provides to Alpine residents include counseling, referral to other agencies and insuring safety for individuals and children in families where there

has been abuse, and for victims of sexual assault.

She also deals with circumstances that require safe housing, food, clothes and financial or other aid.

Among her many tasks she cites a request to an employer not to penalize a worker who has to appear in court because of family abuse. Another example is help for a woman suddenly on her own who had to learn how to drive and pump gas at the service station, tasks most of us take for granted. Her primary goal is to make survivors self-sufficient and independent.

Kline brings years of experience to her work in Alpine County. For seven years she was a court advocate in South Lake Tahoe, dealing with restraining orders, child cus-

tody and visitation matters, with particular concern about safety and healthy relationships for children.

Coursework at the South Lake Tahoe Community College included crises counseling, supplemented by ongoing training in conferences and workshops on counseling techniques, advocacy and new legislation.

In addition to her many responsibilities Kline provides information about the Center's services and makes presentations in the community, most recently at the Diamond Valley Elementary School. She lives in Carson City and has been in charge of the Alpine County Women's Center since April 2008.

5/15/09

# SIERRA

## Solution to graphic problem

by Joyce DeVore

Some people find a beautiful solution to an ugly problem. The Woodfords Washoe Community Council wanted to stop teenagers on the Hung-a-lel-ti reservation from painting graffiti on their water tower. They thought of a better solution than having the maintenance people repaint the tower.

"Get the kids involved," said Kevin Jones, the artist who led the project.

"For a year we worked on the funding, finding a grant to cover expenses," Jones said.

While he submitted designs to the community council, Woodfords Washoe Community Chairwoman DeAnn Roberts wrote the grant offered through the Washoe TANF Office to address both the graffiti problem and to create positive self-esteem for those involved.

"I wanted the tower to show how we relate to nature: growing up on the earth, with water, with animals and birds," Roberts said. "The children joined hand in hand, with a circle of adults standing behind them represents the circle we live in."

"The circle of children and adults also relates to our round dances and being together as the Southern Band," she said. "Hung-a-lel-ti means Southern Band, but it also means looking over the valley."

The work began with Jones making cardboard stencils of the design approved by the council.

"The perspective was a challenge," said Jones. "I had to measure the whole tank and do the math to figure out how wide to make the stencil. The eagle is eight feet across!"

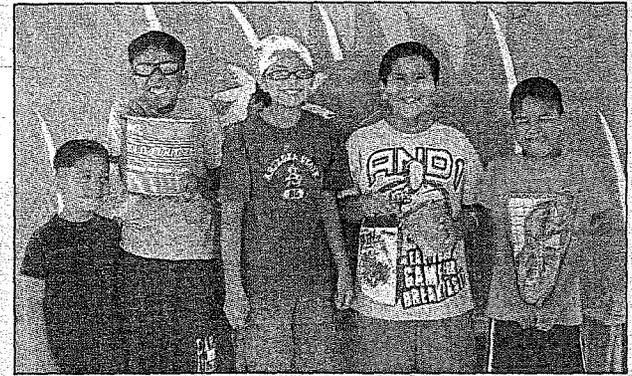
"This is the first time I've done a mural like this. Flat is

easy, but a circle is tough."

Work began last June. Jones and other adults led the work and 15 or 20 teenagers pitched in when possible.

"The kids painted worms, bugs, and butterflies on the lowest part of the tower, using paint brushes. I didn't go over what they did. I just let the paint run because I wanted the art to be theirs and not mine," said Jones.

The tower is located on a rocky hill, so as each new stencil was added to make the next higher level of the mural, one person had to walk down the road to a level spot and direct the artists to level the stencils. Woodfords is famous for its winds, which played havoc with the stencils. Even though there were hot days, Jones said that the most difficult part was solidly seating the ladders. Toward the end, he had to rent a lift to reach the upper parts of the mural.



Since there was a limited budget, Jones bought the paint one gallon at a time. The expensive undercoat is a compound that does not seep into the metal. The top coats are earth colors, with an emphasis on subtle shades. To satisfy the grant, the paint had to stay on for one year — which will be celebrated in just a few weeks. So far, there has been no graffiti and the paint is in perfect condition. The project deterred graffiti, allowed the youth to have ownership in the art, and beautified Alpine County.

Jones is a trained and accomplished artist, who

Friday, May 22, 2009  
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## California budget propositions defeated

by Irving Krauss  
Special to The R-C

Alpine voters joined the rest of California in overwhelmingly defeating most of the governor's and legislature's measures to rescue the state's \$21.3 billion budget deficit. Alpine's voter turnout of 43 percent reflected the small number throughout the state that went to the polls.

Six of the seven propositions that were rejected in the May 19 special election included slashing \$1 billion from education, \$268 million each year from children's services and \$268 million from mental health programs for two years. Also, taxes would be raised on sales, income and motor vehicles and the state could borrow \$5 million against future lottery payoffs.

The highest vote in Alpine was 42 percent for one of the proposals, while the rest that were defeated garnered less than 40 percent each. But the proposition that prevented legislators from receiving a pay increase when the state budget is in deficit was favored by 84 percent of Alpine voters.

Alpine's Canvassing Board, Gail Day, Jim Dunn, Jeanie Lear and Mary Rawson, began the ballot count when the polls closed at 8 p.m. County Clerk Barbara Howard and Assistant County Clerk Sarah Simis oversaw the operation. Howard monitored the Premier Election Systems counting machine that performed flawlessly.

The County Clerk's office provided cookies and coffee and an observer from the community was present.

Irving Krauss is an Alpine County resident.

# In some areas, finding a dentist is like pulling teeth

KIMI YOSHINO

Have a toothache in Alpine County? Tough luck. There are no active dentists there, making it the most underserved dental population in California, according to a report released Thursday by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research.

The 700-square-mile mountainous region is one of several counties with severe dentist shortages. San Benito and Inyo counties have less than one dentist per 5,000 people; Imperial and Colusa counties have less than one dentist per 4,000. Even some poorer parts of Los Angeles County are considered underserved, said Nadereh

Pourat, director of research planning at the UCLA School of Public Health and the report's primary author.

"In some areas, particularly when they're rural, you're talking about having to travel a long way before you can find a dentist," Pourat said. "And if you don't have dental insurance, you have to pay out of pocket in order to find a dentist willing to accommodate you."

In Hollister — located in San Benito County, where the UCLA data show only five working dentists serving nearly 58,000 residents — Dr. Mark Stephens said he's been able to handle the demands on his practice, so far.

"If someone calls with a

toothache, we try to see them the same day, but some offices don't see them for a week or two," Stephens said. "If I have to work through lunch or stay late, I will."

Stephens said he thought there were more than a handful of dentists still practicing locally, but added that in the last several months, his brother, who is also a dentist, sold his practice and another dentist died.

Like many dentists, Stephens does not accept Denti-Cal, the state's dental insurance for the poor. He said he knows of only one dentist in Hollister who does.

The shortage situation may worsen in some already-under-

served areas because new dentists are not keeping pace with those retiring.

Because dentists often leave school with between \$200,000 and \$300,000 in loans, setting up practice in areas where patients rely on government-sponsored insurance that pays only 30 to 40 cents on the dollar can be hard, said Cathy Mudge, chief administrative officer of the California Dental Assn.

"They need to be able to repay that loan," she said.

To encourage new dentists to move to needy areas, Mudge said, the association's foundation offers a loan repayment program. In exchange for a three-year commitment in an

underserved population, the foundation covers their loan payments during that time.

For Dr. James Forester, who works at La Clinica de Tolosa in Paso Robles, that equals about \$35,000 a year in loan payback — a hefty sum, particularly when he's working at a clinic that pays significantly less than what he could be making elsewhere.

"For me to be able to work in a population where people really need me is ideal," he said. "Who else would be here if I wasn't here? It's a great opportunity, but also a responsibility. These people are here. They need care too."

kimi.yoshino@latimes.com

# SIERRA

## Horsethief Canyon a conditioning hike with a view

by Jim Donald

This is an excellent conditioning hike with possibilities for off-trail excursions or point to point travel. Nice rock formations, old growth conifers and occasional displays of wildflowers make for an interesting outing.

Begin by driving west on Highway 88 from Woodfords. In 3.5 miles reach a marked trailhead on the right at an elevation of 6,600 feet. Switchback up the steep north face of Woodfords Canyon, stair-stepping up and around granitic boulders as necessary. Enjoy cross canyon views of the rocky north slopes of Hawkins Peak.

This canyon was named for horse thieves who purportedly stole emigrant's horses in Woodfords Canyon, drove them up to the high meadows to rest, and then took them down to the Carson Valley to be sold to other emigrants.

The trail levels briefly as it enters Horsethief Canyon then begins a moderate climb north paralleling a tumbling stream. Switchback through a deadfall, step lightly through an alder seep and continue climbing. As you climb notice the volcanic cliff formations on the right and contrast them with the granitic rock nearby. Consider that the large volcanic rocks in the streambed were part of the same formation and may be remnants left in place by erosion or could have tumbled down from above.

The old Jeffrey pines, white and red fir in this area, are there because this section of the canyon was too steep to log back in the



The view from the top of Horsethief Canyon.

day when much of eastern Alpine County's timber was cut for mining ventures. Juniper, lodgepole pine and mountain mahogany are common here as well as aspen further up.

A good side trip to the flat top of the largest volcanic buttress can be made by crossing the creek and picking your way carefully up steep loose slopes just to its north and scrambling to the top. Good views west to the Sierra crest and a great lunch stop can be had or just explore the park-like forest to the east.

Back on the trail, continue climbing, round an open area above the stream and breathe easier as the trail levels, enters mixed conifer and aspen forest, passes through a seasonal cattle gate and undulates above meadows on the right.

At about two miles and 1,200 feet up from the trailhead cross Forest Road 025. This closed road is how the cows get here. A six-mile leg west (left) on this road will bring you out on Highway 89 in Hope Valley roughly one-half mile north of

Pickett's Junction.

To climb Cary Peak (elevation 8,726) make a slow arc to the right to avoid descending into Hidden Canyon and, in two miles, ascend the steep rocky north slope of the peak to an airy perch 3,000 feet above Woodfords with good views to the south and east. This side trek is all off trail so be confident of your route finding ability and wear clothing appropriate for encounters with brush.

Continuing on the Horsethief trail, cross meadows and seeps with wildflowers and arc gently northeast. Now on the right side of the creek on mostly open slopes, the trail gets faint, and in just under two miles reaches a saddle. The first drainage to the east is Fredericksburg Canyon. Cross, continuing northeast, several descending tributaries and in about two miles reach a ridge at 8,400 feet that overlooks Faye-Luther Canyon. Switchback, as necessary, down very steep slopes at the head of this canyon and find the Faye-Luther trail that terminates on Foothill Road in Douglas County. This through hike is a strenuous, off-trail bushwack that from start to finish will take most of the day. Route finding skills, map use and a compass are necessary and a GPS can simplify this trek.

If all that sounds like too much, simply turn around at any point and return to the trailhead. The steep descent can make your legs feel rubbery but it's a good workout.

Don't forget the 10 essentials, especially lots of water, check the weather at the NOAA Web site and have a good hike.

Special to The R-C

## CAREER DAY



Special to The R-C

The Alpine County Sheriff's Office participated in Career Day at Diamond Valley School on Tuesday in Woodfords. Bear Valley Department of Public Safety's Lt Rick Stephens and Alpine County Sheriff John Crawford spoke to students and allowed students to try out some of their work equipment, such as two-way radios and firefighting equipment. Students were given a brief introduction into the world of law enforcement and public safety.

## DEATH RIDE

# Death Ride is a true challenge

## Annual Tour of California Alps features 15,000 vertical feet

by Dave Price  
Special to The R-C

So, why would anyone want to attempt to ride their bicycle in the Death Ride — Tour of the California Alps?

To start with, the route covers a total of 129 miles and about 15,000 vertical feet of climbing, which includes the east and west slopes of 8,314-foot Monitor Pass, both slopes of 8,730-foot Ebbetts Pass on Highway 4 and finally 8,573-foot Carson Pass on State Route 88. Yet, nearly 3,000 cyclists will be out on the roadways of Alpine County on Saturday for the 29th anniversary of the Death Ride.

Cyclists of all ages turn out for this event — the 2008 field ranged from 11 to 81 — they come in all shapes and sizes, riding various road bicy-

cles, tandem cycles, three-wheelers, single-speed and recumbents. The first riders will embark from Turtle Rock Park, located between Woodfords and Markleeville, and will be on the roads until the course is closed at 8 p.m.

The Death Ride is put on by the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce with the assistance of more than 700 volunteers.

"We couldn't do it without the support of the county and support of all the non-profit groups that help out ... search and rescue, Tahoe Special Olympics, this year the Boy Scouts, and all the others," said Teresa Burkhauser, who is in her eighth year as the event's executive director. "This is one of the best supported events you're going to find anywhere."



Shannon Litz/R-C file photo

A rider comes down Carson Pass after completing the fifth and final pass during the Death Ride in 2006. Below, a group of bikers arrives at the Markleeville checkpoint during the 2007 Death Ride.

Here are some facts and figures. In 2008, a total of 4,263 people registered for the ride although only 2,800 were selected to participate and 2,751 actually did the ride. Of those, 516 were women ... participants came from across the nation and 19 came from outside the U.S. ... and, despite afternoon thunder showers, 1,654 rode all five passes.

One of the riders who went the full distance last year was Gary Clelan of Grass Valley, Calif., who will return for his second Death Ride on Saturday.

"I love it when I tell people I'm doing the Death Ride and they look at me and say, 'You're crazy!'" Clelan said. "But after doing it one time, I can see why people do it year after year. It is a great event. People line the roads and sit out and clap and cheer as you ride by. The entire town, and county, turns out to support it."

This not a race, but rather a test of endurance and of personal goals. Not



Sarah Hall/The R-C

everyone rides the 129-mile distance, either, because participants have their choice of one-, two-, three- four- and five-pass options. The Death Ride is a worthy achievement no matter how many passes a cyclist completes.

"I think my basic motivation was simply to see if I could do it. I wanted to find out if I could train myself to finish all five passes — 15,000 feet of elevation gain is no small task," Clelan said. "And I had a great feeling of satisfaction when I got that little pin on top of

## ROAD CLOSURE

From 5-9 a.m., the road will be closed to traffic from the Markleeville Courthouse to the junction of highways 89 and 4. Monitor and Ebbetts will be closed to vehicular traffic starting at 5 a.m.

Carson Pass."

Oh, and there's another reward for those who are successful in the final climb to the top of Carson Pass — everybody gets an ice cream.

Burkhauser estimates the event attracts about 6,000 people to Alpine County and the surrounding area, including Carson Valley and Lake Tahoe.

"I think it's a great event ... for the riders, for Alpine County and for the outlying areas," Burkhauser said.

"It's pretty overwhelming when you look out in the morning at the crack of dawn, look both east and west, and see car after car after car parked on the side of the road. It's pretty amazing."

Dave Price is former sports editor of The Record-Courier and the Grass Valley Union.

RC 7/10/09

RC 7/10/09

## Alpine looking for ways to balance the budget

by Bill Morgan

We all know, or most of us do anyway, that the word "fiscal" pertains to the treasury or finances of a government. And associated with that are the more familiar terms "budget," "revenue," and "funds," and associated with those terms is that word that makes the world go 'round, "money." (Having said "money," I expect I've got your attention now.)

The availability of money or the lack thereof is always what preoccupies local government officials around this time of year, including Alpine County with the smallest population of any county in the state of California and a government organization to match it.

Last month, the board of supervisors adopted a budget for fiscal year 2009-10 based on the best information available and tentatively it's balanced.

Having a balanced budget over

the past few years, including the 09-10 budget, has only been possible by adding carryover funds from the past years to expected revenue, along with several cost cutting measures.

Much of those carryover funds have been the result of major trimming of county personnel.

During the last year of so, five of seven senior management positions have been eliminated along with a number of other positions.

In case you missed it, the county librarian, museum director, county engineer, chief building official, director of public works, and the former assistant to the board of supervisors are gone, replaced in a couple of instances with part-time consultants or by lower grade employees.

Also, at this time, the positions of director of health and human services, the director of mental health, and the director of alcohol and drugs programs are vacant.

Funds carried over from the past fiscal year won't be there next year, so what has been done to balance the budget so far is just a temporary fix.

The bigger storm cloud over the time horizon is what the California state government is going to do to balance its budget.

There's talk of the state withholding 8 percent of the county's property tax revenue as well as eliminating or reducing certain state funded programs.

The road department is expected to be hard hit.

That will require the county to make more cost savings. Actions being considered by the county to create more savings are: requiring all employees to take furlough time by cutting back the work week to 36 hours; selling some of the county's equipment or county-owned real estate; granting early retirement accompanied by a cash award to those who qualify for

early retirement; postponing scheduled step increases in salary for employees; and reducing office hours to save utility costs.

There is also the possibility that the county will raise some fees. For example, Alpine County is the only county in the state that doesn't currently charge for food facility inspections; and that could change.

Managing to make ends meet is a trick that most households have to do regularly, particularly during these economic times.

Things are made more complicated by the state's now paying many of its obligations by IOUs, including many of the payments made to county governments.

Some banks won't honor the IOUs, so the county has to manage by using its cash reserves, thereby depleting them and potentially creating a cash flow problem.

The county's current budget is \$26.6 million and will likely be

less next fiscal year. Some of the services to the public have already been curtailed, the county workforce is stressed, and further cuts by the state government can be expected.

All indications, however, are that the Alpine County administration can handle whatever comes along.

"Like the rest of the country, we're facing a financial crisis, expect to have curtailed services (but bear with us)," said County Administrative Officer Pamela Knorr.

For those of you who want to get a better handle of how the funds are being allocated this fiscal year, log on to [www.alpinecounty-ca.gov](http://www.alpinecounty-ca.gov), click on Board of Supervisors and open the minutes of June 11.

If you want to stay current, look at the posted agendas, attend the board meetings, or read the minutes from subsequent meetings.

## Reflective address markers available

### Staff Reports

The Alpine County Fire Safe Council is taking orders for reflective house address markers.

The markers can be seen from

the street and help emergency responders in the event of an emergency. The markers are being made available with the support of the local Alpine County volunteer fire departments, emergency serv-

ices personnel, Alpine County Unified School District, Alpine County Chamber of Commerce, and the Alpine County Sheriff's Department.

The address markers are green

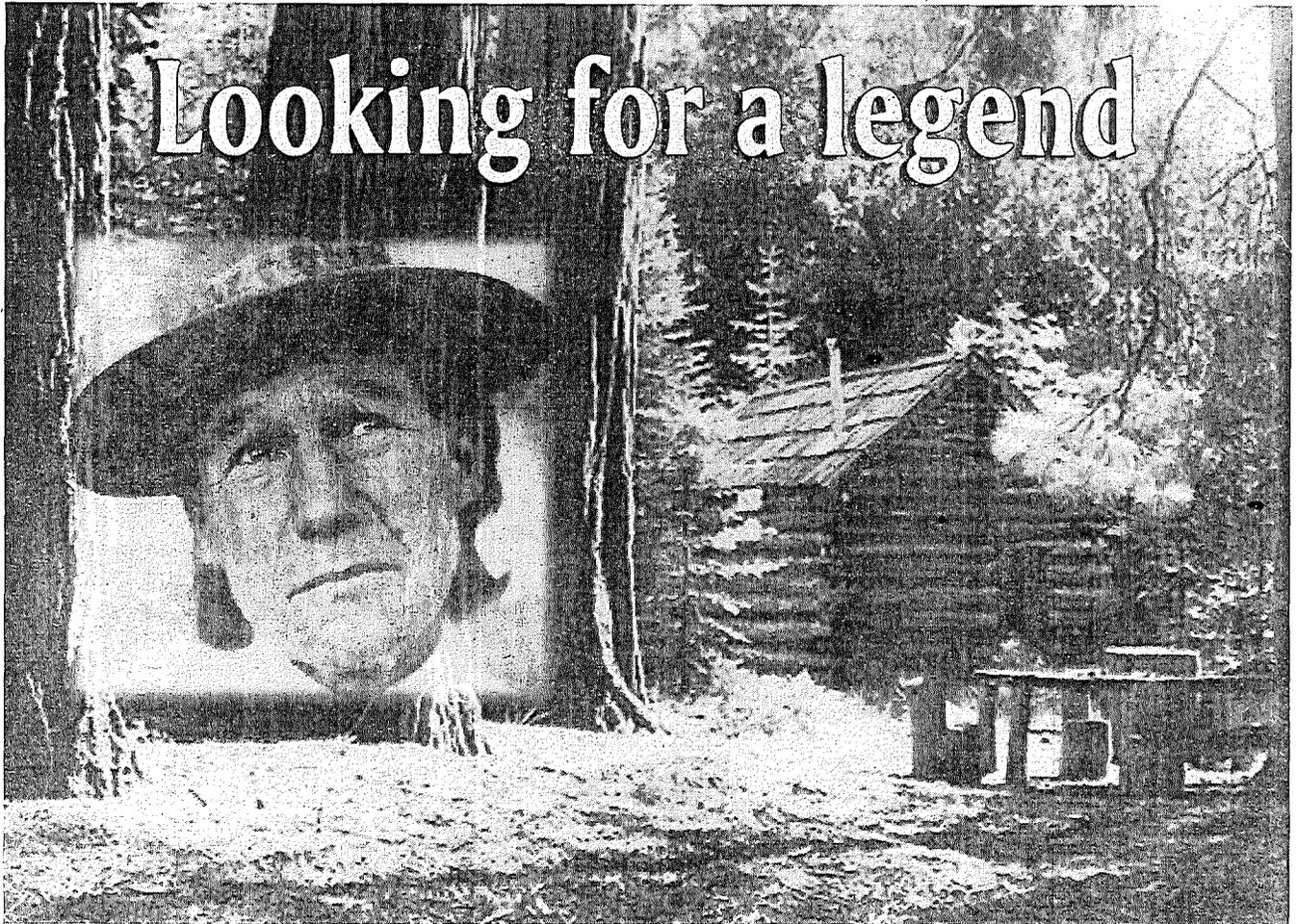
metal signs with 4-inch white numbers and pre-drilled holes in the corners. Numbers can be positioned vertically or horizontally.

They can be placed on posts, fences, trees or homes, preferably near the road.

To purchase a marker or for

more information, contact Shirley Taylor at (530) 694-2681.

The signs are \$20 with all the proceeds from the sales to benefit the Alpine County EMS and the Woodfords and Markleeville Volunteer Fire Departments.



Photos courtesy Monte Wolfe Society

Monte Wolfe's cabin outside Dorrington. Inset: The "Lone Wolf of the Mokelumne."

## High Country hermit's secrets to be revealed

By Krissi Krob

In April 1940, a trio of brothers hiked into the wilderness outside of Dorrington to check on a friend, a recluse who had not been seen all winter. What they found in his cabin was a half-eaten supper, a missing pair of shoes, an absent fishing pole and a dead cat, who perished after being locked in the cabin. What they didn't find was their friend, Monte Wolfe, who was never seen or heard from again.

In the 69 years since his disappearance, the legends and mystery surrounding the High Country trapper have grown, with ghost stories and theories about his fate swirling like falling snow. But one man has spent 16 years deciphering the cryptic myth of Wolfe, and on Sunday he will present his findings in the place that Wolfe loved so much: Bear Valley.

Without divulging the details of his findings, Don De Young, 56, said visitors to his lecture at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Music Festival Tent at the Bear Valley Music Festival can expect to learn an almost-complete history of the tall-tale-telling Wolfe, including where he came from, how he got to California, why he went into the woods and what his real name was.

The first time Wolfe was heard of in California was in the early 1900s, when the roughened young man was booked into



Don De Young has spent years studying the reclusive Monte Wolfe.

jail in Modesto for a minor burglary. He would later serve time in Folsom Prison for similar, yet more serious, charges, and was arrested for felony burglary in 1927 and awaited trial in the Tuolumne County Jail.

After more than 75 days in jail, Wolfe finally had his trial, during which he was found not guilty. But the wasted time in jail, combined with the sheriff unceremoniously dumping him in Angels Camp and telling him not to come back to Tuolumne County, served as the final straw for Wolfe.

"It was a critical time in his life," said Eric Jung, historian, author and publisher of the Cub Reporter in Bear Valley. "He finally decided, 'I've had enough of people,' and he headed up to the mountains."

And so, for the rest of his documented life, Wolfe spent his time at cabins he built himself, living off the land, trapping for fur when he needed cash and "borrowing" tools and food from neighbors on occasion. When he did venture into society, patrons of various bars on the Highway 4 Corridor remembered him as fast-talking, tough as nails, an amazing storyteller and a consummate flirt, which would at times get him in hot water when he messed with the wrong trapper's wife.

## Legend

When asked what attendees to his free lecture can expect to hear, De Young replied, "What they're going to hear, for the very first time, is the true story of Monte Wolfe, not the legends ... to date, nobody knows where he came from, what his name was, what his past was, why he went into the mountains who his family is, how he disappeared, why he disappeared and whether there was any next of kin ... what people are going to come away with is that they will know who the man was and why he decided to live a life of seclusion in the mountains. They're going to learn the difference between Monte Wolfe legend and Monte Wolfe reality, and as it turns out, the reality is pretty amazing."

De Young will share his discoveries about Monte Wolfe, the Lone Wolf of the Mokelumne, at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Music Festival Tent at the Bear Valley Music Festival. The event is free and open to the public. It is hosted by the Ebbetts Pass Historical Association. For more information call 753-2554 or e-mail [info@ebbettpasshistory.org](mailto:info@ebbettpasshistory.org).

After his years of research, which will culminate in a book about Wolfe, De Young said there is still one question he has for the Lone Wolf, and it is one that only the hermit himself could have answered.

"I would ask him what happened on April 20, 1940. That was the day he disappeared."

Contact Krissi Krob at [kkrob@calaverasenterprise.com](mailto:kkrob@calaverasenterprise.com).

# Legend

continued from A1

"Monte Wolfe was a ladies' man," Jung said, "and a wedding ring never stopped him."

Wolfe was born in 1886, and ventured into the mountains of Bear Valley when he was in his mid-40s. Only a few material reminders of his legacy remain, including the Lake Alpine Resort fireplace, which Wolfe built, and his cabin.

"He was unbelievably strong," Jung said. "His calves were so thick that he would buy a pair of Levis and he would have to split them up the side to make room for his leg muscles."

He was also an amazingly agile man of the wilderness, able to survive winter after winter in the bitter cold, and spending his springs fishing and trapping. He was a man with quirks, including wearing almost constantly, instead of sensible hunting boots, worn-out pairs of Keds tennis shoes that he said were ideal for walking in the woods, as they enabled him to feel the trail beneath his feet in the dark.

"As soon as you get up here, you start hearing about Monte Wolfe," Jung said of Bear Valley, adding that the hermit has become known as the "Lone Wolf of the Mokelumne."

The Schimke brothers — Art, Reuben and Harry — entered Wolfe's cabin one day in 1940 to find him missing. The only indication that his departure was unintentional was the dead cat, which Jung said is a sign Wolfe met his end at the claws of a bear or the whitewater of a swirling spring river, as he would have never left for good without giving his pet a chance to survive.

Of the Schimke brothers, Art and Reuben are still alive, and still living in Tamarack. Art, 90, was busy cutting wood in the forest and could not be contacted for this story, but his niece, Susi Schimke Lewis, Harry's daughter and the keeper of the museum at the Bear Valley Lodge, offered some insight into Wolfe based on stories she heard growing up in the Bear Valley area.

Her father and uncles, she said, were in their mid-teens when they met Wolfe, whom they got along with because

"he didn't mess with them, he didn't steal from them."

"They just enjoyed Monte because he was so different," she said, "and really, how many people could survive doing something like that?"

As a girl, Schimke Lewis said, her father and uncles would take her and other Schimke children to the second cabin Wolfe had built outside of Dorrington — the first was demolished by the Forest Service not long ago.

"We were always a little creeped out going down there," she remembered. "Like maybe he was looking at us through the trees."

The walls of the tiny museum at Bear Valley are full of artifacts and pictures, many of which feature Schimkes, including the three brothers. A shelf is devoted to Monte Wolfe artifacts, displaying his tools and pictures of the man at various ages during his time in the High Country.

Remembered as a rascal, a roustabout and a thief, one might question why Wolfe has become such a legend, and sometimes role model, for so many.

"It's because of the history of it and the legend of it," Schimke Lewis said. "I'm still fascinated by the man."

"Why Monte Wolfe?" De Young mused. "I've asked myself that question a lot of times. Him and I, we've obviously lived very different lives. But I think inside of myself ... I feel close to him because I feel that there may have been some similarities in our character. I'm really fascinated by somebody that lives outside of our culture. He didn't follow the rules of society. He kind of made his own."

At the time of his disappearance, Wolfe was in his 50s and his vision was failing. While rumors abound in the High Country about the revenge of a jealous husband or angry victim of theft being the cause of his death, the only person who might have some clues about the mystery of his life is De Young, who lives in Walnut Creek and has spent years researching and writing about the Lone Wolf.

De Young's fascination with the recluse began as a young Boy Scout in the '60s, when an old-timer told the tale of Monte Wolfe to a group of campers before leading them to the cabin, where they spent the night.

"I was just touched in that whole trip ... by the solitude of any guy who would want to live down there," said De Young, whose interest in Wolfe was renewed after his retirement from a career as an information

technology manager for United Airlines. At that time, he said, he decided to focus on writing and his interest in genealogy, and it seemed a logical choice to explore the mystery he had been so touched by in his childhood.

"As a kid ... I was just mystified and had a feeling of reverence when I was in the canyon, knowing that he had disappeared down there ... and as a young kid that kind of whacks you pretty hard."

Using genealogy Web sites, court records, U.S. Census data and the historical archives from Calaveras, Tuolumne and Alpine counties, De Young has compiled a comprehensive history of Wolfe, beginning with his childhood and ending with his disappearance.

"That's going to be the real remaining secret," De Young said. While he has some clues (which he wouldn't divulge to a curious reporter) as to the events surrounding Wolfe at that time, De Young said ultimately, the man himself is probably the only person who knew what truly happened in 1940.

# ALPINE

## Alpine chamber helps lost find their way

by Virginia York

"Do you have a map or something? We're kind of lost." I turned round to see an unshaven face wearing sunglasses and a baseball cap peering round the door. Teresa Burkhauser sprang to the rescue with a warm greeting and clear directions to Blue Lakes. She laughed as she returned to her desk saying: "We call them the lost and found."

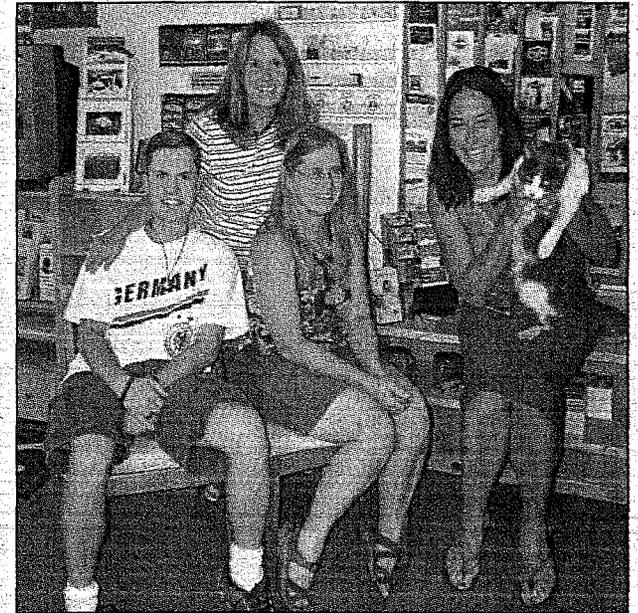
It was an hour before the official opening time but the

door of the chamber of commerce had stood open since 6 a.m. welcoming such confused early birds. Teresa explained that sometimes tourists arrive in Markleeville after traveling for hours, tired and in need of guidance. Chamber staff extend a genial "Hail fellow, well met!" often accompanied by the offer of a cup of coffee, ensuring that visitors have a good first impression of Alpine County. One of Teresa's favorite parts of the job is meeting families in

Alpine County for the first time and wanting to know where to camp and hike, the children, on their very first camping trip, jumping about with glee, longing to go to the hot springs and explore the museum.

The Articles of Incorporation of the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce are dated June 25, 1928. Mary Gray was the first president. There had been various headquarters before the chamber moved in the late '80s to the

trailer, cunningly encased in an attractive wooden shell, appropriately the first building as one enters Markleeville traveling from Woodfords on Highway 89. It was formerly occupied by the Bank of America; the old safe is used for storage. The chamber is staffed by Teresa, the executive director, and her assistant, Amy Broadhurst. Joyce Coker works with them during the summer. Funding comes from a percentage of the County's Transient



Special to The R-C  
Members of the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce staff include summer help Cody Burkhauser, Teresa Burkhauser, Joyce Coker, Amy Broadhurst and Eureka the chamber cat.

Friday, July 31, 2009

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Occupancy Tax, (the "bed tax"), the Death Ride, chamber membership and the sale of maps, books, tapes, postcards and Death Ride merchandise.

The Alpine County Chamber of Commerce and Visitors' Center performs a number of functions — providing information to the traveling public, promoting established businesses and assisting them with marketing plans, budget etc., advising prospective business people, organizing the Death Ride and the Scenic Celebration. This is also the place to go for campfire and wood-cutting permits. The staff produces the Alpine County Visitors' Guide; they advertise in Via and Sunset magazines, which generates an average of 100 requests for information per week and they maintain a Web site promoting tourism in the county and the businesses of the 88 members. This is only one of the many benefits of being a member. The chamber periodically refurbishes the Alpine County display in the state Capitol.

The staff also produces an Alpine County exhibit at the California State Fair. This year, however, because the fish-planting budget had been cut, the members decided to use the exhibit money to plant fish, ultimately helping our economy as fishing is a big draw to the county. The Dumpsters which appear in town at the beginning of summer are supplied by the chamber for the use of visitors. In cooperation with Sorensen's Resort the chamber maintains the handicap fishing access at Pickett's Junction.

The Death Ride, which will be celebrating its 30th anniversary next year, is an endurance bicycle tour of five Alpine County passes and the county's biggest event. It takes a year to plan. Approximately 3,000 riders and the same number of spectators come to this county whose population is less than 2,000. Planning parking, accommodation and food for such a crowd is, one imagines, an interesting logistical problem. The event gives the best technical and medical support of any similar event on the west coast. Local nonprofit organizations, businesses and individuals benefit monetarily by providing various services for the 6,000 visitors.

Teresa reflected on our community's willingness to help. Hundreds of people from Alpine and adjacent counties gladly donate their time to contribute to the atmosphere of excitement and cooperation. Working on problems together to produce a successful Death Ride strengthens our community.

When Teresa, who lives in Carson Valley, first came to work at the chamber seven years ago she was embraced by locals as the new kid on the block. She has made many good friends here and receives help on a wide range of individuals and groups, including the board of supervisors. Her respect and affection for the people of Alpine County and her love of the job have grown with the passing years.

Thanks to Teresa Burkhauser for information for this article.

RC  
July 31, 2009

# Alpine grand jury report made public

## Staff Reports

The Alpine County civil grand jury 2008-09 final report was released to the public on July 14.

The 84-page report can be viewed and downloaded from the Alpine County Superior Court Web site, [www.alpine.courts.ca.gov](http://www.alpine.courts.ca.gov), in addition to being available at the Alpine County libraries at Markleeville and Bear Valley, or the office of the Alpine County Clerk in Markleeville.

The report was approved for distribution by the grand jury supervising Judge Richard Specchio on June 30.

As required by California law, the report respondents were provided the report in advance of the public release on July 14. This year's required report respondents are the Alpine County Chief Administrative Officer and the Alpine County Board of Supervisors.

The law requires written responses by the respondents to the Superior Court within 60 days of receipt to the 74 findings and 57 recommendations contained in the report. The public can view what the responses are to the report, and what has been done, or planned to be done by the county by checking the above Web site after the 60-day period under the "response" section on the grand jury page of the court Web site.

The 2008-09 final report included the required selection of a county governmental entity to review, in this case the Department of Public Works, and the investigation of three complaints submitted in writing and signed by the members of the public.

One of these complaints regarded the operations of the department and its then-director. During the term of the grand jury, the director resigned.

One complaint involved the property ownership and land use issues of the former and new U. S. Forest Service guard stations in Markleeville. There was a failure of the county and forest service to document and complete the property transfers with each other in an appropriate and timely manner that may impact the future use and ownership of property by the county. The third complaint involved the Bear Valley Resort and its use of foreign workers and a related issue of inaccessibility to notify and file complaints with Alpine County.

The largest portion of the report is focused on the review and investigation of the department of public works.

During its review of the operations and management of the department, grand jurors determined there were at least 12 issues including but not limited to: a general overview of the department, incomplete projects and project mismanagement, lack of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, county road crew staffing safety issues, fleet replacement and mechanical shop operations, department director recruitment and selection, budget reductions and a proposed reorganization, the former assistant to the board employee and interview issues with the board of supervisors.

Per state of California code, the report provided specific findings and recommendations. Findings are fact-based and used to develop the nonbinding recommendations.

## Alpine Museum a portal to another age

by Irving Krauss

Curator Wanda Coyan and Assistant Joanne Oehlerking welcome residents and visitors to view the old schoolhouse, the jail, and the carriage house with a blacksmith shop exhibit, as well as the stamp mill, the only working one in the area.

From Highway 88 in Woodfords it's six miles on State Route 4 and 89 to Markleeville. Then turn right on Montgomery Street that's by the Wolf Creek Restaurant in the large white building. The museum is open Friday through Sunday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. and on Mondays by special arrangement.

Once inside the museum building you go back in time to the exhibits of an old store, Chalmer's Mansion, Washo life and baskets, and Snowshoe Thompson. See the paintings of Alpine's Walt Monroe and peruse the museum store with its books of local and regional interest and animal toys

that delight children. And enjoy the picnic tables outside. The museum and its facilities are handicap accessible.

Coyan directs the museum following former Director Dick Edwards' retirement. Edwards, as director emeritus, edits the newsletter and The Alpine Review, and provides advice and help upon his visits from his home in Southern California.

Coyan's responsibilities include organizing and securing the collections, photographing and numbering each item and listing it in the computer. She noted that for a nominal fee the museum will make copies of family photographs in its collection and accepts gifts of historic value as well as bequests and donations.

The museum and its staff is funded by Alpine County with support from the county's active historical society. The society helps in planning and funding projects such as the restoration of Monroe paintings.

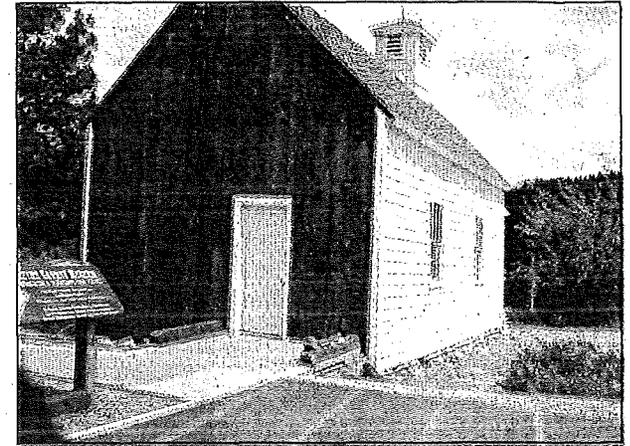
Its officers are President Rick Dustman of Mesa Vista, Vice-President Irving Krauss, Woodfords, and Treasurer Dolores Clark also of Woodfords, and Secretary Ernestine Fogarty, Markleeville.

Other board members are Judge Richard Speccio, Woodfords and Kathleen Andrews, Markleeville, and Past President Gary Coyan also of Markleeville, a non-voting board member.

The historical society conducts quarterly potluck meetings in Turtle Rock Park that feature programs by experts on topics of local historical interest.

Presentations have included archeological findings in the drained Caples Lake, the history of the Basques in Alpine and nearby Nevada, animal trapping, and a photo and music depiction of the Sierra Nevada.

The next meeting is Aug. 30 with a talk by Don DeYoung on the legend of Monte Wolf.



Special to The R-C

The old Alpine County school house is part of the museum.

## Caples Lake comes back

by Adam Jensen

ajensen@tahoedailytribune.com

It's the dam at Caples Lake that creates the popular spot for anglers about 30 minutes from South Lake Tahoe on Highway 88.

It's that same dam that has also posed a threat for more than a year to fishing at the lake — one of four high alpine reservoirs in the El Dorado Irrigation District's electricity generation system.

