

The Mountain Messenger

California's Oldest, Locally Owned, and Continuously Published Weekly Newspaper

VOL. 168, NO. 32 THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2022 DOWNIEVILLE, SIERRA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA ESTABLISHED 1853 SINGLE COPY 50¢ tax included

Power Restored to Almost All Sierra County Customers Two and a Half Weeks After Holiday Snow Outages

BY STEPHEN KULIEKE



Photo Courtesy of PG&E Sierra Division

Dozens of Sierra County PG&E customers who were without power two and a half weeks after the holiday-week snowstorm are having a happier New Year with the restoration of their electricity this week.

On Tuesday, 145 Sierra County customers were still without power, with that number dropping to 66 by noon on Wednesday. By sunset on Wednesday, just 25 customers in PG&E's four-county Sierra Division—20 in Sierra County and 5 in Nevada City in Nevada County—had no electricity. Of the Sierra County customers still suffering outages, 19 were in Alleghany and one in Downieville. PG&E spokesperson Megan McFarland told The Mountain Messenger as the newspaper went to press that “those numbers could decrease as the evening goes on.”

At the height of the storm from Dec. 26-27, more than 60,000 customers experienced outages in

Placer, El Dorado, Nevada, and Sierra counties—1,300 in Sierra County alone with more than 500 here in the county still without power last week. Nevada County was especially hard hit by the holiday-week blizzards, which dropped snow at lower foothill elevations, toppling trees and knocking out power to thousands there.

Over the past several days Sierra County saw scores of PG&E trucks and workers and sub-contractor teams on the job. The utility brought in snowcats and employees outfitted with snowshoes to repair electrical lines and infrastructure damaged by the heavy snowfalls.

Sierra County customers in Alleghany and those located between Downieville and Sierra City in Fournier Ranch were among the last to have their power restored. On Tuesday as work to restore power continued, Lee Kirby, the retired executive officer of the Sierra County Superior Court, said that helicopters flew over her Fournier Ranch home “all day long with new poles, new bags of gravel, and new transformer boxes—and hauling personnel up the canyon.”

She returned from errands in Truckee on Wednesday evening to find her electricity back on. “It was a long time for us,” said Kirby, whose power went out the evening of Dec. 26. “In the thirty years I’ve lived here, I’ve never seen so much damage to utilities and road conditions from downed trees. PG&E and Caltrans workers are amazing.”

Sierra County Office of Emergency Services Coordinator Lee Brown commended PG&E for housing their employees at local lodges and inns in the Downieville-Sierra City area, allowing crews to put in long days—from “6 in the morning until 10 at night to get the job done,” he said.

The Sierra Pines resort in Sierra City hosted more than two dozen “grateful and exhausted” PG&E workers for dinner Sunday night, with several staying overnight, said owner Cindy Haubl.

In a gesture of community support for the hard-working utility workers, several Downieville residents came together to hold potluck breakfasts on Sunday and Tuesday mornings for the workers. With no advance notice to local restaurants on Sunday to prepare for the crews, Cherry Simi, owner of Downieville's Vintage Gal Antiques, called on several friends and quickly organized the event.

Feather Ortiz offered her restaurant La Cocina Del Oro as the location of the potlucks. Those making dishes and helping with the Sunday breakfast were Feather Ortiz (even with her broken leg), Connie & Greg Johnson, Anne Berardi, Dan Farrington & Ingrid Larson, Karen Hamilton, Eliane Campbell, and Cherry Simi.

Enjoying the hearty fare of bacon, eggs, hash brown potatoes, coffee and OJ were 35 PG&E workers staying in Downieville and staff from the Downieville Community Hall Resources Center that had been on the job there for the past week.

On Tuesday, another breakfast potluck was held at La Cocina Del Oro for utility workers still working in the Downieville area, said Simi.

“It was a good, old-fashioned community effort to show appreciation for the work these PG&E and contract employees do,” she said.



Photo Courtesy of PG&E Sierra Division

“We’re at a Critical Phase” for COVID-19 —County Health Officials

BY STEPHEN KULIEKE

With an alarming nationwide surge in COVID-19 cases expected to peak in the coming weeks, local public health officials are urging Lost Sierra residents to take protective measures to keep themselves and their families safe.

“We’re at a critical phase” with “big reasons to buckle down,” Sierra County Public Health Director Vickie Clark told The Mountain Messenger. She said the coronavirus is “not picky about who it’s hitting” with “health care and all businesses” experiencing employees out ill or quarantined. “It’s a good time to stay as close to home as you can and avoid gatherings.”

Plumas County Public Health Director Dana Loomis said that unlike 2020, “we don’t foresee mandatory closures or stay-at-home orders.” But with the pandemic not over yet, he called for the use of the “tools we have at this point: get vaccinated, get boosted, wear a mask indoors. Vaccines keep people out of hospitals and avoiding worse consequences,” he told The Messenger.

As 2022 begins, both counties have seen a significant increase in active COVID-19 cases. As of Jan.11, Sierra County had 45 active cases—“13 yesterday” said Clark on Tuesday, adding that it’s the kind of exponential increase predicted and being seen across California. Plumas County on Jan. 11 reported 86 cases in the last seven days, “double the amount we had the previous week,” said Loomis.

The recent explosion of COVID-19 nationally and in California is being attributed to the highly contagious Omicron variant, which has supplanted Delta as the dominant variant among those afflicted with the virus. It was reported that the U.S. saw 1.35 million new coronavirus infections on Monday, with California seeing more than 300,000—which included data in our state from Saturday and Sunday.

Clark and Loomis said that sequencing on the new cases in Sierra and Plumas counties will take weeks to determine which variant the cases represent. But both believe that the local surge in cases likely is attributable to the highly transmissible Omicron variant, consistent with the rest of the state.

Those struck by the Omicron variant generally have less serious symptoms, with fewer patients requiring intensive care unit (ICU) treatment or ventilators. Nonetheless, the virus remains a serious threat not to be taken lightly, say health care experts. Moreover, the Omicron surge is placing an enormous strain on essential health care services around the country and here in California—with doctor, nurse and medical staff shortages and unavailable hospital beds.

On Tuesday, data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services showed that more than 145,000 patients with COVID-19 were being treated in the nation’s hospitals—the highest number since the outset of the pandemic.

The Los Angeles Times reported Wednesday that hospitals are “reeling” in Southern California with facilities reaching capacity and daylong waits in emergency rooms. In response to severe staffing shortages, the California Department of Public Health on Jan. 8 took the extraordinary and controversial step of temporarily allowing healthcare personnel who are positive for the coronavirus but asymptomatic to return to work immediately without quarantine or testing, requiring them to wear N95 respirator masks. The CDPH emergency guidelines are in effect until Feb. 1.

Here in Northern California, a Capital Public Radio Jan. 11 update spotlighted rural medical centers in Marysville and Chico also being affected, with Adventist Health and Rideout Hospital in Marysville seeing an overwhelming number of hospitalizations.

Loomis said that as of Jan. 11, five COVID-19 patients were being hospitalized in Plumas County’s medical facilities in Quincy, Portola, and Chester. That’s approaching the highest number of six patients during the Delta variant surge, he noted. While medical staffing problems “are not acute for us yet, we rely on travel nurses,” he said, adding, “we’re operating with the minimum staffing that is viable.”

He also expressed concern about ICU beds filling up in the broader region as the Omicron surge continues. It then becomes “harder for small hospitals to transfer out our sicker” or more serious patients—with COPD, car accident victims, etc.

Clark says the current surge may be “fast and furious,” with the case load dropping in the next few weeks to where we were previously—a “manageable baseline.” She expressed concern about the economic consequences of the current COVID-19 wave, with “people not able to keep their businesses open and not getting a paycheck.”

She meets with representatives of the Sierra-Plumas Joint Unified School District every Monday on COVID-19 school issues. While Sierra County schools remain open, the preschool in Loyalton connected to the elementary school closed, with hopes of reopening on Thursday, said Clark. “That impacts working people,” she said.

On the horizon for the pandemic-weary public are treatments that Loomis said “may be a game changer”—oral antiviral medications. *Continued on Page 4...*

Back To The Board of Supes

BY CARL BUTZ

Last week's account of the January 4 meeting of the Sierra County Board of Supervisors ended with Tim Beals, the County's Director of the Office of Emergency Services, telling the Supervisors he did not know why PG&E's plan for a "Warming Center" in Alleghany failed to occur. But, he said he would investigate the situation and report his findings at the Board's next session. (Readers, you do not have to wait for Beals' report on January 18. By turning to the Letters to the Editor column found on page 2 of this issue, you will discover Rae Bell-Abrogast's detailed explanation.)

Approval of a one-time grant amounting to \$258,000 from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) for use by the County and the Sierra County Firesafe and Watershed Council was the next item on the Boards' agenda.

With the money slated to support thinning of the mixed conifer forest within 1,000 feet of the North Yuba River, adjacent to CA-49 from Sierra City to Yuba Pass, the Board approved the funding agreement with the SNC by a unanimous vote.

Next, the Board turned to Beals for an update on progress in resolving the public nuisance complaint against the owner of the Sierraville Hotel. While Beals had not had the time to review a proposal filed with his office by the property's owner, Painter Baarsma, Beals did know the owner had had discussions with staff within the county's environmental health agency. In addition, a number of inquiries about the property had been received from prospective buyers and passed on to the owner. Supervisor Roen also spoke, commending the community leaders who stepped in to remove 45 yards of waste

from around the property before snow covered the ground. Following these comments, Baarsma told the Board he had lined up a contractor to repair the exterior stairs, has found a heavy equipment operator to use the tractor he will be renting, and has acquired a realtor. *Continued on Page 3...*

Sourdough Jack Sez...



