



July 2, 2021

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a “Lost Sierra” marvel

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## A Message From Our Newsletter Committee

A very happy Independence Day from our Newsletter Committee. Have a great time and enjoy this special day in our country’s history with family and friends while remembering how many people sacrificed so much to ensure us a better future. Take a moment to think of them as you celebrate our nation’s independence.

In this second edition of our newsletter, we decided to highlight things to do during summer months and offer tips for homeowners. Before diving into the fun things to do, here’s just a few newsletter highlights:

The threat of a Portola mining operation has been eliminated. Thank you to all who expressed their concerns. Our new Community Services District (CSD) General Manager, Larry Smith, is on board.

A committee was formed to study a high-speed internet solution for our community, and the Design Review Committee has streamlined the Grizzly Ranch guidelines for home builders. Firewise organized a GR clean-up day, so here’s a special shout out to John Reynolds who continues to lead the many vital fire Firewise efforts. And community roads are looking great after having cracks and edge damage repaired, and more significantly being completely resurface.

The Portola real estate market remains “hot” as buyers and visitors are often heard saying that the area is reminiscent “of Truckee...in the late 1970s. A bit worn and scruffy around the edges perhaps but filled with friendly and welcoming people. And like Truckee today, Portola has an active railroad, the Union Pacific, and a pristine mountain river running through it” ([Lost Sierra Town Portola steeped in history – The Tahoe Weekly](#)).

Our new website, [GrizzlyRanchLiving.com](http://GrizzlyRanchLiving.com) has created interest from a number of potential real estate buyers.

Now, let’s get on with the fun stuff and have a happy and safe Fourth of July!



# Mountain Homecoming Saturday, August 7, 2021

By MaryBeth Limpert

On Saturday, August 7 plan to spend a day at Grizzly Ranch with fellow Ranchers enjoying our annual Mountain Homecoming. The day can start as early as you'd like if you're planning a hike on one of our many trails; take a dip in the pool; work out at the Outpost fitness center; cast a line at the fishing pond; enjoy a quiet moment at the Lakehouse having breakfast with family and friends, or sharpen your golfing skills at the Practice Facility before the big golf tournament.

Our annual Homecoming Golf tournament has a 1 p.m. shotgun start. Plan your own foursome, or Caleb, Sam or Tyler can assign you to a team. Since it's a scramble format, everyone can contribute to the team. Prizes have an interesting twist this year - stay tuned. The day's activities conclude with a dinner at the Lake House catered by Cuccia's of Blairsden. GR Association members and their children 18 and younger are hosted by the Association. Dinner includes appetizers, entree choices, dessert, and an adult beverage. Musical entertainment will be provided by Tuck Wilson of Lake Tahoe who welcomes requests. Start to think about your favorite songs! To get a sneak preview listen to Tuck, [click here](#).

You are welcome to purchase tickets if you would like to bring guests or additional family members. Invitations with more details were sent via email from CAMCO. RSVP information for the Golf Tournament and dinner are listed on the invitation.

Your 2021 Mountain Homecoming committee is MaryBeth Limpert, Melissa Pennington and Sande Thayer. Please contact MaryBeth at [mblimpert@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mblimpert@sbcglobal.net) with any questions or Melissa Pennington at [mpenn12304@gmail.com](mailto:mpenn12304@gmail.com) to RSVP for golf or dinner.





## Events and other “Things To Do”

By Sandy Sailer and Kathy Roberts

**Mark your calendars and join in the festivities!**

**Sierra Valley Farms - Farmer's Market in Beckwourth**  
*Fridays only 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. through mid-Sept.*

**Graeagle Arts and Crafts Fair**  
*July 17, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and July 18, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.*

**Pints for Pups - Brewing Lair, Blairsden**  
*July 17, 6-9 p.m.*  
The Brewing Lair has been a supporter of High Sierra Animal Rescue for many years. This is a fun, laid back fundraiser for their dogs!

**6th Annual Lost Sierra Electric Bike Fest, Beckwourth**  
*July 23-25 2021*  
Includes camping electric bike racing/demonstrations, BBQ and festivities!  
[Click here for Camp/Race/Ride Tickets](#)



**Plan ahead, take a drive, and enjoy these nearby events:**

**Reno Chalk Art and Music Festival**  
*July 9-11*  
[www.atlantiscasino.com/entertainment/music-events/chalk-art](http://www.atlantiscasino.com/entertainment/music-events/chalk-art)

**Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival**  
*July 17-August 22*  
[www.laketahoeshakespeare.com](http://www.laketahoeshakespeare.com)

**Classical Tahoe Festival & Music Institute**  
**Concerts**  
*July 30-August 14*  
[www.classicaltahoefest.org](http://www.classicaltahoefest.org)

**Hot August Nights. August 3-8**  
[www.hotaugustnights.net](http://www.hotaugustnights.net)

**Great Balloon Race in Reno**  
*September 10-12*  
[www.renoballoon.com](http://www.renoballoon.com)

**Truckee Tahoe Air Show & Family Festival**  
*September 11*  
[www.TruckeeTahoeAirShow.com](http://www.TruckeeTahoeAirShow.com)

**Reno Air Races**  
*Sept. 15-19*  
[www.airrace.org](http://www.airrace.org)

# Hiking in the Lost Sierra with a little guidance

By Sandy Sailer

If you were to ask a group of people what it is about the Lost Sierra that attracts them to the area, I'm sure you would hear quite a few different answers. There truly is so much to do, but hiking is at the top of many people's list. The beauty of the outdoors is calling, and we must go.

