

ALPINE

Grand Jury: Alpine needs jail

by Kurt Hildebrand
khildebrand@recordcourier.com

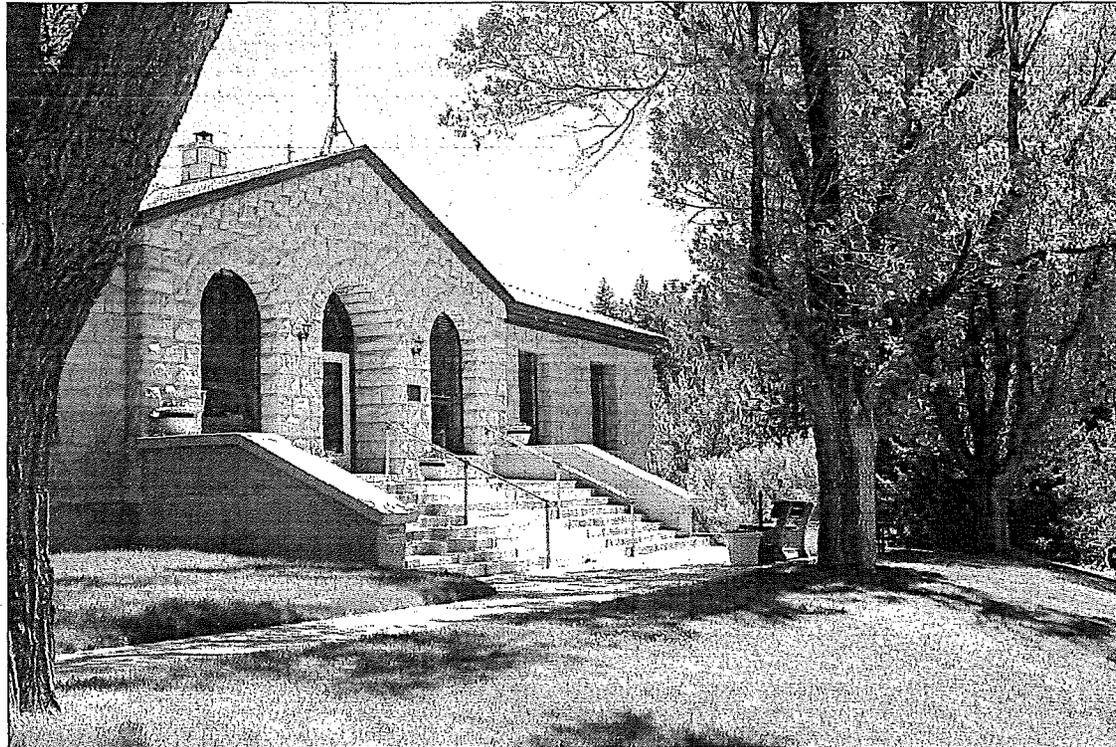
Someone who gets arrested in Alpine County can't be held there by the Sheriff's Office, nor is there anyplace secure for investigators to interview suspects.

That was one of the conclusions of the Alpine County Grand Jury in its final report.

"Alpine County has no jail and no secure temporary holding facilities or interview rooms within its borders," the report said. "As a result law enforcement officers face obstacles to performing public safety services."

Grand jurors learned that because there is no holding cell or lockup at the courthouse, officers must constantly accompany anyone they have in custody.

In June, Alpine County received a complaint from the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health regarding health and safety



Shannon Litz

The historic Alpine County Courthouse in Markleeville is due to be replaced.

issues at the courthouse. That complaint prompted the county to move deputies' offices to Turtle Rock Park.

The county and state are working to convert one of the offices in the courthouse basement to a secure interview room.

State officials are working to find a site for a new \$24.37 million courthouse that will replace the historic courthouse.

Grand jurors also examined the state of student enrollment at in the Alpine County School District, focusing on the Bear Valley Elementary School.

"The question of interest ... was whether Bear Valley Elementary School has become so small that it becomes appropriate to close the school and bus the remaining children to Calaveras County," the report said.

The per pupil cost of keeping the school open with the seven students it had last year was similar to the rest of the district's, jurors said.

However, the enrollment dropped back to one student for this year, prompting the district to close the school for a year. School officials told grand jurors that they will review the number of students who would attend the school and decide whether to keep it open.

Curbside chipping coming to Alpine

Staff Reports

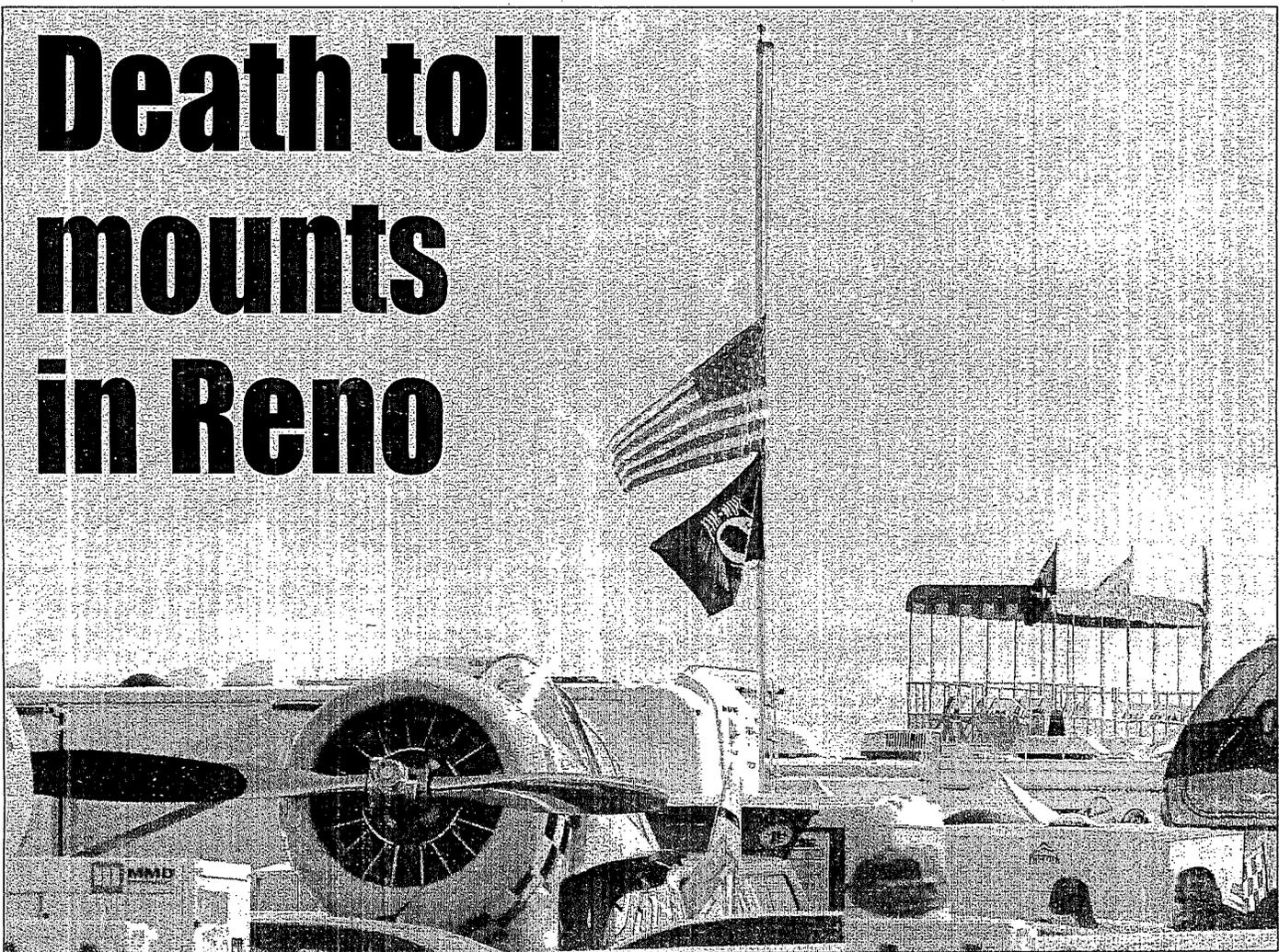
The Alpine Fire Safe Council in cooperation with Lake Valley Fire Protection District will offer a curbside chipping program to residents of Woodfords, Markleeville, Hope Valley and the Woodfords Community.

Designed to assist area residents with the creation of defensible space around their homes, crews will chip green 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 run from Sept. 25-28, and Oct. 2-5, 2011.

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 or call 530-694-2791.

Death toll mounts in Reno



PAUL SAKUMA / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An American flag and the POW flag fly at half-staff Saturday, a day after a horrific plane crash at the Reno Air Races left nine dead and dozens injured. The rest of the weekend-long event has been canceled.

9 die, scores hurt; NTSB inquiry focuses on piece of plane's tail

BY KEN RITTER AND DON THOMPSON
The Associated Press

RENO — The death toll rose to nine Saturday in an air race crash in Reno as in-

vestigators determined that several spectators were killed on impact when the 1940s-model plane appeared to lose a piece of its tail before slamming like a missile into a crowded tarmac.

Moments earlier, thousands had arched their necks skyward and watched the planes speed by just a few hundred feet off the ground before some noticed a strange gurgling engine noise

from above. Seconds later, the P-51 Mustang dubbed the Galloping Ghost pitched oddly upward, twirled and took an immediate nosedive

See **Crash**, Page A3

NEVADA APPEAL

CRASH

From Page A1

into a section of white VIP box seats.

The plane, flown by a 74-year-old veteran racer and Hollywood stunt pilot, disintegrated in a ball of dust, debris and bodies. Screams of "Oh, my God!" spread through the crowd.

National Transportation Safety Board officials were on the scene Saturday to determine what caused Jimmy Leeward to lose control of the plane, and they were looking at amateur video clips that appeared to show a small piece of the aircraft falling to the ground before the crash. Witnesses who looked at photos of the part said it appeared to be an elevator trim tab, which helps the pilot keep control of the aircraft.

Reno police also provided a GPS mapping system to help investigators recreate the crash scene.

"Pictures and video appear to show a piece of the plane was coming off," NTSB spokesman Mark Rosekind said at a news conference. "A component has been recovered. We have not identified the component or if it even came from the airplane. ... We are going to focus on that."

Investigators said they also recovered part of the tail section, where the tab is located.

The crash left a crater 3 feet deep and 6 to 8 feet wide and debris scattered over more than an acre, the NTSB said.

The dead so far included the pilot and

eight spectators. Officials said 69 people were treated at hospitals, including 36 who have been released. Nine were in critical condition late Saturday.

Doctors who treated the injured said it was among the most severe situations they had ever seen because of the large number of people, including at least two children younger than 18 who are not among those in critical condition.

Injuries included major head injuries, facial trauma and limb injuries, including amputations, said Dr. Myron Gomes, chief trauma surgeon at Renown Regional Medical Center.

"I've seen more patients, but never this many patients with this number of severe injuries," added Dr. Michael Morkin, chief of Renown's emergency department, who trained at Cook County General Hospital in Chicago.

"It was traumatic," he said. Despite the large number of dead and injured, witnesses and people familiar with the race say the toll could have been much worse had the plane gone down in the larger crowd area of the stands. The plane crashed in a section of box seats that was in front of the grandstand area where most people sat.

"This one could have been much worse if the plane had hit a few rows higher up," said Don Berliner, president of the

Society of Air Racing Historians and a for-



RICH PEDRONCELLI / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cynthia Stanton of Fernley looks away as phlebotomist D. J. Devine draws blood Saturday at United Blood Services in Reno. More than 200 people donated blood for those injured in Friday's crash at the Reno Air Races.

mer Reno Air Races official. "We could be talking hundreds of deaths."