You might be surprised, but I have always liked wearing a mask, they make me feel like an outlaw. I can't figure out why anybody don't feel the same way.



Katie's Sightings

Taken with permission from northyubanaturalist.blogspot.com

KATIE O'HARA KELLY

Winter Wildlife



Columbian Black-tailed Mule Deer - Odocoileus hemionus columbianus

With the power being out for the last 12 days, I have had a lot of time to wander and observe wildlife in my neighborhood lately! I've seen more deer than I have all year, as they are so visible against the white snow! Females and males travel separately in small groups of their own gender. In the winter they forage mainly on the growing tips of trees and shrubs, as well as acorns and grasses. In the fall, they consume lots of vegetation and store up fat for the winter, when food can be scarce.

I came across this doe and fawn one morning, as they were grazing on the buds and shoots of trees. Such beauty! Mule Deer grow thick, shaggy, hollow-haired, grayish-brown coats in the winter, which helps them retain warmth.



Columbian Black-tailed Mule Deer - Odocoileus hemionus columbianus

I also came across a group of four bucks in another part of our neighborhood! They all had different sizes of antlers, which they will shed sometime between January and March. While I was watching them, one of them repeatedly rubbed his antlers against the tree branches. In winter deer conserve energy by limiting their movement. They are most active at dawn and dusk, but can be seen at any time. They usually live 9-11 years in the wild.

In the photos above you can see the difference in the antler size of the deer. Antler size is not a reliable indicator of their age. There is really no precise way to accurately do deer aging, other than looking at their teeth. "Despite the many stories hunters tell each other, the size of the antlers and the number of points on the antlers is not a reliable age guide. Antler size is more a function of diet and heredity than it is of age. Three major factors that determine antler size are: age of the buck, genetics of the animal, and nutrition. Said another way, you will not get maximum antler size unless the animal has the genetics, is a healthy mature buck more than 5years old, and has consumed the nutrients needed to achieve the genetic potential."



Western Gray Squirrel - Sciurus griseus

There are probably about 6 or 7 Western Gray Squirrels in my immediate neighborhood. They remain active all year. They are called "scatter hoarders" because they store small caches of food in many different places, rather than one main location. These caches are not what the squirrels solely subsist on in winter. They also actively search for food in winter, foraging for pine nuts, acorns, tree buds, and mushrooms.



Sharp-shinned Hawk (juvenile) - Accipiter striatus

I spotted this beautiful little Sharp-shinned Hawk one snowy morning this week! It was perched in the Alder tree near our garden, where I have photographed it several times in the past. The Sharp-shinned Hawk is the smallest hawk in the US and Canada. They are forest predators, like the Northern Goshawk. While I was photographing this little hawk, it suddenly took off, flew over my head and was instantly in hot pursuit of a Steller's Jay! I saw them as they sped down the road in the air. I don't know if the hawk got the jay, but it was fascinating to see!

Letters to the Editor

Mountain Messenger Praise

My enjoyment of Vol. 168, No. 28 Thursday December 16, 2021 was deep and complete, and when I read “The Mountain Messenger’s Editor Marks His 100th Edition” my gratitude to you was HUGE. Your paper has features I like so much I want to shake it in the face of three other weeklies I read and say, “Look at this! Why don’t you provide columns, features, and other sly humor like these?”

I LIKE black and white. Soothing. Sheriff’s Log is succinct and a hoot. I was dismayed when Katie O’Hara Kelly announced discontinuing her column and rejoiced and religiously read her blogspot. The stories, the poetry, Sports, Here Back East — all get read, every word, every week. I scan (all) part of the paper and am always pleased with what/how you choose to print. Thank you for “Saving the paper.”

Admiringly,
Jan Elyse Hughes
Clinton, WA

Update from Southwest Sierra County

Dear Editor,

Regarding the question posed at last week’s Board of Supervisor’s meeting asking why no PG&E warming center was set up in Alleghany during the recent storms: Pliocene Ridge CSD (fire district) staff received a phone call from a PG&E representative on the evening of December 31st asking if they could use Station 2 in Alleghany to set up a warming center. At that time temperatures were in the low 20s AND we had 5 to 6 feet of snow on the ground. Station 2 is primarily a firehouse. The two-bay garage has three vehicles squeezed into it: a firetruck, a command vehicle, and an ambulance. Initially, I told the PG&E representative that we could probably free up half of the bay because we could not park the firetruck outside in freezing weather.

I also told her that I needed to double-check with assistant Chief Ned Cusato. Where was Ned after 5pm on New Year’s Eve? Out plowing! The Sierra County Road crew had been putting in long-days and nights for a week dealing with the heavy snow. On the 28th, Ned told me that over 40 trees had fallen on Ridge Road in the 15 mile stretch between Alleghany and Pike! As of New Year’s Eve, the road was barely passable with only one lane open, and trees were continuing to fall.

Upon further consideration, and in my own state of exhaustion from days of shoveling snow, I realized that there was NO PLACE to park the ambulance or command rig outside, let alone the PG&E vehicles and generator. The man-door to station 2 is situated on a side where the roof sheds snow. It had over 10 feet of snow in front of it! (Fire Dept. staff can enter and exit via the bay doors, but this would not have worked for a warming center). I called the PG&E representative back and told her that I didn’t think we could do it, but I would still double-check with Ned. Shortly after that, Lee Brown of Sierra County Office of Emergency Services (OES) called me, asking why we had said “no” to PG&E. I explained the situation to him, and he agreed that it wasn’t feasible. We decided not to bother Ned who was still out plowing snow.

Most Alleghany residents are set up for power outages. For Pike residents, driving to the warming center in North San Juan would make more sense than driving to Alleghany.

A HUGE THANK YOU to our indomitable road crew, our first responders, the utility workers, residents and others who helped (and continue to help) during the recent storm event. As of this writing (January 10th) most of Alleghany is still without power and Pike’s power came back on night before last.

Sincerely,
Rae Bell Arbogast
Secretary/Treasurer, Pliocene Ridge CSD
Website: plioceneridge.org

Calpine Honors Former Fire Chief, Louis Siqueido

BY JOHN MITCHELL



Louis Siqueido, long time Calpine Fireman and Past Chief of the Calpine Volunteer Fire Department, was formally honored for his valuable community service at the Calpine Community Fire Association (formerly Calpine Volunteer Fire Department) meeting January 4, 2022 in the CIA building in Calpine. Louie was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation and a personalized cake in recognition of his many decades as a Fireman, Fire Chief and a reserve Tender Operator.

When he was Fire Chief, in the days before 911 service, he was responsible for fielding all emergency fire calls 24/7 with the Calpine RED FIRE PHONE by his bed. A series of red, fire “pull boxes” were strung on the power poles up the three streets of town that also activated the town siren when pulled. This community alarm provided an almost immediate response time to fire calls.

Louie was elected by his neighbors to serve as Fire Chief in the Calpine Volunteer Fire Department, an organization including virtually all residents at that time. The Calpine Community Fire Association is pleased to formally recognize Louie for his service to the community as part of its mission to “support, honor, and recognize all volunteer firefighters (past and present) for protecting the property and lives of the Calpine community”. Thank you for your service, Louie! You kept us safe and we all thank you.

Poetry Corner

Blow Blow Thou Winter Wind

By WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

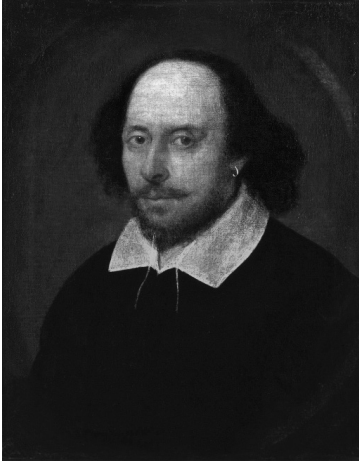
Blow, blow, thou winter wind,
Thou art not so unkind
As man’s ingratitude;
Thy tooth is not so keen,
Because thou art not seen,
Although thy breath be rude.
Heigh-ho! sing, heigh-ho! unto the
green holly:
Most friendship is feigning, most
loving mere folly:
Then, heigh-ho, the holly!
This life is most jolly.

Freeze, freeze, thou bitter sky,
That dost not bite so nigh
As benefits forgot:
Though thou the waters warp,
Thy sting is not so sharp
As friend remembered not.
Heigh-ho! sing, heigh-ho! unto the
green holly...

This poem/song is in the public domain. Appears in As You Like It, Act II Scene VII.

About this poem: William Shakespeare, This poem is actually a song sung by Amiens, in the Shakespeare play "As You Like It". Amiens' character contributes very little to the play's "action", but he sings two songs which help clarify the plot and key themes.

About this poet: William Shakespeare (26 April 1564 – 23 April 1616) was an English playwright, poet and actor, widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's greatest dramatist. He is often called England's national poet and the "Bard of Avon" (or simply "the Bard"). His extant works, including collaborations, consist of some 39 plays, 154 sonnets, three long narrative poems, and a few other verses, some of uncertain authorship. His plays have been translated into every major living language and are performed more often than those of any other playwright.



PEACE

Do You Have News For Our Readers?

If so, contact The Mountain Messenger
Phone: (530) 289-3262
E-mail: info@themountainmessenger.org

20/20 Hindsight

Last week’s cover story, “Effects of Holiday Snowstorm Still Being Felt” contained an error. The article should have stated that Dog Valley Road, a dirt road out of Verdi is **not** plowed for snow in the winter. (Hence, it is not recommended as an alternative route for drivers, as posted signs indicate.) “The word “not” was inadvertently dropped.

