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Photo by John Diehm of the 2010 races.

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### Welcome !

We are happy to report that  
The Mythical State of Jefferson  
is most definitely alive and well.

We bring you stories, up-  
coming events, history and  
spotlight articles on the Mom &  
Pop Shoppes, businesses,  
artists, musicians, inns, eateries,  
recreational opportunities and  
community organizations proudly  
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The State of Jefferson:  
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County.

One of the coolest things you can do in  
Siskiyou County in the month of January is  
attend the Siskiyou Sled Dog Races! My  
kids and I were fortunate to be part of a  
group a couple seasons ago to run one of  
the Warming Huts at the Pilgrim Creek  
portion of the sled dog races. For two  
days and nights, we kept a hot fire going in  
the large wood stove and served lots of  
homemade chili, cornbread as well as hot  
coffee and tea to all the mushers and  
other volunteers. We dug it!

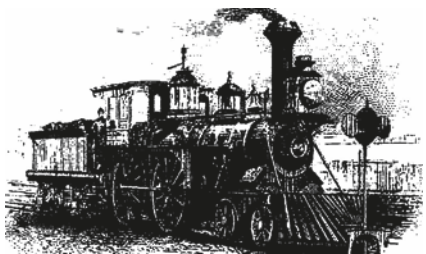
It's a marvelous feeling you get while  
watching these mushers with their sled  
dogs. When you realize how in tune they  
are with each other, how many long,  
difficult, cold and spiritual moments they  
spend together, well it is nothing less than  
magical. We learned something remarkable  
while we were in the midst of these  
mushers and their sled dogs. What they  
do is something sacred. It is reminiscent of  
the Pioneer Days when man depended on  
himself and his animals to provide all the  
necessities of life. Nothing seems more  
meaningful than that self-preservation  
instinct, trusting your own abilities and your  
own knowledge and wisdom to survive.  
Adding the primally deep love and  
devotion of these sled dogs for their  
masters, this will propel them all safely  
through the vast remote snowy terrain for  
miles and miles and miles . . .

It's a profound feat to behold. *Editor*




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# HISTORY OF YREKA Yreka's Franco American Hotel

by Claudia A. East

Join us each month for Claudia East's fascinating historical stories of the town of Yreka, California. Feel free to read and follow Claudia on her blog at: <http://yrekahistory.blogspot.com>. -Editor 



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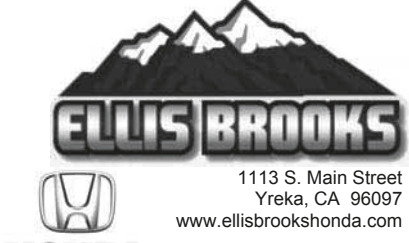


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Shawna Glenn,  
Sales Associate



Photo courtesy of Claudia East from around 1920

The Franco-American Hotel is one of Yreka's major landmarks. It is located in the 300 block of Miner Street in the heart of the "old town" Yreka, in our National Historic District. For many years it was the major hotel that served many who traveled "well" between San Francisco and Portland. Among the notables who stayed here was President Hayes and his family in 1880. The original building is reported to have been a narrow two story brick home built sometime in the early 1850s. In 1855 a Frenchman, Leon Marniesse purchased the house and it soon became the Franco-American Hotel. 

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## History of Yreka - continued . . .

Over the years many changes and improvements were made to this property. A big change came in 1867 when Mr. Marniesse increased the frontage of the building and added a second story and balcony. Mr. Marniesse owned and operated the building until his death just a year later in 1868.

Mr. John B. Rohrer obtained the Hotel following Mr. Marniesse's death and operated the hotel with a first class restaurant for many years. During this time both North and Southbound stages stopped here on a regular basis. After the railroad came to the area in the late 1880s "hacks" (buggies for hire) carried guests and visitors from the train depot (either from Montague depot or Yreka depot) to the hotel.

