



UNKNOWN MAN MENACES BASS LAKE CHILDREN, BABYSITTER

Bass Lake residents are urged to be on the lookout for strange persons lurking about their neighborhood after an alarming incident last week.

In short, the El Dorado County Sheriff reports that a twelve year old babysitter found an unknown male inside her Bridlewood home while babysitting four small children. The children fled the home and saw the man flee, too. Nothing was disturbed inside the home.

To be more specific, on July 27th at approximately 10:30 PM, Sheriff's deputies were called to a residence on Devon Way in Bridlewood Canyon, El Dorado Hills, regarding a suspicious trespass that occurred while a twelve-year-old girl was babysitting four young children.

According to the Sheriff's report, the babysitter said that lately she had noticed a small white pick up truck driving slowly through the neighborhood with an unknown white male driving it. Earlier that night she saw the same truck drive eastbound past her home toward the end of Devon Way. Devon Way is a dead-end and vehicles have to exit the neighborhood by passing her home. She said she never saw the truck leave the neighborhood. She and the children were in the open garage with the children that she was babysitting. She heard a "beep" come from inside the home, around 9:00 PM. The noise was similar to the noise from their telephone located inside the home. She heard stomping noises over the garage and went inside to see what the noise was. She saw the bald head of a white male about 40 to 50 years old inside the home upstairs, over the garage. She did not recognize the man and only saw his bald head. She grabbed all of the children, including the two-year-old, and ran next door for safety. She did not see him again. The babysitter said that when they were running next door, she saw a white male

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FUNDING WOES HIT PROPOSED PARK

The current county budget shows an amount of around \$564,000 of Proposition 40 state recreational bond funds allocated to the construction of the proposed Bass Lake Regional Park across Bass Lake Road from Woodridge and Bridlewood Canyon. Those Prop 40 funds were earmarked for the park last year after a lengthy allocation process involving the county Parks Commission and the Board of Supervisors.

Prop 40 bond funds are available to counties to construct recreation facilities on a reimbursement basis only. Any proposed recreational project must be approved in advance by the state. Once a project is approved, the county must first pay the project costs before applying to the state for reimbursement of those costs. The deadline for applying to the state for reimbursement under Prop 40 is the end of 2007. Unused Prop 40 funds will be lost forever.

County park staff have told the county Parks Commission that no reimbursable work can be done on the Bass Lake park

site in time to apply for the Prop 40 money currently earmarked for the park. Several reasons were given for this position, including the uncertainty over whether Rescue School District is going to buy a portion of land at the park site for an elementary school, the long lead time needed to draft an environmental impact document on the park site, and the need to redesign the park plan to better fit the geography of the park site. The new park design will be the third or fourth iteration since the original design was done in 2002.

It appears that the \$564,000 will in all probability be transferred to other projects like the El Dorado Trail, where construction is ready to go, and where the funds can be used immediately.

It also appears that the approximately \$4 million that the county may get from the sale of part the park land to the Rescue School District will probably have to be spent on improving Bass Lake Road in front of Bridlewood and Woodridge. ~

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Hello All,

Some of you may know that El Dorado County is one of California's oldest vineyard areas, with over 150 years of grape growing history. First planted by immigrants in the Gold Rush era, Zinfandel has struggled and ultimately prevailed in our high altitudes. Today the area boasts Rhône and Bordeaux varietals, but Zinfandel was the region's first ambassador to the wine world. A taste tour of the family-run tasting rooms here reveals that Zinfandel is not only alive and well, but getting better in El Dorado.

Last year Fran and I planted about 40 Zinfandel vines on a west-facing slope in a corner of our back garden. The vineyard has progressed better than we had ever hoped. This year has been dedicated to training the vines, and we are looking forward to our first real grape harvest next year, with a foray into winemaking undoubtedly in our future.