In accordance with general newspaper practice, *The Mountain Messenger* corrects factual errors appearing in its columns. Errors spotted by readers may be reported to the paper's staff either by calling 530-289-3262 or by sending an email to <info@themountainmessenger.org>.

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Published weekly. Second Class postage paid at Downieville, CA. Adjudicated a legal newspaper by Sierra County Superior Court No. 2416, Nevada County Superior Court No. 17698. Subscriptions: One-year \$30.00 for addresses within Sierra County, Out-of-County, \$35.00; Two-years for \$50 and \$60, respectively. U.S. Postal No. 3664400. ©2020 by The Mountain Messenger. All rights reserved. Postmaster: send address changes to our mailing address: The Mountain Messenger, 313 Main St., P.O. Drawer A, Downieville, CA 95936. Phone:(530) 289-3262
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On the Shelf

By PAUL GUFFIN

A Debacle of Gift-giving

Herewith, the continuation of tale found on the shelves of the Downieville Library:

Now that Christmas (either December 25 or January 7) has come and gone, and the Twelve Days of Christmas (December 25-January 5) have ended, it is time to take stock (pun intended) of the gifts received from your “true love”.

Without going through the gifts thus received on each of the individual twelve days, we move instead to a summary of what you have received. To wit, you are now the possessor (proud or otherwise) of: an orchard of 12 pear trees; a barnyard (aviary?) consisting of 224 birds (12 partridges, 22 turtle doves, 30 French hens, 36 calling or colly birds, 40 ring-neck pheasants, 42 geese, 42 swans); a dairy herd of 40 cows; a village of 140 people (40 milk-maids, 36 drummers, 30 pipers, 22 ladies, 12 lords); and, 66 musical instruments (36 drums, 30 pipes). What it seems that your “true love” didn’t give you — but that you now desperately need — is: land for the orchard and free-range for the animals; a variety of shelters for the variety of birds; a shelter barn and milking barn for the cows; refrigeration for the pears, eggs, and milk; housing for the village of people; and, storage for the musical instruments. In addition, you will need plenty of help to: maintain the orchard and harvest the fruit in season; feed and care (including veterinary care) for all the animals, including keeping the animals from predators and other harm; collect eggs (at least 72 per day just from the French hens and geese); handle the milk production (260 gallons per day, according to Purdue University’s average production estimate of 6.5 gallons per cow per day); and, keep the village of people in food, health care, and everything else they need. Additionally, you will probably need qualified people to handle the marketing of the pears, eggs, and milk, which income you will most certainly need to keep everything going. Of course, that income will most definitely not be enough to maintain the whole enterprise. Therefore, you will want to organize those drummers and pipers into one or more entertainment groups, and find someone skilled in the art of getting them the gigs they need to bring in additional income.

And, then, there are those pesky ladies and lords. They, apparently, want to do nothing but dance and leap about. In addition, since they come from that class of people who are used to having pretty much everything done for them, they will expect you to provide all kinds of servants for their personal well-being. My suggestion is that you quickly disabuse them of such notions, and begin to put them to productive effort that will benefit the whole enterprise. Get them enrolled in job-training as soon as possible. They would have several options: working in the orchard or with the animals, in various capacities; preparing food and housekeeping for the members of the village; marketing the produce from the farm; serving as agents for the musicians; and a whole host of other possibilities that would bring benefit to everyone. And, additionally, they could join the musicians as a dancing troupe, when needed.

You may have noticed that I haven’t mentioned the “gold rings” that you thought you received on the fifth day of Christmas. Traditionally, the gold rings were considered to refer to the golden rings of the ringed pheasant. However, perhaps your “true love” wasn’t that traditional, and thought that they actually were gold rings. That might work in your favor: instead of 224 birds in your aviary, you would have only 184; and, you would have 40 gold rings which you could pawn or sell to help with the expenses.

My hope is that your “true love” will “come through in the clutch”, and not leave you burdened all on your own with the mess that they have created. It would be helpful, if that person would now additionally gift you with the land, buildings, personnel, and money that you need to keep this whole thing afloat. And, it would be lovingly helpful if that person were to invest themselves in the enterprise, with whatever skills — besides the giving of gifts — they could bring to the task. But, since throughout history we have heard nothing further from such a “true love”, I wouldn’t count on it. You may be entirely on your own here. Good luck!

Moral: “It is better to give than to receive.”

Sports

By TESSA JACKSON

I can’t believe the last week of the football season is the first week I get all three of my picks wrong! I finish with 28-25-2. I’m happy I got more right than wrong, but honestly not very happy with such a poor finish. The last week can be difficult to call, especially so far before game time. Both of the quarterbacks I mentioned did not play; the Philadelphia Eagle's Jalen Hurts and the Cincinnati Bengal's Joe Burrow. But I could not be happier that the playoffs are here. You know without a doubt that all teams will be giving their all and it is going to be a fun weekend. I hope that no one minds that I still act like the Las Vegas Raiders are a local team. I know a lot of Raider fans and I don’t know any who have stopped being fans since they moved to Las Vegas (and they are my favorite team!)

Well, both the Raiders and the San Francisco 49ers made the playoffs in very exciting fashion. I don’t think I’ve ever seen so many games go to overtime! The Las Vegas Raiders game against the Los Angeles Chargers had some very interesting circumstances; whichever team won would make the playoffs and the losing team would not, but if they managed to tie both teams would make the playoffs and the Pittsburgh Steelers would miss the playoffs. According to ESPN, less than 1% of games have ended in a tie, and sportsbooks typically offer 60-1 odds on a tie. This game came so ridiculously close to a tie; the Raider’s Daniel Carlson kicked a game-winning field goal as overtime expired. The 49ers came back from a 17-point deficit against the Los Angeles Rams to tie it up in the third quarter and then scored a touchdown in the fourth quarter to tie it up again with less than 30 seconds left in the game. Their defense was the real star after an interception to win the game in overtime. These are the games that make me a fan of the NFL. This weekend is Wild Card Weekend and we will see the Raiders take on the Bengals in Cincinnati on Saturday at 1:30 PM where we can expect a wintry game and the Raiders are 5.5-point underdogs. The 49ers will be traveling to Dallas to take on the Cowboys on Sunday at 1:30 PM where they are 3-point underdogs. It’s going to be a fun weekend!

I know someone else who is happy this week, Georgia. No. 3 Georgia beat No. 1 Alabama for its first college football championship since 1980. The first half was all field goals and the whole game was pretty close until Alabama’s quarterback, Heisman Trophy winner Bryce Young, threw an interception for a touchdown to seal the victory for the Bulldogs.

I would like to dedicate this article to my mom, BJ Jordan, who put up with my sports addiction for almost two weeks while she was stuck at my house due to power outages. She probably learned more about how overtime in the NFL works than she wanted to. It’s ok if you don’t know what I’m talking about, mom.

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Here Back East

By LENNY ACKERMAN

Ice Fishing with Katie

Katie was sick with Covid for a month, quarantined with Greg in their cozy family home in Drew Plantation, Maine. After gaining some weight back as well as her appetite for fishing, Katie pronounced that she was about crazy from being cooped up and wanted to ice fish—her favorite sport after fall moose hunting. The stretch of East Grand Lake where Katie and Greg have their summer camp was not yet frozen over. They would go to the Cove on the lake instead—their sweet spot for ice fishing. In a secluded area north, off Route 1 in Danforth, the Cove provides easy access and 5 feet of ice.

The preparation for ice fishing began the day before. Greg assembled the deer blind tent for transport while Katie organized all the essentials: an ice drill, a “Mister Heater” portable unit that runs on propane, as well as rods and bait. Then, the provisions for the long hours out on the ice: a small, metal barrel with a grill attached to serve as a fire pit for hot dogs, plus water and beer. Finally, the attire: heat-lined camo snow jackets, long underwear, flannels, wool sweaters, hats, gloves with hand warmers, wool socks, foot warmers, and rubber boots.

The next morning, Greg and Katie left at daybreak-- 5:00AM-- in below-freezing temperatures for their day of ice fishing. On the way, an unexpected snowstorm blew up. Typical Maine couple dream date. On arrival, Greg set up the tent with the heater then drilled through the ice so Katie could jig the fishing line to her heart’s delight. After being Covid sick for a month, Katie was now happy and energized by the outdoors. Then Katie started catching. A 17” salmon for starters followed by a 13” salmon, then a 13” trout before lunch. Lunch was Greg’s special “red hots” cooked over the coals in the fire pit. The only mishap was when Greg dropped his dog in the snow, which he rinsed off in the fishing hole. Katie said it was the best ice-fishing holiday she has had in years. A true Maine vacation day... and the best antidote to a bout of Maine Covid.

Board of Supes Continued...Again

Greg Bulanti, his realtor, will help him assess and sell the property. As such, Beals recommended continuance of the public nuisance hearing until the February 1 meeting of the Board, an idea approved by a 4-0 vote.

The Board then considered a resolution confirming Governor Newsom's declaration of a state of emergency in Sierra County due to the series of winter storms striking California in December.

Again, Tim Beals led the discussion by detailing the situation:

More than 600 people, over a fifth of the county's population, continued to be without electricity;

While Sierra City and Downieville were getting power from the PG&E generators, Alleghany, Pike, Indian Valley, Goodyears Bar, all the service points east of Downieville to Sierra City, and from east of Sierra City to Yuba Pass customers were not receiving electrons from PG&E;

Propane deliveries were also a big problem because service by vendors was "spotty at best";

As for gasoline needed to keep small generators at homes and businesses working, "it is virtually nonexistent on the west side" and "we need to find a way to have local control and vending of supplies for generators;

Failures of the 911 system also need attention;

A number of county employees have been unable to get to work due to road closures and conditions for those who have been able to get to work have been grim due to the lack of propane-based heat at county offices in Downieville;

Another big issue has been visitors reacting to the closure of I-80 by attempting to use CA-49 for eastbound travel from Colfax or westbound from Dog Valley or Truckee through Sierraville to CA-49 and Yuba Pass. Thus, there "needs to be a better system for managing closures by the CHP and Caltrans" and "Google should be held liable for misdirecting traffic through Sierra County";

Furthermore, the elements put many people at short-term rental properties at risk because they had no firewood or the ability to communicate their need for assistance.

