

Continued from previous page

there's even more parking out behind the elementary school and the Veterans Hall. You might want to park out there (take Pine Street off of Highway 12 and then you'll have to turn left at the hall) because this event concludes with a cool craft fair inside the Veterans Hall through 1 p.m. Gift-worthy goodies abound.

In Angels Camp, the city's centennial celebration continues with Saturday's Holiday Open House, which finds businesses proffering good cheer from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Centennial Holiday Parade steps off at 2 p.m. along Highway 49 into downtown and Santa Claus will be at the Visitors Bureau for photos with the kids. The Angels Camp Business Association con-

tinues the party on Sunday at Camps Restaurant with the Hometown Holiday Gala at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$40 at Turner's Wild West, Middleton's, The Chocolate Lady, Camps or online at angelscampbusiness.com. Live music and much merrymaking conspire to kick off the season with glee at this one, folks.

Now I'll leave you with the tune that's been rattling around inside my head since I started considering these parades. Remember the tug boat and hear the voice (it's unmistakable): "Don't tell me not to live, just sit and putter. Life's candy and the sun's a ball of butter. Don't bring around a cloud to rain on my parade."

Have some holiday fun this week and if it rains, just sing in it.

Centennial Holiday Parade

WHEN: 2 p.m.
Saturday

WHERE: Main Street,
downtown Angels
Camp

COST: Free

MORE INFO: angels-campbusiness.com

Reach Mike Taylor at mtaylor@sierralodestar.com.



File photo

A bus full of holiday cheer revs up revelers in Valley Springs.

Tuolumne Talk

Harmony Wheeler



My dad taught me to tithe at church by making it fun for me. In a sort of playful game, he would pretend to "compete" with me over which of us could give the most money. In the process, he instilled a sense of importance of giving of oneself to greater causes. With Black Friday passed and my shopping bag full of movies, I'll be the

Santa swoops in to support those in need

first to admit how easily I forget to be thankful for what I have and to recognize the needs of others.

The simple truth is that many of us get caught up in our jobs and families; and that's not necessarily a bad thing. Who's to say we aren't serving our friends and society by being ourselves and doing our best in life, but that shouldn't stop us from passing along lessons of giving, nor should our busy schedules prevent us from contributing the easy gifts of money and goods.

"There are many reasons to get involved: to help those less fortunate; to find a good home for that

coat you no longer wear; and to realize that your act of giving can truly help another life. It's tax deductible, too!" said Maryann Curmi, on-air personality at STAR 92.7 FM.

The event coordinator for Clarke Broadcasting's Santa Fly-in Cash, Coat and Food Drive – set for 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Saturday at the Standard Park in Sonora – Curmi said she hopes children in the Mother Lode see that giving is the spirit of Christmas.

"Teaching our children to help others is a gift that they will remember and hopefully pass on to their children," she said. "Last year, a child sitting in his parents' car unrolled his window and handed me a plastic bag filled with coins that he wanted to donate. We were all so touched. Parents and guardians are the role



Courtesy photo

Justin Ambler gives Santa a few hints at last year's fly-in.

models for these children."

This year marks Clarke Broadcasting's third year partnering with

Play Greenhorn Creek in November!

\$50 Green Fee with Cart

Tuesdays and Thursdays in November

Tuesdays

Hot Dog and Soda included

Thursdays

Golfer's Breakfast or \$10 lunch voucher

Golfer's Breakfast served

8:00 am to 10:30 am (for play prior to 2:00 pm)

Not valid with other discounts, Offer ends 11/29/12

209-736-8111

676 McCauley Rd. Angels Camp



GREENHORN CREEK

COUPON • Must bring in this ad to receive this offer! • COUPON

Attorneys at Law

Probate - Trusts - Conservatorship
Estate Litigation

Alan R. Horvath



Sole Proprietor



596 Mountain Ranch Road
San Andreas, CA 95249

209 754-LAW1

www.alanhorvathlaw.com

Susan J. Hibbs



Sole Proprietor

Santa Fly-in Cash, Coat and Food Drive

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Saturday

WHERE: Standard Park, 18500 Standard Park Road, Sonora

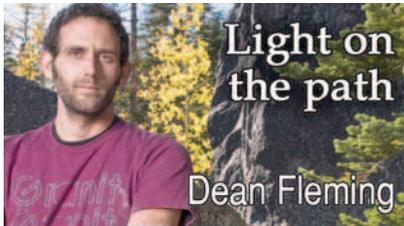
COST: Free to attend

MORE INFO:
533-9270

Interfaith Social Services for the fly-in drive, which raised more than \$20,000 its first year and \$30,000 during the second. Donations go

Continued on next page

Sierra Lodestar



The snow's falling and soon we'll ski

Recent winter whiteouts brought smiles to the faces of Mother Lode skiers and snowboarders. It also brightened the faces of those who rely on generous snowfall for seasonal income. Last winter, resorts opened strong, yet an unprecedented spell of warm weather re-opened the high Sierra passes by mid-season, leaving some central Sierra ski resorts and outdoor retailers behind in their annual averages. Over the past few months, area ski resorts and outdoor retailers have been gearing up for the 2012/13 snow season in anticipation of a much stronger winter storm cycle. While those storms brought a significant amount of snow to the Sierra, there's still a bit more needed to open area ski resorts. Remember,

though, that ski resorts aren't the only options available for snow-loving outdoor enthusiasts. Plenty of cross-country skiing and backcountry options are already showing promise at higher elevations. In fact, many folks have already taken to the hills, riding into their favorite backcountry destinations on snowmobiles, by cross country skiing over moderate terrain or hiking the backcountry slopes around Lake Tahoe and Carson Pass. For those of us who aren't quite ready to take off our hiking boots this year, snowshoeing is a great transition to the winter season – a perfect activity for mild weekend excursions after late fall snowstorms. Snowshoeing is a great way to access some truly spectacular scenery during this undoubtedly beautiful time of year. When fall colors are in peak vibrancy, add a dusting of snow to the aspens, maples, dogwoods and oak trees and



