

VOLUME 77 • NUMBER 4
THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2008

THE WEATHER IN HAWTHORNE

| | DATE | HI | LOW | PCP |
|-------------------------------------|---------|----|-----|-----|
| Weather reports from | MAR. 5 | 60 | 25 | |
| | MAR. 6 | 54 | 22 | |
| Mineral County Nuclear Projects | MAR. 7 | 64 | 26 | |
| Office and National Weather Service | MAR. 8 | 56 | 26 | |
| | MAR. 9 | 60 | 31 | |
| | MAR. 10 | 67 | 26 | |
| | MAR. 11 | 67 | 35 | |

IN THIS ISSUE

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Classified Ads |16 | Meeting Notices |2 |
| County Business |10 & 11 | Obituaries |5 |
| Dr. Dobson |6 | School News |4 |
| History |7 | TV Log |13, 14 & 15 |
| Letters to Editor |6 | Wings & Things |17 |
| Lodges & Churches |8 | YCAC Basketball |15 |

MINERAL COUNTY ADOPTS RESOLUTION OPPOSING NEVADA WILDERNESS IN THE COUNTY

Mineral County Board of Commissioners adopted a Resolution, No. 08-003, to oppose the proposed Wilderness in Mineral County. Mineral County joins Lyon and Esmeralda Counties in opposing wilderness in the counties.

The complete Resolution is published on Page Three of this issue of the Independent-News.

A copy of Mineral County's resolution has been sent to Lyon and Esmeralda Counties in order to join them with their resolutions and special activities in re-

COUNTIES SAY NO TO WILDERNESS AREAS

By Tony Hughes,
MCIN Staff

The second meeting on the proposed Nevada Wilderness areas for Mineral county was held in Hawthorne at the Convention Center on Friday, March 7. A packed house consisting of residents of western Nevada counties, Mineral, Lyon and Esmeralda came to voice their opinions in opposition to the Nevada Wilderness proposals for establishing wilderness areas within the counties.

More than 300 people attended the meeting of the Mineral County Park and Recreation and Mineral County Fair and Recreation Boards. Following the formal opening of the meeting the remainder of the time was turned over to Mineral County Commission Vice Chairperson Jerrie Tipton.

Tipton introduced the federal representatives, Kevin Kirkeby of Ensign's office; Matt Tuma of Reid's office and Verria Black Prothro from Hell-



A capacity crowd filled the Hawthorne Convention Center to participate in the discussion on the wilderness proposal. (MCIN photo by Tony Hughes)



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Would You Like Another Light Show This Year?

Dave Ferguson, founder of the Big Flag Project and Light Show presentations, would like to do another light show at Veterans Park this year during Armed Forces Week. However, the work force will determine if it is possible or not.

He needs to get some commitment and help from the community before starting the project.

Last year was the first time the Light Show was

presented. The lights are synchronized to music furnished on the computer. Favorite patriotic music was the theme. This is a chance to be a part of the celebration.

All interested in supporting this endeavor are asked to call Dave at 945-1217 or 775-312-0039 or email him at fergiec@frontier-safari.com.

FREE SPAY AND NEUTER CLINIC

Free Spay and Neuter Clinic will be held March 29 & 30. If you have questions, contact RO-HHS at 945-2555.

Park and Recreation and Mineral County Fair and Recreation Boards. Following the formal opening of the meeting the remainder of the time was turned over to Mineral County Commission Vice Chairperson Jerrie Tipton.

Tipton introduced the federal representatives, Kevin Kirkeby of Ensign's office; Matt Tuma of Reid's office and Vertia Black Prothro from Heller's office. Commissioner Tipton started out with the question, "If Mineral County is strongly against the wilderness bill will we still get a land bill forced on us, or will we be able to adopt our own public lands use bill?"

