

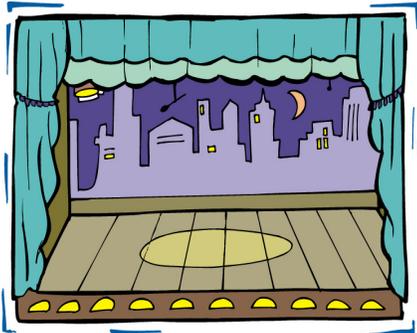
The  **BASS LAKE BULLETIN**

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## LOCAL ARTIST ADAPTS CLASSIC STORY OF THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

*The Pilgrim's Progress* is one of the best-loved and most widely read books in English literature. This allegory is universally regarded as one of the most significant works of English literature. It has been translated into more than 200 languages and has never been out of print. It is a classic of the heroic Puritan tradition and a founding text in the development of the English novel.

Now, under the direction of our own Ingrid Laurentiis-Wilson of Woodridge, John Bunyan's classic work comes alive on stage in One Way Productions' dramatic adaptation of *The Pilgrim's Progress*. Wilson is a former professional actress from New York who now devotes her time and talents to educating children and bringing classic literature to her actors and the community.

From the Pilgrim's initial steps, the journey takes both the actors and the audience on an adventure which has, and will, resonate with the thoughts that all pilgrims have at one time considered, according to Wilson.

The production, to be held at the 24<sup>th</sup> Street Theater in Sacramento, will run between April 2 and 10, 2010. The cast is comprised of children and young adults, most of whom are experienced stage actors. One Way Productions offers an outstanding rendition of *The Pilgrim's Progress* with visually captivating scenes, meaningful music and themes that are timely and relevant, says Wilson. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at [1wayproductions.org](http://1wayproductions.org) or

call Kim at 916-220-2145. Prices are \$5.00 to \$9.00 in advance. Tickets at the door are \$8.00 to \$14.00. Group discounts are available.

One Way Productions is a 501(c)(3) corporation dedicated to the production of theatrical works of the highest standards. ~



## COMCAST XFINITY?

Recently Comcast unveiled their plans to rebrand their Internet, Voice over Internet Protocol (telephone) and cable TV services all under the "Xfinity" name. A national campaign was rolled out in television ads airing during the Winter Olympics. While Comcast was hoping to create a modern brand that could do battle with competitors AT&T U-Verse and Verizon FiOS, the rebranding effort has often been a subject of derision.

The decision to couple the words "extreme" with "infinity" has been heralded as not a particularly inspired or creative choice. *Time Magazine* has placed Xfinity at position number one on their list of the top ten worst corporate name changes, even though technically Comcast isn't changing their corporate name.

"Xfinity is infinite potential," Comcast executive David Watson told *Time*.

"Comcast hopes the new moniker will help customers forget the high prices and poor customer service for which it has been criticized in the past," responded the magazine.

The February 2010 issue of *Consumer Reports* reported the results of a nationwide



## SUPERVISORS STRUGGLE WITH CASH FLOW AND BUDGET ISSUES

A recent strategic planning meeting between the supervisors and the county chief administrative officer revealed some gaps in the way the county handles cash flow and budget issues.

Chief administrative officer Gale Erbe-Hamlin told the supervisors that although the board had earlier directed staff to develop a method to account for cash flow on a regular basis, the county system still does not track cash that way. This admission upset supervisor Sweeney, who said that "We've got to know at any given time where we are financially."

Auditor-Controller Joe Harn explained that it's impossible to look at the General Ledger on a given day because of the way grant money and payments from the state come in. He pointed out that expenditures, especially for state-mandated programs such as Mental Health, often are not reimbursed by the state in a timely fashion. "The state is slow to pay, six months, a year, even two or three years. Although we're a branch of the state, we're just a vendor of the state. If we bill in July and get paid in August, it's easy to track. If we bill in July and don't get the money till March, it's a different issue," Harn said.

Erbe-Hamlin continued the presentation noting that the auditor and she agree on the need for more complicated systems.