Some credit the pilot with preventing the crash from being far more deadly by avoiding the grandstand section with a last-minute climb, although it's impossible at this point to know his thinking as he was confronted with the disaster and had just seconds to respond.

Witnesses described a horrific scene after the plane struck the crowd and sent up a brown cloud of dust billowing in the wind. When it cleared moments later, motionless bodies lay strewn across the ground, some clumped together, while oth-

ers stumbled around bloodied and shocked.

"I saw the spinner, the wings, the canopy just coming right at us. It hit directly in front of us, probably 50 to 75 feet," said Ryan Harris of Round Mountain, Nev. "The next thing I saw was a wall of debris going up in the air. That's what I got splashed with. In the wall of debris I noticed there were pieces of flesh."

Ambulances rushed to the scene, and officials said fans did an amazing job in tending to the injured. Just Friday morning, the 25 emergency workers at the air show had done a drill for such a large-scale emergency like this.

"We run through what we do in the event of an incident," said Ken Romero, director of the Regional Emergency Medical Service Authority.

"We walked through how to respond, where the multi-casualty incident bus is and what is on the bus (by way of equipment), how to set up the treatment zones and how to triage."

The crash marked the first time spectators had been killed since the races began 47 years ago in Reno. Twenty pilots including Leeward have died in that time, race officials said.

It is the only air race of its kind in the United States.

Planes at the yearly event fly wingtip-to-wingtip as low as 50 feet off the ground at speeds sometimes surpassing 500 mph. Pilots follow an oval path around pylons, with distances and speeds depending on the class of aircraft.

The disaster prompted renewed calls for race organizers to consider ending the event because of the dangers. Officials said they would look at everything as they work to understand what happened.

The Mustang that disintegrated into the crowd had minor crashes almost exactly 40 years ago after its engine failed. According to two websites that track P-51s that are still flying, it made a belly landing away from the Reno airport. The NTSB report on the Sept. 18, 1970, incident says the engine failed during an air race and it crash landed short of the runway.

P-51 historian Dick Phillips of Burnsville, Minn., said Saturday that the plane had had several new engines since then as well as a new canopy and other modifications.

Leeward, the owner of the Leeward Air Ranch Racing Team, was a well-known racing pilot. His website says he has flown more than 120 races and served as a stunt pilot for numerous movies, including "Amelia" and "The Tuskegee Airmen."

Associated Press writers contributing to this report include Joshua Freed in Minneapolis; Haven Daley, Scott Sonner and Martin Griffith in Reno; Brian Skoloff in Salt Lake City; Holbrook Mohr in Jackson, Miss.; and Michelle Rindels, Cristina Silva and Oskar Garcia in Las Vegas.

The Record-Courier

ents

Douglas County's Hometown Newspaper since 1880

Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2011

Account set up for victim in race crash

by Kurt Hildebrand

khildebrand@recordcourier.com

An account has been established to benefit the family of a former Woodfords resident, who was one of 11 people killed when a P-51 Mustang crashed into the box seats at the Reno Air Races on Friday.

A memorial service is planned for

DETAILS

U.S. Bank, 1341 Highway 395,
Gardnerville, account No.
153754802939

October at Turtle Rock Park for
Gardnerville resident John Craik.

Craik, 45, a longtime contractor,
and his family moved from Wood-

fords to Gardnerville last year.

His wife, Lorraine, said the community has been very supportive.

"People have been here nonstop bringing flowers and food, it's been truly amazing," she said. "What a wonderful community we live in that people are so supportive. John's customers adored him, he was adored by everybody."

Craik's son Ethan was with him at the crash scene, according to mother Virginia Craik.

Craik was killed instantly when the plane hit, Virginia said.

Alpine County announced that an account has been established at U.S. Bank, 1341 Highway 395,

See Crash on page 4

R.C. Wed. Sept. 21, 2011

Crash

Continued from page 1

Gardnerville, account No. 153754802939. Alpine County residents may drop off checks made payable to the Craik Benefit Account at Health and Human Services, 75-A Diamond Valley Road, Markleeville.

"He was a very good friend," said Jack Merrill whose home Craik built. "On Saturday some friends told us about it. Woodfords is a small town, so everybody knows."

Merrill said his cousin introduced him to Craik in 2004.

"He was working on my cousin's bed and breakfast, and we were looking for a builder," Merrill said. "We saw some of the other jobs he was working on and we hired him."

Merrill said he's heard the family is doing as well as can be expected under the circumstances.

Alpine County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Teresa Burkhauser sent a note offering the sympathies of the chamber of commerce board of directors, members and staff.

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to the victims and their families," she said. "Especially our own chamber members present and past who were injured in this tragedy. Our deepest condolences go to the John Craik family."

Craik grew up in Alpine County and was a 1984 graduate of Douglas High School and later the University of California, Davis. He owned Big John Construction, which he started in 1993.

A memorial service for all of the victims of the crash is scheduled for 6 p.m. Sunday at the Idlewild Park arboretum in Reno.

Memorial service set for John Craik

Staff Reports

A memorial service is 3 p.m. Oct. 2 at Turtle Rock Park in Markleeville for Gardnerville contractor John Craik, 45, who was killed Sept. 16 at the National Championship Air Races crash in Reno.

Born Jan. 13, 1966, in Marin County, Calif., to Ginger and



Craik

na, Davis, in 1990 with a degree in economics. He played the tenor sax-

Cameron Craik, he moved to Alpine County with his family in 1974. Craik graduated from Douglas High School in 1984 and from the University of California,

YOU CAN HELP

U.S. Bank, 1341 Highway 395,
Gardnerville, account No.
153754802939

ophone in the band. He continued to play after he graduated, and was a member of the Cal Aggie Alumni band at Davis.

Craik met his wife, Lorraine, in San Francisco. They were married on Aug. 21, 1995, in Colorado. The couple lived in several places in Colorado, and owned a dude ranch, where Craik led backcountry tours while Lorraine kept the ranch in order and cared for their children.

See Service on page 4

Service

Continued from page 1

Craik lived in or near Alpine County for the last 10 years, becoming involved in the community socially, environmentally, and politically, while also building homes in the area. He coached and refereed for American Youth Soccer Organization soccer as both of his children played on Carson Valley teams.

"A dream John always had was to own a boat and three years ago, he fulfilled this dream, often just sitting in the boat in the yard when he couldn't be on the water," Lorraine Craik said. "He loved boating and skiing with his family, as well as many other activities. He was a super fan of the Oakland Raiders, hardly ever missing a game. He will be remembered as an incredible husband, father, son, and friend."

He is preceded in death by his father, Cameron.

He is survived by wife Lorraine; children Ethan and Mackenzie; mother Ginger Craik of Woodfords and sister Kelly (Clark) Meyer of Soldotna, Alaska.

"Everyone remembers John's big smile," Lorraine Craik said. "He will be missed."

A memorial fund has been established for the Craik family by the Woodfords Volunteer Fire Department at U.S. Bank, account No. 153754802939. Alpine County residents may drop off checks made payable to the Craik Benefit Account at Health and Human Services, 75-A Diamond Valley Road, Markleeville.

Walton's Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

RC Fri, Sept 23, 2011

Luetta Bergevin celebrates 90th

Special to The R-C

Luetta Dressler Bergevin celebrated her 90th birthday with a family dinner in her honor. It was a memorable evening with everyone remarking about her zest for life and learning.

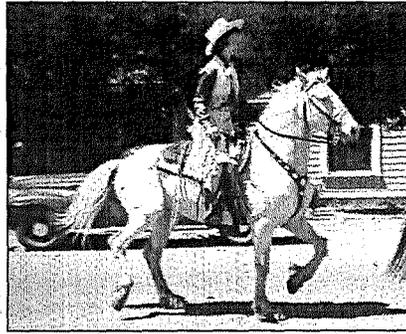
Luetta was born on the family home ranch in 1921. She was the last baby to be delivered by Dr. Eliza Cook, her great aunt, the first woman physician in Nevada.

Her first school experience was at the Centerville one-room school. The next year, due to consolidation, she attended Minden Grammar School. It was here that the boy seated behind her put one of her long ringlet curls in the ink well.

Luetta put clay in his hair. The teacher saw that part and put her in the closet. There was a narrow bit of light that came under the door which enabled her to look through the Delin-eator magazines. After a time, the boy asked the teacher if she was going to let Luetta out of the closet. Well, she had forgotten all about her. How times have changed.

She graduated from Douglas County High School where she was an active member of the class of 1940. While in high school she played on the D.C.H.S. girls basketball team, was the editor of the Garminada, the school yearbook, and served as Secretary of the Student Body. She also participated in school plays and helped decorate for dances.

The plays, dances and basketball games all took place in the new gym which was completed her freshman year. The new gym is



Special to The R-C

Luetta Bergevin on horseback.

now the Play House which is next to the Carson Valley Museum & Cultural Center, the high school in those days.

During her growing up years, 4-H was a big part of her life.

In 1939, she took her calf to Treasure Island for the 1939 Exposition in San Francisco.

Luetta was an accomplished horseback rider and on Carson Valley Days you would find her among the Dressler Ranch riding group. This was a family affair with preparations beginning the day before the parade. The horses were washed and shampooed with special attention given to their manes and tails. At times these were braided. To give the horses a sheen, their coats were oiled. The silver on the saddle and bridle mountings

was

polished by Luetta and her mother, Anna Neddenriep Dressler.

The Dressler Ranch riding group also participated in the Bridgeport Fourth of July parade with a picnic afterward.

Luetta attended the University of Utah where she received her B.S. Degree in Nursing Education and her R.N. from St. Marks Hospital in Salt Lake City.

During World War II, she worked as a U.S. Naval Cadet Nurse at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Seattle until VJ. Day, Aug. 12, 1945.

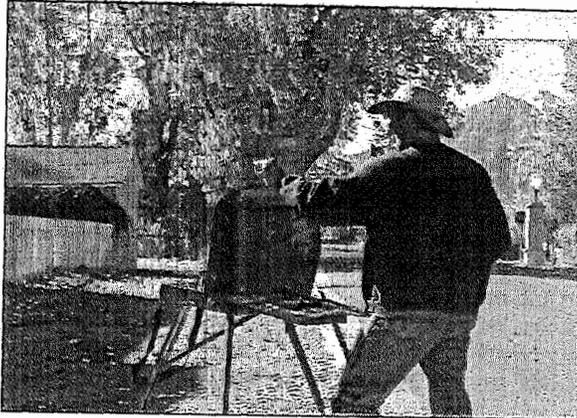
Soon after she received a letter from her high school sweetheart, Louis W. Bergevin, that he would be coming home from the Pacific. They were married Aug. 3, 1946, in the old Lutheran church near Gardnerville.

They moved to Mesa, Ariz., where Louis was a captain in the Army Air Force. After his discharge as a major, they moved to Reno where Luetta worked as an O.B. supervisor at Washoe Medical Center.

After living in Reno for a time, they moved back to the Dressler Ranch south of Gardnerville, where they built a house and raised their son Lee and daughter, Jeanne.

Throughout the years that followed, Luetta became very involved in the community and the state that she loves.

SIERRA



Special to The R-C

Charles Muench is one of the 11 artists featured in the Markleeville Artists Autumn Open Studio Tour, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 1-2. Maps of the tour are available at the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce in Markleeville. Information, www.markleevilleartists.com

Artists Studio Oct. 1-2

Staff Reports

The ninth annual Markleeville Artists Autumn Open Studio Tour is 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 1 and 2.

