



Serving our community for 37 years!  
Alta Dutch Flat Gold Run  
**COMMUNITY**

Volume 37 – No. 1 PUBLISHED BY THE DUTCH FLAT COMMUNITY CENTER WITH MEMBER SUPPORT Spring 2026

## Community Unites to Ward Off Evil

By Sarah Fugate

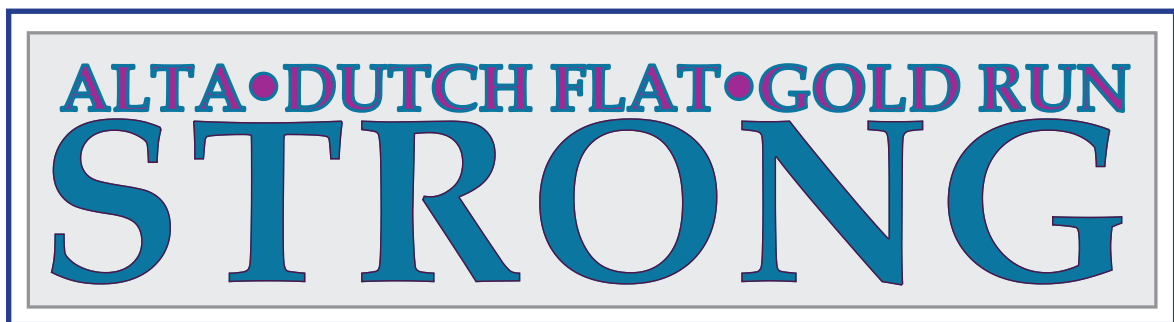


Alta area residents stand together in opposition to the placement of a sexually violent predator in the Alta Oaks neighborhood

To the residents of Alta,

Thank you for showing up, for being respectful, and for presenting thoughtful, legally relevant information for the Court's consideration. Your dedication to your community, to one another, and to the integrity of the legal process was evident throughout. The strength and unity of Alta was so clear -- the Court itself acknowledged it in open session. Your voices made a difference, and your commitment to protecting your community did not go unnoticed.

Sincerely,  
Your Placer County District Attorney's Office team



On January 9, 2026, the Department of State Hospitals announced that an Alta home was being considered for placement of a sexually violent predator. Within days, our community began informing its residents of the proposed placement and what we could do to oppose it. A massive letter writing campaign ensued.

On January 20, hundreds of local residents attended a town hall meeting to share their concerns with the District Attorney and other local officials. "After listening to hours of feedback from hundreds of Alta-area residents, it became clear that this proposed address raises serious concerns about the release of Mr. Stephenson in the Alta-Dutch Flat community", said Placer County District Attorney, Morgan Gire.

On February 13, an evidentiary hearing was held at the Placer County Courthouse in Auburn. The courtroom was filled to capacity, with additional community members gathered in the hallway. The Court acknowledged the significant public interest in the matter and confirmed that all written opposition submitted by residents was received by the court. "Community members filed extensive opposition materials—amounting to more than eight inches of documents—which were compiled and submitted to the Court", said the District Attorney's office.

**The Court concluded that the proposed Alta location is not a safe or appropriate placement and denied the placement recommendation.**



"The District Attorney's Office will continue to monitor developments in this case and remain committed to ensuring community concerns are properly presented and considered in future proceedings."



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## Notes from a Small School: What is Local Control?

By Shana Brown

Alta-Dutch Flat School has always been a very special place. We have an enrollment of about 100 hundred students, give or take a few. It's like how our bodies seem to like to stay at an ideal weight; one hundred students seems to be about what our community can sustain. We have had years when there were over 200 students here, and years when we were down in the seventies. However, we seem to be holding steady at 100. We are, by far, the smallest district in Placer County and I wear dual hats as both principal and superintendent.

People often ask me, especially those from outside our community, if we are still open, if we are viable and sustainable, if we are going to combine with another school district. The answer is clear for those of us who live in our community: local control. Local control means that our school board of five trustees makes decisions that have a direct impact on our students. Local control means that our six teachers and additional support staff can get together in one room and decide on curriculum or finances or discipline. We can quickly pivot ourselves to meet needs as they arise.

Local control means that our school board makes decisions about finances that directly impact our students. Schools in California are funded with a formula based on average daily attendance or how many students, on average, attend school. Our school is fortunate enough to receive additional funds as a Necessary Small School, meaning our average daily attendance is less than 97 and a large population of our students would be forced to drive a further distance to the next public school.

We have a five-member Board of Trustees that governs our district. Our board is a mix of parents with school-age children and members of the community: Daria Snider, Kevin Harback, Kirstin Bivins, and Lori Warwick. We regret to announce that Kathy Mutto, who has served on our board since 2006, has resigned from the board this month. She joins other retired board members such as Lynn Oliver, Dave Rosenquist, Connie Gulling, and Don Marker who have also dedicated their time as trustees over the years. As a result of Kathy's resignation, we have a vacancy on our board and will look to appoint a trustee to fill the vacancy. If you would be interested in serving on the ADF School Board, contact our school office at (530)389-8283.

All of us who work here realize the stewardship of working at this little school. From a practical standpoint, we realize that property values may hinge on our [success](#) and sustainability. We are mindful of this when we make fiscal decisions that have a direct impact on our school's and our students' success. We know that we are merely caretakers of this school who zealously guard tradition and our community's memories. We strive to make memories for our next generation and to build our students of today who will shoulder this same responsibility of caretaking for Alta-Dutch Flat School in years to come.



**COMMUNITY STAFF**

**Publisher:**

Dutch Flat Community Center  
 P. O. Box 14, Dutch Flat CA 95714  
 530-389-8310

**Editorial Staff:**

Sarah Fugate, Editor

**Reporters & Contributors:**

Shana Brown  
 Sarah Fugate  
 Bill Gallaher  
 Doug Hughs  
 Geri Lennon  
 Debby McClatchy  
 Mia Monroe  
 Shelley Willsmore

**Special Contributor:**

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**Email:** dfcc.newspaper@gmail.com

**Address:** 933 Stockton Street, Dutch Flat

**Website:** www.dutchflatcc.org

**Facebook:** Dutch Flat Community Center

**X:** @dutchflatcc

Views expressed in letters, guest opinion pieces and other contributions do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor, the Dutch Flat Community Center, or its Board.

