



# BASS LAKE BULLETIN

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The Voice of the Bass Lake Community

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[www.basslakeaction.org](http://www.basslakeaction.org)


Christmas revelers (L to R) – BLAC President John Thomson, EDH CSD Director-Elect Terry Crumpley, and EDC Supervisor Ray Nutting at the BLAC Christmas party

## BLAC CHRISTMAS PARTY AND ANNUAL ELECTION RESULTS

The December Bass Lake Action Committee celebrated the Holiday Season with its annual Christmas Party, held in the home of Fran and John Thomson in El Dorado Hills.

Party-goers were first treated to luscious hors d'oeuvres and assorted beverages. Fresh-baked pizza and Italian salad made up the main dish, followed by dessert.

Ray Nutting, crediting his father for his vast repertoire of songs, led the jolly group in an after-dinner medley of Christmas carols, including "Silver Bells," "Frosty the Snowman," Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and "Silent Night."

A highlight of the evening was the annual election of officers, with all of the 2012 officers and board members unanimously re-elected to their same offices for 2013.

BLAC President John Thomson, speaking to the group after the election, thanked the members for their vote of confidence, and pledged that the Bass Lake Action Committee would continue to fulfill its mission of serving the residents of Bass Lake Road. ~



## EDC ANIMAL SHELTER LOCATION IN SIGHT

County residents breathed a sigh of relief when Russ Fackrell, facilities manager with the Chief Administrative Office told the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors in November that the exhaustive search for a suitable location for the shelter may have come to an end.

The search has been narrowed down to a building at 6425 Capitol Ave. in the Diamond Springs Commercial Park. The location satisfies the condition that any site had to be centrally located on the Western Slope, from which officers can conduct more than 8,000 trips per year related to animal services and animal control.

In addition, the ideal facility would be one that could be expanded to at least 17,200 square feet, sit on a minimum of two acres, and be in an area zoned for industrial activity. Fortunately, the Diamond Springs building can be increased to more than 21,000 square feet, is sited on 3 acres and is zoned Industrial.

The location was chosen after looking at more than 100 properties and eventually narrowed down to the present Diamond Springs site. The property is not yet purchased. While the county has a signed Letter of Intent, they do not yet have a signed Purchase and Sale Agreement (PSA). After

final negotiations conclude, the PSA will be brought to the Board of Supervisors for consideration. Approval of the PSA would initiate an environmental review process, and will include at least three more open board session hearings on the project. The board will retain complete authority to reject the project based on environmental review findings, even after a PSA is signed. ~

*Credits: Chris Daley, Mountain Democrat*



## HISTORIC RAILROADS KEEP CHUGGING ALONG, CHRISTMAS EVENTS PLANNED

After being stuck on a siding for years, Western Slope excursion rail may be getting the green light.

Volunteers from the county's own El Dorado Western Railway (EDWR) have been promoting their excursion train rides between Shingle Springs and Diamond Springs using the railroad tracks on the right-of-way of the Sacramento Placerville Transportation Corridor Joint Powers Authority (JPA). EDWR operates under the aegis of the El Dorado County Museum. Its fund-raising arm is the El Dorado Western Railway Foundation, which has assisted in the development of the historical Rail Park located in the town of El Dorado just off Oriental Street.

The EDWR is hosting a Santa Run event at the Rail Park on Saturday, December

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Merry  
Christmas



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello Everyone,

I hope that this finds everyone home and dry, given the soaking we got last week. I expected the flooding that occurred out on White Rock Road and Bidwell Street, but I was surprised to see Bass Lake Road flooded at times. Wow. We got over a foot of rain, and a lot of wind. Of course, our house overlooks the lake, so we are somewhat exposed, but it was as bad as I've seen it.

Needless to say, our trees are pretty bare by now, an indicator that winter is really here. It looks like cold weather is on its way. I'm glad that those who are fortunate to have JS West as their propane supplier under the deal negotiated by BLAC can see record low prices. As of today, my price was \$1.65 a gallon. Last year at this time the wholesale price of propane was \$1.45 at the Mont Belvieu, Texas hub.

This month's Bulletin is only three pages, but I like to think it's packed with information about places to go to enjoy this festive Season.

The BLAC Christmas party got us in the mood for the Holidays, so let me wish you all a Merry Christmas, and a Very Happy New Year.

*John Thomson*

President

## RAILROADS *(continued)*

15th from Noon to 5:00 PM. Featured will be carolers, games, hot cocoa, cider and cookies, face painting, a visit with Santa and of course, train rides. Suggested donations are \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for ages 3 to 8, and under age 3 free. For information go to <http://eldoradowestern.blogspot.com>

In the El Dorado Hills area, the Placerville & Sacramento Valley Railroad (P&SVRR), a non-profit history and railroading organization based in Folsom, has tried for several years to gain a long-term license to run excursion trains into the El Dorado County foothills over the railroad tracks owned by the JPA. Though the corridor itself is owned by the JPA, El Dorado County was given an easement under the agreement which allows the county to control the property as long as it is used for transportation purposes. Negotiations between the P&SVRR and the County Board of Supervisors have continued through this past year, and it is hoped an agreement can be arrived at in 2013. In the meantime, the JPA, including Sacramento County and Folsom, have agreed to grant the P&SVRR a license to operate their excursion trains between Folsom and the Sacramento county line.