In 1984 the wilderness in Mineral County was an important issue and at the Mineral County Commissioners' meeting on February 15, 1984 they adopted a resolution, proposed by the Nevada Miners and Prospectors Association, stating they deem all areas of Mineral County to be unsuitable for wilderness designation. Commissioner Tipton announced that the commissioners adopted another resolu-

A capacity crowd filled the Hawthorne Convention Center to participate in the discussion on the wilderness proposal. (MCIN photo by Tony Hughes)



More than 450 people attended the Smith Valley Wilderness meeting. Ranchers and farmers and many others attended the meeting. A story about the Smith Valley meeting is published on Page Five.

tion on Thursday, March 6, 2008, opposing the wilderness areas in Mineral County. She read the resolution in its entirety. (This resolution is published on Page Three of this issue of the Independent-News).

Matt Tuma stated that a teleconference was held on Wednesday, March 5 with Senators Harry Reid and John Ensign and newspaper reporters in Nevada, that included Heidi Bunch of the Independent-News and Jim Sanford for the Mason

Valley News. "We do not want to cram anything down your throats," Tuma said, relating to the teleconference. Senator Ensign said, "we will facilitate what the people want. If the local people don't want it, we can pull the plug at any time."

One of the big questions that many people wanted answered was if passing the wilderness bill a way to get water to Walker Lake? It was pointed out that the wilderness bill is not a plan to get more water to

Walker Lake and a committee is working with people to give up their water for Walker Lake.

A representative of the High Desert Security Operation Center (HDSOC) stated, "I feel the wilderness people are anti-war. How many of them are out in the area?" This was a great concern for the future training of the military in this area.

"Where does the Wilderness Group get their money?" was a question asked several times during the meeting. No definite

answer was expressed.

Mineral County Commissioner Richard Bryant asked, "who was writing the bill?" Kirkeby said "Nobody is sponsoring this bill. No bill has been written. We are compiling opinions from citizens so we can write the bill. We need letters and comments from the citizens."

Jim Sanford from Lyon County reported that a meeting was held in Smith Valley at the high

(Continued on Page Five)

Nevada Army National Guard Has Training In Hawthorne Area

The skies filled with helicopters zooming over

These are a familiar sight to Hawthorne residents as

and their crews set down at the airport, getting

tion from Stead, Nevada, and Mather, California,

up on Depot property. Joining in the weekend

Ground Ambulance and Truck vehicle unit of the

For the past few weeks the 1160th Helicopter

Smith Valley and Wellington Residents Just say NO to Wilderness Areas

by Sue Silver

An overflow number of residents of Smith Valley and Wellington, in Lyon County, packed the gymnasium of the Smith Valley High School on Wednesday, March 5, at a meeting of the Smith Valley Advisory Council (SVAC). Called to action by the newly formed grass roots organization, Citizens for Public Access (CPA), residents went to hear details of the land bill for Lyon and Mineral Counties that includes areas to be set aside as Wilderness now being proposed by Nevada Senators Harry Reid (D-Nev) and John Ensign (R-Nev), together with Congressman Dean Heller (R-Nev).

Over 500 people attended the meeting, including some residents who traveled from Mineral County, among them Commissioner Jerrie Tipton. Many in the audience were people whose families had settled the southern end of Lyon County when it was originally a portion of Esmeralda (1861-1911), then later Mineral County (1911-1932). They came to listen to a presentation given by members of the

By the end of the evening, the residents of the community had made their point clearly and directly: Residents of Smith Valley want NO part of any Wilderness areas and are staunchly opposed to the land bill if it contains a provision that includes those areas.

Representing the legislators were Matt Tuma of Reid's office, Kevin Kirkeby of Ensign's office and Verita Black Prothro, from Heller's office. By invitation, the three had traveled to Smith Valley from Reno to explain the yet unformulated details of the proposed comprehensive land bill that Senate Majority Speaker Reid plans to introduce by this summer.