This newspaper is published quarterly and distributed to Dutch Flat Community Center members and to residents of the Center's service area from Gold Run to Emigrant Gap in Placer County, California.

We welcome contributions from readers. Submission deadline for the next issue: **June 10, 2026.**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**The Attic:** Thursdays, 10 am - 1 pm.

**Dutch Flat Community Center Board of Directors Meeting:** 2nd Mondays, 6:00 pm. Location varies. Contact Laura Glassco, 916-778-8308.

**Dutch Flat Community Center Potluck:** 3rd Thursdays. 6:00 pm. Bring a place setting, your own drink, and a dish to share.

**Dutch Flat Seventh Day Adventist:** Dinner and Bible Study, Wednesday, 6 pm, free and open to all. Sabbath, Saturday, 3:30 pm. Children's Church same time and place. 936 Stockton Street. Contact 831-710-7712 or 860-367-2689.

**Dutch Flat United Methodist Church Arts & Crafts:** Thursdays, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. All are welcome. Learn something new!

**Golden Drift Historical Society Board Meeting:** 1st Monday of February, April, June, August, October and December, 7 pm. Golden Drift Museum, Main Street. Contact Sarah Fugate, 530-210-5085.

**Golden Drift Museum:** Opens May 22. Regular hours: Friday through Sunday, noon until 4 pm.

**Odd Fellows Pancake Breakfasts:** Sundays, April 5, May 24, July 5, and September 6.

**Pioneer Union Church, Gold Run:** Worship Service, Sundays, 10 am.

**Sierra First Baptist Church, Alta:** Sunday School, 9 am. Worship Service, Sundays, 10:30 am. 33990 Alta Bonny Nook Rd., Alta. Contact 530-389-2168.

**Sierra First Baptist Church Bible Study:** Mondays, 8:30 am.

**Sierra First Baptist Church Community Lunch:** Mondays, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm. Free.

**Sierra First Baptist Church Food Pantry:** Thursdays, 10 am - 12 pm.



**A message from the DFCC President**

By Doug Hughs



Newly painted Community Center with sound-reducing panels installed.

As I write this article, this 2nd day of March, it looks and feels like spring has sprung. Time to clear out all the downed trees and branches from our February snowstorm. A lot has been happening at our Community Center.

The ADFS Parents Club put on their "Boot Scootin' BBQ" fundraiser with amazing food, pie and silent auction and guided line dancing upstairs. It was a roaring success and so much fun! They also managed to raise a significant amount of money for their kids' ski day, so thanks to all of you out there that managed to attend and support this event. This was also the very first event to break in our newly painted Center.

Our Community Center interior has been completely repainted upstairs and downstairs. Come on out to see the new look! We've also completed the installation of our long-needed acoustic sound board dampening material in our primary potluck room. Many thanks go out to Mike Bell, John Ortega and Bob Beane for completing the installation of this material. I personally

have been to two events since this work has been completed and have noticed a tremendous improvement. I hope all of you do as well.

Our 4th Annual Spring Fling event will be held on Saturday May 16th. The party theme will be "Gold Rush Revisited" so break out your miner's wear! You won't want to miss this. Our local premier party planner, Deb Harris, will be transforming the Center back to our historic roots of a thriving 1800's gold mining town just as it was back in the day. Tickets will be on sale at the Trading Post starting March 15th. Seating is limited so get your tickets early for a great Tri-tip dinner, fantastic silent auction items and music by our local band Malarkey. All proceeds go to keeping our Center alive and thriving to provide fun and enjoyment for all.

Finally, please do not forget about our monthly potlucks on the third Thursday of every month. Our next several will be March 19th, April 16th and May 21st. Hope to see everyone there!

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Dutch Flat Community Center Membership Form  
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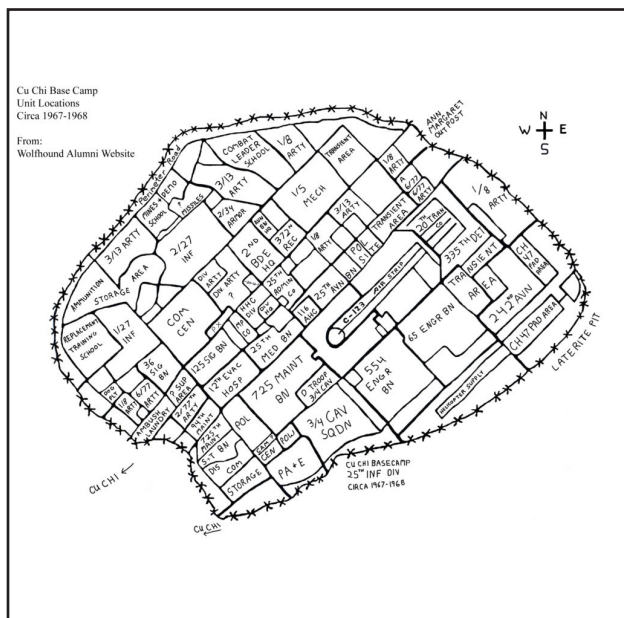
# Welcome Home-Non Gratum Anus Rodentum

By Bill Gallaher

Non Gratum Anus Rodentum ("Not worth a rat's ass")--slogan of Tunnel Rats in the Vietnam War.

January 7, 1966. Cu Chi, South Vietnam. 25 miles NW of Saigon. "Ow, WTF? Hey guys, check this out! There's a nail sticking out of this stump. Holy Sh.. This isn't just a stump; it's covering the entrance to a tunnel! Remember intel said there was enemy radio chatter from this area, but no sightings of gooks. This may be why, because the little mother effers are probably underground with an antenna wire in a tree. Get the rat."