An emergency repair to the outlet

works at the main dam required a drawdown at the lake last summer that left only 3 percent of the lake's 22,340 acre-feet storage capacity.

The extra water, combined with an aggressive fish stocking plan by the irrigation district and the California Department of Fish and Game, has kept the fish biting, said John Voss, owner of Caples Lake Resort.

So far this summer, more than 80,000 brown, rainbow and brook trout, 140,000 rainbow fingerlings and

80,000 Mackinaw fingerlings have been planted in Caples, Voss said.

And people continue to catch the 5- to 15-pound trophy trout stocked by the irrigation district at the end of June, Voss said.

An 11-pound rainbow trout has been the latest catch from that plant, Voss said.

But a misconception that the lake is still at last summer's levels remains among some, Voss said.

For more information on conditions at Caples Lake visit: <http://capleslakeresort.wordpress.com/>

# ALPINE COUNTY

## Utility district describes plan for future

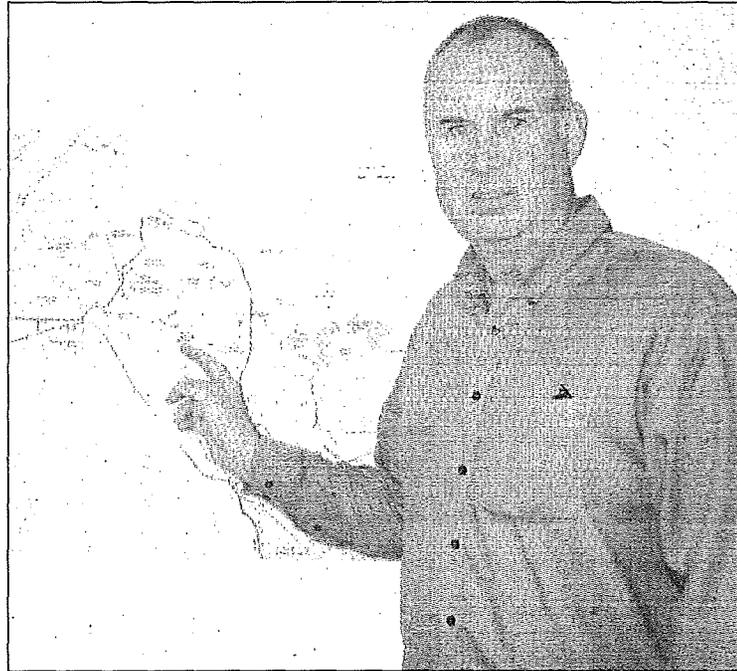
by Bill Morgan

About a year ago this journalist wrote an article about the relationship between Alpine County and the South Tahoe Public Utility District.

I explained how the two came together in a sort of partnership whereby the district transports treated sewage effluent from South Lake Tahoe by pipeline over Luther Pass and discharges it into a reservoir at the north end of the county.

If you read that article, you would know that the effluent is recycled for use as irrigation water for several ranches in the county during the growing season. The arrangement was set forth in a contract between the two entities in the late 1960s, and under the terms of that contract the district provides Alpine County around \$100,000 and 15,000 pounds of fish each year.

So what does the county do with that money? The answer is that it's banked and accumulated for use in making capital improvements in the county. The county has any number of projects that need to be done, not the least of which is to provide a place for the sheriff's department instead of



Special to The R-C  
Hal Bird of the South Tahoe Public Utility District describes the district's plan for Alpine County.

being in the basement of the court house as it is now. But I digress. This article is about the district's plans for its operation in the county in the future.

On July 23, the district released a draft environmental impact statement, which describes and analyzes its proposed new master plan

and a number of projects it has in mind to do on its area of operation in the county.

Those projects, which would be done as funds become available, are intended to improve the transport and distribution of the recycled effluent for irrigation as well as to improve the quality and

### DETAILS

**What:** Public hearing on South Tahoe Public Utility District's master plan

**When:** 1-3 p.m. Sept. 2

**Where:** Turtle Rock Park near Markleeville

**Info:** [www.stpud.us/](http://www.stpud.us/)

quantity of fresh water in Indian Creek Reservoir.

If you read that earlier article, you would know that the district built that reservoir back in the '60s in which to discharge its highly treated effluent.

Well, that system didn't work as well as it might have, so they built a new reservoir nearby to contain the effluent and converted Indian Creek Reservoir to a fresh water lake. Some of those 15,000 pounds of fish goes into that lake each year.

You were wondering what those fish were for? Well, there's the answer. Those are live fish and they are planted in lakes and streams in the county under the direction of the county Fish and Game Commission.

On Tuesday, representatives of the district met with the county's STPUD Contract Commission to give it an update about the district's plans and to report on the

extensive ground water monitoring program that it conducts. For the benefit of the commission, district Land Application Manager Hal Bird went over a list of proposed projects.

During the meeting Bird reminded the commission of two meetings scheduled for the public to learn about the master plan and those projects and to make comments for the district to consider prior to preparing its final environmental impact statement. That document will lead to adoption of a new master plan.

We're nearly done here, folks. Now this is what you do if you're interested in that master plan and its possible environmental impacts: review the draft report which can be read at the Markleeville library, the Eldorado County library in South Lake Tahoe, or at the district's offices in South Lake Tahoe. It can also be found on the district's Web site.

Or you could attend one of those public hearings, the one at Turtle Rock Park near Markleeville 1-3 p.m. Sept. 2, or the one at the district offices in South Lake Tahoe on Sept. 3.

The public comment period closes on Sept. 6.

# SIERRA

## Alpine grand jury report available to residents

by Joyce DeVore

The Alpine County civil grand jury 2008-09 has published its findings and residents may obtain a free copy at the Alpine County Courthouse in Markleeville.

The report represents 12 months of work by a dozen volunteer members of the community. Their sworn purpose is to act as an independent and confidential body to inquire into "county matters of civil concern," as prescribed by the California Constitution. The constitution provides that the jury has legal counsel available at no cost, including a judge, the district attorney, county council, and the attorney general's office.

Each year the grand jury must review a specific county office or department. Also, it reviews written and signed citizen complaints alleging misconduct of government employees or elected officials, or inefficiency of government.

Reading the report allows the public windows into county operations. Otherwise, we depend on word-of-mouth about the departments and/or employees who are doing a good job. We rely on those volunteers' informed accounts.

This year's report by the grand jury reviewed the department of public works, since that department had not been reviewed for 18 years.

More than 20 individuals gave interviews and many documents were reviewed. The report cites both strengths and weaknesses in the department.

For example, it states that the construction of the Markleeville Library Park "involved a total upgrade to the grass area adjacent to the Markleeville Library." The drinking fountain in the park was purchased for approximately \$3,500. However, "due to improper installation," the drinking fountain repair cost the taxpayer "approximately \$4,000-\$5,000 for the repair."

The grand jury made several recommendations to the department of public works based on its findings. For example, Finding 25 states that "The three county large snowplow/sanders have exceeded the industry-standard of years in service as first-line equipment of usually 10-15 years. The years of service of the current county plows are



Special to The R-C  
Lila and Lauren Ellis demonstrate the new water fountain at Markleeville Library Park.

two at 21-years, and one at 29-years. Each of these units new would be valued at approximately \$160,000 each to replace."

Correspondingly, recommendation 16 states, "The grand jury suggests the county address the immediate need to replace the three large snowplow/sander units. The minimum target the grand jury is recommending is to replace one within a year, the other two at three-year interval each for the result of three new units within seven years by

2016."

After reading that section, a citizen would understand why the county would elect to purchase expensive equipment during these difficult economic times.

Will the department follow the recommendations? According to law, the department has 90 days to respond to the recommendations. The response must be one of the following: a summary regarding the implemented action; a timeframe to implement the action in the future; an explanation of why the matter needs further analysis and a six-month plan to review necessary information; or an explanation of why the recommendation is not warranted or not reasonable.

Several issues regarding both elected and appointed personnel are reviewed in the report. Individuals must respond to recommendations within 60 days. The board of supervisors will receive a copy of the responses.

The final part of the report includes sample documents, e-mails, and reports, as well as information about requirements and applications for grand jury service.

The Grand Jury for 2009-10 is now accepting letters from Alpine County residents. Submit letters to Alpine County Grand Jury, P.O. Box 102, Markleeville, CA 96120.

## Woodfords Station 4.0

by Virginia York

"I like to go for coffee with my grandpa," wrote Morgana - le- Fae in her first-grade journal.

"Do you go to Woodfords Station?" I asked.

"Yes," she replied, "it's my favorite place. I have hot chocolate."

In 1854, Willis P. Merrill opened the first Woodfords store in what is known today as the Wade House. The house still stands and is believed to be the oldest in this area. Wells Fargo Express used Merrill's trading post as an office and during the five weeks in 1860 that the Pony Express was routed through Woodfords mail was picked up and delivered there. Merrill did business at this location for eight years then took a lease on another place in the upper part of the town. In 1881, this store burned down. Later that year another store was built on the site where the next two stores were constructed.

Stewart Merrill recalls that the store built in 1881 had shelves all the way up to the ceiling. Goods were retrieved from the top shelves with the help of ladders on rails. The local kids loved to roll back and forth on those ladders. Etched in his memory is that day in 1926 when the Woodfords Store burned down.

He was 3 or 4 years old. His parents parked the car on the other side of the street and told him to stay inside. Then they ran to help put out the fire. The fire fighters had a trailer with a pump and a hose. There were three men on each side of the pump pushing up and down on levers which drew up water from a ditch. Stewart's father, Grant Merrill, said that the Washoe Tribe stored ceremonial robes upstairs in the store. Sadly the gowns were lost in the fire. A new store was built later in

the year.

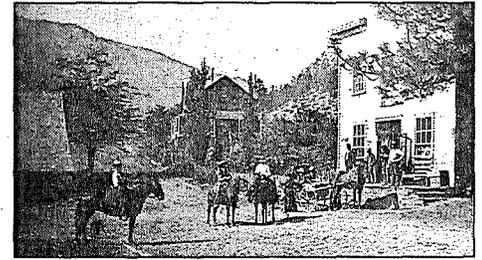
Gary Coyan remembers his mother, Elizabeth Ellis Coyan, talking about dancing all night at the Woodfords Store. In the winter she and her husband used to heat rocks to keep their feet warm in the buggy. The children were put down to sleep in the kitchen.

In 1978, Dean McKinley and Judy Farnsworth became caretakers for the store for owner Stewart Merrill. The same year Dean started the Alpine Food Co-op, still going strong. He and Judy used to sell fresh fruits and vegetables, purchased in the San Francisco produce market, on the porch of Woodfords Station. They stored the co-op food in the old stone cellar, left over from the previous store. The blue grass group, High in the Saddle, were neighbors and played at the street dance organized by Dean to help launch the co-op.

Locals reminisce about the excellent water that used to pour out of the spring in the hillside behind Woodfords Station and was purified in a series of settling tanks before spilling from a pipe into a hollowed-out log trough. People would fill their pitchers at the spring which ran constantly, year-round. Gary Coyan remembers that all the boys and girls coming home on Saturday nights from parties and dances and ball games used to stop at the spring for a drink. This water system was destroyed in the Acorn Fire of 1987.

In 1978, Stewart Merrill sold Woodfords Station to two Tahoe lawyers. On July 16, 1979, Woodfords Station burned yet again. No. 4 was built.

In June 1983 Dave Kirby leased Woodfords Station. He was semi-retired and was looking for something to do in a rural area. He was dating Lynda who worked at Caesar's Tahoe. Later that year



Bernice Dangberg collection

Woodfords store in 1902.

they were married next door in the backyard of the Merrill House which they had rented.

Lynda says the key to good business is consistency. Dave and Lynda epitomize this quality. The store is open 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week every day of the year except Thanksgiving and Christmas. They feel blessed to have such good helpers in Terrie Hannafin and Megan O'Neal.

Woodfords Station attracts locals and tourists alike with lottery ticket buyers adding a new dimension to their clientele. The old timers (Bad Boys) meet in the mornings and roll the dice to decide who pays the bill. Dave joins in and sometimes has to stand the group coffee and bear claws. Around the walls is a remarkable collection of baseball hats. Lynda started the famous chili cook-off later adopted by the Alpine Kids who added the Country Fair. They ran the event for eleven years.

Dave and Lynda are known for their cheerful generosity and many contributions to the community (and for sour cream apple pies and hamburger soup).

Thanks to: Dave and Lynda Kirby, Stewart and Eileen Merrill, Wanda and Gary Coyan, Judy Farnsworth, Dean McKinley, Edie Veatch, Nancy Thornburg and The Alpine Heritage.

## Alpine County hosts photo contest

Staff Reports

Alpine County is hosting a contest to find a photo for the cover of the Alpine

County Final Budget for 2009-10. The best entry from an Alpine County resident will win a \$50 prize.

Submit photos electroni-

cally in a jpeg format by Sept. 18 to [alpinecao@alpinecountyca.gov](mailto:alpinecao@alpinecountyca.gov). Call (530) 694-2287 for more information.

# ALPINE COUNTY

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## Kirkwood's disc golf course a popular destination

by Sara Thompson  
sthompson@tahoedailytribune.com

Kirkwood Mountain Resort is a popular destination on a powder day, but it also contains a jewel for summer recreation.

The resort has its own disc golf course, Disc Wood, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary.

The course is popular with locals and visitors alike, said Ricky Newberry, Kirkwood's mountain safety manager. Many travelers come from the Bay Area and the Carson Valley to play the course, he added.

"A lot of people like this course because it's rugged and on a mountain," Newberry said.

The course opened on July 24, 1999, and was designed by Tim Parsons, now editor of the Tribune's Lake Tahoe Action publication.

The Kirkwood summer activities director contacted Parsons to design a course. He walked around the site until he came upon one area that struck him. The disc golfer would tee off from the top of the rock, down the hill, and putt uphill onto a log.

"It was a natural hole to throw from that rock into the old-growth woods," Parsons said.

That became the eighth hole of



Adam Jensen/Tahoe Daily Tribune

A disc golfer tees off at the 11th hole at Kirkwood Mountain Resort's Disc Wood disc golf course.

the course, Parsons said.

The course starts at the Timber Creek Lodge, and it's a good idea to pick up a map at the General Store before tackling the course. Some of the baskets are hard to find without assistance.

When Parsons designed the

holes, he made sure players would have multiple options for approaching the baskets.

He also wanted to make it tough for both right- and left-handers.

After the course was designed, the baskets installed and the concrete set, Parsons went out the next

day to play the course. Players were already out there.

"As soon as those baskets went up, people started playing it," Parsons said.

One of the challenges of playing Disc Wood is the elevation. The resort sits at 7,800 feet and the

holes are long and uphill. It's a challenge because players' heart rates increase and then they have to putt, Parsons said. It's similar to the biathlon because the athletes are skiing, and then they must stop and have a steady hand to shoot a target, he added.

Another feature that sets Disc Wood apart from other local courses is the 16th hole: a par-5, 1,200-foot hole that starts by the TC Express chair lift. It's the longest hole in the area, Parsons said.

The course is up and running as soon as the snow melts, usually around June, and stays open until sometime in October.

Instead of storing the baskets last winter, Amador Parks and Recreation borrowed them to use at one of its sites, Newberry said.

"It worked out well for both of us," Newberry said. "We'd rather have them in use than sit idle for the winter."

The course is free to play and open 24/7, Newberry said. If players forget or lose discs, they can find more at the General Store.

And it doesn't take a lot of manpower to maintain the course. Newberry said the disc golf crowd takes ownership of the area, and has a "pack it in, pack it out mentality."

## Good time to climb Alpine's highest peak

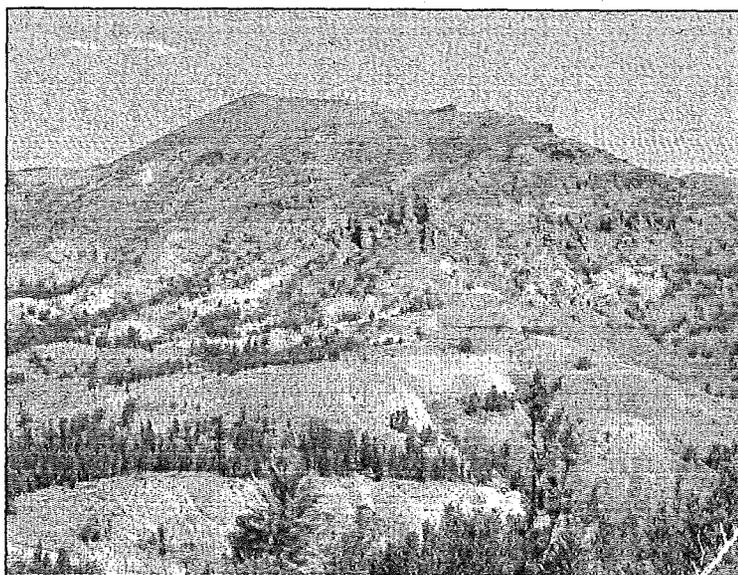
by Jim Donald

Now is the time to climb Alpine County's highest peak which is, of course, Sonora Peak. At 11,462 feet this massive hunk of volcanic rock sits a scant two miles north of Sonora Pass. Get there by driving south on Highway 395 then take State Route 108 15 miles to the pass. You'll climb about 2,100 feet and walk 8.5 miles roundtrip on the class I route I describe.

At the Sonora Pass trailhead (elevation 9,643 feet) begin by walking north on the Pacific Crest Trail. The trail climbs gently, meandering and undulating in and out of gullies for almost two miles before abruptly turning east to traverse the steep lower slopes of the peak. Approach a prominent volcanic outcrop and note the use trail leading north up the ridgeline. This is the way you'll come down.

Continue east on the trail as it traverses ever steepening slopes. You'll be glad you brought hiking poles on this section and good boots too. By now the lodgepole pines seen lower have disappeared and the scattered whitebarks are dwarfed by the elements.

The trail turns north, crosses a



Sonora is Alpine County's highest peak at 11,462 feet. Fall is the best time of year to climb the peak by taking the Pacific Crest Trail.

saddle, as it meanders in and out of gullies on the east face of the peak. Look for small hemlocks in the protected areas on the gradual descent to Wolf Creek Lake and again up higher on the peak. This lake drains southeast into the West Walker River and just beyond, over a small saddle, begins the East Fork of the Carson River.

We're not going to the lake however although it is a nice

lunch stop. Just before the lake find a granite outcrop and begin stair-stepping up it, taking the path of least resistance in a generally northwest direction. As the granite disappears under the overlying volcanic rock arc further left to head west to southwest and aim for the highest point.

In this last mile you'll climb about 1,100 feet to the summit. It's steep but not intimidating, and

you can feel the altitude here so adjust your pace accordingly. Other than one small line of shriveled waist-high whitebarks and hemlocks, trees are absent from these slopes.

As last the summit comes into view; note that it is at the north end of the ridgeline. Once there you'll find a register nestled in a rock shelter and a small wooden sign that says "Sonora Pk 11459" that you can hold for the photographer in your group.

Note that different elevations, all within five feet of each other, are given by different sources for this peak and that is actually true for elevations all over the globe with the advent of more precise satellite visual and laser imaging.

Admire the dramatic views in all directions. Stanislaus Peak to the north, the Dardanelles in the west, Leavitt, Tower and other numerous peaks of the Yosemite high country fill in the south. East are the Sweetwaters.

If the winds are howling, as they often are, hunker down on the lee side to plan your descent. If the winds are very strong retrace your route up. If not, follow the ridgeline southeast and stay on it as it does a long gentle arc to the

southwest. Except the very last few hundred feet this route is entirely visible from the peak and you'll occasionally be on use trails as you descend.

The terminus of this route will be that large volcanic outcropping on the Pacific Crest Trail. Stay on the ridge or just to its west. Shortcutting to the right or left, in most places, will get you on to ever steepening slopes of loose "ball-bearing" sized rocks. Once back on the trail retrace your route to the trailhead.

This peak requires preparation. Food, water, clothing appropriate to the weather, sunscreen and the remaining 10 essentials are important. Hiking poles can help on the steeps and in strong winds. Check the weather. Thunderstorms or snow should cancel this climb.

An interesting alternate route is described by Gary Suttle in his book "California County Summits." I have been up this route on exploratory trips to the base of the peak and skirted the peak to the north. I have never summited via this route.

Jim Donald is an Alpine County resident.

## Carson Tahoe offering flu shots

### Staff Reports

Carson Tahoe Regional Healthcare is offering seasonal flu vaccinations at the Minden Medical Center. The clinics will be held at 925 Ironwood Drive 1-5 p.m. Oct. 12 and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 19.

Shots are available to the community for a nominal fee of \$25.

The seasonal influenza vaccination will not protect from the H1N1 (swine) flu. However, the Center for Disease Control recommends that community members receive this vaccination before the H1N1

vaccine comes out in late October or early November.

While everyone is recommended to get their flu shot (unless they are under 6 months old or have a serious egg allergy), it is especially important if you are at high risk for contracting the illness. People at high risk include pregnant women, those 50 years or older, school children, health-care workers and those with chronic illnesses.

For more information on the seasonal flu shot, call the Carson Tahoe Flu Hotline at (775) 445-5595.

## Markleeville Creek Day is Saturday

### Staff Reports

Alpine County's eighth annual Markleeville Creek Day is 3-6 p.m. Saturday at the Markleeville Library Park.

The event will include water quality monitor training, trash clean-up, educational activities, live music and snacks. This event is free and all are welcome to attend.

This year's event is a recognition of the volunteers, partners and general community support committed to protecting Alpine County's watersheds for generations to come.

For more information, contact Alpine Watershed Group Coordinator, Sarah Green at (530) 694-2327.

# ALPINE

## Markleeville Artists Open Studio coming Oct. 3 and 4

by Joyce DeVore

A group of 18 artists are hosting the seventh annual Markleeville Artists Open Studios Oct. 3 and 4. The fall color of Alpine County and the stunning work of local artists create an absolutely free "Concert of Color," the theme of this year's show.

Guides are available at the Woodfords Store and the Markleeville Chamber of Commerce. You may plan a route and time at your convenience, since all studios will be open both days from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Each open studio is well marked with a yellow banner and parking is accessible. All art is for sale.

There are four artists open studios in the Woodfords area, featuring metal sculpture, watercolor painting, acrylic painting, and a studio with multiple media. Evelyn Yonker's working studio shows her interest in "many kinds of art and in sharing experience and knowledge with others," Yonker said. Her home was built around her studio, which has expansive views of the Carson Valley. This year she is selling hand-painted silk scarves and shawls, along with pastel art, watercolor, and sculpture. The other Woodfords artists offer park-



Members of the Markleeville Artists Open Studios pose with their artwork. Special to The R-C

like settings along with their open studios, Ida Glazier opens her watercolor studio, with work focusing on her love of ranching and horses, at the historic Fredericksburg Ranch. Linda Merrill owns the charming B&B where her oil paintings of Alpine County and Carson Valley will be available. Susan Flakus displays her striking metal sculptures in a wooded glen along the Carson River.

Traveling toward Markleeville, along Highway 89, there is a studio full of organic and natural fiber, wearable art from Dianna Mitzner.

Charles Muench is turning the Itildo Realty Office in downtown

Markleeville into an art gallery for the open studio tour. Muench has studied internationally, now teaches workshops across the states, and won first place last year at the Heritage Art Exhibition. Muench said.

"Painting is eminently fascinating. Brushstrokes are the footprints of the artist's emotions. In putting pigment on canvas, I strive for the same honesty and trueness of a Johnny Cash song." His work is inspired by the beauty of the Sierra Nevada and its people.

Peter Chope and Sandy Baenen share a working studio on Montgomery Street, with a panoramic view of Raymond Peak. Chope's watercolors capture the

contrasts in color and shape of the Sierra Nevada and Arizona desert. New paintings include "Potholes," "Pleasant Valley," "Hope Valley," and "Desert Bloom." Baenen's work includes watercolor and note card pictures of the nostalgic life of Markleeville.

Ten artists have open studios in Markleevillage, which is two miles from downtown Markleeville off Hot Springs Road. Jeff Brees works as a full-time artist, operating Gardenworks which makes high quality topiary frames for residential and commercial gardens. His larger works are on display at the entrance to the San Diego Zoo and at private residences across the United States. His interest grew from family connections: an aunt who was a jeweler, silversmith, and art teacher, and his parents Dave and Jan Brees who operated a nursery specializing in container gardens. Jan Brees will also sell her art, a collection of birds created from natural stone and life-like metal leaves.

On Timber Lane, Todd Branscombe and Kaye Jobst host a collection of Branscombe's photograph, which includes close-up pictures of wildlife and artistic renditions of local sites. Jobst has been making pine needle baskets for 20 years, and will have an impressive display of them this

year. Just around the corner, Russel Ketenjian offers wood-fired ceramics, paintings and musical sketches.

Climbing Pleasant Valley Road, turn left on Pinion for open studios with Carolyn and Mark Vaughn and another with Richard Shokouh. The Vaughns' studio features Raku pottery, which is both artistic and functional. Shokouh creates self-illuminating light boxes by mixing painting, mosaics, and stained glass.

One street up, "Off Her Rocker" studio offers jewelry, gift baskets, recycled furniture, and assorted organic goods.

Suzanne Barr's studio is at the very top of Pleasant Valley. Her show is titled "For the Birds," which is a collection of her pottery designed for the garden.

Among the sponsors of this year's studio tour are the following places for refreshments and/or lunch: Sorensen's in Hope Valley, Hope Valley Café and Market in Woodfords Canyon, Woodford's Station on Old Pony Express Road in Woodfords, The Deli in downtown Markleeville, the Markleeville General Store in downtown, and The Wolf Creek in the renovated Alpine Hotel.

# Markleeville Artists Autumn Open Studio Tour this weekend

## Staff Reports

Artists open their studios to share artwork as varied as the autumn colors of Sierra aspens and cottonwoods during the Markleeville Artists seventh annual Autumn Open Studio Tour, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Work by 18 artists will be on display in the free Concert of Color tour. More than 400 people attended last year's two-day event.

Artwork on the tour includes watercolors by Peter Chope and

### DETAILS

**What:** Markleeville Artists Open Studio Tour

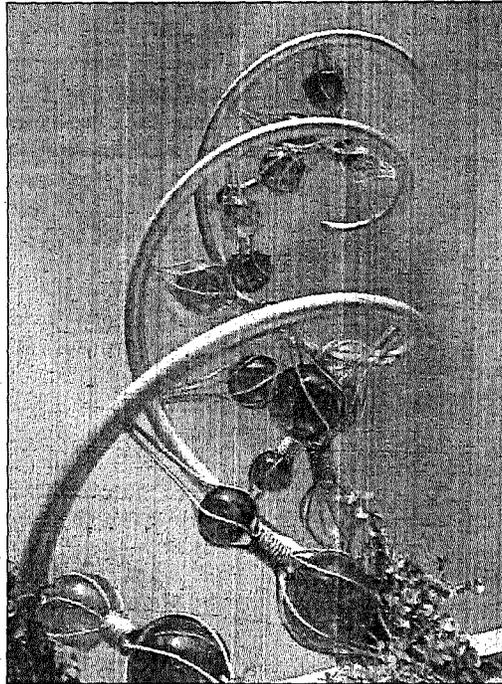
**When:** 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

**Info:** Alpine County Chamber of Commerce, Markleeville or [markleevilleartists.com](http://markleevilleartists.com)

Sandy Baenan, creative confectionery of Debra Esteban, oil paintings by Charles Muench, and topiary by Jeff Brees, who was commis-

sioned to create a garden sculpture by the Joint Genome Institute in Walnut Creek.

Maps with directions to the Markleeville-neighborhood homes and studios available at the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce. Artists' studios will be marked with yellow and gold banners. Information, [www.markleevilleartists.com](http://www.markleevilleartists.com)



Special to The R-C

Artwork by Jeff Brees is featured during the Markleeville Artists seventh annual Autumn Open Studio Tour this weekend.

### Participating artists:

Sandy Baenan

Suzanne Barr

Dale Bennett

Todd Branscombe

Jan Brees

Jeff Brees

Peter Chope

Debra Esteban

Susan Riherd Flakus

Ida Glazier

Kaye Jobst

Russel Ketenjian

Linda Merrill

Dianne Mitzner

Charles Muench

Richard Shokouh

Mark and Carolyn Vaughn

Evelyn Yonker

# ALPINE

## Hope Valley chef cooks her pies to order

by Joyce DeVore

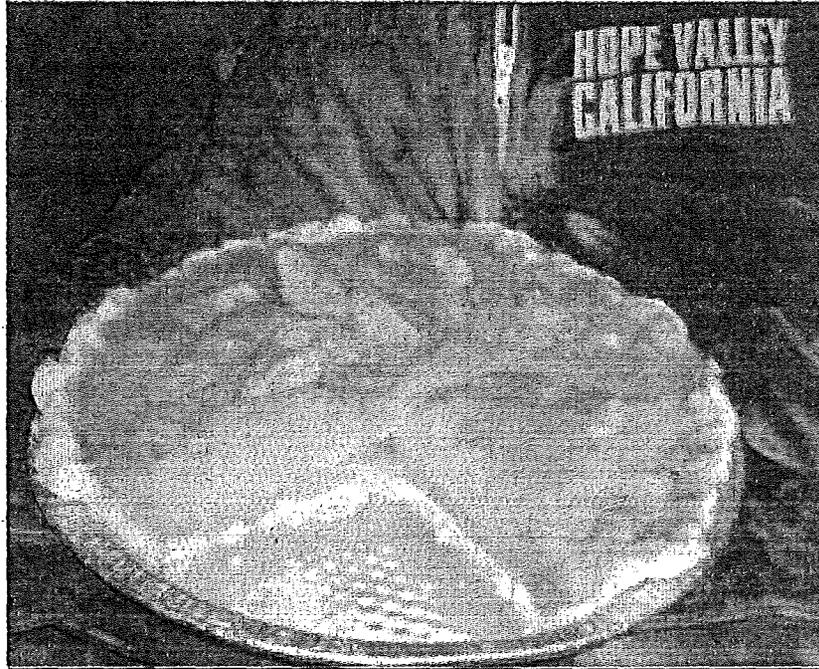
Alpine County's own version of Julia Child cooks at a little café in Hope Valley. Her name is Leesa Lopazanski, and her café is the popular Hope Valley Café.

The café opens early, so a few fishermen came in for coffee and homemade pastries. One man from Folsom said that his buddies tease him about stopping at the little café.

From the outside, the café looks like a small mom-and-pop convenience store and coffee shop. Stepping inside, one finds a creative dynamo with tousled black hair, proudly displaying cases of homemade pies and a counter laden with monster cookies and cakes. The fisherman hasn't told his friends why he like to stop at the café: he just told them "It's a secret." The secret is out.

Breakfast, lunch, gourmet coffee, as well as camping supplies and gift items by local artists are all additional draws to the café.

Last week, she made several kinds



Special to The R-C

One of Alpine County's Leesa Lopazanski's handmade pies.

of peach pies and peach cakes.

"The librarian, Rita Lovell, brought in bags of peaches from her trees, so I made peach desserts from these local peaches," Lopazanski explained.

With the change in weather, there will be homemade soup daily.

She appreciates the local folk as well as the people who come to see the beauty of the Sierra. "People are asking for a place to have dinner," she said, "maybe something simple, but good."

Knowing that she cannot possibly open a restaurant for three meals every

day, she is starting with some evening events to see how they go.

Other requests have challenged Lopazanski to do more baking.

"Since people want pies for Thanksgiving, I am taking orders by telephone for the whole month of November," she said. "I will make traditional pies or any kind the person requests."

One can order by calling (530) 694-2323. Pick up dates are Nov. 22, 23, and 24.

Joyce DeVore is a Markleeville resident.

## Markleeville art studio brings 'A Concert of Color'

Staff Report

Each Autumn, Sierra aspens and cottonwoods create a symphony of music hitting all notes of the color spectrum.

Local artists in the small mountain town of Markleeville open their studios. The seventh annual Autumn Open Studio Tour will be 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The tour of the artists' studios is free.

Maps with directions to the Markleeville-vicinity homes and studios will be

available during the weekend at the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce.

Visit [www.markleevilleartists.com](http://www.markleevilleartists.com) for more information.

The watercolors of Peter Chope and Sandy Baenan, creative confectionary of Debra Esteban, oil paintings of Charles Muench, topiary work of Jeff Brees (who was commissioned by the Joint Genome Institute in Walnut Creek, Calif., to create a sculpture for their gardens) and many others.

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# Bear Valley mitigations addressed

## Caltrans, county working with CCOG to alleviate impacts

By Claudette Langley

The dominant topic at this month's meeting of the regional transportation agency was another county's project.

The longest discussion at last week's Calaveras County Council of Governments' board meeting was how to approach the sticky issue of getting adequate mitigation for the project known as the New Village at Bear Valley. Calaveras County, CCOG and Caltrans teamed up to work on encouraging the developers and Alpine County to provide appropriate solutions to future negative impacts on Calaveras County roads.

"I did get up and speak about how traffic impacts weren't addressed adequately," Public Works Director Tom Garcia said, referring to the September meeting of the Alpine County Planning Commission, during which the final environmental document of the project was approved 5-0.

While the FEIR sailed

through Alpine's process, the trio of Calaveras transportation and land-use planning departments still have concerns.

According to Dan Brewer, chief of rural planning and administration for Caltrans District 10, Caltrans has some major concerns about the FEIR's proposed mitigation measures for impacts to Highway 4 and has sent a 10-page letter to Alpine County outlining the issues.

"Caltrans regards the proposed mitigation for the proposed project's significant and unavoidable impacts to the state highway system to be inadequate. ... The project and all foreseeable future projects would cause SR-4 to operate at an unacceptable level of service in 2027," the letter stated.

The New Village at Bear Valley is envisioned to have 490 condominiums and 63,000 square feet of retail shopping, which will include restaurants,

# Calaveras

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## CCOG

*continued from A1*

and a resort spa, etc., in the village center. In addition, there will be a new high-speed chair lift that will connect the village to the mountain, according to materials from bearvalley.com.

On Wednesday, CCOG members noted that development will be a real boon to Alpine but that the only way for anyone to get to it is through Calaveras County. The expected increase in traffic could have increasingly negative effects on residents who live in along the route

"Currently the level of service is adequate," said Craig Turco, a CCOG board member. "Adding any other development could bring it down to a D level of service. For roadways to be considered adequate for heavy traffic they must be at least at a C level of service.

Turco said there are many intersections along Highway 4 that will be heavily affected once the village is up and running. He said residents along the corridor will have a much harder time just getting to grocery stores and the post office as a result.

"Potentially, if the impacts are not fully mitigated, it could cause the quality of life in

those areas to degrade to sub-standard," Turco said.

Brewer said that Caltrans estimates that there is at least \$8 million worth of mitigation needed to accommodate the expansion. However, the final number after the approval of the FEIR stands at only \$1.2 million.

At the core of the concerns is a lack of an adequate study of Calaveras County road impacts. Gary Tofanelli, a Calaveras County supervisor and alternate CCOG board member, added that not only would the project impact Highway 4, the county's other roads, such as Highways 12 and 26, would feel the pain of the increased traffic.

However, the group acknowledged that getting that expansion of a study would likely not be feasible.

In addition to road impacts, there were three other areas the

Alpine County Planning Commission wanted further information on, including that there is currently no parking management plan for the project; that there is no solution reached as yet to the need for increased wastewater treatment capacity; and that the EIR did not propose a formal plan for greenhouse gas reduction.

Garcia wrapped up the discussion, telling the board that Caltrans, CCOG and Public Works were still working with Alpine County planning staff and hoping to have more to report at a later date.

To see the plans for the New Village at Bear Valley visit [bearvalley.com/07](http://bearvalley.com/07) summer development.

Contact Claudette Langley at [clangley@calaverasenterprise.com](mailto:clangley@calaverasenterprise.com).

CE 10-12-07

# Pine Grove man killed in Alpine accident

## Staff Reports

A 37-year-old Pine Grove, Calif., man was killed Friday afternoon when the 2006 Corvette he was driving ran off the road on Highway 4 and landed upside down in Silver Creek near Graveyard Curve in Alpine County.

Ronnie Alvin Frisch was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident, according to Alpine County Sheriff's Sgt. Ron Michitarian.

According to the highway patrol, the Corvette was first spotted at 1:35 p.m. westbound on Highway 4 about four miles east of Ebbett's Pass.

Frisch came around a curve and crossed into the path of an eastbound patrol car driven by Officer Ebon Slack.

As Slack turned around to pursue

the Corvette, it accelerated out of sight. Slack broadcast the vehicle's description to the Alpine County Sheriff's Department.

About 20 minutes later, Slack spotted Frisch stopped in the middle of the road talking to the driver of a yellow Porsche.

Slack turned on his patrol lights and Frisch pulled over to the side of the road.

He allegedly told Slack he didn't have a license and the vehicle belonged to his girlfriend.

When Slack asked for the keys to the car, Frisch accelerated away. The Corvette was able to evade Slack and other Alpine County Sheriff's vehicles that arrived in the vicinity.

At about 2:34 p.m. authorities received a call that the Corvette was upside down in Silver Creek.

# CALAVERAS



# ENTERPRISE

*Voice of the Mother Lode*

calaverasenterprise.com

## Bear Valley Village plans move forward

By Joel Metzger

The unanimous approval of a proposed zoning change by the Alpine County Planning Commission last month brought the new Bear Valley Village project one step closer to breaking ground.

"In 2005 with new ownership, we began engaging the community to figure out how to get people to choose this area," said Leah Toeniskoetter, project manager for the Bear Valley Village Project. "We started it with our own public meeting and asked the community, 'Is this something you want?'"

"I think what we've found is that most of the folks along the Highway 4 Corridor support this project," said Rosie Sundell, director of marketing for Bear Valley. "Bringing people to Highway 4 is good for all of us.

"The Bear Valley Village will be located in the town of Bear Valley," Sundell continued. "The addition consists of 491 condominium units sized from studio to four bedrooms, 64,000 square feet of retail space, restaurants and amenities, including a homeowner locker room and a nursery to take care of children.

"In addition to that, we are building our 13 structures with parking located underneath all of them.

"We see a minimum of two summers per phase and maybe even a little bit longer. We have five or six phases planned. We're looking at 10 to 15 years if the economy gets going."

The existing lodge and commercial center will be torn down in stages to make room for por-

see Bear, page A7

## Bear

*continued from A1*

tions of the new complex.

"We won't have a huge space gain," Sundell said, because the new complex will occupy much of the same space where the existing buildings are now. "We will build this in phases over many years."

One key phase in the project, which will connect the village to the ski resort, is the planned construction of a high-speed quad chairlift. It will run from the village to the top of the Koala run, allowing homeowners and guests to ride directly from their place of lodging to the slopes.

"The lift is the key to connecting everything," Sundell said. "The part that makes the lift a bit challenging is that it's going to be two miles long. It's

going to be incredible, but it will be a huge investment.

"Something that we have that is pretty unique is that we have a strong contingent of local resident who are business owners as well. Since the economy is driven by homeowners and tourism, the local business owners will really be helped by this project."

"Having a better mountain product will help drive the local economy," Sundell added. "It will bring more visitors to the area and people along the corridor are very excited."

The resort will hold a Bear Valley Winter Preview event at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 29, at Ironstone Vineyards' Heritage Room, where people can find out more about the redevelopment project.

Contact Joel Metzger at [jmetzger@calaverasenterprise.com](mailto:jmetzger@calaverasenterprise.com).

10-16-09

CE 10-16-09

## Alpine's archivist preserves county's past

by Joyce DeVore

What is an archivist and why would a small county like Alpine ever need one?

An archivist is a keeper of memory, who collects, organizes and protects authentic historical materials while helping others make effective use of them.

Alpine County may never have had an archivist if, in 1960, a history major from University of California, Davis, named Nancy Thornburg hadn't stumbled on boxes of papers and leather-bound ledgers on the dirt floor of the courthouse basement, tucked behind the sheriff's office.

Thornburg had training and interest in historical documents, and her new mother-in-law was the former clerk-auditor-recorder of the county, so when no one else seemed to have an interest in the "old stuff that nobody wants to see," Thornburg began to organize and protect it.

"I have learned along the way," said Thornburg. "My first decision was to appeal to the board of supervisors for help archiving the existing records. We formed the Historical Records Commission, and I wrote a grant application to

the National Archives. The grant was approved for \$27,000 to hire an professional archivist for one year to get an orderly system in place for the county."

