



BASS LAKE BULLETIN

Vol. XV No. 4

The Voice of the Bass Lake Community

April 2017

www.basslakeaction.org

CLARKSVILLE DAY RETURNS ON MAY 6TH



One of the wagons that will bring visitors into Clarksville day

El Dorado Hills' Rich and Varied History on Display

El Dorado Hills history comes to life on Saturday, May 6, at the seventh annual Clarksville Day celebration. The hard-working volunteers of The Clarksville Region Historical Society and their generous sponsors have made the old ghost town safe for the hundreds of participants and thousands of anticipated attendees for this free event. The lineup of local history groups and reenactors is bigger, better, and more historical than ever.

The event began in the 1970s as a reunion picnic for the families of the pioneer descendants of the area organized by Mimi Tong and Madeleine Petersen Moseley.

Unable to hold Clarksville Day for the last several years because of the construction of the nearby Silva Valley Interchange, this year's event will be the best one yet, according to Clarksville Day coordinator Betty January.

Old Clarksville was adjacent to the Tong Ranch, named for the pioneering family that settled in the picturesque valley south of Highway 50 in the 1850s. The Tongs maintained a ranch operation there until 2008.

The old ranch shacks that once housed Clarksville's founding families (like Kyburz, Fitch and Griggs) still stand as a testament to El Dorado Hills very own ghost town. Clarksville Day visitors can explore the dilapidated houses--but only through broken windows. The barn, which stands like a movie set from an old western, will be wide open, waiting for the young at heart to explore its stalls, many with artifacts of ranch life still festooned on the walls.

The nation's first coast-to-coast road, The Lincoln Highway, ran right through the middle of Clarksville. Much of the original, narrow, concrete roadway is still visible.

To kick off the Clarksville Day festivities, the old road will host a classic car parade at 10:30 a.m.

Arrive early. No visitor parking is allowed in the old town site, but two horse-drawn wagons, will provide a "shuttle" from a visitor parking area to the festivities. A handicapped parking area and shuttle will also be available.

As you stroll down the old Lincoln Highway into the ghost town, snap a picture of

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GA\$ TAX HIKE PA\$SES

The California Assembly and Senate approved a \$5-billion-a-year plan to boost California's gas and vehicle taxes to pay for major road repairs, sending the proposal to Gov. Jerry Brown -- who is expected to sign the bill.

The Assembly voted 54 to 26 just before 10:40 p.m. Thursday. The Senate passed the bill earlier in the night, voting 27 to 11.

The Assembly began debating the plan a short time after the Senate approved the bill.

The proposal aims to address a \$59 billion backlog in deferred maintenance on state highways and \$78 billion on local streets and roads. It's projected to raise \$52.4 billion over 10 years, much of it to fix potholes and repair bridges but some for public transit and biking and walking trails.

It would raise gas taxes by 12 cents a gallon - a 43 percent increase - and diesel taxes from 16 cents per gallon to 36 cents. Diesel sales taxes would also rise.

Drivers would also face a new annual fee to be paid with their vehicle registration, ranging from \$25 to \$175 depending on the value of their vehicle. The taxes and fees would rise each year with inflation.

Brown and top legislative leaders pressed all week to convince fellow Democrats to support the measure in the face of opposition from environmentalists and anti-tax crusaders.

"You know how bad our roads are, and the conditions have been made worse by our recent winter weather," said Sen. Jim Beall, a San Jose Democrat who worked on the bill for two years.

To win support from truckers, who face a big increase in taxes, Brown and legislative

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Members and Supporters,

While it appears Spring is here in our EDH area we are still experiencing some additional Spring showers. Our grasses and wildflowers are lush, green and beautiful, reminding us daily why we love our adored Sierra foothills. While it appears our drought problems have subsided, let us not forget that conserving water is still a goal all of us should continue to practice. So go out and enjoy what Mother Nature has provided all of us and enjoy a family filled Easter Sunday.