The Vietnam war was fought from the sky, the ground and even underground. This column is dedicated to Tunnel Rats. American, New Zealand and Australian soldiers who were small and crazy enough to voluntarily crawl into pitch black tunnels in Vietnam just to see what was there. The Viet Cong had been digging tunnels and command centers for 20 years prior to the Vietnam War. These tunnels were so extensive that an entire army could plan, train, and move in secret. Literally, right under our feet. (In Cu Chi, the U.S. Army Airbase was built on top of a 155 mile long, 20 year old tunnel system!)



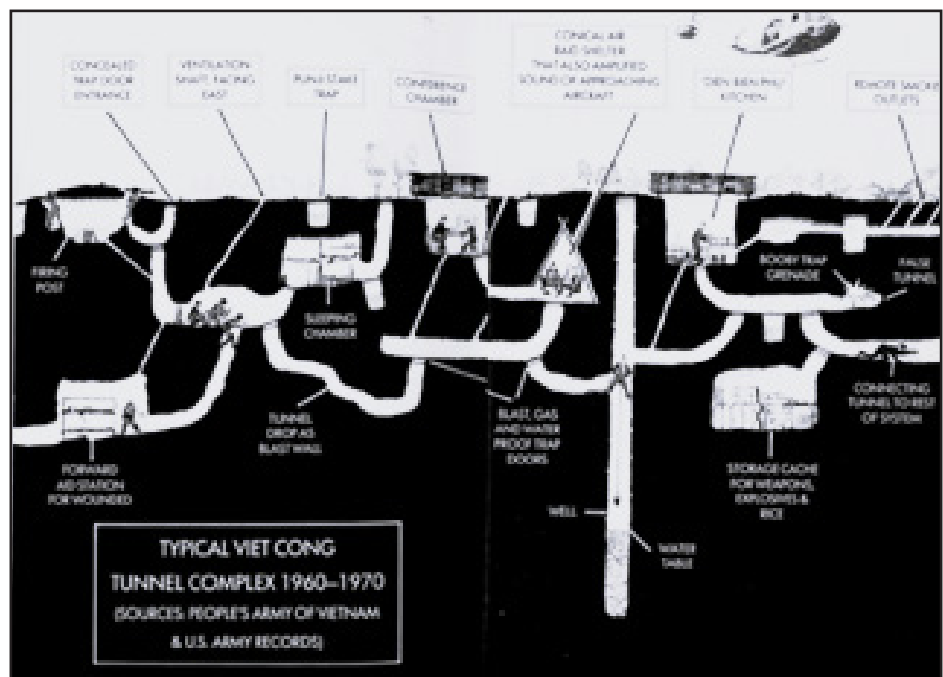
Many of these tunnels were simple, shallow structures used as hiding, sleeping and fighting positions. But there could also be entire underground living quarters, hospitals, storage, and command centers. This way the enemy lived underground, came up to attack, and disappeared. Entrances were hard to find as they were camouflaged to blend into the jungle floor. And finding an entrance did not guarantee entry. VC often booby trapped doors and surrounding areas to kill soldiers as they tried to gain entry to the tunnel systems. And once found, it was the Tunnel Rat's job to go into the abyss.

Sgt Dennis Zwonitzer was a tunnel rat. I met Dennis after we both returned from Vietnam. When Dennis, my brother Breed, (a marine Long Range Recon Patrol Sgt. LRRP) and myself (Air Force Navigator) shared our combat stories with each other the lies could peel paint. My story is from the air, my brother's from the ground and Dennis' from underground. This following story is a compilation of Sgt Zwonitzer's and other Rat's.

"I'm proud to be a Tunnel Rat. At 5'4" and 130 lbs., I'm about the size of most VC so I fit into their tunnels... I remember my first tunnel. It was so dark, I couldn't see my hand in front of my face. All I could see was a light at the other end of the bunker, so I headed straight for it, praying to Jesus and telling myself if I make it, I will live. My adrenaline was pumping like crazy, but I made it. I thought "That was pretty cool." That rush kept me volunteering to crawl into black holes that led to enemy tunnels knowing there were mean and nasty things waiting to kill me. Snakes, scorpions, booby traps, and oh yeah, enemy soldiers. Shallow tunnels could be taken out with satchel charges or flame throwers, but intelligence about the enemy was important. One of my fellow Rats brought up a map showing VC camps all over the area. Our unit was ordered to check them out, extending us in the field another two weeks. We told him, 'Next time you find a map, leave the son of a bitch in the tunnel.'

How to explain what it's like to be inside an enemy tunnel? Come with me on the mission where we discovered the underground command center of the VC forces.... the dreaded Cu Chi tunnel. It connected Saigon to Cambodia, 155 miles!

January 7, 1966. Cu Chi, South Vietnam. 25 miles NW of Saigon. I was assigned to



1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, an 8,000-man U.S.-Australian Operation. We came under fire as soon as we landed in open terrain and were mystified when the large numbers of enemy soldiers seemed to vanish in relatively open terrain.