I recently had the opportunity to speak with Tom Demund, the author of the popular hiking guidebook titled "Feather River Country Adventure Trails". When my husband and I built our home in 2009, we were introduced to Tom's book. We enjoy marking the hikes we have completed by bent pages or sticky note tabs. The comprehensive book is a must-have for those who want to explore the many trails of the Northern Sierra.

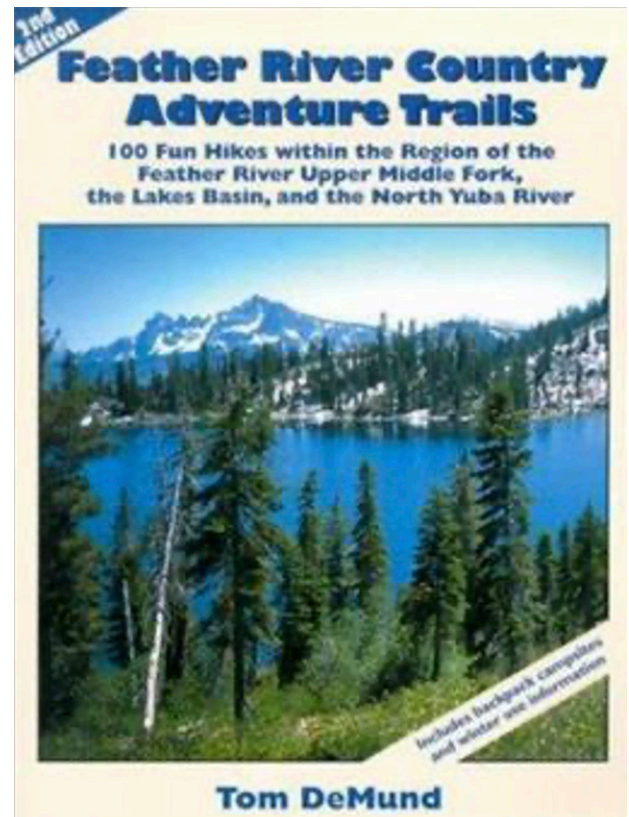
Tom came to the Feather River Country area in 1965 and fell in love with the area. After vacationing many years in Graeagle, he and his family built a log cabin there in 1992. This gave him the opportunity to spend a lot of time every summer hiking and learning about the Feather River Country trails that he has written about in his book. He spent 3 years researching the area and trails for his first edition published in 2001 which includes 100 hiking trails. He recently released his 7th edition. In each new edition, he has "thrown out" 3-4 trails he doesn't think are so interesting and adds 3-4 new ones.

When asked what makes the 7th edition different from the previous ones, Tom explains this one specializes in shorter hikes. At age

85 he says he's not quite up to 10 to 12 mile hikes like he used to be and wanted to focus on hikes for families. It is full of 1 to 3 mile hikes for family day trips.

Tom likes to support our local stores, so you can find a copy of his book at [Leonard's Market](#) in Portola, [J & J's Grizzly Store](#), [Graeagle Store](#), [Graeagle Mill Works](#) or the visitors bureau in Graeagle.

If you are a hiker or are just interested in learning about the beauty of the mountains that surround us, pick up Tom's latest edition. It may be one of your best purchases ever!



# Hiking with Grizzly Ranch Neighbors

## *Mondays at 8 a.m.*

For a number of years, some GR neighbors have met as a group to hike the trails described in Tom's book as well as trails within Grizzly Ranch. We usually hike on Monday mornings when the trails are less crowded. If you'd like to hike with a group, please email Mark Roberts at [kmkbroberts@gmail.com](mailto:kmkbroberts@gmail.com) to get on the hiking notification list. Mark will send out an email to let people know about upcoming hikes. When we have a group, we meet at 8 a.m. in the Information/Sales Office parking lot and carpool to the trailhead. On the way home, some folks may stop at Bassetts or Portola Frosty for ice cream or the Brewing Lair.

If you are interested in kayaking with friends, let Mark Roberts know. We can get together for that too!



## Fishing at Grizzly Ranch

By Mark Roberts

Did you know that the GR Golf Course has three small ponds on its property with plenty of fish in them? Initially they were stocked with trout, but in the summer months the water got too hot, and the trout couldn't survive. The ponds now have Smallmouth bass, Catfish, Bluegills and Croppies. Smallmouth bass are a good sporting fish also providing a helpful function to the ponds by keeping the frog population under control. Grizzly Ranch Association encourages families to fish in the ponds, but we also ask that after you catch a fish that you release it back into the pond. This allows for the current fish supply to continue to add excitement for others who are fishing and to perform their natural function by keeping the frog in check.



# Restaurant Recommendations

By Kathy Schonder

## PORTOLA/GRAEAGLE AREA RESTAURANTS

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**Taco Tuesday** is a fundraiser for the Elks Club located on Highway 70 just outside Portola. Held in the summer on Tuesdays from 5-7p.m., it's SUPER casual serving beef tacos and taco salads along with beer and mixed drinks.

**Cuccia's in Blairsden** has consistently good Italian Cuisine, this place opens at 5 p.m. dinner except Sunday and Monday when they are closed. Reservations recommended.

**The Vyne by Cuccia's** is a relatively new place in Blairsden also run by owners of Cuccia's. Here you'll find wine tasting with a tapas menu, outdoor seating on the patio or in a shaded yard. Open for lunch from noon to 4 p.m. with a happy hour 4-5 p.m.