To take advantage of any resources being made available by the Governor's emergency proclamation, the Board needs to declare a local emergency.

Following Beals' remarks, Supervisor Huebner added, "AT&T was totally unresponsive" to the failure of the 911 system within his district and "we definitely need to work on" this issue. After expressing his lack of hope for any success in a fight with Google, Supervisor Adams said he would like to invest in "Keep Driving and Join the Donner Party" signage available for any future events

of this nature. Beals replied, "To control our destiny within the county, we're talking about gates at Verdi to Summit One, Antelope Valley Road, and Smithneck Road."

Whether or not any of these initiatives come to pass, the Supervisors adopted the local emergency resolution without dissent.

Then, In the Board's final business of the morning, acting in their role as the local Board of Equalization, they denied the application for a changed assessment filed by Dorothy Parrish, the owner of the building housing the Cocina del Oro restaurant on Main St. in Downieville.



Sierra Safe

A program of the
Plumas Crisis Intervention &
Resource Center (PCIRC)

OFFERING SERVICES TO VICTIMS OF SEXUAL
ASSAULT AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
24hr Crisis Line # 1-877-757-0029

513 Main St.,
P.O. Box 207
Loyalton, CA 96118

(530) 993-1237
Fax (530) 993-1239

HEALTH DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2022

IMMUNIZATION CLINICS: PLEASE CALL FOR APPOINTMENT

Fee: \$5.00 per person or \$10.00 per family. TB Test \$10.00 per person

-Loyalton	February	9th	Wednesday	2pm – 4pm at the Health Department
-Loyalton	February	16th	Wednesday	2pm – 4pm at the Health Department
-Loyalton	February	23th	Wednesday	2pm – 4pm at the Health Department

SENIOR CENTERS BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC: (No Fee)

-Loyalton February Please Call for an Appointment

FAMILY PLANNING CLINICS: (No fee) by appointment only

PERINATAL SERVICES: (No fee) Information on having a healthy baby, pregnancy testing and services for pregnant women, including childcare, transportation, prenatal care and childbirth education.

STD/HIV/AIDS INFORMATION AND TESTING SERVICES: (No fee)

Confidential testing services including oral Rapid HIV Testing (Results on the same day.)

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: Please call (530) 993-6748

Priority Admission for IV Drug Users &
Priority Perinatal Alcohol and other Drug (AOD) Intervention

WIC (WOMEN, INFANTS, & CHILDREN): (No fee) A nutrition program for women who are pregnant, breastfeeding, have recently delivered a baby, and/or children under five years of age. Available: breastfeeding support, nutrition and health education, referrals to health care and vouchers for healthy foods.

-Loyalton	February	2nd & 16th	Please Call for an Appointment
-Downieville	February		Please Call for an Appointment

Low wage, working families (and migrants) are welcome to apply.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider

Information on these or other services, Please call
Sierra County Health Department at (530) 993-6700.

ALL SERVICES ARE CONFIDENTIAL

SURPLUS EQUIPMENT SALE

Sierra County Fire Protection District #1 has approved the surplus of the following items located in Sierraville, CA:

1) A 1983 Chevrolet 4x4 one ton utility truck to be sold “as is, where is” for a minimum bid of \$500.00 (with known deficiencies: exhaust leak, coolant leak, occasionally overheats and needs a fuel sending unit).

2) A hose washer and stainless-steel hose dryer to be sold “as a set, where is, as is” for a minimum of \$200.00. Interested parties must submit bids via email or mail to the District Clerk no later than 11:00 A.M. on Monday, January 17, 2022. Bids must include the amount of the bid, name, and contact information including telephone number.

Clerk Phone: (530) 604-4013

Email: sierracountyfire1@gmail.com

Mail: PO Box 255, Sierraville, CA 96126

Sheriff's Log

By Carl Butz

Monday, January 3

09:28 - After completing a welfare check at an Antelope Valley Road address west of Loyalton, the Deputy found the individual to be okay, but having cell phone issues.

10:54 - The report of a vehicle stuck in a snow drift between Sierraville and Sattley was transferred to the CHP.

11:19 - The County Road Dept. reported a vehicle parked on Sacred Mount Road in Sierra City was hindering snow removal operations. When the Sheriff’s Office contacted the owner, the owner asked to speak with the Road Dept. Once this was done, the parties were able to come to an agreement.

17:46 - The caller requested assistance with contacting the Road Dept. in Loyalton in attempt to “close roads leading into A24.” The closure of CA-49 and CA-70 to keep people from using A24 seems a bit drastic, doesn’t it?

Tuesday, January 4

00:12 - A welfare check on a person living along Sacred Mound Road in Sierra City was requested.

09:59 - An medical emergency on Mill St. in Loyalton generated a call requesting an ambulance.

13:54 - The caller asked for a welfare check to be conducted in Coyoteville, just west of Downieville, to find out why the phone at their mother’s place is constantly busy.

14:21 - In response to a “citizen assist” request from somewhere along CA-49 near Loyalton, the log says, “Deputy took medication and disposed of them.” Say what?

23:52 - A medical problem on Hill St. in Loyalton resulted in a 911 call requesting an ambulance.

Wednesday, January 5

08:39 - The report of “dogs being abandoned” on Court Lane in Loyalton was denied “according to subjects children.” Does this mean the Deputy on this call found puppies who aren’t snitches?

09:50 - The Leonards IGA on Main St. in Loyalton asked for assistance “in requesting records.” Were they asking for vinyl copies of music produced years ago?

11:04 - An agency assist request came in from somebody (redacted) who wanted to know if a vehicle “was still into the snow embankment” on CA-89 near the Cottonwood Campground.

11:07 - A “lift assist” was requested for a person who had fallen somewhere in the vicinity of Hill St. in Loyalton.

11:38 - A vehicle rollover was reported to have occurred somewhere between two or three miles south of Sierraville on CA-89 and “Susanville CHP advises all responding units can cancel.”

15:04 - The caller asked for information on “what can be done about an aggressive dog running loose” on Tamarack Bend in Sierra City

16:06 - A person living on Hill St. in Loyalton called to request a lift assist for their husband.

16:42 - A juvenile problem was reported from somewhere. Unfortunately, due to redaction of the log, we only know the time of the call.

17:35 - After hitting a deer with their vehicle roughly half a mile south of Loyalton, the motorist called 911 to request a “police report” they wanted to use when filing an insurance claim.

Thursday, January 6

08:23 - Caltrans was notified after a report came in about “large snow boulders impeding traffic” on the southbound side of CA-49 near Crow City Road, roughly three miles east of Downieville.

15:24 - From Alleghany St. in Loyalton, a non-emergency call requesting an ambulance was received.

15:41 - A non-injury vehicle rollover incident on CA-49 between Vista Point and Yuba Pass was reported to have occurred.

16:05 - The report of a commercial burglary alarm going off on Mill St. in Loyalton turned out to be a false alarm. The noise was the result of an accidental activation.

17:07 - The log tells us a 911 call requesting a “citizen assist” came in from Hill St. in Loyalton. Again, due to redaction, what kind of assistance was needed remains unknown.

Friday, January 7

17:00 - The request for a welfare check on an elderly person somewhere near Groundhog Rock, in the vicinity of Sierraville, resulted in “Subject located”.

Saturday, January 8

09:27 - A welfare check came in from Main St. in Downieville concerning an employee who “had not been heard from.” The person was located by the Sheriff’s Office and was found to be “okay”.

22:58 - A person traveling northbound on US-395 was cited for a traffic offense and for an out of county warrant.

Sunday, January 9

07:55 - A call came in requesting a welfare check after the caller received “an odd call from a family member.” In response to the call, a deputy “made contact with the family, and was assured she was fine and on her way home.”

11:48 - A request for an ambulance was received from Roundup Drive in Sierra Brooks.

12:25 - An intoxicated person on CA-70 at Cemetery Road in Vinton was given a courtesy escort to town. Wow, no charges for being drunk in public? This action is reminiscent of the old days, when Sheriff Dewey Johnson was keeping the peace.

12:52 - The report of a non-injury, single vehicle accident at Milepost 8.89 on CA-49 (very close to the “water gauge”) was forwarded to the CHP.

16:23 - The request for assistance from two separate parties stuck at the intersection of Stampede Dam Road and Dog Valley Road was cancelled while the Sheriff’s Office was enroute to the scene. Both “parties were able to get unstuck” and no longer needed any help.

??:?? - Harrumph! The entire entry in the log was redacted.

18:18 - A person was arrested for Driving Under the Influence of alcohol on US-395 in the vicinity of Long Valley Road.

18:47 - A report was received concerning a “possible verbal altercation between two individuals in a vehicle” near W. Sierra Brooks and Antelope Valley Road. Deputies were unable to locate the vehicle.

21:00 - At Dotta Lane and CA-49, outside of Loyalton, a person was arrested on the basis of a Plumas County Bench Warrant.

