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In Any Language, Let's Make it a Happy—and Healthy—New Year

Sierra City Scribe #20

By Stephen Kulieke



Photo contributed by Stephen Kulieke

Feliz Año Nuevo, Blwyddyn Newydd Dda, Gleðilegt Nýtt ár: Happy New Year!

The last two salutations are in Welsh and Icelandic. I won't venture a pronunciation. You first?

Now perhaps you're looking at the calendar and wondering why, nearly three weeks into 2022, I'm just getting around to a column expressing New Year's greetings.

Here's the reason: You may recall the wet, wild, and wooly week in which the old year, 2021, headed for the exits and the new year made its entrance. Probably like you, I spent those days kicking, clawing, swearing at—and, yes, shoveling—the damnable, blessed snow.

In addition to digging deep with a shovel on my front steps, I dug deep into storm coverage. With telecommunication and electrical lines downed by the heavy snows, I reported on "Snowmageddon" at its height—trudging down the road covered with drifts for an in-person rather than a phone interview of my neighbor, a Sierra County official. I worked from handwritten notes under a table lamp illuminated by a home generator. Pony Express circa 2022?

That coverage appeared in The Mountain Messenger's final issue of the year on Dec. 30. The following week, with the effects of the holiday blizzard lingering, I spoke to the county sheriff, the local Office of Emergency Services coordinator, and PG&E representatives on challenging road conditions and ongoing outage issues for a Jan. 6 update.

And I kept shoveling.

Finally, for last week's Jan. 13 edition, I told the happy news of electricity finally being restored post-storm for almost all Sierra County residents. And I waded into the latest coronavirus developments with an article about the surge of the highly contagious Omicron variant that is causing patient hospitalizations, school and business closings, and worry.

So here I am, far into January, just now writing about the dawn of 2022. I guess I could suggest I'm not late for the January 1 New Year but early for the February 1 Chi-

nese New Year. Up until the mid-1700s, residents of England and we in its American colonies celebrated the outset of the New Year not in winter but during springtime in late March, a season of new beginnings.

But times have changed. For centuries now, in most of the world the Gregorian calendar has standardized the launch of each year as January 1.

Nonetheless, my wishes for a happy New Year, although belated, are heartfelt.

The Spanish greeting that opened this column—Feliz Año Nuevo—got me thinking about a celebrated site among many in the astonishingly diverse landscapes of California.

Año Nuevo (New Year) State Park is located on a spectacular windswept stretch of the Pacific Coast 55 miles south of San Francisco in San Mateo County. Its marine conservation preserve is celebrated as the world's largest mainland breeding colony for the enormous two-ton northern elephant seals. I've always wondered how that remarkable place got its name. In January, this curiosity seems especially topical.

History reveals that Spanish maritime explorer Sebastian Vizcaino sailed up the California coast in late 1602, passing where Año Nuevo State Park is now located around New Year's Day 1603, hence its name. (On that voyage so long ago, Vizcaino and his expedition also named such prominent features as Monterey Bay and Point Conception.)

From ocean to desert and from valley to mountain, the range of California's geography is unparalleled. This brand new year reminded us once again how the Sierra Nevada mountain range that we all call home can receive enormous amounts of snow.

The holiday week snowfall hearkened back to the blizzards that Sierra County pioneers faced with great regularity. I pulled out the Downieville and Sierra City/Goodyears Bar books of James J. Sinnott's six-volume series on Sierra County and marveled at the photos and accounts of bygone winters—of snow up to rooftops, roads impassable for horse-

drawn transport, and snowslides that demolished homes and caused terrible losses of life.

One of the severest winters, according to the books, occurred in 1889-90. With over seven feet of snow in Downieville, four tunnels were constructed, connecting the butcher shop, hardware store, saloon, and the St. Charles Hotel. The snow depth at Sierra City was said to be 10 feet.

The first decade of the 20th Century saw repeated tough winters, with the road over Yuba Pass closed in 1903-04 for much of the season.

Even with the hardships, our hardy forefathers and foremothers found ways to enjoy the winter beauty. Sinnott's Sierra City book carries an item from a 1903 issue of this very newspaper on a snowshoe race on Feb. 9th of that year whose participants worked at the Sierra Buttes Mine. While mining engineer Dr. W.A. Lavery battled and led early, a Mr. Meiklejohn surged ahead and was declared champion.

Following the celebrated Mr. Meiklejohn's example, I kicked off the New Year on January 1 with a snowshoe climb up to Calpine Lookout. The sky was a brilliant blue, the air icy with temperatures



Photo contributed by Stephen Kulieke

in the teens at the outset. Blasts of winds carried cascading clouds of snow off the towering pines.

The beginning of the two-mile trek requires the most exertion, as the trail rises steeply 1,000' above Highway 89 to the historic 1934 lookout at 5,980' elevation. Working steadily upward, I exhaled an icy mist.

It was reported in The Messenger that the 1903 snowshoe race contestants "had several falls before the tournament was ended." So did I on my climb that day. The snow was deep and the snowshoes broke through the surface, making for some mishaps and quite the slog.

When I could, I followed in the footfalls of a snowshoer who had made the journey before me, making my progress easier. Higher up, I followed a packed-down snowmobile path, saying a silent thanks to the machine's operator.

As we traverse this New Year of challenges and uncertainty, there's a lesson there: We all lead the way for one another, distanced for our mutual respect and safety.

In this first month of 2022, let's follow and support each other on the path toward a better, healthy future.

Local COVID Case Counts Soar as Omicron Spreads

By Carl Butz

(DOWNEVILLE) Another surge in the number of COVID cases is currently impacting communities within Nevada, Plumas, and Sierra counties. While this wave is not leading to a significant increase in hospitalizations or deaths, the illnesses are definitely causing staffing shortages for both private businesses and public agencies. Fortunately, however, the current variant of the virus circulating through the area has not resulted in commensurate increases in hospitalizations or deaths.

In Sierra County, on December 30th, 307 total cases had been recorded since the onset of the pandemic in 2020. Less than three weeks later, on January 19th, this number had jumped to 407, a 32.5 percent increase within less than four percent of the pandemic's existence. In response to this expansion, all of the schools within the area have been closed until January 24th.

As for Plumas County, between January 5th and January 18th, the total number of cases since COVID appeared in 2020 grew from 1975 to 2396, a 21.3 percent increase. Over this period the case rate per 100,000 people soared from 18.8 to 102.3 and the 7-day percentage of positive tests moved up from 10.8 percent to 18.3 percent. On Monday evening, January 17th, Quincy High School parents were told, due to the number of absences among staff and students, some classes might need to be combined. Also, all students at the Taylorsville campus will be pursuing independent studies through the remainder of the week.

The situation in Nevada County is startlingly most 1,100 new cases were recorded during the January 18th - 19th period. However, active hospitalizations and deaths have not swelled correspondingly. Moreover, schools have remained open with very strict protocols concerning quarantines and masking.

Sierra County Board of Supervisor Meeting of January 18th

By Carl Butz

(DOWNEVILLE) — Convening promptly at 9 AM in their chamber at 100 Courthouse Square here near the North Fork of the Yuba, the Board of Supervisors, once again, completed their open session of work before noon.

Since no one took the opportunity to make any public comments, Committee Reports and Announcements was the first order of business the Board conducted. First, Supervisor Roen informed the Board the Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District moved forward on Monday evening, January 17th, by adopting the Groundwater Sustainability Plan due for submission to the California Department of Water Resources by the end of the month. Second, while attending the monthly Board meeting of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) last week, Supervisor Adams said he informed the group about the problems experienced here with GPS systems advising motorists to use unpassable roads last month. Consequently, he expects RCRC will be speaking with both Caltrans and internet service providers about the troubles they added to a difficult situation.

Updates from the U.S. Forest Service were the next agenda item. Rachel Hutchinson from the Sierraville District told the Board her staff is very busy at Yuba Pass and Jackson Meadows. They are also preparing for summer hires and fuel reduction projects. From the Yuba River District, Lon Henderson was pleased to report the addition of seven staff members whose focus will be upon forest management work. He also said the Green Acres Project's environment analysis is almost complete. Thus, to ensure work can start soon, this project will not become part of the North Yuba Landscape Project. Finally, he mentioned his staff is evaluating campgrounds for storm damage and, at those sites they have been able to reach, it appears they escaped unscathed.

Chief Probation Officer Henson spoke next with a request for authorization to hire a new Deputy Probation Officer. In the wake of SB 129, a measure providing for pre-trial counseling to help keep people out of jail, the local Court and the Probation Office have forged a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) providing funding for the position. While both Supervisor Dryden and Supervisor Adams expressed concern about the duration of State financing for a new officer, the Board voted 5-0 to approve the request. Next, Vickie Clark provided the Board with an update on the COVID-19 situation within Sierra County. For the population above 5-year-olds, she estimated 51 percent of residents are vaccinated. In response to a question from Supervisor Roen, Clark said booster shots for those who have had COVID are OK after being symptom-free for ten days. Next, she asked people to use testing kits only when appropriate since their inventory of kits has been exhausted. Also, with seasonal viruses ramping up at this time, staffing problems are popping up frequently. This problem, plus illnesses amongst the student population, has been a significant factor leading to the closure of all the schools until January 24th. Also, with seven members of her staff out as she spoke and only one nurse in the department at Loyalton, her office is scrambling to provide services. After quickly deciding to continue holding "hybrid" meetings of the Board for another month and to approve the existing slate of appointments to commissions, the session proceeded to a discussion about a proposed letter to the North Yuba Forest Partnership. Unfortunately, the response to comments received from other members of the Partnership about the federal environmental statement proposed to evaluate the scope of work of the Partnership had not been completed. With Supervisor Roen deeming these comments to be "political posturing", Tim Beals stating the situation "could be a turning point in the County's relationship with the Partnership", and a

tight deadline for responding, Beals and Roen asked for permission to circulate a copy of the response to all the Supervisors for review and concurrence with its contents before the next Board meeting. With County Counsel considering this process to be satisfactory, by consensus the Board approved the idea. Next, Tim Beals requested authorization to implement a system providing fuel for generators to residents on the western slope of the County during power outages and when gasoline is difficult to obtain due to dangerous road conditions. To accomplish this, county workers at County Road Shops in Alleghany and Goodyears Bar would use hand-pumps to deliver gasoline, charging only the cost of purchasing the supplies (including applicable excise taxes) plus enough to cover the wages paid to provide the service. Board members liked the idea but they also wanted Beals to ensure the concept would fly with the Franchise Tax Board and the Bureau of Weights and Measures. Thus, we will see this item on a future agenda.