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## COMCAST *(continued from page 1)*

survey of cable television providers. In television service, AT&T's U-Verse ranked 3 while Comcast rated 14 out of 16; in telephone service, U-Verse ranked 6, Comcast 19 out of 23; for Internet service, U-Verse 3, Comcast 23 out of 27; and for overall bundled services, U-Verse 3, Comcast 11 out of 12.

Hopefully Comcast users will like the Xfinity brand name, because Comcast has announced that while they're keeping the Comcast company name, they're applying the Xfinity brand name across all of the company's technology platform and products. Will the name change work? Perhaps, but at least it'll sound a bit edgier when you're put on hold . . . with Xfinity. ~



## THE FIRST SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place not in Ireland but in the United States. Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched through New York City on March 17, 1762. Along with their music, the parade helped the soldiers reconnect with their Irish roots, as well as fellow Irishmen serving in the English army.

Over the next 35 years, Irish patriotism among American immigrants flourished, prompting the rise of so-called "Irish Aid" societies like the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick and the Hibernian Society. Each group would hold annual parades featuring bagpipes (which actually first became popular in the Scottish and British armies) and drums.

In 1848, several New York Irish Aid societies decided to unite their parades to form one New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade. Today, that parade is the world's oldest civilian parade and the largest in the United States, with over 150,000 participants.

Each year, nearly three million people line the 1.5-mile parade route to watch the procession, which takes more than five

hours. Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia and Savannah also celebrate the day with parades involving between 10,000 and 20,000 participants. ~

## CASH FLOW *(continued from page 1)*

Although the current system is generally serving its purpose, she described it as an older system that will need to be upgraded or eventually replaced.

Implementing a countywide cost accounting system is a major piece of the recommended effort to improve and update the county's financial security, Erbe-Hamlin advised. Currently most departments have their own accounting departments, payroll units and budgeting processes.

The CAO pointed out a list of negatives associated with the present system. She noted especially the lack of reporting standardization, the creation of separate systems to track budgets and costs, and duplication of effort—all of which she said impair the overall health of the system.

The benefits of a countywide system, she pointed out, could be uniformity of approach, accurate portrayal of administrative costs, highest level of accountability on charges, better reporting and data extraction and greater protection from loss of revenues.

Challenges to such a transition include potential for increased costs to the General Fund or increase in fees to cover General Fund programs and services, according to Erbe-Hamlin. In addition, she said some of the current fiscal staff may not have the necessary skill base to adapt, and the process would likely require a multi-year implementation plan. She noted that implementation of a countywide cost accounting structure is already under way. However, she also said a guidance system for ongoing implementation needs to be in place before the beginning of the fourth quarter of the fiscal year to ensure maximum revenue received and minimum impact on the General Fund. ~



**Happy St. Patrick's Day**



## FOLSOM, ROSEVILLE, ELK GROVE MAKE LIST OF U.S. WEALTH CENTERS

According to the *Sacramento Business Journal*, three cities in the Sacramento region are among the nation's top 100 wealth centers.

Folsom finished at No. 50, with a median household income of \$86,000. The city, which boasts the 5,500-employee Intel campus, fared better than Santa Clarita/Valencia (No. 51), Honolulu (No. 52) and New York City (No. 60), according to a just-released bizjournals report. Bizjournals is a division of American City Business Journals, the parent company of the *Business Journal*.

Roseville, with a median household income of \$76,039 per year, finished at No. 74—ahead of Atlanta (No. 76), Napa (No. 78) and Ventura (No. 80). Elk Grove ranked No. 81, with median household income of \$76,331. Roseville scored higher than Elk Grove because of factors other than median household income, including about \$25,000 more in home values.

Two other cities in the four-county region—Sacramento and Citrus Heights at No. 189 and No. 235, respectively—made the list that ranked 420 cities nationwide. Cities must have at least 75,000 residents for the survey, which eliminated deep-pocketed communities such as Davis, El Dorado Hills, Fair Oaks and Granite Bay.