Please note that April is our annual membership drive. All of our BLAC members and supporters will soon be receiving our membership application and a self addressed envelope to assist you in mailing in your annual dues and any donation you wish. These dues and donations are our only means to support our organization. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. We want BLAC to be as inclusive as possible, so I encourage any existing member to talk with their neighbors about joining and keeping BLAC strong with new ideas and information so we can keep our Bass Lake Region informed.

Please know that this monthly newsletter is just one method of keeping all of our members and supporters informed on current events and any new developments in our EDH region. If anyone should have a subject or event of interest to them please go to our website at www.basslakeaction.org to let our committee know so we can follow-up. We look forward to hearing from you.

Vision is the art of seeing what is invisible to others.

Sincerely,

Dale A. Chambers

President

CLARKSVILLE *(continued)*

the stone ruins on the right, the remains of an 1850s dwelling that spent time as a saloon, a store, and up until 1868 when the railroad bypassed Clarksville for Latrobe, a Wells Fargo station.

The remaining occupied house on the left belongs to the Lester family. Please respect their privacy on Clarksville Day.

Western music will be provided by the award-winning Ole West Trio, which is celebrating over 20 years of performing Western-themed music, from classic Sons of the Pioneers and Gene Autry tunes to contemporary Americana masterpieces.

Chat with the Lincoln Highway historians, who will have a booth dispensing interesting facts about the nation's first coast to coast highway, built between 1914 and 1919.

The derelict shacks on the south side of the Lincoln Highway are the picturesque Griggs and Kyburz houses, built in 1868. Both are in a state of advanced decay and are unsafe for touring, but check out the pictures from their better days.

An old flag pole and a "swing pole" mark the spot where the old school house stood. Tucked in beneath some scrub trees, you can still see pieces of the foundation, but keep an eye out for rattlesnakes.

When the school closed in the early 1950's the Tong family purchased it and dragged it down the road a piece, where it became the center section of the recognizable "Tong" barn.

Pass through the gate and enter what was, until a few years ago, the Tong Ranch.

Near the old houses the cranky "Sierra Six-Guns and Sidekicks" will conduct their unique brand of "theater with side arms" throughout the day. The resulting shootouts are loud, and attract a crowd. Check their schedule and arrive a few minutes early to get the kids a good spot.

The Mormon Battalion returns to Clarksville this year and will also be making noise. They'll once again regale visitors with tales of their grueling 2,000-mile march during the Mexican American war in 1846 and 1847 as the only religious based military unit in U.S. history.

The reenactors bring an entire encampment, replete with pioneer artifacts and a replica of the Howitzer the battalion received from John Sutter. They'll fire it at regular intervals. You'll know it when you hear it.

The Rescue Fire Department will have an old fire engine on display. It's a great photo opportunity, and if you ask nicely, they might let you sit on it. ~

Credit: Mike Roberts, Journalist

GAS TAX HIKE *(continued)*

leaders agreed to restrict future regulations on greenhouse gas emissions related to commercial trucks. The change angered environmentalists, who worry it could impede regulations that indirectly affect truckers, such as restrictions on emissions at ports, warehouses, railyards and airports.

Republicans blasted the plan to ask for more money from taxpayers in a state that already has a high tax burden. Some questioned why the state would raise taxes to repair its existing infrastructure without adding more lanes of traffic as the population swells.

"We aren't taxing champagne and caviar here," said Sen. Ted Gaines, a Republican from El Dorado Hills outside Sacramento. "Transportation is a basic need to live and work and raise a family."

Republicans say the state can fund road repairs with existing funds - an idea Democrats reject, contending it would require cuts to education and social services.

The evening votes in the Senate and Assembly capped a week of cajoling and arm-twisting by Brown and top legislative leaders. Contractors and construction unions blanketed television, radio and social media with \$1 million of ads promoting the plan and targeting undecided lawmakers.

Brown held rallies in the districts of targeted legislators and made unusual appearances before two legislative committees.