According to Matt Tuma, "residents from Mineral, Lyon and Esmeralda counties" had approached the senator about a land bill to set aside public lands in all three counties as congressionally designated "Wilderness Areas." This is the reason the congressional delegation was going from community to community to obtain input and feedback from residents of the affected counties. No specific details were included in

COUNTIES SAY NO TO WILDERNESS

(Continued from Page One)

a meeting was held in Smith Valley at the high school gym on March 5 with over 450 people strongly saying NO to the wilderness bill for Lyon and Mineral counties. "We have a fear what the government is going to do to us."

Emery Thong of Lyon County said, "rural Nevada, leave it that way. A DVD of the Smith Valley meeting was made and sent to Washington".

Throughout the meeting the fact that the military is using the proposed wilderness area for training and if the bill goes through as proposed, will definitely affect the economy of the county, the future training at the army depot and the needed training of the military. It was pointed out that the terrain around the Hawthorne area is identical to that of Afghanistan and very much needed to train our military services.

Other strong opposition to the wilderness bill was that fact that much of the proposed area is rich in minerals and mining

"Grazing is protected in the proposed issue and the military training is vital to Nevada and the nation and plans are to increase the activity."

Lyon County Commissioner Phyllis Hunewill said, "the water bill was said not to be part of the lands bill, now we hear it tied to the lands bill. It takes about five years to get other related bills done, but now we are given only three months to present our lands bill".

Residents and governmental officials of Mineral, Lyon and Esmeralda counties

strongly oppose the wilderness bill and will greatly affected the economy locally, state and nationally and are telling the congressional delegation they see no benefit in having the counties designated as Wilderness Areas and it will be devastating and economic hardship for their counties.

"We urge all citizens of the Nevada counties to write to the state and federal delegation stating their opinions. We need your letters, please send them in," Verita Black Prothro concluded.

OUR MOTHER

Sunday, March 9, 2008 marks the Twentieth Year that you left us and there has not been one day we have not missed you very much, but thanks be to God through Christ Jesus for his peace.

WE WILL ALWAYS LOVE AND
CHERISH YOU MOTHER smw

Your Children, Minnie, James, Estella, Roosevelt, Lelia, Jackie, Dell, Luther, Janet and Roxanne

MT. GRANT GENERAL HOSPITAL

HELP WANTED

Other local legislators and local officials also attended, including Lyon County Commissioner Phyllis Hunewill and Don Tibbals, Assemblyman Tom Grady of Yerington, and Senator Mike McGinness of Fallon. Representatives of the Bridgeport Ranger District with the Toiyabe Humboldt National Forest were also present.

Members of the Nevada Wilderness Project (NWP), the Friends of the Wilderness, the proponents of the portion of the land bill establishing the Wilderness Areas, declined an invitation by the SVAC to come to the meeting, but have agreed to attend the agency's next meeting in April.

The NWP proposes to set aside approximately 188,000 acres of Wilderness area in Lyon County and approximately 498,000 acres of Wilderness lands in Mineral County. Combined with the present 3,450,986 acres of wilderness lands already established by Congress, the addition of the Lyon and Mineral County lands will bring the total to 4,129,822 acres of designated wilderness lands in Nevada. This computes to roughly 6% of the total number of acres that comprise the State of Nevada.

In response to the proposal of lands to be set aside in the areas of Pine Grove and elsewhere in Lyon County, members

residents and people throughout western United States. Grazing of cattle in the Mineral and Lyon counties is much needed for the economy and livelihood of ranchers and farmers.

Kirkeby said in regards to grazing and the military,

Cruise Season Opens Saturday, March 22

COME SUPPORT THE MINERAL COUNTY SHERIFF EXPLORER CADETS

Dust off the winter and get your classic ride out. Time to go cruisin' on Saturday, March 22, at 11:00 a.m. at Jetway Motors in Hawthorne.

The Mineral County Sheriff's Explorer Cadet Post 2290 will be selling BBQ hamburgers, hotdogs, chips, and soda. The proceeds will help them buy their uniforms for Armed Forces Day. Your support as a community would be greatly appreciated by bringing down your classic street rod to show. Bikes, buggies, and trucks are encouraged to participate.