Work by 11 artists will be on display in the free Art in the Aspens tour. More than 400 people attended last year's two-day event.

Artwork on the tour includes watercolors by Peter Chope and Sandy Baenan, creative confectionery of Debra Esteban, oil paintings by Charles Muench and sculpture, pottery, textiles and stained glass.

Maps with directions to the Markleeville-vicinity homes and studios are available at the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce in Markleeville. Artists' studios will be

ARTISTS

- Sandra Baenen** - Scratchboard and Watercolors
- Peter Chope** - Watercolors
- Debra Esteban** - Handmade Chocolates
- Brenda Lockie** - Oil Paintings and Wildflower Illustrations
- Charles Muench** - Oil Paintings
- Russel Ketenjian** - Clay, Music and Paintings
- Richard Shokouh** - Stained Glass
- Dave Mills** - Wood Turning
- Lindsay Stallcup** - Landscape Oil Paintings
- Mark & Carolyn Vaughn** - Raku Pottery and Vintage Aprons
- Tanya Berger** - Pen and Ink Illustrations

marked with yellow and gold banners.

Information, www.markleevilleartists.com

Man accused of threatening brother

Staff Reports

Bail was set at \$50,000 for a 32-year-old Dressler-ville man accused of attempting to stab his brother.

Marvin Dressler appeared Wednesday in East Fork Justice Court on a charge of assault with a deadly weapon. He is accused of swinging a knife several times at his 29-year-old brother during Carson Valley Days weekend.

Witnesses said late June 10, Dressler allegedly



Dressler nerville.

The victim ran away from Dressler who chased him until he realized sheriff's deputies were in the area and left in his vehicle.

The victim was uninjured. Dressler was arrested by Washoe Tribal Police on a

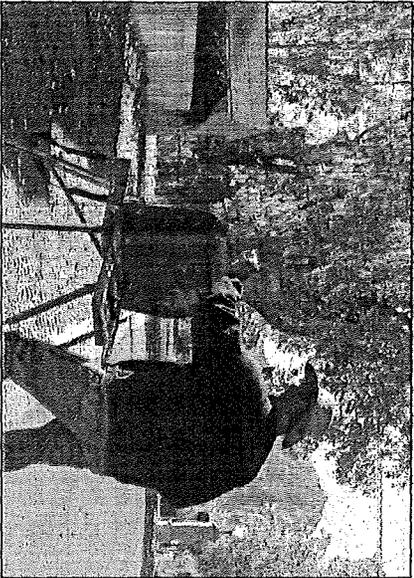
separate charge of assault with a deadly weapon and incarcerated in Washoe County jail. He was returned to Douglas County on Monday on the new charge. East Fork Justice Tom Perkins appointed Todd Young to represent Dressler.

Prosecutor Tom Gregory asked that Dressler's bail remain because of his lengthy criminal history and for the safety of the community.

Perkins set a preliminary hearing for Oct. 6.

RC, Fri, Sept 23, 2011

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THE INSIDE SCOOP

Part fell off plane before air race crash

Staff Reports

Investigators are focusing on a piece of the airframe that came off of a modified P-51 Mustang that crashed into the box seats at the Reno National Championship Air Races killing 11 people and injuring 74.

Preliminary information was released Friday as part of the National Transportation Safety Board's investigation into the crash that killed Gardnerville contractor John Craik and 10 others on Sept. 16.

According to the report, the Galloping Ghost piloted by James Leeward "had completed several laps and was in a steep left turn towards the home pylon when, according to photographic evi-



Craik

dence, the airplane suddenly banked momentarily to the left before banking to the right, turning away from the race course, and pitching to a steep nose-high attitude.

Witnesses reported and photographic evidence indicates that a piece of the airframe separated during these maneuvers. After roll and pitch variations, the airplane descended in an extremely nose-low attitude and collided with the ground in the box seat area near the center of the grandstand seating area."

Investigators from the NTSB and the Federal Aviation Administration examined the wreckage

YOU CAN HELP

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on site, identified components of the plane's controls system and surfaces, and then removed the wreckage to a secure location.

The racing plane had a telemetry system that broadcast information and recorded it to a box onboard the plane.

The airplane disintegrated on impact, damaging the onboard

data box, according to investigators, who also recovered multiple detached memory cards from the plane's onboard camera.

St. Mary's Hospital in Reno, which received 33 patients from the crash reported that all but three patients in serious condition have been discharged.

A service for Craik is set for 3 p.m. Sunday at Turtle Rock Park in Woodfords.

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Kirkwood sees 10 inches of snow

Staff Reports

Less than a week into a new water year, Kirkwood residents awoke to 10 inches of new snow.

The first significant weather system of the season dumped 1.01 inches of rain in Sheridan Acres between midnight and 7 a.m. early Wednesday morning.

Two-fifths of an inch of rain was measured in Genoa and .97 inches of rain in Markleeville.

Carson Valley residents awoke on Wednesday to find both the Sierra and the Pine Nuts wearing a blanket of snow.

Snow fell in Carson Valley on Thursday afternoon, but didn't stick.

Snow tires or chains were required over Kingsbury Grade on Thursday afternoon.

Today's forecast calls for mostly sunny skies with a high near 62.

Residents should expect freezing temperatures tonight with the low dropping to 29 degrees and a northwest wind of 5 mph.

"The early snow that has blanketed the mountain has certainly stoked everyone out in anticipation of another big year," said Michael

Dalzell, director of sales & marketing at Kirkwood Mountain Resort. "It's too early to talk early opening dates at this point, but we

have had years when Kirkwood has opened in late October with incredible deep powder conditions. This might be one of those years."

New Markleeville courthouse may face budget cuts

Staff Reports

Alpine County's new courthouse project could be threatened by California's fiscal crisis.

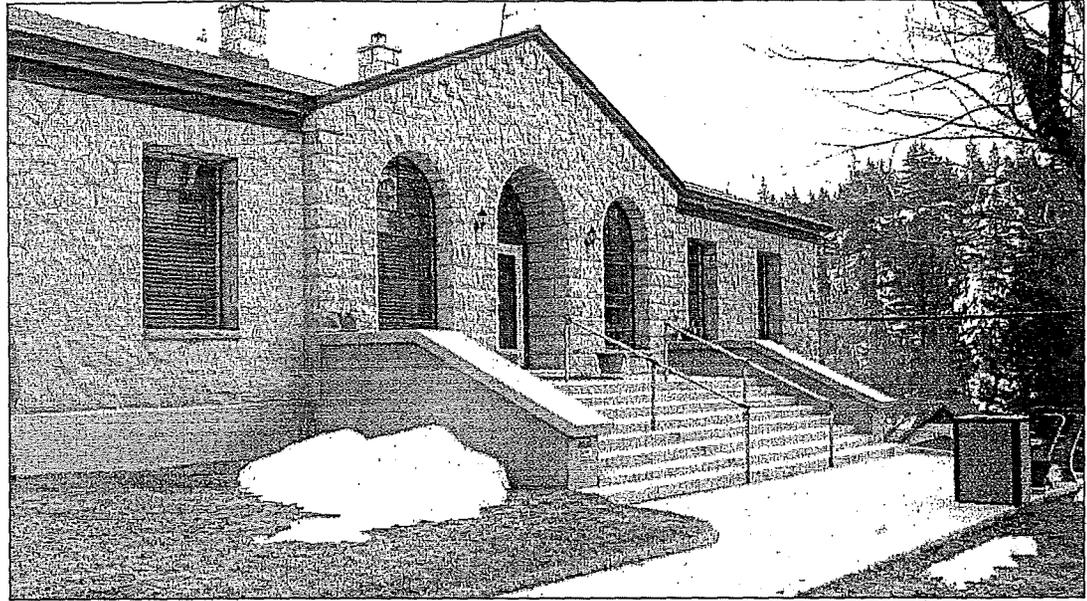
The \$26.37 million project in Markleeville is in the review stage.

The Court Facilities Working Group which oversees judicial facilities, is seeking public comment on projects at their Oct. 19-20 meeting.

The working group will discuss the future direction

of the courthouse construction program and consider options for moving forward with the 41 courthouse projects planned with funding from Senate Bill 1407.

"We recognize that significant funding reductions to the judicial branch will likely impact the branch's courthouse construction program," said Administrative Presiding Justice Brad R. Hill of the Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District, who chairs the working group. "The working group must



Dan Thrift/Tahoe Daily Tribune

The Alpine County Courthouse is scheduled to be replaced by a new one.

act quickly to make recommendations to the Judicial Council. It's an enormous job, and we need to gather as much input as possible in a short amount of time. These projects have a significant impact not only in the 34 counties in which they would be located but statewide. We believe the public should have a voice on their future direction, whether they support or oppose a particular project or have other comments they wish the working group to hear."

The working group has been directed to provide recommendations to the Judicial Council on the facilities projects as soon as possible after the October meeting,

with the intent that the council could consider those recommendations by the end of the calendar year. The working group is opening up public comment on any aspect of the judicial branch facilities program.

The working group prefers written comments but will accommodate in-person comments as well. Comments may be e-mailed to occmcomments@jud.ca.gov or mailed or delivered to: Administrative Office of the Courts

Attn: Comments to Court Facilities Working Group
455 Golden Gate Ave.,
8th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102

Comments received by 1

p.m. on Oct. 18, will be distributed to working group members at the meeting. The same e-mail address and postal address will remain open to the public at any time to comment on the facilities program or the work of the working group.

Senate Bill 1407, signed into law on Sept. 26, 2008, launched a \$5 billion courthouse rebuilding program in California providing funding for 41 new construction and renovation projects.

The law created a revenue stream from court fees, penalties, and assessments to finance courthouse construction and renovations, ensuring that these projects would be paid for from within the judicial branch rather

than drawing on the state's general fund.

The proposed project, which is in the earliest phase of site selection, will replace the court's space in the current historic courthouse with a modern, secure, adequately sized building, and provide the court with more space for jury assembly and deliberation rooms, a self-help center, and more. The current courthouse, which is owned by and shared with Alpine County, does not meet modern operational and security requirements and cannot be renovated or expanded.

The Alpine County grand jury said the new space was critical to public safety in the county.

Alpine seeks support for reduced courthouse project

by Nancy Thornburg

The article that appeared in The Record-Courier on Oct. 7 was not, unfortunately, completely accurate even though it was sent out by the Judicial Council. Following is a notice sent out to residents of Alpine County by me, with approval from the presiding superior court judge, after the article first appeared.

First, if you have questions about this project you are encouraged to visit this web site www.courts.ca.gov/facilities-alpine.htm

Note that the information on this site is not entirely current. (More current and rele-

GUEST OPINION

vant information can be found in the FAQ portion of the website.)

First of all, the scope of the project has been significantly reduced – we are now looking at 10,000 square feet for the new or renovated project which dramatically reduces the cost of the project. This reduction in scope has the complete support of the local Project Advisory Group. Secondly, the state is now working with the county to come up with a project which would renovate the existing courthouse, bringing it up to modern standards and require-

ments. Included in the current thinking would be for the State to buy the courthouse and possibly the property between the administration building and the post office (that property would be used for parking by both the county and the court). The state would then renovate and expand the building, bringing it up to current seismic, accessibility, and security standards, and, possibly, include office space for the district attorney, the probation office, and the sheriff's office as well as the court. It would be a very good thing to have all these offices in the same building. This project concept has the complete support of the PAG and the judges.

