



The

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THE CALL OF THE WILD

Last week, early-morning commuter Linda Hanna caught this coyote on her cell-phone camera as it was going down Jasmine Circle towards Bass Lake Road, in Woodridge.

Despite being extensively hunted, the coyote is one of the few medium- to large-sized animals that has enlarged its range since human encroachment began. It originally ranged primarily in the western half of North America, but it has been steadily and dramatically extending its range.

Coyote attacks on humans are uncommon and rarely cause serious injuries, due to the relatively small size of the coyote, but have been increasingly frequent in California. Between 1976 and 2006, most of the 160 reported attacks occurred in Los Angeles County near the suburban-wildland interface.

In the absence of the harassment of coyotes practiced by rural people, urban coyotes are losing their fear of humans, a circumstance which is aggravated by people intentionally or unintentionally feeding coyotes.

Coyotes are often attracted to dog food and animals that are small enough to appear as prey. Garbage, pet food, and sometimes feeding stations for birds and squirrels will attract coyotes into backyards. Coyotes usually attack smaller-sized dogs, but dogs larger than coyotes are generally able to

drive them off, and have been known to kill coyotes. Smaller breeds are more likely to suffer injury or death.

In such situations, some coyotes have begun to act aggressively toward humans, chasing joggers and bicyclists, confronting people walking their dogs, and stalking small children, mostly under the age of 10, though some adults have been bitten.

In a recent well-publicized case, Texas governor Rick Perry killed a coyote that menaced his dog while he was out jogging near Austin. Perry, who holds a concealed-handgun permit, said he carries his .380 Ruger -- loaded with hollow-point bullets -- when jogging on trails because he is afraid of snakes. But when a coyote came out of the brush toward his daughter's Labrador retriever, Perry downed it with one shot. ~



GOOSE ON THE LOOSE

A Gosling Story

By Kathy Prevost

From four baby raccoons playing while I worked in the front yard, to baby fawns discovered by our dogs tucked under a bush, Herb and I thought we had seen it all. However, early on a recent evening at our home in Woodridge, we and our dogs surprised a pair of geese walking along our wrought iron fence.

Frightened, the parent geese flew off, leaving behind their three week-old baby
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NEW HOUSING PERMITS UP BY NEARLY 55%

According to a recent article by Ben van der Meer, who covers real estate for the Sacramento Business Journal, there were more than 50 percent more new housing permits pulled in the Sacramento region in the first two months of the year than there were at the same time last year, based on numbers from the North State Building Industry Association.

In January and February, the region had 533 permits for single-family homes, up from 344 in those two months in 2012, for a total percentage gain of 54.9 percent. Multifamily unit permits were up even more significantly, to 27 this year from four last year.

But in specific cities in the region, not all were equal in the number of new permits granted. For single-family permits in February, three cities: Elk Grove, Lincoln and Roseville, equaled nearly half of all permits issued, with 105 of the 234. Another 23 units were in Sacramento County's unincorporated areas, and 29 were built in El Dorado County's unincorporated areas, which includes El Dorado Hills.

The numbers in the Sacramento region lag somewhat compared to the state as a whole, which saw an 82-percent increase in single-family home permits in February compared to a year earlier, with 2,780 permits. ~





PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello All,

This month's Bulletin has a couple of wild animal stories that remind us that those who live in El Dorado Hills, especially we who live near Bass Lake, live in what is called the wildland urban interface. The interface is roughly defined as the zone where natural areas and development meet. The wildland urban interface has become more important as more Americans build homes in rural settings adjacent to public lands.

Though the term is used mainly in fire protection, the presence of wild animals is also a facet of living in the interface. Those of us that drive along Green Valley Road are used to seeing the bodies of deer that have been struck by cars lying along the road. Down Bass Lake Road, one of our rural neighbors has to lock up her chickens every night, or the coyotes will get them. When she goes out in the evening to secure the henhouse, she can sometimes see them at the top of the hill, hoping for a tasty meal.

There have also been bobcat sightings in Woodridge. A couple of weeks ago, one was seen on Kirkwood Court. The homeowner who saw it was smart enough to stay in his truck until it went on down the road.

Then, some years ago, there was the bear that Fran saw sitting in a meadow along the north side of Green Valley Road as we drove by. Seeing us coming in our car, he turned and ran back into the trees.

Since we live here, let's get used to living safely near the wildland. Don't leave pet food out at night, and bring your pets in when it gets dark.

Have a happy Memorial Day.

Sincerely,

John Thomson

President

GOSLINGS *(continued)*

geese, which are called "goslings." The goslings fled into our neighbor's back yard. The parents briefly returned to circle the area, but did not land and then disappeared.

Two of the young geese managed to get down to Summer Drive and ultimately onto Bass Lake Road, where they were rescued by a passing United Parcel Service driver and a Sierra Wildlife volunteer who happened to be driving by at the same time. Using a box obtained from a nearby resident, the baby geese were safely transported by the water fowl volunteer to the Sierra Wildlife Rescue shelter.