Next, the Board set a date for a public hearing on a proposed renaming of Wilson Lane, a road running from the old sawmill in Sattley to CA-49/89 near Sierraville. The proposal, generated by the Sierra County Historical Society, calls for this County road to be called Berrington Road in honor of the family who owned the sawmill many years ago.

Continued on Page 4

Sourdough Jack Sez...



New Year, Old Year, hunh, they come and they go. Some good for some and some bad others. I'm just glad to have mine, whether good or bad.

Katie's Sightings

Taken with permission from northyubanaturalist.blogspot.com

KATIE O'HARA KELLY

Central Valley and Foothill Birds



Snow Geese landing at Gray Lodge - *Anser caerulescens*

In the winter I love to visit Gray Lodge, as well as several areas in the foothills. It's nice to get out of the snow, and go down to where the grass is green! I love bird watching in the lower elevations. I often see birds that visit our neighborhood in the spring, and once in a while I'll see a bird I've never seen before! The weather has been sunny and in the 50's during the day this past week. Just perfect for being outside all day!

There are thousands of Snow Geese that migrate down from the arctic to spend the winter at Gray Lodge! If you visit Gray Lodge, you'll notice that the geese aren't feeding! They mainly roost there during the day, and leave at dusk to forage at night in the surrounding wetlands and agricultural fields of California's Central Valley. I never tire of watching thousands of them circle and land in the wetlands, calling to each other the whole time. Such grace and beauty!

There are also thousands of ducks overwintering at Gray Lodge. Most of them are dabbling ducks, which mainly breed in the north central part of the U.S. and the prairie-pothole region of Canada and Alaska. The following information on their feeding habits is from thespruce.com.

"A dabbling duck is a type of shallow water duck that feeds primarily along the surface of the water or by tipping headfirst into the water to graze on aquatic plants, vegetation, larvae, and insects. These ducks are infrequent divers and are usually found in small ponds, rivers, and other shallow waterways, or else they may stay near the shallow, slower edges of larger waterways and swamps. Dabbling ducks also forage on land for seeds, grains, nuts, and insects, grazing with similar nibbling bill motions as surface feeding. These are often omnivorous birds, and will sample a wide range of foods through their different feeding styles."



Blue-winged Teal (male)



Green-winged Teal (female - male) - *Anas crecca*

Male ducks molt from their eclipse plumage (resembles female plumage) to their colorful breeding plumage between late summer and early winter. Right now most of the males have completely molted and are absolutely gorgeous! The name "green-winged" comes from the bright green color of the bottom half of their wings, which is visible only when the wings are outstretched. Which I have yet to see! Green-winged Teals are the smallest dabbling duck in North America, with a length of 14", and a weight of 12 oz. In comparison, a Mallard has a length of 23", and a weight of 2.4 lbs!



Cinnamon Teal (male - female) - *Spatula cyanoptera*

The Cinnamon Teal breeds in freshwater or brackish wetlands in the northwestern half of the U.S., not in the prairie-pothole region of Canada. The males have such stunning plumage!



Northern Pintail (female - male) - *Spatula cyanoptera*

Northern Pintails may stay year-round in the Central Valley of California, or they may migrate to breed in the prairie-pothole region of Canada and Alaska. The males are so elegantly feathered!

Jane Hallman

March 2, 1931-December 22, 2021

Jane Hallman passed away on December 22, 2021, at the age of 90. She was the wife of Harold (Buddy) Hallman, Jr. who preceded her in death in 1988. Jane was the only child of Stanley and Florence McCormick.

Jane was a mother of three, grandmother, great-grandmother and great, great grandmother. She was born in Nevada City, California, and was raised in Downieville until 1952. She attended school here graduating in 1949. Jane returned to Downieville with her husband and kids in June of 1970 where she went to work for Sierra County. Jane retired in 1993 with over 20 years of service. She remained in Downieville until her death.

PEACE

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Camptonville Community Partnership and U.S. Forest Service will hold a public meeting 5:30 p.m. February 17 to give updates on the planned move of the Tahoe National Forest's facilities from Camptonville to Nevada City.

The meeting will be held at the Camptonville Community Center, 15333 Cleveland Ave., as well as online.

The Tahoe National Forest plans to move its Yuba River Ranger District facilities to Nevada City in 2025, when the Tahoe National Forest constructs a new campus that will house both the YRRD building and the main forest supervisor's office.

The Tahoe National Forest and the CCP began hosting community meetings regarding this issue in June 2021 to promote a healthy community partnership.

Agenda items will include an update on the project's timeline as well as a discussion on remaining Camptonville facilities, potential job opportunities and housing opportunities for future USFS employees.

If community members cannot attend in-person, the meeting will be livestreamed online via the Camptonville Community Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/theccp.org>. Viewers do not need a Facebook account to watch the livestream but do need one to comment.

Get Free At-Home Covid-19 Tests

Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order 4 free at-home COVID-19 tests. The tests are completely free and will usually ship in 7-12 days. Order your tests now so you have them when you need them.

To place your order, point your internet browser to <<https://special.usps.com/testkits>>.

Be aware, the USPS will not deliver testkits to commercial addresses. Moreover, the number of testkits is fixed at four, no matter how many people may reside within a household.

20/20 Hindsight

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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Poetry Corner

It sifts from Leaden Sieves - (291)

By EMILY DICKINSON

It sifts from Leaden Sieves -
It powders all the Wood.
It fills with Alabaster Wool
The Wrinkles of the Road -

It makes an even Face
Of Mountain, and of Plain -
Unbroken Forehead from the East
Unto the East again -

It reaches to the Fence -
It wraps it Rail by Rail
Till it is lost in Fleeces -
It deals Celestial Vail

To Stump, and Stack - and Stem -
A Summer's empty Room -
Acres of Joints, where Harvests were,
Recordless, but for them -

It Ruffles Wrists of Posts
As Ankles of a Queen -
Then stills it's Artisans - like Ghosts
Denying they have been -

This poem is in the public domain. Found on <https://www.public-domain-poetry.com/>

About this poem: Emily Dickinson, A beautiful description of the way snow obscures familiar objects, rendering them strange and ghostly to us. Who but Dickinson would have thought to describe snow as 'alabaster wool'? But the most remarkable thing about the poem is that it never mentions snow by name. It doesn't have to.

About this poet: Emily Elizabeth Dickinson (December 10, 1830 – May 15, 1886) was an American poet. Little-known during her life, she has since been regarded as one of the most important figures in American poetry. While Dickinson was a prolific writer, her only publications during her lifetime were 10 of her nearly 1,800 poems, and one letter. The poems published then were usually edited significantly to fit conventional poetic rules. Her poems were unique for her era. They contain short lines, typically lack titles, and often use slant rhyme as well as unconventional capitalization and punctuation. Many of her poems deal with themes of death and immortality, two recurring topics in letters to her friends, and also explore aesthetics, society, nature and spirituality.



Change on Change

By ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING

1.
Three months ago, the stream did flow,
The lilies bloomed along the edge;
And we were lingering to and fro,—
Where none will track thee in this snow,

Along the stream, beside the hedge.
Ah! sweet, be free to come and go;
For if I do not hear thy foot,
The frozen river is as mute,—
The flowers have dried down to the root;
And why, since these be changed since May,
Shouldst thou change less than they?

2.
And slow, slow as the winter snow,
The tears have drifted to mine eyes;
And my two cheeks, three months ago,
Set blushing at thy praises so,
Put paleness on for a disguise.
Ah! sweet, be free to praise and go;
For if my face is turned to pale,
It was thine oath that first did fail,—
It was thy love proved false and frail!
And why, since these be changed, I trow,
Should I change less than thou?

This poem is in the public domain. Published in Poem-a-Day on December 19, 2021, by the Academy of American Poets.

About this poem: "Change on Change" first appeared in Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine LX, no. 372 (October, 1846).

About this poet: Elizabeth Barrett Browning was an English poet of the Romantic Movement. She is the author of numerous books, including An Essay on Mind and Other Poems (James Duncan, 1826); Poems (Henry G. Langley, 1844); and Sonnets from the Portuguese (Chapman & Hall, 1850), dedicated to her husband and fellow poet Robert Browning. She died on June 29, 1861.



On the Shelf

By PAUL GUFFIN

Book Review

You may remember that back in November, 2020, I listed as a book new to the library Jill Lepore’s, *These Truths: A History of the United States*. Now, our good library friend, Virginia Hamisak, who lives in Frontenac, Kansas, and who is the one who donated the book to the library, has written the following review of that book:

Did you lollygag your way through high school? Were you drowsy by the time your American History class came around? Did you memorize dates, places and names that seemed nothing more than disconnected facts from a textbook designed to clutter your brain instead of clarifying it with the stupendous story of our country’s past?

The “text book” that would have made us sit up and pay attention has been written by history professor Jill Lepore. It is an extraordinary presentation of the facts of the growing up of our country.

With the right teacher and Ms. Lepore as their guide, we could have used one of each of the four parts covering 1492-2016 (*The Idea, The People, The State, The Machine*) for each of our high school years. The discussions, the research, the writing, the thoughts inspired by her command of the language, meticulous research and respect for nothing but the facts would have brought to life what learning is all about: not fun but pure joy in the illumination of the mind that is only recognized when one begins to connect the dots — one truth to one truth.

Thank you, Ms. Lepore.

Wrapping up 2021

According to the statistics, 2021 was, in some regards, a somewhat better year at the Downieville Library than was 2020. Here are some relevant numbers and comparisons of the two years:

	2021	2020	Difference
Number of days library was open	92	70	+31.4%
Adult books checked out	570	399	+42.9%
Young adult books checked out	69	12	+475.0%
Juvenile & children books checked out	292	306	- 4.6%
Audio books checked out	91	40	+127.5%
Videos checked out	341	225	+51.6%
Patrons with reference questions	19	8	+137.5%
Patrons using the internet	2	7	-71.4%
Number of patrons using the library	344	360	-4.4%

And, at the end of the year, here is what was available on the shelves of the Downieville Library:

Adult fiction books	2,681
Adult non-fiction books	1,916
Young adult fiction books	182
Juvenile & children fiction books	1,141
Juvenile & children non-fiction books	294
Audio fiction books (CD)	134
Audio non-fiction books (CD)	26
DVD videos	701
BluRay videos	93
Music CDs	38
Music cassettes	18
Total items in the library	7,224


This is an increase of 305 items in the library since the start of 2021.