Total reported: 35

Little Town Of Washington Stayed Connected With Verizon Frontline After Winter Storm

By YUBANET



Satellite Picocell on a Trailer (SPOT) in the Town of Washington

WASHINGTON, CA – As a small, historic mining town in the Sierra Nevada mountain range, Washington sits at the base of the Yuba River in Northern California’s Nevada County. With a year-round population of fewer than 100, this remote town’s residents depend primarily on landline phone service for their communication needs. When a recent snowstorm left the town without phone service, Verizon Frontline and the Verizon Response Team were called in to help restore communications for the entire town. This assistance would prove critical as first responders and residents dealt with the aftermath of a storm that dumped four feet of snow in three days.

Following a call by the Nevada County Sheriff’s Office to the Verizon Response Team hotline, Verizon Frontline technology was deployed immediately to the town and local public safety professionals as they worked to help keep the residents of Washington safe and secure while landline communications were restored.

Delivering a Satellite Picocell on a Trailer (SPOT) to Washington, the Verizon Response Team provided Verizon 4G LTE service and open Wi-Fi for all residents regardless of their current mobile service provider.

“Communication is often the backbone of our response. Once our Emergency Operations Center found out that Washington’s residents were without power and communication, we were concerned that critical 9-1-1 services would be affected,” said Nevada County Sheriff Shannan Moon. “Verizon immediately stepped in and quickly provided a ‘SPOT’ system that restored mobile phone communication to the area, not only for residents but for first responders working in the town as well.”

The support to Washington was provided at no cost and was in place as long as there was a need.

“Our work in Washington is another example of Verizon Frontline’s decades-long commitment to ensuring first responders have the mission-critical communication capabilities they need to do their jobs,” said Cory Davis, Director of Verizon Frontline’s Public Safety Operations. “It is our privilege to be able to help those on the frontlines who are putting their lives at risk to keep our communities safe.”

Verizon Frontline is the advanced network and technology built for first responders – developed over nearly three decades of partnership with public safety officials and agencies – to meet their unique needs.

The Verizon Response Team provides on-demand, emergency assistance during crisis situations to government agencies, emergency responders, nonprofits and communities on a 24/7 basis. Verizon Response Team members set up portable cell sites, WiFi hotspots, free charging stations and other Verizon Frontline devices and solutions that enable communications and/or boost network performance.

USDA Approves California’s Hemp Plan

Pursuant to the 2018 Federal Farm Bill, hemp cultivation became legal for states with regulatory structures that meet the guidelines of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), as well as have an approved State Plan. USDA’s Final Rule for hemp production became effective on March 22, 2021. In late December 2021, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) announced USDA formally approved California’s State Plan for industrial hemp in accordance with the USDA’s Final Rule, effective on January 1, 2022. Changes to CDFA’s current regulations will be needed in order to align with the State Plan and a new rulemaking process is expected to be announced by CDFA in the coming weeks. For more information, please contact RCRC Policy Advocates Leigh Kammerich or Sarah Dukett.

“We’re at a Critical Phase” Continued From Page 1

Already here is a tool not as available during earlier waves of COVID-19: testing after potential coronavirus exposure—PCR tests, typically done in a hospital or doctor’s office, as well as home/rapid-antigen test kits. Clark is working on a plan to show employers how to use a “professional rapid antigen test that requires a little bit of training.” She has already distributed some 2,500 COVID-19 home test kits to “get them out in the community.” They are available throughout Sierra County at the following locations while supplies last:

- Loyalton**
 - Public Health, 202 Front St., 530-993-6700, covid19@sierracounty.ca.gov
 - Wellness Center, 706 Mill St., 530-993-6728
 - Family Resource Center, 315 Main St., 530-993-1110
 - Loyalton Senior Center, 302 1st St., 530-993-4770
- Downieville**
 - Health & Human Services, 22 Maiden Ln., 530-289-3711
 - Downieville Urgent Care Dispatch, 530-289-3333
- Sierra City**
 - Sierra City Library, 317 Main St., Mary Wright, 530-862-0210
- Calpine**
 - Calpine Post Office, 103 County Rd., Cheri Asher, 530-616-0630 (call/text), casher429@gmail.com

At the Firehouse

By VICTORIA TENNEY

ALLEGHANY: All’s quiet.....no emergencies, no meetings, no training....

DOWNIEVILLE: January 5—Responded for a Helpline activation; the ambulance responded to Sierra City for an ill person who was transported to the hospital in Truckee; COVID-19 testing at the Firehouse; responded for two Medical Urgent Care incidents. January 6—Responded for an alarm sounding, complete; firefighter training at the Masonic Hall. January 7—Responded for three Medical Urgent Care incidents.

LOYALTON: January 4—Responded for individual with weakness; responded for possible broken leg. January 5—Two lift assists. January 6—Responded for person with severe hip pain. January 6—Responded for fall victim, Sierra Brooks.

PIKE CITY: January 4—Responded for a live, downed power line, PG&E was notified & arrived to deal with it.

SIERRA CITY: January 5—Responded for an ill person who was transported to the hospital in Truckee.

SIERRA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT: (CALPINE, SATTLEY, & SIERRAVILLE) January 5—Responded for a non injury vehicle roll-over on Hwy 89, south of Sierraville. January 6—Medical training at Station #84 in Calpine; responded for a non injury vehicle roll-over on Hwy 49 at the Yuba Pass.

Do You Have News For Our Readers?

If so, contact The Mountain Messenger

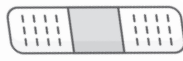
Phone: (530) 289-3262

E-mail: info@themountainmessenger.org

Food Assistance Food Bank / Commodities Contacts

Community	Contact	
Alleghany/Pike	(530) 287-3040	Once a month
Calpine	(530) 616-0630	
Chester/Lake Almanor	(530) 258-2345	
Chilcoot-Vinton	(530) 283-3546	
Downieville	(530) 289-3250	
Greenville	(530) 284-6353	
Loyalton Senior Center	(530) 993-4770	5 days a week
Loyalton/Sierraville	(530) 384-5718	
Portola	(530) 283-5515	
Sierra City	(530) 862-1052	
Sierra Valley	(530) 993-1110	

EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDER COURSE OFFERED SIERRA COUNTY SCHOOLS FOR ADULTS



Sierra County Adult School is offering an EMT Refresher Course, January 17, 2022 ending February 5, 2022 and an Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) Course, Starting Feb. 7, 2022 ending March 18, 2022, at the Loyalton Campus located at 605 School Street, Loyalton.

The EMT Refresher is for all currently certified EMT’s and will count as CE’s. This is a 24 hour intense course (16 hours didactic and 8 hours lab).

The Emergency Medical Responder Course is 120 hours combined didactic and labs. This is an entry-level course that can help you decide if you want to pursue other health careers.

EMR’s are usually the First Responders to a medical or trauma event. They are able to do an emergency assessment and use life saving skills to intervene in a medical or trauma emergency until EMTs, Paramedics, Nurses or Doctors are able to get to the scene.

The EMT Refresher fees are \$180.00 for the text (if you don’t have it) and \$60.00 for the lab consumables.

The EMR Course fee \$140.00 for the text and \$60.00 for lab materials.

Both courses will be held at the Loyalton Campus in Room 2, on Mondays, Wednesdays, some Fridays, and a Saturday.

EMT Refresher dates and times: January 17, 2022 through February 5, 2022; Monday and Wednesday 2PM – 5PM, and Saturday Feb. 5, 9AM to 4PM.

EMR Course dates and times: February 7, 2022 to March 18, 2022; Mondays and Wednesdays 2PM - 5PM and Fridays 2PM – 6PM.

The instructor will be Corina Tidwell, Paramedic. The courses are open to everyone and our communities desperately need your help and your skill. You can take the EMR course if you just want to better understand your body and your health for personal or family reasons.

If you are interested in more information or have questions, please contact Wendy Jackson at (530) 993-4953 or email at wjackson@spjUSD.org. You can also register online at thescsa.org. We will also be offering a variety of CPR/FirstAid/AED courses. Please call for details.



Help Wanted

DRIVERS WANTED

Golden Rays Public Transportation is looking for two part-time drivers to start driving right away. Must pass a drug test, be fingerprinted, provide your DMV driving record, and have a valid Driver’s License.

If you need any further information, you can call Joyce White @ (530) 289-3250. Mail your resumé to Golden Rays, P.O. Box 532, Downieville, CA 95936

Job Opportunity:

Downieville School
Secretary 5 hours Daily
Secretary 2 hours Daily (may be combined)

For more information visit www.edjoin.com for applications or call (530) 993-1660 x 151

Seeking

Saw Mill Production Supervisor
Eastern Sierra County
Text Resumé to
Saw Machine Integrators LLC
(610) 587-5948

SEEKING IMMEDIATE VOLUNTEERS FOR GRAND JURY SERVICE

The Superior Court of California, County of Sierra needs citizen volunteers to serve immediately on the Sierra County Grand Jury. The service may extend through December 31, 2022. A shorter term may be available for those who are able to serve from now until mid-2022.

In order to meet the minimum qualifications for service on the Grand Jury, applicants must be United States citizens who are 18 years of age or older and must reside in Sierra County for a minimum of one year immediately prior to becoming a grand juror. Service on the Grand Jury requires an investment of time, usually 6-12 hours per month. For convenience to the grand jurors, remote appearance technology will be available for correspondence and meetings. COVID-19 protocols will be followed as necessary and appropriate during grand jury sessions.

Please contact the Grand Jury Coordinator directly at (530) 289-2930 for further information.

Administrative Secretary Needed

The Sierra County Road Department is recruiting for an Administrative Secretary III. Full Time Position with Benefits Salary \$3,400.01-\$4,132.73 Monthly DOQ.

Please visit sierracounty.ca.gov/jobs for full description and qualifications. Completed applications and resumés will be accepted until the position is filled.