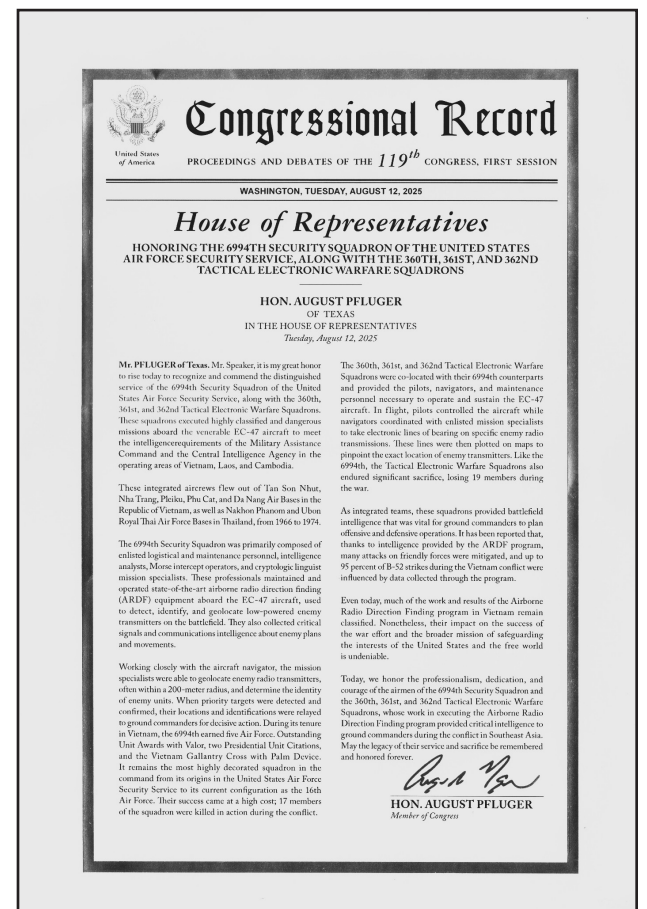
For three days, we combed the area. We found food, ammunition, and gun emplacements. The area was clearly home to a regiment-size force, but few VC were seen. Yet snipers continually harassed our troops from within our own lines! It wasn't until one of our guys sat on a nail protruding from a wooden trap door, that a camouflaged tunnel entrance was found. Red smoke grenades were dropped into the entrance, and within minutes, red smoke appeared from numerous holes in the ground. When neither the smoke nor riot gas routed the enemy, the real work of the tunnel rat started. Finally, I got to go to work. I knew many tunnels had been in use by the VC for years, and I knew there could be booby traps, poison gas, punji stake traps, Cobra snakes, (some tethered), scorpions, and other nasty ways to die. None of these traps would have the audio or scent signature I would recognize from a guerrilla waiting in ambush. (That's why dogs didn't work) As I crawled into and thru the black hole, I remember thinking "I'm more scared right now than I've ever come close to being." But that fear and the adrenaline rush kept my senses heightened. Crawl an inch and listen, repeat. The tunnels were intentionally twisted and turned to minimize the effect of explosions and to restrict assaults. I knew a VC could be around the next bend and my next inch could be my last. It's been said there are no atheists in fox holes. Tunnels too. Jesus felt very close. After what seemed like forever, I suspected this was an extensive complex and crawled back to report my suspicions.

More exploration revealed ventilation holes disguised as anthills. Baskets of grenades were found guarding trap doors to three lower levels of operating rooms, supply dumps, and armories. Intelligence was found on VC service records, detailed accounts of enemy movement from Cambodia into Vietnam, documents and maps of U.S. bases, lists of political sympathizers, and even plans for a failed assassination attempt on Robert McNamara! I later learned these tunnels were up to 40 feet deep and all 155 miles were dug by peasants 20 years earlier to combat French rule."

Tunnel rats were a mixed group. Most were short and slight, and if they didn't already have a mental toughness and lightning-quick reflexes they either developed them or died. Confrontations with venomous snakes or VC often occurred at hand-to-hand range. Also important was a sense of smell and the ability to cloak your scent. Most tunnel rats avoided things that could dull their sense of smell and give away their position. Like smoking, candy, chewing gum, deodorant and toothpaste. A tunnel rat "had to have an inquisitive mind, a lot of guts, and a lot of real moxie in knowing what to touch and what not to touch to stay alive--because you could blow yourself out of there in a heartbeat."

There were only around 100 army tunnel rats in Vietnam. This built a special culture that ensured that no rat, wounded (and most were at least once) or dead, was ever left inside a tunnel. They also avenged their injured or fallen comrades: Sgt Rejo-Ruiz crawled through choking tear gas into a tunnel with a cratering charge to finish the job after the Viet Cong had wounded two

## Bill Gallaher's Squadron honored for their Service



other rats. Another time, the rats used 300 pounds of C-4 to blow the top off of a tunnel system when one of their number had been injured.

Why not just bomb the tunnels with B-52 carpet bombing? We tried.

The thick Vietnam clay was easy to work when wet but dried to concrete hardness. 750-pound bombs landing 50 yards away from a tunnel entrance had no effect on either the tunnel or the entrance.

Tunnel Rats had a huge impact on saving lives during the Vietnam War. Rats found things no one else did. A Viet Cong officer said the tunnel rats eliminated over 12,000 guerrillas. Most captured Viet Cong weapons and equipment were uncovered by the tunnel rats. In addition to food, weapons, and intelligence materials the rats found a missing M-48 tank that the VC were using as a command center! In 1970, with help from airborne intelligence, tunnel rats uncovered a major signals intelligence node underground which was intercepting, decoding, and translating every transmission from the 1st and 25th Infantry Divisions.

The tunnels were heavily used during the Tet offensive in 1968. By 1970-71, as the Army improved its ability to process and use the information the tunnel rats provided, the tunnels became more dangerous than useful for the VC. Thanks Rats. Non Gratum Anus Rodentum.

This is a column by military vets, for vets, and about vets and their families. If you're a military veteran, especially a veteran who has been deployed away from home, "Welcome Home" has a special meaning. We have a number of vets in our tri-village area of Alta, Dutch Flat, and Gold Run and we all have stories. Stories that will make you cry, laugh, and sometimes make you ask why did that happen? Stories of families effected by their veteran's experiences, stories about how our experiences changed us, and stories that will touch us all in different ways. I'm asking all vets and families to join with me in sharing our stories. Please email me at [hiddnlakes@aol.com](mailto:hiddnlakes@aol.com). I will share your pain and joys with our community.

# A Dutch Flat Ritual We Enjoy Often

By Mia Monroe



Dutch Flat sunsets are spectacular in their prolonged color drama across quite an expanse. I'm sure many of you anticipate them, pause to enjoy often.

Thus, we are already practicing a new type of mindfulness gaining traction worldwide and traced to being a nightly norm in Dutch culture: dusking!

It involves simply spending time outside to observe the dusk or the descent of darkness at twilight. It embraces the natural pause between day and night, and offers a brief respite from technology, as well as the hustle and bustle of daily life.

Some recommend seeking one point and watching it fade...easy to focus with our distinctive Dutch Flat skyline complete with roofs, steeple, trees! No need to go anywhere, just pull up a chair and gaze out from home. Good to do alone or companionably with friends or family. Refreshment to toast with, a dog nearby are all wonderful embellishments!