Zinfandel is a variety with a most confusing history and lineage. Its origins have been hotly disputed for years and until recently Zinfandel was thought to have originated in southern Italy's Apulia region, where the genetically related Primitivo (di Goia) variety is widely grown. Further research suggested a possible par-



Some of this year's Zinfandel grape crop in our home vineyard last week.

ent/offspring relationship with the Plavic Mali grape from Croatia. What is now generally agreed upon is that the roots of Zinfandel (as well as Primitivo) are most likely in the Dalmatian province of Croatia (in the former Yugoslavia) where DNA matches have been made with a variety locally known by the name of Crljenak Kasteljanski (also Pribidrag or Tribidrag). The genetic linkage and similar origins of Italy's Primitivo and California's Zinfandel has been supported by the work of both Croatian and UC Davis researchers. However, despite being genetically alike, over the long period they have spent geographically separated, clonal differences seem to have evolved between the two. And true enough, notable differences are evident in both vine and wine characteristics of Italy's Primitivo and California's Zinfandel.

In terms of Zinfandel's wine style, the story is equally provocative. Opinions about how to classify this grape shift continuously, as consumer whims test Zinfandel's ability to play various roles. Zinfandel can deliver not only zesty, berry-fruity red wines, but also soft, simple and sweet blush wines. Zinfandel has always found ways to remain useful and to maintain its plantings in California, even as fickle consumer tastes bounce from one style to the next.

Some critics have crowned Cabernet Sauvignon as King in California. However, Zinfandel is the only red varietal that comes close to Cabernet in total acreage planted and volume of fruit crushed. The variety is currently planted just about everywhere across the state, in a wide range of climactic zones, but really seems to thrive locally.

Fran and I can't wait until next year to see what the harvest brings.

John E. Thomson

President

HOT WEATHER AND YOUR PLANTS

The summer heat is tough on people and plants. Even after increasing watering times and laying on thick mulch, scorch results when a plant cannot evaporate enough water through its leaves.

Plants cool themselves by emitting water from their leaves into the air through a process called transpiration.

The hotter and windier it gets, the more moisture the plant must take up in its roots and give off through its leaves to cool itself. With hot, dry winds and temperatures exceeding 100 degrees, the plant is often unable to move enough moisture up through its branches into the leaves to achieve enough transpiration to keep the leaves cool. The result is the leaves dry up and we get leaf scorch.

Now that we know all about transpiration, here are some suggestions to keep your garden in top shape through the rest of the hot summer, with a minimum of time and effort.

First, keep your plants mulched. You probably already know of the many benefits of mulch, such as retaining soil moisture. Keep the mulch replenished in the heat.

Second, irrigate the soil deeply and infrequently rather than giving plants a light sprinkling each day. But be careful. Although drought stress is a known danger to plants, over watering can be equally devastating, especially when drainage is poor.

Third, evaluate your plants continuously. Take a stroll through the landscape late in the day. Plants looking wilted or sunburned, even though they are well-watered, may be in too sunny a location or receiving too much late-day sun. Sometimes it's a good idea to move woody ornamentals and perennials such as azalea, hydrangea, ginger, and hosta to a shadier location.

Fourth, stop pruning. Spring blooming shrubs, vines, and trees such as azalea, dogwood, redbud, spirea, forsythia, flowering quince, wisteria, and some roses shouldn't be heavily pruned unless they are dormant. Excessive pruning from midsummer into fall will reduce next year's blooms. However, trimming a gangly shoot here and there to maintain the proper shape is fine.

Fifth, remember that plants in pots dry out faster than those that are in the ground, and require more frequent watering. Potted plants also do not have the natural insulation the soil affords to plants in the ground.

Last, but most important, keep yourself watered. Drink plenty of water when working outdoors. Do your gardening early in the day when it is cooler and use a sunscreen with a high SPF rating. Avoid extended time out in the sun during the heat of the day. ~





TRAFFIC PATROL: HOW MUCH DO WE HAVE?

The California Highway Patrol is the only traffic enforcement we have in El Dorado Hills and the rest of the county. According to Paul Raveling, president of El Dorado Hills Citizens Alliance, we are about to have one CHP traffic officer (Officer Brian Hernandez) dedicated exclusively to EDH, whose population is over 30,000 citizens. While this is an improvement over previous staffing levels, it is still far less presence than communities with comparable populations and traffic density.