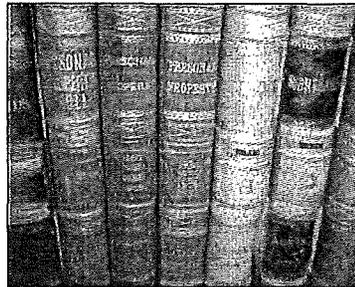
After learning how to hire an archivist, Thornburg carefully checked credentials and the county hired Inez Prinster. Prinster rented a motel room in Markleeville for a year and spent every weekday going through boxes, organizing, and setting up a system that would be workable for the future.

During the project in 1986, Prinster and her able assistant, Mary Wood, were surprised by boxes of records that mysteriously showed up in the sheriff's office.

Apparently, in the 1950s when the old records became cumbersome, the board of supervisors authorized them to be discarded.

When word got out that records were in the dump, several private citizens took whatever they could find and stored them.

"It is a mystery how those boxes showed up from time to time. The sheriff's office where Prinster worked was locked every night, but four or five times during the year, the archivist found new boxes waiting for her when



Special to The R-C  
Books in the Alpine County archives. At right, archivist Nancy Thornburg pulls one of the books.

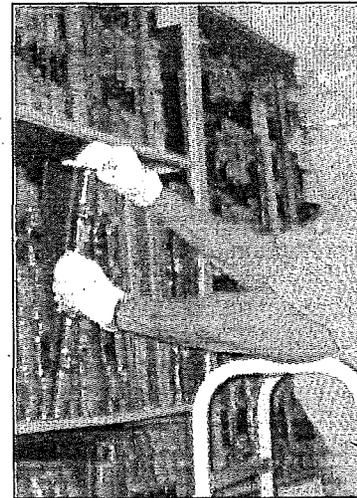
### DETAILS

**What:** Alpine County Archives open house in honor of Archives Month  
**When:** 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Saturday  
**Where:** Alpine County Library  
**Info:** (530) 694-2120

she arrived at work," Thornburg remembers.

The county archive was in good order, but there was no one professionally trained to keep the system going after Wood left county employment. Sometimes the job fell to a library assistant, sometimes the archive was simply ignored.

Meanwhile, Thornburg served as county museum director for 15 years, learning more about acqui-



sition and storing of historical documents.

She retired in 1997 but kept a keen interest in county history and archives.

By 2006, it was apparent that the archives were being underserved. Thornburg brought the matter to the board and offered to work three hours a week as assistant archivist. They hired her on the spot.

She generally works on Friday morning, but she is also available by appointment. By law, the archives must be available to the public because they contain offi-

cial county records.

Thornburg has helped authors and others find mining records, family members, trace property, find a naturalization paper, and many others.

The collection includes court cases and documents, assessment records, grand jury reports, board of supervisors minutes and subject files, and resolutions and ordinances, district attorney records, and so on.

The collection date back to 1864, when the county was created, and is nearly 100 percent in tact through about 1960.

Recently the supervisors approved the purchase of a database system, Past Perfect, which is designed for museum and archives collections.

Eventually she and Assistant County Librarian Rita Lovell hope to have the information online.

October is Archives Month, and there will be an open house on 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Saturday at the archives, located in the Alpine County Library.

Thornburg will be there to answer questions and show a sampling of the collection. Light refreshments will be served in the library.

# ALPINE

## A fed bear is a dead bear

by Virginia York

Our communal repertoire of bear stories grows each year. Unfortunately most of the stories have to do with bears raiding Dumpsters and garbage cans and breaking into houses, feasting on the contents of refrigerators. The stories of discreet observations of bears in the wild are fewer.

The black bear's natural diet consists mostly of berries, nuts, insects, grasses and small mammals. In late summer and fall they have to eat 20,000-25,000 calories a day to see them through the winter. The increasing human presence in areas where bears roam has given the bears a reliable year-round food source:

Dumpsters, garbage cans, houses, cars and campsites. Here they find high caloric, fatty foods: burgers and fries, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, chips, etc. which guarantee a reduced forage time, from half of the day to a mere two hours.

Bears living around humans grow twice as big and fat as those in the wild.

In bear habitat, where humans are not involved, female bears produce no more cubs than nature can sustain. Their aim is to survive and during lean years they will

often not bear offspring. When human food is available, however, the bears confidently have multiple births and take their young along to this never-ending food supply. The young grow up and continue the cycle, becoming less fearful of people and creating more of a problem in towns. But, as the Alpine County Sheriff's Department's bear information sheet states, "Bears aren't really the problem: people are." When there is no food bears will move on.

On Nov. 19, 1996, the board of supervisors passed an ordinance which requires all commercial businesses to use bear proof Dumpsters and to keep the lids closed and secured after disposing of garbage. Those who fail to comply are to be warned then cited. This summer businesses have been out of compliance with this ordinance, some occasionally, others frequently.

Chris Branscombe of the sheriff's department reports that no citations have been issued recently. She also says that private citizens can be cited for putting out garbage cans the day before collection.

Bear proof garbage containers are not yet required for residential use in this area. However, resident Gordon Heimerer takes this

responsibility seriously. For eight years he has been using a large metal tool box which fits two garbage cans.

Manufactured by Greenlea and available from Home Depot the box costs \$300-\$400 (far cheaper than bins built specifically for the purpose). He advises not to attach the container to the ground as this gives the bear leverage. Bears shake the box but have never been able to get into it.

Resident Marie Bravo has trained as a volunteer of The Bear League, an organization started in Lake Tahoe in 1998, which works with government agencies to educate people living in or visiting bear country and to assist in addressing bear problems. It helps people to learn to co-exist with wildlife in our neighborhoods. One of Marie's commitments is to remind businesses to secure their dumpsters. She suggests borrowing the movie "The Man Who Walks with Bears" from our library.

The Department of Fish and Game states: "...the goal of the statewide black bear policy is to minimize damage to private property without posing a threat to local bear populations." The agency attempts to re-educate nuisance bears through aversion pro-



Special to The R-C

A bear out for a walk in Alpine County.

### TIPS FOR LIVING WITH BEARS

How can we prevent this destruction of bears? Here are some measures we can take:

- Never feed bears.
- Spray ammonia, bleach, Pinesol or cayenne pepper solutions in and around garbage cans.
- Freeze smelly items and put into the can on garbage day.
- Feed pets indoors.
- Clean barbecue grills after use.
- Use electric fencing combined with a tall metal or wooden fence to protect orchards, fish ponds, beehives, com-

- post piles and livestock. Putting pine cones or boards with nails sticking through under fruit trees can help.
- Bring bird feeders in at night.
- Don't keep refrigerators and freezers in accessible locations.
- Keep windows closed enough to prevent bear entry.
- A high pressure hose nozzle can shoot a powerful stream of water which will scare off bears.
- Explain to non-compliant neighbors the problems that could arise.
- Don't keep food near open windows.

grams. This involves the use of bear dogs, rubber bullets and other devices to make the area undesirable to offending bears. They are sometimes transported a few miles away from towns into bear habitat. There is no relocation program in California. To relocate is to transport at least 75 miles.

Bears which become a threat to human safety in ways such as breaking into houses are shot.

Thanks to Carl Lackey, Marie Bravo, Paula Pennington, Gordy Heimerer, Chris Branscombe and The Bear League: (530) 525- PAWS.

# Attorney to seek Alpine judge's seat

Staff Reports

Alpine County's public defender has announced he is seeking election to the seat now held by retiring Alpine Superior Court Judge Richard K. Specchio.

Thomas D. Kolpacoff has served as public defender since 2005.

"I have been practicing in the Alpine courts since the 1980s; and have always loved that its legal community was small and friendly, yet professional," said Kolpacoff. "I look forward to serving in a new capacity, and believe my skills and expertise will be a good match for the local bench."



**Kolpacoff**

An attorney since January 1972, Kolpacoff has represented clients in a variety of legal matters including criminal and civil litigation, business law, family law, real estate law, and estate planning.

He is a graduate of Western State University School of Law.

He practiced law in Orange County, Calif., before moving to Lake Tahoe in 1979.

"We came to Tahoe that summer on vacation, and fell in love with the area," Kolpacoff recalled. "We have been fortunate to be able to raise our children in this beautiful area."

Kolpacoff said he enjoys fly fishing and looks forward to continuing to enjoy Alpine's beautiful streams.

Kolpacoff and wife Marilyn celebrated their 42nd anniversary recently.

They have two grown children and two young grandsons.

2  
VOTE  
12

# Deep roots can be found in Alpine pioneers

by Joyce DeVore

There are very deep roots in Alpine County. Shirley Taylor's deep family history in our area reflects the pioneer spirit that combined good stewardship of the land, the art of hard work, self-reliance, and strong family values.

The land has its own story: the



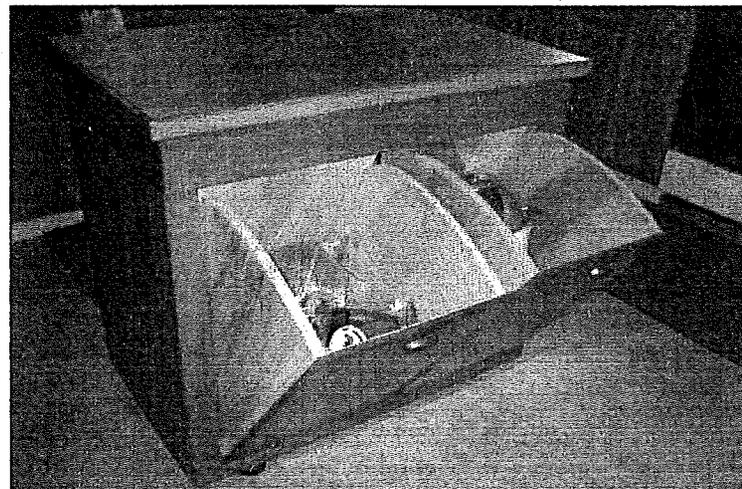
**Amelia Celio**

Celio family, emigrated from Canton Ticino, Switzerland. Ticino is the most southern canton in Switzerland, dominated by Alps and two large lakes,

Lake Lugano and Lake Maggiore. The ascents are steep, the views hold castles and snow capped peaks.

It is the only canton where Italian is the first language. Both of those factors explain why Taylor's great grandfather, a Swiss citizen named Carlo Guiseppe Celio, found his "gold" (as most emigrants were searching for gold in the early 1850s) in an area that looked like home: our own Sierra and Lake Tahoe.

Great-grandfather Celio purchased some property off of Highway 49, bought a few cows, and started a family with his wife, Marie Giamboni Satori. The family returned to Lake Valley and together they started a dairy. For additional income, he drove wagons from Tahoe to Virginia City



Amelia Celio hand-crafted flour bin during the silver rush.

Business expanded and the family acquired about 2,600 acres at the winter ranch, and the summer ranch grew to 800 acres at Lake Valley and 400 acres in Big Meadow.

The winter ranch was in El Dorado, south of Placerville. When June came, the whole family and wagons loaded with kids, chicken and every belonging, led the five-day 400-500 head of cattle drive to the summer ranch in Lake Valley. As the cattle grazed peacefully in Upper Lake Valley, Big Meadow, Alpine County, and on other forest service grazing permits, the family worked and business expanded. Frank Celio managed the beef cattle and his brother, George, was the dairy

manager.

George operated the dairy in Hope Valley for 20 years. The family was known for its great butter. The butter was stored in firkins or small barrels, and shipped out each fall to Placerville. Orders were placed one year in advance, some orders came from San Francisco.

Of course, that was generations before Taylor was born. "The cornerstone of our family in my generation was Amelia, my grandmother," states Taylor. According to family legend, when Amelia Jelmini was young she told Grandfather Celio that her father was mean to her. Grandfather invited her to live with them, and she married Frank Celio in 1892.

Amelia and Frank had three

children. Florence, the eldest, died in 1927. Norman operated the Meyers businesses for 30 years. He drowned in Fallen Leaf Lake in 1985. Hazel Celio Taylor, who owned the present Celio Ranch also died in 1985.

Due to Frank's untimely death in 1923, Amelia undertook the responsibility of his share of the cattle industry and served as president and/or member of the board for nearly 35 years. Taylor explained that "She was the leveler in the family. Her even temper calmed conflict with in-laws and siblings. Amelia found retreats in her garden and her faith."

Amelia was a famously good cook, using every ounce of the slaughtered beef. Taylor remembers that she "could stretch the meal for friends and relatives who stopped by at mealtime."

"Amelia never wore trousers or hats. She preferred simple dresses with homemade petticoats, and, for special occasions, she would add a little fancy lace. For work days and cattle drives she wore boots," commented Taylor. Her practical side was also reflected in the furnishings, many of which she made. Taylor still has her box of woodworking tools, as well as a washstand, cedar chest, flour bin, and milking stool.

The family holdings were affected by a fire in 1938, WWII, the polio epidemic, and sanctions against driving cattle at a time

when hauling cattle by truck would have been cost prohibitive. Land was sold and the business eventually dissolved in 1950.

After that time, Amelia lived with Taylor and her mother in Tahoe and Sacramento. Taylor remembers her grandmother's antics when there was a family dispute, "When my mother and I would get into a tiff, Amelia would take out her teeth and make funny faces at us to bring us to our senses."

Taylor lost her first best friend when her grandmother passed away in 1958.

Taylor watched as the ranch in Upper Lake Valley, also called Christmas Valley, grew overgrown and in disrepair. In 1985, she undertook the enormous job of rebuilding the property, burning over a thousand slash piles. She often used snowshoes and a sled to access the remote, snow-covered piles. She also thinned the forest to maintain its health and gradually restored the ranch house and out buildings. It was a herculean project, preserving her family heritage and the land.

Taylor now lives in Woodfords, where she serves on the Fire Safe Council and enjoys the Sierra on horseback. Her work ethic, self-reliance, sense-of-humor, and love of the land add wealth to Alpine County and are a credit to her grandmother Amelia Celio.

Special to The R-C

#### NEWS ITEMS

### Alpine supervisors to discuss guard station

Alpine County supervisors are scheduled to discuss the status of the Markleeville Guard Station 9:30 a.m. Tuesday.

The county conveyed property at Turtle Rock Park for a new site for the U.S. Forest Service Station. Alpine residents are seeking the site for the old guard station located next to the administration building for possible expansion of county offices.

County Administrator Pamela Crowell said the forest service is willing to sell the seven acres to the county. Tuesday's discussion will focus on what the property could be used for, and whether the purchase is worth the cost.

### Pedestrian and bicycle plan meeting Wednesday

Alpine County is hosting a bicycle and pedestrian master plan meeting 6-8 p.m. Wednesday at Turtle Rock Park Community Center on Highway 89. For more information, call (530) 694-2478.

"We need to thank the veterans for their service and sacrifices," he said.

Veterans Day was created as Armistice Day after World War I to celebrate victory in World War I in 1918. Since 1954, Nov. 11 has been celebrated as Veterans Day.

Nov. 11 is a day off for Douglas County schools, so several are holding Veterans Day celebrations in the days prior to the holiday.

Gardnerville Elementary School is inviting veterans to a 9 a.m. assembly at the school Nov. 10.

# Bear Valley gears up for winter season

## Mountain's future plans move forward

By Joel Metzger

"Our vision is to be the premier Northern Sierra family resort, providing safe and fun mountain experiences for all ages and abilities."

That was the message expressed by numerous senior staff members of Bear Valley Mountain Resort to those attending the Bear Valley Winter Preview at Ironstone Vineyards Oct. 29.

Rosie Sundell, marketing director, said she looks forward to the partnerships that could be formed between Bear Valley

and businesses on the Highway 4 corridor and throughout Calaveras County.

"We are trying to make this the friendliest mountain in the West," Sundell said. "That's something we think we can achieve. What we find from our guests is that if we give them the right experience, they'll come back – skiing one day, wine tasting the next."

Martin Wegenstein has been the resort's chief executive officer for the past two years and promotes his vision to push a family-friendly resort experience.

"It's a family resort," Wegenstein said. "For me, safety is a very important component of the vision. It means people, fam-

see Bear Valley, page A8



Enterprise photo by Joel Metzger

Paul Peterson of Bear Valley Cross Country addresses a crowd at Ironstone Vineyards about how cross country skiing can compete with downhill and what improvements are coming to that portion of the mountain community.

CE 10-

# Bear Valley

*continued from A1*

ilies and children must feel safe on the mountain.”

He said that most visitors want to make a cherished memory when they visit the area and that memory can include Bear Valley and many other attractions in the county.

In order to offer visitors more options and make their stay in Bear Valley more convenient and enjoyable, the resort is in the latter planning stages of revitalizing and improving its village.

Jim Gentling, general manager and chief operating officer at Bear Valley, went into detail about plans to expand the village consisting of 13 structures with covered parking housing 491 condo units, 64,000 square feet of retail space, restaurants and amenities. A new lift stretching from the village directly to the mountain is also in the works.

“In 2005 we set a direction and in ’06 we looked at how we could make this happen,” Gentling said.

The resort is in Alpine County, giving Calaveras’ neighbor the lead in approving the project.

The process ended up taking much longer than the expected 18 months, Gentling continued. After numerous studies and meetings to get comments from the public, the project came before the Alpine County Board of Supervisors and Planning Department, both of which approved the project.

The project is going back to the board sometime in December and Gentling expects to have final approval in early 2010.

“It just kept going and going and going,” Gentling said. “It’s been one very complicated project. We are getting close now and we are very excited.”

Not everybody is as excited as Gentling about the new project.

Some serious concerns were raised by Jon Ellis, a developer who has lived in Arnold for 17

years and is a public council member of the Calaveras Council of Governments.

“My basic concern revolves around the transportation issue,” Ellis said. “Bear Valley is unique in that Calaveras County provides its main access. If Bear Valley does not properly mitigate its impacts on Highway 4, then Calaveras County will have to pay for those mitigations.”

According to Ellis, a study done by Bear Valley shows that the new project will increase traffic by four times on the highway. Such an increase will cause the current level of service, currently at a C, to become a D, which is substandard, according to Caltrans.

“It’s like a report card – C is an acceptable level for standard of service and D starts to become less acceptable,” said Tim McSorley, executive director of CCOG.

At level D, any project that needs expanded access to the highway will most likely have to mitigate its impacts.

“Bottom line is, I’m asking them to be reasonable, like any other developer in this county, and pay the same fees so what they are doing up there does not burden new businesses down here,” Ellis said.

The approval of the project’s environmental impact report by Alpine County was a result of the smaller county, which “really wants this project to happen,” Ellis said.

The CCOG raised those issues in a meeting two weeks ago and discussed the need for added mitigations in its meeting Wednesday.

“At last night’s meeting, Caltrans is on the record saying the EIR that they did and has been certified is defective and inadequate,” Ellis said Thursday. “Caltrans has come up with more than \$8 million in impacts.

“CCOG is putting forth good-faith negotiations to resolve these issues so it does not go to litigation,” Ellis said. “Our desire, my desire, is to see Bear Valley be a successful project. If they do not adequately mitigate

these impacts, I can almost guarantee that Caltrans will not grant their access permit.

“If they properly do this, their project will go forward without issues, problems or additional costs. If they don’t work with us, they will only create more complications to their project.”

Negotiations would most likely go more smoothly if a representative from Bear Valley, Alpine County or the developer would attend a CCOG meeting, Ellis said, which so far hasn’t happened.

Bear Valley representatives say they plan to work with CCOG to find a reasonable compromise.

As part of shaping their image as safe and family friendly, the resort is instituting a new program that labels it as a drug-free resort, according to the Public Relations Department. All new employees will be offered jobs contingent upon negative drug tests. The policy will not apply to returning employees this year.

Representatives from the Calaveras Visitors Bureau and Business Association made presentations outlining how they foresee businesses working together to attract more tourism to the area.

Part of attracting more people is offering something for everyone, said Paul Peterson, owner of Bear Valley Cross Country.

“We’ve always had a world-class trail system for cross country,” Peterson said. “You add a few features and you have a world-class facility.”

Peterson plans to add groomed trails for those who want to snowshoe or cross country ski. He also said that visitors have three tubing hills from which to choose and several hills for sledding.

Sundell added that snowmobiling continues to be a popular activity in the high country.

“Where you can go with a snowmobile is amazing,” she said. “(On one trip) the sun was up while the moon wasn’t down yet. There are trails by Lake Alpine and trails near the village. They are trying to be very environmentally friendly in Bear Valley.”

The resort hopes to open Nov. 26 with adequate natural snow. If the weather doesn’t cooperate, snow machines will have the main runs covered by early December.

Contact Joel Metzger at [jmetzger@calaverasenterprise.com](mailto:jmetzger@calaverasenterprise.com).

## VS blood drive scheduled

BloodSource will hold a Valley Springs Community blood drive Tuesday, Nov. 24, to meet the community’s need for blood and blood products. Participants will receive a T-shirt. Walk-ins are welcome and child care will be provided. BloodSource will provide two bloodmobiles for this drive. The blood drive is sponsored by the Mother Lode Council of the Knights of Columbus.

Valley Springs Community 2010 blood drives are scheduled for Jan. 19, March 30, May 25, July 27, Sept. 28

and Nov. 30.

To give blood, you must be in generally good health, free from cold symptoms for at least 48 hours, be at least 17 years old (16 years old with parental consent) and weigh at least 110 pounds.

The drive will be held at Valley Springs Sports & Fitness Center, 145 Mangili Road, from 2 to 7 p.m. For more information call Stephanie Kresse at (800) 995-4420, extension 60039. For donor-eligibility questions call BloodSource at (800) 995-4420.

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# ALPINE

## Grand jury response finished

by Joyce DeVore

A few months ago, the Alpine County Grand Jury report was published. The departments and individuals investigated by the grand jury have responded in a formal document.

The public may have a copy of the responses by going to Alpine County Courthouse and asking a court clerk for the document.

The responses by the county, representing the Department of Public Works, address each finding. For example, the county response may be "will not be implemented," followed by a narrative or explanation such as "The county is currently facing fiscal constraints. The county is prohibited from housing county operations at Turtle Rock Park due to a restricted use patent that exists."

In another finding regarding bidding for jobs, the county "Partially agree(s)," and explains that "Formal competitive bidding is not required for projects of less than \$100,000."

Other responses indicate that the finding has been implemented, such as the "Bear Valley Parents Group is properly licensed and has all permits."

Two county supervisors hold informal meetings once a month on Saturday mornings to talk to residents about what's going on.

In District 5, which is the Woodfords area, Tom Sweeney holds a meeting on the second Saturday of each month. The meetings are held at the Early Learning Center, room 1, at 9 a.m. Last month, Undersheriff Rob Levy brought the newly purchased mobile com-

mand center for public inspection.

"The meeting was very good," Alpine resident Carol Morgan said. "Rob Levy was proud of the high-tech command center and allowed us to take a tour of it. Levy explained that not very many rural counties have such a state-of-the-art piece of equipment. He also brought doughnuts, which added to the fun."

The meetings are well attended, and neighbors have the opportunity to share interests and concerns. Thanks to Sweeney's wife for providing coffee and pastries at the meetings.

The regular meeting for District 5 will be held on Saturday due to a scheduling conflict.

"The new Alpine County Dail-a-Ride Van will be on site for everyone to see after the November meeting," Sweeney said. "The monthly meetings will return to the second Saturday in December."

In District 1, Supervisor Don Jardine has a monthly meeting at 9:30 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month in the Administration Building.

"Don gives us a well-rounded informative update regarding what the Board of Supervisors and/or the county has done since the last meeting," constituent Kris Hartnett said. "There are updates on special projects, for example the county is working on getting broadband service to Markdeeville."

The public is welcome to attend either or both meetings. The supervisors appreciate having the questions e-mailed to them in advance to allow research time.

For more information, contact Sweeney at [tsweeneybos@clearwire.net](mailto:tsweeneybos@clearwire.net) and Jardine at [donjardine@alpineca.gov](mailto:donjardine@alpineca.gov)



Special to The R-C

Alpine Fire Safe Council awards prizes to Diamond Valley School children on Oct. 28.

## Fire safe council honors artists

by Joyce DeVore

Chairman Al Moss and several members of Alpine Fire Safe Council came to Diamond Valley School on Oct. 28 to announce the winners of the second annual poster contest. This year's contest theme was "If the forest could talk."

Teachers instructed the students about the complex issues of forest and fire safety, then each student illustrated the concepts on a poster. Contest winners received a gift card for Scholastic Books, which are ordered in each classroom.

First and second place was awarded for each class: Grades 7/8, Julia Gomez, Stella John; Grade 6, Amanda Process, Kendall Ornellas; Grade 5, Hunter Celio, Shirley Butler; Grade 4, Andrew Voss, Courtney Brothers; Grade No. 3, Toria Franzi, McKinna Jackson, Grade 2, Sophie Bell, Austin Process; Grade 1, Miles Vann, Arlina Dutchy; and Kindergarten/First: Lauren Ellis, Isabel Thompson.

Posters are on display in the courthouse, administration building, and library.

# Bonanza King subject of historical society's monthly lecture Thursday

by Sharlene Irete  
sirete@recordcourier.com

Mike Makley speaks about the subject of his latest book, "John Mackay: Silver King in the Gilded Age," at the Douglas County Historical Society's lecture of the month, 7 p.m. Thursday, at the Carson Valley Museum & Cultural Center, 1477 Highway 395, Gardnerville.

Makley presents slides and all new stories about Mackay, who is known for mining, as in the Mackay School of Mines at the University of Nevada, Reno, and as one of the richest men of the Comstock era.

Makley's book involves the bonanza king's second career challenging Jay Gould's Western Union Telegraph cable cartel and taking on Comstock king William Sharon's Bank Ring.

"There's so much that Mackay was involved in," Makley said. "He was good guy, a really generous man. He felt all gold and silver was really a trust. He wanted to do something for



Sarah Hall file photo

Author Michael Makley speaks about John Mackay at the Douglas County Historical Society's lecture of the month, 7 p.m. Thursday, at the Carson Valley Museum & Cultural Center in Gardnerville.

the country. He was an Irish immigrant, but because he made his fortune in America, he felt he owed something back.

"I'm going to argue that Mackay is the greatest hero in American history."

Makley's four books on Nevada history include, "The Infamous King of

the Comstock. William Sharon and the Gilded Age in the West," which won ForeWord magazine's Silver Award for biography in 2006.

Makley's video, "Cave Rock: The Issue," was used as a source document in the court case between rock climbers and the Washoe Indians recently settled in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

A book on Cave Rock is to be considered next month for publishing by the board of the University of Nevada Press. The Cave Rock book is a collaboration between Makley and his son Matthew who teaches Native American studies at Metro State College in Denver. Matthew did the research on the Indians while Mike did the rock climbing research.

Mike Makley and his wife Randi live in Woodfords, Calif.

The lecture series is on the second Thursday of the month. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$3, free for historical society members. Information; 782-2555.

# ALPINE

11/18/09

## Watch weather on autumn hikes

by Jim Donald

As I drive toward Ebbetts Pass it is unseasonably warm. Highway 4 has just re-opened after being closed by snow three times in the last few weeks. With cooler unsettled weather in the long range forecast it's likely that this route will close for the winter soon. I decide to head for the pass, check snow accumulations, and take a light stroll northbound to Dorothy Lake and beyond.

After negotiating the highway, which has a few damp spots but is completely devoid of snow, I park at a wide spot, cross the highway and head generally northwest on a dirt road, dogleg right and then turn left on a trail that climbs between volcanic outcroppings ahead.

It's warm. I could have worn shorts. Winds are light out of the east which tells me that the center of a high pressure system with its clockwise flow is to the north. Stronger cold easterlies with atmospheric instability might indicate a low has passed to the south. Such a condition is locally referred to as a Tonopah low; on the Atlantic coast it's called a nor'easter. The sky is *cavu*, an aviation term meaning ceiling and visibility unlimited. You might also say it's a nice day.

No snow here on these south faces. The grasses and scattered brush have turned golden in the thin fall light and the warm day following recent significant precipitation events give everything a pleasant rich smell. It's the kind of day where you don't want to go home.

In the saddle between the outcroppings, with its splendid 360 degree views, I see snow. Not on the trail but on shady northeast faces there are patchy 1 to 2 inch deposits. No tracks



on this trail except mine. The recent moisture events cleaned the slate.

Descending a north face to Dorothy Lake the trail is wet, some rocks are covered with ice and about one-third of the lake is frozen over, not surprising considering the low teen temperatures of a couple days previous. The lake is also smaller than I've seen it, mute testament to a dry summer.

At lake level a pile of bear scat reminds me that I'm not as alone as I might think. No tracks though and all indications are that this bear passed this way a week ago or more.

Arcing around the east side of the small lake with perhaps a half mile behind me I stroll easily along the now granitic crest of the range heading generally northwest.

Continuing for another mile exploring right and left I see filtered views of Upper Kinney Lake below to the east. Resisting the temptation to descend I continue until the angle of the sun tells me that it's about an hour and a half till sunset.

It's prudent to be back at the car before the sun hits the horizon at this time of year. Dusk leads to hurry up behavior which can turn a good situation bad very quickly. Although I'm carrying the necessary survival gear spending the night here would be rather unpleasant.

Some might point out that I should-



Special to The R-C

Dorothy Lake was partially frozen over earlier this month. At left, the view looking south along the trail.

n't hike alone. But that's the beauty of it, the solitude, the serenity, reconnecting not only with nature but with yourself. Besides, I'm allowed to hike alone.

Note: Rapidly changing weather, shorter days and cooler temperatures require extra preparation. Check the National Weather Service Reno forecast Web site before you set out.

Also, look for a winter safety seminar on Feb 20 on Blue Lakes Road.

This event, geared for motorized and non-motorized recreationists, will focus on avalanche avoidance, hypothermia and trauma, the usual suspects in winter backcountry injuries and deaths.

Sponsored by Friends of Hope Valley under a grant from California State Parks OHV division, this all day seminar will feature local, state and federal agency participation as well as businesses and participants from the recreation community.

## Former Alpine museum director honored as pioneer K-9 handler

by Karen Dustman

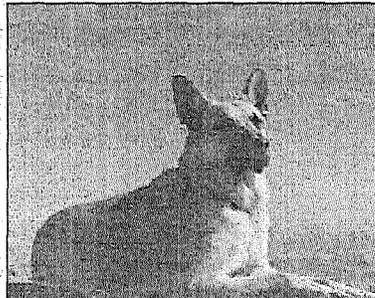
If you visited the Alpine Museum during the past dozen years, you probably met Dick Edwards, its garrulous and gregarious director. But even many Alpine locals never realized what a fascinating history Edwards himself brought to the position.

On Oct. 16, Edwards was honored at a special ceremony in Sacramento for his trend-setting work as the California State Parks Service's very first K-9 dog handler.

"Back in 1969 park rangers were not armed," Edwards recalled. "The hippies were coming in en masse, and unrest across the country was so bad that they fenced the entire Big Sur park and campgrounds, where I was stationed. There was a need for high crowd control without using guns. Trained dogs served that purpose well."

Edwards' K-9 companion, Sam, was trained to respond to both voice commands and special hand signals.

"With just a word, I could turn the dog 'on' or make him back off," Edwards said. "Sometimes we'd run across campers doing drugs or just



Special to: The R-C  
Big Sur Sam, the first California State Park Service's K-9. At right, Sam and his handler, Dick Edwards, who was honored Oct. 16 for being the first dog handler for the parks service.

drinking too much. But with Sam by my side, they listened when I told them to leave. Even seven or eight rowdy campers weren't inclined to take on a growling dog."

For Edwards, it was just one step in a long career that ultimately spanned more than 32 years with the California State Parks Service.

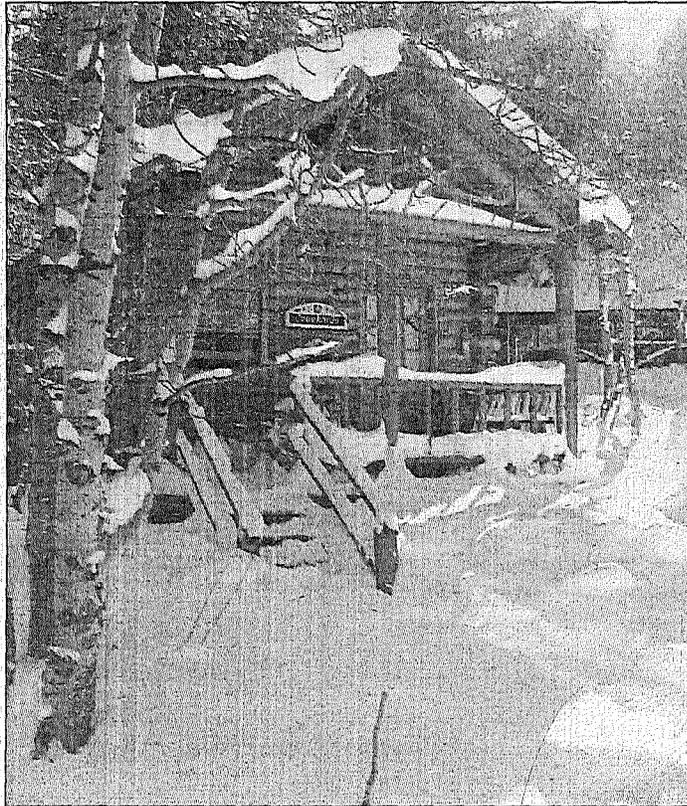
"When I began as the Parks Service's first dog handler in 1969, I was the only one doing it," he noted. "They promised me that if I'd stick with it for three years I could have my choice of future assignments. I kept my end of the bargain. And in



1972 I was promoted to park ranger historian at La Purisima State Historic Park, a post I kept for over nine years."

The K-9 program that Edwards pioneered at the State Parks Service today has dogs patrolling state parks across California, including Hearst's Castle and Folsom.

As for Edwards, he remains Director Emeritus at the Alpine County Museum, where lucky visitors can still get him to spin tales from time to time about his exploits at Big Sur with K-9 companion Sam.



Special to The R-C

The Creekside cabin at Sorensen's Resort located near the mouth of Hope Valley.

## Sorensen's gears up for winter

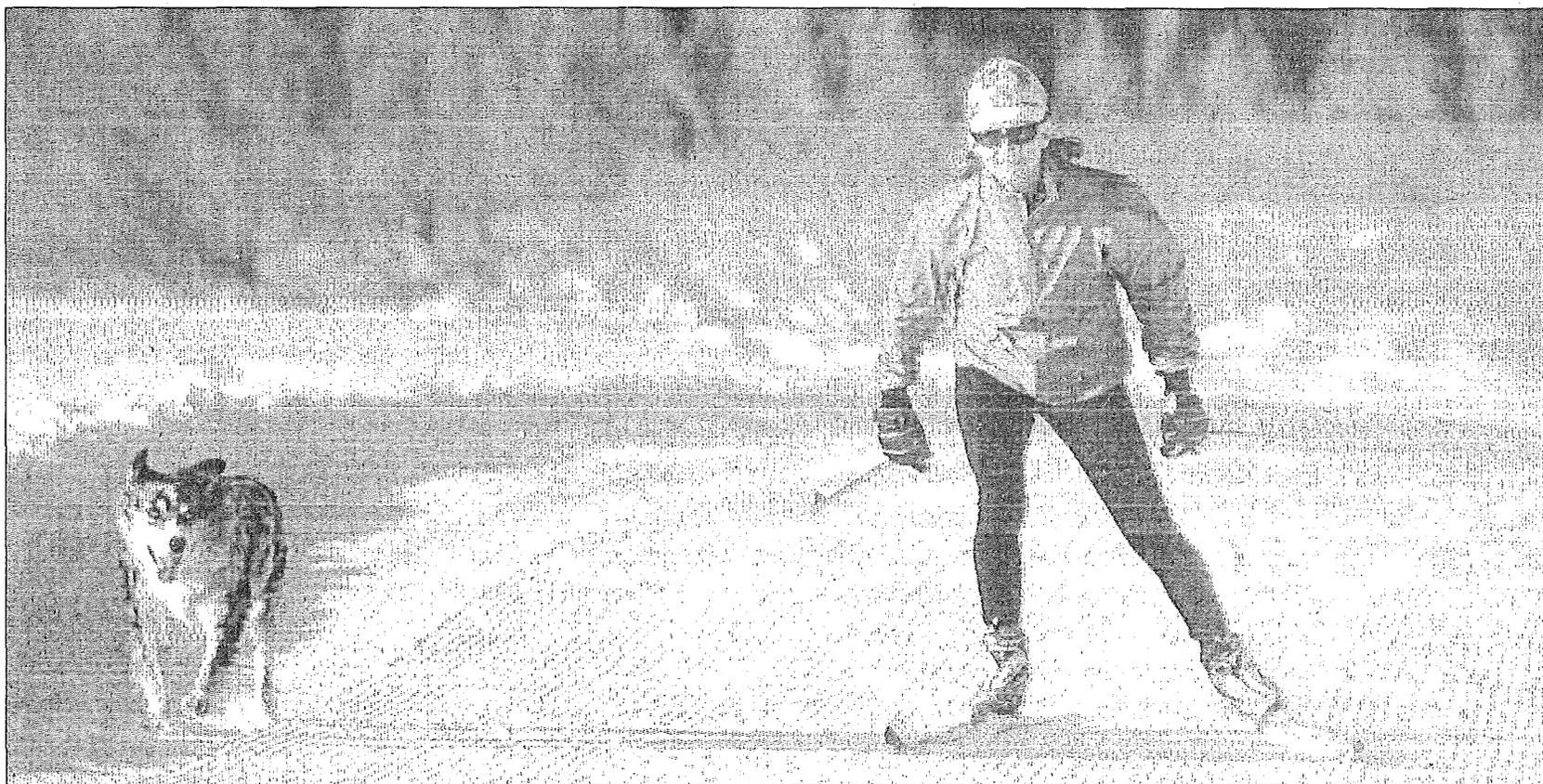
Staff Reports

Dec. 12.

Sorensen's Resort is gearing up for winter with a gingerbread house workshop on Dec. 5-6 and a winter survival workshop

For more about these events or Sorensen's call (800) 423-9949 or (530) 694-2203 or visit the Web site at [www.sorensenresort.com](http://www.sorensenresort.com)

# ALPINE



Alpine County resident Debbi Waldear is an internationally decorated cross country skier. She is the current president of the Friends of Hope Valley group.

Special to The R-C

## The multi-faceted Debbi Waldear

by Virginia York

Debbi Waldear was born in the Bay Area in 1950. She grew up sail-boat racing with her father in the San Francisco Bay. Here, one imagines, the spirit of competition was nurtured.

Debbi graduated from Sacramento State University in 1980 with a major in therapeutic recreation. It had taken her 10 years because she kept going off on her travels, mostly to affordable countries in Asia and South America. Straight after graduating she moved to Kirkwood to learn cross-country ski racing from Kirkwood founder and Olympic biathlete, Glen Jobe. Representing Kirkwood, Debbi traveled to many countries including

Japan, Italy, Sweden, Germany, Canada, Alaska and in the U.S. on the east and west coasts. Sponsored by Rossignol she competed in the Great American Ski Chase, which involved racing every weekend in each of the regions of the country. The races were between 10 and 50 kilometers. In 1987, she won the overall Great American Ski Chase title. When she had become good enough to compete in the U.S. ski team, Debbi was offered the job of director of the Cross-Country Ski Center. She chose the center and still works there.

In 1992, Debbi started to race in the World Masters Championship, for skiers over 40 years old. She traveled to many countries, again enjoying Kirkwood's sponsorship, winning eight

gold medals and two silvers.

A strict regimen of training is required for skiing competitively. For three days a week Debbi would train at race pace, running or skiing (depending on the time of year) for one minute intervals. She would do 20 to 30 of these "repeats". In between the hard days would be days of recovery. She has always had the discipline to train alone and to push herself. She says it takes a lot out of you and you have to be aggressive. Debbi has been a vegetarian for 40 years, paying close attention to achieving balance in her diet.

In summers, Debbi used to run competitively and won the San Diego and Golden Gate marathons. For years she ran in the Bay Area Dipsey, always placing

up to 10th. She often had the best time, but because the race was handicapped, she was not first across the finish line.

Although I had met Debbi in various contexts, our first significant encounter occurred in spring 1990. Recently widowed, I needed help talking supplies up to my house in Alpine County, accessible only on foot. Debbi had offered her llamas. As we were in Pleasant Valley preparing for the hike, I admired Debbi's quiet efficiency as she hooked each bundle onto the hand-held scale before loading it into a llama pack. At the end of the expedition, the first of several, Debbi dismissed my offer of payment saying simply, "It helps get the llamas in shape for summer."