Please submit via email to jbehlike@sierracounty.ca.gov or mail to Sierra County Human Resources P.O. Box 513 Downieville, CA 95936

For more information, please call Judi Behlke at (530) 289-2879

For Sale

7.5 HP 24” Ariens Snowblower

Electric Start —\$300 obo

Don Russell, DVL
(530) 289-0332

NOTICE OF ELECTION AND FILING DATES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, in accordance with the provisions of the California Elections Code, that the Statewide Direct Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, June 7, 2022 and the Plumas County central counting place will be open between the hours of 7:00 a.m. through 8:00 p.m. on that day. All registered voters of Plumas County will be mailed an official ballot and postage paid return identification envelope for return of the voted ballot. Ballots can be mailed, dropped in the ballot return box located at the front entrance of the Courthouse or delivered to the Elections Department in Room 102 of the Courthouse located at 520 Main Street in Quincy.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that forms for eligible candidates desiring to file for elective offices may be obtained from the office of the Plumas County Clerk at the Courthouse at 520 Main Street Room 102, Quincy. Candidates’ Declarations shall be accepted for filing from February 14, 2022 through March 11, 2022, at the hour of 5:00 p.m. unless extended.

Offices for which candidates are to be nominated at the June 7, 2022 Statewide Direct Primary Election are:

Governor
Lieutenant Governor
Secretary of State
Controller
Treasurer
Attorney General
Insurance Commissioner
Board of Equalization Member District 1
United States Senator – Full Term
United States Senator – Partial / Unexpired Term
United States Representative - Congressional District 3
State Assembly Member - District 1
Superintendent of Public Instruction
County Offices:
Plumas County Supervisor District 3
Plumas County Supervisor District 5
Assessor
Auditor-Controller
Clerk-Recorder
County Superintendent of Schools
District Attorney-Public Administrator
Sheriff-Coroner
Treasurer-Tax Collector

Qualifications for office are available at the office of the County Clerk at 520 Main Street, Room 102, Quincy, CA 95971. Candidates must meet and provide their qualifications to run for office.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Logic and Accuracy testing of election equipment will be conducted on April 28-29, 2022 beginning at 9:00 a.m. in Room 112 of the Plumas County Courthouse, 520 Main Street, Quincy, CA.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that ballot processing will be from May 9, 2022 through June 7, 2022 at the central counting location at the Plumas County Courthouse, 520 Main Street, Room 102, Quincy, CA.

ALL VOTED BALLOTS MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN JUNE 7, 2022.

NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN that the Official Canvass for the June 7, 2022 Statewide Direct Primary Election will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at 520 Main Street, Room 112, Quincy, CA.

Additional information may be obtained at: (530) 283-6256 or 844-676-VOTE or at www.plumascounty.us on the County Clerk-Recorder Elections page.

Marcy DeMartile
Plumas County Clerk-Recorder, Registrar of Voters
Dated: January 10, 2022

Published in The Mountain Messenger on January 13, February 10 & February 24 of 2022

NOTICE OF ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an election will be held on May 3, 2022, within the boundaries of the Peninsula Fire Protection District, to approve a measure for the purpose of obtaining voter approval, by a two-thirds majority vote, of the following measure: “Upon a two-thirds vote of approval, shall the Peninsula Fire Protection District be authorized to levy a special tax of \$442.50 (Improved) \$394.50 (unimproved) per year per parcel to an indeterminate period of time with no predetermined expiration date within the District, excluding those parcels exempt from County property tax, to replace the current special tax of \$292.50 (Improved) \$277.50 (unimproved) per year per parcel authorized by the voters in 2014, to be collected and apportioned with the Plumas County property taxes beginning in fiscal year 2022/2023 and continuing each year thereafter with the proceeds from such taxes to be used for the sole purposes of supplementing the funding of services for emergency medical services, fire protection and prevention; with approval of the special tax also being for the purpose of raising the District’s appropriations limits (spending limit) by the amount of the annual proceeds from this special tax, shall continue to be deposited into a specially-created account on which an annual report shall be made as required by Government Code Section 50075.3?”

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the dates for filing arguments for or against the measure is January 5, 2022 through January 14, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. Arguments may not exceed 300 words each and must be accompanied by a “Form Statement” available at www.plumascounty.us, signed by each author. Rebuttals to arguments in favor or against the measure may not exceed 250 words and must be filed with the County Clerk by January 27, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. The office of the Plumas County Clerk Elections Division located in the Courthouse at 520 Main Street, Room 102, Quincy will be the processing place for all ballots from April 4, 2022 through May 3, 2022. Equipment testing will be March 24, 2022 and is open to the public. For more information, call (530) 283-6256.

Marcy DeMartile
Plumas County Clerk-Recorder
Registrar of Voters

Published in The Mountain Messenger: Jan. 6, 13 of 2022

The Mountain Messenger Local Calendar

sponsored by
The Buttes Resort

12 Step Meetings—Downieville, Tuesdays, 5:15 P.M. at 320 Commercial Street.

Open AA Meetings—Pike City, Thursdays, 5:30 P.M. at the Pike City Fire House on Ridge Road.

Closed AA Meetings—Sierra City. For information, call (530) 862-1193 or (530) 862 1332.

Open NA Meetings—Downieville, Wednesdays, 6 P.M. at the Library.

AlAnon Meetings—Downieville, Tuesdays, noon, in the back room of the Masonic Hall.

Alleghany County Water District—Meets 2nd Tuesday of each month, 6 P.M. at the Firehouse. 105 Plaza Court. alleghanywater.org

Alleghany Volunteer Fundraising District—Meets 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6 P.M.

Calpine Community Fire Association—Meets 1st Tuesday of each month, 6:30 P.M. at the Calpine Community Center. For information, call (530) 320-0764

Camptonville Volunteer Fire Department Training—Thursday evenings, 6 P.M. at the Mill Street Fire Station.

Downieville Lions Club—Meets 3rd Monday of each month, 6:00 P.M. at the Masonic Hall. For more information, all (530) 289-3632.

Downieville Fire Protection District Board—Meets 3rd Wednesday of each month, 5:30 P.M. at the Community Hall.

Downieville Fire Protection District—EMS Training 4th Thursday of each month, 6 P.M. at the Community Hall; Fire Personnel Training for New & Ongoing Fire Fighters 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month, 5:30 P.M. at Station 1 (next to the Community Hall).

Golden Rays—Morning Yoga, Mondays and Wednesdays, 8 A.M. at the Downieville Community Hall. Bring a mask and a mat.

Gold Nugget Republican Women Federated—Meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month from April through October, 11 A.M. Venue varies each month. For further information, please contact Mary Ervin, President, at (916) 549-4905, or Candy Corcoran, Membership Chair, at (530) 993-4633.

Pliocene Ridge Community Services District—3rd Thursday of each month, 6:30 P.M. Alternates between Alleghany and Pike. plioceneridge.org Pike City and Alleghany Fire Departments train Mondays, 6 P.M. Volunteer Firefighters needed, training and gear provided. Send an email to: plioceneridge@gmail.com for more info.

Plumas-Sierra Cattlewomen—For info contact Flinda France, (530) 258-6522

Sierra County Fire Safe & Watershed Council—Meets quarterly, 10 A.M. to noon. Location to be announced at www.scfswc.com.

Sierra County Democrats—Meetings held last Sunday of each month. Call (530) 862-1379 for time and location.

Sierra County Fish & Wildlife Commission—Meets 4th Tuesday of each month, 5:30 P.M. (except December). Call for location (530) 993-6051

Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District—Meets 1st Wednesday of each month, 10 A.M. Call (530) 993-6051 for location.

Sheriff’s Search and Rescue—2nd Saturday of each month, 10 A.M. at Sheriff’s Office. Call (530) 289-2890 for information.

Tai-Chi—Sierra City, Mondays and Fridays 9:30 A.M. at the Community Hall. Dee Wallace, (530) 862-1332.

Western Sierra Residential Center—Board meeting, 2nd Tuesdays of each month, 10 A.M. at the Transportation Center (Tommy’s parking lot), Downieville. (530) 289-3250 To rent the **Downieville Community Hall**, call (530) 289-5110 or Email: DownievilleCommunityHall@gmail.com. To rent the **Sierra City Community Hall**, call (530) 862-1580 during the evening.

To rent the Vinton Grange, call (530) 993-4839.

To rent the North San Juan Senior Center, call (530) 415-9705

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

In case of emergency, dial 911

California Highway Patrol - Quincy	283-1100
California Highway Patrol - Grass Valley	477-4900
City of Loyalton	993-6750
CalTrans Downieville Maintenance Station	289-3214
Quincy Maintenance Station	832-4911
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Health & Human Services Dvl	289-3711
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Loyalton Elementary School	993-4482
Loyalton City Hall	993-6750
Loyalton Cop Shop	993-4479
Loyalton High School	993-4454
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Mental Health Services, Loyalton	993-6700
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Plumas Ace Hardware, Portola	832-5208
Plumas County Clerk-Recorder	283-6218
Plumas County Sheriff's Office (Front Desk)	283-6375
Sierra County Sheriff's Office—non-emergency	289-3700
Sierra County Clerk-Recorder	289-3295
Sierra Hardware, Downieville	289-3582
Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital	274-6000
Sierra Valley Home Center, Loyalton	993-4331
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MARKET NEWS

By NICK SPANO

Q3 was a hefty quarter for earnings. They grew 42.6% year over year (YoY), and revenue grew 17.0% YoY among S&P companies, with the energy sector taking the lead. Almost every industry did better than expected, helping the index best analyst estimates overall. Q3 is now a distant memory, so we need to put our earnings cap on for the absolute all-star of 2021: Q4 earnings.