If you don't have a classic ride then come down and see what your neighbor has been hiding in his shop all winter working

The dietary aide/cook will perform such duties as meal and snack preparation, serving and clean up for Acute Hospital and Skilled Nursing Facility. Applicant must have the ability to multitask, follow state and federal mandated regulations in regards to food preparation and storage, work well with the public and other staff members, as well as be organized, dependable, and responsible. Institutional food preparation experience and Food Handler's Card is desired. The pay ranges from \$8.00 to \$10.00 per hour. Fulltime employees receive a generous benefits package.

Applications and job descriptions can be picked-up and returned to the main Switchboard or mail to:

Mt. Grant General Hospital,
ATTN: Jonalee Roberts,
P.O. Box 1510,
Hawthorne, NV 89415.
Equal Opportunity Employer

POSTED 03/10/08

Publish: March 13, 20 and 27, 2008

MT. GRANT GENERAL HOSPITAL

HELP WANTED

Mt. Grant General Hospital is accepting applications for the position of
ASSISTANT CFO/CONTROLLER.

Duties will include responsibility for the preparation and maintenance of the general records including general ledger accounting, account analysis, budgeting, and financial reporting. This position will report directly to the Chief Financial Officer.

Qualified candidates must have intermediate to advanced accounting skills, thoroughly understand accrual basis accounting concepts, be proficient at all accounting functions, and will need to have an understanding of Balance Sheets and Profit and Loss Statements. General computer use with an emphasis on spreadsheets is essential. An accounting de-

meeting, but have agreed to attend the agency's next meeting in April.

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In response to the proposal of lands to be set aside in the areas of Pine Grove and elsewhere in Lyon County, members of the newly formed CPA detailed for the legislative contingent the impacts on the residents of the area and its vicinity that the Wilderness Areas will pose. Led by volunteer Emery Thran, of Wellington, the group presented their views of the way life is and the havoc that this proposed bill will have on their area if the bill includes the Wilderness land set asides.

Describing the significant losses to the community

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If you don't have a classic ride then come down and see what your neighbor has been hiding in his shop all winter working on. Let's get this year's Cruise Season started off with the loud roar of header pipes and classic rods. 'Old' Timers come out and show the young 'Kids' what horsepower was all about in your day, and maybe the 'Kids' will show you how they get the horsepower in today's cars.

Any questions please feel free to e-mail your friendly 'Cruise Director' at Brian.W.Curtis@gmail.com

(Continued on Page 17)

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We offer competitive salaries and excellent benefits, including an employer paid retirement plan.

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Smith Valley and Wellington Residents Just say NO to Wilderness Areas

by Sue Silver

(Continued from Page 5)

community and surrounding businesses, the presentation by the CPA outlined the adverse effects the inclusion of the Wilderness areas in the bill would have on them. Areas of impacts would include hardships on grazing and ranching, equestrian activities and endeavors, OHV use, business sales and expansion and preservation of endangered species. Among other recreational uses they say will be affected, they spoke about activities such as bird watching, bicycling, and impacts to hunters, trappers and fishing. Concerns were also expressed about restrictions imposed on the use of airplanes and helicopters and the effect this would have on the area. Audience response throughout the presentation was underscored by applause of agreement with the information and comments of the presenters.

Following the presentation there was a question and answer period during which people in the audience were allowed a limited time to ask a question and the delegation's representatives were provided an equal time to give a response. Many remarks by those making inquiry were received thunderous applause, whistles and whoops as the audience expressed its appreciation of the sentiments expressed.

Primary among those sentiments was that those in attendance did not want Wilderness Areas included in any land bill for Lyon County. This was officially reiterated by Lyon County Commissioner Phyllis Hunewill who reminded the delegation that their Board of County Commissioners had in the past firmly declined the inclusion of such land use for the county.