Side benefits include prioritizing a bit of time with darkness, a good way to combat the negative influences of light pollution which include suppressing melatonin and interrupting circadian rhythms. There also may be unexpected surprises such as bird song or the appearance of the first star that help us appreciate and witness the miracles happening every day around us.



## LIFEGUARD

DUTCH FLAT COMMUNITY POOL

**SALARY: \$20.73 - \$22.30/HR\***

Temporary/Extra-Help assignment - Pool is open from Memorial day weekend through Labor Day weekend

This position oversees patrons at the pool, ensuring safety by rescuing those in distress and enforcing pool rules. Responsibilities include rendering first aid and CPR, maintaining cleanliness of facilities, and monitoring pool equipment and water levels. Lifeguard's will also handle incident reports, may collect fees or donations, and instruct swimming and water safety classes as needed.



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## History of the Dutch Flat Swimming Pool

By Sarah Fugate

Before the mid-1930s, residents swam in a small pond that was originally part of a water system for hydraulic gold mining. When the pond was eventually drained, the community sought a dedicated site for a new pool. A committee made up of local residents chose a location on the Little Bear River ditch, situated above the defunct Kopp Placer Mine. The land was owned by Frank Martell, who agreed to allow the pool's construction on the condition that there would never be a charge for residents to use it.

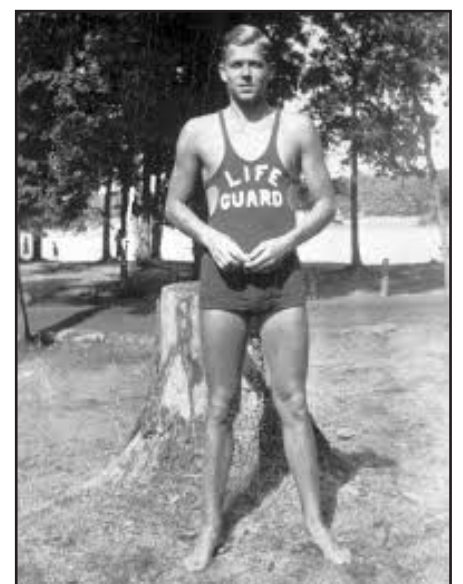
Today, the pool is operated by Placer County and the Friends of the Dutch Flat Pool. There is no charge for its use, however, donations are appreciated and used for upkeep and improvements.

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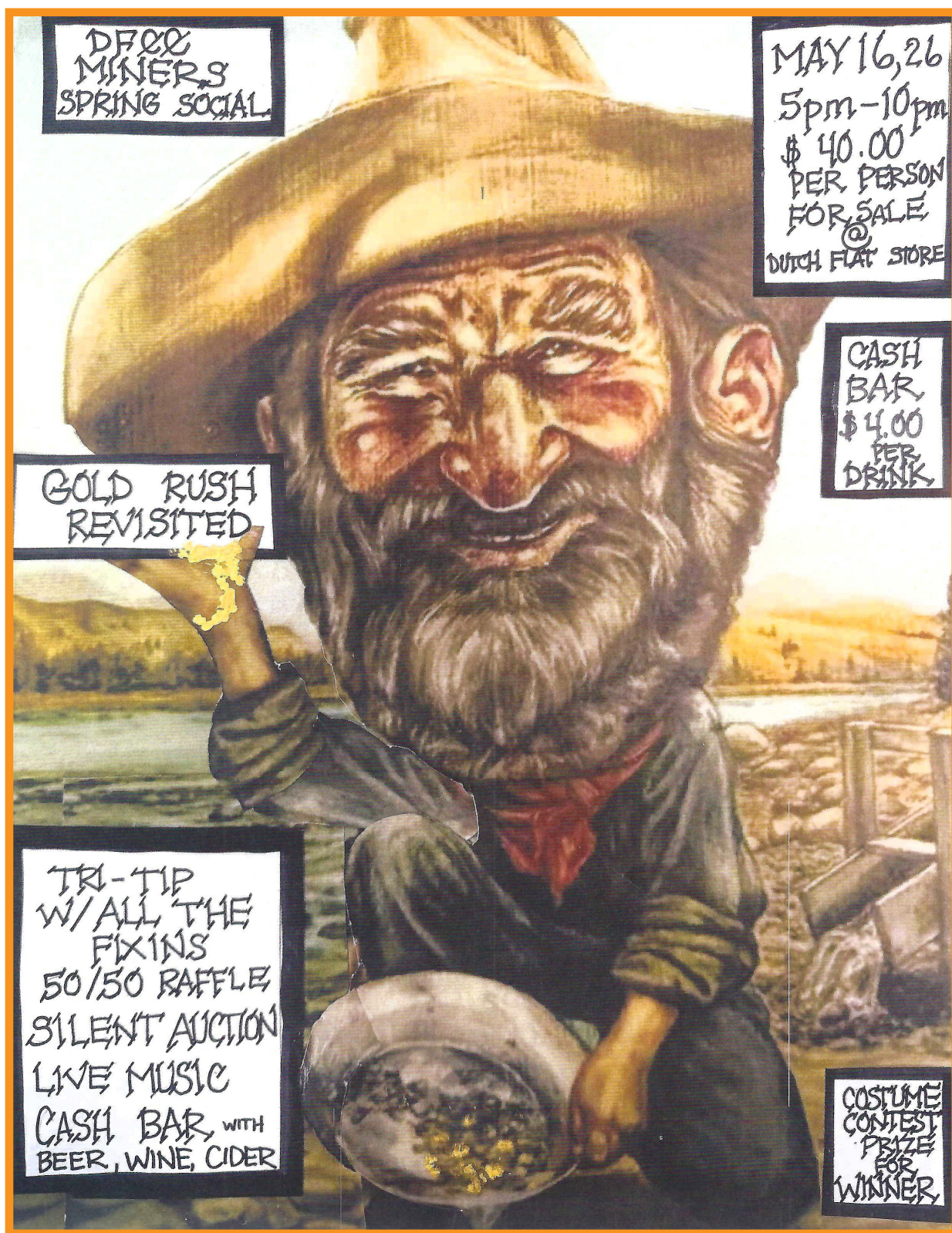
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## DFCC Miners' Spring Social

On May 16, 2026, the Dutch Flat Community Center is hosting a Miners' Spring Social from 5 until 10 pm. For just \$40 per person, you will enjoy a Tri-tip dinner with all the fixings, live music and dancing. There will be a cash bar, \$4 per drink. All are encouraged to dress in Gold Rush period costumes with a prize awarded for the best costume. Tickets can be purchased at the Dutch Flat Trading Post.