Sports

By TESSA JACKSON

Because it’s NFL playoff time, I’m in full-on NFL mode; but before we get into that, I want to talk about the Novak Djokovic news, even though Djokovic stated that he’s uncomfortable with the focus being on him and would rather it be on the game that he loves. The tennis star, who is unvaccinated, was in Australia hoping to compete for his tenth Australian Open title; he apparently received a medical exemption for the vaccine because he tested positive for the virus last month, but the Australian government revoked his visa (twice), and after 11 days of appeals and court hearings he was eventually deported. According to Australia’s visa rules, he is also now banned from getting a visa for the next three years (this can possibly be waived.) To make matters worse for Djokovic, I read that the French government just passed a law on Sunday which will require vaccinations for anyone entering an arena; so it looks like he might not be able to play in the French Open either. Djokovic is currently tied with Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer for most men’s grand slam titles with 20. Nadal is playing in the tournament and has the chance to break that record.

NFL wild card weekend was... well, it was okay I guess. And I’m not just talking about the fact that the Raiders lost, although that was disappointing (but not unexpected), I’m talking about the number of blowouts we witnessed. It all started with the Buffalo Bills beating the New England Patriots by 30; the Tampa Bay Buccaneers were beating the Philadelphia Eagles 31-0 in the third quarter before the Eagles managed to score in the fourth quarter to lose the game 15-31; the Kansas City Chiefs beat the Pittsburgh Steelers by 21; and the Los Angeles Rams beat the Cardinals by 23 (I’m happy to say that at least the Raiders and Bengals game was a close one.) While we can’t blame all these games on the fact that they expanded the playoffs to include one extra team per conference this year (and only the top team in each conference gets a bye instead of two) we can at least blame two of them. The only winning team that was not a favorite was the San Francisco 49ers, who beat the Dallas Cowboys 23-17. The 49ers pretty much dominated the entire game; the Cowboys did mount a comeback in the fourth quarter, but they were unsuccessful. Along with wide receiver Deebo Samuel, who had 110 total yards and a touchdown, the 49er’s defense was the star of the game again. They sacked Dallas quarterback Dak Prescott five times. The 49ers will fly to Green Bay for the divisional round to take on Aaron Rodgers and the No. 1 seeded Green Bay Packers. The game takes place this Saturday at 5:15 PM and the spread is Packers -5.5. It should be a more exciting round; the spreads are a lot closer than last week. On Saturday, we have the Titans -3.5 vs the Bengals, and on Sunday, we have the Buccaneers -3 vs the Rams and the Chiefs -1.5 vs the Bills. One of these eight teams will be our Superbowl champions!



Sierra Safe

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Here Back East

By LENNY ACKERMAN

Fishing With Jay

After our inaugural fishing expedition to Beaver Kill in 1990, Jay and I embarked on a fishing romance spanning 24 years until our trip to Iceland in 2014. I returned to Iceland again in 2017, but that time as a loner. Jay was not fit to travel after a bout of illness and I, suffering from a back injury, plowed through the trip with a distressing inflamed something or other. Leading up to that last trip alone was a wonderful series of travels with Jay and a few other friends, some now gone. Our first real expedition together was deep sea fishing in Gardiner’s Bay off of East Hampton, with Captain Paul Dixon, on the hunt for bluefish and stripers. Eventually, Jay surpassed me in his collecting of flies and gear as he had a number of friends and work colleagues in the dental profession who regularly went to the Catskills to fish on the Delaware. Jay, being a surgeon, was into the technical intricacies of fishing. I was more interested in finding sources for English country fishing attire, and of course I was into the travel.

Our next outing together was trout fishing on the Connetquot River on Long Island. More like fishing in a bathtub, with assigned beats where fish waited for meals. The fish dined on a schedule, and as long as you were on their timetable, you caught plenty. Like shooting in a barrel. After that, we were ready to explore beyond the shores of Long Island. Thus began our European adventures and over the years we went to Scotland and Ireland, and to Iceland twice. We often took local trips in between--during economic recessions and off times in the real estate practice, Jay and I would do the three-hour drive to Al Caucci’s fishing establishment called Riverfront Lodge, on the West Branch of the Delaware River in the Catskills, near Hancock, New York. Caucci was an interesting fellow-- a fishing guide, entrepreneur and hotelier, who wrote the basic treatise on fishing entomology or, for us simpletons, the guide to flies that attract fish. Interestingly, with Al it was technical fishing but rarely catching. It seems there just weren’t many fish. It was with Al that I first heard all the immortal fishing guide sayings that begin with “should have.” “Should have been here last week.” “Should’ve been drier—the water’s too high.” “Should’ve rained—the water is too low.” Once there was a dam release issue on that branch of the Delaware. Al must have been a bit amused watching us beginners wade in so far over our heads we had to swim back to shore.

The best part of a trip to Al’s--aside from the exceptional motel décor--was the dining. Always outdoors, weather permitting, the meals were first rate. Al would bring in talented up-and-coming chefs on the weekends, one of whom was Tom Colicchio. Later on, we would see Colicchio’s name in print in restaurant reviews, as he gained fame from his many restaurants in New York and beyond. Al knew beginner fishermen faced a lot of frustration on the water, and casting all day was tiring, so in the evening a special dinner put everything right again. There were always stories from the day’s events to tell over a meal, and it was always a happy exhaustion, from casting away for those supposed fish in the dark waters of the Delaware.

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Preventive and Repair Dental by appointment or walk-in (Thursdays 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

Emergencies call 911.

SURPLUS EQUIPMENT SALE

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

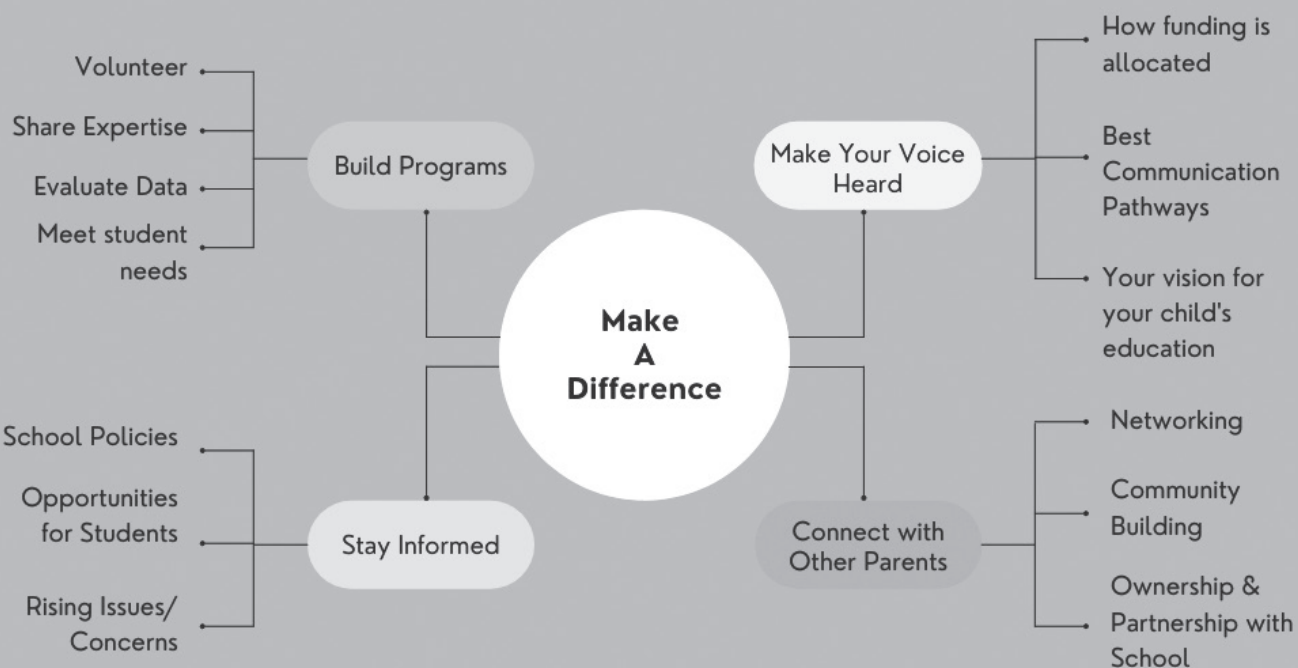
1. A 1983 Chevrolet 4x4 one ton utility truck to be sold “as is, where is” for a minimum bid of \$500.00 (with known deficiencies: exhaust leak, coolant leak, occasionally overheats and needs a fuel sending unit).
2. A hose washer and stainless-steel hose dryer to be sold “as a set, where is, as is”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

Why Join the PTO/Booster?



If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, member, or officer for the PTO or Booster Club at Downieville Schools, please call and leave a message with the school secretary at (530) 289-3473 or email niecea@downievillelearning.com. The next meeting is Monday, February 14th, at 5:30 PM via Zoom and possibly in-person at the school. Downieville Schools wants all stakeholder voices to be included! We have a private Facebook Group, Downieville School, where permitted users can access school news and information as well as a school website: www.downievillelearning.org

Sheriff's Log

By Jen Henneke

Monday, January 10

13:00 - In Loyalton, a 911 request for Eastern Plumas Health Care Ambulance.
14:29 - In Loyalton, some property was found.
16:48 - In Loyalton, someone needed help getting up.
17:39 - In Verdi, a request for assistance getting a truck unstuck from the snow. Caller canceled the request when notified that Search and Rescue only rescues people and not trucks.
18:25 - In Loyalton, someone requested a welfare check on their neighbor. The neighbor was found to be safe and sound.

Tuesday, January 11

11:20 - In Sierra City, a citizen reported that upon arrival at their residence, it appeared that someone had been inside their home.
12:53 - In Sierra City, a man in a reflective yellow jacket was standing in the northbound lane of HWY 49 facing southbound.
22:07 - In Sierra City, someone was unconscious but did not need to be transported.

Wednesday, January 12

00:13 - In Sierra City, some suspicious individuals were around a property.
03:26 - A request for assistance for getting stuck in the mud. The Sheriff’s Office provided a ride to Bordertown.
11:49 - In Loyalton, someone was driving recklessly all over the road.
13:44 - In Downieville, the driver of a black sedan with pink and blue stickers was dragging a female across the road by her hair. What the...
15:35 - A motorist requested help getting out of some mud.
16:04 - In Loyalton, someone found something and then turned it into the Sheriff’s Office.
17:48 - In Calpine, a 911 request for assistance getting upright.