**Grizzly Grill** comes with some very good recommendations as does **The Coyote Grill** both in Blairsden.

**Gumbas** is the place for casual food and dining in Blairsden is well recommended with good pizzas, Italian dishes, craft beer, and more in a friendly atmosphere.

**Bread and Butter** is a food truck with great sandwiches which makes waiting in a long line worth the wait! If you have to go to the **Hardware store** in Blairsden, take a lunch break here.

**The Brewing Lair** is known for its locally crafted beer and fun outdoor picnic area. This place is SUPER Casual!! The Brewing Lair has a new addition this year...food, as The Ricochet Cafe in Clio moved its food truck to the Brewing Lair.



**Nakoma's Wigwam Room**, renamed **FIFTY44**, won rave reviews last year for Chef Brooke's cuisine, and she's back for 2021! The ambiance is great, and Friday evenings dining on the deck with live music is a special experience, but remember to carry a sweater and a sun hat.

**Whitehawk Restaurant**, speaking of good Chef's returning, Brent and Katie are back at Whitehawk, and happy hour is from 4-5:30 p.m. and includes a few food items. Dinner service starts at 5:30 p.m. Open every day except Tuesday. Reservations required.

**The Iron Door**, many enjoy the Iron Door restaurant in Johnsville surrounded by antiques from the 1800s. Open every day except Tuesday at 5 p.m. Reservations recommended.

**Los Dos Hermanos** is located in Sierraville on your way to Truckee, this place has been highly recommended for many years for its Mexican food. They don't take reservations.

AND let's not forget our **LAKE HOUSE!!** Right here in our own backyard. Talk about AMBIANCE, good casual food, cocktails, and friendly folks! Watching the golfers come in and enjoying the sights and sounds of our waterfalls and so much more is another special experience only found at Grizzly Ranch.

## LAKES BASIN AREA RESTAURANTS

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It's always a special treat to dine at **Gray Eagle Lodge Restaurant**, **Gold Lake Lodge Restaurant** and **Sardine Lake Restaurant**.



# Restaurant Recommendations Cont'd

By Kathy Schonder

## NOW FOR RENO RESTAURANTS

As a full time resident of Reno, except of course when my family and I are at Grizzly, here are some of our recommendations along with input from some of my friends as well.

**The Stone House** has an extensive menu and a patio for summer dining. The food is consistently good.

**Rattlesnake Club** - Right next door is the newer Rattlesnake Club. A mouth-watering appetizer of "Firecracker Shrimp" and their Caesar Salad will keep you coming back.

**Napa Sonoma Grocery Co.** is in the Plumbgate Center. Here you'll find very good food, a bar, with a casual vibe and less pricey than some of the other options. Great for lunch or dinner.

**Portofino** for Italian food is always consistently good! Their special ravioli entree is highly recommended.

**Miguels Mexican Food** in Midtown has been a locals' favorite for years! Consistently good!

**Bricks Restaurant and Wine Bar** is a fine dining restaurant that many locals enjoy, and it's great for a "special occasion". A tasty appetizer is the cold cucumber soup.

**Arario's** is another local favorite for Korean Fusion food located in Midtown. You definitely need a reservation.

**Midtown Eats** is known for a great burger, fresh veggies, and a soothing cocktail!

**The Twisted Fork** in South Reno has very good food should you find yourself hungry and south of town. The vibe is very casual dress, and food selections are varied with good salads, tacos, etc.

**Jazmine** is a great option for Chinese food along with sushi. Located in South Reno, it's a good choice too if you're looking for nice ambiance.

**Hinoki Sushi** comes highly recommended by the local fresh fish market Sierra Gold Seafood...and these folks know fresh fish!!

**Beaujolais** is for those who are looking to dine near the Truckee River. Beaujolais is locally owned and affords a charming dining experience, but it can be quite pricey, so it's another "special occasion restaurant". Reservations are a must.

**The Shore Room** located in downtown Reno inside the Renaissance Hotel is a wonderful choice for dining along the river and a must for patio dining! The food has always been excellent offering a fine dining experience and reservations are a must. If you have time, stay and play some indoor Bocce Ball at their amazing indoor venue.

**Liberty Food and Wine Exchange** is another Downtown Reno restaurant located at 100 N. Sierra Street just down the block from Campo and the Truckee River. The chef uses fresh, local, handmade items to create an eclectic menu.



# Tips for Homeowners

## Plants that deer tend to ignore

by Kathy Schonder

The following plants work in most gardens, but when we have a low rainfall year and natural forage is limited, deer will eat anything. They even ate my iris's last year! But in a normal year, these plants seem to work: **yarrow, lupine, spirea, potentilla, lavender, serviceberry, rock rose, choke cherry, lilacs.**



## Bees

by Kathy Schonder

Honeybee populations are on the decline, and we depend on them for pollination making them very critical critters in nature. If you are talking about meat bees or yellow jackets, well that's a different matter. Meat bees and yellow jackets generally build nests in the ground and guard them aggressively. If you find a nest on your property, pouring boiling water with a little detergent into the hole late in the day or early morning does the trick to rid those critters.



## Bears

by Kathy Roberts

Look before you leap! Part of living in the Sierra Nevada is knowing that you might get a visit from different types of wildlife. So, take a peek out your door before you walk outside, as you never know what creature might be around the corner. Over the years, bears have become increasingly used to humans, but in order to protect them and yourself, make loud noise when you see them to get them to leave. Don't leave garbage or food outside. Close and lock your doors and windows when you go to bed, and don't leave food near the window. The [Bear League website](#) is a great resource.