HISTORIC  
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RAILROAD DAYS

Invites you to join  
the celebration!

**Sunday April 12th ~ 10am-1:30 pm**  
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Food ~ Vendors ~ Music

**Colfax Railroad Days**

On Sunday, April 12th, from 10 am to 1:30 pm, Colfax will host a Railroad Days Event. Union Pacific Railroad's Big Boy 4014, the world's largest operational steam locomotive, will arrive at the Colfax Railroad Station at noon. The event will also feature food, vendors, and live music.

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**Lynn Oliver**  
(530) 305-8290

**Karen Calvert**  
(530) 906-2336



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## White Elephant Sale News

By Shelley Willsmore

Although we are looking forward to the official start of spring and then we have all of summer to enjoy, guess what? Labor Day is going to come and in Dutch Flat that means—the White Elephant Sale!!!!

There are plans to hold the annual sale on Labor Day weekend which is September 5th and 6th this year. And, back by popular demand, the second weekend will be September 12th and 13th. This is going to put the sale later than usual in the month of September but it also gives us almost another week to get ready. School will be back in session so vacations will be over, but we have this one more event to look forward to.

As always, the WES needs volunteers. Never too many volunteers. Donations will be accepted from 9 AM to noon every Wednesday and Saturday in August. The volunteers do an amazing job displaying these donations and turning our beloved historic school into the most delightful shopping experience.

Each department will need help with organizing and setting up their areas so please come on a Wednesday or Saturday and join a team. We also offer a salad luncheon, baked goods and drinks on the first Saturday. You can donate a salad or dessert or join the food and beverage team and be part of providing nourishment to hungry shoppers so they can keep shopping.

The White Elephant Sale is the largest fundraising opportunity for the center. Last year, thanks to everyone who donated, worked and shopped, we raised an all-time high of \$20,000! It was a fantastic success however, the tendency is always to outdo what was done before, right? So, we have quite a challenge. Our expenses for the center continue to increase, but the great deals we offer to the shoppers, not to mention just the fun of a cheap outing, gives you the opportunity to contribute to what makes Dutch Flat special.

So, please support our beloved schoolhouse by donating, volunteering and shopping. Mark your calendars, (Labor Day is later this year) and see you at the WES!



Roxane Bertell, WES volunteer

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# Uncertain Future for Historic Dutch Flat Methodist Church

By Sarah Fugate



In early February, members of the Dutch Flat United Methodist Church congregation announced that they would be hosting their last monthly Pancake Breakfast that month. I reached out to one of their members who confirmed that, "Yes, the church is winding down." The church won't be officially closed until an Annual Conference Session which occurs in late June. The 165-year-old building has fallen into disrepair, requiring significant structural rehabilitation. Also, the fire insurance for the wood-frame structure is nearly \$10,000/year.

The building belongs to the California-Nevada Conference of the United Methodist Church, so the Conference will decide what to do now. In past circumstances such as this, the Conference decided to sell the buildings. Sales are carefully considered and every attempt is made to sell to an entity that is appropriate for the space.

**Because the church is a Historical Landmark, restoration projects must comply with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, ensuring changes do not destroy defining historic features.**

The Dutch Flat Methodist-Episcopal Church is part of the Dutch Flat Historic District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. It contributes to the historic character of the town and remains a prominent feature. The Dutch Flat Historic District is also designated as California Historical Landmark #397. This Historic District encompasses 480 acres and 45 buildings.

Because the church is a Historical

Landmark, restoration projects must comply with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, ensuring changes do not destroy defining historic features. The property must maintain its "integrity": location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Special, flexible building codes, such as the California Historical Building Code, are often applied to meet safety standards while preserving historical character. All of this should ensure that the historic church will remain in our community in its original character and design, but we need to stay vigilant to make certain that these requirements are met. The Golden Drift Historical Society will do its part to work with the United Methodist Conference to convey these requirements and our community's expectations.

A little history...

In 1857, Reverend R.B. Schofield was appointed by the Methodist Conference in Sacramento to preach in Dutch Flat. In 1858, Reverend Schofield purchased the site with his own funds. Construction of the church began the next year. Timbers were cut from Cemetery Hill and hand-hewn for the foundation. The building was completed in 1861. Pews were purchased from New England and brought by ship around Cape Horn. The church bell was purchased in 1864 for \$300 and its tower was erected in 1866. Pulpit chairs were purchased in 1896. In continuous use since its inception, this church is used for worship and fellowship, as well as a gathering place for the community, hosting pancake breakfasts, art classes, weddings, memorials and other significant events.

Dutch Flat Methodist-Episcopal Church with original bell tower, built in 1866



# Stephen Ferrier 1946-2025



Stephen Knowlton Ferrier passed away on December 19 after a long illness. He was born in San Francisco, California on August 29, 1946 to Philip K. Ferrier and Esther Christopher Ferrier. He was the first of four sons. His family soon relocated to Berkeley, California where he spent his childhood.

He attended Berkeley public schools (Emerson Elementary, Willard Junior High and Berkeley High), graduating in 1964. Childhood summers were spent at the family cabin in Dutch Flat, CA, swimming in the community pool and fishing with his paternal grandfather, William Warren Ferrier, Jr.

After attending a year of college, he enlisted in the Army Intelligence Corps, stationed in Stuttgart, West Germany until his discharge. After overcoming significant health issues, he graduated from U.C. Berkeley in 1980 and relocated to Lawrence, Kansas. He worked as an analyst for the State of Kansas Department of Children and Families for more than 40 years, only recently retiring from that position.