Thursday, January 13

12:04 - In Loyalton, a mobile home being torn down was on fire. That’s one way to get it into smaller pieces for removal. However, that is not the correct answer and both individuals involved were arrested for arson.
23:59 - In Loyalton, Eastern Plumas Health Care Ambulance helped someone get up.

Friday, January 14

14:03 - In Downieville, an agency assist was requested in identifying a long-term care resident.
19:30 - A report of an individual needing assistance in a different county.
21:41 - Near Truckee, someone got a DUI. Please stop drinking and driving, folks!

Saturday, January 15

07:42 - In Pike, someone vandalized the school. Vandalizing school grounds doesn’t mean school gets canceled.
08:20 - In Downieville, a 911 request for an ambulance.
08:43 - In Downieville, a soft top jeep crashed multiple times throughout the night. All were non-injury.
11:11 - In Loyalton, Eastern Plumas Health Care Ambulance was requested.
16:51 - In Loyalton, a caller reported an overdue party in the Sierra Brooks area. The missing party was located.
17:25 - In Loyalton, someone needed medical assistance.

Sunday, January 16

10:42 - In Calpine, someone requested an ambulance.
12:50 - In Sierraville, there was a warrant for something.
13:55 - In Downieville, a Russian speaking woman was trying to find her daughter.
14:09 - In Calpine, someone was having water issues and needed assistance contacting the Water District.
15:19 - In Sierra City, someone’s vehicle got stuck about 20 feet into Gold Lake Road.

Total Reported: 31

Sierra County Reduces Pension Costs

Sierra County is required to provide retirement benefits to its employees through the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS). Every year, the County makes payments to CalPERS for retirement benefits of current and retired employees. A large portion of these costs represent unfunded liabilities, which is the difference between the estimated benefits owed for past service and the market value of assets held at CalPERS. Although the County has no influence over the management of the unfunded liability, the County is charged 6.80% on it.

In order to reduce costs of the unfunded liability, the Board of Supervisors approved the issuance of a Pension Obligation Bond (POB) on December 7, 2021. The purpose of the POB is to replace all of the unfunded liability at CalPERS with a lower cost loan. By replacing the CalPERS finance charge of 6.80% with a finance charge of less than 3% on a POB the County can reduce pension costs. Savings is also achieved by shortening the time to pay down the unfunded liability from 17 years to 9 years.

On January 6, 2022, the County sold \$18,990,000 of POBs. The County received a very strong credit rating of “AA-“ from Standard & Poors (S&P) Global Ratings. The credit rating represents an independent appraisal of the County’s ability and willingness to repay the POB. In assigning the credit rating, S&P noted the County’s conservative revenue and expenditure forecasts, semi-annual financial reporting to the Board of Supervisors and its investment, debt and reserve policies. The credit rating is crucial in qualifying the County’s bonds for purchase by bond investors.

The County’s borrowing strategy of shortening the repayment term, coupled with the credit rating, and few bonds offered for sale during the first week of the year, enabled the County to attract strong investor demand. The County received 48 orders for its bonds totaling \$71,360,000. With demand greater than supply, the County was able to receive lower interest rates, which resulted in additional savings. The orders were submitted by 17 institutional investors consisting of bond funds, managed accounts, banks, insurance companies and brokers.

Summary of Bond Sale Results			
	Board Meeting 12/7/2021	Sale Results 1/6/2022	Variance
Funding Amount	\$18,990,000	\$18,990,000	\$0
Interest Rate	2.76%	2.62%	-0.14%
Total POB Repayment	\$21,614,819	\$21,413,901	-\$200,918
Remaining UAL	\$30,129,007	\$30,149,746	\$20,739
Estimated Savings	\$8,514,188	\$8,735,844	\$221,656
Final POB Payment	8/1/2031	8/1/2031	8/1/2031
10 Year Treasury	1.48%	1.73%	0.25%

Holiday Treats

Homemade

Organic

Bread Money

I got the bread. You get the dough!
Made in a home kitchen
County of Sierra CA #2021-2022 CP-1
No Frills. Just Delicious. Bread & Cake
Keri Manning, Flour Girl
(530) 863-4215
Call for Menu Options

Board of Supervisors Meeting

Continued from Page 1

Trinity Stirling, project co-ordinator for the Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship (SBTS), then came before the Board to update them on the status of the Connected Communities Project (CCP). In her presentation, she outlined the progress made thus far on developing a 300-mile network of trails linking communities in Plumas, Sierra, and Nevada counties with the aid of funding the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Resilient Communities Grant Program. She also detailed the costs expected for environmental reviews (\$3.7 million), trail development and maintenance (\$36.1 million) through 2030. Fifty percent of the project's total cost, she said, is expected to come from state and federal grants. The remainder of the sum would be derived from in-kind support from members of the SBTS.

Supervisor Dryden responded to Stirling's update by commending the SBTS for sponsoring this ambitious project and mentioned a bike path from CA-49 up to the Smithneck Creek Campground is now in the works. Supervisor Le Blanc mentioned his conversations with people in Loyalton who are

very interested in including a trail from Hill St. to Chipmunk Meadows in the CCP. Tim Beals asked, how can the Board of Supervisors be involved in the process? Stirling replied, the SBTS thanks the Board for the support given to their application for funding by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. And, her update on the progress made so far indicates their continuing interest in working with the County to complete the project and bring economic benefits to everyone the Board represents.

Next, Brandon Pangman of the Planning Department provided an exposition of the preliminary flood maps received by the County by FEMA on 12/29/2021. He also encouraged the public to review the maps (digital copies are available via <www.fema.gov/preliminaryflood-hazarddata>) for accuracy and to send their comments to FEMA Region IX, Attn: Nancy Steinberger, 1111 Broadway, Suite 1200, Oakland, CA 94607-4052 immediately. immediately.



At the Firehouse

By VICTORIA TENNEY

ALLEGHANY: All's quiet... No training, no meetings, & no emergencies....

DOWNIEVILLE: January 10—Medical Urgent Care response completed. January 11—Responded for four Medical Urgent Care incidents; responded for a person who was ill and air lifted to SNMH; the ambulance responded to Sierra City for an ill person. January 12—Responded for four Medical Urgent Care incidents; COVID-19 testing at the Community Hall. January 13—EMS Training. January 14—Responded for five Medical Urgent Care incidents. January 15—Responded for an ill person who was air lifted to the Enloe Hospital in Chico; responded for a non-injury vehicle accident; responded for four Medical Urgent Care incidents. January 16—Responded for two Medical Urgent Care incidents.

LOYALTON: January 10—Responded for an individual feeling ill with low blood pressure; lift assist. January 13—Responded for a mobile home on fire; responded for smoke showing from previous fire. January 14—Lift assist. January 15—Responded for person with difficulty breathing; assistance to ambulance crew transferring patient to home.

PIKE CITY: January 10—Firefighters trained.

SIERRA CITY: January 11—Responded for someone who was ill.

SIERRA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT: (CALPINE, SATTLEY, & SIERRAVILLE) January 12th — Responded for a medical lift assist in Sattley. January 13th — Mutual aid response to Loyalton for a structure fire; firefighter training. January 14th — Medical lift assist in Sattley. January 16th — Responded to a call for medical assistance in Calpine.



Alleghany County Water District Management’s Discussion And Analysis:

Introduction For The Fiscal Year Ended 6/30/2021

By RAE BELL ARBOGAST

Alleghany County Water District (ACWD) was established on March 8, 1939 to provide water to the town of Alleghany for both domestic use and fire protection.

When the district was formed, Alleghany had a population of approximately 586 (1940 US Census). The most recent census (2020) recorded 55 full-time residents. This represents a 90% decrease in the population over eighty years. It is notable that the change in population between 2010 and 2020 was a decrease of only 3 individuals. Currently ACWD has 55 active customer accounts.

Sustaining its operation with such a small customer base is ACWD’s biggest challenge. Balancing sustainability with affordability is a daunting task. The Board and Staff donate many volunteer hours to the district on a regular basis to keep it functioning.

ACWD does, from time-to-time, apply for grants. The bulk of the current infrastructure was built in 1977-78 with a 50/50 loan-grant from USDA Rural Development. That loan was paid off in November of 2017. As a direct result of this loan pay-off the district has started building up a contingency fund.

Recently completed projects:

In 2015 the district was awarded a loan with debt forgiveness (grant) from the State Revolving Fund to do a Planning and Engineering Analysis for renovations of the ACWD storage tank and water sources.

The primary objective of this funding agreement was to find the most sustainable way to supply the town’s drinking water in compliance with State laws. The two major concerns at that time were the condition of the main water storage tank and treatment plant. The lack of water source redundancy was also a concern. Changing the main water source (the Ram Spring) from “ground water under the influence of surface water” to “ground water” was a known way to reduce water production costs. Because

of concerns about drilling at the Spring, the district was encouraged by the State to try vertical test wells. Two vertical wells would have solved both the surface water and the redundancy issues if successful. However, the vertical test wells were not successful (inadequate water quantity and quality).

In May of 2017, as part of the planning project, driven pipes were installed at the Ram Spring to minimize surface water infiltration. As a result of this drilling, and with subsequent water quality testing; on October 20, 2017 the State Division of Drinking water amended the Permit for the Ram Spring changing its classification to “ground water”. This new classification eliminates the need for a treatment plant and lessens several regulatory requirements, saving both time and money over the long-term.

The water tank portion of the planning project was completed in 2016 and a new funding agreement for construction of the water tank was executed on July 20, 2017. The new water storage tank was put online in November of 2018.

The water source redundancy portion of the planning project had to be abandoned due to budget constraints

The Ram Spring portion of the Planning Project was completed on December 1, 2020 and an application for construction has been started as noted below.

Pending Projects
The district is in the process of applying for funds from the State Revolving Fund for a construction project that will reconfigure the facilities at the Ram Spring to accommodate the changes related to the driven pipes (no treatment plant) and address a few other issues based on the alternatives analysis completed as part of the Planning Project. The application includes a request for money for residential meter replacements funded by a special state program.

Full Audit Reports can be found on the district’s website alleghanywater.org/ audit-reports.

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 resumé's will be accepted until the position is filled.