Debbi started raising llamas in 1982. The first baby was Hope, probably the only llama ever born in Hope

Valley where Debbi was living at that time. She has had as many as eight llamas in the herd. In 1986, she began to run commercial pack trips during the summer. A good friend who worked for the San Francisco Chronicle wrote an article on Debbi's new business. Other papers, including the New York Times, picked up the story of this appealing way to explore the Sierras, contributing to the success of the enterprise. People came from all over the country for the five to seven day pack trips. During the day they would go off with the expedition naturalist. Llamas, says Debbi, are gentle on the environment since they do not wear shoes; they are easy to lead (tether one to your belt and the others will follow) and bears stay out of a camp occupied by llamas.

Recently I visited Debbi in

her home in Alpine County. Her llamas are old now. One came to greet me as I got out of my car. Her elderly dog, Sage, gave me a friendly welcome as I entered the house. What about Debbi today? She still coaches a high school cross-country ski team, now as assistant. She is a member of the Watershed Group and is president of the Friends of Hope Valley. Years ago, she was a CASA volunteer (a court appointed advocate) and took children on llama walks where they opened up about themselves while learning how to handle large animals; she would like to work again with kids in trouble. She still likes to travel but is always happy to be back. She loves to "hang out at home" with her animals. She has hiked all over the world but says, "The Sierras are definitely the best."

re 11/27/09

# Henderson announces candidacy

Robert M. Henderson has announced his candidacy for the Alpine Superior Court Judge's seat being vacated by the retirement of Richard Specchio.

Henderson has practiced in the Alpine County Courts for 35 years, first accepting appointments by Judge Hillary Cook to represent juveniles. Since 2001 he has been contract county counsel for the Alpine County Department of Health and Human Services for juvenile dependency cases. Henderson has also been in private practice in South Lake Tahoe for 35 years. His varied legal experience includes civil litigation, tort/injury litigation (both defense and plain-



**Henderson**

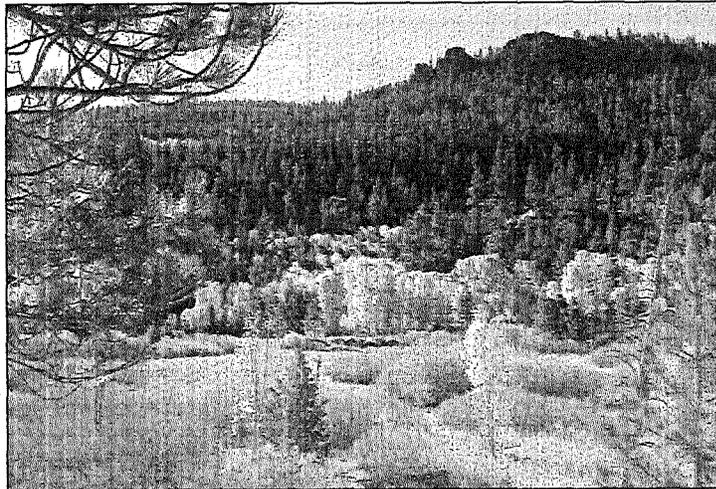
tiff), probate litigation, business transactions, civil appeals, real property, family law and criminal. Henderson enjoys the challenges of a multi-faceted law career and believes the experience has prepared him well to serve as a judge.

After graduating from the University of California at Santa Barbara he attended the University of California, Hastings College of the Law. At Hastings he was on the law review, and graduated with the highest honors. He is licensed in both California and Nevada.

Henderson has the confidence and support of both Alpine and El Dorado counties law communities including Terrence M. Finney, El Dorado County Superior Court Judge (ret.), Hillary Cook, Alpine County Superior Court Judge (ret.), Patrick Riley, El Dorado County Superior Court Judge (ret.), Joseph Tillson, Esq. as well. He has also been encouraged to seek this office by many local residents including Kris and Carol Hartnett, Al Moss, Steve and Evelyn Yonker, Buck and Michelle McLelland just to name a few.

Henderson and his wife Margo currently live in South Lake Tahoe.

## FADING LEAVES



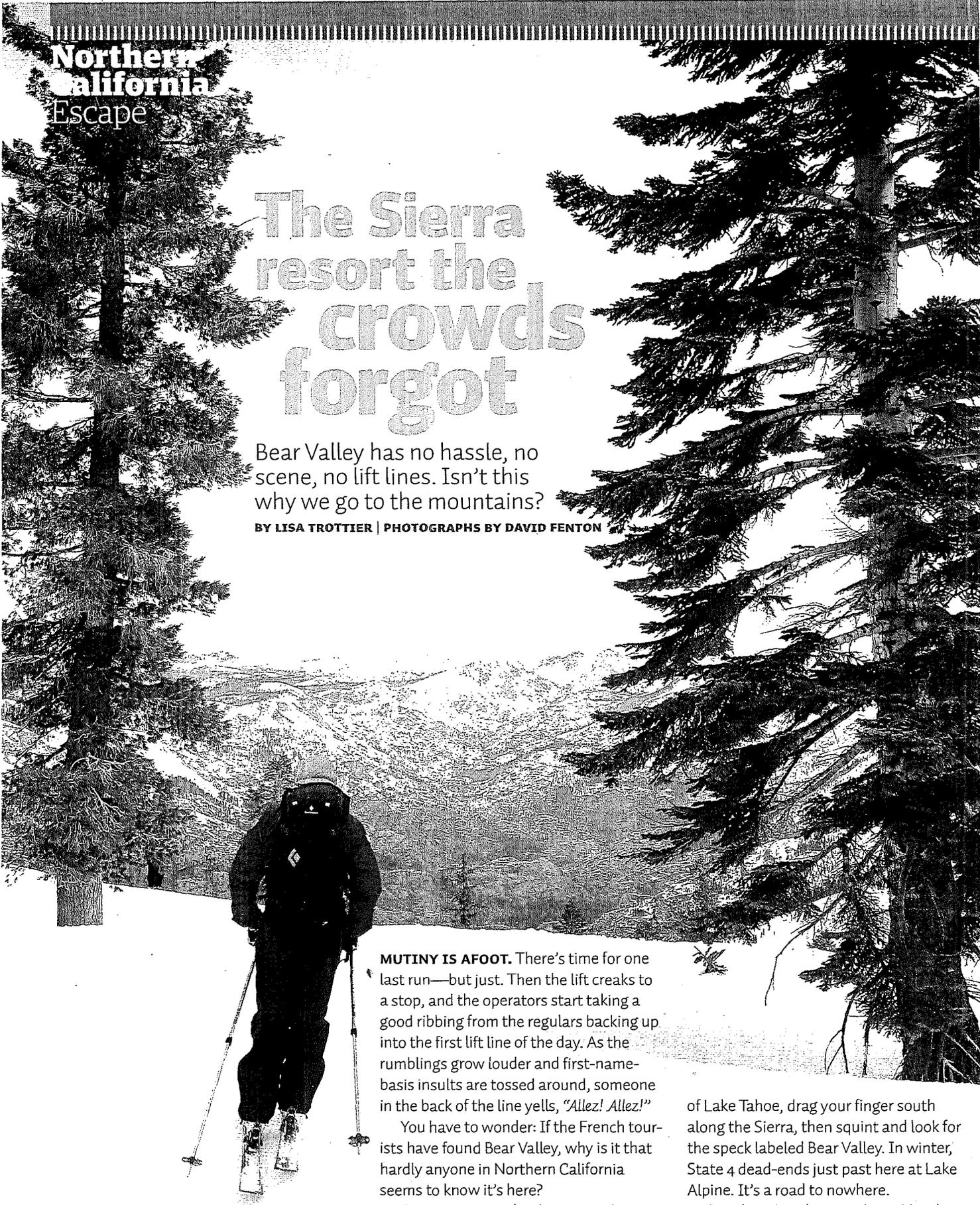
Fall colors near Sorensen's Resort.

Special to The R-C

# The Sierra resort the crowds forgot

Bear Valley has no hassle, no scene, no lift lines. Isn't this why we go to the mountains?

BY LISA TROTTIER | PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID FENTON



**MUTINY IS AFOOT.** There's time for one last run—but just. Then the lift creaks to a stop, and the operators start taking a good ribbing from the regulars backing up into the first lift line of the day. As the rumblings grow louder and first-name-basis insults are tossed around, someone in the back of the line yells, "Allez! Allez!"

You have to wonder: If the French tourists have found Bear Valley, why is it that hardly anyone in Northern California seems to know it's here?

One reason may be that it's so darn hard to find on a map. Start at the blue orb

of Lake Tahoe, drag your finger south along the Sierra, then squint and look for the speck labeled Bear Valley. In winter, State 4 dead-ends just past here at Lake Alpine. It's a road to nowhere.

But there is a ski resort here. Not the biggest, certainly not the flashiest, but

# Northern California Escape



make no mistake—with 1,280 acres of downhill skiing, there's room to roam. And the runs have views across a mountain-scape unbroken by show-offy homes or parking lots.

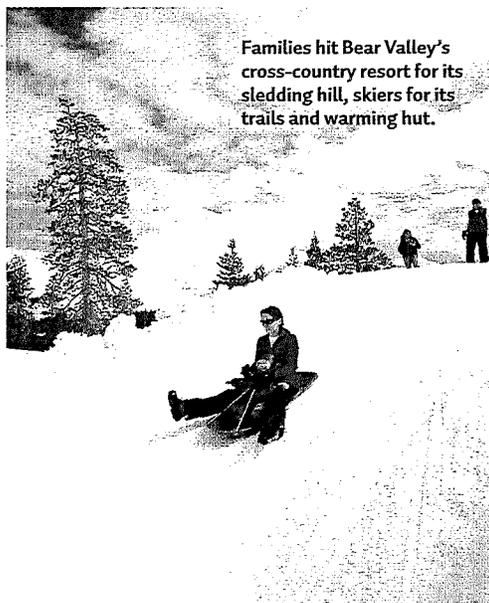
This adds to a throwback feel that either you get or you don't. It's as if one of Tahoe's resorts had been scooped up in the late '60s (loopy *I Love Lucy*-style logo and all), suspended in ice, then plopped here for you to discover in 2009.

And some do discover it. They come because, well, it's simpler and cheaper than going to Tahoe. They come because nightlife here means coming in frosty-faced from the slopes for an epic game of Yahtzee in front of the fireplace and an early bedtime so they can get up, stretch their legs, and choose between another day of downhill or hitting the tranquil weave of cross-country trails.

## The Sierra's best-kept cross-country secret

Saturday is murmured to be the one "busy" day on the slopes. So I walk across the road from the lodge to what is, it turns out, one of the country's biggest cross-country resorts, with 40 miles of trails.

It's a sparkling morning with 4 feet of fresh snow, and the course is hosting a



Families hit Bear Valley's cross-country resort for its sledding hill, skiers for its trails and warming hut.

**There is a ski resort here. Not the biggest, certainly not the flashiest, but make no mistake—with 1,280 acres of downhill skiing, there's room to roam**

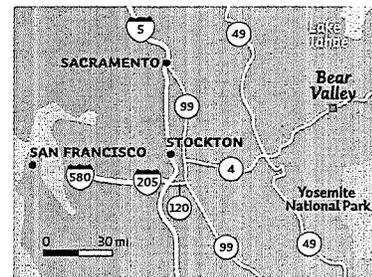
race. Still, once I'm away from the sunny meadow where families are dragging inner tubes loaded with kids toward the sledding hill and skiers are getting their snow legs on, I'm on my own. Schussing through a pine grove, I hear clumps of snow breaking apart on branches and look up to see white shimmers descending through streaks of sun.

Van Morrison tunes come floating by, and I spy a sunny deck where a T-shirted crowd is eating burgers and drinking beer, in no hurry at all to leave the woods.

## Change is coming, but not yet

Moments like this, it's easy to picture the late '60s here, when, one longtime guest told me, people would dash naked from the outdoor hot tubs to the sauna. When, for a single, buzzy season, Bear Valley became Club Med's first-ever U.S. resort.

The hot tubs and sauna are gone. So are the naked people, as far as I can tell. And now there's talk, big talk, about a new village with shops and condos. So come soon. Come this year or come next. But whatever you do, come before this quaint time capsule morphs into Tahoe South.



## Plan your Bear Valley weekend

**GETTING THERE** The valley is about a 3¼-hour drive up State 4 from the Bay Area. Even on a busy weekend, the drive rarely breaks four hours, because State 4 is closed at the pass and gets little traffic.

**WHERE TO STAY** The 1967 Bear Valley Lodge (from \$99; [bearvalleylodge.com](http://bearvalleylodge.com)) has rooms that aren't much more than a place to sleep, but it doesn't matter: Everyone hangs out in the soaring four-story Cathedral Lounge, with a vast fireplace made from granite boulders the size of cars. The four restaurants and two bars won't win any awards but will keep you fed.

Many prefer to rent a nearby condo with a kitchen (from \$195; [bearvalleyvacationrentals.com](http://bearvalleyvacationrentals.com)); *Sundowner* is the nicest to date, but check to see whether a new building called *Silver Mountain* has any of its spiffy 2- or 3-bedrooms on the rental program yet. If you end up in one of the older condos—Creekside or Condo Bear—call to ask the rental agency which have been updated and which haven't. Unless you have a thing for shag carpeting and macramé.

The cabins and vacation homes scattered up on the ridge offer great views and quiet. They're accessible only by snowmobile, and a whole fleet tricked out with kid seats and luggage trailers stand ready in the village.

**GETTING HOME** The Sunday-morning rush to leave Tahoe doesn't really exist here. Take your time and enjoy the day before heading down the mountain. If you're going to the Bay Area, when you get down near Stockton, regulars say that detouring around I-205 by taking State 99 south, then State 120 west will avert most Sunday delays.

# Kirkwood to open today

## Staff Reports

After a slow start to the 2010 winter season, Kirkwood Mountain Resort is ready to open for the winter today thanks to recent snowfall and conditions ideal for snowmaking. The resort will open with intermediate terrain along with a handful of terrain park features including boxes and rails.

"Forecasters are calling for a dramatic change in the weather pattern next week," said Kirkwood Mountain Resort's Tim Cohee. "The amount of snowfall predicted will likely allow us to open much more terrain by next weekend, December 12 and 13."

For more information visit [www.kirkwood.com](http://www.kirkwood.com)

# ALPINE

## Winter a fun time in Alpine

by Jim Donald

With the publication of a new winter recreation map, drawn up by the Carson Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest and based on the Winter Recreation Plan (elements of which have been put in place or are in the planning/funding stage), comes an opportunity to mention in print what a person might do in Alpine County when the snow lies deep and cold in the backcountry. By the time you read this the map should be available at the Forest Service office in Carson City and locally in Alpine County.

Pick your favorite activity (no... turn the TV off), take a look at the map, grab what you need and head out. The choices are many and in no particular order look like this: snowmobile, ski, ride snowboards, dogsled, icefish, paraski, sled, camp, snowshoe, hot spring soak, read a book, eat and finally, pack for Hawaii.

If your activity requires a sno-park permit stop at Woodfords or the Chamber of Commerce in Markleeville and pick one up. A seasonal permit is \$25 while a single day permit is \$5.

Coming up Highway 88 past Hope Valley Resort — great for before or after activity food — and Sorensen's as you enter Hope Valley at about 7,000 feet. Look for a yurt on the left at Pickett's Junction. That's Hope Valley Outdoors where cross-country skis, snowshoes and other outdoor gear are available for daily or seasonal rental as well as for sale. Here, miles of trails await the winter recreationist.

Ahead on the right, beyond the West Carson River bridge, is Husky Express featuring dogsled rides and touring events. Take a ride behind a dog team for a unique way to see the winter landscape.

Blue Lakes Road comes next and requires a sno-park permit. This is the major snowmobiling area in Alpine County. Miles and

miles of trail wait in some of the most scenic winter country anywhere. In fact it is possible to ride from South Lake Tahoe via Armstrong Pass to Blue Lakes, then down the Clover and Deer Valleys to Highway 4, and on to Bear Valley. This may be beyond the fuel capacity and endurance of many but it is possible. Consult the recreation map for routes and riding areas.

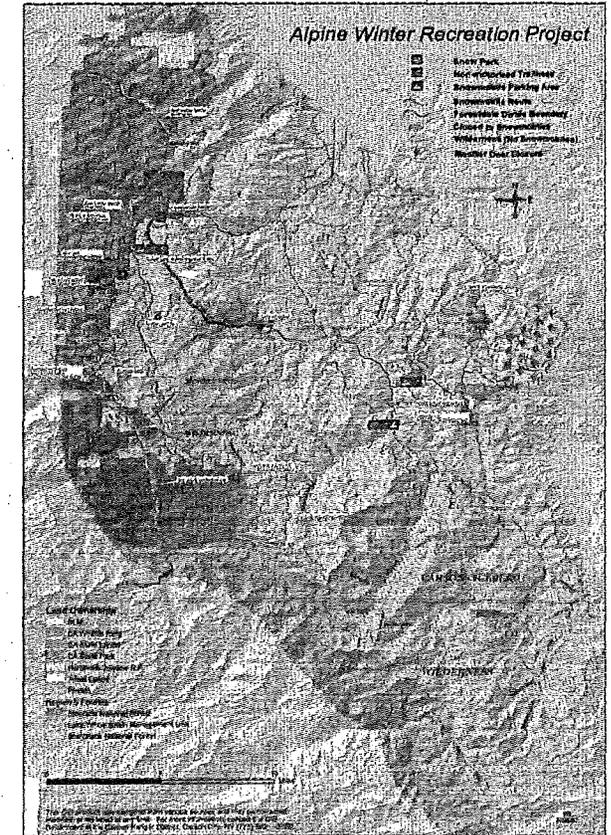
At the Red Lake pullout there are seasonal snowmobile opportunities, skiing, snowboarding and ice fishing. Again, check the recreation map for seasonal closures. Ice anglers — indeed anyone venturing on the ice — should inquire locally regarding ice thickness and safety considerations.

Continuing on 88 and climb the grade to Carson Pass for some fine backcountry skiing, boarding or snowshoeing. North or south of the pass lies some of the best ski terrain in the Sierra. This is also avalanche country so check the Sierra Avalanche Center Web site for the latest advisory.

Caples Lake, just west of Carson Pass, offers ice fishing. Just past Caples dam is Kirkwood Cross-Country and Snowshoe Center, on the right, with miles of groomed trails, rentals, events and planned activities. It's also the county line so turn around and come all the way back to Woodfords, turn right on Highway 89 to Markleeville, and prepare for more winter recreation.

In Markleeville turn right on Montgomery Street which becomes Hot Springs Road, drive five miles, park and soak away tired muscles at Grover Hot Springs State Park. The meadow here offers fine cross country ski possibilities.

If you're snowmobiling continue on 89 past the snow closure gate at Monitor Pass where the road becomes Highway 4 and park at Centerville Flat. There is excellent riding from here heading west but consult locally knowledgeable people for possible routes around the avalanche prone north facing switchbacks. The Winter Recreation Plan calls for



improvements to Forest Road 112 that will circumvent the hazardous highway route.

All winter recreationists should check the NOAA weather forecast, the avalanche Web site and carry the essential safety items relevant to their particular activity. Use caution when parking, make sure you're

well off the main highway but don't get too far into the snow bank.

Keep in mind the Winter Safety Seminar slated for Feb. 20 at Blue Lakes Road. Sponsored by Friends of Hope Valley and geared for all winter recreationists, this event will focus on the common hazards of winter backcountry travel.

# Cultivating new readers finds new meaning

There are coffee cups all over this ranch. But I'm not going to discuss that this month except to say all is well out here; feeding cows hay. This is not a story about cows, nor is it really about a migrant field worker. Because of the holiday season and there still turmoil in the world, I will share a lesson from an evening literacy class.

One evening to encourage an adult language literacy class of eager, motivated students, we listened to a CD of a reading, of an interview with Donald Romano, a child of migrant field workers. The class was to listen to the interview, then discuss and write questions they would ask Mr. Romano.

## FENCE LINES



by Marie Johnson

This lesson was to reinforce the commitment these students were making to come to class, for 13 weeks, three nights a week, for 2½ hours, after completing their day jobs, which sometimes were 12 hours long. As well as enhance their language skills.

These students were advanced. Some had attended other classes. Others new to the program, maybe self-taught, wanted to improve their English for their

own personal reasons. Their ages ranged from 20ish to mid-40s or 50s. It is hard to guess age after you reach a certain age yourself. But I knew from over the course of the class most were hard-working adults. Some had basic jobs in commercial kitchens, restaurants, factories, one was a degreed engineer, another had an MBA from another county.

The interview was a success story. It was meant to test students' comprehension, inference skills, increase vocabulary and keep them motivated. From the interview we learned Romano's family, one sister, mother and father traveled a great deal following crop harvests. The work was hard for

the whole family. Living conditions were bad, very bad. Romano had limited formal education opportunity until he reached high school age when his parents insisted he stay in school, where he learned quickly, graduating second in his class, and received a scholarship to go to college.

In college, Romano received a degree in engineering and met someone with an MBA from Harvard.

Romano applied to Harvard, there, received an MBA and was setting his mother up with a computer company so she did not have to pick fruit at harvest any

# Fencelines

Continued from page 8

longer.

Also in the interview it was explained how Romano was riding in the back of a pickup truck with his father, coming home from his last summer job of crop harvesting, before college, when a semi-truck ran a stop sign, hitting the pickup truck. Romano's father was killed. Romano said college was hard but nothing was as hard as watching his father die. But he knew his father was very proud of him and excited for him to be going to college. When the interview was over the class was silent.

The students had been encouraged to talk among themselves to come up with interview questions, but no one was talking. Edwin, a younger student, was holding his head in his hands. When called upon, he looked up, his eyes red. He said, "This it is too hard. Too sad, his father is dead."

The whole class replied the same. So there in front of class trying to demonstrate the importance of an education, hard work, and what you can get with it,

the students, comprehending this interview very well, learned nothing completely replaces the loss of someone you love.

So our interview question: Mr. Romano is there something you would like to say to your father?

To all, a safe and warm holiday.

Marie Johnson is a Carson Valley rancher.

lion Americans lacking any health insurance, tens of millions more lacking adequate coverage, and millions more who do have private coverage paying increasingly unaffordable premiums, resulting in inadequate access to care and premature death, illness, or financial ruin for millions of Americans; and

Whereas, public polls show that an overwhelming majority of Americans want the federal government to provide national health insurance.

The proposals of a public option are already a compromise from the majority's desire for government provided national health insurance. Co-ops or so-called "triggers" are inadequate in and of themselves to address the health care crisis by creating significant competition for the medical insurance industry; and

Whereas, Republicans and their allies in the health insurance industry have organized and funded groups of extremists to disrupt efforts on the part of the Democratic majority and administration to reasonably discuss the issue with the American people, and have demonstrated an utter unwillingness to compromise in any way to pass meaningful health care reform;

Therefore be it resolved, that the Alpine County Democratic Central Committee urges members of Congress and the president to vote for only such health care reform proposals as contain single payer system or a robust public option at all stages of the legislative process including conference and reconciliation, and encourages legislators to use any available parliamentary means to pass such reform;

Be it further resolved, that Alpine County Democratic Central Committee shall send a copy of this resolution to the president and all members of Congress who represent any of our members.

Irving Krauss  
Acting Chair

Alpine County Democratic Central Committee

## Health care resolution

### EDITOR:

The Alpine County Democratic Central Committee is very concerned about health coverage and has sent the following resolution to President Obama, Sen. Harry Reid, and our two senators and the members of the House who represent our district.

Health Care/Public Option Resolution:  
Adopted by the Alpine County Democratic Central Committee on Sept. 24, 2009:

Whereas, the health care system of the United States is in crisis, with almost 50mil-

# Dangerous expedition planned to Wolfe's cabin

By Joel Metzger

An alpine adventurer from Murphys is seeking skilled mountaineers from across Calaveras County to attempt a winter expedition through deep snow with the goal of reaching the remote Monte Wolfe cabin in the Mokelumne Wilderness north of Bear Valley.

The purpose of this trek is to photographically document damage done to the historic cabin in late October by a group of wilderness volunteers working under the direction of the Forest Service.

Ralph Emerson, 52, is determined to make the trip this winter because he feels it is paramount to document the damage done to the cabin before the winter weather takes even more of a

toll on the aging structure.

"I'm expecting to find a large, gaping hole in the roof and the door chopped into pieces so it cannot be used again," Emerson said.

Monte Wolfe built the cabin by hand in the early 1930s and was known for weathering severe winters in the cabin alone, being tough as nails and earning the ire of area law enforcement.

Despite Wolfe's troubled past, Emerson admires the man for his resilience and courage, and said the man is inspirational and his cabin should be protected.

"When we leave depends on the weather," Emerson said. "I'd

see *Trek*, page A8

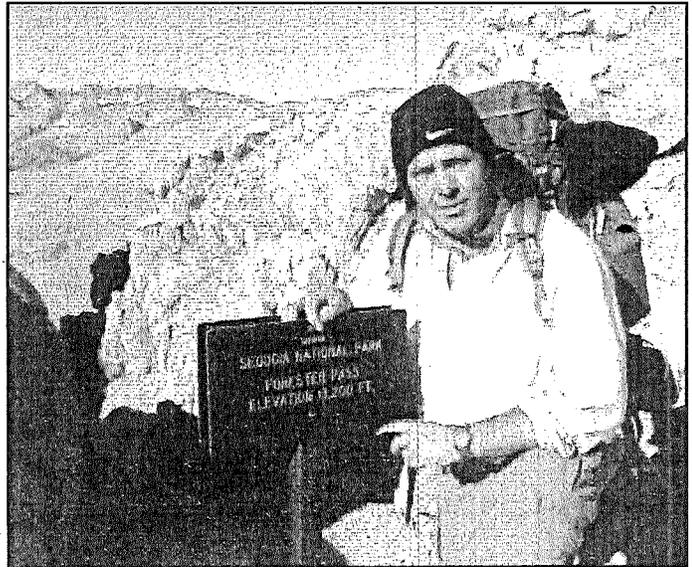
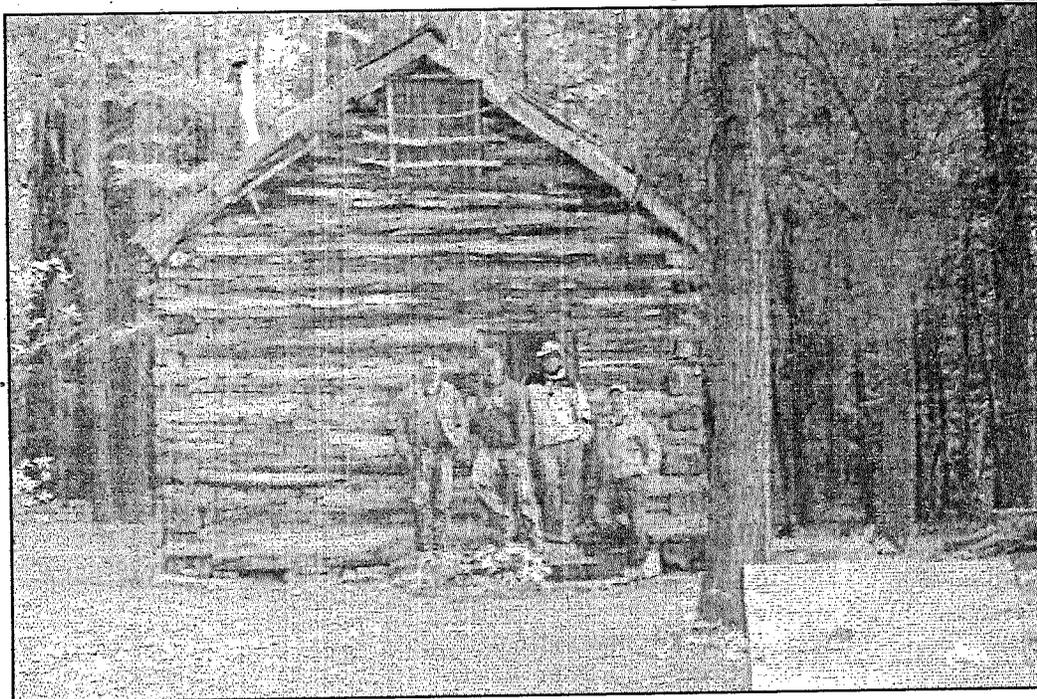


Photo courtesy Ralph Emerson

An avid outdoorsman, Murphys resident Ralph Emerson is planning a trek to a remote cabin in the high Sierra.

CE 12-18-09



Courtesy photos.

Hermit Monte Wolfe spent many cold winters alone in this cabin.



Greg Jacobus will also journey to the cabin.

# Trek

*continued from A1*

like to have at least two guys with me. I need very experienced people. It will be very dangerous. The trip will probably take about four or five days."

Howard Little, a member of the Monte Wolfe Society, does not think this trip is a good idea.

"It would be an extremely dangerous venture," Little said. "Even though he (Emerson) is capable physically and mentally of doing this, the strongest among us are going to run into major problems. It would be very, very dangerous.

"I highly recommend not doing that. The risk is too great."

Greg Jacobus, 58, Murphys, agreed earlier this week to accompany Emerson. Jacobus has scaled mountains worldwide, including Denali.

"If these guys (the wilderness volunteers) are doing things that are not legal and not in the public's best interest, I think it needs to be brought to the public's attention," Jacobus said. "I give Ralph a lot of credit for raising the issue. It's definitely not a trip you want to do on your own."

Several other members of Calaveras County Search and Rescue have expressed interest in taking part in the trip, Emerson said.

Doug Barber, district manager for the U.S. Forest Service, said, "I would not disagree with them going in and attempting to close that thing up. If they want to go in and take a look, that's fine. What I ask them most is that they coordinate with us before they go."

"Had we been communicating earlier, we probably would have avoided this," Barber said, referring to a serious breakdown in communication between the Forest Service and the Monte Wolfe Foundation.

That lack of communication led to the volunteers removing the door and stovepipe from the cabin.

Eddie Berry, wilderness volunteer, said there were

numerous modern additions to the cabin strictly forbidden by law, including food, graffiti carved into wood, pesticides and modern tools. The Forest Service also claimed that the locks on the door to the cabin had been changed.

The Monte Wolfe Society denies violating wilderness law and said that anything members have done was in accordance with an agreement made with the Forest Service in 1997.

Emerson is well aware of the risks involved. He said that if the river is too dangerous to cross, he will have no problem turning around. There must also be a lengthy window of good weather before he will embark.

"We are going to start at Mount Reba," Emerson said. "We will snowshoe down to the river. Hopefully it's not too fast. We will get soaked for sure. The outerwear won't matter if it gets wet. The innerwear is what matters."

Once the men reach the bank of the icy river, one will attempt to cross to the far shore carrying a rope, which he will secure to the bank. Other team members will then use the rope for stability as they cross the river.

He added that the group would have to quickly hike to a location where they can build a fire to dry out the vital inner layers on their clothing.

"Then we will have to snowshoe up to the cabin about five or six miles up the canyon," he continued. "I have not been this route before."

Emerson plans to pack a couple of digital cameras in case one malfunctions.

"We will completely document the inside and outside of the cabin," he said. "We will also do anything we can to stop further damage. I don't know how much we will be able to do with that much snow on the ground."

Even with good weather, the high Sierra is known for unexpected blizzards, which can strike at any time, potentially stranding the expedition.

"You want to make sure you

carry a satellite phone so you can reach the outside world," Jacobus said. "A lot of this is preparation. We will study maps and plan routes and take a GPS (global positioning system) in to keep us on course. When in the mountains, you must be conservative in your goals for each day and how fast you push.

"The risk involved here is the weather. That's a preparation thing. You don't go in when really bad storms are brewing. I'm pretty much convinced that accidents on mountains are 90 percent misjudgment and 10 percent weather."

"There are two factors that I consider," Emerson said. "First, it (the cabin) is a historical landmark and documented as such. I believe it is important to protect and preserve our heritage.

"Second, what Monte Wolfe did was an incredible feat of human endurance and willpower. To see what one person can do with enough determination is incredible. This is a clear reminder of what the human spirit can do. It shows me that all of us are capable of doing anything we choose."

In order to survive in the wilderness in the dead of winter, the adventurers will plan everything out carefully. Cold weather layers will be used to allow adjustments depending on the weather. Heavy-duty cold-weather sleeping bags will be used inside specialized tents. Snowshoes will carry the men most of the way and clamp-ons and ice axes will be carried to navigate through icy sections. Two sets of gloves, one thin and one thick, will be packed along with sunglasses and goggles. Waterproof boots are a must-have.

"I wear a snow hat that covers my face and sunglasses to protect my eyes from the sun's glare

off the snow," Emerson said.

As for food, each hiker has his own preference.

"I take a pan and I create my own trail mix," Emerson said. "You need to have electrolytes for the energy and nutrients. You definitely want to avoid getting cramps."

"We have to take this chance," Emerson said. "For me, in life you have to stand up for what you believe to be right. I believe that what was done to that cabin is wrong. I'm willing to do what I can to stop any further destructive action like this."

Contact Joel Metzger at [jmetzger@calaverasenterprise.com](mailto:jmetzger@calaverasenterprise.com).

## Singer, songwriter performs in Woodfords on Sunday

by Joyce DeVore

Singer, songwriter, and guitarist, Rick Diaz, will be performing in Woodfords at the Washoe Community gymnasium on Sunday. Joel Hannel will also perform original renditions of folk, pop, and country favorites.

The low-cost event (students \$2, adults \$5, children free) is sponsored by the Hung-a-lel-ti Community, with proceeds to benefit Woodfords K-8 basketball program.

The event begins at 11 a.m. with a children's make-a-gift room, Indian taco sale, raffle items, and gift items by local artists. The concert begins at 2 p.m.

"I was raised in a typical middle class California household," said Diaz, who is of Apache descent.

Following the inspiration of a Navajo medicine man who told him about the Sierra Nevada, "I stumbled into Markleeville" and a small community of people befriended him and introduced him to their traditional family ceremonies.

Beverly Caldera and Dale Bennet are two of the people who have supported Diaz and have organized the event as a funding



**Diaz**

source for the basketball program.

Caldera believes, "We're a small community here and grudges sometimes develop. Basketball

helps break down barriers..." Bennet added that "(basketball) is for both Washoe and non-tribal members."

Both Caldera and Bennet emphasize that the games and tournaments expose the players to a larger world and are an essential part of community life.

Diaz whole-heartedly supports the sports program, stating that, "Everything I learned as an athlete, especially discipline and work ethic, I have applied in my career. There could be a future athlete, or a great political leader among the children who need just such a program."

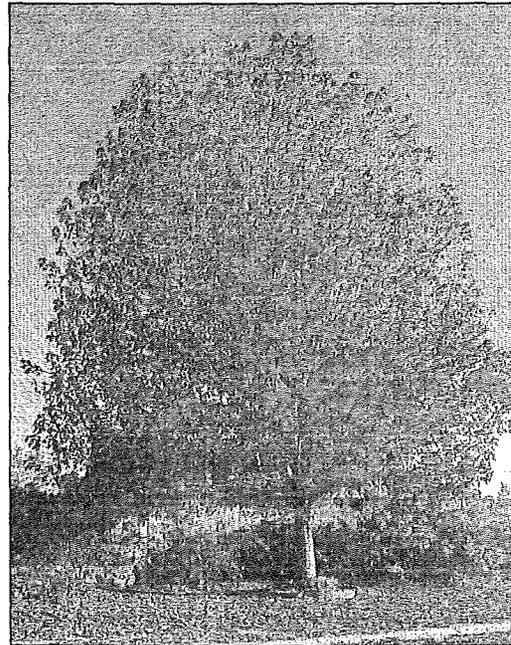
Diaz's CDs will be for sale after the concert and will include his singles, "My Christmas Wish for You," and "He's Riding with the Angles Now," (In memory of Richard Farnsworth).

Advance tickets may be purchased by calling (530) 694-9691 or e-mail to [kylescabin@gmail.com](mailto:kylescabin@gmail.com)

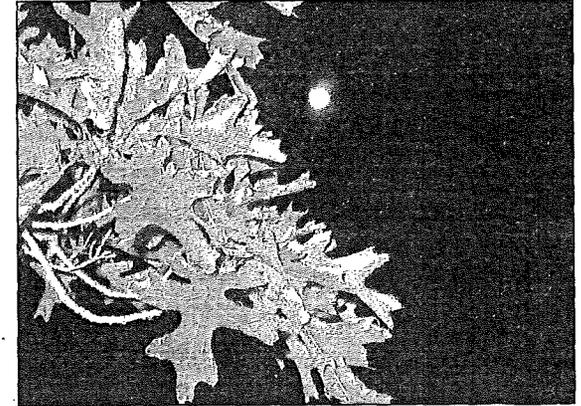
# VALLEY VIEWS



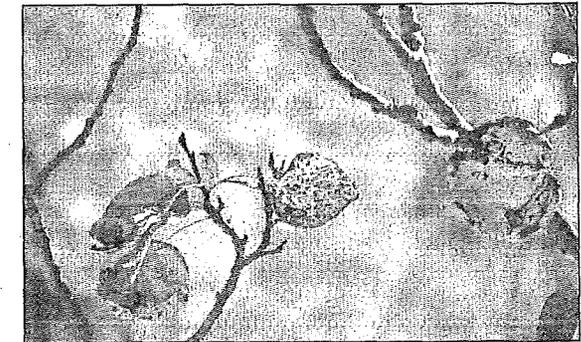
Special to The R-C  
'A Road Less Traveled,' taken by Tyler Stammer won first place. At right, Shane Carlson's third place winner, 'A Shovel Full of Fall.'



Special to The R-C  
Francisca Ramos won second place with this photo she took while driving her son from Gardnerville Elementary School. 'I saw this stunning tree and had to take a picture of it,' she said.



Special to The R-C  
Lori Eddy took this photo of fall leaves and the moon.



Special to The R-C  
Gardnerville resident Linda Martin took this photo of Beech leaves along Highway 88.

## Results from R-C photo contest

### Staff Reports

Photographers captured views of fall foliage from the Sierra's east slope.

Gardnerville's Tyler Stammer won the most votes of the 90 photos posted to the newspaper's Web site.

Francisca Ramos took second place and Shane Carlson took third place in the newspaper's first on-line photo contest.

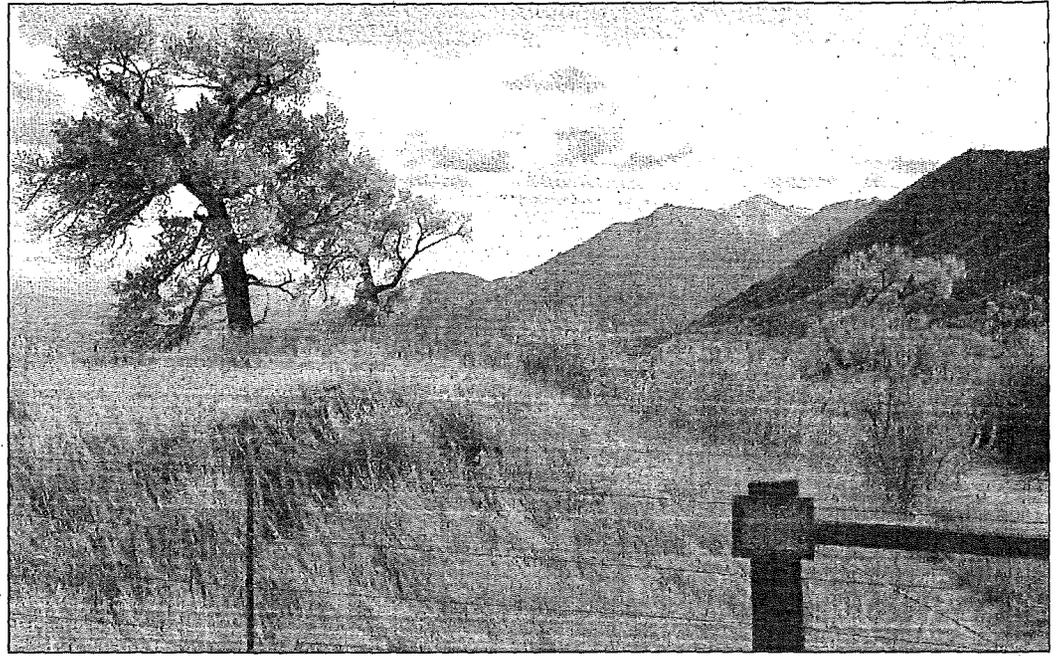
Also published here are a sampling of other photos submitted for the contest.

# VALLEY VIEWS



Special to The R-C

Topaz Ranch Estates resident Wendy Francis took this photo along Highway 88.



Special to The R-C

Minden resident Jeffrey Dyer took this photo from Genoa Lane looking toward Jobs Peak.