He maintained a variety of passions in his life, including politics, literature, writing, and especially sports, including soccer, track and field, football, basketball, and the Tour de France. As a teen and young adult, he enjoyed the outdoors, particularly hiking and backpacking in the Sierra Nevada's and in the San Francisco Bay Area. In later life, he especially enjoyed reading mysteries and completing crossword puzzles.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Douglas Ferrier. He is survived by his children, Evan Ferrier (Kristin Feierabend) of Durham, North Carolina and Emily Moser (Todd) of Seattle, Washington; his two grandchildren, Asa Ferrier and Gabe Ferrier; and two brothers, Alan Ferrier of Tucson, Arizona and David Ferrier of Portland, Oregon.

No services are planned. Donations in his honor may be made to one of the following organizations to which he generously donated: Doctors Without Borders, Just Food of Douglas County, or Harvesters Community Food Network.



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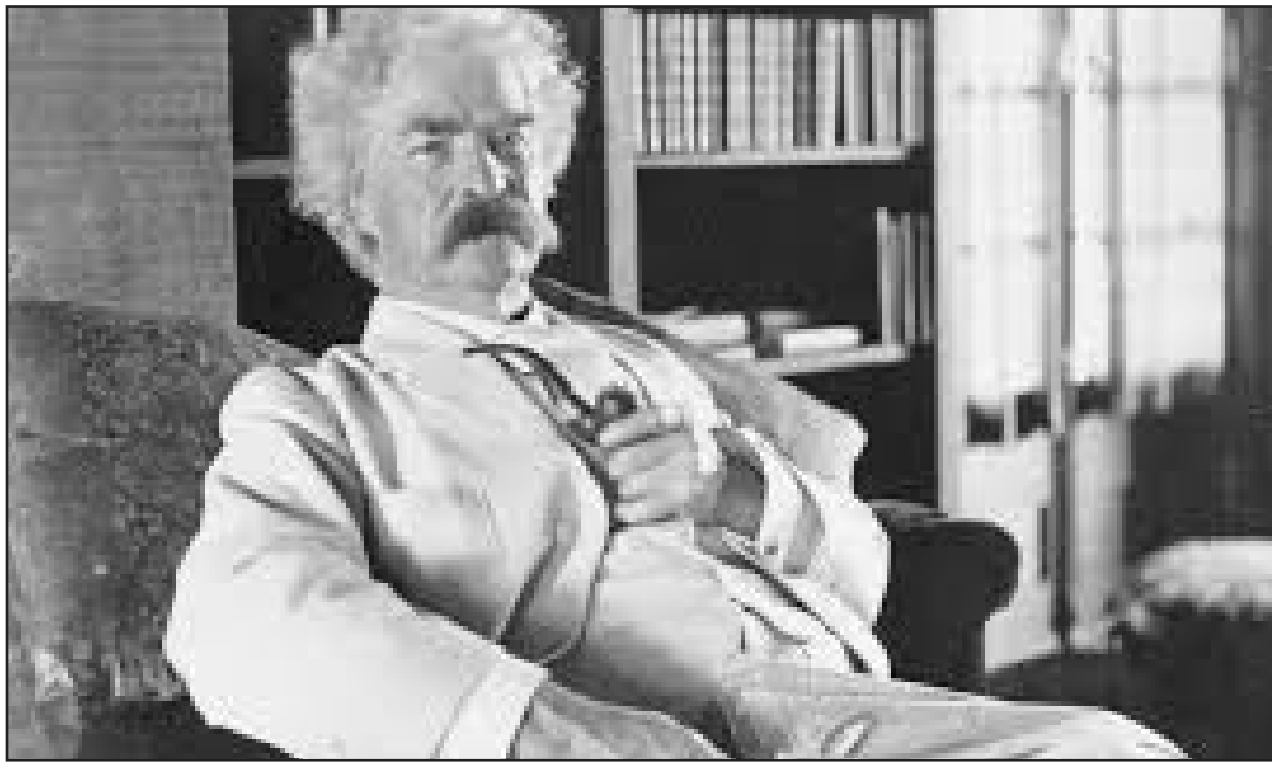
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# From the Histories of the Tahoe-Truckee Area

By Debby McClatchy



Mark Twain

## Ice Companies

Ice was Big Business following the Gold Rush. It was needed to cool drinks and ice cream, but it was the practical applications that fueled the economic boom of the industry. These were to ship produce long distances, and to cool mine shafts that could reach 140 degrees. From 1868 to the invention of artificially produced ice in the 1920s, thirty-six different companies harvested ice in Northern California. Those companies that were closest to the new transcontinental railroad, along the Sierra ridge and Truckee and Boca areas, were the most successful.

Ponds used for lumbering in the summer were perfect for producing ice in the winter. Horses were used to scrape off the snow and expose the hard, clear ice. The surface was then delineated into a huge chess board, usually in blocks of 22" square, but sometimes 22" by 32". The ice was cut down about two-thirds deep (usually about 8"), leaving enough to support the men and teams. The blocks were then cut through and pushed along their channel, guided by men with long poles, then wrenched up by steam engines into an ice storage facility. A good crew of harvesters could remove and store sixty tons of ice each hour. In their best years, the Truckee companies harvested 300,000 tons of ice.

The twentieth century saw boom and bust, with multiple companies fighting over customers, then merging, then collapsing. New ice making technology ended their run, and fire and time destroyed all their structures and facilities.

## The Battle of Pyramid Lake

Many local residents love Pyramid Lake, just north of Reno. It was named by John C. Fremont, after the salmon-stocked lake saved him and his men from starvation after their long trek down from Oregon. The Lake is the terminus of the Truckee River and noted now for its fishing and natural beauty. Long home of the Paiute Indians, by 1858 white miners and settlers were encroaching on the area, killing game, and cutting down pine trees. The pine nuts were a staple food of the Paiutes, and that winter was hard and the tribe faced starvation. Their chief, Winnemucca, counseled peace and coexistence.