P&SVRR is also hosting a Christmas event this year. Local families can travel to see Santa over the historic railroad tracks running through Folsom. The nonprofit Placerville & Sacramento Valley Railroad in Folsom is offering old and young a train ride to Santa's Grotto, which is nestled in the woods next to beautiful Willow Creek. Everyone will enjoy a short train ride from the Oak Avenue Whistle Stop to Santa's Grotto, where they will be dropped off to have some refreshments, visit with Santa, and maybe even have their picture taken with Old Saint Nick. Passengers will return to the boarding point on a later train, making this an approximately forty-five minute experience for the family. Railroad volunteers will share some of the rich railroad history of our region during the journey, including the history of the organization's restored 1936 Skagit Motorcar.

The fare is \$5.00 for all persons age 4 and above, while children under 4 ride for free. Tickets will be available at the kiosk.

Trains leave from California Family Fitness, located at 700 Oak Avenue Parkway (the corner of East Bidwell and Oak Avenue), in Folsom. Park in the parking lot near the tracks and join the fun! Operating days are Saturday and Sunday, December 8 and 9, and December 15 and 16. Hours of operation are 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. All proceeds go towards the preservation and development of the Historic Railroad. For information you may call 916-708-7368 or go to <http://psvrr.org/holiday.html> . ~



## CALIFORNIA FIREARM SALES SOAR

Legal gun sales in California are on pace to set a record this year, according to state projections, although no one can say exactly why. The state Department of Justice expects that 725,000 rifles, pistols and shotguns will be legally purchased in 2012. The projection is more than 100,000 more guns than were bought last year and nearly twice as many as were purchased five years ago.

Within the last decade, firearm sales have increased dramatically across the state, a rise that officials and experts say is difficult to explain with any precision because the state doesn't track why people purchase the weapons.

Chuck Michel, a civil rights attorney who represents the California Rifle and Pistol Association, said that among factors contributing to the spike include concerns about public safety in a faltering economy and the potential for new laws that might someday restrict firearm ownership. Michel, whose 40,000-member organization promotes firearm safety and gun rights, also said that from a cultural perspective, Americans—and especially women—have become more accepting of the value of firearms for self-defense and recreational purposes.

Michel said that buyers remain concerned that President Barack Obama will support more gun controls, a trend that emerged when he was elected four years ago and resurfaced as he sought re-election. "Now the Obama factor is coming back into play again," Michel said. "While there weren't

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## GUN SALES *(continued)*

quite as many gun control efforts in his first term as originally feared, people recognize there will be more in his second term in office.”

Overall, gun sales have been rising steadily in California since 2003. Last year, Californians legally purchased 601,246 guns compared to 498,945 in 2010. The 2011 figure was the highest gun sales total since 1993 when there were a record 642,197.

Traditionally, handgun sales far surpass those of rifles and shotguns. But that changed after 2000, when state lawmakers restricted buyers from purchasing more than one handgun a month. However, there are no such restrictions for rifles. So, when more than one long gun is purchased at a time, the state records it as a single transaction, which means California’s annual total could be underreported.

Assembly Bill 809, effective beginning in 2014, will require the registration of any newly purchased long guns. Critics of this new gun law say it violates Second Amendment rights by forcing state registration of rifles and shotguns, and that the only value of long gun registration is in assisting governments to locate and confiscate firearms in the future. ~



### Christmas Past

Each Christmas I remember  
The ones of long ago;  
I see our mantelpiece adorned  
With stockings in a row.

Each Christmas finds me dreaming  
Of days that used to be,  
When we hid presents here and there,  
For all the family.

Each Christmas I remember  
The fragrance in the air,  
Of roasting turkey and mince pies  
And cookies everywhere.

Each Christmas finds me longing  
For Christmases now past,  
And I am back in childhood  
As long as memories last.

- Carice Williams



## EDH TOWN CENTER'S HOLIDAY SPIRIT

There are plenty of exiting events going on at El Dorado Hills Town Center this month.

**Photo Op With Santa Claus** - Through Christmas Eve Santa Claus will be spending time at El Dorado Hills Town Center spreading holiday cheer. Families are invited to visit with Santa to share wish lists and to take a picture, with photo packages starting at \$12.99. Meet Santa at the California Welcome Center on Post Street next to Cold Stone Creamery.

**Saturday Community Performances** - El Dorado Hills Town Center will host a series of community performances — Saturdays in December, Dec. 8, 15, & 22, with two performances at noon and 2 p.m. in the Steven Young Amphitheater. Activities will include music, DJ and face painting from noon to 3 PM, weather permitting.

**Carriage Rides** - Experience the magic of Town Center in a horse-drawn carriage. Enjoy the beautiful lights and holiday scenery at Town Center from a horse-drawn carriage on Fridays and Saturdays, December 7 & 8, 14 & 15, 21 & 22, from 6 to 9 PM. Proceeds benefit two non-profits — Big Brothers & Big Sisters, and Hands4Hope.

For more information about these events and more visit [eldoradohillstowncenter.com](http://eldoradohillstowncenter.com).

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## BLAC SETS JANUARY BOARD MEETING DATE

The BLAC January Board meeting will be held on January 7th starting at 7 o'clock at the home of Fran and John Thomson, 501 Kirkwood Court, in Woodridge. All BLAC Members are cordially invited to attend. For information call Fran Thomson at 530-677-3039.

The February 4th membership meeting will be held at the Parker Development offices in El Dorado Hills to discuss their plans for Marble Valley, central El Dorado Hills, and the old golf course. The meeting will start at 7 PM.

All BLAC members are cordially invited to attend all meetings. For further information regarding our meetings, please contact Vice President Kathy Prevost, 530-672-6836. ~

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