12/23/09

## Diamond Valley School's winter concert 'the best yet'

by Virginia York

"Christmas tree stand up tall  
"Spread the gingers out to all..."

"Oh, very good," I said to the kindergartener, proudly reciting the poem his class would be presenting at the winter concert, "but it's 'good news' rather than gingers." "No." He replied, "It's gingers." I'm partial to ginger so I did not feel inclined to insist.

Speaking of ginger, there have been strains of beautiful piano music floating through Diamond Valley School recently. I tracked down the source and found Ginger Craik in the gym playing Christmas music. Ginger joined Diamond Valley School as a teacher in 1975. She retired last June but appeared five weeks ago generously volunteering to develop some pieces with the band and to be the piano accompanist for the concert. Judging from the band's performance it was an exceptionally productive five weeks. The music was lively and tuneful and included a fine saxophone solo.

The music director of the winter concert was Janelle Blocher. Mrs. Blocher has taught in Egypt and India where she put on many musical productions. This is her



Maggie Fowle/Special to The R-C

Students at Diamond Valley School perform in the annual Christmas concert.

fourth year at Diamond Valley. She said her goal for the concert was "wonderful, not perfect."

Mrs. Blocher said choosing the music was a combined effort. Her requests for suggestions from teachers produced a good response. One teacher chose her two childhood favorites: "It's a Small World" and "Do You Hear What I Hear?" These were sung by second, third and fourth graders with impressive volume and clarity.

Excitement was mounting on the afternoon of concert day as the whole school gathered for the final

rehearsal in the gym which had been magically transformed into a concert hall, complete with seasonal decorations, extra seating, piano, keyboards, music stands and a display of raffle prizes. The proceedings went smoothly, with one minor disruption among kindergartners. One of the group had lost a tooth; it had fallen on the floor and others in the vicinity were scrambling about trying to retrieve it. This was accomplished and order restored.

That evening Mrs. Blocher welcomed the huge audience and introduced the student announcer

who was relaxed, upbeat, and clearly enjoying her role. Later in the evening Mrs. Blocher introduced Ms. Rugger, Diamond Valley's new principal, who spoke words of good will and cheer in keeping with the lovely atmosphere of the evening.

This is the first Diamond Valley concert where different grades worked together on several musical arrangements. One of these was "Jingle Bells." Seventh- and eighth-graders accompanied with chords as the second-graders played the melody, sang and rang the bells, led by an eighth-grader.

The keyboard music is a component of JJI Math. The 24 Yamaha keyboards were provided through a grant. The third- and fourth-graders have been working on their keyboard skills since kindergarten and shared some delightful pieces with us including "Little Drummer Boy," accompanied by rousing drumming.

Kindergarten and first graders, adorned with halos, sang and signed "Silent Night." One of their teachers trained as a teacher for the deaf and sign language is part of Diamond Valley School's K-1 curriculum.

Under the direction of their teacher, seventh- and eighth-graders recited the Longfellow

poem: "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day," written in 1864 during the Civil War and just as relevant today as it was then. They also gave a poignant rendition of the song "Lean on Me." During "The Twelve Days of Christmas" the students held up cue cards, inviting audience participation.

Fifth- and sixth-graders performed the topical play "North Pole Melting," arising from their week-long stay at Sly Park Environmental Science Camp, run by the California Department of Education. Polar bears and seals appealed to Santa Claus to stop using fossil fuels in his toy factories because these fuels release carbon dioxide causing global warming which is destroying their homes. Santa Claus agreed to convert to sun, wind and tidal power. This convincing performance ended with the cast chorusing "Merry Christmas to all, and to all a healthy planet."

The finale included both school and audience singing "Silent Night" and "Let There be Peace on Earth."

Audience response to this wonderful concert was unanimous: "The best yet."

"Let there be peace on earth  
"And let it begin with me."



## Ebbetts Pass honors outdoorsman

By Kate Gonzales

The son of Scandinavian immigrants, who has dedicated much of his life to the Bear Valley sports industry, was recently named the 2009 Peter Brinkman Award honoree for his commitment and contribution to winter sports in the area.

On Dec. 12 at the Bear Valley Lodge, Paul Petersen, 51, was honored during the 5th Annual Wintersports History Night, which is organized by the Ebbetts Pass Historical Association. According to Petersen, the first Wintersports History Night honored Peter Brinkman, who had cancer at the time and has since passed away.

"They wanted to honor and recognize him (Brinkman) for all of his contributions to the Highway 4 winter sports scene," Petersen said. "He had an incredible capacity to go out and solicit business ... for Bear Valley."

Petersen has owned Bear Valley Cross Country and Adventure Co. for almost 32 years. He grew up in Sunnyvale and moved to Bear Valley for the first time when he was 17, and first worked at Bear Valley as a ski instructor under Brinkman.

"Bear Valley needed someone to help wave the flag and get the place on the map, and (Brinkman) really did that," he said.

Petersen was born Aug. 7, 1958, to Reidar and Grethe Petersen, who immigrated from Scandinavia after World War II and met in San Francisco. While he and his older siblings, John and Ann, were growing up, their parents would take them to South Lake Tahoe, where he first learned how to ski.

"They put us on skis (and) started me when I was 3," Petersen said, and his passion for skiing began.

"It started out as a family activity and as I became a teenager I really looked for any opportunity to go skiing with friends and other families," he said.

Petersen said that he often would go skiing and adventuring with his best friend, Bill Diehl and his dad, Don Diehl. He met Bill when he was 10 years old and the duo was in the same Boy Scout troop, for which Don was the Scoutmaster.

"We did some pretty awesome things as a Boy Scout troop," Petersen remembered. Once, he added, Don built 24 canoes in his garage and the troop did an 80-mile canoe trip.

Petersen graduated from high school when he was 16, attended De Anza College, a community college in Cupertino, and started working at Any Mountain, a ski shop in the same town. There he made friends with older employees



Courtesy photos

**Paul Petersen, owner of Bear Valley Cross Country and Adventure Co., recipient of the Peter Brinkman Award.**

who wanted to move to Bear Valley. At 17, he made his first move to the area.

"I moved up with 10 pairs of skis: five cross country, five downhill, a season pass at the mountain (and) my winter rent paid in advance. I didn't have a job, nor did I want one," he remembered. "I wanted to ski all day, every day.

"The skiing bug was planted by the family trips to Tahoe, and sort of got further anchored by trips with the Diehl family," he said.

By the time Petersen moved to Bear Valley in Alpine County, he had already embarked on a handful of outdoor adventures with friends and family. By 16, he had backpacked the Tahoe Yosemite Trail, a 180-mile trip starting at Tuolumne Meadows and ending at Meeks Bay in Lake Tahoe, and rode his bicycle from Seattle, Wash., to Sunnyvale. Just before moving to Bear Valley, he climbed Mount Rainier in Washington, where many people train for Mount Everest climbs. After his move, at age 19, Petersen got into rock climbing and climbed El Capitan in Yosemite. Many of the adventures were shared with the Diehls.

"That kind of stuff was always interesting; it was a ... high adventure kind of life."

After moving to Bear Valley, Petersen spent a winter skiing and later moved to Arnold, where he lived with six other young men, and attended Columbia College.

"I went back to college briefly, moved back up (to Bear Valley) with Bill Diehl, started teaching skiing and I've been teaching ever since," he said.

Petersen began teaching under the direction of Peter Brinkman when he was 18. Eventually, Brinkman worked his way up to Level 3, the highest certification for ski instructors.

"(With) the pathway I went through that Peter Brinkman Ski School ... I was able to take ski teaching to the highest level in the country," Petersen said.

Earning a Level 3 instruction certification means the instructor is able to teach any kind of ski classes.

In 1985, Petersen tried out for and made the National Demo Team and attended Interski in 1987 in British Columbia with the team. Interski is held every four years and, much like the Olympics, has opening and closing ceremonies. It is designed to bring the international skiing community together to exchange ideas and spur innovation among ski instructors worldwide.

"It was a big deal and I felt honored, respected and humbled all at the same time," Petersen said.

He returned to the Interski event four years later in Austria and then again in



Petersen skis Bear Valley Meadow in the late 1970s.

Japan four years after that.

When he attended Interski in Japan, Petersen went as the coach of the Professional Ski Instructors of America Nordic Team.

“(Attending Interski) has made living in Bear Valley really interesting,” he said. “I bring information back, (and) it’s inspired me to make Bear Valley better.”

“There’s been a significant amount of evolution and it’s been really fun being part of the whole ski instruction world,” he said.

Getting the award, Petersen said, reminds him of great times.

“Bear Valley has evolved and the period of time in the 1970s and 80s was great. ... Peter was just part of an energy that’s been difficult to replace,” he said. “I think it’s right that we use (the award) to remember a guy like Peter Brinkman, and it’s also fun for me,” to look back on an era gone by that was “super cool,” he said.

Petersen’s own life and business has evolved as well. Eighteen years ago, Petersen met Dianne, and they were married at Meeks Bay in Lake Tahoe.

“I’ve had a lot of help along the way from a lot of very nice people – my wife being one of them,” he said. “When you live in

a small community, it becomes a little bit more like family.”

Bear Valley Cross Country and Adventure Company has also seen and adapted to changes in trends.

“It’s a more multifaceted outdoor recreational company,” Petersen said, and includes cross country skiing, snowshoe hikes and sledding and tubing in the winter, and mountain biking, kayaking and other sports in the summer. He employs about 25 people in the winter, and about five in the summer.

Even with the less-than-vibrant economy, Petersen said his business is going strong.

“Skiing as a sport is kind of flat nationwide; it’s not growing,” he said. “Snowboarding helped out for a while and then for us, peoples’ interest in snowshoeing helped. ... We’re going to keep this thing going and we get to do that because we’re a little more diversified,” he said.

“We’ve been able to have a career in the ski industry in the Bear Valley/Ebbetts Pass area and it’s been working, it’s still working and it’s going to continue to work, and it’s been fun and exciting,” Petersen said.

Contact Kate Gonzales at [kate@calaverasenterprise.com](mailto:kate@calaverasenterprise.com).

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page 1

## OBITUARIES



**Covington** He graduated from Roseville High School in 1954 and earned a bachelor's degree from Chico State University in 1960. He served as a medic in the California Army National Guard.

Mr. Covington was a California state parks ranger, and served as an auditor in several different departments of Nevada state government for more than 20 years, and as a director on the Nevada Urban Indians board.

He was an active member of the Alpine County Historical Society for more than 40 years and helped to restore the old Alpine County School House in Markleeville. He served on St. Teresa's school board.

Among his interests were watching wildlife, collecting historical oddities, watching classic films, reading poetry and listening to music. He was a devoted father and grandfather who never missed a game, play or recital.

Mr. Covington was preceded in death by brothers Richard and Neil, and parents William Sr. and Jessie M. Covington.

He is survived by partner Marjorie Miller Walker; children Elizabeth (David), Aaron (Mary), Ian and Joseph; siblings Mavis, Bill and Joe; grandchildren Gabriel, Ava, Jane; his extended family and many lifelong friends.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society.

He requested that those remembering him tell a joke or humorous story in his memory.

### **Lincoln 'Linc' Ellis Covington**

**1937-2009**

A memorial service is 2:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Brewery Arts Ballroom for former Alpine County clerk, recorder and auditor Lincoln "Linc" Ellis Covington, who died Dec. 27, 2009, after a long battle with cancer.

A rosary will be recited after the service 5:30 p.m. at St. Teresa's Church.

Mr. Covington was born on May 27, 1937 in Sacramento.

SKI RESORT FIRE

# Kirkwood employee recounts powerless weekend

by Scott Neuffer

sneuffer@recordcourier.com

Despite a fire-caused power outage over the holiday weekend, patrons of Kirkwood Mountain Resort were treated to some rather nice New Year's fare, Kirkwood snow cat driver and Golden Nugget Automotive owner Mike Schiller said Tuesday.

"They (Kirkwood) did everything they could to make every single person happy," said Schiller, who took numerous photos of the ordeal.

He said those efforts included free breakfast in the main lodging area on Saturday, free hamburgers all that afternoon and, for dinner, prime rib without the usual price tag.

"It was so good, and exactly what I needed after two days without sleep," Schiller said of the latter meal.

Kirkwood's generator caught fire around 2 p.m. New Year's Day when a filter overheated and ignited. Workers in the building smelled smoke 30-40 minutes before the fire reached its height and were able to



A view of the flames from the fire that caused a power outage last weekend at Kirkwood Mountain Resort.

Mike Schiller/Special to The R-C

# powerless weekend

evacuate safely. About 150 workers were evacuated from nearby employee housing. No one was injured in the fire, but the blaze consumed the building where the generator was housed.

"It was the only power supply for the mountain," Schiller explained.

Later grooming ski runs in the dark, Schiller said he saw the fire below slowly extinguished.

"The fire was pretty much

knocked down by 7 p.m., but there were occasional flare-ups," he said.

When his shift ended at 12:30 a.m. Saturday, Schiller said he volunteered to help out.

"They asked for volunteers," he said. "We went pulling wire and what not, trying to get power on the grid."

Although replacement generators arrived early Saturday, crews weren't able to restore power until later

that afternoon, Schiller said.

"I was scheduled to work, but there was no point going up on the mountain because it was already groomed the night before; so I volunteered," he said.

By Sunday morning, two chair-lifts were up and running, Schiller said, and the entire mountain was operational by Sunday afternoon.

"They got three brand

new Caterpillar generators on a 40-foot semi-trailer powering the mountain," he said. "They have plenty of power."

Although Saturday was a setback for the resort, Schiller said the people who stayed enjoyed themselves, especially the free food.

"A lot of people were walking up the mountain and skiing down anyway," he said.

Kirkwood Senior Vice

President Tim Cohee said at least 350 people stayed at the resort on Saturday despite lifts being closed.

"People went snow cat skiing, tubing, cross country skiing and snowshoeing," Cohee reported on Tuesday.

He said when it came to heat, old-fashioned fireplaces and propane heaters provided warmth for many condo occupants, and that other locations without

such features fared surprisingly well. He said he stayed in the resort's Mountain Club Villages without heat.

"The place holds heat — it's like a furnace," he said. "It was actually very comfortable."

Cohee said portable generators will power the resort the rest of the season. He said Kirkwood's power house will be rebuilt this summer.

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# SIERRA

## Alpine County remains a relative geographic gem

by Joyce DeVore

"Where do you live?"

"Alpine County, Calif."

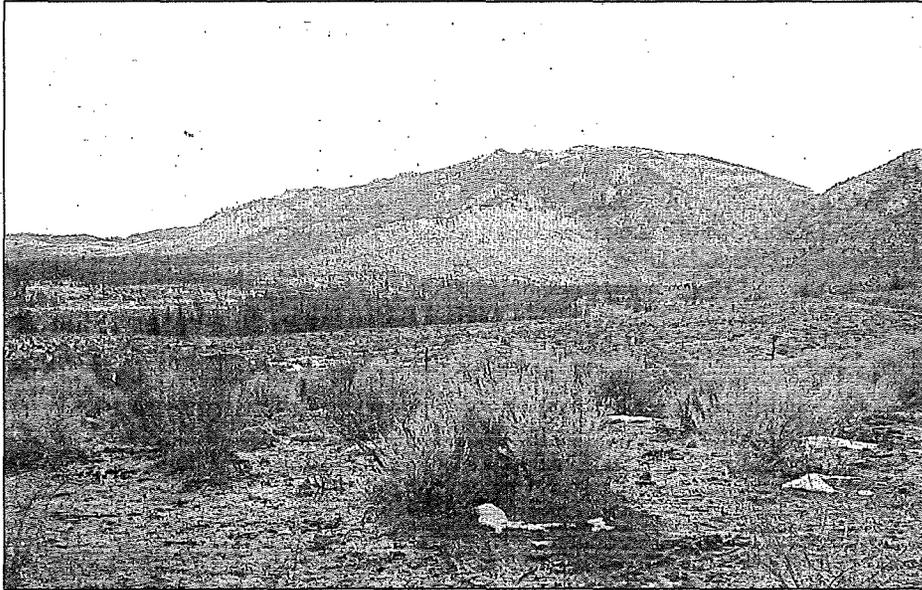
"Where is that?"

"Near Lake Tahoe, in the Sierra Nevada."

That is a typical dialogue between a resident of Alpine County and most anyone else. In other words, Alpine County remains a relatively unknown geographic area with few full-time residents. It is not Lake Tahoe, although the Lake is a well-known landmark, nor is it the Carson Valley of Nevada, where most Alpine County residents have commerce.

And if it is not the Lake or the Valley, what is the county of Alpine? What geologic forms are we seeing as we drive the scenic routes of highways 88 and 89?

A young woman who grew up in Alpine County and became a certified geologist for California offered a brief interview during her holiday visit to her family home in Markdeeville. Jenny Thornburg brought maps and mining publications from the California Geological Survey to get me



Special to The R-C

Alpine County remains a mystery to most from outside the area.

started on understanding the basic geology of Alpine County.

"What am I looking at, Jenny?" I began.

"The whole mountain range to the west is part of the huge batholiths of granite that extends some 500 miles in California. That process occurred 100 or 200 million years ago," Thornburg explained.

Another process is known as "normal geologic block faulting," which occurred 2 to 3 million years ago, formed Lake Tahoe by drop faulting the Sierra and Carson Range on the east by normal faulting. We can visualize slabs quaking some 20 kilometers deep.

Since faulting is a term I associate with earthquake activity, I asked Thornburg about the fault line through Alpine County. "The Genoa fault line is pretty straight down the Carson Valley. Then it steps to the east through Alpine County. The fault lines look like parallel stair steps, except the connecting lines become complicated and fractured," she said.

What is a fault? Andrew Alden, writing for About.com, defines a fault as a large crack in the Earth's crust where one part of the crust has moved against another part.

If normal faulting created the mountains and Lake Tahoe, are faults still active at

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If normal faulting created the mountains and Lake Tahoe, are faults still active at

the Lake and here? First of all, Thornburg explained, an "active fault" is defined as one that has moved in the last 10,000 years and so is likely to move again. And yes, there are at least three active faults submerged at the Lake, the West Tahoe fault, the Stateline-North fault, and the Incline Village fault.

The Geological Society of America published an article in June 2009 after studying the faults at the Lake and faults through Carson Valley and Alpine County. Using seismic imaging (CHIRP) and multi-beam and light detection bathymetry the group of scientists from UC Davis, UC San Diego, San Diego State, and the University of Nevada, Reno, found that the faults at the Lake were moving consistent with the Genoa fault-slip rate. Thornburg was aware of that finding, and noted that her boss in Sacramento has a wise saying about findings in geology: "Interesting, if true." Geology and its sister sciences deal with a rather "messy" Mother Nature, who doesn't always seem to follow patterns and rules.

Carson Valley and the Lake Tahoe Basin show similar earthquake events as recorded by valley colluvial (a loose collection of rock and debris at the foot of a slope) wedge deposits or submerged offset-fan delta stratigraphy. The delta fans are evident along the east slopes of the Sierra — in Alpine County that would be the Emigrant Trail area. Older glacial deposits in much of Diamond Valley show that the fault in that area was less active than the western one.

To summarize, millions of years ago an enormous slab of magma resurfaced, cooled, and crystallized into a 500-mile chunk of granite:

the batholiths that dominate the Sierra. Then pressure created faults and volcanic activity a few million years ago.

Along with granite, there is much volcanic rock in Alpine County. It is evident

in cliffs along the Carson River and in eastern parts of the county. The volcanoes left rugged domes, plugs, and cones in the southern part of the county.

The volcanic rock covering the eastern part of the county

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and many of the higher peaks have yielded great mineral wealth, including precious metals and sulphur.

Common knowledge is that areas with volcanic rock provide great agricultural land. I asked Thornburg why Alpine County does not have that richness when it does have volcanic rock. She replied, "Well, rain is important to decompose the rock and grow plants." Yes, we live in high desert.

While most of the county has giant granite rocks or volcanic rock, there are some glacial moraines. One is evident from my back deck, looking from Highway 88 toward Woodfords Canyon. From a distance, it looks like an engineered road, sloping from behind Monroe Ranch to the canyon. Actually, Thornburg explained, it is a lateral moraine, a pile of rock left on the side of the glacier as it moves forward. A glacier

pushes rocks out in front and off to the side as it moves.

Many geologists today presume that the whole deep Earth has its own cycle, including the down-welling of old and upwelling of hot plumes. Plate tectonics remains a powerful concept. The Genoa fault has been mapped and shown to be moving. Alpine County's faults may be connected to those under Lake Tahoe. Geologists think in terms of thousands, millions, or billions of years: the faults may or may not become more active in the next 10,000 years. The only certainty is that the earth is changing. The evidence of change is available in the geological formations in our own Alpine County.

Thanks to Jenny Thornburg, the California Geological Survey, and the GSA Bulletin for their information and knowledge.

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# A final good-bye



**Bruns**

**Hubert Bruns**, 95, died Feb. 18, lifelong Alpine County rancher, elected to the Alpine County Board of Supervisors in 1940, and served for 32 years, school district trustee for 17 years, Alpine Volunteer Fire Department for 27 years.



**Payne**

**Hazel Payne**, 91, died Feb. 25 in the Alpine County home her husband, Judge Frank Payne, built nearly 75 years ago, born in Coleville, basket maker and worked for many Markleeville residents.



**Bergstrom**

**Victor Bergstrom**, 78, died April 22, served on the Gardnerville Town Board for 10 years, opened and operated Little Antelope Pack Station from 1980-2004, professional guide and outfitter in the Carson Iceberg Wilderness.

**William F. Schwake**, 92, died Nov. 4, World War II Army veteran, lifelong Carson Valley resident. His sister, Ardelle Charlotte Powell, 93, preceded him in death Feb. 15 at her home in Reno.



**Schwake**

# Preparation the key to winter recreation safety

by Jim Donald

Many articles on winter safety treat the symptoms, much like our healthcare system, rather than focusing on minimizing risk and prevention beforehand. The symptoms, in this case, are getting caught in an avalanche, onset of hypothermia or just being generally surrounded by lost-ness. If first responders are on the way you are probably in big trouble.

Risk can be minimized by thorough pre-trip preparation. This, of course, starts at home well before getting in the car.

First assess your physical and mental condition. Ask yourself relevant questions. Am I strong enough to do this planned outing and has my physical training prepared me for something this strenuous? The answer needs to be yes, if it isn't, then modify the trip or stay home. Ask yourself, too, whether you feel well enough today to do the planned itinerary. Make sure your nutrition and caloric intake has been sufficient in the preceding days.

Mental preparation is tricky and needs some rational observations by you. Am I alert, mentally energized or "up" for this trip, and, should I spare the others in my party the fact that I'm feeling really curmudgeonly today? Am I flexible enough to alter my plans when faced with other than expected situations?

Once you decide that you're ready, move on to equipment. There are many choices, and many combinations of equipment work equally well, but in the end it has to keep you warm and it has to work.

Specifics will be determined by



Special to The R-C

Heavy snow is one reason to be prepared when having fun during the winter in Alpine County.

your choice of recreation. Your snowmobile, skis, snowshoes, layered clothing, repair equipment, the 10 essentials in your pack and your vehicle all need to work and be appropriate for the activity you choose. High energy snacks and water, especially water, are high on the list. Bring warm water at body temperature or above (but don't put hot water in plastic or nalgene bottles unless you like plasticizers in your system) and a thermos with hot water, tea, coffee or soup adds to the comfort level. Stash a thermos in the car, too.

The 10 essentials vary by your recreation choice. Here they are again for skiing: navigation device

— compass, GPS optional; topographical map; headlamp because you can't ski holding a flashlight; food and water; extra clothing; sun protection — skin and eyes; first aid kit; fire starter; shelter; survival tool; signaling device. Think about adding an avalanche beacon, satellite transponder, shovel and duct tape wrapped around a ski pole. Cell phones don't work in many remote locations, but if it gives you security, bring it anyway.

All of the foregoing should be almost automatic but now comes an important part of pre-trip planning. Visit the National Weather Service Web site, click on your

hometown and look at the forecast. Why do this when you'll be recreating perhaps 3,000-4,000-foot higher? Because you're most familiar with the weather where you live and it gives a reference point for how much worse the weather might get. Click on the forecast discussion link. It gives specifics on wind speed and precipitation amounts that are expected in different regions of the forecast area. Then click on the backcountry forecast for weather specific to varying altitudes. Finally look at the satellite loops. The 16-kilometer and 4-kilometer animated loops for visual, infrared, water vapor images and the nearest

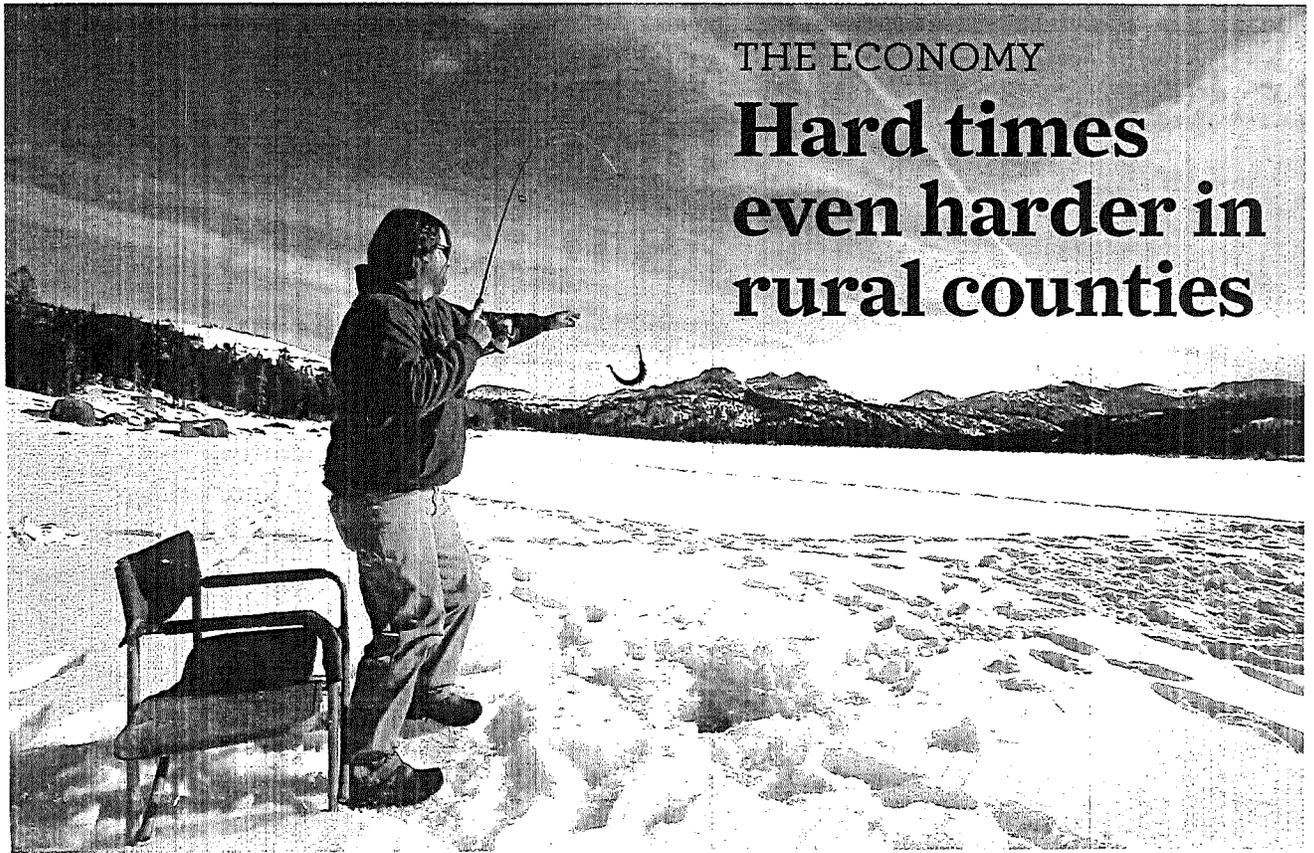
radar loop will complete your weather briefing.

Now visit the Sierra Avalanche Center Web site. This is one of the best avalanche Web sites I have seen. Comprehensive avalanche information is available on a daily basis during snow season. Pay particular attention to altitudes, aspect and slope percentages as they pertain to your route of travel. If you'll be on any slopes carry avalanche beacons.

So now you know the weather and the avalanche danger and that means decision time; go or no-go, alter the route of travel or do whatever is necessary to stay safe. It's necessary, too, to expect the unexpected and be flexible enough to change plans accordingly. That applies to large group outings as well. Sometimes group dynamics and the unwillingness of someone to challenge risky decisions can place people in danger. Decision making in the backcountry is a complex process that requires another column.

Don't forget Avalanche Awareness and Winter Safety Day on Feb. 20 that will take place on Blue Lakes Road.

This event will feature mini-courses on avalanche awareness, snow safety, pre-trip planning and decision making as well as displays by winter equipment vendors. It is designed for all winter recreationists and is being held in cooperation with the California Nevada Snowmobile Association, Tahoe Sierra Snowmobiling Club, Friends of Hope Valley, Alpine County, U. S. Forest Service, Sierra Avalanche Center and several winter equipment vendors. Check [hopevalleyca.com](http://hopevalleyca.com) for more information.



THE ECONOMY

# Hard times even harder in rural counties

Photos by Brant Ward / The Chronicle

By Kevin Fagan

CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

MARKLEEVILLE, Alpine County — There's always been a lot of nothing up here in Alpine County, where the twisting roads soar to 9,800 feet and the snow-coated Sierra slopes stretch for miles without a single building. The few mountain folk who call this place home like that placidity just fine.

These days, though, there's a little more of that nothing. And that's not just fine with the locals.

Alpine County lost more population last year by percentage than any other county in California. The loss speaks of more than just people moving out — it illustrates the difficulty facing small, rural counties all over the state.

The county's 2009 population was 1,180. In raw numbers, the drop from the year before was unimpressive — 28 people — but in percentage terms, it was a state-leading plunge of

*Alpine continues on A9*



In Alpine County, those who remain struggle to make ends meet. Anthony Stark, top, tries ice fishing at Caples Lake. Above: Tiffany Haynes, a store clerk, gives the peace sign to a sheriff driving by in Markleeville.

## Ups, downs

California counties with the greatest population gain and loss last year, by percentage:

**Imperial:**  
+2.2 percent

**Placer:**  
+1.7 percent

**Tulare:**  
+1.6 percent

**Alpine:**  
-2.3 percent

**Tuolumne:**  
-1.3 percent

**Plumas:**  
-1.2 percent

Source: California Department of Finance

# Downturn hits rural areas hard

*Alpine from page A1*

2.3 percent.

Alpine already had the smallest population in California, and now that it's smaller, the government that counts on people sticking around and patronizing businesses that generate tax dollars is feeling the pinch.

So are the businesses that count on those customers spending money.

This all means residents are feeling the pinch, too.

## Work drying up

Between local revenue losses and the crippling state budget cuts, there is less money for plowing snow off roads, less money for police services, less money for health clinics. Even if Alpine County officials wanted to put in a stoplight — there is none in the 726-square-mile county — they'd have to stretch hard.

"I've seen times go up and down in my 20 years here, but I've never seen it like this," said Bob Williams, who at 44 is the main handyman in Markleeville, population 187.

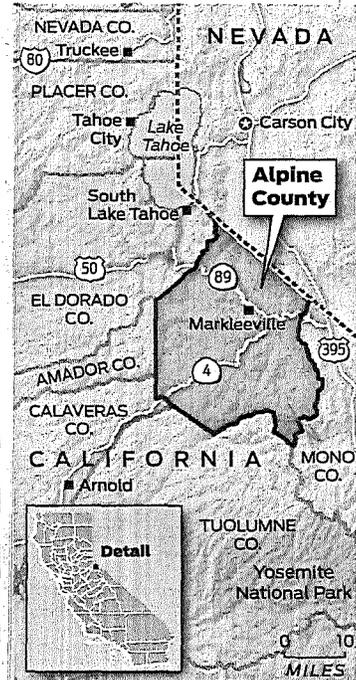
"I've known several guys who left the county because the construction work is just dead here," Williams said. "If you go to any of the pawnshops in Gardnerville (the biggest nearby town, 25 miles away in Nevada), you'll find all their saws, drills and other tools.

"They just sold 'em and gave up. It's so sad."

Jobs that used to pay \$40 an hour now pay \$20, Williams said. That's still enough to keep a roof over his head, but there's not a lot left over.

Along with construction jobs drying up, another big factor driving people out of the mountains is government's shedding of workers.

Alpine County had to lay off



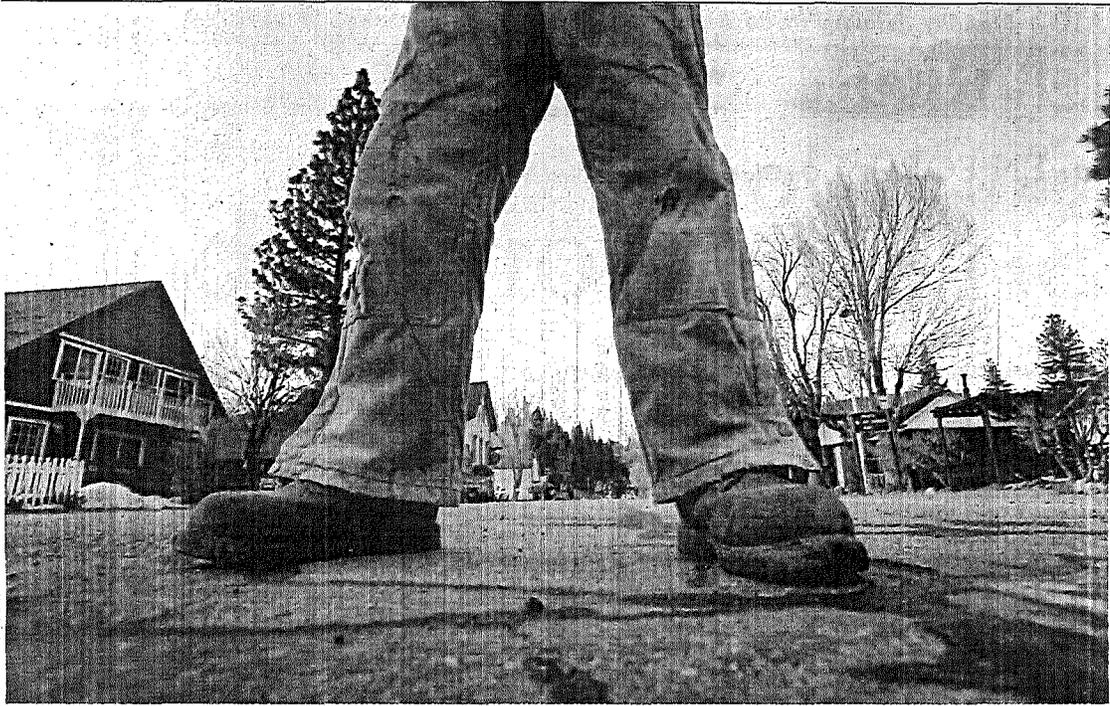
12 people last year — 15 percent of its workforce — to balance its \$28 million budget. With more cuts coming down from Sacramento, the coming year looks no cheerier.

"Whenever the state does something to the funding it gives to counties, it exponentially affects us worse than in many other places because we have to provide all the same services with fewer resources," said Pamela Knorr, Alpine County administrator. "We just don't have the scale of economy to spread the costs around."

## Homeless in the trees

There are no incorporated cities in Alpine — one of just three such counties among California's 58 — so all the road work, policing and other public obligations must be met through the county seat in Markleeville. That makes the margin of funding error razor thin.

Even for resilient mountain people like those in Alpine



Brant Ward / The Chronicle

**Bob Williams, a handyman in Markleeville (Alpine County) who has seen many construction jobs dry up, stands on Highway 89, which runs through the town with a population of 187.**

County, the thinness of the margin is unsettling.

Alpine is set high in the Sierra along the Nevada border, sandwiched between Lake Tahoe in the north and Sonora Pass in the south. The main businesses are the Kirkwood and Bear Valley ski resorts, and hotels and restaurants serving skiers in the winter and fishing, hiking, biking and motorcycling crowds in the summer.

With the recession still throbbing, revenue from those businesses is down. Last year's room-tax receipts tanked from \$500,000 to \$416,000, and sales tax money dipped from \$184,000 to \$129,000. Not large amounts for San Francisco, but devastating on the scale of relativity here.

The state funding figures were also grim. The county suffered a 36 percent cut in public health funding, a 9 percent cut in social services and a 17 percent cut in mental health funding.

Paul Smith, legislative advocate for the Regional Council of Rural Counties, said the same crunch is being felt in the countryside all over the state.

"Rural counties are in trouble," he said. "You have state mandates for programs you have to have no matter what,

and restrictions on how you can raise local money. So when the money dries up from Sacramento, we don't have a lot of alternatives.

"Even if they have cities, the cities aren't big enough to pick up the slack."

#### Tough choices

Sierra County has had to slash so deeply on sheriff's patrols that some night hours aren't even covered anymore. Modoc County is near bankruptcy, and counties from Tehama to Tuolumne are leaving potholes to fester.

"For a small county like us, it's hard," said Alpine County Sheriff John Crawford, who had to lay off two dispatchers and farm out overnight and weekend dispatching to Douglas County, Nev. "It's not good when you have to choose between keeping cops on the street or getting rid of dispatchers. The uncertainty of the state budget year to year is very worrisome."

Crime has not risen appreciably in Alpine County, but there is one troubling trend Crawford is seeing.

Ninety-five percent of the county is federal forestland, which makes it an attractive hideaway — and over the sum-

mer, for the first time, Crawford's deputies found a half-dozen people camping out full time because they had no homes. The assumption is there are others who haven't been found.

"I can understand that times are difficult for them, and I bet we will see more," Crawford said.

Camping isn't the only thing people are thinking of as they turn to nature for help in hard times.

"I haven't worked in six weeks, so this is my dinner," said Walt Openshaw, 52, as he hauled a wriggling trout up on his fishing line one recent afternoon.

Openshaw usually operates heavy construction equipment, but with nothing being built, he spent the day drilling an 18-inch hole into frozen Caples Lake and catching his meal instead.

It was his first time ice-fishing. He was glad for the free fish, he said — but really, he'd rather be driving a tractor.

"You just have to ride these bad times out," Openshaw said. "But believe me, I will ride them out."

"This is a good life up here in the mountains, so it would take a lot to make me leave."

E-mail Kevin Fagan at [kfagan@sfgate.com](mailto:kfagan@sfgate.com).

# ALPINE

## Homeschooling alive and well in Alpine County

by Virginia York

Why do some parents choose to homeschool their children? Three of the Alpine County homeschooling families I spoke with recently (the Rickford, Tinseth and Galvez families) gave the following reasons: They wish to encourage their children to be free thinkers, using their own discernment rather than conforming; they appreciate the benefits of a flexible schedule; they prefer to take

educational trips out of the tourist season; they value the freedom to design the curricula which best suit their children; the children were having difficulties at school; they want to take advantage of living in this beautiful county by spending as much time outdoors as possible; religious convictions; they feel it is vital for the children to have the leisure to discover their passions and pursue them. One reason shared by all the families is simply that they



Lenny Sue Tinseth/Special to The R-C Alpine County homeschooler Eli Tinseth, 14, studies.

enjoy being with their children.

Is it legal to homeschool in California? Yes. The families file an affidavit as a private school with the state. In 2008, homeschooling was declared illegal in



Special to The R-C

The Rickford and Lee families of Alpine County on a field trip to Taylor Creek in South Lake Tahoe.

California as the result of a lawsuit. For a month, homeschooling families

became outlaws until the new law was reversed. These three Alpine families

pay \$100 per year to belong to the Homeschool Legal Defense Association.

What about socialization? All three families participate to varying degrees in the Faith Homeschool Cooperative (faithhomeschoolers.com) headquartered in Carson Valley. Two classes are offered every Thursday. These classes vary each semester and include instruction in dance, musical theatre and phonics. Women's Health, a class for girls, and biology are taught by Lenny Sue Tinseth, mother of five, a homeschooler for 17 years and Alpine County midwife (the three families are also homebirthers). The Faith Homeschool group also has field trips. Derek Rickford, father of five and homeschooler for 10 years, takes families on ski trips to Kirkwood. Kim Galvez, mother of six and homeschooler for 10 years, is the field trip coordinator. In the warmer weather she leads hikes. Recently I met Kim at the Carson Valley Swim

Center where about 30 children and their mothers were spending the morning. The field trip began with a tour of the facility given by a staff member and after the swim session there was a picnic lunch upstairs.