Everyone has been under the

impression that the funding for this would come from court fines and fees money, not from the State General Fund, that this money had been set aside exactly for this purpose and could not be touched for other purposes. But now it appears, as one person put it, that "what the Legislature giveth the Legislature can taketh away," and many of the courthouse projects, including Alpine's, may lose their funding. All projects are under review, and comments from interested citizens are being sought.

The existing courthouse has 2,500 square feet and is utterly inadequate from several standpoints.

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Alpine

Continued from page 10

Lack of security is the primary problem. Security for court personnel, for citizens, for victims, for witnesses. That is the main issue, and regardless of caseload, security for employees and the public is vitally important. There is no secure place to hold in-custody people. Victims and witnesses are often in too close proximity to bad people. There is no ADA compliance. Access, especially for older people and especially in winter, can be an issue. Electrical, plumbing and HVAC systems are all obsolete and inadequate. This building was built in 1928. It is not built to current seismic safety requirements.

Although jury trials are infrequent in Alpine County, when they are held there is utterly inadequate parking and room in the building to serve all the potential jurors who are called. Recently the jury screening has had to be held at Turtle Rock Park. Recently a Cal-OSHA order forced most of the Sheriff's Office to vacate their basement offices and move to Turtle Rock Park at least temporarily. The reasons: health and safety issues.

If the state pulls the funding for this project, probably nothing will change. The county doesn't have the money to retrofit the building.

Please send your comments. There is a place on the web site to do this. Please emphasize the large geographical size of the county, the small population (1,000), the fact that 96 percent of the county is government-owned thus leaving a very small base on which to build an economy. We truly are unique, and while in many ways this is something we love about Alpine County, when it comes to a project like this it leaves us at a serious disadvantage compared to other California counties.

Nancy Thornburg is a longtime Markleeville resident.

Panel pans Alpine courthouse

Staff Reports

A California panel is recommending the elimination of a new courthouse for Alpine County.

The working group is recommending that the Judicial Council direct the Administrative Office of the Courts to continue work this year on the current phase of all Senate Bill 1407 projects except the two

ON THE WEB

[www.courts.ca.gov/policy
admin-jc.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/policy/admin-jc.htm)

one-courtroom courthouses for the superior courts of Alpine and Sierra counties.

"Given the urgency of infrastructure needs statewide, the new and very stringent limits to our funding, and the high expense of these proj-

ects, the working group believes that their nearly \$50 million combined expense cannot be justified in the current environment," Administrative Presiding Justice Brad R. Hill of the Fifth Appellate District Court of Appeal said of the canceled projects.

The original price tag for the Alpine County project was \$26.3 million. The Sierra County project

was \$23.1 million.

In a letter to the panel, Alpine Superior Court Judge David DeVore said security is a key issue, but that the building lacked basic amenities such as a holding cell, or even records storage.

"The upstairs entrance requires navigating two separate sets of steps

- See Alpine on page 4

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from front pg

Alpine

Continued from page 1

and an uncovered walkway which is impossible for those with disabilities under any circumstances, and dangerous for all during winter months," he said. "I regularly shovel the stairs and walkways to minimize the danger to our staff and public during storms. We have had infestations of insects, rodents, bats, and a break-in by a bear."

DeVore said that there are few locations where the state could build a new courthouse. He said acquisition and rehabilitation of the current courthouse by the state from the county would be preferable for the court.

"Much work has been done to make the proposed project acceptable to the county, and if not pursued to fruition that option may be lost forever as the county has expressed an interest in rehabilitating and using the building for its own purposes," he said.

DeVore said the only two private parcels available for purchase could sell, reducing the chance of finding a new site for a courthouse in the future.

The working group is recommending that the courthouses in Alpine be given priority for facility modifications that can alleviate problems as funding becomes available.

The 25-member working group was appointed by Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye in July after more than \$500 million in facility funding was swept to the general fund, borrowed, or redirected for court operations this year.

The working group solicited written comments from the 34 courts that have projects to be funded by Senate Bill 1407 as well as public comment, receiving hundreds of pages of letters from local officials and members of the public. Since 2009, more than \$1.1 billion in funding originally designated for courthouse construction has been borrowed, swept to the general fund, or redirected to court operations.

The working group's recommendations are expected to be considered by the Judicial Council at its Dec. 13 meeting. The council can accept, modify, or reject the recommendations, which will be posted on the courts website at www.courts.ca.gov/policyadmin-jc.htm.

ALPINE

Fire Safe council poster contest educates children

by Joyce DeVore

Alpine County Fire Safe Council focuses much of its energy and funding on public education. The poster contest at Diamond Valley School is just one of their many projects.

By having a thought provoking-art project at the elementary level, the goal is that children and their families will keep fire safety and emergency preparedness a

priority in the home. The prizes are gift certificates for the Scholastic Book Fair, which is held annually in the school library.

This year's contest theme is "Five things I couldn't live without if a disaster struck."

Student Attendance Services and School Safety Coordinator Dawn Riddle facilitated the contest at the school. She issued instructions to the teachers and distributed supplies for the art.

The school librarian and all teachers devoted instructional time to the project.

Members of the Fire Safe Council held an awards ceremony at Diamond Valley School on Oct. 21. All poster entries will be displayed at the Alpine County Library, Alpine County Administration Building and at the Alpine County Superior Court in November.

The winners of this year's contest are: K-2 grade Made-

line Moody, first place, and Kate Easton, second place; 3rd grade Crystal Bennet, first place, and Leo Coyan, second place; 4th grade Mercy Medicine Crow, first place, Jed Easton, second place; 5th grade Mckinna Jackson, first place, Chantel Bagshaw, second place; 6th grade Courtney Brothers, first place, Cole Jackson, second place; 7th grade Hunter Celio, first place, Landon Matlock, second place; 8th



Special to The R-C

The winners of the Alpine County Fire Safe Council.

grade, Ubaldo Gomez, first place, Dion Mortimer, second place.

Shirley Taylor and Kris Hartnett, both members of the Fire Safe Council, are working with Fire Wise, part of the US Forest Service, to obtain money for the supplies and prizes.

The Fire Safe Council is also sponsoring a free chipping program, a burn pile for green waste, and defensible space inspections. The committee is planning wildfire

preparedness meetings for the public sometime next spring.

The council always needs representation and support. The meetings are open to the public and take place the last Monday of each month at 6 p.m. The location of meetings alternates between the Markleeville and Woodfords Fire Departments.

Call Chairperson Kris Hartnett at 694.1879 for more information.

FALL COLORS



Highway 4 in Markleeville.

Rita O'Neill Hill/Special to The R-C

Service Friday for last constable of Alpine County

by John Cox Jr.

Ed Schalbert, California's last constable, has died at the age of 93 in his birthplace of San Jose, Calif. Mr. Schalbert served as constable for more than a quarter century in Alpine County, the county with



Schalbert

the smallest population of any in the Golden State. The beautiful mountain community of Woodfords was his home for nearly half a century. Mr. Schalbert moved to Alpine County, eventually being elected Constable as his third career. He grew up in the farming community of the Santa Clara Valley in San Jose in the 1920s and '30s.

At the age of just 17, he joined the U.S. Navy eventually entering the submarine service. Schalbert soon rose to the position of Chief Petty Officer or "Chief of the Boat," overseeing the enlisted men on the sub fighting for their country, and played his part in the historic role of the service in fighting the greatest war.

Schalbert participated in more

GUEST OPINION

than 30 separate missions on ships like the Redfish and the Greenling. He often spoke about an offer once by the captain to move to the submarine, Argonaut. He declined the offer and the ship was shortly sunk killing all of the men aboard. One of his most dangerous missions was to photograph Japan itself preparing for a potential allied invasion.

Ironically the former submarine hero will be laid to rest in his beloved Alpine County just a week before the celebration of Veterans Day which honors and thanks all military personnel who served the United States in all wars. At the age of 26 he married his sweetheart Mary who lived in his hometown of Santa Clara. She also shared his Swiss heritage. They had three daughters, Marianne, Heidi, and Barbara. Following World War II, they moved to San Diego where he served in the Navy until his retirement.

Following his retirement, Ed and his close friend in the Navy purchased the well-known Blue

Bonnet Bar in Sunnyvale filled with torpedoes and memorabilia from the Great War not too far from his boyhood home. Eventually his great love of the Sierra motivated him to move to Alpine County. He quickly settled in and was shortly elected constable.

Sociologist Irving Krauss in his book "The Insider's Journey: Pursuing the American Dream" commented on his travels in the west and even wrote of the disappearance of the position of constable and Schalbert himself.

"He was an imposing figure in his uniform with badge pinned on his shirt and his revolver strapped to his side, and when he handed you the jury summons you felt you had no choice but to go."

Alpine County Sheriff John Crawford, a neighbor of Ed and Mary, said they served the people of the county for years helping senior citizens with needed food and services. In 1987, the little community of Woodfords suffered the most catastrophic event that any mountain community can experience, a massive forest fire. The Schalberts lost their home that they had built themselves when

the infamous Acorn Fire tore down the canyon consuming dozens of houses in its path. Fire crews said it took about 3 minutes for their house to be consumed, leaving a lifetime of memories in ashes. After the fire, the couple provided leadership in the community to cope with the fire. Within days of the fire in late July, they rebuilt it in just three months celebrating Thanksgiving that year. The experience of the fire was a very consuming personal experience and within 16 months, Ed's love of his life Mary passed away of a heart attack. For the years, he continued his service to the county as constable.

Ed will be buried next to Mary at the Fredericksburg Cemetery. A service will be held at 1 p.m. Friday at the Alpine Christian Church on Highway 88 in Woodfords.

He is survived by his daughters and their husbands, five grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

John Cox Jr. is Ed Schalbert's grandson and pastor of Harvest Bible Fellowship in Carson City.

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ALPINE

Alpine Kids celebrates 30 years of family fun

by Joyce DeVore

Alpine Kids is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing fun, low-cost family experiences in a drug and alcohol free environment.

So for a fee of \$25 a year, the whole family can join the group and enjoy a trip to the zoo, complete with transportation and meals, a day at the water-park in Reno with transportation and admission provided, as well as bowling and pizza nights, swim center events, camping, and much, much more.

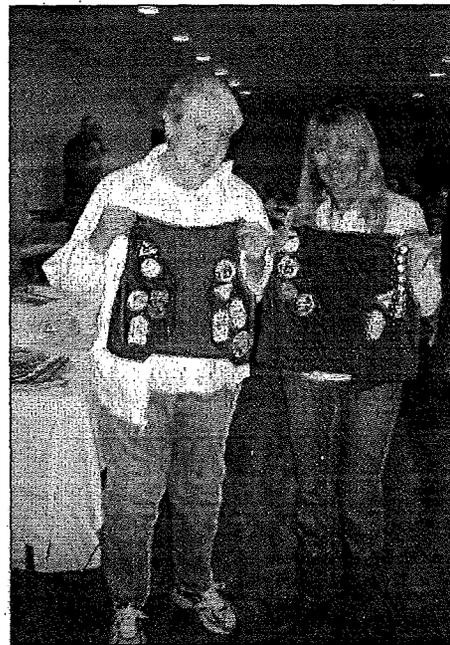
It sounds too good to be true, but Alpine Kids does just that.

The organization recently celebrated a 30 year anniversary at Turtle Rock Park and several core members spoke to the history and success of the group.