This week marks the formal start to Q4 earnings (yes, 20 companies in the S&P 500 have already reported.) Many of those names will be major bank stocks, reporting on Friday. Financials, in particular, are expected to benefit from rising interest rates and new macro policy greatly. Banks have been retreating from old-fashioned sources of income, like high fees, because of competition with fintech and neobanks. However, banks will likely benefit in the form of higher interest income.

Ultimately, banks will be a massive indicator of what's to come. The narrative for Q4 earnings will be companies facing threats of slowed earnings and revenue growth; the pandemic pressed "reset" on business operations, which made for fantastic YoY

earnings and revenue growth. In 2022, those exciting double-digit growth figures might look a lot less appetizing to investors. Refinitiv estimates earnings growth of 22.4% YoY and revenue growth of 12.1% for the quarter. Thanks to energy names, both figures could increase as they did in Q3.

Overall, Q4 will be an indicator for FY 2022. So far, Refinitiv is forecasting a 7.6% growth rate in the first quarter of 2022. However, growth is coming from energy companies, and a lot of that growth may already be priced in.

Last week we talked about digital currency and how China may be forcing the issue. A few days ago, China launched a wallet app to expand the use of its state-run digital currency (#DigiYuan) ahead of the national rollout. WeChat owner Tencent, which has 1B+ users, said it is joining e-commerce giant JD.com in supporting the currency. China is positioning the digi-yuan for international use, starting with next month's Beijing Olympics, and it's pressuring companies like McDonald's and Visa to accept it. As US and Chinese financial markets continue

decoupling, digi-yuan could threaten the USD's global dominance while the US still debates the idea of the digital dollar.

In other news, The New York Times acquired The Athletic in a \$550 million deal on Thursday, marking a months-long effort by the unprofitable sports publication to sell itself. It marks an exclamation point on a period of consolidation and M&A activity in the media sector. Investors responded optimistically to the deal at first, before \$NYT a stock fell over 10.6% on Friday to close out the week. With this acquisition, the finance majors at The New York Times are picking up a beefy (albeit still unprofitable) business. The Athletic produced \$47 million in revenue in 2020, with a net cash flow of -\$41 million. In 2021, it was on track to do \$77 million in revenue, with a slightly improved -\$35 million in net cash flow.

Last year saw some notable M&A action for media players, especially in the SPAC space. However, the largest deal of all was BuzzFeed's public debut via SPAC (primarily because the company used its SPAC proceeds to buy Complex

Networks.) So far, that SPAC's performance has been a disaster, which does not induce investor confidence for the success of other media deals.

The electric vehicle market has no shortage of players, and yet companies are chomping at the bit to get on the bandwagon. While best known for consumer electronics devices like the PlayStation game console, Sony soon may start building electric vehicles, or so suggested the company's top executive during a presentation Tuesday at the CES electronics show in Las Vegas. The electronics giant has teased its interest in the auto industry during previous appearances at CES. This time, Chairman, President, and CEO Kenichiro Yoshida confirmed that Sony is setting up its own mobility unit.

Referencing the response to a Sony SUV concept revealed two years ago, Yoshida said, "The excitement we received after we showed off the (original) Vision-S really encouraged us to further consider how we can bring creativity and technology to change the experience of moving from one place to another."

S&P 500 Market Movers - 12/29

Top Gainers

1. Coterra Energy Inc. (CTRA) \$22.54 +6.071%

2. Take-Two Interactive Inc. (TTWO) \$156.06 +5.148%

3. Applied Materials Inc. (AMAT) \$159.55 +4.657%

Top Decliners

1. Quest Diagnostics (DGX) \$147.14 -6.803%

2. Biogen Inc. (BIIB) \$225.34 -6.699%

3. T Rowe Price Group (TROW) \$180.83 -6.635%

NASDAQ Market Movers - 12/29

Top Gainers

1. Applied Materials Inc. (AMAT) \$159.55 +4.657%

2. Tesla (TSLA) \$1106.22 +3.929%

3. Mercadolibre (MELI) \$1210.91 +3.845%

Top Losers

1. Biogen Inc. (BIIB) \$225.34 -6.699%

2. Peloton Interactive (PTON) \$34.49 -5.662%

3. CrowdStrike Holdings (CRWD) \$187.97 -4.151%

COMMODITY PRICES				
	Jan. 5 USD	Jan. 12 USD	Weekly Change	YTD Change
Gold USD/Troy Oz.	1809.89	1825.70	0.9%	20.3%
Silver USD/Troy Oz.	22.78	23.120	1.5%	29.7%
Lumber USD/1000 BdFt.	1159.50	1200	3.5%	196.1%
Live Cattle USD/100 Lbs.	137.25	136.45	-0.6%	8.1%
Crude Oil USD/Barrel WTI	77.19	82.76	7.2%	36.2%
Propane USD/Gallon	1.11	1.15	3.6%	130.0%
CRB Index Index Points	250.35	256.82	2.6%	30.5%

True Tales of the Timber Industry as assembled by Cynthia Anderson

From the Woods — John Calvert

Before I ever went logging, I worked at Aerojet, and we were living in Orangevale, California. I also cut firewood. That was the beginning. I was 35 when I started falling timber, and the largest tree I ever cut was about 11-foot diameter, and it was a Sugar Pine. That was not far from Four Trees Road in Butte County. The tallest tree I ever cut was about six 32-foot-long logs—that tree would be about 200 or so feet tall.

When I went into the woods to fall trees I carried my chain saw, which was about 35 pounds, half a gallon of water, two and a half gallons of gas, one gallon of oil, a six-pound axe, about four wedges, and a measuring tape. I started out using a Homelite chain saw, then a McCullough chain saw, then went to a Husqvarna, and ended up with a Stihl chain saw. I usually used a 36-inch bar.

The most dangerous trees I cut were the ones that were burning. One of the ones I cut was a cedar. I told them I wouldn't touch it unless they had water on it, which they did. The most memorable event I had in the woods was making the most perfect cut on a tree, and it is on a video with Robinson Timber. That was a Ponderosa Pine and it was a perfect cut.

As far as getting hurt in the woods, one time I cut a tree down and it ran me down and crushed me. This happened when I was 67 years old. I was falling trees up out of Reno and I was falling, a Ponderosa Pine. I cut it and it hit a little limb and jumped back off of the stump and ran me down. I was in Reno in the hospital for about three months and in a wheelchair for 13 weeks. It broke my pelvis and both of my hips. They said that it separated my pelvis and that I could have had a 15-pound baby. The ambulance came and got me out of the woods and took me to the hospital. I was right next to the road when it happened. It was three minutes from the time they got the call and they were there. I remember

the whole thing—even the ride to the hospital. I started driving truck the next year, when I was 68 years old. I drove truck for Robinson Enterprises until I was 82 in 2016.

I had another accident and it broke my neck. I had a tree jump the stump and head down the hill and hit something and threw it back at me. I had to guide the ambulance out of the woods, lying in the back of the ambulance. It broke the little bones that are on the side of my neck. I went blind for ten minutes, totally lost my eyesight. It was pitch black. The doctor was trying to figure how to tell my wife Carol how I had broken my neck—but was OK! I have had a broken arm and broken ribs, all from working in the woods. I try to forget those “close calls,” but I'm talking about these.

When I first started falling timber I used to take three sandwiches, one fifth of a 9 by 13 cake, an apple, cookies, corn chips. Then at the end of my falling years I only took two sandwiches, but that was the only thing I cut down on. I still took the rest of the stuff with me. In June we would leave to go to the woods about 4 or 4:30 a.m. Most of the time I camped out on the jobs. We got started at daylight and were in the woods for eight hours a day. They don't do that any more, they only are in the woods about five or six hours. I had buckers and singles jackers for my crew. I had as high as five men working for me at one time. We usually liked to have at least five to ten days lead time before they would send in the equipment. I worked for Jerry Jensen as a side for most years.

When I first went to work for Robinson, Fred Pena was the head faller for them. I worked for Fred, I worked for Lee Thompson, Woody and Walter White. Lee got killed in the woods. Telling his wife that he wasn't coming home was the hardest thing to do. I had to tell her over the phone. I had just

pulled his pickup and I parked it in the shop and the phone rang. The Sheriff's office was supposed to tell her, but they didn't. They knew that he was killed at 3:00 p.m. and it was 7:00 p.m. before we got out of there. Lee had fell a tree and it hung up, he came back and fell another tree in the other direction and in the meantime it didn't come down until after he fell the second tree and it got him. The worst accident I heard of was Terry Adams. He was walking on a log and it rolled and he fell underneath it on the downhill side. He was alive until they took the log off of him.

The loaders have changed. They have gone from 950s to 966s and 980s. They don't have steering wheels today, they have half steering wheels, joy sticks and foot pedals. I was falling trees when they were putting them in shipping containers and sending them off that way. I have hauled into Collins Pine, Quincy, Lincoln. One year I had a chip truck and a logging truck up in Quincy. It depended on how many chips you had to haul. They would get a load of chips and then get a load of logs and then they would have to wait to get a load of chips. They shut the Loyaltan mill in the 1990s. They kept the Co-Gen plant going until about 2005. They shut it down when the government quit subsidizing. Quincy and Lincoln both have a Co-Gen plant and are still running. They also have a Co-Gen plant by Thunder Valley Casino and one in Anderson, California. The Co-Gen plant takes a lot of stuff with dirt. The other Co-Gen plants can't take that much dirt. The ash from those Co-Gen plants goes onto the fields for the farmers. There is a market for it, it returns the carbon back to the ground.

One day we were eating lunch right there by White Cloud by the campground and this little owl was sitting right there watching us. You could walk up within three feet of him and he never moved and it was one of those Spotted Owls.