According to Raveling, police departments that he has checked in northern California have a ratio of approximately one sworn officer to handle both traffic patrol and general law enforcement for each thousand citizens. At last report, Folsom's 53.5 sworn deputies for a population of about 58,000 results in a ratio of .92 officers per thousand citizens.

By statute, the CHP is given sole authority for traffic patrol, but in practice the CHP does not have resources for local traffic patrol. It operates almost exclusively in response to emergency calls, and at times has as little as one patrol car available for all of western El Dorado County. Since September 11 the CHP statewide has been assigned additional homeland-security related duties, further reducing its ability to respond to traffic complaints. Visible traffic patrol is virtually nonexistent. The County Sheriff has better resources to supply traffic patrol services, but is prohibited by law from doing so in our unincorporated area.

The Waterford HOA board of directors recently hired the CHP to furnish a traffic patrol within Waterford for eight hours of service per week starting in August. Timing of the traffic patrol will vary, with the homeowners association specifying random days of the week and time of day. The HOA will seek to schedule much of the coverage when it is most needed, but will vary the schedule in order to cover a wide range of times.

Waterford is the first HOA in El Dorado

Hills to contract for CHP patrol on public streets. Perceived inadequate public funding for CHP patrol and lack of a police force with traffic patrol powers led the Waterford board to conclude that HOA funding is the only currently viable option to obtain meaningful traffic patrol.

Until now Waterford had effectively no traffic patrol. In reaching their decision to hire extra CHP patrols, the Waterford HOA found that the CHP's Placerville office normally provides only two CHP units to cover all of El Dorado County from the county line to Ponderosa Road. Though coverage is greater during shift changes, during early morning hours (the graveyard shift), only one CHP unit is available to cover about 1,000 miles of roads on the West Slope. ~



SUPES OK SIGNAL ON BASS LAKE ROAD

Bass Lake Road is about to get its first traffic signal, other than the one at the end of Bass Lake Road at Green Valley Road.

The fatal automobile accident that took place last month at the intersection of Bass Lake Road and Hollow Oak Road no doubt prompted the Board of Supervisors to require the erection of a traffic signal at that intersection, in connection with the project that will widen and generally refurbish the southern portion of Bass Lake Road between the fire house and Highway 50.

In its action, the board adopted the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Negative Declaration for the project, approved the project as described in the CEQA document with the minor amendment to the project description to add a traffic signal at Bass Lake Road and Hollow Oak Road, and authorized the Board Chairman to sign the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program. ~

MENACE *(continued from page 1)*

adult run down the driveway away from the home. He was bald and was wearing white shorts and a shirt. She could not see his face clearly. She did not know who he was.

The homeowner said he checked the entire interior of the home prior to the Sheriff's arrival. He did not discover anything missing or disturbed. He did not know anyone that matched the description of the man. He said the babysitter and the children were all home alone at the time.

Other residents in the area said a couple of weeks ago they saw a small white pick up truck in front of the neighbor's house. One resident thought it was the painter that she was expecting so she went outside in an attempt to contact the driver. When the driver saw her, he drove off. Both families recalled previous incidents where a white truck was attempting to pick up children around the local schools in Cameron Park. They were concerned that this truck may be similar. The description of the truck was a small white pick up truck with an open rear bed. No camper shell, luggage rack or tool box was seen. No further description was provided.

Report any suspicious, unusual or curious behavior or circumstances at once to the Sheriff's office at 621-5655. ~



Fireman and firetruck at last month's Woodridge neighborhood grass fire

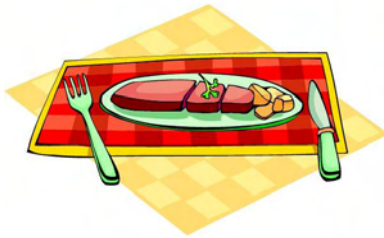
GRASS FIRE STARTLES WOODRIDGE RESIDENTS

A late afternoon grass fire in the open space south of Woodridge startled the residents of Camellia Court, near Summer Drive, about a week ago.