According to Eddie Veatch, chairperson of Alpine Kids, "Our son needed some contact with other kids outside of the school setting. We decided on Blue Birds because we had both boys and girls who wanted to join and scouts didn't allow a mixed group. Blue Birds also allowed us to make our own uniforms, which was a significant cost savings."

That was 30 years ago. Some of the Blue Bird leaders attended the 30-year anniversary, including Harriet Kelly, Sandy Jonkey, and Dorothy Johnson.

Johnson, who now lives in Sutter Creek, was applauded for her generous donations



Special to The R-C
Harriet Kelly and Sandy Jonkey and they are holding homemade Blue Bird vests from the early days of Alpine Kids.

to the fledgling group.

The Zellmer family has been donating their time and transportation for three generations.

"Dave Zellmer would drive a car full of kids whether or not he had any of his children or grandchildren going to the event," Veatch said. "He even calls to make sure

that all the kids have rides." John and Kim Jackson have also been dedicated volunteers.

Barbara Howard, a teen leader, remembered an exciting camping trip with another leader, Jeannie Lear, and urged others to become teen leaders.

After a dozen years with the Blue Birds, a local social services person recommended that Veatch turn the group into a non-profit.

"The Blue Birds regional division was so far away that it became cumbersome to handle the details," Veatch said.

Initially the group depended upon local fundraising, county support, and a huge number of volunteer hours to function. Dave and Lynda Kirby, formerly of Woodfords Station, donated ice for every activity and allowed the club to hold an annual fair in their parking lot.

The whole Veatch family was enlisted to haul and store supplies, make purchases, and run the activities.

Larry Kuhl, retired sheriff, facilitated a snow camping trip by driving a snowmobile into camp with homemade stew and a way back home for any child who may have been frightened in the wilderness.

Veatch started keeping a count of the numbers of participants and the community statistics on juvenile crime.

More families were participating and fewer incidents of crime- and alcohol-related problems were reported.

The sheriff's department, the public health department, and the county probation officers took notice. These groups found public money to support the program.

"The probation office told us that it takes \$65,000 a year to keep a juvenile in jail," Veatch said. "Funding Alpine Kids for \$50,000 is a worthwhile use of grant money."

Even with a generous annual budget, the group depends on its volunteers.

"Transportation is the most challenging factor," Veatch said.

Buses are expensive. During the celebration dinner, I overheard Veatch ask retired social worker Sandy King-Prince if she could drive some teenagers to the Olive Garden next week.

For King-Prince, that means driving from Topaz to pick up the local kids and drive them to Carson City. The volunteer spirit is beyond generous.

Alpine Kids took 111 people to the Sacramento Zoo and bought meals for every participant.

The water park Wild Island is the most popular event: 175 people were treated to transportation, entry fees, and meals at the water park in Reno last summer.

For more information about the club or becoming a volunteer leader, call Veatch at (530)694-2934.

Reasons to be thankful down on the ranch

November, and thankfully weaning is done. Our calves are in the corral on the lane, waiting for the Fallon calf sale. The bull and springer heifers are in the side pasture along with a couple of steers that will make up Christmas dinner. Our cows are roaming in the sagebrush field. And the boarding cattle are scattered all over the ranch, finally quieting down.

The boarding cattle were making quite a fuss. Cattle trucks were hauling off cows or calves to other pastures or feedlots for almost two weeks. The trucks started rolling down the lane after sunrise and cleared off before dinner. The calves, getting sorted, were held

FENCE LINES



by Marie Johnson

over in the corrals and loudly bawled their displeasure at being separated from mom and pasture.

A family friend walking in the desert, miles from the ranch, heard the cattle's commotion, wondering asked about the noise. A noise that

after a few days out here we didn't notice much.

The first days of cattle weaning were loud, outdoor rock concert loud. Cows in fields calling for calves in corrals. Calves calling

back. These are not little baby calves either. Our calves at weaning were on average 8 months old and weighted 750 pounds a piece. The boarder calves must have been near the same. They made big noise.

The cow/calf bawling over the two weeks turned into white noise for us, like the hum of a fan. Then about three days after the last cattle truck left the cows stopped calling. They had turned back to eating.

Our own herd is small and their fuss factor is short. A few of our calves bawl, some 'til they got hoarse, but usually after three days they stop and get busy eating. Same with the cows.

Then everyday after weaning, 'til mid spring for us, begins the chore of feeding. One could go on for a long time, like a complaining cow, describing the cost, trouble and pain involved with feeding. But if you want good cattle you feed. No matter what.

Calves are the commodity cow/calf operators sell. And to be sure cows kept over winter will be productive, worth the money, time and trouble of feeding you preg check them at weaning. Shipping off any open ones.

Out here the husband preg checks. Our cows are large, long, black angus and his arms are

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Thankful

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longer than mine, though my hands are smaller.

This is important because one places a long, liquid dish-soap drizzled, plastic gloved, arm in a cow's rectum to palpate for her calf, or signs of pregnancy like a thick pumping uterus vein or cotyledons.

If your arm is too short, with your face near a cow's tail end, things get messy in a squirt. Small hands are helpful because you enter the cow through a tight opening. But if one has to choose between small hands or long arms; go with the long arms.

In weaning, preg checking, inoculating, and worming my job is to catch the cow's head in the squeeze chute.

Then give inoculations after the husband checks out his end.

He gets messier, but he gets that first mysterious touch of the calf.

This year all our cows and heifers are pregnant. Knowing all the chores and trouble that brings the cow/calf operator is still thankful.

Marie Johnson is a Carson Valley rancher.

Besides responding to fires, traffic accidents, and other emergencies, the men volunteer countless hours to work on the station...

Buck McLelland
Woodfords Volunteer Chief

Volunteers ready to protect eastern Alpine County

by Joyce DeVore

How did our tiny Woodfords Volunteer Fire Department become a state-of-the-art facility with more than 20 vital and energetic firemen? Volunteer Chief Buck McLelland has a way of making this miracle sound simple.

"Besides responding to fires, traffic accidents, and other emergencies, the men volunteer countless hours to work on the station and the county government supports us," he said.

There is nothing simple about the operation of the Woodfords Volunteer Fire Department. McLelland commands respect because he works shoulder to shoulder with the men and logs countless hours behind the scenes.

Rob Levy writes grants for funding and facilitates leveraging county funds with grant funds to purchase the best equipment on the market.

He beams with pride as he explains that the county got, "two for one" value on the Squad 1 and Brush 1 trucks by having "Burtons (fire truck manufacturers) reuse a storage box on one truck, and add new pumps to another."

Alpine County Supervisor Skip Veatch attends meetings once a month to understand and help the volunteers' policy makers, which includes McLelland,

Levy, Jim Haen, and Al Moss.

"The board recognizes McLelland and his operation as a gift of gold and we'd never want to lose that," Veatch said.

Three of the department's new members, Hal Bird, Wes Long, and Paul Schlange, engineered an agreement with their employer, South Tahoe Public Utility District, to be on duty volunteer firemen while working for the district in Diamond Valley.

"Everyone put two and two together to realize that it is a beneficial arrangement," Schlange explained.

Since most volunteers work day jobs, there was a very short daytime crew to respond to calls.

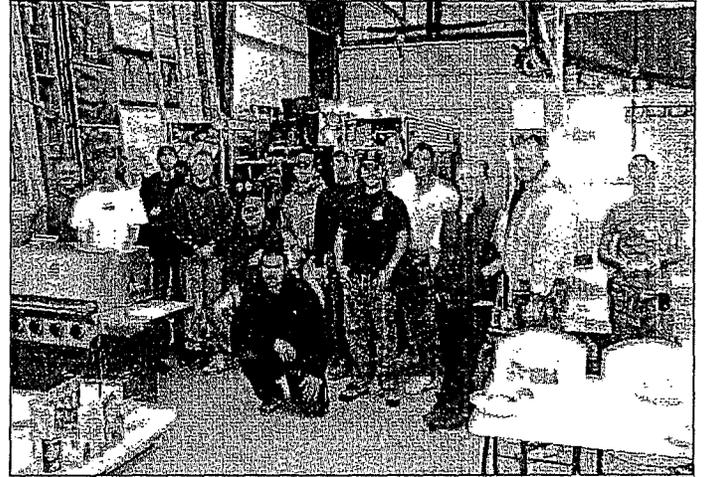
All three district employees are familiar with Alpine County, operation of water trucks, and Schlange has served on hot shot crews, heli-tech crews, and earned Firefighter 1 status in San Bernardino.

Each volunteer brings strength to the unit.

Mike Gard dished up steaming bowls of chicken and dumplings while he told the details of an earlier emergency.

"There it was on the ground, the smoldering brake drum from a truck, burning up," he said.

John Baker showed up because his "papa" Al Moss wrangled him into volunteering.



SPECIAL TO THE R-C

Members of the Woodfords Volunteer Fire Department gather to eat, meet and train.

Dave Woffinden joked with Tony Galvez, who tried on a brand new turn out suit. In 15 minutes, dinner is over and the crew disappears upstairs for training.

I was grateful to McLelland and Levy for taking a few more minutes to show me the new Americans with Disabilities Act compliant showers, set up to allow either firefighters or groups of citizens quick decontamination from chemical poisoning.

The lockers are squared away, with turn-outs, boots and air tanks for each member. A sparkling new two-ton air machine fills tanks for these men and other county emergency groups.

Dave Zellmer designed the firehouse as a drive-through, and eventually the overhead

pipes will be pressurized to fill the trucks with water as they drive through the firehouse.

A new water tank is installed outside the firehouse and is almost ready for operation. Gard is putting the final touches on the new kitchen.

Right in the middle of the fire house sits five gleaming fire and rescue vehicles.

Three years ago the department had old equipment and four volunteers.

The community effort behind the growth is a credit to Alpine County.

In order to support this excellent group of volunteers, there will be a fundraiser dinner and dance next March.

Those wishing to volunteer should contact Gard at (530) 694-1976.

Re Nov. 18, 2011 Fri.

Dresslerville man pleads guilty to assault charge

Staff Reports

A 32-year-old Dresslerville man pleaded guilty Wednesday to misdemeanor assault in an allegation that he tried to stab his brother with a knife during Carson Valley Days.

Marvin Dressler entered the plea in an amended complaint which reduced the crime from a felony to a misdemeanor.

East Fork Justice Tom Perkins sentenced Dressler to six months in Douglas County Jail, giving him credit for time served since his arrest in June.

District Judge Dave Gamble remanded the case to justice court following a hearing Monday.

"After additional investigation by both sides, we came to the agreement that Mr. Dressler would enter the guilty plea to misdemeanor assault," said Loren Graham, Dressler's lawyer.

Witnesses said late June 10, Dressler allegedly showed up with the knife as his 29-year-old brother was attending the annual street celebration in downtown Gardnerville.

The victim
r a n



Dressler

away from Dressler who chased him until he realized sheriff's deputies were in the area and left in his vehicle. The victim was uninjured.

Dressler was bound over to district court following a preliminary hearing.

"You pretty much heard the evidence at the preliminary hearing," said prosecutor Erik Levin. "We had proof problems taking this in front of a jury. We still feel it's a serious crime and ask for a six-month sentence."

Graham said the defense found numerous witnesses who were not family members or friends who would testify that there wasn't a weapon.

Graham also said Dressler's family members have medical issues and his client wants to get out of jail to take care of them and go to school.



ALPINE

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Saying 'Hi' to Mother Christmas in Markleeville

by Virginia York

In England, Santa Claus is called Father Christmas. Recently, I was talking with Marsha Bennett in the Alpine County Library, when the thought struck me: "Marsha looks like Mother Christmas." Later, as I was checking out my books, Library Lisa told me that Marsha was organizing a Christmas event; how appropriate for Mother Christmas.