The third little guy, the noisiest of the trio, circled back into our front yard, then ran down Jasmine Circle heading for Summer Drive. I was able to stop the traffic on Summer Drive, and we caught him on the other side of the road. We brought him home and called the Sierra Wildlife Rescue volunteers.

By 7 o'clock he was in the hands of the water fowl coordinator, who was making her rounds picking up other animal babies and injured birds. She had many baby ducks and geese in the back of her Prius, since this is a busy time of year for the volunteers. With five acres, ponds and a surrogate pair of adult geese, she has the perfect arrangement for water fowl babies and injured birds.

The volunteer explained to us that the goslings were probably out for their first time. The parents keep the babies close to the nest (which normally has three to six goslings) for their first week. The captured goslings will be raised by the surrogate goose parents until they are old enough to be released. At that point, Fish and Game will band them and release them in specifically designated areas.

While we did almost everything right with this rescue, first by avoiding contact with the goslings and second not following them until there was an element of danger, our one mistake was giving the gosling water after we captured it. Young goslings do not have water resistant feathers and do not hold their body heat well, so that was a mistake. In fact, keeping the animals in a warm, dark, quiet place until you can get help and not feeding them is recommended.

The Sierra Wildlife Rescue is a nonprofit, all volunteer organization in Placerville, and is funded by dues and donations. They are licensed through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California's Fish and Game. Each year they rescue about 1,200 animals. To learn more about the organization, go to www.sierrawildliferescue.com. ~



NEW GREEN VALLEY ALLIANCE SEEKS RESPONSIBLE GROWTH

The mission of the newly-formed Green Valley Alliance (GVA) is to have the Green Valley Road Corridor developed in a responsible manner. GVA supports a halt to the planned high density development increases along the rural Green Valley corridor until El Dorado County (EDC) provides a comprehensive study of the cumulative effects of the proposed developments. GVA believes that such a study should examine traffic, public safety, and a means to reduce congestion prior to approval of projects for rezoning. The ten projects approved or planned for the Green Valley Corridor could create almost ten thousand additional daily trips to the already 14,431 daily trips along Green Valley Road on a given day.

The projects include the development of an Equestrian Center, the 244-home Silver Springs project on the yet-to-be-built Silver Springs Parkway between Green Valley Road and Bass Lake Road, and the proposed 610-homes Dixon Ranch project. Other projects on the drawing board include the Winn Commercial project at the corner of Francisco and Green Valley Road and the proposed Arco commercial project (service station/car wash, etc.) at the corner of Sophia Parkway and Green Valley Road.

While the construction of the new Silva Valley Interchange at Highway 50 will handle some of the traffic from the proposed projects, Bass Lake Road, which already has an approved Bass Lake Hills Specific Plan, will undoubtedly continue to be a major artery. At last count, the Bass Lake Hills Specific Plan would at maximum build out have 2,847 residences. The Lime Rock Specific Plan and Marble Valley Specific Plans proposed for south of Highway 50 would include 800 residences for Lime Rock and between 2,307 and 3,235 homes for Marble Valley.

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ARBOR DAY CELEBRATED IN WOODRIDGE AT BASS LAKE



Arbor Day volunteers planting one of the two ornamental pear trees in the median on Madera Way in Woodridge



Finished median showing the new landscaping of ornamental pear trees, roses, loropetalum and society garlic

Following the suggestions agreed upon at an earlier meeting of interested Woodridge residents, Arbor Day was the setting for the planting of two ornamental pear trees in the median of Madera Way, a portion of the landscaping and lighting assessment district of Woodridge.

El Dorado Hills Community Services District General Manager Brent Dennis told the assembled residents: "Arbor Day is an opportunity for beautifying the land with trees, and today we continue the tradition of planting trees on this day."

Each of the volunteers participated in the tree planting, and everyone placed a symbolic shovelful of earth as the trees were planted.

Bass Lake Action Committee President John Thomson said, "This is an excellent example of how neighborhoods can work together in harmony with the Community Services District."

The trees, plus other low plantings, will replace the boxwood hedges that were planted by the original developers when Woodridge was built over ten years ago. Arbor Day (from the Latin arbor, meaning tree) is a holiday in which individuals and groups are encouraged to plant and care for trees. It originated in Nebraska City, Nebraska, by J. Sterling Morton. The first Arbor Day was held in the state of Nebraska on April 10, 1872; an estimated one million trees were planted that day. Today, many countries observe a similar holiday. Though usually observed in the spring, the date varies, depending on climate and suitable planting season.

By the 1920s, each state in the United

States had passed public laws that stipulated a certain day to be Arbor Day or Arbor and Bird Day observance.

National Arbor Day is celebrated every year on the last Friday in April; in Nebraska, it is a civic holiday. Each state celebrates its own state holiday. The customary observance is to plant a tree. On the first Arbor Day, April 10, 1872, an estimated one million trees were planted.