Anyone concerned about the lack of socialization among homeschooling children needs only to attend one of these gatherings.

What do homeschoolers do when they reach high-school age? As Lenny-Sue's children have reached ninth grade she has enrolled them in the Moore Academy, an accredited private school.

The assigned teacher communicates closely with the child by e-mail and phone. Lenny-Sue says that in her homeschooling endeavors she has appreciated the wisdom of teachers. Raymond Moore, founder of the academy, was a public school principal for 30 years. The Moore Academy works with each child's learning style.

The school recommends a balance of school work, work, and service. Lenny-Sue's daughter, Abby, 20, worked with a local food cooperative; she also volunteered as a camp counselor for 4-H and worked at the pound with dog rescue.

Lenny Sue's son, Eli, helps a neighbor with chores such as snow removal. The local community colleges invite everyone 15½ years old and

See Alpine on page 9

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# Alpine

Continued from page 8

older to take classes. The colleges offer a dual program which includes English and Math and enables students to gain college as well as high school credit. Abby took advantage of this offer and her brother, Eli, intends to follow suit. The Rickford and Galvez families are also considering the community college classes for their children when they reach this age.

What are the Alpine homeschoolers' interests? The families favor project-based education. Collin Rickford, 14, has insulated the addition to their log home. He is learning auto shop, knows how to weld, builds computers and plays the guitar. His sister, Holly, 12, has a passion for horses and takes care of her own pony, Jack. Owen, 9, is a great reader and talker and

Dane, 6, is the athlete of the family. Their mother, Anna Rickford, keeps a close eye on the children's academic skills and assigns the children daily chores so that their home is a calm, orderly environment. Eli Tinseth, 14, has spent four summers building props and writing the script for a short film which he is creating with other homeschoolers.

He plays the guitar and piano. He is also a competitive skate skier. Elyssa Galvez, 13, volunteers in the local library where she learns a wide variety of skills. She is a skier and has a great interest in ballet, frequently taking part in performances.

These homeschooled children have a relaxed demeanor, are comfortable around adults and are highly creative. This educational approach takes its place with public and private schools as a valid choice for families.

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## Kirkwood adds 18 inches of snow

### Staff Reports

Kirkwood Ski Resort is reporting that it received 18 inches of snow Wednesday night, bringing its total since Monday to 6 feet.

Resort officials expect that

after the last storm passes through this morning, they will be able to open seven chairlifts on the front side.

The mid-mountain base is 72 to 100 inches with 72 trails open and 34 trails groomed.

## Sierra Ballet presents dance extravaganza at MontBleu

### Staff Reports

The Sierra Ballet Theatre Co. presents their fourth annual "A Dance Extravaganza" in two performances, 6 p.m. Feb. 6 and Feb. 27, at the MontBleu Theater in Stateline.

The performance opens with three ballets: the contemporary "Rachmaninoff," traditional "Sogno Dei Contadini," and flamenco-inspired "Malaguena." Also on the program are contemporary, lyrical and Bollywood-style jazz dances and the "Cakewalk" ballet.

The 22-member Sierra Ballet Theatre Co. is choreographed by the

mother-daughter team of Irma O'Fallon as ballet mistress, and Kelly O'Fallon, artistic director. "A Dance Extravaganza" also features the choreography of previous soloists for the Sierra Ballet Theatre Co.

"We have all collaborated closely on the creation of this year's performance," said O'Fallon. "This talented group of dancers has worked extremely hard over the past year to bring this show to the stage."

The ballet company is an outlet for serious dancers who want more performing opportunities throughout the dance season and who want to train at a professional level.



Photos special to The R-C

Jenny Ferrara, Emily Uhland, Brittney Kashuba, Haley Dressel, Reena Spansáil, Kim Ross, Jessica Edmonds and Rachel Uhland perform in the Sierra Ballet Theatre Company's annual 'A Dance Extravaganza' at the MontBleu Theater. Performances are 6 p.m. Feb. 6 and Feb. 27. Ticket information at MontBleu, 588-3515.

"Our philosophy has always been that dance is an art not a competition," said O'Fallon. "These dancers are dancing for the pure joy of self expression and love for their craft." Ticket information, 588-3515.

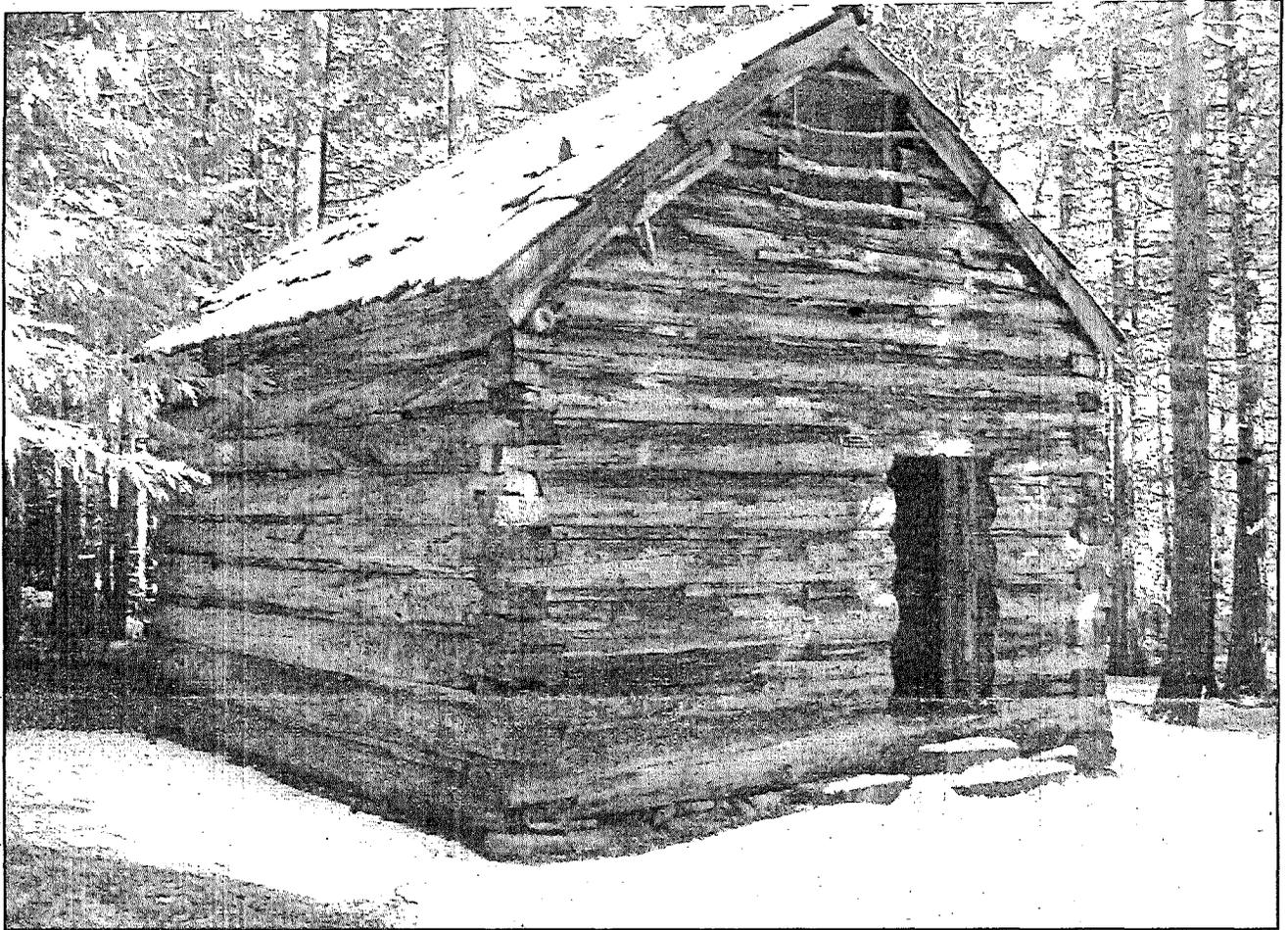


Rachel Uhland dances in Sierra Ballet Theatre's 'Cakewalk,' part of the company's fourth annual 'A Dance Extravaganza.'

# Into the wild

The Calaveras Enterprise

Friday, January 29, 2010



Photos by Ralph Emerson

Monte Wolfe built his cabin by himself in the 1930s.

## High country expedition inspects Wolfe cabin

By Joel Metzger

A small group of concerned citizens made a winter trek to Monte Wolfe's cabin last week to examine damage done to the structure inflicted under the direction of the U.S. Forest Service by a group of volunteers.

"Other than the door being ripped off and chopped up and the stovepipe being removed and flattened, there was no other damage that we found," said Ralph Emerson, a member of the Monte Wolfe Society and leader of the expedition.

Wolfe built the log cabin by hand in the early 1930s on a remote hillside of the North Fork of the Mokelumne River canyon. He mysteriously disappeared in 1940.

The cabin is situated in Alpine County between Salt Springs Reservoir and Hermit Valley and is

one of the last surviving structures built entirely by one man.

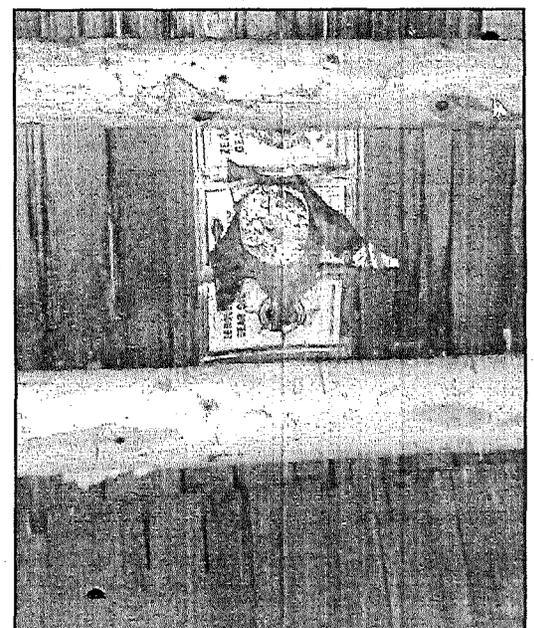
"It's a monument to ingenuity," said Howard Little, Monte Wolfe Society member. "It's one of the few cabins left in the United States that was built by one man with his own hands and is still standing."

Before his disappearance, Wolfe was known for close brushes with the law, famed storytelling abilities, overt flirtatiousness and being tough as nails.

The Linford family of Oakland befriended Wolfe in the 1930s and assumed responsibility for maintaining the cabin in the years following his disappearance.

Over the past 60 years, the secluded cabin has become a destination for many ambitious adventurers and the Monte Wolfe Foundation was

see Cabin, page A6



There is now a hole in the ceiling from the removal of a stovepipe.

## Cabin

*continued from A1*

formed to watch over it.

In recent years there has been a debate between the MWS and the Forest Service over whether the cabin should be allowed to remain in the wilderness.

Emerson has been planning a trip to the cabin for a number of weeks but has been hampered by poor weather and the denial of a wilderness permit from the Forest Service.

After several scouting trips, it became clear that the path to the cabin was not as difficult as previously thought, Emerson said.

"It was determined from some investigation that Monte Wolfe's cabin was free of snow or at least would have minimal snow and could be accessed by walking up the canyon from Salt Springs."

Emerson thanked the many

people who volunteered planes, snowmobiles, helicopters and other services after hearing about what was done to the cabin. He added that he received calls from other states and locally from people who knew Monte Wolfe, had been to the cabin or heard about the cabin, and they all supported the efforts to preserve it.

"The outpouring of support was inspiring, which only encouraged us to continue this effort to find what damage had been inflicted on the cabin and plan for a spring work party to make repairs," Emerson said.

Eventually Emerson, along with four friends, reached the cabin relatively easily, as there was less than an inch of snow around the structure.

"What started out as a mission to assess damage and make repairs as needed became a mission of fact finding, taking measurements and photographs,

along with doing some inventory accounting of what was in the cabin," Emerson said.

"We did not make any repairs because we felt that it may interfere with the agreement with the United States Forest Service and the public to make needed repairs in the spring. We also felt the cabin could easily withstand the harshest of winters regardless of damages inflicted."

Emerson said he made the trip because he felt that verifying the damage was critical for answering the disputed questions that have risen in the community about what had actually happened to the cabin.

"We know that when Monte Wolfe built this cabin, he built it to last, regardless of irresponsible attempts to destroy it," Emerson concluded.

Contact Joel Metzger at [jmetzger@calaverasenterprise.com](mailto:jmetzger@calaverasenterprise.com).



Courtesy photo

A small group of concerned citizens stands by Monte Wolfe's cabin after making the long hike into a deep canyon.

## Old Alpine County barn finds new purpose as a home

by Joyce DeVore

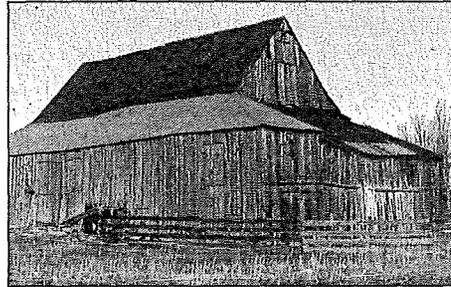
One of Alpine County's historic barns is now the home of Ed and Sara Groenendyke of Gardnerville. Tracing the barn's history, lovingly restoring each piece of timber, and erecting a striking architectural wonder around the barn's frame was Ed's project for many years.

The original barn was a Dutch design, which is distinct in this area because most of the barns were designed and built by Germans. Although the barn was first claimed on tax records by Lyman Barber in the 1870s, barn specialist Paul Oatman discovered that one section of the barn had a New England barn company's stamp and that other sections of the barn probably date back to 1850s. Perhaps the barn was erected in one place, relocated, and remodeled when the Barber family purchased property in Alpine County.

The property owner was Lyman Barber, from the famous Carson Valley ranching family of Ben Palmer, his sister Charlotte Barber and husband. According to Grace Dangberg's Carson Valley, Ben and his sister bought their way out of slavery in Missouri. Ben came to Carson Valley in 1853, and soon after Charlotte arrived with her husband, who was a white man.

In the 1850s the Carson Valley was described as a "paradise of quadrupeds." The grass in the alluvial fields reached head high, and thousands of wagon trains followed the Carson Emigrant Trail, bringing immigrants and their livestock to the area.

Dairy stock from the immigrants and



Special to The R-C  
The old Lyman Barber barn before it found new life as a home.

crossbreeds of every kind were brought to the area. Dairy and beef products were in demand due to the increasing populations of miners and other seekers of wealth in Virginia City. Ben Palmer drove 500 head of cattle to the valley from, and 1,500 head from Seattle. The Lyman-Barber wealth and reputation for hospitality were renowned.

With an abundance of grass hay and cattle to feed during the winter, ranchers and dairymen needed barns to store hay and to milk cows. The number and quality of old barns still standing in the valley is a testament to fine workmanship and to maintenance. Lyman Barber developed a successful ranch in Dutch Valley. Assessment records in Alpine County for 1876 show Lyman claimed "a tract of land in Dutch Valley, a wagon, harness, farming tools, 7 horses, a colt, 3 tons of grain, a ton of hay, furniture, 36 poultry, firearms, and a part interest in a water ditch."

Improvements and acreage were added to the records, totaling 320 acres and many cattle, horses, and equipment. The Dutch

barn he used was made of hand-hewn pine and oak, with beams measuring 14 inches square. Construction was mortise joint and tenon.

After Lyman's death in 1899, ownership of the barn and estate transferred to his brother Thomas. The barn changed hands twice more before the Bruns family obtained it, first to the Vallein family then to the Springmeyer family. The Bruns family, who are still ranchers in Alpine County, carefully maintained the property and barn.

When Ed and Sara Groenendyke acquired ranch property in 1996, they asked barn specialist Paul Oakman to assist in finding a still-standing barn for making into a home. The Lyman Barber barn was still standing but was not for sale at that time. Since the Groenendyke heritage is Dutch, that particular barn was especially appealing to them.

Some years later, Bruce Bruns negotiated the sale of the barn to the Groenendykes and the five-year project began.

Groenendyke admired the simple shape of the barn and had a vision to combine form and function.

"The barn was dismantled and each piece of wood was hauled in a semi-truck to Paul Oatman's place in Pioneer," Groenendyke explained.

Architects, engineers, and Tom Smith's TGS Construction Company were put to task using the original beams to build the interior of the home. "The main part of the house is an exact replica of the Dutch barn. All of the visible beams are authentic and true to the architecture of the original barn.

There are load bearing walls outside of the interior, most of the original beams are not weight bearing," Groenendyke said. "One of the biggest challenges was the upper structure because we had to use a 45-foot long steel beam along the ridge line and install insulation between the corrugated roof which is interior and the exterior roof."

Laughing, Groenendyke added, "There were many challenges building the house, but each morning it feels like we have our own cathedral in the Valley."

The barn home is unique. It is an eclectic blend of materials, all supporting the integrity of the barn's architecture. Modern art on wall space is combined with original hay farming utensils suspended from the ceiling.

"Most people say that they find something new almost every time they come to the house," Sara added.

Some of the house exterior is painted bright red, and the name of the property is fittingly The Red Barn Ranch, which is located on Foothill Road. There are two other old barns on the property, both of which have been restored and are in full use. One barn, dating from the 1920s, is for the horses they board and those they own. The other barn, built in 1889, is for hay storage and office use.

The Groenendykes are still researching the history of the barn and would appreciate more information about the builder and/or owners of the original barn. Ed and Sara may be reached at The Red Barn Ranch at 551 Foothill Road in Gardnerville.

## New Kirkwood generator may be in place by Oct. 1

by Adam Jensen  
ajensen@tahoedailytribune.com

Following a New Year's Day fire that destroyed Kirkwood Valley's only source of power, efforts to construct a new power plant should be done by next ski season.

Managers at Kirkwood Mountain Resort and the Kirkwood Meadows Public Utility District hope to have a new power plant constructed in the Kirkwood Valley by Oct. 1, ahead of the 2010-11 ski season, said Tom Henie, the utility district's general manager, during a meeting on Thursday night.

The goal leaves little time for delay.

Construction on a new power plant would need to break ground by June 1 for the plant to be operational by the start of October, Henie said. Several large, portable generators have powered the resort and surrounding community since shortly after the fire.

In the two weeks since the blaze, designs for a new power plant

building have been drawn and two possible locations for the plant have already been scouted.

Both of the locations are close enough to the burned power plant in the Red Cliffs parking area that the new project can be considered a rebuild, Henie said. The rebuild designation will limit the number of new permits needed for the project and would allow the project to be constructed under an existing environmental review, Henie said.

The remnants of the old powerhouse will be demolished down to the foundation within the next two or three weeks, with a complete demolition occurring in the summer, said David Likens, the CEO of Mountain Springs Kirkwood. Mountain Springs Kirkwood owns both Kirkwood Mountain Resort and Mountain Utilities, the owner of the burned power plant.

Funding will also be crucial to getting the new powerhouse up and running by next winter.

Although the utility district is still awaiting an estimate on con-



Mike Schiller/Special to The R-C

A fire caused by a faulty power generator destroyed the Mountain Utilities Power House at Kirkwood, on New Year's Day.

struction of a new power plant, initial calculations have put the cost between \$4 million and \$5 million, Henie said.

The general manager said he is pursuing a bond to cover both the cost of the new power plant and a \$30 million power line project that could connect the valley to the power grid as soon as fall 2012. The power line project is under environmental review.

One lender has expressed interest in funding both projects and Henie said he will travel to the Bay Area this next week to talk with additional lenders. He said he is "very confident" that funding can be obtained for both efforts.

An additional step critical to getting the power plant project running before next winter, the pur-

chase of Mountain Utilities by the public utility district, is also moving forward, Henie said.

A purchase agreement must be signed within 30 to 45 days; otherwise the new power plant project won't be built by the fall, Henie said Thursday night.

The public utility district has been in negotiations with Mountain Springs Kirkwood to purchase Mountain Utilities since July 2008. The negotiations became "frustrated" on both sides until the fire expedited the sale, Henie said.

Representatives from Kirkwood Mountain Resort and the utility district have both said publicly that it would be better for the utility district to provide energy in the Kirkwood Valley rather than the same company that owns the resort.

## Winter Safety Day is Feb. 20 in Alpine

Staff Reports

Winter Safety Day is 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 20 on Blue Lakes Road at Hope Valley Sno-park in Alpine County.

Classes, lasting just over an hour each, focus on trip preparation, avalanche awareness, hypothermia and other hazards faced by winter recreationists. These classes are designed for all backcountry users and will feature presentations by certified instructors who give an overview of skills necessary to enjoy winter recreation safely.

Agency participation includes California Sno-Park, California Division of Fish and Game, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Alpine County and local search and rescue groups.

All winter recreationists are welcome. Parking is very limited and carpooling is strongly encouraged.

This event will take place outside in the winter environment regardless of weather. Prepare accordingly. Dress in layers. Bring snacks, lunch and something to drink. Information, [info@hopevalleyca.com](mailto:info@hopevalleyca.com)

# SPORTS

## HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

# Whittell's Nikles wins Clothier Memorial Race

by Steve Yingling  
Tahoe Daily Tribune

South Shore high school skiers swept the podium at the Tahoe Basin League's Emily Clothier Memorial Ski Race on Thursday at Heavenly Mountain Resort.

Whittell High School's Simon Nikles won the boys' slalom race with a combined two-run time of 52.39 seconds. South Tahoe's Michael Suglian and Luca Genasci finished second and third. Their times were 53.95 and 54.28 seconds, respectively.

South Tahoe also landed a racer on the girls' podium. Vikings' senior Ashley Killeen finished runner-up to Incline's Grace Dolan with an overall time of 1:01.68. Dolan's winning time was 59.27.

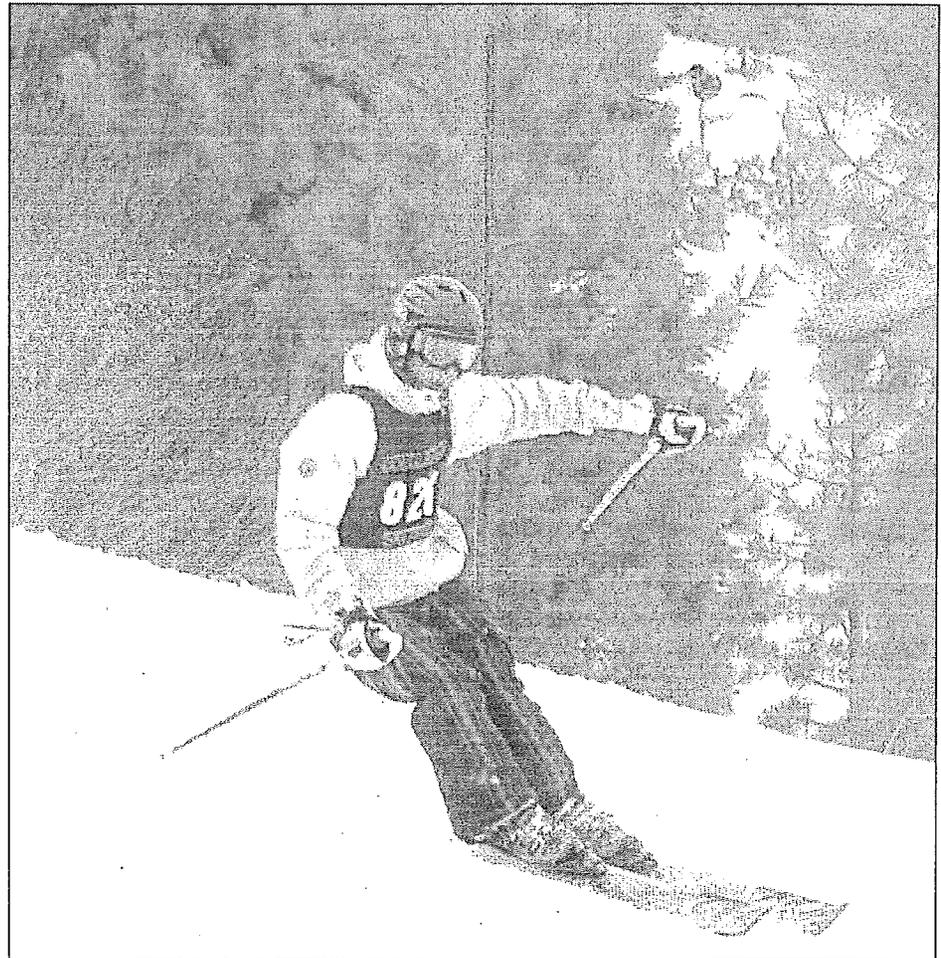
Clothier was a 14-year-old Heavenly Ski and Snowboard Foundation racer who died in a training accident on March 20, 2008, at Heavenly Mountain Resort.

"Every time you come here, you think about her and race for her," said STHS senior Erich Baumann, who got to know Emily while she was on the school's cross country running team.

Pink ribbons adorned the course ropes, and Clothier's younger sister, Mikaela, served as forerunner.

"Our team circled up before the race, and the team made Mikaela part of the team circle," said STHS coach Mike Shreve.

The South Tahoe boys and Truckee girls won Thursday's team titles. The



Steve Yingling/Tahoe Daily Tribune

Above, Mason Jackson races for Douglas High last week. Below, Jeremiah Crawford navigates a turn during last week's ski race at Heavenly Ski Resort.

# SPORTS

Vikings took their fourth straight boys' race by packing five competitors in the top nine. South Tahoe's Chris Whatford placed fifth, Justin Smaine eighth and Baumann ninth.

Behind Nikles' first league victory, the Warriors pulled off one of the biggest surprises of the day by finishing second in the boys' team standings.

Team scores were South Tahoe 178, Whittell 156, North Tahoe 142, Truckee 139, Douglas 93 and Incline 45.

The Warriors' season-best performance was also aided by Hughston Norton placing sixth, Cody Dangtongdee 14th and Sean Sullivan 19th.

"That's an outstanding finish for us," said Whittell coach Patrick Kelly. "South Tahoe is such a strong team. For us to finish second is a feather in our cap.

"Simon put together two really nice runs back to back, finishing first in both heats."

The Vikings' Jake Daum, Pierce Bickert and Mark Bergsohn finished near the top as well, placing 11th, 12th and 15th.

Grant Denny took 16th for Douglas, Jonny Lawrence was 26th, Robert Furin was 27th, Wyatt Denny was 30th, Pierce Dykes were 31st, Gavin Fitzhugh was 34th, Brock Crawford was 38th, Ryan Kochen was 40th.

Truckee handed the Vikings' girls their first runner-up finish after three straight league wins. Truckee put four skiers in the top 10 to compile a winning score of 167 points. The Wolverines were followed by South Tahoe at 162, North Tahoe (156),



Douglas (123), Whittell (54) and Incline (48).

Killeen's season-best runner-up finish was her second podium result in four races.

"She enjoys the sport," Shreve said. "She has an incredible work ethic and is always looking for ways to improve. Ashley listens and is able to transfer what she learns into what she does."

Douglas' Hillary Sapp was sixth with a time of 1:05.15, Kelsey LaLonde took 20th, Cara Dunkelman was 23rd, Rachel Babbitt was 24th, Halle Niehoff was 25th, Leah Walters took 27th, Maddyson Emery was 33rd, Crystal Rutledge was 35th and Lauren

Babbitt was 42nd.

South Tahoe's Lindsey Buchanan skied to fifth place with a combined time of 1:04.74. Teammates Melissa Smith, Melissa Ewing, Shannon Colleton and Aimee Pitcher finished in a logjam at 13th through 15th places and 17th. The Whittell girls were led by Rachel Laub in 30th, followed by Colette Craig in 31st and Jenna Fragola in 32nd. Laub was sixth after the first run, but hiked to complete a missed gate on her second run.

STHS's Jake Krazczek won the JV race with a total time of 1:08.15. Garrett Singer was second and Jared Lindner third.

12.10.10 2.10.10

# Keeping an eye out for droopy calves

This one made it, and is standing on his own now. Good to see him nursing again. He was missing at head count a couple of days ago, when the cows walked up to the manger with their calves, to feed. Found him sprawled out on the snow under a tall bitter-brush. After couple days of tubing him with 2 quarts of Re-sorb to keep him hydrated and a shot of LA200 to bust his immune system the little guy is up and walking. But will need to keep an eye on orange-tag-number 83's calf. He has scours pretty bad now too, looking puny, but still up and walking. Will have to watch them

## FENCE LINES



by Marie Johnson

all. February, scours season is here. Don't know why it is but whenever a heavy snow or rain storm blows into the Valley our cows calve. The calves do OK if the cow has enough sense to drop in a dry, wind protected part of the sage-brush field; away from ditches, and near good brush cover, but if she doesn't keep her wits about

her and drops her calf near the ditch bank or out in the open the calf could have trouble getting a start at life. Drowning happens when storm water raises up stock water ditches. Ditch banks are slippery slopes for brand new wobbly legs to negotiate. Frozen ears and tails mark below freezing temperatures on a calf.

But if the calf makes it past the birthing trauma, stands and gets a good warm drink of milk from mom, he should do well. The next concern is keeping their stomachs healthy. Sometimes a calf gets a bug but can fight it off with just a short squirty bout of

scours, sometimes scours take the calf. Got to keep a good eye on droopy calves.

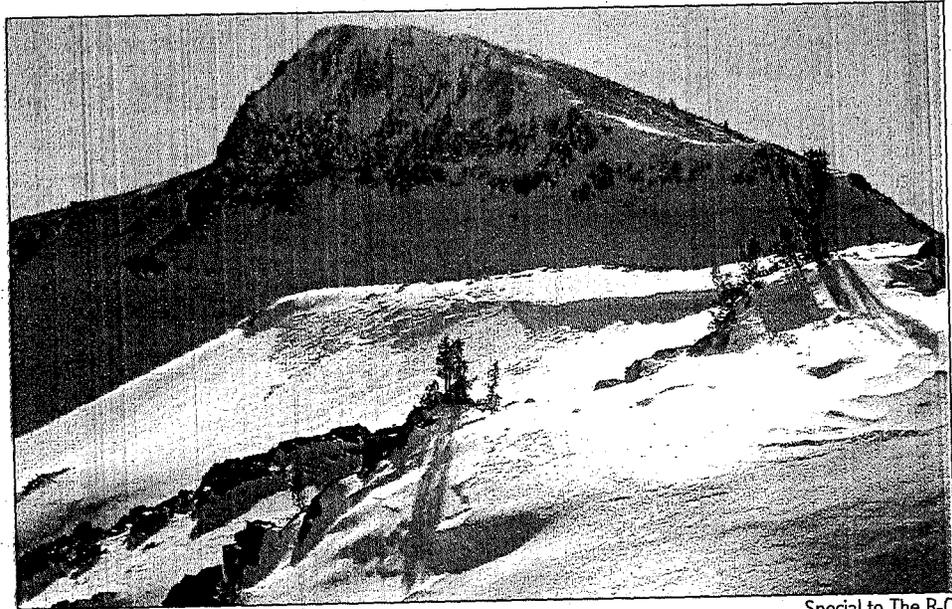
Early spring will come to our Sierra Nevada pastures bringing a 20-40 degree change from cold clear nights to bright sun warmed days and pneumonia can hit an animal. And again if the calf is healthy it should be able to handle the temperature changes but if a bug does settle into a calf's lungs you treat it early and keep vaccinations on schedule, everything should work out fine. Sometimes it doesn't. A calf can go down and after agonizing days of care and

See Calves on page 9

RC Feb. 10, 2010

# ALPINE

## Safety day may keep winter fun from turning tragic



Special to The R-C

Elephants Back in Alpine County has the sort of slopes that are subject to avalanches.

# ALPINE

## Safety day may keep winter fun from turning tragic

by Jim Donald

You've just come over the top of a ridge heading east and begin a traverse of a 40-degree slope looking for the best route down. A sudden deep cracking noise accompanied by a feeling of weightlessness gives you an adrenaline surge. In amazement you watch as much of the entire slope you're on fractures and begins moving downhill.

At first, it felt like a down elevator but speed increases rapidly as the large blocks fracture into ever smaller chunks. At this point you try to move diagonally toward the edge of the sliding mass as quickly as possible before losing your footing. If diagonally is not possible, you move uphill quickly to

### DETAILS

**What:** Winter Safety Day  
**When:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 20  
**Where:** Hope Valley Sno-Park along Blue Lakes Road  
**Info:** [www.hopevalleyca.com](http://www.hopevalleyca.com)

not around your wrists so you can drop them if you go down and your skis have releasable bindings so they won't drag you under the rushing mass.

Soon, within seconds, you may be going 40-80 mph along with hundreds or perhaps even thousands of tons of heavy slab compacted snow. It could be compared to falling into a cement mixer. If you lose your

let as much of the sliding mass go by as possible. You've shed your pack, your pole straps are

footing make every effort to keep your head uphill, swim as hard as you can and fight going under.

The noise is incredible. Snow will be forced under eyelids, into nostrils and mouth. Just before the mass grinds to a halt thrust an arm upward — you won't know which way that is so just guess. Simultaneously inhale to expand your chest and try to clear a space in front of your face.

Now, don't panic. You can't move and it's uniformly dark. Useless struggling and yelling will decrease your survival time. Yell only if you sense someone right on top of you. The other members of your party will soon be probing for you. They watched the whole event from the safety of the ridge as per standard safe travel protocol. Hopefully your beacon is still attached — if it's not they'll find the beacon and then look downhill for you. They have about 30 minutes. After that your chances of survival are slim.

The preceding is fiction, a composite from several sources including the Sierra Avalanche Center, U.S Forest Service Avalanche website, Utah Avalanche Center and the book "Snow Sense, A Guide to Evaluating Avalanche Hazard" by Jill Fredston and Dave Fesler of the Alaska Mountain Safety Center. (Fredston and Fesler's book "Snow Sense" should be read every year and referred to frequently during the winter by all who venture into the backcountry).

According to the U.S. Forest Service, 30 percent of avalanche victims succumb to trauma incurred during the ride. Almost all avalanche victims, regardless of recreation

activity, trigger the slide that kills them. So it seems like avoiding avalanche situations would be the best bet.

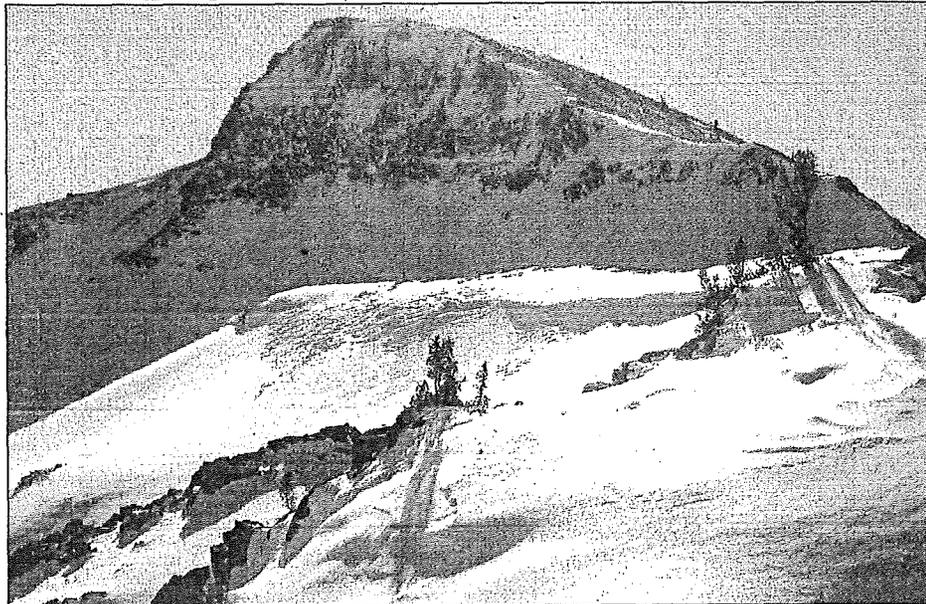
According to Caltrans, Highway 88 between Red Lake and Silver Lake sees a greater number of winter avalanches than any other highway in the contiguous United States. Many are triggered by control methods but just that fact should translate into the nearby backcountry with its similar slopes and aspects. All it takes is a trigger and that is likely you, on your skis, board, snowshoes or snowmachine.

This is where Winter Safety Day can help. On Feb. 20 a winter safety day will be held at Hope Valley Sno-Park along Blue Lakes Road, that will present a series of mini-courses covering avalanche awareness and other common winter hazards such as hypothermia and route finding. The event will kick off at 9 a.m. and end at 3 p.m.

Sno-Park permits are required and car-pooling is strongly recommended as parking is limited. The event is free to all winter recreationists. Dress for winter weather; bring lunch, a snack and something to drink.

Certified avalanche instructors, the California-Nevada Snowmobile Association safety trailer, California State Parks, Sierra Avalanche Center personnel, Alpine County Sheriff and Search and Rescue as well as Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Snow Rangers will be on hand with presentations and demonstrations and to answer questions.

More information can be found at [hopevalleyca.com](http://hopevalleyca.com) Hope to see you there.



Special to The R-C

Elephants Back in Alpine County has the sort of slopes that are subject to avalanches.

## Alpine benefit raises \$920 for Haiti

Staff Reports

2/12/10 RC

### YOU CAN HELP

A Woodfords couple who wanted to do something after seeing the parade of photos showing the devastation in Haiti held a soup kitchen at their home last weekend to raise money, inviting a group of friends and neighbors.

"We made a big pot of soup, and asked everyone to bring bread, another soup, or a side dish, plus \$20 to help Haiti," said Alpine County Supervisor Tom Sweeney. "We were hoping

Donations may be sent to:  
Doctors Without Borders USA  
P.O. Box 5030  
Hagerstown, MD 21741

to have 30 people, and 38 folks actually attended."

"It was an amazing feeling, to see all these people having fun and to know that we're able to do something positive at the same time," Jane Sweeney said. "We would encourage others to consider the same kind of soup kitchen event — it was

very easy to get rolling, and it was fun to gather a group of people for a night out while helping others."

The Sweeneys' soup kitchen raised \$920 for Doctors Without Borders, a charity that helps send medical doctors to hard-hit disaster areas like Haiti.

"It was a good feeling, to be able to mail those checks off and to know that in some small way, we can be part of a solution," said Tom Sweeney. "We are deeply grateful to everyone who participated."

# ALPINE

## Faulkner named Woodfords firefighter of the year

by Joyce DeVore

Jay Faulkner recently received the award for firefighter of the year 2009 from the Woodfords Volunteer Fire Department.

Chief Buck McLelland said that "Jay is dedicated, energetic, and hard working. Last year he attended all the trainings and responded to over half of the calls. He is also a great cook."

After interviewing Faulkner, I better understand both his commitment to our community and why he was chosen among nearly two dozen outstanding citizens to receive this award.

Faulkner grew up in San Ramon and moved to Tahoe about 15 years ago, where he established his own business servicing and repairing hot tubs. About four years ago he moved to Woodfords because he loves the open spaces. His brother-in-law is a firefighter, his father was a sergeant in the Piedmont Police Department, but he didn't consider becoming a member of any fire department



Special to The R-C  
Woodfords volunteer firefighter Jay Faulkner was named volunteer firefighter of the year.

until Al Moss urged him to join the Woodfords Station.

"I had absolutely no background. The trainings provided by the department have been excellent. For example, our trainer, Brian Beadnell, was a leader in the Katrina aftermath and commanded groups after 9/11," Faulkner said.

Trainings are vital for our firefighters because "it is key to keep up on skills and have those constant refreshers. Regular active firemen go over procedures daily — pumps, medical procedures, safety — and we don't have that since we are volunteers. So it doesn't matter if a person has already been trained in an area, volunteers

show up for trainings on the first and second Thursday of each month and one additional weekend monthly," Faulkner said.

Training each volunteer in every aspect of fire and rescue is doubly important for a volunteer group. The county dispatcher sends a call on a pager to all volunteers when help is needed at an accident, fire, or medical emergency. If only two volunteers are available, each fireman becomes an extension of the other, rotating jobs and filling whatever need is at hand.

"Each of us is our own chief at times and at other times we do the grunt work," Faulkner added.

He continued that, "Buck is the chief of the firehouse, and he is knowledgeable, safe, and we feel comfortable when he is in charge. But the same is true of all the volunteers.

"I feel that I represent very little without the whole group: we depend on each other on and off duty," he said. Faulkner values the camaraderie of the firefighters and respects their sense of community

service.

"I am a firefighter because it is the right thing to do. I am lucky enough to have my own business that allows me to work early mornings, so I am available to answer more of the calls than other volunteers who have to work afternoons and evenings," he added.