Christmas Cottage, for such is the name of said event, is going to be taking place over four weekends; be sure to mark your calendars:
Nov. 26 and 27 (weekend after Thanksgiving)
Dec. 3 and 4
Dec. 10 and 11
Dec. 17 and 18

Christmas Cottage will be in and around Marsha's house on Hot Springs Road, opposite the Museum's road end, a block from the Cutthroat Saloon. It will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Local, home-made arts and crafts will be on sale, including fine hand-knitteds (particularly hats and gloves) by Deirdre Wallace of Wild Wool, Tanya Berger's paintings, drawings and woollens (don't miss the woolly happy monsters), Christmas decorations

such as pine-cone animals, bird feeders and Marsha's marvellous wreaths. There will be salves and face-cream for summer and winter, pine sachets to put on your wood-burning stove to scent the room, and sage smudge sticks.

On Dec. 4 only, tables will be set up for all of you, adults and children, to make your own ornaments, wreaths and bird feeders. Come and create something beautiful from nature.

And, of course, there will be food and drink. Sit and enjoy spiced apple cider, hot chocolate and a variety of baked delights. Home-made jellies will be on sale.

This is just a sampling of the activities and many items on sale at the Christmas Cottage.

Marsha Bennett ran the popular Auntie M's coffee house in Minden from 1991-1998 and M's coffee house in Markleeville from 1998-2005. She is looking forward to seeing old customers from the Carson Valley at the Christmas Cottage. She welcomes everyone to sell home-made goods in the Cottage; there is no fee. Just call Marsha at (530) 694-1748 to be a vendor at this festive event.

TURKEY BINGO AT HUNG-A-LEL TI

Turkey Bingo will be held at The

Wellness Center, Hung-a-lel-ti, Woodfords 5-8 p.m. Saturday. Cards will be 25 cents each and the prizes will be turkeys, and food baskets for blackouts.

Refreshments will be served. The proceeds will go to the Washoe Community's Education and Recreation. Everyone is invited.

Call (530) 694-2964 for more details.

CHRISTMAS BAKING

Dale Bennet will be baking cookies and an impressive variety of pies, including pumpkin, peach and lemon meringue, to order for the holidays.

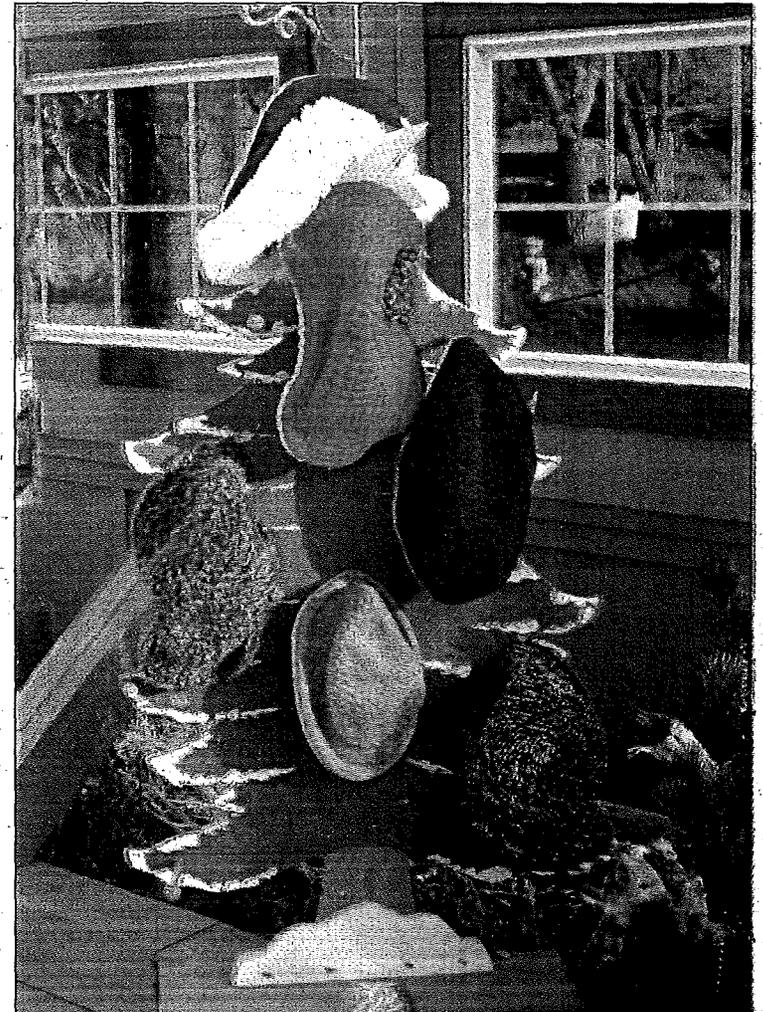
Two dollars from every sale will go towards plane tickets for three Woodfords students to come home for the holidays.

The students, Miss Bennet, Miss Burt and Miss Pete, are attending Haskell College, an Indian college in Kansas.

Please call Dale ahead at (530) 694-0567.

MAGICAL MARKLEEVILLE CHRISTMAS FAIRE

Next week there will be information on the exciting Magical Markleeville Christmas Faire, to be held Dec. 4.



Hand-made hats at the Christmas Cottage in Markleeville.

Special to The R-C

Kirkwood Mountain Resort to open today

Special to The R-C

Kirkwood Mountain Resort will officially kick off the

2011-12 season today with the first of two Preview Weekends.

The Resort will offer limit-

ed terrain as well as rentals, retail and food and beverage options today through Sunday and Dec. 2-4.

Kirkwood will ramp down midweek operations during this time to focus on mountain preparation, snow making and readying more terrain.

The resort anticipates being open for full winter operations, seven days a

week starting Dec. 9, however, this date may be moved forward with significant snowfall.

This weekend, the lower mountain will be open with chair No. 5, Solitude, operating and Race Course open for the skiing and riding with Lower Zachary to open at some point throughout the weekend weather and snow permitting.

RC - Fri. Nov. 25, 2011

ALPINE

Markleeville Christmas Faire set for Dec. 4

by Joyce DeVore
Special to The R-C

The tiny town of Markleeville will be alive with the magic of Christmas on Sunday, Dec. 4. Bring the camera and the children, friends, and family.

Plan to arrive around 11 am and stay through the afternoon. (The Faire ends at 4pm) Check in at the Chamber of Commerce for a free walking map of Markleeville, then explore three blocks of holiday fun.

The Markleeville Art Gallery will have several artists on location and many new holiday items. There are lovely Christmas cards, ornaments, jewelry, and fine art. An artist or two might set up easels to capture the beauty of the mountain town. Look for the portrait artist, who can render your likeness in about 30 minutes for a modest charge.

Intero Real Estate will host a jeweler who will be demonstrating her techniques as well as having unique earrings, bracelets, and pendants for sale.

In front of the real estate office, the Little Antelope Valley Pack Station's chef, Joe Cerevhino, will be preparing various cobblers on his outdoor fire.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be at the Wolf Creek Restaurant, where a children's menu will be served and adult meals are specially priced at buy one, get one at

50 percent discount. Weather permitting, vendors will roast chestnuts outside the restaurant.

Another restaurant will open its doors for the first time. It is two doors down from the Wolf Creek, and Allie Fife, owner and chef, is excited about showcasing her specialty menus. Cookies, cocoa, cider, and treats will be available at several stops around town.

Our U.S. Post Office will be open for you to buy Christmas stamps and packaging supplies and to mail cards.

At one o'clock you are invited to join a group of carolers. Meet at the courthouse Christmas tree, where Nancy Thornburg will have copies of some favorite songs. Plan to walk a little with the group and carol around town.

The General Store, next to the court house, will have Christmas tree cutting permits available for \$10 and some local artists on site.

Marsha's Mother Christmas boutique on Hot Springs Road Street will be open, featuring lovely hand-knit items, and right across the street Dawn Riddle will have hand-fashioned stone coasters for sale.

Other local businesses will offer hand-crafted items such as pine needle baskets, Yule logs, pottery, pillows, fleecy hats and gloves, photography, jewelry, and greeting cards. The number and scope of the participants just

keeps growing: it is magical!

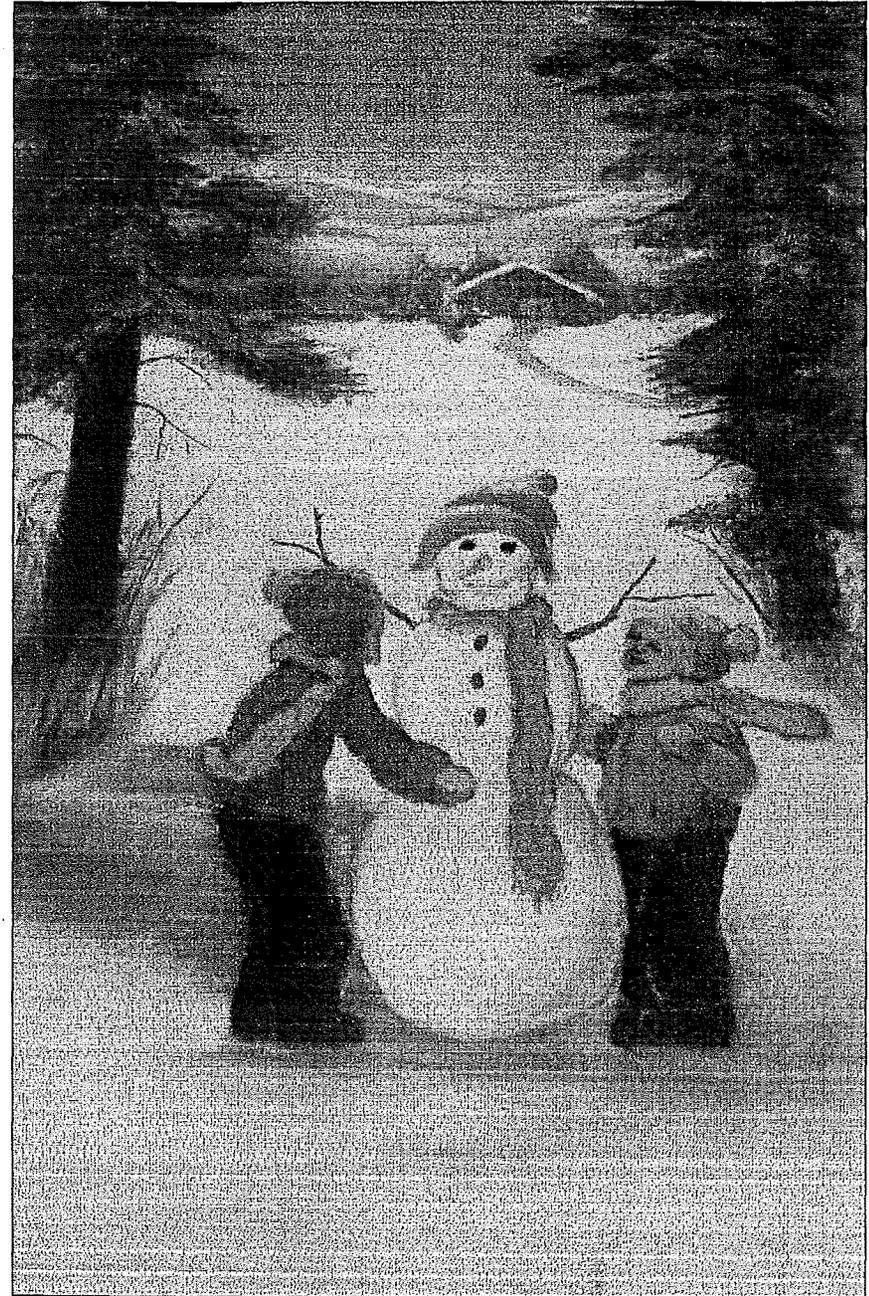
Weather permitting, Joyce Coker will lead small groups on a snow shoe tour near town. Snowman building, also weather permitting, will take place in the park next to the library.

