

Let the holiday shopping begin!

—SEE PAGE 12 FOR LOCAL GIFT-BUYING OPPORTUNITIES

# THE Kaweah Commonwealth

A JOURNAL FOR THOSE WHO LABOR AND WHO THINK

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PRESORTED STANDARD U.S. POSTAGE PAID THREE RIVERS, CA PERMIT NO. 20

Volume 18, No. 48

www.kaweahcommonwealth.com

December 4 - 10, 2009

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

## Alta Acres turkey shot with arrow

by JOHN ELLIOTT

The two flocks of wild turkeys that make their rounds on the North Fork and in the Alta Acres area of Three Rivers seemed to vanish last week as if on cue. Who could blame the gobbling hordes? After all, it was Thanksgiving.

But on Tuesday, Dec. 1, when the busy birds reappeared on Alta Acres Drive, one of the turkeys was having difficulty keeping up with the others. That's when Zoe Bull, who lives in the Alta Acres subdivision near St. Clair's Catholic Church, noticed that one of the friendly birds had an arrow stuck in its back.

"It's a real shame when someone has to try to take one of these birds," Zoe said. "These turkeys



**TURKEY HUNT:** Alta Acres resident Martha Bubel took this photo of a local wild turkey that was shot by an arrow, which remains lodged in the right side of its back. Several flocks of turkeys make the Three Rivers and Kaweah areas their home.

are really just neighborhood pets."

Zoe said she observed the usually social birds attempting to isolate the one turkey with the arrow stuck in his back.

"He or she, I couldn't be sure if it was a male or female, was obviously trying to get rid of that arrow that was stuck in his back," Zoe said. "The hurt bird

—see **TURKEY**, page 11

## Wilderness reservations changing in one popular national park

Want to backpack to the bottom of the Grand Canyon and camp along the majestic Colorado River in one of America's most scenic national parks? If planning your trip ahead, four months out will be the farthest ahead that you can request trip dates.

If you want to plan a trip that far ahead, be prepared to put your itinerary in writing and submit the request during that month — four months in advance of the trip date. For one to three months ahead of a trip date, only in-person verbal requests are being accepted.

Starting February 1, the busy park will consider only written requests four months in advance of trips. The requests can be faxed, sent by mail, or dropped off in person; all requests received each day by 5 p.m. will then be randomly ordered by computer for issuance of a wilderness permit.

The earliest a backpacker can get a permit for the canyon is four months prior, so under the new system, the first day a request can be submitted in writing for a June trip would be Feb. 1.

—see **PARKS**, page 11

## Missing man found deceased

The body of Alberto Ortiz, 67, of Porterville was recovered by a Tulare County Sheriff's Department dive team from Lake Kaweah on Wednesday, Dec. 2, at 4:30 p.m. Jim Fansett, Three Rivers resident deputy, and other members of the team had been searching for Ortiz since Tuesday after a family member called to report that Ortiz was overdue in returning from a fishing trip.

The search for Ortiz was called off late Tuesday night then resumed the following morning. He was reported to be fishing from a wooden boat.

The boat was not located. The cause of death was listed in the incident report as accidental. There was no indication that a crime had been committed or foul play. The results of an autopsy are pending.

## BOS adopts new rules for medical marijuana

In an effort to further clarify what marijuana dispensary operators can and cannot do, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors adopted some new rules at last Tuesday's board meeting

that placed limits on the number of dispensaries in the unincorporated area (three) and the number of plants permitted to be grown on-site (99).

The rules also stipulate that the operating dispensaries must be co-operatives. That is interpreted to mean only nonprofits can be licensed to operate in unincorporated Tulare County.

To comply with current zoning and business licensing laws, the dispensaries also must be legal in both the state of California and under federal statutes. Currently, the possession and sale of marijuana is illegal under federal law.

That yes-and-no situation clearly invites a legal tug-of-war that may never be resolved until marijuana is legalized by the state and federal government.

The current moratorium on new dispensaries to begin operating in the county territory, ends on January 5. Neither county officials nor marijuana advocates know what will happen once the moratorium is lifted.

—see **MEDICAL**, page 11

The full moon on Tuesday, Dec. 1, turned nighttime to day in Kaweah Country. December's full moon is also known as the Long-Night Moon as the northern hemisphere moves toward the shortest day of the year, which occurs on the winter solstice, Monday, Dec. 21. The photo was captured with an ISO of 400, shutter F8.0 (1000).



—MARK BARTON PHOTO

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

Saturday, December 5	Sunday, December 6	Monday, December 7	Tuesday, December 8	Wednesday, December 9	Thursday, December 10	Friday, December 11
Sun and clouds Hi 60 • Lo 31	Partly cloudy Hi 57 • Lo 39	Rain Hi 49 • Lo 42	Rain Hi 54 • Lo 37	Showers Hi 57 • Lo 40	Showers Hi 56 • Lo 37	Chance of showers Hi 55 • Lo 35

### WEATHER WATCH

Although there is only a few inches of snow above 8,000 feet in the nearby mountains, that will change by the end of the week-end. The first bone-chilling cold storm of the season will make its way across the region with the greatest chance for significant snowfall in the higher elevations on Monday. The El Nino forecast for December is above normal for precipitation in all parts of California and across the southwest. Low temperatures at Lodgepole could plunge to the single digits. Brrrrrr!