A sense of humor is equally appreciated at the firehouse. Faulkner smiles when he describes his "firehouse family," and seems just as happy to cook a meal with Mike Gard for the firehouse family as to receive recognition for his service.

Woodfords Station has two major fundraisers, a Barn Dance in September and participation in the Death Ride in Alpine County: both of these events are staffed by the volunteers and their families. Funds are always an issue. Any contributions are gratefully accepted. Send your thank-you gift to Woodfords Fire Department, 60 Diamond Valley Road, Woodfords, CA 96120.

# ALPINE

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## Snowshoe Thompson ski tour in Hope Valley March 6

### Staff Reports

The 11th annual Snow-

shoe Thompson cross coun-  
try ski/snowshoe tour is 9  
a.m. to 1 p.m. March 6 at the

Hope Valley yurt at the inter-  
section of highways 88 and  
89.

Events include a two-  
hour 10K ski tour on the  
Burnside Trail to Secret  
Meadow led by Nina  
MacLeod and a 5K show-  
shoe tour at Picket Junction  
Meadow and Burnside Trail,  
followed by longboarding  
the way Snowshoe Thomp-

son did it.

Participants are encour-  
aged to dress in 1850s garb.  
Registration and rentals  
available in the yurt.

Discussion by historian  
Frank Tortorich and fiddle  
music by Vicki Hass.  
Refreshments by Hope Val-

ley Café. Cost is \$10, chil-  
dren are free. The event is a  
benefit for the Friends of  
Snowshoe Thompson to  
promote the history and  
maintain the statue in  
Genoa. Information, Nina,  
(530) 573-8940 or Sue  
(775) 315-7777.

R+C 2-19-10

# ALPINE

## Alpine mobile command ready in an emergency

by Bill Morgan

Have you gotten lost while deer hunting in the mountains of Alpine County (people you know), made a crash landing in the Carson – Iceberg Wilderness (heaven forbid), skied way out of bounds by yourself at Kirkwood (shame on you) and broken a leg; or do you observe a huge smoke column upwind of your home (wildfire)? Have you and your companion been separated near nightfall during an unexpected blizzard while out cross country skiing (why didn't you check the weather reports)? Have two of your party been swept downhill by an avalanche (not funny, really)?

Well, you should know that the skills and experience of the various personnel

who are called upon to respond to such emergencies in Alpine County have been augmented within the past several months with a new piece of equipment that can greatly increase their efficiency and effectiveness. That piece of equipment is a mobile incident command center, a high-tech trailer from which the response teams can be directed and coordinated with the help of a wide array of computer, telephone, and radio equipment in any kind of weather.

Last fall the Alpine County Sheriff's Department obtained this special trailer through the assistance of the federal Department of Homeland Security. The sheriff's people started with plans for a basic model provided by that agency and customized the design to best suit its intended use in the



Special to The R-C

Alpine County's mobile incident command center.

Alpine County area. The trailer contains equipment that can communicate over all the radio frequencies that might be in use in an incident, including aircraft radios and ham radios. It can display real time television or internet broadcasts. It can copy and print maps or operational plans to furnish the field personnel. It has a portable weather station so as to obtain instant and site specific weather information. It contains a small kitchen; bathroom; and space, if needed, for a small group to confer on strategy regarding the conduct of the emergency response.

All the sheriff's deputies and many of the

search and rescue volunteers are trained in the use of the equipment and the sheriff's office can make the unit available in support of incidents handled by cooperators such as the forest service or the Bureau of Land Management.

Though some other counties, including the Douglas County Sheriff's Office have similar units, until recently Alpine County's Search and Rescue center was an old converted school bus with no where near the capability of this new unit. So far, the command center has been employed on two search and rescue incidents and in support of the people at Kirkwood during the recent event of a major generator fire there.

If you or a family member or friend has the unfortunate experience of the kind I described at the beginning of this article, you should know that Alpine County Sheriff's Department and the search and rescue teams, with their skis, snowshoes, snowmachines, TVs, or just simply boots, along with this new incident command center, are ready and equipped to come to the rescue.

My thanks to Sheriff John Crawford, Undersheriff Rob Levy, and Sgt. Ron Michitarian for providing the information for this article.

## Fuels reduction meeting March 10

### Staff Reports

Carson Ranger District staff of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest will hold an open house 6-8 p.m. March 10 at the Turtle Rock Park, 17300 State Route 89, Markleeville, to present and discuss the Markleevillage

Fuels Reduction Project.

This project proposes to provide for and maintain a reduced wildland fire hazard around the Shay Creek, Markleevillage, Thornburg, and Morrison subdivisions, as well as Grover Hot Springs State Park.

Treatments proposed include conifer thinning, hand

cutting and piling, mastication/mowing, chipping, and prescribed fire.

This project is being prepared under the provisions of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003. For more information on this release, contact Mandy Brinand at 884-8142.

RC 2-26-10

# Don't name your food, or play catch with it

There are two steers in the feed corral along the lane. When winter weather releases pasture grasses, we'll put them back in with the rest of the herd. Until then, we're feeding those two as much fresh hay as they want. Forking out day-old leftovers from the manger. If that hay didn't taste right or they just didn't have any more room in their four stomachs for it all, doesn't matter. I give them the best. I am going to eat them.

But before I can, these guys have to grow a little more. My eyeball guess is they weight close to 700-800 pounds. I don't know exactly, because I don't want to

## FENCE LINES



by Marie Johnson

burger.

Family, friends or just about anybody who comes to visit at mealtime shares this steer meat with us. Some folks like the taste of grass fed, no artificial hormone,

disturb them by pushing them to the sorting corral scale. When they get close to 1,500 pounds, around November, we'll trailer them to the processing plant in Reno or Fallon to be made into custom cut steaks, roasts and ham-

beef meals. Or like what they hear about it, so they buy an animal. Which we also take to the processing plant to package it into their preferred meat cuts.

Usually we keep at least two steers from our yearly calf crop because cattle are herd animals. They do not like to be alone. Some folks keep a goat with their animal if they have a small place and can't keep two or more large animals. Some let their beef animals bond with other domestic family pets, dogs, cats, sheep and as mentioned before goats.

But don't you befriend your food. Take care of it, respect it, pamper it if you want, even talk

to it as you clean out the manger, but don't make it a pet. Lots of trouble can come from that like it did for Andrea Charman last month. As head teacher in a farming community in Kent, England, she had her school get a young sheep to raise to show students where their food came from; and all aspects of farming life. The students were allowed to hand feed the sheep, and here I suspect the trouble began, named it Mr. Marcus. The kids, as children do, came to love Mr. Cuddly Marcus. When it was time to have the animal "processed" the community went into an uproar and forced

See Food on page 7

# SIERRA

## Alpine

## Food

Continued from page 6

the teacher's resignation.

Circle of life lesson:

Don't forget the purpose of food. Do not make it a pet to grow old, get diseases of age and hopefully die without too much pain. Raise it with respect, treat it well, feed and care for it and if planning on eating it, don't name it. Don't imagine it as a friend or close companion. Never name your let-

tuce, tomatoes, or carrots. Tend your garden carefully, what ever you raise. And if you intend to bring this food into your house packaged, make sure everybody understands what that means. Maybe don't use the word processing when you mean kill.

If you're not convinced think of the British headmistress forced to resign, in a farming community no less, for trying to show school children where lamb shanks come from. And the

77-year-old Italian Television food host who was suspended from his program in February because he spoke of cat recipes he remembered during the crushing depression in Italy after WWII.

Care about your food, be active in assuring its quality. And if interested check out the movement WIF Without The Farmer, Where's The Food?

Marie Johnson is a Carson Valley rancher who knows where her food comes from.

R-C

3-3-10

# SIERRA

## Alpine

### FISHING

#### *Fishing should pick up as daylight saving time nears*

Hello fellow anglers.

**MAC-  
THE-NAW**



by Doug Busey

Just a little report to give two reasons to go fishing.

On March 14, we will turn our clocks ahead, this will give us more day-

light hours to fish. But where to go?

My suggestion is Indian Creek Reservoir. "Why?" you might say. "It is full of algae and the water is always low."

With our recent snow and rain showers the reservoir has risen nicely. As many know, it will never get to the high water mark on the dam. That was when it was used for another purpose.

The lake still has an algae problem, but not like it used to due to the oxygenation system that was installed.

The technical term is a "Speec Cone." Alpine County has a great stocking program throughout the last few years. You know those little donation boxes you see at stores around the area. Last year they were able to stock the

county two extra times because of your donations.

On last Sunday "Alpine County" has started their stocking program once again. 1,300 pounds of rainbow trout ranging up to 8 pounds were put into Indian Creek Reservoir, and 500 pounds of good-sized brown trout also.

These were provided by American Trout and Salmon Hatchery from Susanville Calif.

In talking with Dave Zelmer from Alpine County, they will continue to stock this reservoir throughout the year, as well as other lakes and streams in the county, partially due to your donations, and the support of the Alpine County Fish Commission and the chamber of commerce.

What a great feeling it was last Sunday to catch and release 5 pound trout on a light action pole and a roostertail lure. See you on the lake soon.

Also a reminder to mark your calendar for June 12 for the kids fishing derby at Indian Creek Reservoir.

If you have any question in our local fishing world, call the Naw line at 267-9722. Good fishin' and tight lines. R.C 3-5-10

R-C Wed, 3-10-10

# Women ordered to drug court in lieu of prison

## Staff Reports

A 31-year-old Alpine County resident was sentenced Monday to 34 months in Nevada State Prison, suspended, and ordered to participate in drug court as a last resort before prison.



**Castillo**

Stephanie Castillo pleaded guilty to possession of a controlled substance for sales after deputies found 3.1 grams of methamphetamine in her purse following a traffic stop Sept. 29. She had a warrant for failure to appear in addition to the methamphetamine in her purse and in the vehicle.

"Obviously, you're heavily involved in drugs," said District Judge Michael Gibbons. "Quit using drugs, be the family person you say you are, and grow up, or you're going to prison."

Gibbons said if Castillo successfully completes Western Nevada Regional Drug Court she may peti-

tion the court to have her felony conviction expunged.

"You've got to work hard to finish your probation and get the court to take this off your record," Gibbons said.

# Alpine public defender receives deputies' endorsement

## Staff Reports

Deputy Edward Braz, president of the Alpine County Deputy Sheriff's Association, announced the association has voted to endorse Thomas D. Kolpacoff for judge in the upcoming judicial election.

"The DSA represents 12 sheriff's deputies throughout Alpine County," said Braz. "As front-line officers, we are



**Kolpacoff**

committed to upholding the highest standards of excellence in law enforcement and our members felt strongly that it was important to let the community know that we support excellence on the bench as well. We have seen Tom Kolpacoff in action in the courtroom,

and respect not only his knowledge of the law but also his sense of fairness and balance. We believe Kolpacoff both understands and respects law enforcement, and will be an asset to the

Alpine court."

Kolpacoff, who has served as Alpine County's Public Defender for approximately five years, acknowledged the unusual accolade. "I am extremely pleased and hon-

ored that the DSA has chosen to support me in this important election," Kolpacoff noted. "It is not every day that deputies express such support for defense counsel, so I especially

appreciate their confidence in my legal abilities and my ability to be fair."

*RC, Fri, March 12, 2010*

# Time for spring skiing in Alpine County

by Jim Donald

As I write this we are fresh off of a foot and a half of heavy powder at Carson Pass. It is snowing now, very cold, and by tomorrow the National Weather Service is calling for up to a foot of new snow above 8,000 feet. Given the temperatures it will likely be nice light powder. Not spring skiing at all but enjoyable nonetheless.

But spring skiing will come with interludes of winter. Longer days and higher sun angle produce greater solar insolation which compacts the snow and often results in a melt-freeze crust that can make backcountry skiing less than enjoyable.

At some point though, and at the right time of day, the top layer will soften to a depth of several inches making telemark turns a delight. The time of day will vary with slope aspect, temperature and wind and will progressively get earlier in the day.

This kind of snow greatly reduces flail factor – frantic waving of the arms, usually in the shoulder sockets, that helps maintain balance in variable snow conditions.

It does, however, result in another condition known as suction. After a nice run down a slope, upon reaching a flat runout area where the snow has warmed even more, the effect is like skiing into something very dense and heavy. Everything except the skis pitches forward in a sudden, constant and remarkably strong decel-



Special to The R-C

Alpine County's Round Top surrounded by clouds. Another storm is expected to arrive today.

eration. That's when it's time to go home. As the days lengthen this time gets earlier and by mid April it's usually best to be off the snow by noon. While suction may result in a face plant, sudden snowpack collapses may break something. And if your boot with no ski on it sinks to ankle deep or greater the danger of a wet snow avalanche is much more likely and you shouldn't be on that slope at all.

So the key to spring backcoun-

try enjoyment is to time your trip to take advantage of weather conditions, pick slope aspects that move either with the sun or ahead of the sun to end up facing north before calling it quits and to use great care when conditions get too soft.

So where to go? Skiers, showshoers and board riders can't beat Carson Pass, either south toward Round Top or north into Meiss Pass and beyond. Adventurous types can ski from Meiss out to a

second vehicle at Big Meadow trailhead on Highway 89, at total distance of about 8 miles. Carson Pass does require a Sno-Park permit.

Forestdale Divide south from Red Lake is another great ski. It's an easy 1.7 miles, starting at 7,850 feet to the meadow at just under 8,000 feet, where there are easy flats with gentle north and south facing rollers and steeper slopes in both directions above. A climb south, up to the divide, about a

mile and 1,000 feet higher makes for a good final run for the day.

For a really easy and scenic skiing pick any one of the turnouts in Hope Valley. Hope Valley Outdoors at Pickett's Junction (Highway 88 and 89 intersection), aka the Yurt, has all kinds of outdoor equipment for rent. Easy flats, gentle rollers and stunning views make Hope Valley an ideal choice.

Whatever your choice get a feeling for the things that grow and live in the area. Note which tree species grow where - consider elevation, slope, soil type, sun, shade and moisture. Smell and feel the bark, note color, the number of needles in a clump and their color, check cones (might have to wait until summer), crown size and shape and then key the tree in your tree book. Do the same for bird and animal sightings. Note markings, size, call, behavior, habitat and possible food sources. Tracks in the snow are a good way to identify species. Getting a feel for what's around makes outdoor experiences more enjoyable and adds to your wilderness savvy.

I'd be remiss if I didn't remind you to bring the 10 essentials, consult the NOAA weather forecast and the Sierra Avalanche Center website. Don't let nice weather lull you into a false sense of security. Trip preparation and good decision making are still key to a safe and enjoyable trip.

Jim Donald is an Alpine County resident.



Special to The R-C

Dawn Lee operates Healthwaves in Woodfords, which allows customers to order food.

# Shopping in Woodfords

by Joyce DeVore

Woodfords has a convenient way to shop for fresh produce and thousands of other healthy food and home products. The name of the business is Healthwaves.

Dawn Lee operates the business as a service to the community.

The way it works is using a catalog to shop. A customer calls or e-mails an order to Healthwaves early in the month. Orders arrive around the third week of the month. Goods arrive in Woodfords by truck and are stored at Lee's home for customer pick-up.

The catalog is exciting because of the number and quality of products.

There are spices and herbs from Oregon Spice; small and large containers of pine nuts, pecans, pistachios and more nuts; every kind of baking product imaginable including flours and dried fruit; Thai Kitchen brand Asian foods; Amy's brand

meals, and even dairy products by Nancy's.

There are charts showing the months that fresh organic produce is available — there are apricots, beans, beets, blueberries, and broccoli.

Pet food, books, hardware, frozen meals, ice cream, and sauce mixes, tonics, toothpaste are found within the 200-plus pages of the product catalog. Quantities vary from several ounces to 25 pounds.

Lee has been operating this service from her home for about 10 years.

She learned the value of healthy foods from her mother, who worked at the Bread of Life store before it became known as Whole Food. When Lee had children with food allergies, it became a necessity for her to have organic foods at home.

If you are interested in ordering, you may contact Lee by e-mail at montereyta-hoe@yahoo.com.

*R-C, 3-19-10*

**OBITUARY**

**Marlyn Clifford Johnson**

1930-2010

A memorial service is 11 a.m. Friday at Walton's Chapel, 1521 Church St., Gardnerville, for Marlyn Clifford Johnson, 79, who died March 20, 2010.

Mr. Johnson previously lived in Le Sueur, Minn. He was born in Butternut Township, Blue Earth County, Minn., on May 15, 1930, to Blanche Marie Elkins and Clifford Nelson Johnson. He married Bona Jean Larsen on April 19, 1953, at her parents' farm in Blue Earth County. He graduated from Lake Crystal High School in 1948, joined the Navy in 1951 and served until 1954 on Guam.

Mr. Johnson loved farming and carpentry. After retirement, he and his wife moved to Nevada to be near their grandsons.

Mr. Johnson was preceded in death by his parents, wife, daughter Alice and brother Calvin.

He is survived by his daughters and sons-in-law Bonnie Johnson and Edwin Merkel of Valley Center, Kan., Marie Johnson and Kent Neddenriep of Carson Valley; grandsons Bradley Neddenriep of Carson Valley and Kyle Neddenriep of San Luis Obispo, Calif.; granddaughter Julia Galstad and granddaughter-in-law Lacey Huebel of Santa Barbara, Calif.; sisters Mary Ellen Johnson of Mankato, Minn., Virginia (and Bob) Woodcock of Lake Preston, S.D., Pat (and Phil) Hoehn of Lake Crystal, Minn.; brother Keith (and Mary) Johnson of Lake Crystal; sister-in-law Doris Johnson of Lake Crystal, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Mr. Johnson will be buried next to his wife in the Fredericksburg Cemetery in Alpine County, Calif.

# LOCAL LIFE

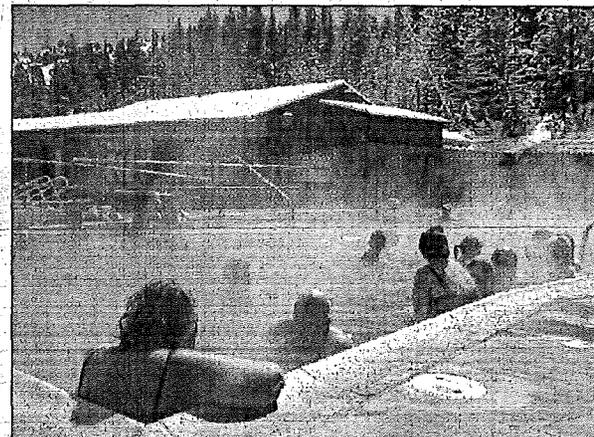
Thursday, March 25, 2010 • RGJ.com/Living

**FOCUS ON: OUTDOORS**

# Hanging out in Markleeville



The River Cabin is available for overnight rentals from Carson River Resort.



Bathers enjoy a dip in the hot springs pool at Grover Hot Springs State Park.

(pg. 1)

# Find a quiet getaway with hot springs — but leave your cell phone at home

By Maggie O'Neill  
moneill@rgj.com

Looking for a getaway without television and cell phone access?

If you are, try a cabin at the Carson River Resort, just two miles outside of downtown Markleeville, in Alpine County, Calif.

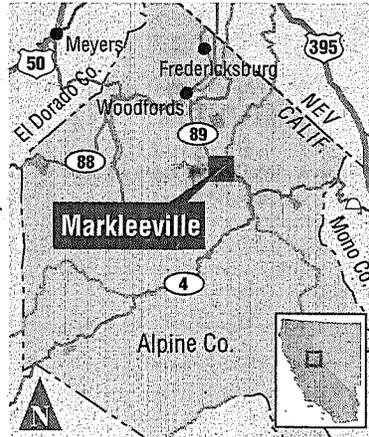
The drive is about 90 minutes south of Reno.

"We're snow-free in town right now, but up on the mountains we still have snow," said Amy Broadhurst, executive assistant with the Alpine Chamber of Commerce.

The area is a perfect spot for a getaway during the spring months. Lodging is far from full, and Grover Hot Springs State Park, four miles out of Markleeville, offers winter camping and a hot springs pool. There is also a beautiful snow-covered meadow for snowshoeing.

However, lodging in the town of 200 — yes, just 200 — will begin to fill at the end of April when fishermen come to town to angle for rainbow and brown trout in the Carson River.

That's right — there's a river



STEPHEN REICH/RGJ

that runs through downtown Markleeville. It's the East Fork of the Carson River. The West Fork of the Carson River runs through Woodfords to the northwest, and the two meet in Douglas County.

"Fishing is crucial to our summer business, and a lot of people come to fish the East Fork and the West Fork of the Carson," Broadhurst said. "Once fishing season opens in late April, we have a lot more visitors coming in."

The downtown area of

Markleeville is small. People will find one general store there and can marvel at the fact that, at least this time of year, they can buy both winter gloves and bathing suits.

Broadhurst praised Markleeville for "its small town feel, the beautiful recreational activity that you can do right from town and the friendly people."

## The state park

Nearby Grover Hot Springs is good for more than its hot springs, although that is the main winter draw.

There also is winter camping at the park. Few try this except Boy Scouts, who are out expanding their winter-camping skills.

Recently, the winter campground site was visited by Boy Scout Troop 297 from Elk Grove, Calif. They typically do a winter trip to Sugar Pine Point State Park on the west shore of Lake Tahoe, but they found that campground closed this year, so they went to Grover.

"Snow camping isn't really that

SEE MARKLEEVILLE, 5C »



A Boy Scout overhead is in the open-group campground, which is available for winter camping at Grover Hot Springs State Park.



PHOTOS BY MAGGIE O'NEILL

A bather floats her legs in the hot springs pool.  
Reno Gazette Journal (pg 2)

Thurs, March 25, 2010

# Markleeville/Town offers things to do in all seasons

From 1C  
bad," said 14-year-old Boy Scout Tyler Jensen.

Their Scouting experience started with tent set-up in light, but blustery snow, followed by a dinner of chili dogs.

Jensen and fellow Boy Scout Levi Fox, 14, wanted to practice building an alternative type of winter shelter. So the pair stayed the night under a picnic table covered with tarps.

"Winter camping is a lot more strategic (than camping in the summer)," Fox said. "You have to set up camp in cold temperatures, and you

can't really take off your shoes."

The next day, the Boy Scouts visited the hot springs pool.

"This is absolutely gorgeous," Jensen said.

He was talking about the view.

Bathers are treated to a vista of mountainsides and a meadow blanketed in snow. That is from a vantage point in the hot springs water, which has a temperature of 102 to 104 degrees.

During the winter, steam rises in such murky wisps from the top, one would not be at all surprised

to think they saw an apparition.

If bathers get too hot, they can jump into the regular pool, adjacent to the hot springs one, which is kept at a temperature of about 70 degrees.

## All types pass through

Boy Scouts, hot-springs enthusiasts and fishermen are not the only people to visit Markleeville. The town also sees cyclists, bikers and artists in the warmer months.

These people can head to the hot springs pool

any time of year, but they will find more activities, including hiking, white-water rafting, kayaking and biking, in the summer and fall.

In the warmer months, the individual campsites at Grover Hot Springs open up and, in the past, rangers have been available to lead hiking and birding tours.

Chances are, though, that if you stay in Markleeville, you'll have the ultimate getaway experience. People won't be able to reach you, because more than likely wherever you go, your cell phone won't work.

RG-J 3-25-10

(199-3)

# ALPINE

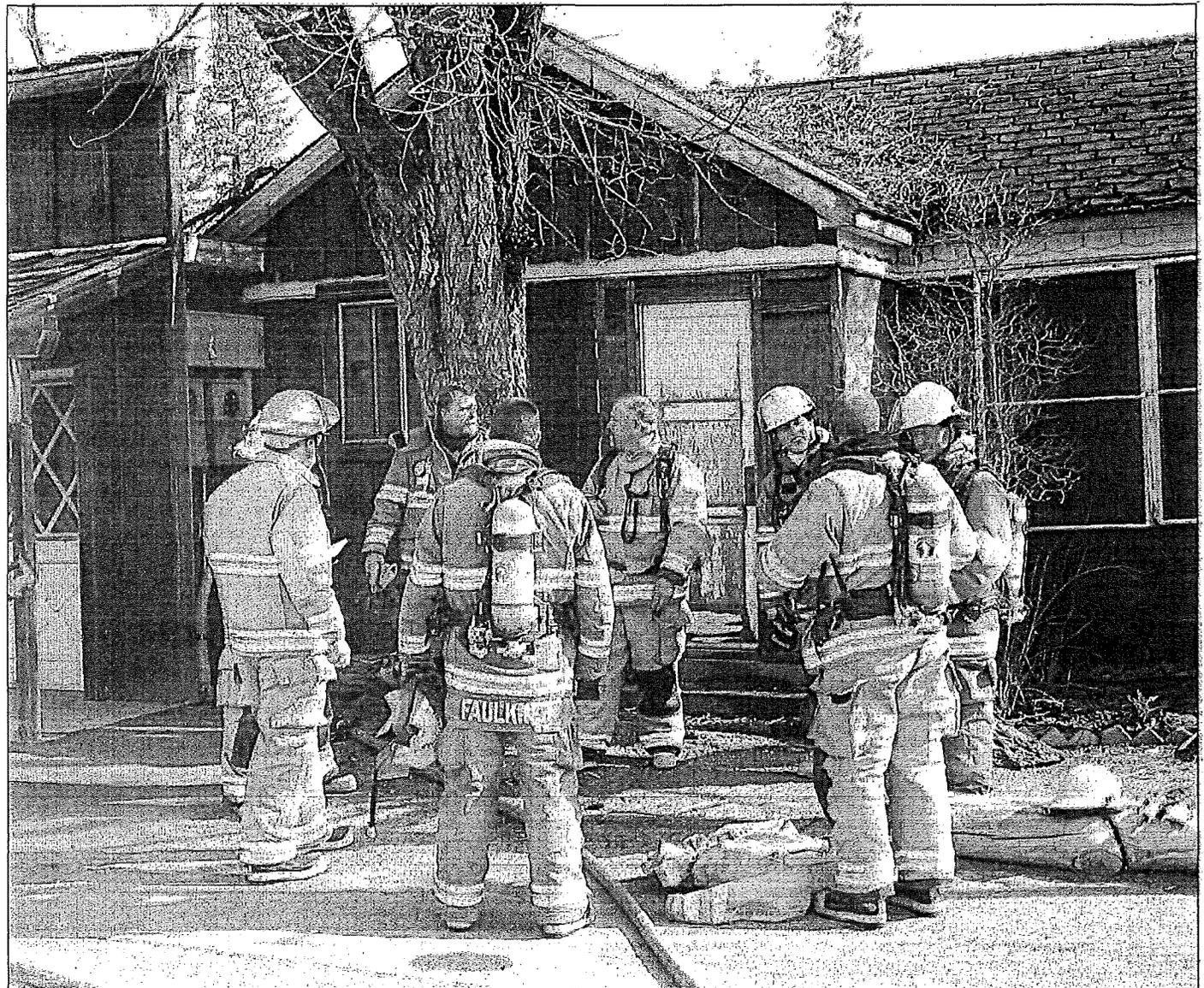
## Fire training makes for smoky time in the old town

by Virginia York

I was expecting to see flames leaping skyward and fire hoses trained on a huge conflagration. However, Assistant Chief Jeff Brees, who has served in the Markleeville Volunteer Fire Department for 20 years, explained that with the close proximity of other historic buildings in downtown Markleeville, Training Captain Paul Washam and about a dozen other firefighters were working with "smoke bombs" on March 20. The training was at a small commercial building scheduled for demolition, to be replaced with two new buildings.

The event drew a small crowd, including several wide-eyed children, a budding volunteer in every one of them.

On my arrival, a fireman was sawing through the building with a K-12 saw which can cut through metal and masonry with its diamond blade. The drawback is that it does produce sparks so it has to be used with discretion. A smoke bomb was set off in the building and the crew was planning to vent the smoke-filled space to improve visibility and to get rid of hot gases which can cause flashover (when everything reaches a certain temperature at the same time and bursts into flame.) The incident commander (all members of the department receive training to take this responsibility) makes a plan and assigns specific tasks. The acronym REVAS establishes



Firefighters training in Markleeville on March 20.

Special to The R-C

priorities: rescue, exposures, ventilation, attack and salvage.

One risk of ventilation is that with the introduction of oxygen the fire intensifies so careful planning and communication are essential; the firefighter's actions must be impeccably choreographed. As soon as the ventilation has taken effect firefighters are ready to enter. In a one-story building horizontal ventilation can be achieved by opening a window at the side of the house farthest from the entrance to be opened.

In a taller building vertical ventilation is required. Ladders are set up and a firefighter, once sure of his footing, saws a hole through the roof. The men are instructed on where and how to saw the hole. Preferably it should be between rafters and sawn in such

a way as to form a hinge so that it can be closed if the heat becomes too intense for those working inside the house.

In Saturday's practice two men were on the ground and two on the roof, breathing from air packs. The importance of thinking and making deliberate moves was emphasized.

Once the hole was made and roofing and ceiling materials punched through by an 8-foot pole, a gas-powered fan was placed 8 feet away from the downstairs access point, in this case the door, which was then opened, drawing a current of air through the building, sweeping the smoke though the hole in the roof.

Alpine County Fire Department was started in 1947 in the wake of

the Silver fire which swept from Wolf Creek, consuming structures at East Fork Resort (which were at that time on the Carson River), missing the town of Markleeville and moving down to Nevada burning 14,402 acres.

Chris Gansberg request to the board of supervisors that a department be established was approved and California Conservation Corps resources were employed. Initially Woodfords and Markleeville formed one department.

Today there are four fire departments in Alpine County: Woodfords, Markleeville, Kirkwood and Bear Valley. They are financed by the county's general fund. Markleeville has six apparatus and 16 members on the ros-

ter, some of whom are EMTs, others Red Cross certified. They are looking for more members, especially strong, young men. They meet the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 6:30 p.m.

It is heartening to know that not only are our firefighters dashing and daring, they also undergo well-planned, informative training.

So what will be rising from the smoke and rubble? The property was purchased recently by Teddy Carlson Brown and Nick Hartzell and Ali Bornstein. On one side Teddy plans to have a real estate office; on the other, Nick and Ali are going run a restaurant. Both businesses will have upper story apartments.

The previous owner, Bo McGilroy, is now in Napa County,

cared for by his sons. Many of us have happy memories of Molly's Boardwalk, better known as Bo's Pizza. The business was named after Molly, mother of the town's large deer herd. Doug and Billie Ford, former proprietors of the Alpine Hotel used to feed apples to the deer. It is said that a seed from one of those apples developed into the large apple tree at the side of the building.

Nick and Ali anticipate a fall opening for their dinner house where simple, savory food, including pizza from a wood-fired oven, will be served four days a week. We await the event eagerly.

Thanks to Jeff Brees and members of the Markleeville and Woodfords volunteer fire departments.

## Turtle Rock fuels reduction planned

### Special to The R-C

Alpine County has announced that the Turtle Rock Park fuels reduction collection site will not be open this spring due to budget limitations. The site is normally open weekends in April and May for Alpine County residents and property owners to drop off natural vegetation. The Alpine County Community Development

Department is pursuing options to open the site this fall. In the mean time, you can check the Alpine County Web site for alternatives to the Turtle Rock collection site at [www.alpinecountycalifornia.gov/public\\_works/recycling\\_fuels\\_reduction\\_collection\\_and\\_county\\_cleanup](http://www.alpinecountycalifornia.gov/public_works/recycling_fuels_reduction_collection_and_county_cleanup), or call the Community Development Department at (530) 694-2140 for more information.

## Forest Service proposes Angora reforestation project

### Staff Report

The U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit proposes to plant conifer seedlings in the Angora fire area this spring.

The Forest Service wants to expedite a decision on reforestation to plant 745 trees, of which 450 could be planted in April.

An environmental assessment for comprehensive restoration of the Angora fire area was released in March, and the agency has previously analyzed reforestation as part of this project.

Typically, forests place orders for conifer seedlings to nurseries up to two years before they expect to plant. The Forest Service submitted an order for

planting in the Angora Fire area, which will be delivered this spring, before a decision on the larger project is signed.

The Lake Tahoe Basin has a very short timeframe in which soil moisture and temperature are favorable for planting.

The Forest Service's proposal may be viewed at [fs.usda.gov/lbtbmu](http://fs.usda.gov/lbtbmu).

RC, Fri, March 26, 2010

SWIMMING & DIVING

# Swim team keeps rolling with win over Lowry

## Staff Reports

The Douglas High swimming & diving teams swept through their third week of dual meets to stay unbeaten on the year.

The Tiger girls beat Lowry 165-123 and the boys beat Lowry 171-96 in Minden on Saturday.

Taylor Killion had a big day for the girls' team, winning the 100 backstroke and the 50 free while teaming with Chandra Matheson, Anna Jackson and Mary Smithen to win the 200 medley relay and with Paula Sigala; Yuchen Jin and Smithen to win the 400 free relay.

Jin won the 200 freestyle with Matheson coming in second. Sigala won the 500 free, Katherine Crowe led a 1-2-3 sweep of diving with Samantha Phillips and Hailey Desborough in order and the relay team of Jin, Brenda VanDenBerg, Christina Henning and Matheson won the 200 free relay.

Sigala was second in the 200 IM, Smithen was second in the 500 free and Jackson was second in the 100 free. Jackson also turned in a third-place finish in the 100 back. Matheson was second in the 100 breaststroke.

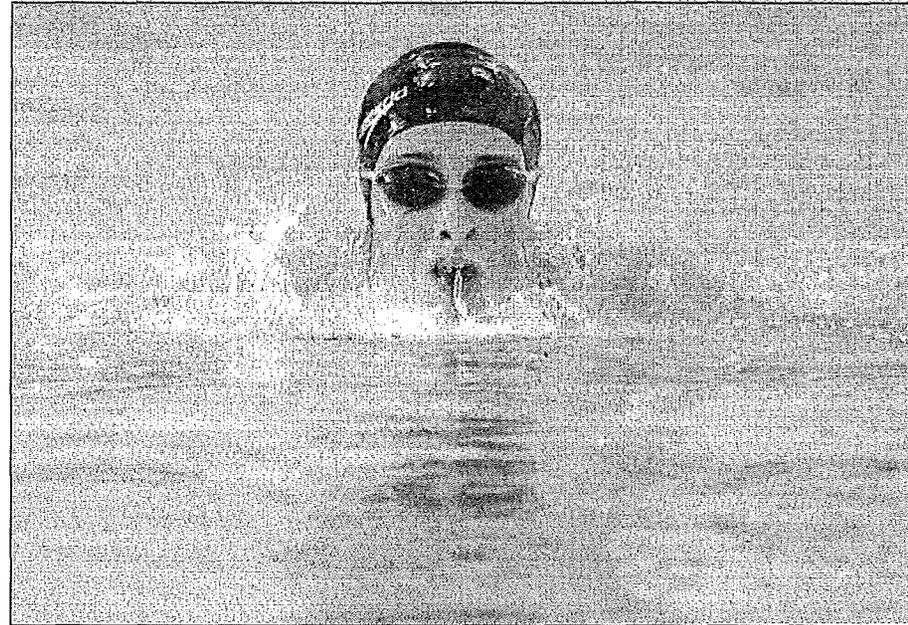
For the boys, Eric VanBeuge, Kyle Jenkins and Michael Webster swept the top three places in the 50 free and Nolan Thew, Michael Darby and Luke Isherwood swept diving in order.

VanBeuge won the 100 free while Jenkins was third.

Shawn Stubnar won the 100 backstroke with Colby Cain coming in second. Devin Osband was second in the 200 IM, Daniel Palmer was second in the 100 fly. Palmer also won the 500 free with TJ Smithen taking second.

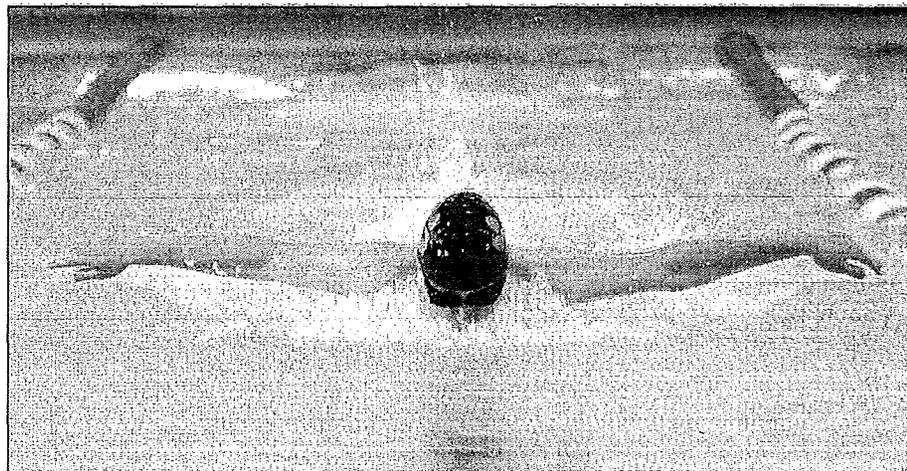
In the relays, the team of Webster, Jenkins, Sam Ansel and Cain won the 200 free relay while the team of Darby, Osband, Jake Sellers and Justin Harmon took third. Osband, Palmer, Sellers and Webster teamed to win the 400 free relay and Stubnar, Smithen, Jenkins and VanBeuge were third. VanBeuge, Ansel, Stubnar and Cain won the 200 medley relay.

Ansel was second in the 100 breaststroke and Darby was third.



Shannon Litz

Above, Brenda VanDenBerg swims the 200 IM on Saturday against Lowry at the Carson Valley Swim Center. Below, Devin Osband swims the 200 IM for the Tiger boys' team. Go to [recordcourier.com/photos](http://recordcourier.com/photos) for more photos of the meet.



# OPINION

## Supporting Kolpacoff

EDITOR:

My husband and I have been privileged to live in Alpine County since 1970, and have known Judge Edmund Moor and each of the judges who followed him on the bench. We hope Alpine's next judge will follow in the footsteps of this esteemed group, and will be as

thorough, unbiased, and fair as these judges have been.

For this reason, we support Tom Kolpacoff in the coming judicial election. Mr. Kolpacoff impresses us as someone who will look at both sides of an issue and decide cases based on the law.

One important thing for voters to know is that a large percentage of the cases in Alpine County's court are criminal cases. However, our court handles civil matters, too. Therefore it is especially important that Mr. Kolpacoff brings extensive experience in both criminal and civil legal matters, because our judges must be prepared to handle both.

With his strong legal experience, we feel Mr. Kolpacoff will be good for our court and our community.

**Dolores Clark**

Retired Treasurer & Tax Collector of Alpine County  
Markleeville

# When the backhoe's in trouble, bulldoze

April 1 is no joke when it comes to the start of irrigation season according to the Alpine Decree.

That day the Carson River diversion is opened and snow melt comes pouring out. Spreading a thin sheen of steel gray or deep blue, depending on the day's cloud cover, over the fields in Carson Valley. But before you can put on your knee high, black rubber, irrigating boots; sharpen your shovel or check the tip of your pickaroon you have to clean your irrigation ditches. That is why we have a bulldozer.

Not that we use a bulldozer to

## FENCE LINES



by Marie Johnson

clean ditches. One needs a backhoe or reasonable excavator for that. Backhoes are the all purpose tool on most ranches in Nevada. They plow through snow, move immovable rocks, scrape clean mangers, scoop large buckets of dirt and debris. They are the wonder tool. Piece of steel blocking the entrance to the shop, no problem, downed tree across a ditch,

no problem, tons of sand backed up in the ditches from the last flood, no problem. All can be corrected by the backhoe.

I am not allowed to use the backhoe. I think because it is too much fun and if I figure it out and get proficient with all those little levers and knobby handles my husband will not be able to do all the heavy manly "chores" he insists on doing around the ranch with his backhoe.

A backhoe is a pretty self sufficient machine. It can reach, grab, dump, scoop and lift. And if it is in a sticky situation it usually has enough horse-power with its 4

foot tires or 7 foot front scoop or 2 foot backhoe bucket to extract itself from any difficulty. Except when it can't. And that is why we have the bulldozer.

Just once, and that is all it took, just once the backhoe slipped down into one of our deeper irrigation ditches. The ditch sides were so steep and slick with snow melt the backhoe could not pull, climb or maneuver itself out. The operator, read that as husband, walked back to the house to ask for help.