The Franco-American Hotel hosted one of the finest saloons and a man with the name of Daniel Tesh was the proprietor. In the book "History of Siskiyou County" by Harry L. Wells in 1881 he writes: "He [Daniel Tesh] has catered to the public since 1864 with a first-class stock of liquors and cigars at his saloon connected with the Franco-American Hotel. The leading papers are kept on file and the place is so conducted as to invite the patronage of Yreka's most substantial citizens."

Around the turn of the century, 1899-1900 the ownership was held by a Charles Bohnart and managed by Charles Herzog. Further improvements and building enlargements were made during this time. It is interesting to note that today, behind this vintage building, is an apartment complex. This apartment building was once a part of the Franco-American Hotel and a portion of it served as a new kitchen in 1900 and the upstairs with additional suites. It was moved north from the building to where it sits today in the 1970s.

During the 1940s the name was changed to Hotel Yreka and the facade was changed dramatically. The balcony was removed and the building had a more "modern" streamlined look to it. During the mid 1970s when Yreka received the designation of a National Historic District the building facade was restored to its 1880s appearance.

Today the building still serves businesses on the street level as it has for 155 years! The hotel is no longer in operation. Some of the upstairs rooms have had a fresh facelift with paint, new flooring, etc. Plans are currently being considered on viable uses for this wonderful building home to many interesting rooms. Local residents and visitors alike long to see the building restored and continue to be a vital part of Miner Street. For those of you that might have a copy of our book, *Yreka, Images of America* by Arcadia Publishing you can find other views and information on pages 4, 13, 45, and 52.

A walk down Miner Street will bring one to the Franco-American building today and plaques along the outside wall will help the visitor learn about this fascinating structure. Be sure and take a look at the old hotel lobby area where "Unique and Useful" has their business, the tin ceiling is exceptional! ♦



## YREKA HISTORY!

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Gail is a contributor to NPR's Jefferson Public Radio series, "As It Was: Tales From the State of Jefferson." At left is her newest book, coauthored with Bernita L. Tickner. Great Holiday Gift Idea!

**CONTACT INFO:**

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Email: [gforini@sisqtel.net](mailto:gforini@sisqtel.net)

## Discovering The State of Jefferson

Trinity County by Gail L. Jenner

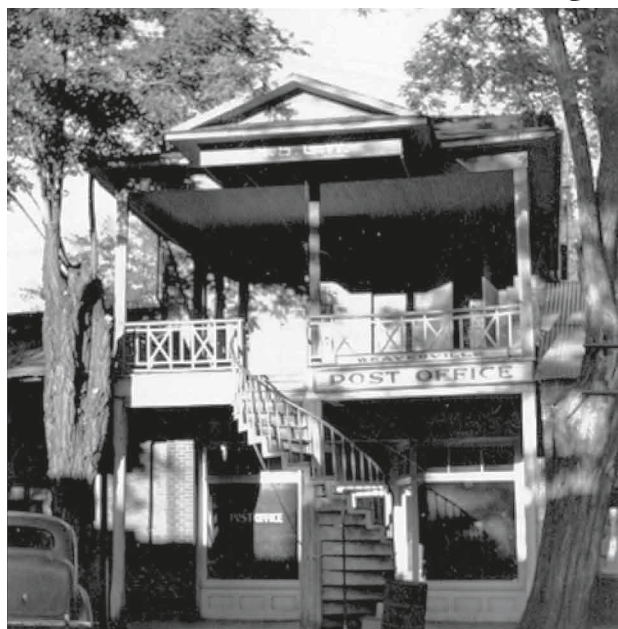
*Follow along with Gail each month and enjoy another new story of the many historical towns and areas found scattered throughout The State of Jefferson. ☞*

The South Fork of the Salmon River drains the Salmon-Trinity Alps Wilderness area and merges with the North Fork at Forks of Salmon. A mining area well into the twentieth century, as much, even more, gold came from the Northern Mines as from the Mother Lode. Miners from around the world rushed to the northern mines.