The museum will be open and free for the day. Sample hot cider and cookies before browsing the many displays, including the old school house, the old jail, and the blacksmith shop.

At 2 p.m., the library is having a holiday story time, crafts, cookie decorating and a visit from Santa.

The idea for the event sprung from two local women, Dianna Mitzner and Evelyn Yonker, who both wanted to bring some positive holiday spirit to our community. It has already generated excitement in the county, and we are hoping that many of our friends from the Carson Valley and beyond will visit Markleeville on Sunday, Dec. 4, from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Although there are signs indicating that some mountain passes are closed due to snow, the road to Markleeville is always open! Take Highway 88 to the Woodfords Junction and turn on Highway 89 to Markleeville, just six miles away. For more information, contact Evelyn Yonker at the Markleeville Art Gallery 530-694-2787 (ARTS) or markleevilleartgallery@gmail.com.



OPINION



Lauren Parola

Two children with Mo the horse at the Oct. 22 fundraiser for Horses and Humans Leadership Program.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Learning about horses

EDITOR:

Although I have always marveled at the beauty and strength of horses from afar, I've been afraid of them since one ran off with me down the middle of a Girl Scout camp when I was 10 and threw me over a mountainside.

Sixty years later, though horses and I have never bonded, I found myself seated with 20 other people in a big outdoor horse arena at Skyhawk Ranch on a beautiful big blue sky Nevada day. We had come to a fundraiser and we were watching an incredible exhibition.

A small girl and an equally small young boy led two huge horses through a series of successful training exercises. Older children demonstrated body work techniques that gentled and relaxed the horses, while a teenager, bareback, without using her hands, demonstrated complicated riding skills that necessitated a high level of trust between her and her horse.

She and the other children and teenagers on hand were the fortunate participants in Barbara Slade's nonprofit leadership program called Between Horses and Humans.

Barbara Slade, a former jockey and a long time, beloved riding teacher in the Carson Valley, with great heart and extraordinary teaching

skills, explained what we were seeing. As I watched small children, calmly, without fear, successfully work with the huge animals, I began to understand the deep impact of her work with troubled children who face great personal challenge and tragedy in their lives.

She explained that in the program, the highly sensitive horses, through their actions and responses, mirror back to the children the state of their emotions. The children learn how to modify their behavior and responses in order to successfully work with the horses who give them unconditional love and acceptance. With kindness, firmness and intuitive coaching from Barbara, children learn techniques and leadership skills with horses that, beyond the joyful mastery it gives them, teaches them how to deal with their life challenges in new, positive and life affirming ways.

On that beautiful autumn day, we witnessed miracles. And we heard miracles. A young mother, whose husband had died, told us of her child's debilitating grief over her father's death. Between Horses and Humans Leadership Program changed the child's life. And there was hardly a dry eye among us.

As I listened to Barbara Slade's heartfelt commitment to the program and to children, I understood why, when I was an insecure, timid, unhappy 10-year-old suffering the interior schism of my parent's divorce, the horse ran

away with me. In a program like Barbara Slade's, I might have come to important realizations about life much earlier than I did.

Between Horses and Humans is a vitally important nonprofit program that needs our support. For more information email betweenhorsesandhumans@gmail.com or call Barbara Slade at 265-0901.

Juliana Joldersma
Markleeville

RC-Wed, Nov. 30, 2017

Woman helicoptered in 88 accident

Staff Reports

A Markleeville woman was helicoptered to Reno for medical treatment after an accident at Highway 88 and Kimmerling Road on Saturday evening.

The accident occurred at about 6:27 p.m. when a 1999 Ford Ranger driven by 18-year-old Faith Herron of Sunridge failed to yield to a 2004 Honda being driven south by Markleeville resident Teresa Grabham, 61.

According to the Nevada Highway Patrol, both vehicles were southbound on Highway 88, with Herron's vehicle in the left turn lane. The pickup's right front struck the front of the Honda.

Grabham was taken to Renown Regional Medical Center by Care Flight after being freed from the wreckage of her vehicle.

Herron was taken to Carson Valley Medical Center. She was cited for failure to yield the right of way.

■ A Gardnerville woman was arrested for second-offense driving under the influence and leaving the scene of an accident after she was involved in a rollover on Butterfly Lane on Thanksgiving night.

An empty Toyota Sequoia that had been in a rollover accident was found alongside the road at 8:43 p.m. Thursday.

According to the Douglas County Sheriff's Office, the

vehicle was northbound on Scotti Lane when the driver failed to negotiate the curve and went off the right side and down a 35-foot embankment and through a wooden fence.

Deputies went to the address where the vehicle is registered and spoke with Monica Moline, 19, who said she was driving the vehicle. A preliminary breath test revealed she had a .196 percent blood-alcohol content.

She was arrested in connection with the incident and taken to Carson Valley Medical Center, where she was examined for injuries and cleared for incarceration. A blood sample was taken.



Adam Jensen/Tahoe Daily Tribune

A skier slides near Kirkwood Mountain Resort's Chair 5 on Friday afternoon.

Kirkwood Mountain Resort opens for '11-12

by Dylan Silver
dsilver@tahoedailytribune.com

While resorts around Lake Tahoe pour millions into capital improvements, develop iPhone apps and raise giant condominium complexes, Kirkwood Mountain Resort hangs on to a privileged place among the region's ski mountains.

"Everybody who's a skier wants to ski something legendary," said CEO Dave Likins. "And they're going to have to come to Kirkwood to do that."

On opening day, Nov. 23, the Wood didn't have enough snow to entirely cover its precipitous peaks, but eventually they will.

"I ride Kirkwood because it's where I grew up riding," said former pro snowboarder Ryan Kronenberg.

"And it's got the deepest snow in Tahoe and it's got really good terrain as far as free riding and big mountain riding goes."

Those two elements — deep snow and steep mountains — are all the resort needs to run alongside constantly developing competition, Likins said.

"We have something you cannot re-create," he said. "And the things we don't have, we can re-create."

Living in the area, it's not difficult to understand why people ski Kirkwood or even to point out a Kirkwood local.

Drawing that certain die-hard pow-

der crew, rather than, say, the minivan crew, is part of the mountain's charisma.

"It's about the skiing," Likins said. "As long as you have the passion and respect for skiing, you're going to fit in really well here."

Though the mountain itself won't be changing any time soon, the resort has done some upgrades to the visitor experience.

After the January 2010 fire in the power plant, a brand-new, eight-engine plant was installed. The new power plant, though still diesel, will be 25 percent more efficient and will cut emissions by 70 percent. It will also ensure that those pesky lift stoppages will be a thing of the past, Likins said.

The mountain is still working towards connecting to the PG&E grid. A final environmental impact report is expected with four to six weeks.

Also new for this year, Kirkwood revamped their restaurants with new menus.

They upgraded commercial and retail facilities. They've added more high-angle grooming equipment. And they're working on new branding and more differentiation between their four terrain parks.

Kirkwood is holding a preview weekend today through Sunday to let skiers try the resort. Anyone with a season pass at any resort in the Lake Tahoe region will ski or ride for free.

Alpine seeking source of pot trash

Staff Reports

Alpine County authorities are seeking information regarding a trash dump from an indoor marijuana growing operation.

Detectives were called to Willow Creek Road of Highway 89 in Home Valley after the Forest Service reported dumped refuse that appeared suspicious.

The dump was found on Nov. 29.

Anyone with information about the dump is urged to contact the Alpine County Sheriff's Office at (530) 694-2231.

RC Wed. Dec. 7, 2011

Alpine sheriff warns of e-commerce scams

Staff Reports

The Alpine County Sheriff's Office is warning residents of several phishing scams involving e-mail.

"People are receiving e-mails attempting to deceive users into 'clicking the link' or opening attachments to seemingly real websites regarding holidays season 'deals'.

Tips for avoiding being scammed include:

Never click on links in e-mails. If you do think the e-mail is legitimate, whether from a third party retailer or primary retailer, go to the site and log on directly.

Never open the attachments. Typically, retailers will not send e-mails with attachments.

Do not give out personal information over the phone or in an e-mail unless completely sure. If contacted over the phone by someone claiming to be a retailer or collection agency, do not give out your personal information. Ask them to provide you their name and a call-back number. Just because they may have some of your information does not mean they are legitimate. Again, be careful when providing any information over the phone.

RC Fr. Dec. 9, 2011

A Christmas treat

EDITOR:

Yes, there is a Santa Claus. Or perhaps about a dozen of them. On Friday night, well after dark, there was a knock at my door. There in the bitter cold stood a cluster of teens, grins on their faces and music in their hands.

They proceeded to serenade me with a cheerful Christmas carol, then handed me a candy cane taped to a piece of green construction paper, with the message: "Merry Christmas from the neighborhood kids." So, to Amanda, Eli, Kayla, Keaton, Kelsey, Olivia, Shirley and friends, a huge thank you for sharing the real joy of the season. You were the best Christmas present ever.

RC - Wed. Dec. 28, 2011

Karen Dustman
Markleeville

Man arrested in Markleeville burglary

Staff Reports

A 22-year-old Lafayette, Calif., man was arrested in Alpine County on Monday in connection with an August burglary in

Markleeville. Nicholas Johnson turned himself in after a warrant was issued for his arrest. A flat screen television, its mounting brackets and other items were missing from the wall.

RC. Fri. Dec. 9, 2011

ALPINE

Former Alpine Judge Cook remembered

Staff Reports

Retired Alpine County Superior Court Judge John Hillary Cook, 82, died at his home in Woodfords on Nov. 21, 2011.

Born July 14, 1929, in Turlock, Calif., to William Coburn and Ruth Elizabeth Hedman Cook, he grew up with older brothers Gale, Jeremy, and Geoffrey, along with younger sister Corinne.

He attended elementary and high schools in Turlock before going on to UC Berkeley, where he graduated in 1951 with a degree in political science.

His parents built a summer cabin in Woodfords in 1939. He worked summers for the county road department and other county agencies while attending law school.

He was a member of the crew that completed the original surveys for the con-

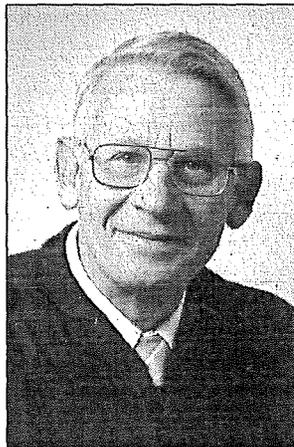
struction of Monitor Pass, work that had to be done from horseback.

Following his active duty from 1951-1954 in the U.S. Coast Guard, Cook attended Hastings College of the Law, graduating with his bachelor of law and juris doctor degrees in 1958.

It was while living in San Francisco and attending Hastings that he met Virginia Louise Dunipace, a schoolteacher and soon-to-be-stewardess from Ohio. They were married in 1957 and lived together for 54 years. They lived in Turlock for 13 years and Woodfords for the following 40 years.

