

# Auburn Journal



Funk Box photos  
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NO BULL, JUST RESULTS

GOLD COUNTRY RODEO, A15



## Mercury removal on tap

### Area above Combie Reservoir to be cleaned of residue left behind during the Gold Rush

BY GUS THOMSON  
OF THE AUBURN JOURNAL

The Nevada Irrigation District has committed final funding of \$290,000 for specialized equipment from a Canadian manufacturer to remove mercury left over from the Gold Rush on the Bear River between Meadow Vista and Colfax.

The mercury removal project – which has worked in stops and starts as demonstration and pilot projects over the past six years – will take place upstream from Meadow Vista's Combie Reservoir and downhill from Colfax.

Believed to be the first of its kind in the state, the project has earned widespread attention in the water industry and was featured this past week as part of the Sierra Fund's "Reclaiming the Sierra" conference in Sacramento.

Elizabeth "Izzy" Martin, CEO of the Nevada City-based Sierra Fund, said Monday that the project should yield multiple benefits for the irrigation district and the environment – including increased reservoir capacity as gravel is cleared out from the inflow channel and a reduction in mercury in the riverbed and water.

• SEE REMOVE PAGE A5

## Experts look at wildfires' legacy



Intense fires destroy organic matter within the soil, explains geologist Marie Davis during a King Fire media tour Friday. This not only creates a shell-like cover on the soil, but also promotes erosion into area waterways.

EYRAGON EIDAM • AUBURN JOURNAL

### What is next chapter for fire, water and drought?

BY EYRAGON EIDAM  
OF THE AUBURN JOURNAL

GEORGETOWN – In less than a month, the 2014 King Fire swept through nearly 100,000 acres of densely forested land between El Dorado and Placer counties.

While the hugely destructive fire was eventually stopped in its tracks, environmental experts say the damage to the area extends far beyond just burned vegetation.

In a rare look at the aftermath of large-scale fires, experts led a media tour through the King Fire area to talk about erosion, forest management and what the damage could mean in relation to California's ongoing drought.

At Stumpy Meadows Reservoir, blackened trees lined the shore. In the distance the sounds of chainsaws and falling timber alerted visitors to the logging industry's salvage efforts.

By all accounts, burned trees have a shelf-life of around 18 months before they are too rotted to use for lumber and other industrial purposes.

The receding waterline and charred trees made for the perfect backdrop for a discussion on the impacts the fire would have on water storage and industry in burn areas.

Rich Wade, district manager with Sierra Pacific Industries, said the logging company suffered the loss of around 23,000 acres of harvestable forest during the King Fire.

"By the time it reached this point, the fire intensity was at

• SEE FIRE PAGE A2

## Man scares off trespassing bear with 1 punch

### Placer County bruin beats hasty retreat into woods after ex-boxer lands solid blow

BY GUS THOMSON  
OF THE AUBURN JOURNAL

It's hard to believe it happened. And state wildlife officers are advising against it.

But for a rural Placer County resident, bare fists and a solid right-hand to a bear's snout were the method of choice to send a trespassing bruin fleeing from his property.

Carl Moore said all he was trying to do was protect his two beloved dogs and the bear was threatening enough for him to chase it away from his Meadow Vista-area home. The decision to quickly sucker-punch the bear as it rose up on two legs and turned toward him was instinctual, he said.

"I'm an old brawler," Moore said. "I hit him with an overhand right and got him really good."

Moore said he boxed competitively in his youth and also waded into his fair share of fights as a bouncer.

Eyewitnesses are backing up his claim that he landed a single



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Carl Moore says he was only trying to protect his dogs Lacy, a 12-year-old Chihuahua, and Bailey, a 16-year-old Lab, when he punched a bear in the snout, sending it retreating down Hillside Drive in the Meadow Vista area.

blow that snapped a 300-pound, 5 1/2-foot tall bear's head back.

The hard-to-believe encounter was observed by two

friends and employees of Moore, who were inside Moore's house at about 11 a.m. April 20 when the commotion from the

• SEE BEAR PAGE A3

## Golf tournament chips in funds for St. Joseph's Catholic School

BY DELESTE MAGDA  
OF THE AUBURN JOURNAL

Community members are swinging for education.

The Fifth Annual Gabe Mendez Golf Tournament will take place Friday at the Auburn Valley Golf Club and proceeds go to St. Joseph's Catholic School programs, curriculum and the Catholic Education Scholarship.

"We usually have about 100 to 120 golfers participate," said Linda Wuelfing, golf tournament coordinator. "So far we only have 65 signed up."

She said the tournament usually brings in a much-needed \$15,000 to \$16,000.

Patrick Remington, of Auburn, has golfed in the tournament for a number of years.

"I graduated from St. Joseph's in '82," Remington said. "Education is something I strongly believe in and the money raised helps kids to be able to attend St. Joseph's that would not have been able to afford it."

Experienced and novice golfers will hit the links for the tournament. Remington said



### 5TH ANNUAL GABE MENDEZ GOLF TOURNAMENT

**When:** 9 a.m. registration, 11 a.m. tee time and 5 p.m. dinner, awards and raffle on Friday

**Where:** Auburn Valley Golf Club, 8800 Auburn Valley Road

**Cost:** \$165 per golfer with a 4 person shotgun scramble, \$30 for an adult dinner attendee and \$8 for a child dinner ticket

**Info:** Call Linda Wuelfing at (530) 210-1208 or email lindawuelfing@att.net or visit www.saintjosephauburn.org

the best advice he can give to a new golfer is to relax and enjoy

• SEE GOLF PAGE A5



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Auburn Daily Journal



Mostly sunny and warm.

79°  
Today's high

Mainly clear.

54°  
Tonight's low

### LOOK WHAT'S INSIDE

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