However, based on the 2008 U.S. Census Bureau estimate, median income in El Dorado Hills is \$122,285, up from \$93,483 in 2000. That puts El Dorado Hills ahead of all three Sacramento-area cities. Moreover, those Census Bureau figures cover only the area defined as El Dorado Hills in the 2000 census, which left out all of the homes south of Serrano Parkway and along Bass Lake Road. The 2010 census will include those areas in El Dorado Hills under the new definition of the El Dorado Hills census defined place (CDP). The 2010 CDP boundary generally includes the area covered by the El Dorado Hills Fire Department. ~

## THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Hello Everyone,

Many years ago, when I worked in San Francisco, on St. Patrick's Day we always used to go to Harrington's Bar and Grill on Front Street in the Financial District to celebrate. The police would close off the block and the large crowd would spill out of the bar and wander around outside in the street drinking green beer in honor of St. Patrick.

This year, when I decided to try and make green beer like we used to drink at Harrington's, I decided not to fool around: I just captured a leprechaun. and asked him for the recipe. How did I do that, you ask? Well, that's a secret.

At first, of course, he refused to tell me how to make green beer. He even offered to take me to his pot of gold instead, but I knew that was a trick. Then he started feeding me a line about squeezing shamrock juice into the beer, but I didn't buy that, either.

I resorted to tickle torture, and the leprechaun finally admitted the truth: leprechauns use food coloring, just like everyone else. It turns out all you need is beer, a clear glass or mug, and food coloring.

Choose a pale beer, then put several drops of green food coloring in a glass before you pour in the beer. Putting the food coloring in first avoids making a mess of the foam. It also avoids your having to stir the food coloring into the beer, which can also make a foamy mess. Vary the number of drops depending on how green you want the beer, and naturally use more drops if you are making a whole pitcher of green beer.

When you have your beer the right shade of green, you can use this old Irish toast: May St. Patrick guard you wherever you go, and guide you in whatever you do—and may his loving protection be a blessing to you always.

*John E. Thomson*

President



Free freight wagon rides were featured at the 2009 Clarksville Day

### DATE SET FOR 4th ANNUAL CLARKSVILLE DAY

Saturday, May 8, the Saturday before Mother's Day, has been selected by the Clarksville Region Historical Society for this year's Clarksville Day, to be held in the old ghost town of Clarksville in El Dorado Hills. The event is free to the public.

Last year Clarksville Day attracted a large crowd, and Betty January, past president of the Society and 2010 Clarksville Day organizer, predicts as many or more visitors this year. "Planning has already begun," said Betty, "and this year will be better than ever." Starting at 10:00 AM, participants from civic and historical organizations in the Sacramento area will provide exhibits. Rides, food, music and entertainment will add to the festivities.

The old town site has a long history. The area around what is now known as Clarksville was long inhabited by the Maidu and Miwok groups of Native American Indians. These indigenous people lived off the land, and resided in villages scattered over an area that extended from the Sacramento Valley up into the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

In January of 1848, James W. Marshall discovered gold in the millrace of Sutter's Mill at Coloma on the American River and touched off the California Gold Rush.

The Indians, though weakened by the malaria epidemic of the 1830s, were still residing in the Sierra Foothills when the early gold-seekers and others began to arrive in the late 1840s. The immigration caused by the Gold Rush destroyed the Indian's

arcadian way of life as gold seekers overran the foothills.

In 1848 or 1849, the Mormon Tavern, offering rough hospitality for gold seekers, was built by a Mormon named Morgan in the area just south of the present community of El Dorado Hills. The tavern later acted as a remount station during the short life of the Pony Express, from April 1860 through October 1861.

About the same time the Mormon Tavern was built, a man named Clarkson had a stopping place near Mormon Tavern known as Clarkson's Village. Clarkson's Village was near the junction of the stagecoach road from Sacramento and the freight road east to the Sierra mines which brought people, news, supplies, and mail to the gold fields. The town soon became the commercial and social center for the area, and boasted of four hotels in its heyday. By 1855 a post office was established there, and in the process the postal authorities renamed the town Clarksville.