Cook was elected district attorney for Alpine County from 1963-1971, and he served as attorney for the City of Turlock from 1967-1969.

Much of his career paralleled that of his father Coburn, who served as Tur-



Special to The R-C
Retired Alpine County Judge John Hillary Cook died Nov. 21 at his home in Woodfords.

lock city attorney for 20 years and Alpine County district attorney for seven years.

For two years, Cook practiced with Lin Griffith. Cook also took on the duties of attorney for Turlock Irrigation District, a position his brother had held from 1953-1969 and their father had held from 1943-1953. In 1971,

Cook was appointed by Gov. Ronald Reagan to serve as judge of the Alpine County Superior Court. His brother Jeremy administered the oath of office.

He was the first judge in the Mono Lake trials, brought by the Mono Lake Committee and a number of environmental groups against the L.A. Department of Water and Power over water diversion and the public-trust doctrine in the Save Mono Lake efforts.

He presided over a ski injury lawsuit where attorneys went through a panel of more than 200 citizens without seating a jury.

When there were no more names left on the list, Cook invoked a law out of the Old West that empowered the sheriff to round up any able-bodied man or woman he saw in town.

The sheriff summoned the local banker, bank cus-

tomers, four men hiding behind the saloon, and a visiting fisherman to complete the jury.

Cook was re-elected four times without opposition, serving on the Superior Court of Alpine County for 20 years until he retired in 1991.

He was active in both the Coventry Cross Episcopal Church of Minden and St. Francis Anglican Church of Turlock.

He belonged to the Genoa and Turlock Masonic Lodges.

He was an avid hunter, and he fly-fished the Carson River behind his house for as long as he was able. He enjoyed gardening, raising fruit and flowers.

He was known for driving black convertibles with white tops, and he didn't hesitate to take them on dusty, rocky back roads.

"His preferred route was

always the 'road less travelled' as he explored the West throughout his life," family members said.

He is survived by wife Virginia Louise Dunipace Cook; children Cris (Jacques) Etchegoyhen of Minden, Tim (Sandi) Cook of Turlock, Calif., and David Cook of Jensen Beach, Fla.; grandchildren Dominique (Laima) Etchegoyhen of Reno, Karina Cook of Turlock, and Ryan Cook of Huntington Lake; and great-grandchildren Vytis and Liepa Etchegoyhen and Kacen Cook.

Memorial services will be held in Alpine County and Turlock at later dates.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alpine Parents Club Scholarship Fund, 35 Hawkside Drive, Markleeville, CA 96120.

Arrangements are in the care of McFarlane Mortuary of South Lake Tahoe.

Sometimes you find the Christmas tree in your heart

"I'm going to have to tell you in pieces, 'cuz that is the way I remember it," is his reply to how his family got their Christmas trees.

This year, because of family travel plans, it will be the first time in my entire life I have decided not to have a tree for Christmas. I'm not comfortable with this idea. I've been uneasy for days. It feels like the highway patrol has pulled up behind me. You think you are not doing anything wrong, but check all your gauges anyway, glancing in the mirror, waiting for the patrol car to pass. I was waiting for the holiday police to pull me over and ask me, what did I think I was doing?

For years we have gotten a For-

FENCE LINES



by Marie Johnson

chainsaw. Worry if the truck will get stuck, sliding backwards on ice. A tradition better than Black Friday Binge Shopping.

Sometimes friends, aunts, uncles and cousins come along. Not

est Service permit to cut a fresh tree after Thanksgiving. It is great fun. No one agreeing on which tree to get. Too hot bundled up in the truck. Too cold outside hunting around in the woods. Fights about who gets to or has to carry the

dogs and cocoa passed around while the littlest play in snow, or hide and seek in the woods. Even if it's just immediate family stuck in the truck, there is a lot of discussion on what tree to get, where and when. Pictures are taken and memories made.

This year no tree, no trek in the woods, no pics. So I asked my husband to tell me about his family tree cutting experiences to make up for the one we were not having.

"It was always a big family event. Mom had to find mittens, scarves, boots, shoes for all five of us kids. I remember her always asking us where our shoes were.

Find your shoes! Who needs mit-

ten? It was a chore to round us all up.

"Then we piled into the pickup and the Jeep. Back then only the Jeep had four wheel drive, it wasn't common in pickups then, and it was a bear to drive. Dad drove it and the men, me, and sometimes Mark when he got older, rode with him. The women and little kids drove in the pickup. When the girls were real small they stayed home with Grandma, 'cuz this was serious work.

"Mom wanted the perfect tree. She was from Fallon, I guess the trees in Fallon were scrawny. She always wanted the perfect, full

See Heart on page 11

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Heart

Continued from page 10

tree that barely fit in the corner window of the front room. We always cut a real tall tree to get extra branches to hang on the front door.

"We would drive up into the mountains. I won't tell you where 'cuz those are the best spots. No. Mostly, I can't remember exactly where we went. Just that we drove til we had to put chains on all four wheels of the pickup and the Jeep, then still kept driving until the truck almost got stuck. Then we left the girls in the truck with grandma, and we men would go on with the Boss. That was Mom. She had the final say in the tree we got. She wanted the perfect one. Sometimes we even ended up bringing two home so she could think about which one she wanted. We would give the other one away.

"When I got to be a teenager, farm-grown trees from Oregon started to show up in lots in town. So, Mom would take any kids who wanted to go along to town to get a tree. Mom liked those trees. They were full, professionally pruned. She would pick one, tie it to the top of the station wagon, and bring it home."

Nice story, but I still had No-Tree anxiety. So I went and rooted around in the back cellar where I had stored some things of my parents after they passed. There I found a 2-foot tall, fiber-optic, green plastic, rotating tree with pre-attached bulbs. Perfect. It is in the corner window of the front room rotating now. Glowing like the lights on a patrol car. Enjoy the holiday season, wherever it takes you.

Marie Johnson is a Carson Valley rancher.



Bennetts celebrate 60 years of marriage

Staff Reports

Woodfords residents Darlene and John Bennett celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary Sept. 10, 2011.

The couple met May 6, 1946, at an American Legion Picnic at Mickey's Grove Park in Lodi, Calif. John was a Corporal in the Marine Corps; stationed in Treasure Island Calif., and Darlene was a junior attending Lodi High School.

They were married Sept. 8, 1951, in Lodi, Calif.

Darlene was a stay at home mother raising four children; however on occasion would work summers at the wineries as a weight-master. Darlene and John are members of the Alpine County Community Church and Darlene serves on the church board and is the church organist.

John served on the Alpine County Sheriff's De-



Special to The R-C
Woodfords residents Darlene and John Bennett celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary Sept. 10, 2011.

partment, where he retired, on March 3, 1985, after 30 years of law enforcement and served two terms on the Alpine County Board of Supervisors.

John and Darlene moved to Alpine County, Calif., in 1997.

They have four children: John, Dan, Kathy and Jeff; eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

ALPINE

State overrules Alpine courthouse

Staff Reports

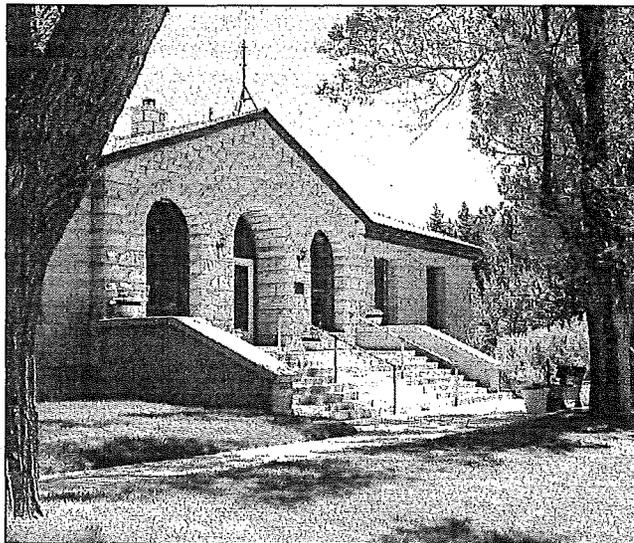
Despite descriptions of infestation by insects, rodents and bats, and security that couldn't prevent a break-in by a bear, on Tuesday the state of California's Judicial Council officially canceled the Alpine County courthouse project, citing high cost and small caseload.

The cost-cutting will save the state's court construction fund more than \$26 million.

The council has directed its staff to work on a plan to address future needs for the courthouse as a facility modification as money becomes available.

In a letter, Alpine County presiding Judge David DeVore said the courthouse has no holding cell and no storage for records, and no place for attorneys to confer with clients.

"Most of the records are in a rented storage facility in a Nevada town some 25 miles away," DeVore said. "The upstairs entrance requires navigating two separate sets of steps and an uncovered walkway which is impossible for those with disabilities under



Shannon Litz/R-C file photo

The historic Alpine County Courthouse in Markleeville is due to be replaced.

any circumstances."

DeVore called trials "security nightmares," in his letter.

"Our building and courtroom do not accommodate the number of jurors we must summon for even modest matters, and the parking is inadequate to handle their cars, which requires us to rent from the county a meeting hall several miles away where we must set up a rough courtroom using folding chairs and

tables, and additional security for the remote and vulnerable setting."

DeVore is concerned the cancellation will prevent the court from even being able to rehabilitate the court's present building.

"There presently are only two private parcels suitable and potentially available, in addition to the possibility of acquisition and rehabilitation of the existing building," he

wrote. "The latter is the preferable option to our court, the AOC team, our Public Advisory Group. Much work has been done to make to proposed project acceptable to the county, and if not pursued to fruition that option may be lost forever as the county has expressed an interest in rehabilitating and using the building for its own purposes. The private parcels are listed for sale and if both do sell and the county determines to convert the building for its use the prospects for finding a suitable location would be virtually nil."

The courts sought to reduce costs after the California Legislature redirected \$310 million in judicial branch funds set aside for courthouse construction to the general fund.

The bill increased fines and fees to help raise money to pay for courthouse construction. Since 2009, more than \$1.1 billion in funding originally designated for courthouse construction has been borrowed, swept to the general fund, or redirected to court operations.

Kirkwood Mountain Resort opens Saturday

Staff Reports

Kirkwood Mountain Resort will open for daily operations starting Saturday.

The resort will offer skiing and riding on chair No. 5 Solitude, chair No. 11 The Reut and chair No. 1 Snowkirk, accessing terrain for the beginner through advanced skier and rider.

Tickets are \$49 for an adult with junior, child and senior discount rates available. In addition, kids 12 years old and under ski and ride for free Dec. 19-23 with the purchase of a regularly priced full day adult lift ticket.

To kick off the holidays and thank all locals for their continued support, Kirkwood is offering free skiing and riding for locals on Tuesday. Locals need only present a valid ID at the Kirkwood ticket office to show they are full-time residents of Alpine, Amador or Eldorado counties to qualify.

Snowmaking is currently under way on chair No. 6 The Cornice Express and the resort is committed to have top to bottom skiing for the holiday period. Kirkwood is also offering Kids and Adult Ski School in full operation, more Terrain Park features and an AirBag, a new temporary feature that softly catches skiers and riders after hitting a jump allowing them to try new tricks.

"We have great conditions and want to entice skiers and riders to come on up and see what it is all about," says Dave Likins, CEO of Kirkwood Mountain Resort.

To stay up-to-date on Kirkwood's snow conditions, view the webcam and latest video visit www.kirkwood.com or visit the Kirkwood Facebook page www.facebook.com/kirkwoodmntn.