# Tips for Homeowners Cont'd

## Woodpeckers and Flickers

by Sandy Sailer and Kathy Schonder

Sandy and Dave Sailer built their house in Grizzly Ranch in 2009, and the first few years went by smoothly without a woodpecker invasion. That changed about 7 years ago. It seemed like the house screamed “come get me” to woodpeckers! They tried the mylar strips, the plastic owl, and a few other things to get rid of the Northern Flicker that was destroying the home. They tried covering some of the holes with tin squares - trying to match the color of the wood stain. As many owners in GR experience, nothing seemed to be working, and they continued to research ways to get rid of these beautiful but annoying birds.

One day Dave read that flickers return each year to the same area for nesting. He learned about a “flicker house” and decided to try one. He read, “If your neighborhood flicker is pecking a hole in a building, fill the birdhouse with wood chips, and position it over the unwanted excavation to provide a more suitable nesting location”. Since they mounted the birdhouse 5 years ago, flickers have come back each year and nested in it, and they find them fun to watch. Some pecking is still heard each morning during the flicker season,” but the Sailers feel more comfortable knowing the flickers are staying in one area inside the flicker house. It has been a definite improvement.

Is there a 100% solution to the pesky woodpecker/flicker? Probably not. When you live in a wood home in the forest, you have to just accept some things.

Here are a few more tips. Woodpeckers and flickers can be a big problem. They seem to pick on certain houses and can cause quite a bit of damage. Visual deterrents are the most cost effective way to deal with these birds. Try the iridescent bird deterrent foil also known as holographic flash tape. This shiny tape creates a visual distraction zone that disorients and scares the birds away. After trying lots of different shiny products, this seems to work the best.

[This website](#) outlines how to patch small and large holes in cedar siding. There are lots of alternatives online, but this one is pretty good. Most sites recommend using epoxy filler or wood filler that you can sand and stain to match the existing siding for small holes.



# What's Happening at GR

## Meet one of our Gatekeepers

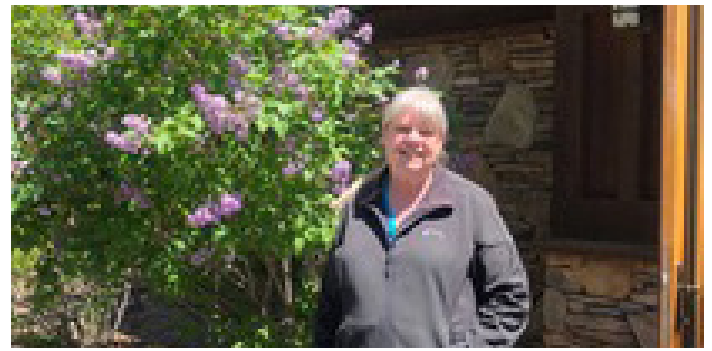
by Kathy Schonder

We have wonderful staff at Grizzly Ranch. I had the distinct pleasure of getting to know Coral Smith, one of our trusted gatekeepers. We'll catch up with David Leal, another gate staff in our next edition.

Here's what Coral had to say:

"Hi everyone! This is my Sixth season as your part-time GR gate keeper! One day I kept track of how many employees, vendors, and golfers went through the gate. My count was 175 vehicles!! Grizzly Ranch is a busy and beautiful place to work! I love every minute of it!

I grew up in Truckee with my sister and brother. When I was in high school my parents moved us to Sierra Valley. I went between the two places over the years, and finally settled in Portola in 1987. It was a great place to raise my two daughters and son, Larry (who also works at GR). About 16 years ago I moved back to the family ranch where my parents still reside.



I have worn many hats over the years.....stay at home Mom, licensed child care provider, grocery cashier, bank teller, deli worker, weigh master at a quarry, bookkeeper, housekeeper, and gift basket maker are some of the jobs I've done.

I enjoy cooking, baking, gardening, reading, church, travel and family time. Our family has grown! There are 15 of us locally, and 20 within a three hour radius. My parents bought a lot in Grizzly Ranch and we hope to enjoy swimming and sunny days at the pool.

Now you know more about me and I would love to know more about you! I already know you are kind friendly people. Thank you! You make my blessed life even better. See you at the gate!"



## Meet Your Neighbors

by Kathy Schonder

### Crosby and Clothier Family

Teri Crosby and Mike Clothier purchased their home on Big Grizzly in the Creekside neighborhood in August of 2019. Their primary home is in the Bay Area but wanted a 2nd home to get away from the hustle and bustle of city life, play some golf, have access to lakes for kayaking and sculling, and for hiking with their yellow lab, Nelson. Teri is the Vice President of Research and Technology for Chevron where she has worked for 30 years. Mike is originally from South Africa and is a retired software engineer spending his career in Silicon Valley and enjoys working on home projects. He finished building a sculling boat from scratch and is now working on building a paddle board. Say hello to them if you see them out on Lake Davis. They have 2 children, Dylan, an environmental attorney and Allaire, a buyer for Old Navy. They come up to the Grizzly home often for outdoor activities and enjoying family time. They look forward to spending more time in our wonderful community after Teri retires.



# Meet Your Neighbors

by Kathy Roberts

## Mark and Laura Reis

Mark and Laura moved to Grizzly Ranch — as full-timers — on June 14. Plumas County has long been part of their retirement plans. However, the pandemic, specifically telecommuting during the pandemic, presented an opportunity to relocate a bit before actual retirement.