And just how are we going to

See Bulldoze on page 9

# Bulldoze

Continued from page 8

get it out, that backhoe is the superhero on our place pulling trucks, rocks and whatever out of

tight spots? The bulldozer can do it if we can get it close enough for the chains. So out I went on a cold, windy, snowy, rainy, sleeting, typical early spring day, sitting atop that 1956 D4 caterpillar bulldozer. With its little engine

exhaust chimney cap flapping in the breeze. Its two wide tracks easily, slowly rolling over the field to that poor stuck backhoe. I learned which levers to push, to pull, how to raise and lower the several tons of solid steel blade, how to go for-

ward, reverse and to turn on one track and pulled that little backhoe out of its steep, steep ditch.

As time passed the husband said the bulldozer was to be sold, it was old, needed a lot of work. I said no. As every rancher needs a

backhoe, every rancher's wife needs a bulldozer, and that thing is still out there pattering around today.

Marie Johnson is a Carson Valley rancher.

# ALPINE

Fri, April 9, 2010

## Alpine mixing up cookbook

by Joyce DeVore

Food is a fascinating topic for many people, from local parents groups to medical professionals to our first lady. As James Poniewozik wrote in Time, "food is a statement of culture and identity."

Alpine County's small population of permanent residents (approximately 1,200) has traditional potluck dinners to honor special occasions and events. These potlucks date back to the pioneer days in Alpine.

Almost 60 years ago, a group of women who supported "the furtherance of education" published a cookbook to commemorate the centennial celebration (1864-1964) in Alpine County. The group was called Alpine County Mothers' Club, the book Favorite Recipes.

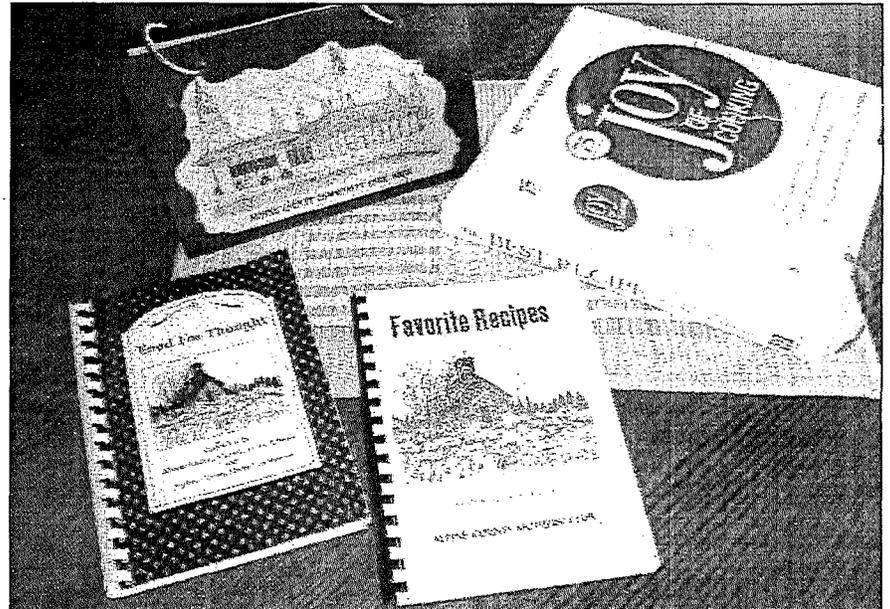
Recipes from that cookbook are not only glimpses back into the '60s, many recipes are generational heirlooms.

Rosella Jackson, whose family members still live in the area, donated her famous venison mincemeat recipe as follows:

- 2 pounds cooked ground venison
- 1 pound beef suet, ground
- 5 pounds tart apples
- 2 1/2 pounds brown sugar
- 2 Tbsp. cinnamon
- 1 Tbsp. allspice
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 pounds raisins
- 2 pounds currants
- 1 pounds fruit of citron (glaze)

Juice and rind of orange or lemon  
Add enough liquid (juice or brandy) to make right consistency.  
Mix ingredients thoroughly and add boiled cider or juice. Heat slowly to boiling point and simmer one hour.

Bernice Dangberg donated her mustard pickles recipe; Vickie Hellwinkel her bread recipe; Elizabeth Coyan her tuna casserole; Mina Wood her venison with sour cream; Marie Sorensen her noodle supreme; and many others. Among the 1960s vintage recipes, including those made with Jell-o and canned soup, there



Special to The R-C

Copies of Alpine County cookbooks past and some other favorites.

are gourmet hints like :

- Have you tried;
- Minced marjoram in a fruit salad?
- A few fennel seeds in a Waldorf salad?
- Fresh basil in ground beef patties?

Even the advertisements are interesting: one ad is for Woodfords Cash Store, owned by Claud and Ruby Harris at telephone number OX 4-2924. Another ad is from the Golden Bubble Casino in Gardnerville, where the buffet cost \$2. And where else could one find a soda fountain diet or a weight gain diet but the Mother's Club cookbook?

The Mother's Club cookbook was updated and published 10 years later. The book has a wooden cover, reminding Alpiners of the historic sawmill industry. The dedication informs us that the meaning of the book is friendship, and the goal is to leave Alpine County a better place for its children. I'm sold. The pages were hand-typed, and the floating capital letters remind me of how difficult manual typewriting could be. Vintage recipes for Aunt Bill's brown candy, Waunetta Butterfield's scalloped potatoes, and Viola Rieman's never fail hard soap (made with lye, lard and rain water), are interspersed with more modern Weight Watcher's chili and Honey-All-Bran Pudding.

Almost 15 years ago, the Alpine County Friends of the Library and the Alpine County Historical Society published another successful cookbook, Food for Thought. Several men contributed recipes to this edition, as well as

professional chefs. Sorensen's added a wonderful Hope Valley autumn pie with pecans, walnuts, cashews, and peanuts; Lynda Kirby from Woodford's Station gave out her sumi salad recipe, and Marci, then chef of Alpine Restaurant, donated her huevos rancheros recipe.

The Friends of the Library group is sponsoring a new edition of an Alpine County Cookbook. Since we have many new residents in the county and there have been changes in the way we cook and the way we eat, the new edition should be a great combination of the potluck favorites, family favorites, and the latest in healthy eating.

There is an interest in recipes adjusted for convection ovens and for solar ovens, interest in vegetarian and/or vegan recipes, and an interest in time-saving recipes. Our goal for the new cookbook is to reflect the culture and identity of Alpine County.

Please send us your recipes, along with any anecdotal information that you would like to share. For example, if you updated the recipe or if you invented it, if you acquired it from a magazine or a friend, simply add that information to the bottom of the recipe.

For more information call me at 694-1710 or Evelyn at 694-2750.

To send a recipe via e-mail, write recipe for cookbook in subject line and send to either [evenlynnyonker@gmail.com](mailto:evenlynnyonker@gmail.com) or [joycedevore@gmail.com](mailto:joycedevore@gmail.com)

# Alpine district attorney seeks seat on bench

## Staff Reports

Alpine County District Attorney Will Richmond is a candidate for Alpine County Superior Court judge.

Richmond, who had served as a circuit prosecutor for Alpine County since 2000, was first appointed district attorney in 2003, and has been elected twice since then, in 2004 and 2006.

"The move to superior court judge is a natural step at this point in my career," he said. "I have 40



**Richmond**

years experience in the courtroom to contribute to governing fair and even handed proceedings and achieving firm and clear results for all matters brought to the Alpine County court. Plus, I have a real sense of our community and my fellow Alpine County residents, where I have lived and worked and participated since first becoming district attorney."

Richmond is a graduate of Stanford University and Hastings College of the Law.

In addition to his two terms as Alpine County district attorney, his career has included three terms as the elected district attorney of Tulare County, periods of private practice in Visalia, Calif., and the San Francisco Bay Area, and prosecuting crimes as an assistant U.S. attorney and as a deputy district attorney in both Tulare and Santa Clara counties.

"My practice has always been courtroom related, whether it was during periods of public service or private practice. It has taken me to courtrooms in rural as well as metropolitan areas, at both appellate and trial levels, in federal as well as state courts, and on civil as well as criminal matters. If elected, I will bring this broad professional experience with me to the bench in Alpine County."

Richmond lives off the grid in Alpine County and has four grown children.

"Though they are now spread out from California to Montana to the Midwest to Maryland, the highlights of the year are my visits to them or their gatherings here, and the time with my grandchildren. I also enjoy skiing and hiking, tending to the demands of my home's energy independence, and participating in activities of the Alpine County Watershed Group, the 50 Plus Club, the Alpine County Historic Society, the chamber of commerce, Friends of the Library, and other organizations contributing to life in Alpine County."

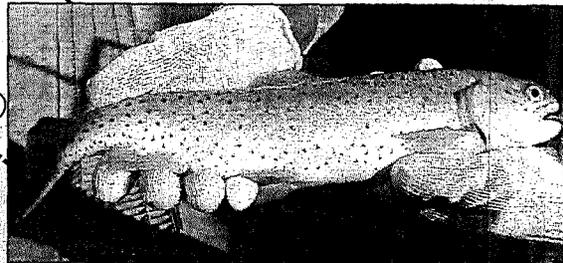
# Silver Creek fish kill

## swims closer

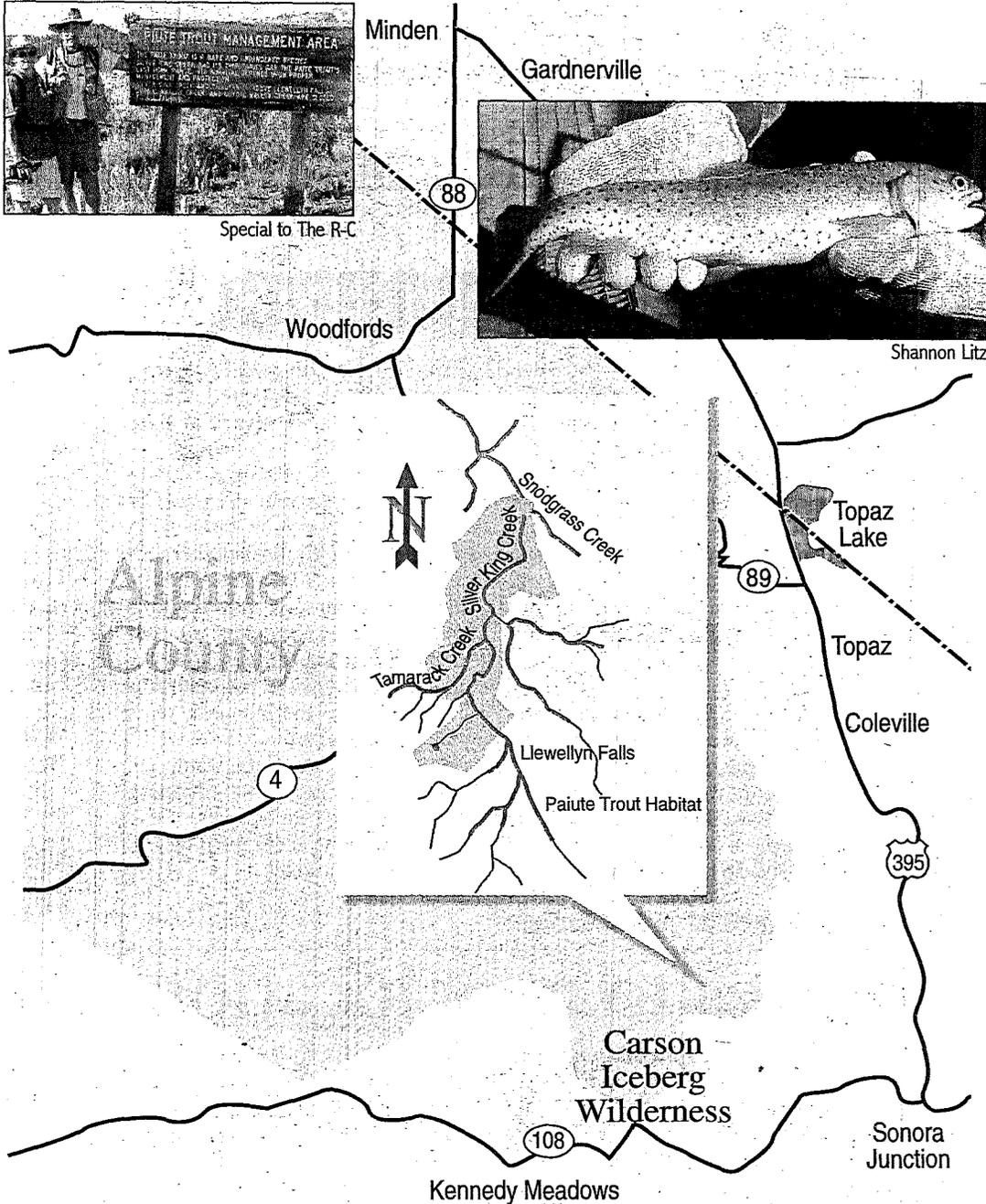
by Kurt Hildebrand  
khildebrand@recordcourier.com



Special to The R-C



Shannon Litz



Kurt Hildebrand  
Silver King Creek is located northwest of Sonora Junction. At top, Gardnerville residents Liz and Don Weirauch stand next to a sign near Silver King Creek stating that fishing is illegal above Llewellyn Falls in 2005. At top right, a 3-year-old female Lahontan cutthroat trout at the Lahontan National Fish Hatchery in Gardnerville.

RC Apr. 11, 2010

# Fish

Continued from page 1  
stocked in years.

"Most everything out there is wild fish," he said. "True they are the descendants of the originally stocked fish, but they are wild. The color on them is spectacular, with lots of sparks and brilliant red stripes."

He said the creek, which is in the back country was reasonably accessible for day trips.

"It's back far enough that there isn't a whole lot of angling pressure, but easy enough to get there to do a day trip out of it. It was a real special place."

Fish and game officials

have been working for nearly five years to get to the point where they can remove non-native fish from the creek.

They were close to conducting a kill when a federal judge ruled in 2005 that they had to conduct an impact statement.

Comments will be accepted on the proposal until May 10. They may be addressed to Robert D. Williams, State Supervisor, Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office, 1340 Financial Blvd., Suite 234, Reno NV 89502. Comments may also be faxed to (775) 861-6301. Copies of the statement are available at [www.fws.gov/nevada](http://www.fws.gov/nevada), or by calling the service at (775) 861-6300.

Comments are being sought on an environmental impact statement that clears the way for poisoning non-native fish out of Silver King Creek in Alpine County so Paiute cutthroat trout can be planted there.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued the statement Friday calling for removal of fish from the creek above Llewellyn Falls downstream to Silver King Canyon and accessible portions of Tamarack Creek, Tamarack Lake Creek and the lower reaches of Coyote Valley Creek.

Officials are seeking permission to use rotenone to remove the fish and then neutralize the poison. Signs would be posted where the poison had been applied, and its levels monitored. Silver King Creek is a tributary of the Carson River's East Fork.

The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board is scheduled to hear a request for the project 7 p.m. Wednesday.

"After multiple years of evaluation, agency biologists and researchers have determined the preferred alternative is the best option to restore and recover this native species within its historic habitat," said Fish and Wildlife Service Nevada Supervisor Bob Williams. "We believe implementation of the preferred alternative will recover Paiute cutthroat trout so that it will no longer need protection under the Endangered Species Act."

The non-native fish have to be removed from the creek in order to allow ensure survival for the planted cutthroat.

Don Weirauch, who owns The Angler's Edge in Gardnerville, said the decision was disappointing.

"We made comments all the way through the process," he said. "It's upsetting to say the least. It seems like wild mustangs which are not native can get federal protection, but we've got to have this whole press to have native species here."

Weirauch said Silver King Creek has excellent fishing despite the fact it hasn't been

See Fish on page 9

RC - APR 11, '10

# California fishing season right around the corner

Hello fellow anglers.

Just a reminder: We have two weeks until California fishing season opens on April 24. This includes rivers, streams as well as lakes in Mono and Inyo counties. Also, a reminder that streams in the South Lake Tahoe basin remain



by Doug Busey

closed to fishing until July 1.

Always check your regulations before you venture out for closures

and regulation changes.

As of last week the Carson River in Alpine County was flowing at a perfect fishable pace. I know you don't want to hear it. But, we need our cool temperatures to stay with us a while longer to keep the snow pack up on top from melting too quickly. Speaking of snow, here is a report on the higher lakes in our area.

**CAPLES LAKE:** The lake has 2 to 3 feet of ice with 1 to 3 feet of snow on top. Not many anglers out due to last week's blizzard conditions.

As Kelly Kieth said, "It's still winter up here."

One of the Caples Resort guests and his friends ventured out. Trevor

Bach from Sonoma California said the fishing was great. They caught rainbows, browns and brook trout using night crawlers. When the weather got too bad they switched to pink power beads, first time ice anglers, and the caught 40 fish. The prediction for Caples Lake thaw date is the third week in May. But always approach with caution, don't let a good fishing story rule your common sense. For more information, call the Caples Lake Resort at (209) 258-8888.

**INDIAN CREEK RESERVOIR** Two weeks ago they let out water to do a flush and fill. So, as many anglers saw, the lake went down

about two feet. On April 1, they started diverting water from the Carson River to raise the water back up. The algae is still a problem in many areas of the lake.

With our warming air and water temperatures, the oxygenation system that was installed will be turned on. Fly anglers have had best success with black knats or black wooly buugers. Bait anglers have had some luck with rainbow or salmon peach power bait. Robin DeBock from Gardnerville caught a nice 24-inch rainbow a week ago. In talking with South Tahoe Public Utility District, they forecast the lake coming up to near lake capac-

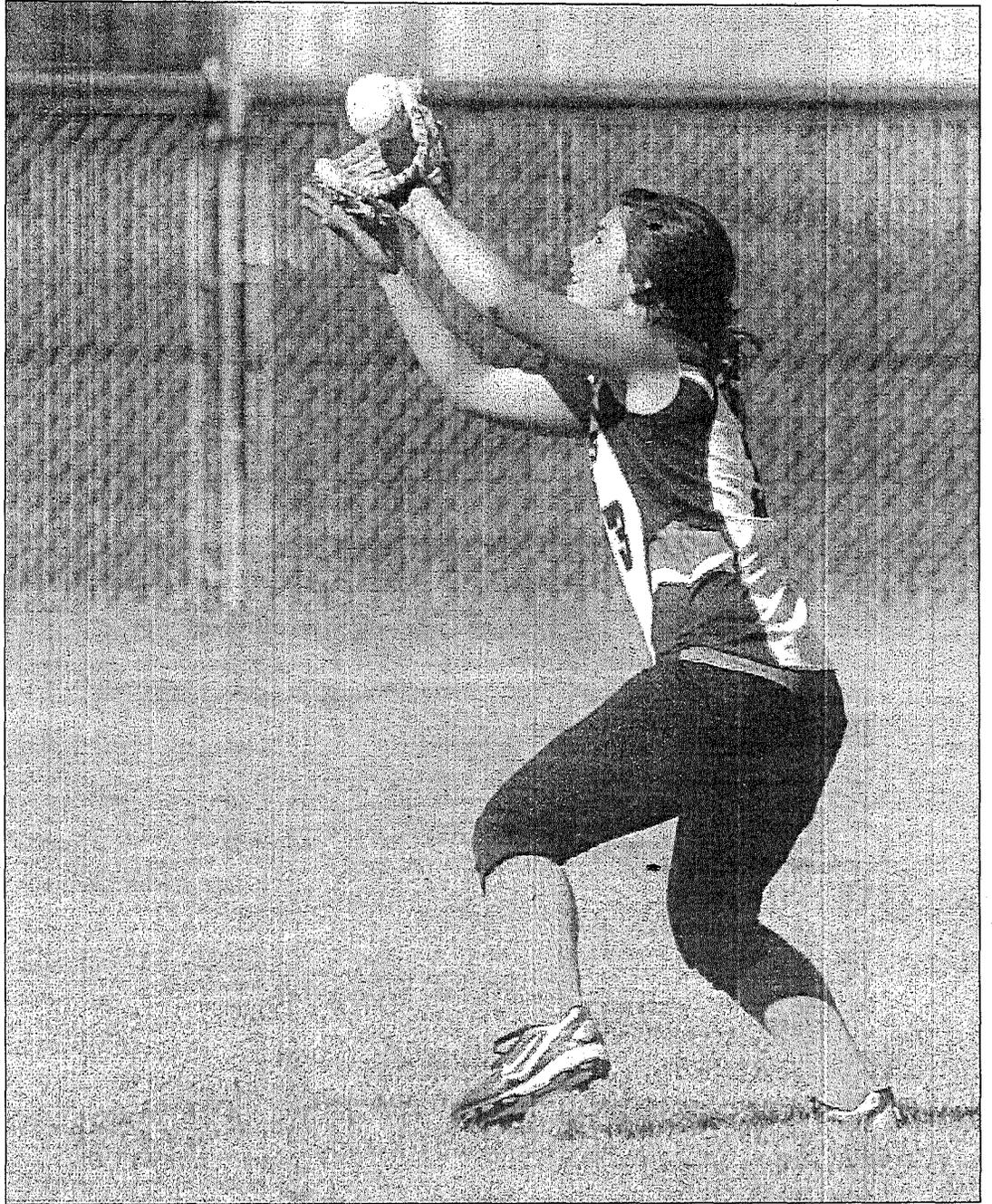
ity. As a note, that is not the high water mark that you see on the dam. That was made when the lake was used for another purpose.

**TOPAZ LAKE:** Not many anglers out fishing due to the weather last week. As of last Wednesday it seemed as if every one had come out of hiding. There were 12 boats on the lake and many shore anglers. Rapalas or flashers and a crawler has been most productive from a boat.

Shore anglers have had best success with an inflated night crawler. For more information or if you want to rent a boat, call Topaz Landing Marina at (775) 266-3550.

# SPORTS

## SOFTBALL



Shannon Litz

· Nikki Chavez makes a catch in left field for the Tiger softball team Thursday. Below, Taylor McKinnon pitches.

# Lady Tigers stop Wooster

by Joey Crandall

jcrandall@recordcourier.com

After Wooster rapped out four hits for three runs to open the game, it was apparent the Douglas softball team was in for a fight.

The Tigers overcame four errors in the game and rode 12 runs through the third, fourth and fifth innings to a 15-8 win over the Colts Thursday afternoon in Minden.

"It's a good win," Douglas coach Andy Mitchell said. "We came from behind and the girls had to battle to get there. Wooster is a scrappy team. They put the ball in play and we were a little rusty on defense.

"The offense did their job though. We've been working hard in practice to create game-time situations and that showed with how we did on offense today."

In total, the Tigers got 12 hits, including big days all around for the top of its order. Morgan Blomstrom went 3-for-4 with a double and a three-run home run. Maddy Gilbert went 3-for-5



with an RBI, Emily Weaver tripled and drove in three runs and Katrina Morgan blasted a two-run home run to go with a double.

Amanda Caras and Nikki Chavez each drove in a run and Naomi Roberts and Rebecca Trute each doubled. Roberts drove in two runs and Trute had one RBI.

Freshman Taylor McKinnon pitched a complete game for the Tigers, striking out two, walking one and picking up the win.

## BASEBALL

The Douglas baseball team opened the Bishop Gorman Easter Classic with a pair of losses and a win this week.

The Tigers fell 5-4 to Juan Diego out of Utah in the first game and lost 14-7 to Golden Valley, Calif. on Thursday.

Douglas rebounded with a 7-6 win over Wisconsin Lutheran on Friday and were scheduled to play Menlo Saturday to conclude the tournament.

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**Cameron M. Craik**

**1942-2010**

A wake for former Alpine County Supervisor Cameron M. Craik, 67, will be 1 p.m. May 8 in Fairfield, Calif. Mr. Craik died April 3, 2010, at his home in Soldotna, Alaska.

Born Aug. 28, 1942, in Sacramento, to



John Cameron Craik and Sue (Maurer) Craik, he attended college in Marin, Calif., in the 1960s. He worked for Marianni's Cabinet Shop in San Rafael, Calif. from 1959 to 1963.

**Craik**

He then began working for Union Construction and Cabinet Maker in California. He was also the Alpine County Supervisor from January 1993 to December 1996. He retired from the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America in 2005. He moved to Alaska in 2004 at resided at his home off Funny River Road. He recently began working at Home Depot in Kenai. He enjoyed fishing, hunting and working on his home. Mr. Craik was protestant and a member of Demolay.

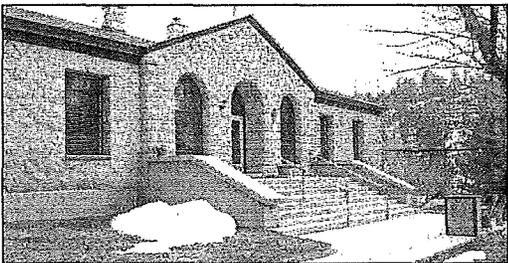
He was preceded in death by his parents, John C. and Sue Craik.

He is survived by his ex-wife Virginia Craik; son John (Lorraine) Craik of Markleeville; daughter Kelly (Clark) Meyer of Fairfield; grandchildren Ethan and MacKenzie Craik of Markleeville; sister and brother-in-law, Christine and Bruce Glass of Rohnert Park, Calif.; and nieces, Cindy (Glass) Armanini and Lori (Glass) Lee, both of California.

Arrangements were made by Peninsula Memorial Chapel. Memorial gifts may be made to the Shriners or the charity of choice. E-mail [kandcmeyer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kandcmeyer@sbcglobal.net) or call (707) 974-3299 for address and directions.

# ALPINE

Fri, April 16, 2010



Dan Thrift/Tahoe Daily Tribune file photo

The Alpine County Courthouse:

## New courthouse in works for Alpine

Staff Reports

California approved \$26.37 million to build a new Alpine County courthouse in Markleeville.

The secure single-courtroom courthouse in 14,840 square feet structure would allow the Superior Court of Alpine County to move out of the historic courthouse built in 1928.

Plans for a new courthouse in Markleeville for the Superior Court of Alpine County received formal approval to begin, with funding authorization today by the State Public Works Board.

This approval marks the official start of the courthouse construction project, which will be managed by the state administrative office of the courts.

The proposed project would enable the court to greatly improve security and provide basic services currently not possible because of space limits, such as jury assembly and deliberation rooms, a self-help center, family court mediation, a children's waiting room, and attorney-client meeting rooms.

The proposed project also includes surface parking for 45 staff, visitors, and jurors.

# Celebrating spring in the Sierra

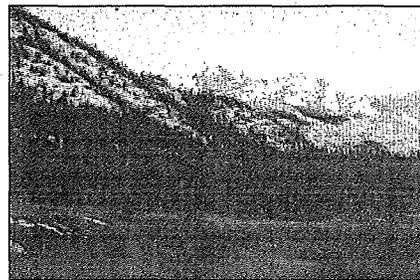
by Jim Donald

Spring is coming to the Sierra despite the highly variable weather we've had lately — and when hasn't April been variable? I well remember, in South Lake Tahoe, watching my kids in AYSO soccer and even later during Little League practice, in spring snows.

This late moisture is necessary. As of this writing the National Weather Service shows the Carson River watershed snow-pack to be at 88 percent of average while total precipitation for the water year has been 92 percent of average. Stream flow projections show the Carson will run at a disappointing 76 percent of average mostly due to absorption by dry soils that resulted from the previous three dry years.

But we live with what we get and the longer warming days are a good time to get out for slow hike to observe the changes happening now. With up to 154 inches of snow up on the passes, rivulets and runnels are forming that will coalesce into creeks and cascades that further down become streams, falls and eventually rivers. So stay low on sunny slopes to avoid snow and look around.

Birds are easy to watch. Get a pair of 7 by 35 binoculars, the National Geographic Birds of North America field guide and you're set. Most songbirds are omnivorous but some species tend toward seeds and berries while others



Special to The R-C

The sun shines off of the mountains in Alpine County.

prefer worms or insects. Birds will resume usual behavior patterns if you sit still for a while.

On a bare patch of ground soon after sunrise a flock of Oregon juncos work the area looking for seeds. Soon after, they are replaced by a flock of robins, omnivorous birds that we usually associate with pulling worms out of the ground, looking for anything edible.

A few weeks ago flocks of piñon jays came through, in the air sounding much like a gaggle of flying cats. These chunky, dull blue, somewhat clumsy birds make an adventure out of every landing, doing a series of flutters followed by what looks like a random plunk to the ground, which they then comb hidden caches of seeds. Like its higher altitude relative, the Clark's nutcracker, it can remember the location of thousands of these seed caches.

Steller's jays have really been around all winter, descending a little during the

harshest months, but these handsome squawkers, the life of your picnic, are busy feeding and establishing territories necessary for breeding.

A sure sign of spring is the liquid trill of the red-winged blackbird coming up from the creek bottoms and wet meadows. It and the mountain chickadee's long soft call of cheeeeeeeese -bur -ger are a sure sign that nice days are ahead. Blue grouse will be booming shortly in the conifer forests adding to the cacophony. Hawks are back, as are swallows. Mountain bluebirds can be seen in high open areas. Waterfowl and wading birds fly up and down the watercourses.

One of the joys of spring is an early hike among scattered snow patches to find a sunlit duff area with the warm smell of Jeffrey pine bark and pine needle duff. This is a good time to drag out your tree book. Trees are easy. They're big, don't move and present themselves well. Note crown shape, bark, cones, count the needle bunches and note color.

Flowers are another matter. Get a simple flower field guide specific to this area with good illustrations or photos. We have about 10 flower books ranging from really simple to the Jeppson Manual: Higher Plants of California (the resident flower and mushroom expert keys out to species level — especially with mushrooms that we eat):

Mammals, reptiles and amphibians, mushrooms, insects and stars all deserve a guide too but I'm out of room. Happy hiking.

# Bear Valley High will close its doors

## Tiny school sees decreased funds

By Krissi Khokhobashvili

Bear Valley High School is closing, dropping the number of students attending the one-room schoolhouse in the high country by two.

Dr. Lisa Fontana, superintendent of the Alpine County Unified School District, said the board came to the decision at the beginning of March to close the high school. This year only three students attend the school in Bear Valley Village, one of whom will graduate at the end of the school year.

"So we were looking at two

students returning in the fall," Fontana said.

That combined with the fact that two teachers are required at the high school due to strict highly qualified teacher credentialing requirements from the federal level. In addition, the funding model from the state changed this year so that the district will no longer receive block funding to run that school.

"It would have cost us more than \$170,000 to keep the school open," Fontana said. "When you mix that all together, it's kind of hard."

There are 16 students in kindergarten through eighth grade at Bear Valley Elementary School, and Fontana said there

are no plans for closure of that program, as the school is designated as a "necessary small school" due to its rural location and the distance students would have to travel to go to another school, keeping in mind that the stretch of Ebbetts Pass between Bear Valley and Markleeville closes during the winter.

The two high-schoolers, who will enter 11th and 12th grade next year, will attend school in the Bret Harte Union High School District, Fontana said. One student is already a resident of Calaveras County, and the other started school in Calaveras before transferring to Bear Valley.

One of the Bear Valley High

teachers, Stephanie Bowen, has her kindergarten-through-eighth-grade teaching credential, and so will transfer to Bear Valley Elementary as a co-teacher. However, Fontana said, two instructional aides and teacher Manon Berning will not work for the district next year.

As the students at Bear Valley Elementary move into high school, Fontana said, they will most likely attend school in Calaveras. Several students, she added, already live in Calaveras. And, she added, "Because we closed the school — that doesn't mean we wouldn't consider opening it someday. ... We're more than happy to open it if the

see *School*, page A7

## School

*continued from A1*

numbers increase."

But so far, she said, the community has been understanding of the financial and logical need to shutter the school for now.

"The parents I've talked with are very open-minded about this

as well. I never really heard any serious concern. Of course we love the students and the teachers, and it was wonderful to have them here, but Calaveras County is a wonderful, welcoming place for our kids as well."

Contact Krissi Khokhobashvili at [krissi@calaverasenterprise.com](mailto:krissi@calaverasenterprise.com).

R-C Wed., April 21, 2010

OBITUARIES



**LeBarron**

Born Dec. 14, 1940, in Springfield, S.D., to Ford and Eunice (Venne) LeBarron, he was educated in parochial schools in Great Falls, Mont., and earned his bachelor's degree in chemistry at the College of Great Falls.

In his early years, Mr. LeBarron was employed by the Pillsbury Company helping to develop cake mix recipes, and then worked for the government in St. Paul in a munitions plant.

He moved to Seattle in 1980, where he was employed by Northwest Laboratories as an analytical chemist. He moved to Belmont, Calif., in 1998 and worked for Biosource until his retirement in 2003.

Mr. LeBarron was an avid hiker, traveler, talented photographer and gourmet cook.

He was an active member of the Friends of Hope Valley, the Carson Valley Trails Association, the Carson Valley Hikers, the Gentlemen's Autochthonous Book Society, and the Cloud Appreciation Society.

He enjoyed the sport of dock jumping with his dog Starbuck, who won many competition trophies.

He was preceded in death by sisters, Kay and Suzanne.

He is survived by wife Yvonne Chen; daughter Elise (Mike) of Gig Harbor, Wash.; his stepdaughter Shawn and fiancé Mark of Seattle; stepson J., his wife Sabahat, and their children Jasmine and Jaan of Walpole, Mass.; mother Eunice; sisters Marie, Vonnice, and Suzette, all of Great Falls; as well as numerous nieces and nephews in several states.

Memorial gifts in Mr. LeBarron's memory may be made to the Friends of Hope Valley, P.O. Box 431, Markleeville, CA 96120, or the Carson Valley Trails Association, P.O. Box 222, Minden, NV 89423. For more information, visit [www.hopevalleyca.com](http://www.hopevalleyca.com) or [www.carsonvalleytrails.org](http://www.carsonvalleytrails.org). The Neptune Society is in charge of arrangements.

**Samuel Ovid LeBarron**  
1940-2010

A memorial service is 1 p.m. May 8 at the Starlight Lodge in Markleeville for Samuel Ovid LeBarron, 69, of Markleeville, who died April 13, 2010, in Palo Alto, Calif., after a sudden illness.

## Broadband coming to Markleeville

by Joyce DeVore

Markleeville residents will soon have broadband service available.

WPTI Telecom LLC, with offices in Reno and Minden, began broadband service to computers in the administration building a few years ago. Service was extended to the superior court, library, and district attorney's office. Service to most residences in Markleeville is coming very quickly.

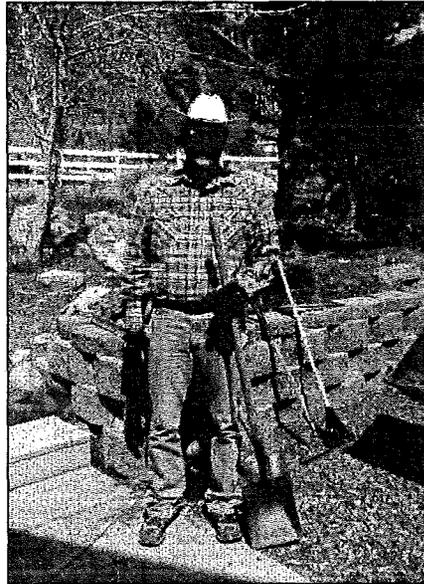
District 1 Supervisor Don Jardine and County Administrative Officer Pamela Knorr made getting broadband service to Markleeville residents a priority. Those officers approached WPTI Telecom and together they have built "a good relationship," according to WPTI Sales Manager Tony Prestigiaco.

Prestigiaco said that although "services are few and far between in Markleeville," WPTI has the technology and capacity to provide broadband.

In order to provide this service, there needed to be equipment installed at the administration building and at the water company tank site in Markleeville.

Kris Hartnett, board member of Markleeville Water Co. and retired electrician, added that WPTI has a contract with the water company. "WPTI pays the water company to lease ground space for their equipment and pays a sum of money for the cost of its electricity," Hartnett explained.

"Don Jardine has worked hard for at



Special to The R-C  
Supervisor Don Jardine working on broadband in Alpine County.

least three years to get broadband to Markleeville," said Hartnett. Hartnett credits Jardine with the success of the project.

"The WPTI equipment is a wireless service port, which is not a cell tower nor which would enable cell phone use," said Prestigiaco. The port will send signals to most all homes in the Markleeville area.

Each home will need a wireless receiver, which is provided free-of-charge as part of the broadband service.

Homeowners may install the receiver themselves or pay WPTI technicians to install it for them.

John Endter, of E Squared C company, added that "an Internet router (at an additional) cost can be connected to the subscriber unit that will allow multiple computers to use the Internet connection." Endter warned that each computer uses a part of the connection, so too many computers in use at the same time would cause a slow connection.

The basic cost of service to a residence will be \$49. There are upgrades on the basic service that would allow speeds up to 3 megabytes per second. The highest broadband speed (3Mb) is 54 times faster than dial-up, according to Endter.

Interestingly, Endter noted that although broadband cannot compete with the ultra-high speed of cable, the lowest cost cable internet is slower than broadband. Endter states that broadband is much preferable to cable.

More importantly, the broadband wireless link between the administration building and the district attorney's office has been running with no problems.

Prestigiaco said that once the Markleeville area is up and running, the company will research expanding service to Woodfords and the Mesa. To contact WPTI and/or Prestigiaco, call (775) 236-5800, or e-mail sales@wpti.com. There is also a Web site with additional information, [www.wpti.net](http://www.wpti.net)



Jim Grant / Tahoe Daily Tribune file  
OJ Abben soars over a 20-foot outcropping on Lookout Vista during the qualifying round of the North American Freeskiling Championships at Kirkwood Mountain Resort.

## Kirkwood wraps up season on Sunday

Tahoe Daily Tribune

An excellent season for Heavenly and Kirkwood Mountain Resorts comes to a close April 25.

"We're expecting to end the season with great snow conditions and possibly even a powder day or two," Heavenly spokeswoman Ami Xistra said.

For the final weekend Heavenly be open with operations out of the gondola only. The Gondola, Tamarack, Dipper and Sky chairlifts will all be open with skiing and riding on 38 trails, 1,900 acres and in two states.

"We've had great, consistent snowfall and we've put out an amazing product on a day-to-day basis," said Russ Pecoraro, director of communications.

The frontside of Kirkwood. Chairs 5, 6, 7 and 10 will be open on the final weekend. Chair 1, which accesses a beginners' run, is closed. Kirkwood's Web site reported its seasonal total snowfall at 414 to 527 inches.

## Alpine group watches the county's waters

by Virginia York

In 2001, individuals from Alpine County began meeting monthly to discuss how to collaborate around watershed management. Thus began the work of the Alpine Watershed Group. In 2004 the group joined the 772 other volunteer monitoring groups in the United States in starting a Citizen Water Quality Monitoring Program. The group became an official non-profit organization in 2006.

What is a watershed? It is any area of land that drains into one creek or lake. The broader definition includes everything in the drainage basin, the concept being that everything is connected. The five watersheds within Alpine County are the headwaters of the Carson, Mokelumne, Stanislaus, American and Upper Truckee rivers.

The intention of the Alpine Watershed Group is to bring together stakeholders, partners, landowners, local organizations and members of the community for the sake of watershed stewardship. The group helps to facilitate communication and planning with other groups and agencies concerned with natural resource management issues. Those attending the monthly meetings include representatives of the forest service, Washoe Tribe, Alpine County, Lahontan

Water Quality Control Board, and the Carson Water Subconservancy District.

The group is funded by grants from the California Department of Conservation, the Carson Water Subconservancy District, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and contributions from individuals. The county gives in-kind assistance such as providing an office and meeting space and acting as the group's fiscal agent. The group is a volunteer-based organization with only one staff member—Watershed Coordinator Sarah Green.

The functions of the Alpine Watershed Group include:

- Education of the community in awareness of watershed health. Creek Days have been held annually for the past eight years in late September, when community members gather to learn about local watershed issues and work on creek restoration projects such as trash clean-up and willow planting; other outreach efforts involve working with schools and youth groups.

- Restoration projects which protect streams, meadows and uplands. Members of the group work to stabilize stream banks and reduce sedimentation which harms fish habitat; they re-establish riparian vegetation (eg. aspen, dog-

wood, willows) to increase habitat for aquatic invertebrates, native fisheries and migratory birds. Ongoing projects include the restoration of the Markleeville Forest Service Guard Station site and stream bank stabilization projects along the West Fork of the Carson River in Hope Valley.

- Water quality monitoring. Every three months at the same time on a Saturday morning, 16 trained volunteers go to eight stations to conduct chemical water testing. Results of the tests can show changes which may indicate pollution or other disturbances in the environment. Jim Dunn, one of the volunteers lent me his copy of "Sierra Citizen: Water Quality Monitor." I found the descriptions of the tests and their purposes fascinating; I shall summarize the information here:

- a. Air temperature.
- b. Water temperature.

Aquatic organisms from microbes to fish depend on a certain temperature range