Please submit via email to jbehlke@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

LEGAL NOTICE ** LEGAL NOTICE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following registrant is doing business as: THE ELEGANT FARMER
Full name of registrants: Joseph Barnes & Lynn Wimer
Business location: 525 Main St., Chester CA 96020
Mailing address: 1117 Peninsula Dr., Lake Alamanor CA 96137
Phone number: (925) 787-5776

This business is being conducted by: a General Partnership
The registrant commenced to do business under the fictitious business name listed above on: 12/20/2021
/s/ Lynn Wimer

This statement was filed in the office of Marcy DeMartile, Plumas County Clerk-Recorder, on: December 20, 2021 FILE NO: 2021-0000299
Published in The Mountain Messenger: Jan. 13, 20, 27 & Feb. 3 of 2022

LEGAL NOTICE ** LEGAL NOTICE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following registrant is doing business as: QUINCY HOME MEDICAL SERVICES
Full name of registrant: Brian Walmer
Business location: 211 Lawrence St., Quincy CA 95971
Mailing address: PO Box 1310, Quincy CA 95971
Phone number: (530) 927-7087

This business is being conducted by: a Limited Liability Company
The registrant commenced to do business under the fictitious business name listed above on: 1/5/2022
/s/ Brian Walmer

This statement was filed in the office of Marcy DeMartile, Plumas County Clerk-Recorder, on: January 5, 2022 FILE NO: 2022-0000004
Published in The Mountain Messenger: Jan. 13, 20, 27 & Feb. 3 of 2022

LEGAL NOTICE ** LEGAL NOTICE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following registrant is doing business as: MURPH
Full name of registrants: Duane Murphy
Business location: 461 Lassen St., Chester CA 96020
Mailing address: P.O. Box 2095, Chester CA 96020
Phone number: (530) 816-0523

This business is being conducted by: An Individual
The registrant commenced to do business under the fictitious business name listed above on: 8/24/2021
/s/ Duane Murphy

This statement was filed in the office of Marcy DeMartile, Plumas County Clerk-Recorder, on: August 24, 2021 FILE NO: 2021-0000215
Published in The Mountain Messenger: Jan. 20, 27 & Feb. 3, 10 of 2022

For Sale

7.5 HP 24" Ariens Snowblower

Electric Start — \$300 obo

Don Russell, DVL
(530) 289-0332



PLUMAS-SIERRA CATTLEWOMEN SCHOLARSHIPS

The Plumas-Sierra Cattlewomen are again happy to offer scholarships to this year's graduating seniors and to last year's recipients who are continuing their studies and again meeting the qualifications. The amount of the scholarships will be determined by the number of applicants, proceeds from the previous year's sale of tickets for our Brand Quilt, and the generous support of our communities.

Eligibility Requirements:

- The applicant must have been a resident of Plumas or Sierra County for one year.
- If the applicant is from a farm or ranch family, he or she may enroll in any course of study at a college or vocational school.
- If the applicant is from a non-farm or ranch family, he or she must enroll in agriculturally related programs.
- Application packets further outlining qualifications are available now at your high school or at our website: plumassierracattlewomen.org

Contact information:

Kathleen Goicoechea (775) 530-8544
PO Box 883
Loyalton, CA 96118
dkgoicoechea@psln.com

Karen Rickman (530) 400-7737
PO Box 2403
Portola, CA 96122
abitoftbeach@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Sierra County Board of Supervisors is seeking interested persons who would like to serve on the following:

Open Space Screening Committee – 3 Vacancies

The Open Space Screening Committee was established to serve in an advisory capacity to the Board of Supervisors and make reports and/ or recommendations on matters pertaining to applications for the creation of agricultural preserves and farmland security zones and any contracts or amendments thereto. The committee shall also advise the Board of Supervisors as required and as requested on matters pertaining to the "Important Farmland" series mapping program and "Open Space Subvention" program, both which are administered by the California Department of Conservation. The Board of Supervisors may request recommendations from the committee on other matters related to County agricultural programs and issues from time to time.

The Board is currently seeking two (2) individuals whose livelihood or predominant source of income and/ or employment is ranching, farming, or other related agricultural use within Sierra County, and one (1) individual of the public at-large.

FINAL FILING DATE: Open until filled.

APPOINTMENTS will be made at the next appropriate meeting of the Sierra County Board of Supervisors.

PERSONS INTERESTED in serving may submit an application which can be obtained from the Sierra County Clerk's Office, 100 Courthouse Square, Room 11, Downieville, CA, or visit the Clerk-Recorder's web page at sierracounty.ca.gov. For further information please contact the Sierra County Clerk's Office at (530) 289-3295.

Published in The Mountain Messenger: Jan 20 of 2022

LEGAL NOTICE ** LEGAL NOTICE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following registrant is doing business as: THOMPSON TRACTOR & SNOW REMOVAL

Full name of registrants: Stanley P. Thompson & Debra L. Thompson
Business location: 2070 Blackbird Way, Clio CA 96106
Mailing address: P.O. Box 332, Graeagle CA 96103
Phone number: (530) 836-7252

This business is being conducted by: a Married Couple
The registrant commenced to do business under the fictitious business name listed above on: 11/12/2021
/s/ Stanley P. Thompson

This statement was filed in the office of Marcy DeMartile, Plumas County Clerk-Recorder, on: January 12, 2022 FILE NO: 2022-0000012
Published in The Mountain Messenger: Jan. 20, 27 & Feb. 3, 10 of 2022

LEGAL NOTICE ** LEGAL NOTICE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following registrant is doing business as: RICO'S MEXICAN FOOD, LLC

Full name of registrants: Francisco J. Carillo
Business location: 222 E. Sierra Ave., Portola CA 96122
Mailing address: P.O. Box 198, Portola CA 96122
Phone number: (530) 832-4017

This business is being conducted by: an LLC
The registrant commenced to do business under the fictitious business name listed above on: 12/1/2011
/s/ Francisco J. Carillo

This statement was filed in the office of Marcy DeMartile, Plumas County Clerk-Recorder, on: January 3, 2022 FILE NO: 2022-0000001
Published in The Mountain Messenger: Jan. 20, 27 & Feb. 3, 10 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
Sierraville Maintenance Station	994-3410
Downieville School	289-3473
Downieville Volunteer Fire Department	289-3333
Health & Human Services Dvl	289-3711
Loyalton	993-6700
Loyalton Elementary School	993-4482
Loyalton City Hall	993-6750
Loyalton Cop Shop	993-4479
Loyalton High School	993-4454
Loyalton Volunteer Fire Department	993-6751
Mental Health Services, Loyalton	993-6700
PG&E report outages	800-743-5002
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
USFS Beckwourth Ranger District	836-2575
Sierraville Ranger District	994-3401
Yuba River Ranger District	288-3231
Western Sierra Medical Clinic	289-3298

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GREG.BULANTI@GMAIL.COM

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Sierra City—Ladies Canyon Estate

Yuba River Runs Through It

Sierra City—Riverview House

Sierra City—Lewis Tract Lot

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MARKET NEWS

By NICK SPANO

Welcome to yet another week of Market News. Microsoft has reportedly agreed to take out gaming giant Activision Blizzard in a \$68.7 billion all-cash deal, marking Microsoft's most expensive acquisition in history and perhaps the most important in recent history.

The proposed deal will see Microsoft pay \$95/share, a 45% premium to the company's stock price as it traded before the announcement. The acquisition comes after months of internal turmoil at Activision Blizzard. In July 2021, trouble at Activision Blizzard came to a head as allegations surfaced that the company allowed/condoned "frat-boy culture." Some months later, in September 2021, Activision-Blizzard was in the midst of ongoing legal battles with state and federal regulators.

Weakness is not forgiving to companies, especially to media properties like A-B. Activision Blizzard was weak and primed for takeout. However, there is no guarantee this deal will close.

Microsoft has spent the last few years stacking up gaming properties to build the foundation of its industry-leading Xbox Game Pass. With Microsoft's acquisition of Zenimax Media (the owner of Bethesda) last year, Xbox

grew its game studio footprint to 23, putting Microsoft in a fundamentally different ballpark from its competitors. Microsoft's commanding presence in the gaming industry makes it likely that regulators will have a problem with this deal.

Microsoft is the second-biggest company in the world; just hours before the deal ran off the presses, the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and Department of Justice (DOJ) indicated their desire to rewrite merger rules to prevent large mergers (like this one.)

After a weeks-long controversy over the deployment of 5G technology around airports, major telecom companies expect to launch an upgraded version of 5G nationwide this week.

Wireless carriers such as AT&T and Verizon have already punted the 5G C-band service rollout in sympathy to regulators, who are concerned that the new service might interfere with aircraft equipment. After being asked at the last minute by regulators to punt their launch, the carriers agreed to impose a buffer around most major airports, but they're not happy about it at all.

However, Boeing has reportedly advised some international airlines "not to

operate the 777 to the U.S. in light of 5G deployment." Consequently, Emirates, Japan Airlines, Air India, and ANA will reportedly suspend flights to nine cities. The cancellations should only affect a handful of flights.

In the grand scheme of things, there's likely nothing to be concerned about: 40 other countries have already successfully implemented 5G service near airports without disrupting flight patterns.

Crypto exchange crypto.com is the next to fall victim to hackers, leaving hundreds of users missing ETH. The total loss reported is about \$15 million.

The exchange acknowledged the attack on the evening of January 16, during which the company paused withdrawals for an investigation and insisted that all funds were safe.

The hacker reportedly bypassed two-factor authentication and withdrawal whitelists, which has raised eyebrows because hacking these systems would be incredibly difficult. Crypto.com also is SOC2 compliant, which supposedly makes it "the most secure crypto platform worldwide."

This loss puts the exchange's credibility to the test. crypto.com's CEO Kris Marszalek indicated that "no customer funds were lost,"

even though renowned crypto auditing companies such as Peckshield and Certik proved that this is untrue. Customers complaining of missing funds have indicated that the company, which has spent billions to acquire the naming rights to the former Staples Center in LA and celeb TV spots, has not replaced the stolen crypto.

The crypto.com hack comes in at #29 on the Rekt News leaderboard, which tracks the biggest thefts in crypto so far. This attack is by no means the biggest hack in crypto history, but it is one of the largest from a credible crypto exchange. The only hack of a centralized exchange (CEX) more significant than this weeks was the Kucoin hack on September 29, 2020, ranked #12. Nonetheless, it's unbecoming of a multi-billion dollar CEX to leave their customers out to dry. Other CEXes which have failed to side with customers have been rightfully scrutinized.