Cory Peterman's Historical Corner

County Hospital in Downieville - 1909

The following image actually comes from my family's personal historic photograph collection and depicts “inmates” of the county hospital in Downieville sitting on a bench outside of the building, which was located on Zumwalt flat across the street from the present-day tennis court. The year 1909 is written on the back of the photograph.

A similar photo, depicting some of the same men, hangs in the Downieville museum with the caption “Sierra Co. Mining Pioneers - All had struck it rich at least once during life.” Unfortunately, none of the men in the photo are identified, though I was once told by a Downieville local that the man with the wooden leg (fourth from left) was known as “Clamper Jack.” The *Morning Union* of March 20, 1907 reported “Giacoma Debernardi, an inmate of the county hospital for some time past, had an operation performed upon him last Monday by Dr. R. B. Davy. He had been suffering for several months with a sore foot and gangrene finally set in and the doctor concluded that amputation of the big toe of his right foot was necessary... he is better known as ‘Clamper Jack.’” Records show that Debernardi passed away a few months later on June 12, 1907. So considering my photograph was said to be taken in 1909, after his death, and the fact that the man in the photo is missing his left leg, it could be possible

that the man is not “Clamper Jack.” Of note, my great-great-great-grandfather Joseph Pearson of Forest City was an inmate of the county hospital for a short time in 1909 before passing away there, but I do not know if he is one of the men in the photograph.

The original county hospital in Downieville was located in the Fetter house (later occupied by the Huelsdonk and Villareal families), which in the 1850s was the home of Benjamin M. Fetter, one-time county treasure and Wells Fargo agent. According to Fariss and Smith's *History of Sierra County* published in 1882, “In November, 1858, the supervisors ordered the fitting up of the old Fetter building on Jersey flat, in Downieville, for a hospital, and in December, Dr. E. J. Bryant was appointed to its charge.” However, a new hospital was later built, which is the building depicted in the attached photo. Fariss and Smith wrote “The new hospital, situated picturesquely on the north fork of the North Yuba, was built in the fall of 1880, and occupied in the middle of December. The main building is 24x46 feet in size, with two stories. The dining-room forms an addition 24 feet in length by 14 feet in breadth, and the kitchen another addition. The building is very neatly finished both inside and out, and is surrounded by well-kept grounds subject to constant improvements.”



90 YEARS AGO

The Mountain Messenger

VOLUME LXXVIII NOS. 31-32 ESTABLISHED 1853 DOWNIEVILLE, SIERRA COUNTY SEAT, CALIFORNIA JANUARY 16 & JANUARY 23, 1932

Monday - Sudden Death of John Woessner

The people of Downieville were shocked Monday when it was learned that John Woessner had dropped dead about 10:30 in the forenoon.

A number of people saw him in front of his apartment at the old brewery building just previous to his death and he appeared to be in his usual health. In fact, he had been whistling just a few minutes before he was found on the stone steps leading to the apartments occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Fischer, at the end of the old brewery.

Ralph Kessler, who happened to be passing, found Mr. Woessner crumpled up on the steps and hurriedly summoned help, but it was too late. A heart ailment caused death to come quickly.

John Woessner was born in Germany in 1860 and came to America in 1875 with F.A. Eschbacher, former proprietor of the St. Charles Hotel. Coming to Sierra County, he first located at Howland Flat, where he obtained employment as a brewery worker. Later he came to Downieville, where he entered the employ of Ferdinand Bosch in the latter's brewery, which later he bought. He remained in this business until two years before prohibition went into effect.

He became a citizen in 1885, and upon the death of former County Treasurer E.L. Case, in November 1925, he was appointed by the supervisors to fill the unexpired term and served 14 months with great credit. He did not desire the office, however, and refused to be a candidate for another term.

He had been a member of Sierra Lodge of Odd Fellows No. 24 for more than 40 years

and was also a member of Blue Range Encampment No. 8 of the same order. He was also a member of Mountain Shade Lodge No. 18, F. & A. M.

In the passing of John Woessner, Downieville mourns another highly esteemed and well-loved pioneer. His was an irreproachable character. He was pleasant and kind to everyone. Although he lived alone and apart somewhat from the town's activities, his advice in important matters was often sought and highly valued, for he was essentially honest, true to his best instincts and levelheaded. He passed his later years in a quiet, peaceful manner, enjoying his friends, his lodge work and the environment in which he had spent the greater part of his life.

Residents of Upper Main Street and others will miss John Woessner's pleasant and neighborly greeting which they had been accustomed to accept for so many years. His was a familiar figure in front of the old brewery building and his passing will be keenly felt.

So far as was known he had no relatives.

The funeral took place at 2 p.m. Wednesday from Masonic Hall, the Holmes Funeral Home having charge of arrangements. The attendance was very large, considering the inclement weather, there being a large number of people present also from surrounding communities. Interment was made in the local cemetery.

Pioneer Lady Celebrates Eighty-fourth Birthday

Grandma Lavezzola was made very happy last Sunday. Surrounded by her five big, stalwart sons, Peter, Antone, John, Dan and Joe – besides a few other

close relatives, she was guest of honor at a dinner given for her at the St. Charles Hotel.

But the dinner party had greater significance even than the honoring of this fine old pioneer lady's 84th birthday, for it was also her son Peter's birthday. This unusual but happy event is celebrated every year by the gathering of all five sons and their families and it is indeed a proud mother who looks affectionately upon her grown-up family.

Grandma Lavezzola came to Downieville as a bride. Her husband was a farmer who sold produce to the miners, packing oftentimes long distances across the mountains. They reared a large family and after her husband passed away, she came to Downieville to make her home.

Except for being a little near-sighted, her 84 years sits lightly upon her, and she is as spry and active as many women are at 60. The affection and kindness with which she is surrounded have kept her from aging and she looks forward to celebrating many more such happy events as took place Sunday.

Small Window His Only Exit

While people in the “lower country” were enjoying rare snow sports and reveling in the unusual experience of snowballing on the city streets, little thought, or concern was had about how the mail was to get through the snow-choked passes of the high Sierra.

But for Joe Dellera it was not a time for play, but a time for serious business. Joe is the owner of the mail contract across the mountains through Yuba Pass. It is his business to see that the mail gets across. His big problem – and it is a big problem – is

to outwit the elements.

He has a small cabin right on top of the summit, where the snow is deepest and from where he directs the movements of his mail carriers. He spent Christmas Day in his snowbound cabin in an effort to facilitate the delivery of mail. He has a small tractor and a team of horses there, but his horses are about as useful just now as a pair of very white elephants.

One morning recently, Joe started to leave his cabin by the usual exit, when he found it effectively blocked by a snowbank. The windows were covered also and for a moment the doughty stage man appeared to be trapped by the deep snows. Then, ever resourceful, he thought of the tiny window, not much larger than a porthole, in the garret of his cabin close up to the peak. Squeezing himself through the small aperture, he crawled out on top of the snow.

Strapping on a pair of long skis – he is an expert ski rider – Joe started to the aid of his carriers, his first thought being that the mail must go through. With the help of Mike Ostini, another good ski rider, and another from Sierra City, the mail is keeping on schedule – that is, the first class mail.

A consignment of turkeys destined for Christmas dinners in Sierra City was overtaken by the heavy snows in Yuba Pass and reached their destination in time for New Year's dinner. But the turks were in nature's refrigeration and there was no loss from spoilage.

C.W. Johnson, Hotelier of Loyaltan Passes Monday

Clarence W. Johnson, prominent and well-known hotel man of Loyaltan passed away at a

Reno hospital last Monday as the result of an operation.

He was 52 years of age. He first went to Loyaltan in 1921, where he conducted the Sierra Hotel, which was destroyed by fire two years later. Thereupon he went to Richmond and engaged in the hotel business for six years.

In 1929 he returned to Loyaltan to take charge of the new Loyaltan Hotel, where he had since been. He was very progressive, taking an active part in all civic affairs and was a loyal booster for the community in which he occupied an important place. His sterling qualities, his genial disposition and his progressive spirit endeared him to a wide circle of friends and acquaintances. His untimely end will be keenly felt by the people of Loyaltan.

He was a native of Wisconsin and a member of the Masonic order. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Charlotte Johnson.

Judge Meek Enjoys Larger Courtroom

The first floor of the Mayo Building, one of the two concrete buildings on Main Street, which in pre-Volstead days was a saloon, has been transformed into the temporary justice court. The office of Judge W.B. Meek is too small for a hearing or trial of any consequence, so the Judge has made a courtroom out of the clinking of glasses, the gurgling of liquid, and the scraping of feet on the iron rail and where many a parched throat was quenched with liquid refreshment, the sound of the Judge's gavel will be heard, and justice will be dealt out instead of cards.

Notes and Comments

It's funny about these stove

This hospital served Sierra County residents for many decades, until it was forced to close in 1958. The *Sierra Booster* of July 4, 1958 reported “The Sierra County hospital here will finally be closed as of Sept. 30. Cost of maintaining the three patients is too great and they will be placed elsewhere.” The *Reno Evening Gazette* wrote “Supervisors acted upon the advice of the state health department and construction officials. The cost of remodeling the facility would have been too prohibitive for the amount of patients to be served by it.”

The Board of Supervisors held a bid on March 1, 1960 “for the sale of the Sierra County Hospital Buildings, excluding the stone cellar building.” The notice stated “The successful bidder shall remove said buildings within ninety (90) days from the acceptance of his bid by the Board Supervisors and shall be bonded in the amount of \$1,000.00 to insure proper cleanup of the property on which said buildings are located after the removal of said buildings therefrom.” The building was torn down, and new residential buildings were built on the site soon after.

I am always open to feedback and suggestions for my history articles. If you have a comment or a subject to propose, please email me at corypeterman3@gmail.com, thanks!