Sen. Anthony Cannella of Ceres was the only Republican to support the tax hike. Democratic Sen. Steve Glazer of Orinda was the only Democrat opposed.

"My constituents have told me loud and clear that they want any new taxes to be spent more wisely and effectively," Glazer said in a statement. He lobbied unsuccessfully for a provision that would ban strikes by Bay Area Rapid Transit workers.

Cannella said he voted for the bill after Brown and Democratic leaders agreed to spend \$400 million to extend a commuter train from San Jose to his Central Valley district and \$100 million to build a parkway linking the University of California, Merced to Highway 99. ~

Source: KCRA News

Happy Easter





STATE LIFTS WATER RESTRICTIONS

On Friday, April 7, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. issued an executive order lifting the drought emergency that has been in effect since 2014. Only Fresno, Kings, Tulare, and Tuolumne counties remain under drought emergency conditions.

Record precipitation this water year and increased levels of water conservation were cited by the governor in his decision to lift the drought emergency.

“Throughout this multi-year drought emergency, EID customers have stepped up and conserved when the state imposed water restrictions,” said EID General Manager Jim Abercrombie. “EID’s water portfolio is robust and the investment our community has made over the years to increase its supply has paid off”.

The State Water Resources Control Board will maintain urban water use reporting requirements through the end of the year and prohibitions on wasteful practices such as watering during or after rainfall, hosing off sidewalks and irrigating ornamental turf on public street medians.

Locally, in May of 2016 EID rescinded the district’s Stage 2 water warning that had been in effect since February 4, 2014. In addition, the mandatory watering restrictions that had been in place since April of 2014 were lifted.

EID’s Water Waste Prohibition ([Administrative Regulation 1041](#)) remains in effect all year and under all conditions.

The district says it will continue to commit to maximizing water efficiency and conser-

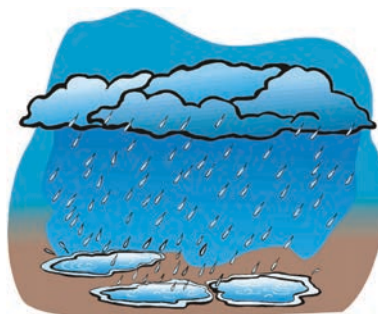


vation opportunities set forth in the State of California’s 20x2020 Water Conservation Plan. This plan provides a roadmap for maximizing the state’s urban water efficiency and conservation opportunities—including setting in motion a range of activities designed to achieve a 20 percent per capita reduction in urban water demand—between 2009 and 2020, and beyond.

Customers are reminded that as the weather begins to warm up, it’s a perfect time for customers to check their irrigation systems for efficiency. EID customers can schedule a complimentary landscape survey to learn more about irrigation efficiency and receive recommendations for system improvements. To request this no-charge service, contact Customer Service at 530-642-4000 or billing@eid.org to schedule an appointment.

For additional water efficiency resources, go to www.eid.org/waterefficiency. ~

Source: Jesse Saich, EID



POSSIBLE EL NIÑO FOR CALIFORNIA NEXT YEAR

The National Weather Service’s latest observation for the oscillation between years of El Niño versus La Nina weather patterns is currently neutral, but climate forecasters predict early signs of a strong El Niño that could drench California again next year.

The La Nina extremely cold sea surface temperatures from July through December 2016 saw Pacific Ocean equatorial sea surface temperatures fall up to 5.4 degrees below average for most of the central and eastern Pacific Ocean. The extraordinarily cold surface water sucked a warm atmospheric river called the pineapple express eastward.

California’s Central Valley and the Sierras have received about 220 percent of the average rainfall for this time of year.

The International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRICS) are reporting the good news that this current ram-bunctious La Niña should be fading soon with the equatorial sea surface tempera-

tures having warmed back to near-average across the central Pacific. They predict a 75 percent chance through spring of a “neutral” Pacific Ocean wind pattern that would end the rainfall with a return to clockwise wind rotations from Polynesia that go up to Japan, across to Alaska, down the West Coast, and then back across the Pacific.