The world of crypto is risky, but it is transparent. Considering the credible testimony of crypto industry leaders, we know that crypto.com is lying about being hacked and has not indicated whether it will replace compromised users' lost funds.

S&P 500 Market Movers - 1/19

Top Gainers

1. Take-Two Interactive Inc. (TTWO) \$163.36 +6.05%

2. Newmont Corp. (NEM) \$64.95 +6.041%

3. Citrix Systems (CTXS) \$104.70 +3.663%

Top Decliners

1. Ford Motor Co (F) \$22.45 -7.916%

2. US Bancorp (USB) \$57.37 -7.75%

3. State Street Corp. (STT) \$93.88 -7.059%

NASDAQ Market Movers - 1/19

Top Gainers

1. Peloton Interactive (PTON) \$31.84 +5.326%

2. Pinduoduo Inc (PDD) \$64.35 +4.58%

3. Palo Alto Networks (PANW) \$519.61 +3.43%

Top Losers

1. Moderna (MRNA) \$174.07 -6.72%

2. Applied Materials Inc. (AMAT) \$143.07 -6.097%

3. Lam Research Corp. (LRCX) \$642.73 -5.343%

COMMODITY PRICES				
	Jan. 12 USD	Jan. 19 USD	Weekly Change	YTD Change
Gold USD/Troy Oz.	1825.70	1841.54	0.9%	21.3%
Silver USD/Troy Oz.	23.120	24.09	4.2%	35.2%
Lumber USD/1000 BdFt.	1200	1233.70	2.8%	204.4%
Live Cattle USD/100 Lbs.	136.45	138.55	1.5%	9.7%
Crude Oil USD/Barrel WTI	82.76	86.18	4.1%	41.8%
Propane USD/Gallon	1.15	1.15	0.0%	130.0%
CRB Index Index Points	256.82	265.79	3.5%	35.0%

Elements

Night Sky: Pre-dawn Winter Constellations

So I started my new job with the Sierra County Roads department, who did such a great job keeping the snow plowed these last storms. Since we start early, I have been heading to work in the pre-dawn hours and have noticed many summer constellations across the sky.

Prominently, at about 6:30am, is Ursa Major the Great Bear, which contains the familiar star pattern of the Big Dipper. The mother bear looms overhead in the northern sky as she prowls the summer months looking for food, and protecting her baby bear, Ursa Minor the Little Bear, or the Little Dipper. During the Winter evening sky, both bears are very low in the northern sky and behind Saddleback Mountain in Downieville, as they hibernate.

Seeing these two in the morning helps me shake off the cold and start my day with my hard-working coworkers. If you don't want to wake up early, the same view will be in the evening sky around late June.

Keep Looking Up! — Collin O'Mara-Green

Sun & Moon

Date:		Thu. 1-20	Fri. 1-21	Sat. 1-22	Sun. 1-23	Mon. 1-24	Tue. 1-25	Wed. 1-26
Sun	Rise:	7:17 am	7:17 am	7:16 am	7:16 am	7:15 am	7:14 am	7:13 am
	Set:	5:07 pm	5:08 pm	5:09 pm	5:11 pm	5:12 pm	5:13 pm	5:14 pm
Moon	Rise:	7:58 pm	9:02 pm	10:07 pm	11:14 pm	-	12:22 am	1:33 am
	Set:	9:16 am	9:43 am	10:08 am	10:32 am	10:57 am	11:25 am	11:57 pm
	Illumination	94.1%	88.4%	80.8%	71.56%	61.2%	50.0%	38.4%

Source: <https://www.timeanddate.com/> using Sierraville as a reference point.

Local Road/Trail/River Conditions



Photo contributed by Lynn Fillo
You never know what might appear around the next curve up here.

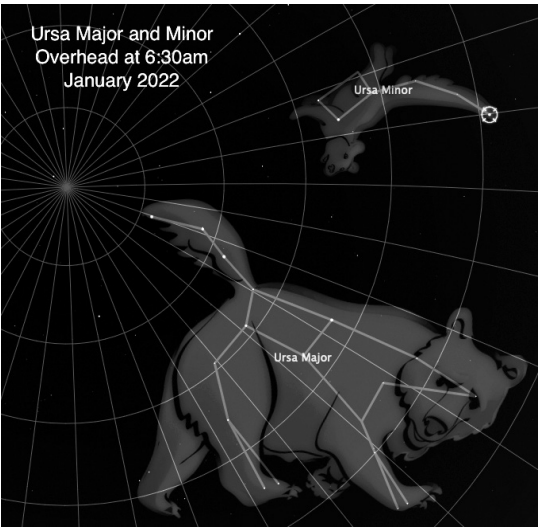
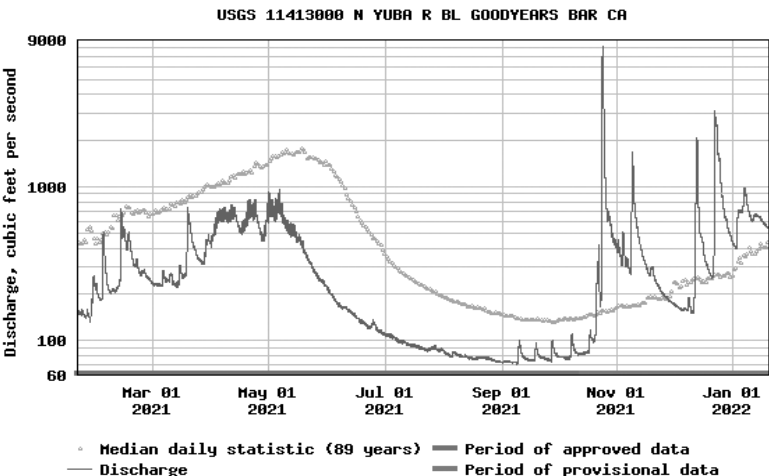
Meanwhile, the water in the rivers and streams is clear and running fast towards the reservoirs.

Without new precipitation, the roads have remained relatively safe. However, motorists continue to encounter icy patches at higher elevations during the nights and early mornings. Rocks and wildlife on the pavement are also hazards to be expected.

At higher elevations, trails are in also in good shape, but only for those equipped with snowmobiles, cross-country skis, or snow shoes. Below 5,000 feet, hikers can expect slippery, muddy conditions on shaded sections of trails.

Water Flow on the North Yuba River

January 19, 2021 - January 19, 2022



Last Week's Weather

Courtesy of the Grubstake Saloon

Date	Hi	FE	Lo	FE	Precip.	Snow
Jan. 11	44	-6	29	-1		
Jan. 12	46	-6	27	-4		
Jan. 13	44	-11	27	-8	-	
Jan. 14	57	+3	29	-4	-	
Jan. 15	49	-3	27	-3		
Jan. 16	46	11	26	-4		
Jan. 17	46	-10	27	-4		

Forecast Error (FE) is found by subtracting the forecast for each day's high and low temperature from the day's recorded value.

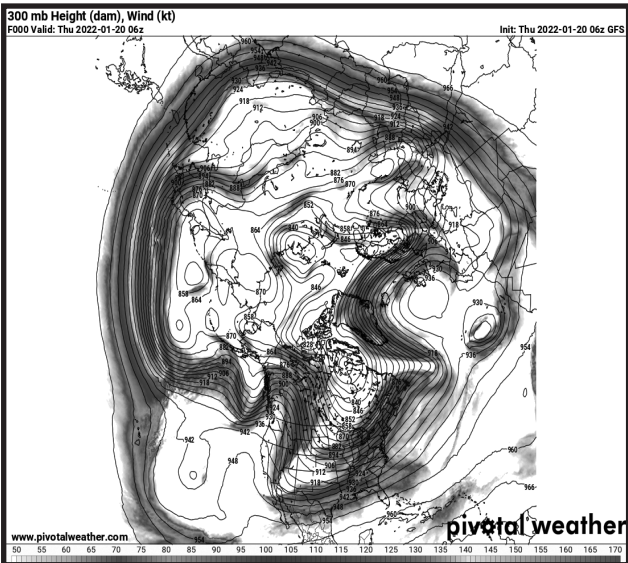
Seasonal Precipitation

July 1 to date	45.81
To-date last year	14.71
Yearly average	65.28

7-Day Local Forecast

Towns	Info	Thu. 1-20	Fri. 1-21	Sat. 1-22	Sun. 1-23	Mon. 1-24	Tue. 1-25	Wed. 1-26
Downieville	High/Low (°F)	55/32	59/31	50/31	52/31	56/32	59/32	58/31
	Cloudiness (%)	10%	18%	10%	5%	10%	6%	10%
	Wind (mph)	NW 4 mph	NE 22 mph	NE 10 mph	NE 8 mph	NE 3 mph	NE 3 mph	NE 2 mph
	Humidity (%)	55%	48%	48%	52%	53%	55%	55%
	Chance of Precip.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Loyalton	High/Low (°F)	M/14	47/20	38/19	37/18	45/22	50/21	48/20
	Cloudiness (%)	24%	20%	16%	4%	23%	11%	10%
	Wind (mph)	E-SE 1 mph	NE 13 mph	E 6 mph	E-NE 3 mph	E-NE 3 mph	E-NE 4 mph	E 3 mph
	Humidity (%)	82%	74%	68%	66%	57%	62%	64%
	Chance of Precip.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Quincy	High/Low (°F)	55/26	53/23	47/24	48/24	51/24	55/24	54/24
	Cloudiness (%)	20%	20%	8%	5%	20%	5%	11%
	Wind (mph)	NE-N 4 mph	NE 16	NE 15 mph	NE 7 mph	NE-N 10 mph	NE 2 mph	NE 2 mph
	Humidity (%)	85%	73%	63%	71%	70%	69%	70%
	Chance of Precip.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Source: < https://www.weather.gov/wrh/wxtable> [National Weather Service WFO STO 03:15 AM PST Wednesday Jan. 20, 2022] M=Missing



Jet Streams: January 20

Source:<https://www.pivotalweather.com/model.php>

Game Corner

5			4			8		1
	8	4			3		9	
		9		6		3		
	4			2				7
3	7		6				8	
		1		5		9		
		3		7		1		
	1		9	4				2
2					8		6	

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: **R** equals **M**

XNOJ RZSNJ AWQ MZIDMORK JNK
FROEEKFJ XWGDKG OJ O FJKKE -
RODZMS UOIZEZJA?
“GQMJ WU JNK RZEE.”