Though city-dwellers from the Bay Area for the past 27 years, they have “the mountains” in their background, having relocated to California from Los Alamos, New Mexico. Thus, they see this as a ‘return home’ of sorts, and a return to the sorts of outdoor activities one associates with mountain living, The Reis’ twin daughters, now 33, grew up crosscountry skiing and backpacking.

Mark is the IT Director for a San Francisco based export firm, and Laura is a Certified Equity Professional with Slack, currently busy with their IPO and Salesforce merger. In their free time, they still enjoy very long motorcycle rides both having their own bikes.

The Reis’ say they are “terrible golfers” but resolve to ameliorate this embarrassing shortcoming with the collective help of GR members!



# Meet Your Neighbors

by Kathy Roberts

## Stephanie and Thomas Bundenthal

Stephanie and Thomas are new residents on Big Grizzly Road. They are both educators and currently work and live in Solano County, Green Valley. They love the outdoors and look forward to hiking, kayaking, snowshoeing and birding here in the Lost Sierra. They also enjoy reading. In the near future, Stephanie and Thomas look forward to retiring here.

Stephanie shared that she is a breast cancer survivor, and that experience has pushed them do what they love now, and not wait. They are drawn to the mountains, trees and lakes in this area, and hope to become active community members here at Grizzly Ranch and in Portola.



# “Saying Good-Bye” to Neighbors

by Mark Roberts

In June, Bob and Sandy Coler sold their home in Grizzly Ranch. Bob, a CPA, provided his time and expertise to the community as Treasurer for the HOA and CSD. On the HOA Board, Bob served for 5 years and on the CSD Board he served as their Treasurer for the last 2 years. In his roles as Treasurer, Bob truly cared about the community being financially stable. Some of the major projects that Bob worked on for the HOA were overseeing the audits, reserve studies, explaining quarterly statements to the community, spearheading the RFP on the road project as well as working on the rate study project for the CSD. We wish Bob and Sandy all the best going forward. Thank you for your service to the Grizzly Ranch community.



# Design Review Committee

By Stephen Tange Chair of the Design Review Committee

At the end of last year, the new GR Association Board of Directors started working on the formation of a Design Review Committee. Their first task was to update and streamline the dated Design Review Guidelines to refresh the guidelines, make them easier to navigate, and to include more contemporary designs, while keeping the traditional Grizzly Ranch appearance intact. We want future builds both new and remodels to be a positive, welcoming experience for all involved.

2021 looks to be an exciting year, as we've received several projects that have been approved and are either starting or are on the drawing board. Renewed interest from several builders along with sparked excitement in homesites for sale have stimulated a more far-reaching inquisitiveness in Grizzly Ranch.



## GR Roads

by Bob Coler, former Association BoD and Treasurer

During last month, our Community's roads had cracks and edge damage repaired and more significantly, a complete surface application of a Type II Slurry seal. Improvements in road maintenance technologies and a continuation of moderate wear-and-tear affecting our road surfaces has allowed the HOA to adjust its long-term program for road maintenance to postpone the very costly (\$1.830M) complete road asphalt overlay previously scheduled to occur in 2028. Our new program, started last month, emphasizes a diligent preventive maintenance program to prolong the useful life of the asphalt surface, consisting of (i) annual crack and edge repairs, (ii) Type II Slurry sealing every 7 years, and (iii) the application of a complete Cape Seal surface (which is an asphalt emulsion with 3/8" aggregate chips together with a Type II Slurry Seal) planned for 2035. This approach could significantly postpone the necessity for a complete road surface replacement for many more years. This newer approach saves the Community approximately \$800K over our previous maintenance program through 2047. We appreciate the patience and cooperation of our property owners, the golf course and the CSD while last month's road maintenance efforts created some inconvenience to traffic flows.





# Grizzly Ranch Conservancy

By Donna Lindquist,  
Executive Director

Grizzly Ranch Conservancy, a nonprofit 501 (C)3, created in 2004 to manage waterways, wetlands and wildlife habitat on the property to comply with federal, state and local development permits, seeks to preserve the unique character and natural environment in and around Grizzly Ranch. Recognizing that hiking is a major amenity of the GR environment and lifestyle experience, the Conservancy's first community priority was to develop a system of interconnected trails connecting the community with open spaces and adjacent public lands. These trails provide residents a variety of ways to enjoy nature while learning about

the protection and preservation of natural habitats. More than 5 miles of trails meander through 1,040 acres of spectacular Sierra Nevada terrain, highlighting panoramic views, providing access to Big Grizzly Creek and connecting to the surrounding public lands. We encourage volunteer efforts and will continue to use surplus funds for trail maintenance. In June we cleaned Big Grizzly Creek, Beckwourth Crossing, Bucks Pass, and The Deer Run trails.

For more information, please visit our website [www.grizzlyranchconservancy.com](http://www.grizzlyranchconservancy.com)



# Our New Community Services District General Manager

By Jim Miller, Board President

We are pleased to introduce our new Community Services District General Manager, Larry Smith. Larry is a graduate of Portola High School and the Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology. He pursued a career in oil and gas exploration which took him to Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Mexico, Russia and Africa. His love of family and home brought him back to the Portola area. In the transition of the CSD leadership, Larry worked closely with Aaron Corr during the month of May and assumed control of the day-to-day operation of the CSD beginning in June.