By 1860 the Gold Rush boom was fading. In the process, the area around Clarksville moved to a more agricultural economy, and ranching became the major industry. The town's commerce suffered greatly when in 1864 the railroad coming east from Sacramento was routed to the south instead of passing through Clarksville. Though it continued to be a service center for the local ranchers, the town of Clarksville began a slow decline.

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**CLARKSVILLE DAY** *(continued)*

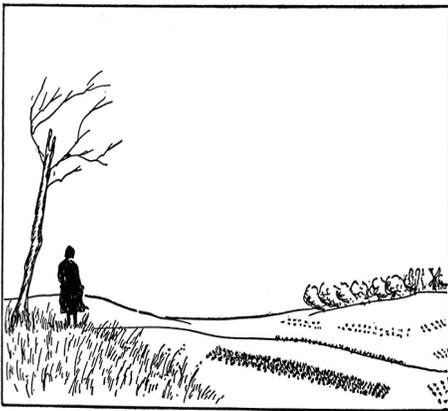
The advent of the Lincoln Highway (America's first transcontinental Highway) that was built through Clarksville in the early 1900s restored some life to Clarksville. The Lincoln Highway later became U.S. Highway 50, but when in the 1960s Highway 50 was rerouted to bypass Clarksville, the little community just faded away.

At the present time all that is generally left of Clarksville are the ruins of some frame building and few stone walls. The one standing building is the old school house, which has been added onto and maintained as a barn.

While much attention has been paid to other historical legacies such as the Gold Rush or the Spanish Missions, the area around Clarksville is rich with local history that cries out to be recorded and remembered.

The Clarksville Region Historical Society was founded in 2006 to identify and preserve documents, artifacts, records, and other objects of historical interest, educate the public and increase public awareness, and to enlist public support for the historical preservation and display of documents, artifacts, records, and other objects of historical interest related to historic Clarksville and the surrounding region.

For more information regarding the Clarksville Region Historical Society, or about Clarksville Day, contact Betty January at 916-933-3173 ~



*The March wind roars  
Like a lion in the sky,  
And makes us shiver  
As he passes by.*

*When winds are soft,  
And the days are warm and  
clear,  
Just like a gentle lamb,  
Then spring is here.*

- Author Unknown

## PROPANE AND ELECTRICITY HEADLINE MARCH BLAC MEETING; APRIL MEETING SET

Propane prices and the transition to smart electric meters were topics of discussion at the March meeting of the Bass Lake Action Committee that was held at the Bridlewood Canyon Homeowners Clubhouse.

**Propane**

Propane committee members reported on the inquiries that the committee has made and what they have learned about propane suppliers and prices.

First, they reported that there was a wide disparity between the prices that various suppliers charge for propane. All of the suppliers in Northern California pay substantially the same wholesale price for propane at the source in San Francisco. The difference between the wholesale price and what consumers pay is the markup that the retailers charge, which is comprised of their operating costs plus their profit.

Second, the committee also reported that price per gallon, though a major component of the cost of propane, is not the bottom line for consumers. Several other factors must be taken into consideration to calculate the actual cost of propane: the annual tank rental, any hazardous material fees, and any fuel surcharges.

Third, the committee found that many homeowners are under the mistaken impression that they are covered by a contract that provides them with a discount for propane that was initially obtained for them by their housing developer. Those contracts lapsed long ago, and those homeowners are now paying market prices.

**Electric Meters**

The electricity committee reported that Pacific Gas & Electric will be installing SmartMeters in the Bass Lake area over the next few months. Homeowners have already received notices in the mail notifying them of the switchover, describing the process, and warning of brief power outages that will be experienced during the installation.

The committee also reported that the widely reported problems with the SmartMeters in Bakersfield (as reported in the February Bulletin) were traced to inaccurate SmartMeters. PG&E is now testing SmartMeters more rigorously.

**April BLAC Meeting**

The April BLAC Meeting will be held on April 6, 2010, at 7:00 PM at the Woodridge home of Dee and Denny Olberding, 4068 Kirkwood Drive, El Dorado Hills. The speaker for the evening will be Lt. Chuck King, the new commander of the California Highway Patrol office in Placerville. For further information, contact Vice-President Kathy Prevost at 530-672-6836. ~

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