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Last Week's Answers

6	4	3	2	7	1	9	8	5
7	1	8	5	4	9	3	6	2
9	2	5	6	3	8	4	7	1
1	8	4	3	6	7	5	2	9
5	3	6	1	9	2	8	4	7
2	9	7	8	5	4	1	3	6
8	7	1	9	2	3	6	5	4
4	6	9	7	8	5	2	1	3
3	5	2	4	1	6	7	9	8

CryptoQuip

There must be a valid reason I am waiting around furtively, but I really don't know what I'm lurking for.

S	O	B	S	I	R	O	N	A	S	S	H	A	M	I	R	E
I	D	E	M	C	O	M	A	L	U	C	I	A	N	O	M	E
S	D	R	A	W	K	C	A	B	R	E	V	O	D	N	E	B
I	N	L	A	Y	N	O	U	L	E	G	G	D	E	L	I	
A	T	A	L	L	T	I	B	R	O	E	D	A	R	G	O	R
N	I	N	D	U	O	M	E	S	S	S	D	E	U	C	E	
Y	E	K	W	O	R	R	A	T	F	E	L	C	O	A	S	T
A	S	E	A	S	O	N	I	A	M	S	W	O	R	D		
S	H	U	N	A	M	G	N	U	O	Y	T	S	E	W	O	G
B	I	G	H	E	L	P	O	C	T	A	L	D	I	V	A	
D	O	R	A	E	R	E	H	T	O	T	P	E	T	S	S	
A	T	E	E	T	O	M	E	I	R	H	Y	T	H	M	S	
Y	A	W	G	N	O	R	W	E	H	T	B	U	R	I	S	H
A	S	H	I	E	R	O	A	T	E	R	A	S	H	E		
B	I	L	L	Y	S	D	N	I	W	E	R	D	N	I	K	E
A	M	A	I	N	P	R	I	D	E	I	S	A	Y	E	A	
N	O	I	T	C	E	R	I	D	E	G	N	A	H	C	D	I
D	U	S	E	L	I	L	I	A	S	I	P	E	R	I	L	
I	T	S	Y	G	O	L	O	H	C	Y	S	P	E	S	R	E
T	I	E	O	A	R	S	M	E	N	A	P	P	S	N	E	S
S	E	Z	M	R	S	S	E	N	M	O	A	T	E	R	S	T

ACROSS

- Tax doc. whiz
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial architect
- Facility with a Jacuzzi
- "Deathtrap" star Michael
- Skirt edge
- Worship
- "Can do!"
- "Deathtrap" dramatist Levin
- Gotten out of dreamland
- Tons
- Inca conqueror Francisco
- Final: Abbr.
- Natural skill
- Radio shock jock Don
- Hog food
- Ltr. insert
- Nobel
- Wiesel
- Obama's party: Abbr.
- Deg. for a Wall Streeter
- Con's vote
- Light blows
- Some small batteries
- Conan of TBS
- Dumas' "Le — de Monte-Cristo"
- Suffix with polyethyl-
- "Explorer" of kids' TV
- Daytime nap
- "— and the Night Visitors" (Menotti opera)
- Sonata segment
- "Well well well!"
- Church recesses
- Cinematic Streep
- Give fresh life
- Final: Abbr.
- Final Greek consonant
- Moose's kin
- Singer
- See
- 69-Across
- Mai —
- With 65-Across, attended as a spectator
- Casual top
- Adroit humor
- U.S.-Canada air-watch org.
- Bit of an oval
- Title for Ringo Starr
- Baseball great Mel
- "Selena" star, familiarly
- "What's — for me?"
- Loretta of "M*A*S*H"
- Deep anger
- Virtuoso
- Minister's study: Abbr.
- Big name in motor scooters
- Detach, as a badge
- Pacific Ocean nation
- "— -haw!"
- Actor Rob
- Snared with a lasso
- Like a clear night sky
- Angry mutt's sound
- Poetic tribute
- Arab chiefs
- Mysterious
- Great Lakes' — Canals
- Whirled
- Actor Neill
- kwon do
- Foe of Liston
- Have the gall
- Touch gently

DOWN

- Casino disks
- Hazard
- Alternative to eBay or Etsy
- Bryn — College
- Worship
- Canadian expanse on the border with Alaska
- Brighton beer
- Tall and thin
- Apple media player
- Kathmandu's country
- Coil about
- A bit wet
- Cure- — (elixirs)
- Lawn growth
- Ties tightly
- Casual affair
- Rescue financially
- Even one
- Former Honda SUV
- Put under water
- TV's Jean- — Picard
- Serpent stuff
- Super Bowl stats
- Ceases
- Volcanic stuff
- First-aid ace
- Ladies' men
- Unconcern
- "So long!"
- TV's Jean- — Picard
- Serpent stuff
- Super Bowl stats
- Ceases
- Volcanic stuff
- Santa — (hot winds)
- Much tabloid reportage
- Actor Sean
- Comic Mort
- Gym units
- Attended
- Brunch order
- With the current ... or what appears at the starts of eight long answers in this puzzle?
- Dual-sport Sanders
- 2007 Stanley Cup losers
- Up to, in ads
- Hall & —
- Jackie's #2
- Less stuffy
- Fads, e.g.
- Co-founder of the band Chic
- Accelerated
- avis
- Brain wave tests, in brief
- Cease
- Roving types
- Jrs.' exam
- Razor name
- Scold loudly
- Act like a lion
- Bagel seed
- Ain't right?
- Overzealous
- Have faith
- Dish lists
- Pump (up)
- As well
- Family of PC games
- Plains natives
- Nero's 605
- "How — ya?"
- Chaney of chillers
- A cow chews it
- Dahu wreath

True Tales of the Timber Industry as assembled by Cynthia Anderson

From the Woods — Clay Allen, Part 1

With John Calvert's brief story having concluded as quickly as it began in last week's "From the Woods", we now turn to the first part of the extensive adventures of Clay Allen, his bulldozer, and his faithful dog "Calamity".

I started logging for Robinson on May 1, 1970. I had done a little choker setting with Stu I., but that was nothing. I worked for The Union newspaper from the time I was 10 until I was almost 18, then I gave my motorcycle paper route up. There was this gal on my paper route named Beverley L., the secretary for Robinson Timber, and she knew Greg G. was going to go into the Marines. She called me up and asked me if I wanted a job at Robinson.

I hiked down from the high school and Tommy C. hired me right on the spot. I spent a day with Greg G. and he showed me what to do. I started out in the cable room making chokers.

Back then everything was cable logging. The office wasn't there at Robinson, I helped to build that office, I think about 1971. I did all of the brush pile burning and wacker-packer work for the foundation before they built the building. Al P. and I did the Cat shop, that was the first to get built after the office. Then the lube room, pickup shop and paint room came shortly after. The fuel island in the upper yard was built about the same time also. A lot of the Cat work was done outside, there was just a slab outside. Well, there was a slab out there, but I took out of there one time and forgot to raise the rippers on a 46A Cat and took up the wash slab. I am better off out in the woods.

Neil R. and Joe G. had it that I was going to be a mechanic, but

I wasn't going to be a mechanic—I just wanted to be a logger! It was neat, the first day Aaron H. went to work setting chokers behind me, He rubbed that dirt on his face after I headed in with the first skid. I thought that was pretty neat! His gloves were just spotless that morning. I thought that was so

neat, he was an 18-year-old kid who wanted to be a logger. He excelled to being one of the best!

My favorite load to skid (log-wise) is about 5,000 board feet. When I started logging it was all big timber, glam, taller than me, you know. I had 2 and 7/8 inch chokers, which is like a bull line now, my arms were not big, but I had two of them and 3 and 3/4 inch chokers. Now you use all 5/8 inch and 3/4 inch chokers, so it has really changed. About 5,000 or 5,500 board feet is like 12 logs to a load, they are easy to skid, you're not breaking your bull line like you did on the big wood. I have worked by myself for 35 years out of the 48 years I've worked for Robinson; out of those 35 years, this is the most interesting story:



Calamity and the Doe

Back by French Meadows, at a place called Wabena Falls, I looked down off my Cat and there was this gal there—she was gorgeous, I mean she was gorgeous! She had her arms around my dog Calamity, and she is motioning me to get off the Cat, so I am thinking what now? So I go down there and she is probably 35, really attractive. She says, “I have already met your dog, but I have a little bit of a problem up the road. Can you help me?” We take my Cat down to the road and then we walked up this road about one eighth of a mile. She had a brand new Jeep Cherokee, and she had gone up this real steep hill, a real primitive road. She had killed the motor on the Jeep, she was afraid to put the clutch in on the Jeep because it was pretty steep. She came all that way down there to come ask me to help her get to the top of the hill.

We put Calamity in the Jeep, she got in the passenger side and I got in the driver's side and

we took it to the top of the hill where it flattened off. So, once I got up there, I told her, “There you go, you're good, I got to get back to my Cat job.”

So, I walked back down that steep hill and I heard this godawful racket, I mean you have heard a rabbit before when they squeal—it was like that. I looked over there and my dog was on top of this little fawn and it was in this thorn brush and the doe was raring up trying to hoof my dog. This is the honest to god truth. So I hollered at the deer and so she took off running and ran down this old skid trail. It was all I could do to yank Calamity off the fawn. She had yanked the fur off that fawn, she meant business.

I grabbed the dog and went back up to the road. I looked back and that doe was looking me right in the eye, and I thought, “that animal is going to come at me,” and here she came right for me, hauling ass. I'm thinking, “she means business.” I told the guys at work later on, and they just said, “Come on, you big chicken!” I took off running and she chased me down the road about 40 yards, and Calamity was long gone at this point. I wasn't going to outrun the doe, so I went up this bank, about a 4-foot bank, and ran around this Red Fir and she come running after me. I turned around and kicked her right in the jaw with my boot, I kicked her good. She realized she had been kicked pretty good, so she turned around and went across the road and off the other side. If that would have been a bear I would have been in trouble!

I took off walking back down the road a little further, and went about 50 yards and heard something, and here she came again, making another charge at me again. I wasn't going anywhere, so I turned around, raised my arms and hollered at her, waving my arms, and she went off the road and that was that.

Cory Peterman's Historical Corner

Arrastra Stone

The following image comes from the UC Davis Department of Special Collections and dates from 1947. It depicts an object that has probably been seen by most people who have visited the Sierra County courthouse in Downieville or have walked by the building - but what is this large stone “wheel” and what is the history behind it and how did it end up in Downieville?