However, after white men kidnapped and held two twelve year old Indian girls, a band of young braves burned Williams Station and killed all the inhabitants. Their leader, Numaga, declared "war".

News spread out around the saloons and by morning one hundred and five young, brash white men, poorly armed and lacking any discipline or training, advanced into the desert of the Truckee River. Chasing a small band of Paiutes, they quickly fell into an ambush of hundreds of Indians, whose rifles had a longer range. Wild panic set in

as the men were picked off one by one. Of the one hundred and five, seventy-six were killed and many wounded. Darkness saved the rest. Only three Paiutes died.

Fears that the Indians would raid further evacuated Virginia City and martial law was declared. Carson City posted sentries. Silver City constructed a rock buttress. (Reno was not yet there; it was a town established as a way station with the building of the transcontinental railroad.) Word went out to the rest of Northern California that volunteers were needed for a militia.

Hundreds responded, from Sacramento, Downeyville, Placerville, La Porte, plus 754 U.S. Army troops. Battalions were sent to the Truckee River area. That night two feet of snow fell, late for early June. There were a few small skirmishes, but the whole Paiute Tribe wisely fled into the Black Rock Desert. Soon there was an uneasy peace when Fort Churchill was built on the Carson River and a reservation established for the Paiutes on Pyramid Lake.

Although life for the Paiute was drastically changed, they stayed put and kept their lands. Today, to fish or camp at the lake, you need their permission.

## Mark Twain and Lake Tahoe

In 1861 Samuel Clemens and his brother, Orion, rode the Comstock Stage from their home in Missouri two thousand miles to Carson City. Southerners, but unsure of slavery's validity, they were escaping what was thought to be a three month civil war. Of the twenty-five pounds of luggage per person allowed, they each brought five pounds of tobacco, deemed essential. Plus a six pound dictionary.

Upon arrival, exhausted and thirsty, their first stop was the nearest saloon. Then to work. Orion had a job as secretary of the new Nevada Territory, a political appointment, but Samuel was fancy-free. Finding the area bare and uninviting, he and a friend, John Kinney, took a trip to Lake Bigler (now Lake Tahoe), staking a timber claim on the north shore. Clemens wrote that Lake Tahoe was "surely the fairest picture the whole world affords" and that "three months of camp life on the lake would restore an Egyptian mummy to his pristine vigor, and give him an appetite like an alligator".

They built a fire for warmth, but it got away from them and burned most of the trees on their claim. They paid damages to the authorities in Carson City, then established more claims. Cutting timber, however, proved too strenuous. Samuel moved on to Virginia City, became a writer for the Territorial Enterprise Newspaper, changed his name to Mark Twain, and found fame. But he always missed Lake Bigler, the "masterpiece of the Universe", and fantasized to "build a home there one day that will make the Devil's mouth water if he ever visits the Earth".

# Disturbing Codes to Know

By Geri Lennon

There have been numerous sightings of packs of dogs lately in this area. According to an animal behaviorist, a pack constitutes two or more canines. Solo animals retain their distinct personality. However, in groups of dogs, alpha takes leader status and the rest become the team.

But that's not why I've taken the time to research the laws. Perhaps information on what to do and not do may save a life. It may also awaken those who feel that leash laws are nonsense.

It's important to take responsibility, as well as accountability, for one's pet so let's look at the law. At the end of this article, I'll list some relevant links and phone numbers. If this information can help ANYONE from not experiencing a dog attack or injury due to being protective of one's own animal and, most important, if it puts us all on alert that kids, elders, and fragile folks need extra protection, then the research time will be worth it.

**Explore the codes.** You can call Animal Control and ask for the codes but don't let them dismiss you by saying, just go online and google it. Wading through myriad codes is not only time consuming, but also often in difficult to understand legalese. Bottom line, it is essential to know the rights of owners of animals and livestock who meet up with a vicious animal. This includes humans that get in the way of an attack or are attacked themselves usually from behind. This article is meant to clarify what to do if and when an attack occurs. I am only focusing on dog attacks.

I'll list the codes that address feral or loose, unaccompanied dogs that are or may become vicious. **The owner of this dog is responsible and liable for this animal and its behavior.** Laws have been written to protect humans, pets and livestock from an attack by a roving, unmanaged dog or pack of dogs. There are myriad stories all documented to bring the point across but it also must be made perfectly clear. **Animals that present challenges of issues with other dogs, children, adults, elders and fragile folks, MUST be leashed and muzzled and in constant supervision by their owners.** There are codes to clarify these situations. There are also codes to designate punitive action when and if a dog or dogs attack. There are also laws that require licensure of dogs, rabies vaccination and fencing in of said animal.

If you own a dog that has a history of attacking livestock or pets, above all, has a history of human attack, the liability is enormous and can lead to stiff fines, require that the owner maintains damage insurance and in specific circumstances, require that this animal is euthanized. Read the code for this specific: Entering private property and attacking livestock, animals or humans can lead to punitive action as well for the owner of the dog or dogs. Refusal to license or vaccine against rabies or take any responsible preventative measures which include tying up, muzzling, but most important not allowing free ranging also carry enormous fines. Having to euthanize an animal that has attacked and been deemed vicious is a terrible consequence but any pet owner of a vicious dog is accountable.

**In case of a dog attack: Call 911 and Placer County Animal Services 530 886-5500.** (Animal Control, Field Services). 911 will be routed to the Sheriff. Leave a clear message of where this attack took place and a description of the dogs in question. (Photo if possible) This will initiate emergency response, if necessary. File a report with Placer County Animal Services/Animal Control. **In the terrible moment of attack, call 911 and Animal control. It could save a life.**

This link will provide details of all the codes: [https://library.qcode.us/lib/placer\\_county\\_ca/pub/county\\_code/item/chapter\\_6-article\\_6\\_08?view=all#chapter\\_6-article\\_6\\_08-6\\_08\\_040](https://library.qcode.us/lib/placer_county_ca/pub/county_code/item/chapter_6-article_6_08?view=all#chapter_6-article_6_08-6_08_040)



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