



(Standing l-r) Ailice and Joe Lareau, Susan and Mark Stalcup, Susan and Gary David, Joyce and Ed Seymore, Roma and Bill Wagoner. Kneeling: Beverly and Jim Stafford, Alanna and Mike Cockrum.

## In the loop, they get married again

and Roma and Bill Wagoner joined the Semores in planning an event and September 18th found 20 celebrants at Angelinas in Burney for a party with a Hawaiian Theme.

Everyone game Alanna photos of themselves from over the years, and she created a story board of their lives together. In the spirit of the theme, Chef Paul presented a delicious Hawaiian

buffet, and the table decorations were reminiscent of a laua.

The seven couples above renewed their wedding vows in an alcove at Angelian's. Nancy Weaver of Cassel (an honorary Loopie since she is Susan David's sister) conducted the ceremony. Each couple received a personalized certificate commemorating the occasion, another of Anna's creations.

A golden wedding anniversary is quite a milestone: so when Joyce and Ed Seymore's 50th was approaching, they invited their fellow "Loopies", residents of Shoshoni Loop in the Big Eddy, to celebrate with them by renewing their wedding vows.

Alanna and Mike Cockrum, Susan and Gary David,

## Great atmosphere, great line up, great hosts, make great workshop



Photo by Vicky Sjoborg

Keynote speaker William Kittredge

**By Sue Edmondson**

Mountain Echo reporter

You may have heard of Ray and Barbara March—they publish the Modoc Independent News from their home in Cedarville. You may even know that Barbara is an award winning poet and photographer, and that Ray is an essayist and non-fiction writer, who was nominated for the National Book award. Now they'll also be known as the couple who turned a vague concept into the hugely successful Surprise Valley Writer's Conference.

I'm not sure when they conceived the idea, but I first heard Ray talk about it over two years ago. We were at the Truckee Meadows Writer's Conference in Reno, and he mentioned something vague about holding a conference in Cedarville, a place most people in the audience didn't know existed. He then passed around a piece of paper, asking for anyone interested to sign. Quite a few of us did, likely because we didn't want to make him feel bad. I never thought that it would actually happen. But I didn't know Ray and Barbara very well then, either.

I heard more talk about it over the next year, in part from Michael Croft, who directed the

Truckee Meadows Writer's Conference for eighteen years and happens to be Barbara's cousin. The conference was taking shape he said, and he'd likely be the conference director. Still I had my doubts.

Then I received an email that a four-day writer's workshop and conference was scheduled in September. When I checked out the website, I was pretty surprised. The fiction workshop leaders were top writers—Sands Hall, Roy Parvin and John Reed. Gerald Haslem had been recruited for the non-fiction group and Sacramento Poet Laureate Julia Conner was to lead the poets. Not only that, but William Kittredge (a noted writer and professor, who also co-produced the movie "A River Runs Through It") was tapped as the keynote speaker.

Several other things stood out. Scheduled lectures included local color—a historical perspective of Modoc, and agriculture, two dinners were part of the package, we'd take an interpretive field trip/walk with Forest Service experts on Cedar Pass Trail and a couple of nights were scheduled for open mic sessions (think of them as karaoke for writers).

I signed up, still thinking

in the back of my mind that it wouldn't really happen. Who would drive all the way to Cedarville, a tiny town seated in the base of the Warner Mountains? I was worried that so few people would sign up that the conference would be cancelled. That notice never came. Instead I received one that said it was a sell-out—all 50 slots were filled.

The most surprising thing, though, wasn't that the conference happened, or its impressive line-up, but the way the community and the writers became involved. Locals came to the dinners and open mic sessions; writers explored the area and learned about rural lifestyles. An indication of the broad support for the conference is found in the list of "partners." Among them were the Modoc Resource Advisory Committee, the Modoc County Office of Education, the Modoc County Cattlemen and the USDA. A grant from Poets and Writers magazine through the John Irvine Foundation partially funded Kettridge's speech.