Representatives of the CPA believe they adequately presented their position in the matter and have vowed to continue their opposition to the Wilderness Areas in Lyon County that comprise their unique backyard. A transcript and DVD of their presentation will be presented to Congress, they say, as a means to further communicate their opinions to those who will ultimately vote on the final land bill.

In addition to Lyon County, other affected counties, such as Mineral, Esmeralda and Nye, are also telling the Congressional delegation they see no benefit to having lands in their counties designated as Wilderness Areas. Each believes such designation shall impose devastating hardships on their counties. Discussions will continue with all the counties as the delegation pushes forward to the early summer when the actual language of the bill will be written for introduction by Senator Reid.

Senators Reid and Ensign have done land bills for other Nevada counties, among them White Pine County which required a process that lasted approximately five years. The present counties that the land bill threatens to affect question why this bill is being rushed with less than three months for the counties to act and respond.

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

by Bill Dykxhoorn "In Mineral County"

What To Do?

By M. J. Dykxhoorn

The other day I was asked to write an article for the Mineral County Development Corporation (MCDC) on the economic impact that the Wilderness Land Bill would have on our community. After long thought on the subject and speaking with concerned citizens, most everyone in our community already realizes how greatly of an impact this will be for our family, friends and neighbors for generations to come. We do not need more articles written to stir the pot, but instead need the action of the citizens of our community to get involved and stand united in our goals. If this is of importance to you and your family and are not involved, get involved, if you are involved, stay involved! If you would like more information on this important subject, please call Pam at 945-5171. One other vitally important thing, always, always remember to be ladies and gentlemen, as we stand united to oppose this Wilderness Land Bill.

On to other news in our community, our Mineral County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA) working with the Nevada Small Business Development Center has started a class on "N₂Level for Entrepreneurs". This is a very informative class for

existing business owners and for people interested in starting a business. For more information, please call the MCEDA at 945-5896.

Got some free time on your hands or would like to do something worthwhile for your community, consider volunteering at the Hawthorne Ordnance Museum (HOM). Volunteers are greatly appreciated! For more information, please call the HOM at 945-5400.

Our community's Annual Spring Clean-up Campaign did not happen last year, for various reasons. If you feel that this is an important on-going project for our community, please give me a call at 945-9001. Let us all work together for the future prosperity of our community!

Lora Myles, Senior Lawyer Here Today

Lora Myles, Senior Lawyer will be in Hawthorne to help clients today, March 13 from 10-5 at the Financial Horizons Credit Union. To make an appointment, please contact Fran Goodyear at 945-5423.

Walker River Paiute Tribe Diabetes Program Hosts

Associates

Meeting Report

The Mineral County Museum Associates (a private non-profit 501(c)3 corporation) held their regular meeting on Feb. 13. In the absence of President Audrey Cooper, Treasurer Georgana Mayne, opened the meeting.

Among other business was the notice and approval for filing the Annual List of Officers required by the Secretary of State. Sec. Mildred Springer reported she continues work on IRS papers related to finalizing non-profit status.

Georgana Mayne reported that Desert Micro Imaging had assembled and delivered an excellent micro-fiche reader/printer at a very reasonable price. This means that researchers can now read and print hard copy of historic newspapers held by the Mineral County Museum. The Museum Director pointed out that this process can only be used for museum holdings. The new equipment will allow us to purchase *The Western Nevada Miner* from the Nevada State Archives. This newspaper had been unavailable from the company we had originally ordered it from.

The Museum Director also asked that we approve the purchase of glass panels to complete the work on the exhibit case being prepared for the Mattson Rock Collection.

MCMA will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, March 12, at 2 p.m.

We need to emphasize the need for new officers. There are openings for President and Secretary as well as Chairmen for Membership, Entertainment, and Nominations. Persons interested in any of these openings are urged to contact Georgana Mayne at 5142 or Mildred Springer at 2754.