Larry lives in Beckwourth with his wife Renee and three children Eli, Sierra and Hannah. You may already know his mother, Coral Smith, who works in our main gate house during golf season! We are thrilled to have Larry as part of the Grizzly Ranch Community Services District team and look forward to his contributions in the years to come.

Larry can be reached at [gmsmithgrcsd@gmail.com](mailto:gmsmithgrcsd@gmail.com) or 918-728-4776.



## Grizzly Ranch Internet Committee

by Marty Greenstein, Committee Chair and Bill Desjardin, Committee Member

The Board and a group of interested and knowledgeable owners are investigating options for improved high speed internet service at Grizzly Ranch, including:

### **Plumas Sierra Telecom (PST) Fiber Optic:**

Conduit is installed at Grizzly Ranch, but its condition is unknown. A 2017 proposal showed an initial infrastructure cost of about \$400,000 with individual lot install costs of \$300 to \$500 and monthly fees of \$75-\$110. Since then, fiber optic cable has been installed from Highway 70 up to and past Grizzly Ranch, so about half of the previously estimated cost is no longer applicable. The original proposal included an estimate of \$150,000 to prepare the conduit for use. We are contemplating the enlistment of a group of Grizzly volunteers to perform that work. The remainder of the prior estimate included \$187,000 to PST to install the fiber infrastructure. Service rebates from PST of \$143,000 were also included, but we don't have any details of how those were to be structured. A special assessment would likely be required to cover the install cost.



# Grizzly Ranch Internet Committee Cont'd

We have agreed to pay a nominal fee to PST to resurvey Grizzly Ranch and its needs, and present an updated proposal. The original estimate of install costs will likely increase due to increased material and labor costs, but the new competition from the SpaceX Starlink Satellite Service may also be a factor. We should have an updated proposal from PST in several months.

The cost of obtaining the PST Fiber Optic service would be the most expensive internet solution for the residents of Grizzly Ranch. However, the dependability of service would be superior to the alternatives, since signals in fiber are not subject to electromagnetic interference or weather. The range of available service packages include download speeds ranging from 50 Mbps, at a cost of \$79 per month, to 1 Gbps, at a cost of \$299 per month. There are no data caps on the service packages. The latency would be the best available here. The dependability and performance provided by fiber would likely allow many users to eliminate their satellite TV subscriptions and eliminate any issues with Zoom sessions.

## Digital Path Internet:



Digital Path service is used by a number of Grizzly Ranch owners. It is a wireless service and requires unobstructed line of sight to the Digital Path transmitter. The data speeds available depend upon the distance between your home and the Digital Path transmitter. Digital Path offers Standard Rural Plans and Gen7 Rural Plans to Grizzly Ranch residents. The Rural Plans are serviced from transmitters on the top of Beckwourth Peak or from a relay transmitter located on the ridge between Portola and Grizzly Ranch. The Gen7 Plans are only serviced from transmitters on the top of Beckwourth Peak. The Grizzly Ranch Golf Club and the Sales Office use

Digital Path Gen7 service.

The Gen7 plans are available at Grizzly Ranch with download speeds of either 25 Mbps or 50 Mbps. The 25 Mbps plan cost starts at \$71 per month and the 50 Mbps plan cost starts at \$96 per month. There are multiple plans available at each speed, to offer a range of data caps. Digital Path data caps are called 'soft caps', since the service continues to operate at a significantly reduced speed once the data limit is reached. The available speed, or even the availability of Gen7, will depend on the distance to the transmitter. Some Grizzly Ranch residents have been refused Gen7 service because of distance. Others have the 25 Mbps service, but actually experience much less than the stated speed, again due to distance limitations.

The Standard plans are available at Grizzly Ranch with download speeds of 3 Mbps, 6 Mbps or 10 Mbps. The 3 Mbps plan cost starts at \$67.95 per month, the 6 Mbps plan cost starts at \$77.95 per month and the 10 Mbps plan cost starts at \$92.95 per month.

Overall, the Digital Path service has a history of performance and dependability issues. For service provided from transmitters on Beckwourth Peak, electromagnetic interference is an issue. There are antennas on the peak for many different services and they tend to interfere with each other. Also, weather can be a factor effecting reception, since heavy precipitation can attenuate the wireless signals.

## SpaceX Starlink Satellite Service:



Elon Musk's Starlink project will be coming to Portola, likely sometime between mid 2021 and the end of 2021. Several Grizzly Ranch owners have signed up and are on the waiting list for receivers, to test out the service. The initial equipment cost is \$500, with a \$100 per month service fee. There is only a single level

# Grizzly Ranch Internet Committee Cont'd

of service and there are currently no data caps. The service is currently in Beta and is being rolled out southward from a starting latitude of 53 degrees north. Starlink is promising download speeds of 50 Mbps to 150 Mbps and Latency of 20 to 40 milliseconds initially. Reports from current Beta users indicate that those promises are being met, and then some. Current Beta users are also reporting that there are times of short outage of service due to obstructed line of sight and the current number of deployed satellites. The current launch schedule provides an additional 60 satellites every two weeks, on average. As the number of satellites increases, the data speeds will increase, latency will be reduced and the required amount of sky that is free of obstructions will be reduced.

Obtaining reliable Starlink service could be difficult for lots where there is heavy tree cover and limited visibility of the sky. Currently, a clear sky viewed through a 100 degree cone aimed in a northerly direction at a minimum elevation angle 25 degrees is required. As more satellites are available, the minimum elevation angle will increase to 40 degrees. However, there is no current indication from SpaceX that the 100 degree angle of the cone of view will reduce.