This large “wheel” is what's known as an arrastra stone. A plaque, dedicated by E Clampus Vitus, which can be found next to the one-to-six scale model of an arrastra in front of the Downieville museum, states “Arrastras were used to crush and grind gold ore and to grind even more finely the tailings from stamp mills. Some Arrastras consisted of huge wheel-shaped stones which rolled over the ore to crush and grind it.”

The *Miners' Own Book*, published by Hutchings and Rosenfeld in 1858, described various modes of early California mining. They wrote “One of the first used, as well as one of the most useful and most important, is the Mexican Rastra, which is commonly spelled Arastra. Though rude in its construction and simple in its working, it is one of the most effectual methods of saving the gold which has yet been discovered. The Mexican method of constructing these is to lay a circular track of stone tolerably level, with a low wall around the outside of the track; and in the center a post made of a tree cut

off at the required height, and generally just above a crotch or arm; another small tree is then cut in the shape required, for making a horizontal shaft; to this is attached one or more large stones; and these being drawn around by donkey or mule-power, grind the quartz to powder. Of course, as gold is the heaviest it naturally seeks the lowest places, and as quicksilver is always put in with the quartz, the gold becomes amalgamated with it.”

So what about the arrastra stone in Downieville? In the 1970s, historian James J. Sinnott wrote that “Roy Post, who was born in La Porte in 1890 and continues to make his home there during the summers, worked in several of the mines of the area including the Bellevue. He carried the mail on snowshoes between La Porte and Nelson Point during the two winters of 1917-18 and 1918-19 traveling a total of about 3,500 miles. In the 1930's he did hauling with a Chevrolet truck he had, and delivered the huge arrastra stone of naturally-fused quartz to Downieville which was mounted on the grounds of the Courthouse Square, the arrangements being made by Court Supervisor, Andrew J. Modglin. The great and magnificent stone came from diggings a short distance below the site of the early mining settlement of Pine Grove.”

I have been told that the diggings the stone came from may have been the Susquehanna



Mine. A correspondent for *The Mountain Messenger* of February 13, 1864 wrote “Distant from Howland Flat about half a mile, and situated upon the South Fork of Slate Creek, is the Susquehanna Quartz Ledge. I was very much surprised to see a double track incline, sunk to a depth of forty feet, showing an extensive ledge some three feet in thickness and widening as they go down. There was a large pile of quartz at the dump of the Company, and I was informed by one of the shareholders that they had taken out some forty or fifty tons of rock, and that they had picked up specimens enough while working the same to defray all the actual expenses of the Company. They have erected a small arrastra which is run by water power to crush the rock. I am informed that it assays some three hundred dollars per ton in gold with strong indications of silver. The prospects of the shareholders in this ledge are very flattering indeed.” Perhaps this is the same arrastra.

Historic arrastra stones can still be found hidden deep in the forests of Sierra County - but I won't be telling anyone where they are!

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!

70 YEARS AGO

The Mountain Messenger

VOLUME 99 NOS. 53-54 ESTABLISHED 1853 DOWNIEVILLE, SIERRA COUNTY SEAT, CALIFORNIA JANUARY 17 & JANUARY 24, 1952

Westall and Wade Ski from Sierra City

Edward Westall and Norman Wade skied from Sierra City to Downieville Wednesday, establishing the first contact from that snowbound community since Friday. Particularly, they came to obtain insulin needed for a Sierra City resident. They stopped at Loganville, Yuba Camp and Willmarth's along the 13-mile trek, to make sure inhabitants there were all right and ascertain essential small needs that they might bring back.

Westall stayed that night at the home of his sister, Mrs. Axel Nasholm, at Cox Bar, a mile and a half west of town. Wade was a guest overnight at the James J. Sinnott home. They skied back to Sierra City today.

Week of Snow Storms Isolates Sierra Towns

The worst storm in 61 years. Such was the opinion of Antone Lavezzola, who was nine years old at that time. There have been other winters when more snow has piled up, but it was over a longer period and not so heavy with water, thus permitting some removal during intermissions.

Beginning last Thursday morning, according to the USFS Downieville Ranger Station, the following number of inches of snow came down in the successive days: 3.25, 7, 21, 10, 10, 5 and 2.5, making a total of 58.7 inches up to Wednesday morning. This contained 14.14 inches of water, which brought local precipitation to 54.31 inches exceeding the unusually high mark of last year, when an even 54 inches was recorded on the same date. Normal at this date is less than half that amount of 26.08 inches.

Temperatures for the week preceding have been a little higher than the week before, with a low of 18 degrees last Thursday morning, a low of 22 yesterday, and high for the week being 37 degrees last Thursday, Monday and Tuesday.

The almost continuous snowfall in the seven days, with so much water content made it difficult to cope with the situation. All local available equipment was put to work clearing roads and highways in day and night shifts. Recent state legislation allocated \$30,000 to Sierra County for snow removal, need for which is most essential at such times as this.

CREWS MOVING SNOW

Locally, the county has Joseph Mottini, Edward L. Pasteris, Clyde E. Peterman, Clarence T. Johnson, Ralph “Tex” Snider and Harold Hallman operating equipment. The state highway crew included Chester P. Butz, Vernon Hansen, Jack Griffith, Miles Schofield, Joseph Poggi, Albert Lancaster, Peter A. Lavezzola, J. Wales, J. Kiefer and George R. Costa.

These besides smaller operations. Norman L. Costa and James Dugan skied some three miles east Tuesday to shovel snow off Jim Crow bridge, which is not strong enough to carry heavy equipment.

BUILDINGS CAVED IN

Weight of snow caved in a part of the Costa-Folsom barn at the north end of Hansen Bridge. The south part of the porch on the Matthews' house at the turn of Commercial Street to Sierra City and the shed back of the house collapsed. Danger to many other houses was relieved by shoveling snow off roofs.

PHONE POWER LINES OUT

While local telephones continued to operate, long distance communication went out Friday night about 9 o'clock. A crew of some 14 men has been working on the lines, with the prospect that long distance service will be restored Friday night.

Electric power went off shortly after midnight Friday. The local Pacific Gas and Electric Company crew restored it to Pike today, but another break in the restored line delayed the work. Two men patrolled to Alleghany, where 12 feet of snow was reported at the substation, and it is hoped to test to there Friday. If power is brought there, the crew will start working on breaks in the line to Downieville, but power is not expected here until after the weekend. Several breaks are anticipated between here and Sierra City, 13 miles east.

Meanwhile all services dependent on electricity ceased, including refrigeration at the meat market, ice makers, deep freezers and refrigeration in homes and stores, with resultant loss. Some homes and businesses are making makeshift arrangements, and some householders moved into local motels, where there was other heat.

The St. Charles Café closed three days, but with the M.P. Fischer and Yuba grocery stores, obtained service of a small portable generator from Downieville Motors for a few hours alternating its use in restoring cold to freezing units as it was moved from one place to another. Yuba Theater and The Messenger could not operate.

PART OF COURTHOUSE CLOSED

Electrically operated for heat, the new section of the courthouse, housing the treasurer and sheriff offices and jail, could not be used. Fortunately, there were no prisoners in jail. The clerk and district attorney offices are still in the old building and have heat.

STATE ROAD CREW

The maintenance crew has been busy keeping the highway to Nevada City open, whereby mail, food and supplies may be brought in. Due to snow and earth slides, it has been open only at intervals. Downieville Stage could not make the trip Saturday, so William T. Reed, Jr., with Best Mines Company four-wheel drive truck, escorted Alton Cook with a pickup truck and made the round trip Monday. They also made the trip today, Cook taking the stage and M.P. Fischer the pickup. A grader assisted the stage over Depot Hill, the other trucks being able to make it. They reported the road good from there into Nevada City. The trucks came back and reported the highway also good this way, after slides were cleared from near Indian Valley. Cook remained in Nevada City, to drive the stage to Depot Hill Friday, where the trucks would transfer and take his load here.

An axle on state highway equipment broke Monday. Chester Butz, foreman, his car equipped with two-way radio, drove to a point providing reception and ordered another from Sacramento. He met delivery on the other side of Depot Hill Wednesday night.

MOTTINI STALLED WITH MAIL

Reynold Mottini, driver of the mail stage east to Sattley, has been marooned there since Friday. Mail cannot be routed over Donner Summit, where roads are blocked, and trains stalled. Possibly mail from the east will be delayed two weeks.

Besides a demand for lanterns has been that for white gasoline, candles and kerosene for illumination, local supplies having run out, with more expected Friday.

Chester Butz Gets His 44th Bobcat

Chester Butz, local highway maintenance foreman, has a hobby of killing bobcats. He got his 44th last week, since he came here in 1935. It was the fourth in 10 days. He saw it about 75 feet from the road east of Downieville, Monday of last week, took a shot at it and missed, but waited until it came out in the open several yards farther away, and killed it.

Albert H. Lancaster saw a bobcat eating on a fawn in the road in the same area the previous day. He reported it to Butz, who set a trap Monday night and caught the animal.

These vicious cats kill deer and eat on them while they run. The local ones have been pretty good sized, weighing 25 to 30 pounds each.

Butz has some hunting dogs trained for animals that tree. He has killed several bear in this area, besides some mountain lions. His dogs aided in killing four bear last season, hunters getting the hides being: his brother, Merle, at Camptonville; Earl Brooks of Los Angeles; Miles Schofield and Peter A. Lavezzola.

Butz said his dogs are not deer hunters, but particularly one old

one will trail a bear, bobcat or mountain lion through a maze of deer or other game tracks and come out with the right one.

Limb in Slide Narrowly Misses Hitting Girl in Bed

Lydia, the 10-year-old daughter of Mrs. Mabel Cartwright of Sierra City, narrowly escaped serious injury while in bed at her home. It was reported that a snow slide across the highway took out the unoccupied house of Mrs. Nellie Wade, went on down to the Cartwright home, carrying a large limb that went through the window, missing Lydia's head by a few inches, and on through an oak dresser and the wall.

The slide was also reported to have done some damage to the school and the A.A. Jackson home. Another slide, a short distance north, was said to have left little damage.



Size Reduced for This Issue of Messenger

Following the example of the big city newspapers, which reduce the number of pages in times of emergency, The Messenger is doing likewise for this issue. Confronted with the lack of electricity, no reports from four correspondents in snowbound communities, advertising orders and materials which cannot be brought here, The Messenger is presenting this curtailed issue. It is hoped the mails for our next issue will bring in a resume of conditions which we may present then.