Dodge Ridge has seen recent snowfall and hopes to open soon.

from early November from Kirkwood, Bear Valley and Dodge Ridge. Consider them early looks at what might be in store on the slopes. Kirkwood reported an estimated 18 to 24 inches of base snow accumulated between Nov. 8 and 10. The storms over the pre-Thanksgiving weekend added a bit of white to its mountains and some of its lifts opened. To stay updated on Kirkwood's accumulating snowpack, visit kirkwood.com. "The upper level trough which brought some nice early-season snowfall will migrate eastward today away from California.

you essentially create a photographer's daydream. Snowshoes, aside from being fun on their own accord, are a great tool for accessing this season's unreal scenery. For those of you looking forward to faster-paced downhill snow sports who simply cannot wait until the Mother Lode's ski resorts are up

and running, here are snow reports

Continued on page 11

Continued from previous page

toward Interfaith, which provides individuals and families in Tuolumne County with food, clothing, places to shower, toiletries and haircuts. "They service hundreds of families each month," Curmi said. The fly-in itself goes farther back. In the past, Clarke partnered with PHI Air Medical, the company that flies seriously sick and injured patients to Central Valley hospitals, and held the fly-in at the Junction Shopping Center and Sonora High School. The event grew into its new home, Standard Park.

On Saturday, people can bring gently used coats, nonperishable canned and packaged foods and cash donations to the park. Adults and children alike are invited to watch Santa Claus arrive by helicopter at 11 a.m., courtesy of Tuolumne County Ambulance Service and PHI. In addition, "There is Christmas music playing and Summerville High's Jazz at 8 will sing carols for the children who wait to whisper into Santa's ear," Curmi said.

"We call our helpers elves," Curmi said, "and we have many helpers. Glen Roberts from (the California Highway Patrol) will again bring his group of young Explorers out to man the parking lot drive-through area. The wonderful students of the Columbia College Fire Department are a big help at the event every year. Ron Hamilton brings a group from 4H that will work as Santa's elves, setting up Santa's scene and giving out candy

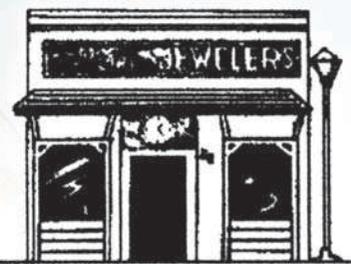
canes to all of the children. And, of course, the volunteers from Interfaith who love to gather the donations from the cars and be able to personally say, 'Thank You.'" Clarke Broadcasting also accepts donations over the phone at 532-9350 or 533-9270 on Thursday and Friday between 6 and 10 a.m. and in person at the radio station (342 S. Washington St., Sonora) between 12 and 5 p.m. on Sunday. "The response is awe-inspiring," Curmi said. "Some businesses chal-

lenge others; some give in honor of a loved one that has passed on; while others may have at one time needed the services of Interfaith and now have the means to be able to 'pay it forward.' Then, of course, there are those who simply give from their hearts to help those less fortunate. It's an amazing experience."

Send your Tuolumne County events to Harmony Wheeler at hwheeler@sierralodestar.com and mtaylor@sierralodestar.com.

TRASSARE JEWELERS

*We buy & sell
U.S. Coins and
Currency!*

*We Pay Cash
for Gold!*

38 Main Street • Jackson (209) 223-3801

Full Line of Coin Collecting Supplies!

H&R BLOCK®
Locally owned and operated since 1976

You could get up to
\$1000
with an Emerald Advance®

Call **NOW** and get your advance
before the Holidays!

■ New Clients Welcome ■ No W-2 Required

Bring current government-issued photo ID or driver's license and most recent pay stub. New clients also bring a recent bill or bank statement that has your current street address.

Offer expires: January 15, 2013
H&R Block Emerald Advance® line of credit and H&R Block Emerald Savings® are offered through, and H&R Block Emerald Prepaid MasterCard is issued by, H&R Block Bank, a Federal Savings Bank. Member FDIC. Line of credit is subject to credit and underwriting approval. Fees apply. If you apply and qualify for an Emerald Advance, H&R Block Bank may report information about your account to credit bureaus. Late payments, missed payments, or other defaults on your account may be reflected in your credit report. Products offered only at participating offices. -asterCard is a registered trademark of MasterCard International Incorporated. *Prior Clients* are H&R Block Bank customers in good standing (except those with an IRA only) and individuals who paid H&R Block or its franchisee for assisted 2011 tax return preparation (which includes an amended return). OBT#B13696 ©2012 HRB Tax Group, Inc.



H&R Block
AltaVillage
Next to BBVA Compass Bank
471 S. Main St., Angels Camp, CA 95221
(209) 736-0474

H&R Block
Amador Valley Plaza
Next to Baskin Robbins
11960 W. Hwy. 88, Jackson, CA 95642
(209) 223-2155

H&R Block
Valley Oaks Plaza
Next to Starbucks
203 E. Hwy. 12, Valley Springs, CA 95252
(209) 772-1712

H&R Block
Downtown Lone
Next to the Lone Hotel
23 W. Main St., Lone, CA 95640
(209) 274-6398