The Starlink system is very different from any other satellite internet systems. Other systems utilize a single satellite that is parked in a stationary geosynchronous orbit. Therefore, only a clear line of site to a single point in the sky is required. However, latency times are typically greater than 500 milliseconds, due to the distance of the satellite above the earth. The Starlink system utilizes a constellation of many satellites at a much lower altitude. Therefore, latency times are much lower and a clear sky is required to cover the area of sky that includes the satellite that is passing out of sight and the next one that is coming along to continue providing service. A Starlink app is available for Android and iPhone to check for a location with the required sky clearance. The Starlink service is also different than any other internet offering in that it is very much a DIY project. The dish and router are shipped to the customer and installation is left to the customer. Elon Musk states that he does not want a fleet of trucks running around the country with Starlink logos on their sides.



## **T-Mobile Home Internet:**

T-Mobile has a new home internet offering that utilizes their 5G network. They currently have 5G service provided from the top of Beckwourth Peak. However, the home internet service is not currently available to Grizzly Ranch addresses. T-Mobile will need to improve their cellular service to our location to offer the service here. Several Grizzly Ranch residents have T-Mobile cellular phone service. The signal strength at Grizzly Ranch is quite variable. It ranges from no signal at some locations to 5G service capable of greater than 90 Mbps download speed at other locations.





# Greetings from Grizzly Ranch Golf Club

By Caleb Olsen, General Manager

The 2021 golf season is off to a great start. The golf course is starting to green up from a very dry winter, and conditions are just about back to what we are accustomed to seeing.

Over the Winter, the club has completed several projects we hope all of you enjoy on the golf course. The ravine on hole three is much more playable, two cart bridges have been replaced, and an extensive brush clearing project helps pace of play!

You will also see some familiar faces on staff returning, and we have promoted a few staff members that have been with us for quite some time now. Sam Bonnet has been given the title of Head Golf Professional. Sam has been with the club for nine seasons now and

five of those seasons as the club's First Assistant Golf Professional. Sam will be handling the majority of daily golf operations. Tyler Hensley has been promoted to First Assistant Professional. Tyler has been with Grizzly Ranch for five years is excited to expand his role with us!

The Lake House has four staff members returning, with a few new faces. Please stop in and introduce yourself and check out the new menu. The menu is also attached to this newsletter. We will also offer a pool menu for those who like to use the pool at the Outpost. Menu and instructions for ordering will be available around the pool area for you.

I look forward to continuing to introduce new players to this fantastic property!

Caleb Olsen  
General Manager  
Grizzly Ranch Golf Club



# A Note from our new Head Golf Professional, Sam Bonnett

Hello, and welcome to the 2021 season at Grizzly Ranch! I look forward to my expanded role and seeing our members more this season. Golf saw a 30-year spike in 2020, and the play here was no exception. We already see that spike into this season. That being said, we're asking members and homeowners to call the Golf Shop with questions about bookings, so we can better accommodate you. Our goal is to have members play as much as possible.

Our first member twilight event was held Friday, May 29. Dinner and drinks were served in the Lakehouse following golf. Our Golf Club hosted the third annual Coyote Invitational Golf Tournament on June 6 to raise money in support of Portola's C. Roy Carmichael Elementary School PTA. It was a record breaking year with 80 golfers and a profit of \$14,663.13. All money raised will support CRC PTA-sponsored events, Scholastic News for grades TK-6, and staff appreciation week. [Click here](#) to read more.

We also had our second twilight event on June 18th.

## Upcoming Golf Events

Our **Beat the Pro Tournament** was moved from June 27 to Sunday, July 11 at 1 p.m. Be sure to sign up for your team. This is your chance to capture bragging rights as the best golfers at Grizzly Ranch. Caleb Olsen, Tyler Hensley, Mike Baty, and I will be competing against all of you in a shamble format. Pick up a rules sheet in the Golf Shop or Lake House. This is going to be a fun event with great prizes, and I hope to see all our golfers out there!

**Men's Day** on Wednesday, July 14 will be starting early at 8 a.m. The next member twilight event will be on Friday, July 16 at 3 p.m. The Grizzly Invitational scheduled for July 18 has been postponed. There will be a clinic on Thursday, July 22 at 3 p.m., topic TBD, and the member twilight on Friday, July 30 will be at 4 p.m. to beat the heat! Just as a reminder, dinner for all twilight events will be prepared at the Lake House, so no potlucks until further notice. Please call the Golf Shop at 530-832-4200 to sign up!

Sam Bonnett  
Head Golf Professional  
Grizzly Ranch Golf Club



# Firewise Update

By John Reynolds

On Saturday May 29, GR Community members and their family and friends met to clean hazardous fuels from overgrown roadway shoulders and an adjacent parcel. The saplings ranging in height from a few inches to eight feet had grown over the past fifteen years, and if left to continue would have presented a significant wildfire hazard. Saplings were cut by chainsaw or loppers and pulled to the roadside to be chipped by a professional crew.

Everyone worked hard for three to four hours to accomplish some great results. See the before and after photos below. The event sponsored by the Grizzly Ranch Firewise Committee can be used as credit for the Community's annual Firewise Status Recognition, which not only makes the community more wildfire resilient, but may also provide discounts with some home insurance providers. For additional details, contact the Firewise Committee at [grizzlyranchfirewise@gmail.com](mailto:grizzlyranchfirewise@gmail.com).