But IRICS climatologists announced on March 9 that the fast-paced temperature rise of the sea surface in February of between +0.6 and +3.9 degrees for the Eastern Pacific indicate a 50% to 55% chance that a strong El Niño will appear by fall.

The El Niño cyclical sea surface warming trends in the equatorial Pacific Ocean are expected to interrupt and partially reverse prevailing westerly trade winds. Therefore, there is a very high probability that an El Niño will drench California next year. ~

Credit: Chriss W. Street, Breitbart News



EQUESTRIAN CENTER TRIES AGAIN FOR COUNTY APPROVAL

A few years ago, a planned equestrian center on the southwest corner of Green Valley Road and Deer Valley Road in the Rescue area was put on hold by the county Planning Commission. Local residents voiced concerns over the project and the developer requested more time to address their concerns. At that time the planning commission said it would take up the project at a future date.

(continued on page 4)



EQUESTRIAN *(continued)*

The Planning Commission has announced that it will hold a public hearing in the Building C Hearing Room, 2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville, CA 95667, on April 27, 2017, at 8:30 a.m., to again consider a rezone request from the original developer to establish an equestrian center on that site.

The last time this project was brought before the Planning Commission, many residents in the area voiced objections to the project. One of the concerns was that naturally occurring asbestos in the ground would become airborne during the initial grading and during facility operations. Traffic congestion, odors, noise, and unnecessary tree removal were also mentioned.

Faced with a lengthy list of issues, the commission voted to continue the item off calendar until all of the adverse impacts brought up by residents could be addressed. Evidently the developer feels that the issues complained of earlier have been mitigated in one form or the other, hence this zoning request.



O' To Be in April

You can always tell it's April
By the sound of falling rain
That mystic, mournful music
As it trickles down

We're told we should be thankful
For the kiss of April showers
As it washes all the grass clean
And prepares the soil for flowers.

There's another side to April
Which doesn't bode us good,
When that mini, manic maelstrom
Turns the lawn to liquid mud."

—Thomas Vaughan Jones

The new plans have been submitted by Dennis Graham, who is requesting approval for (1) a Tentative Parcel Map to create three parcels, 38.27 acres (Parcel 1), 102.47 acres (Parcel 2), and 5.63 acres (Parcel 3) in size; (2) a Rezone from Estate Residential Five-Acre (RE-5) to Recreational Facilities, Low Intensity (RF-L) for Parcel 1 only; and (3) a Conditional Use Permit for an equestrian facility.

The planned facility will have two covered arenas 45,000 square feet each, stall barns for 300 horses, five fenced riding areas, 8,000 square-foot equestrian retail store/office/clubhouse, campground for horse trailers during events, special events with up to 250 spectators, and an eight foot tall by nine foot wide monument sign with 48 square feet of display area.

The property is on Assessor's Parcel Number 115-410-05, and contains 146.38 acres. The parcel is located on the south side of Green Valley Road at the intersection with Deer Valley Road in Rescue and is in Supervisor John Hidahl's district, District 1, and the planner in charge is Aaron Mount.

The county staff reports describing the project were not available at press time, but should be available two weeks prior to the hearing at <https://eldorado.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>.

Anyone interested in commenting on the project are invited to attend and be heard or to send their comments to the Planning Commission. Written correspondence should be directed to the County of El Dorado Community Development Agency, Development Services Division-Planning Services, 2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville, CA 95667, or via e-mail: planning@edcgov.us. ~



Bass Lake Action Committee
501 Kirkwood Court
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762



NEXT BLAC BOARD MEETING SET IN MAY

The next meeting of the Bass Lake Action Committee (BLAC) Board of Directors Meeting will be on Monday, May 22, 2017, at 7:00 PM at the home of Dale and Anh Chambers, 2188 Summer Drive, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762, 530-350-8763. All BLAC members are cordially invited to attend Board Meetings.

For further information about BLAC meetings and membership, please contact Vice President Kathy Prevost at 530-672-6836. ~



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