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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THREE RIVERS AND SEQUOIA~KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

3R champion will ride in Lions Team Roping

by JOHN ELLIOTT

Ever since she can remember Shyan Souza has been dreaming about the Three Rivers Lions Team Roping. In fact, she first ran the barrels as a four-year-old and now looks forward to the local competition as the best event on the circuit and her highlight of an annual schedule that becomes more hectic each year.

Shyan, now a senior at Woodlake High School, says it's indescribable the feeling she gets when she's out in the Lions Arena. All the cheers of her family, friends, and fans screaming her name echoing up and down the North Fork, and according to this tough-as-nails competitor, it just doesn't get any better.

But wherever she finishes on the leader board this weekend after roping on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, it's going to be difficult to beat what she's already accomplished in 2010.

That's because at the Challenge of Champions, the 2010 California High School Rodeo district championships held March 19 through 21 at Plymouth, Calif., Shyan and her partner, Lane Lowry of Bakersfield, finished first in team roping. For their efforts, they came away with the championship buckles and a \$500 scholarship to attend Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

It's no small feat to be the best of California's nine districts with several hundred competitors in arguably the premier competition of the rodeo's nine events. Shyan said she chose team roping from the other events — goat tying, pole bending, barrel racing, breakaway roping (girls



Lake Kaweah was in a reflective mood after another Gulf of Alaska-spawned storm system made its way through Kaweah Country on Wednesday, April 21. Even more rain and high-country snow are in the forecast for next week.

only), bronc riding, bull riding, tie-down roping, and steer roping — because team roping is something she plans on doing the rest of her life.

Shyan and her mom Tammy said the scholarship will come in handy because college is going to be a financial challenge, especially when she will be trying out for the Cal Poly Mustangs' championship rodeo team.

—see ROPER, page 5

Snowstorm hampers trans-Sierra travelers

A huge snowpack has more implications than the impending water runoff season. Backcountry travel will be impacted throughout the remaining storms, and backpackers will find the high mountain passes clogged with snow for much of the summer.

On Tuesday, April 6, three skiers were reported overdue when

they failed to return from an ambitious trans-Sierra ski trip in Sequoia National Park. Fresno-area residents Mike Beers, Eric Snyder, and Ryan Soares had been dropped off at the Shepherd Pass trailhead near Independence on the Sierra's east side.

The trio entered the high country on April 1 with an itinerary to ski out at Wolverton on April

5. All three are experienced, had the adequate gear, but had never attempted the route previously.

What they didn't plan on was the severe storm on Sunday, April 4, that brought four feet of new snow, 100 mph wind gusts, and sub-zero temperatures. With the party being overdue, the National Park Service initiated a

—see SEARCH, page 4

• KAWEAH COUNTRY OUTLOOK: three rivers • lemon cove • woodlake •

Saturday, April 24	Sunday, April 25	Monday, April 26	Tuesday, April 27	Wednesday, April 28	Thursday, April 29	Friday, April 30
Sunny Hi 80 • Lo 53	Sunny Hi 83 • Lo 53	Sunny Hi 82 • Lo 54	Showers Hi 61 • Lo 48	Showers Hi 66 • Lo 47	Clouds and sun Hi 69 • Lo 47	Chance of showers Hi 75 • Lo 50

WEATHER WATCH

The weekend forecast includes plenty of sunshine with temperatures in the low 80s, ideal weather for team ropers and all that beautiful horseflesh encamped at Lions Arena. The sunny skies will give way to more showers by mid-week. The recent rain (April 21) dumped another 2.17 inches in the Three Rivers environs. The current season total is at 25.30 inches; the more than 100 inches of snowpack at 9,500 feet in the Kaweah drainage contain nearly 50 inches of water content.