Quick response by the El Dorado Hills Fire Department quickly quelled the blaze. No reason was given for the fire.

Residents of the homes along the open space have been concerned for several months that the grass and brush in the open space is allowed to grow unchecked. ~

DINING OUT WITH BLAC



WINE & ROSES

by La Contessa de Cuisine

An impromptu midweek visit to the wineries of Lodi by the Le Count and La Contessa de Cuisine in July resulted in an unexpected but pleasant dining experience. Tucked in beside the Lodi Wine and Visitors Center, the Wine & Roses Hotel, Restaurant and Spa is set in a woodland setting and boasts a lovely restaurant called (what else) Wine & Roses. Le Count and La Contessa had heard about the restaurant for some time, but the opportunity to partake of its culinary offerings had not presented itself until now.

The elegant dining room features a stone fireplace and a warm décor of chocolate walls and bright white trim. Outside a charming and extensive patio provides al-fresco dining in the shade of umbrellas and tall, leafy trees. Le Count and La Contessa were seated without a wait.

The lunch menu offers a wide selection of appetizers and salads, such as Ahi Tuna Sashimi (\$11), Fresh seasonal Fruit and Berry Salad with Goat Cheese & Nasturtiums (\$10), and Dungeness Crab, Avocado Watermelon Salad (\$12), just to mention just a few. Chicken may be added to any salad for an additional \$6. In addition, the menu features several entrees (Ahi Tuna Niscoise for \$14, Penne Pasta for \$11 and Crispy Dungeness Crab Cake for \$12) and six mouth-watering sandwiches.

Le Count opted for the Smoked Chicken Reuben Sandwich (\$10), which came on a grilled dark and light swirled rye bread dripping with sauerkraut, Thousand Island dressing, and Gruyere cheese. La Contessa chose the Filet of Beef Sandwich (\$13) with caramelized onions, blue cheese, and sundried tomato horseradish Aioli on Focaccia bread. Both sandwiches are available with either a garden salad or crispy, savory garlic-herb French Fries, and the latter were selected. Le Count and La Contessa could not decide which sandwich was better, but

agreed that the fries were delicious, and that each had made an excellent choice. Lunch was complimented by a fine Pinot Grigio wine from Italy's Alto Adige region.

The friendly and attentive waiter attempted to interest Le Count and La Contessa in one of Wine & Roses' tempting desserts. The dessert menu includes Peach Tart Tatin with Vanilla Ice Cream, a trio of Crème Brûles (peach, espresso, and lemon rosemary) with Shortbread, Chocolate Banana Spring Roll with "Chunky Monkey Sundae," and Chocolate Molten Cake, and other tasty items. All were \$8. Alas, the generous portions of the main meal precluded a foray into these delights.

The dinner menu looks interesting enough to warrant a return visit some evening. Dinner entrees include Rib Eye Steak (\$38), Chicken Breast (\$27), Citrus Glazed Oven Roasted Salmon (\$26), Grilled Double Cut Pork Chops (\$26), Trout (\$27), and Colorado Lamb Chops (\$30). A good selection of wines by the bottle and the glass are available.

The dining staff was friendly, and the service was good. A question about their banquet facilities prompted a tour and copies of their menus to take with us. We also learned that Sunday Brunch (\$25) complete with entertainment is served every weekend in their gorgeous ballroom which has a huge stone fireplace, vaulted ceilings, and many windows looking out onto the lush gardens.

Being only an hour away at 2505 West Turner Road in Lodi (at the corner of Turner and Old Sacramento/Woodhaven Roads), Wine & Roses Restaurant is definitely worth a try. They are open daily for lunch and dinner, and offer brunch on Sunday. The restaurant advises reservations, at 209-334-6988; web site winerose.com.

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Bass Lake Action Committee is a proud supporter of the California First Amendment Coalition (CFAC), a nonprofit public interest organization dedicated to advancing free speech and open-government rights. Since its founding in 1988, CFAC has been a crucial counterweight to the tendency, at all levels of government, toward greater secrecy and declining accountability.



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