Thank you to the following individuals who came to help:

Eric Bakall  
Paul Bolt  
Becky Bolt

Karl Bolt  
Terry Limpert  
Mary Beth Limpert

Jim Miller  
John Reynolds  
Mark Roberts

Neal Kimberling  
Rob Thayer  
Curtis Weishahn

**Plan to attend Firewise Day in Grizzly Ranch scheduled for Sunday, August 8 at 10 a.m.** This is Homecoming weekend, so we hope to see everyone there. It is another way to get to know your neighbors in GR and meet some of our local Forest Service and Beckwourth Fire folks. There will be presentations on defensible space, home hardening and evacuation planning.

Each of us should continually do the following to protect our house. We can all make a difference!

- Clean the pine needles off the roof and gutters.
- Remove all flammable materials (including green trees and plants) five feet from the house and decks, and keep the area clean during Fire Season.

- Make sure you have an evacuation plan and a "Go Bag".
- Follow the Firewise Guidelines for tree and brush spacing in the Intermediate Zone (5 – 30 feet) from the home.
- Call for a Fire Safety Checkup from the Firewise Committee.

These will be discussed at Firewise Day as well as other ideas to help protect your home and our community. We hope to see you there!



# Portola Mining Project

Thank you to all who expressed their concerns, and a special thanks and credit is due to the GR “Mine Committee” that was formed to work with Portola residents. GR Mine Committee members included Tom Schaffer as the Chairperson, Kathy Roberts, Tim Pennington, David Weil, Marty Greenstein, and Jim Miller. They did so much work and raised money from the GR community to help pay for the legal costs to stop the mining efforts.

According to Plumas News reporter, Lauren Westmorland, in her article “Controversial mining proposal collapses with sale of property in Portola”, the threat of a mining operation in Portola is no longer.

After a great deal of community opposition and action taken by hundreds of concerned Portola residents including a petition against the proposed Hat Creek Mining project on 713-acres, the Portola Mining Project is dead! Portola citizens helped to raise awareness about the mining project and its effect on the environment, and thanks to their efforts, the property was recently sold to Plumas Sierra Partners, LLC.

“Plumas Sierra Partners, LLC was established for the sole purpose of purchasing the 77413 Meadow Way property, the proposed site of the Hat Creek Construction Portola Aggregates mine,” explained Linda Judge, Plumas Sierra Partners LLC member.

[Click here](#) to read more.



## A Message From The Information/Sales Center

By Amber Donnelly, Century 21 Realtor

Blaine Smith and I are excited to be onsite a few days a week at the Grizzly Ranch Information/Sales Center to assist interested buyers and sellers. We are the main agents working in the office. Please drop in and see us. We’ve gotten to know many of the GR homeowners and employees already, and we look forward to meeting you all!

I’m an area resident and Sierra Valley top producer bringing extensive knowledge of the Grizzly Ranch – Portola region and sales/marketing expertise. Video marketing is really my forte, and along with selling real estate, I manage the Facebook Group called the Sierra Plumas Community Events and Sierra Plumas Lifestyle Newsletter to promote local businesses and area events, if you’d like to receive it please let me know. Also, I thought you’d enjoy this market update video: Summer Market! - [YouTube](#)

Blaine grew up in Truckee, Calif. and continues to love the Sierra Nevada and its many mountains, lakes and outdoor recreation. As a third-generation Century 21 realtor, Blaine makes working with clients one of his top priorities.

Please come see us!



Amber Donnelly  
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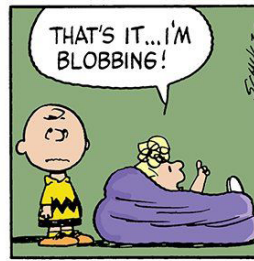
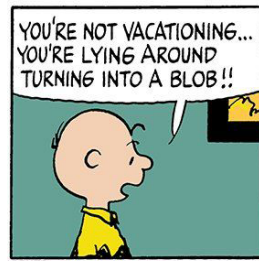
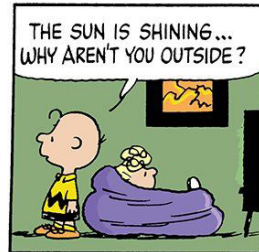
Blaine Smith  
blain smith66@gmail.com  
530-545-8230

# In Our Next Issue

Have an idea, concern, or positive sentiment you'd like to share in the next newsletter? Please email it to George Papa at [gpapa99@me.com](mailto:gpapa99@me.com), and we'll try to include your idea in our next issue.



# Laughter For The Light-Hearted



## Favorite Summer Things To Do

- Hike to one of the MANY waterfalls in the area
- Camp at the Lakes Basin Campground
- Take a swim in Upper Sardine Lake
- Disc golf at the Brewing Lair
- Canoe ride at Lake Davis
- Relax at the Grizzly Ranch pool
- Shopping in charming and quaint Graeagle
- Golf at Grizzly Ranch Golf Club
- Take a hike on the Bear Lakes Loop Trailhead

## Contact Info

### CAMCO

Cassidy Wicks, Property Manager  
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### Grizzly Ranch Golf Club (GRGC)

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530-832-4200

### Grizzly Ranch Community Services District (CSD)

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### Grizzly Ranch Conservancy (GRC)

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### Firewise Committee

(See [GrizzlyRanchAssociation.com](http://GrizzlyRanchAssociation.com))  
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### Grizzly Ranch Design Review Committee (DRC)

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