Writers commented that it was the best conference they'd attended. Croft said it "exceeded his expectations by a wide margin." Surprise Valley Chamber President Sharlene Minto said, "I think it's wonderful. The conference brought in a lot of interesting people."

Cedarville resident Janet Hill, who attended the non-fiction workshop said, "I wouldn't have had the opportunity to do something like this but for the conference. It's been great."

At the end of his speech, Kettridge said the conference was a wonderful addition to the community and that he hoped it would continue.

Barbara March was thrilled when she learned that Julia Conner had offered to return to teach poetry to local children. "For me, it means that people who don't normally come together are coming together. To think of exposing kids to something like that makes me feel better than everything else said today."

## Candlelight Walk planned

BURNEY — The annual candlelight walk has been set for October 11.

Domestic violence is everyone's issue, affecting men, women, and children. The Intermountain Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) and Community are celebrating the eighth annual candlelight walk. Intermountain DVCC and Community are walking to mourn those who have died, celebrate those who have survived and to raise awareness about the issue of domestic violence.

The eighth annual candlelight walk is scheduled for October 11 at 6:30 p.m. Walkers will gather at the Presbyterian Church, 20435 Marquette Street in Burney.

## Obituaries

### Dorothea Kramer

Services will be held at 11 a.m., October 6 at the Grace Bible Church in Nubie for Dorothea Kramer, 97, of Bieber, died September 28, 2007 at Mayers Memorial Hospital in Fall River Mills.

Mrs. Kramer was born at the Gerig ranch in Bieber, October 23, 1910. She was a founding member of the Grace Bible Church in Bieber, helped start the Big Valley Senior Center, fought hard for the Senior Bus Service, was a member of the board of directors of the Big Valley Historical Society, a member of the Intermountain Cattlewomen and a 50-year member of the Lookout Grange.

She is survived by her son, Charles; daughter, Mardell Tucker, three grandsons and six great-grandchildren.

The family requests that donations be made in her memory to the Big Valley Historical Society, P.O. Box 463, Bieber.

For memorial see [mountainecho.com](http://mountainecho.com)

### Marcia A. Harris

Marcia A. Harris, 58, passed away Thursday, September 27th, 2007 at the Mid Columbia Medical Center of The Dalles, Oregon with family by her side after a courageous battle with cancer. Arrangements are under the direction of Anderson's Tribute Center 1401 Belmont Ave., Hood River, OR 97031.

## Marketplace Oct. 20

BIEBER—The Big Valley Chamber of Commerce's Third Annual Autumn Marketplace is scheduled for Saturday, October 20 at the Bieber Memorial Hall.

The Hall opens at 5:30 p.m. The fashion review and live auction starts at 7 p.m.

The event includes beer and wine tasting, refreshments, craft booths and a 50-year collection of Bride's Maid dresses.

General admission is \$5 per person or with Beer and Wine Tasting tickets \$15 per person.

Funds raised by the event go to help the Big Valley Family Resource Center.

## Boutique scheduled

ROUND MOUNTAIN — The Round Mountain Arts League presents their 22nd annual Boutique at the Community Center on Highway 299, Saturday, November 3, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There is no admission charge.

First Prize in the Raffle is Cascade Theater tickets.

## Who says they aren't out there?



Nikki Amburn of Dana bagged this four point buck with a rack measuring 27.5 inches in the "C" Zone last week.

## Library schedules last yard/book sale of season

Coming this Friday and Saturday, October 5th and 6th, the Fall River Valley Library is holding a most magnificent yard and book sale. Another sale won't be held until warmer weather next year so now is the time to do your early Christmas shopping. Thousands of wonderful books, clothes,

tools, toys, household items, and much much more. Too many items to list but you are looking for something, most likely it will be there for sale.

The sale will take place on the new parking lot at the library from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come early to get the best choices.

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**California Water Fowl Association Dinner**

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**Terry**

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