Birdsey Northrop of Connecticut was responsible for globalizing Arbor Day when he visited Japan in 1883 and delivered his Arbor Day and Village Improvement message. In that same year, the American Forestry Association made Northrop the Chairman of the committee to campaign for Arbor Day nationwide.

Beginning in 1906, Pennsylvania conservationist Major Israel McCreight of DuBois, Pennsylvania, argued that President Theodore Roosevelt's conservation speeches were limited to businessmen in the lumber industry and recommended a campaign of youth education and a national policy on conservation education. McCreight urged President Roosevelt to make a public statement to school children about trees and the destruction of American forests. Conservationist Gifford Pinchot, Chief of the United States Forest Service, embraced McCreight's recommendations and asked the President speak to the public school children of the United States about conservation. On April 15, 1907, Roosevelt issued an "Arbor Day Proclamation to the School Children of the United States" that asserted the importance of trees and suggested that forestry deserved to be taught in U.S. schools." ~

GREEN VALLEY (continued)

The Green Valley Alliance has a petition to El Dorado County on their website (www.greenvalleyalliance.org) asking the county to (1) stop proposed high density development on rural Green Valley Corridor, and (2) provide a comprehensive traffic study to address public safety and reduce congestion, prior to approval of additional rezoning. ~



LOW SNOW PACK LEVEL ALARMS CALIFORNIA

Snow surveyors report that water content in California's snowpack is only 17 percent of normal.

After a record dry January and February in much of the state, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) projects it will only be able to deliver 35 percent of requested amounts from the State Water Project (SWP).

November and December were unusually wet, but between October and March, fishery agency restrictions prevented DWR from pumping more than 550,000 acre-feet of water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to store in San Luis Reservoir, which

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El Dorado Hills CSD Director Terry Crumpley (center) chats with constituents at the recent Oak Knoll Park meet and greet evening

TERRY CRUMPLEY MEET AND GREET A SUCCESS

The meet-and-greet evening with Terry Crumpley, CPA, our new El Dorado Hills Community Services Director, at Oak Knoll Park on May 10, 2013, was a resounding success.

The meeting was jointly sponsored by Bass Lake Action Committee (BLAC) and the El Dorado Hills Community Services District.

Over two dozen constituents crowded the Oak Knoll Park clubhouse to speak to and hear from Director Crumpley. The attendees enjoyed a number of light refreshments that were served.

"It was so nice to see people come out and get involved," said Crumpley.

"BLAC is honored that we have someone from the Bass Lake area representing us on the CSD Board," commented BLAC President John Thomson. ~



Ode in May

What is so sweet and dear
As a prosperous morn in May,
The confident prime of the day,
And the dauntless youth of the year,
When nothing that asks for bliss,
Asking aright, is denied,
And half of the world a bridegroom is,
And half of the world a bride?

— William Watson, 1880

SNOW PACK *(continued)*

lies near Pacheco Pass west of Los Banos. Today San Luis – a summer supply pool for both the State Water Project and the federal Central Valley Project – is only 54 percent full.

Snow normally provides about a third of the water for California's homes and farms as it melts into streams, reservoirs and aquifers.

Despite the dwindling snowpack, most key storage reservoirs are near normal levels for the date thanks to November and December storms, San Luis being an exception.

Lake Oroville in Butte County, the State Water Project's principal storage reservoir, is at 103 percent of its average level for the date (86 percent of its 3.5 million acre-foot capacity). Shasta Lake north of Redding, the federal Central Valley Project's largest reservoir with a capacity of 4.5 million acre-feet, is at 95 percent of its normal storage level for the date (83 percent of capacity). An acre-foot is 325,851 gallons, enough to cover an area of one acre to a depth of one foot.

Reservoir storage will meet much of the state's water demand this year, but successive dry years would create drought conditions in some areas. A spokesperson for El Dorado Irrigation District told a recent water conference that: "Fortunately, we here at El Dorado Irrigation District are okay with our water supply for this year because we have good supply in our reservoirs. We don't plan on implementing any part of our Drought Plan this year. However, if these dry conditions persist next winter, it will be a different story, and we most likely will be impacted."

So it appears that El Dorado County will have enough water for 2013, but the amount and the timing of the snowfall next winter will determine whether El Dorado County will face drought conditions in 2014. ~



BLAC BOARD MET IN MAY, SETS JUNE MEETING, NONE IN JULY

The May meeting of the Board of Directors of Bass Lake Action Committee was held on May 4, 2013, at the home of Hal and Barbara Erpenbeck.

The June Board Meeting will be held on June 3, 2013, at 7:00 PM. at the home of John and Fran Thomson. The guest speaker will be a representative from the Green Valley Alliance, who will discuss development along Green Valley Road.

There will be no meeting in July because of summer vacation.

All BLAC members are cordially invited to attend all BLAC board meetings. For additional information, contact Kathy Prevost at 530-672-6836. ~

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