In 1858, the California Stage Company began operating Concord stages through all of Trinity Valley, to the foot of Scott Mountain. From there travelers were required to take a mule train over the mountain. A road was built over Scott Mountain in 1859, and by 1860, every segment of old trail had been replaced by good road. Much of it had to be blasted from solid rock, eleven feet wide, but these turnouts allowed 8-mule teams to pass on the trail.

Early stages were of the thorough-brace type, supported by heavy leather straps slung between front and rear axles. These served as springs against the rough roads. Mud wagons worked well in seasonal and heavy mountain travel because they were lighter and lower, but far less comfortable. The Concord held 9 passengers inside and 10-12 on top, plus 2 beside the driver. Most were pulled by 4 or 6-horse teams.

One of the first U.S. Post Offices in Trinity County was established at Lewiston. Lewiston was named for B.F. Lewis, who owned and managed a Ferry Crossing near the present day bridge that was actually built in 1901. The Lewiston Hotel was an important stage stop on the route that spanned Weaverville and Trinity Center to Callahan and then on to Yreka. Situated along the Trinity River, it was built in 1862 and also boasted a saloon and stable. The original building burned in 1898, but was rebuilt in 1899.



Post office and winding stairway in Weaverville, courtesy of Gail Jenner.



## Discovering The State of Jefferson continued . . .

Hayfork, the second largest town in Trinity County, was established in 1851, first as Kingsbury, then South Fork and Hay Town, and finally as Hayfork in 1854. Located in a valley, the area produces an abundance of hay and grain. It sits near the North Fork of the South Fork of Trinity River. Also located in the Hayfork Valley is a "natural bridge" that adds richness to Trinity's wonderland. The nearby Natural Bridge, a geologic formation, is an important Wintu Historical Site.

Nestled at the foot of the Trinity Alps Wilderness Area is the historic town of Weaverville, California, located 50 miles west of Redding. Founded in 1850, and named by John Weaver, who apparently won the right to name the town during a game of chance, Weaverville is a lovely restored gold rush town and the county seat of Trinity County. ♦



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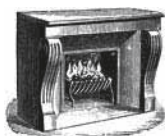
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# Backpacking in Jefferson

## Watershed--Part 3 of 3

An Excerpt from "Watershed"

[www.backpackinginjefferson.com](http://www.backpackinginjefferson.com)

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(In Part 2, Barbara and I climbed to the ridge above Taylor Lake on the way to Paynes Lake in the Russian Wilderness, despite my recent open-heart surgery.)

We climbed the PCT southward, still needing to gain several hundred feet of altitude before we could drop into the Paynes Lake drainage. What should have been an easy trek stretched out endlessly under the blazing sun, reflected doubly from the granite slickrock.

In time the PCT curved south to cross the outlet stream beneath Paynes Lake as it began its cascade down into the Scott Valley. Just before the crossing, a spur trail climbed to the northeast shore of the lake. We dropped our backpacks on the lightly forested slope and looked around. South across the lake, patches of forest filled the gullies. A few hardy renegade trees climbed the steep, white slopes of the bare granite bowl. We would find no level campsites there. The north shore sagged southward, and the lake arced west around the forested bulge, which blocked our view of the far end. Above it, in the distance, a white granite massif loomed, peaked by a jagged spire.

Continued on Page 11



## Yreka Committee for Historic Preservation

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# Chrome Fish on the Backroads by Ralph Fain

*"Wild rivers are earth's renegades, defying gravity, dancing to their own tunes, resisting the authority of humans, always chipping away, and eventually always winning."* —Richard Bangs, *River Gods*

I love rivers! I really love the Smith River in Del Norte County. As a matter of fact the best time for me to visit begins in January. There are several reasons for this choice. First and foremost it is prime time for steelhead fishing! These chrome bright fish have just left the ocean and entered the river system. Fish weighing 20 plus pounds are landed here every year. Salmon have just finished their run in November and December with steelhead entering the system in December. They will continue their run until



Photo of Hwy 199 Bridge over the Smith by Ralph Fain

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late March or early April, usually peaking in February.

I will load up the travel trailer, fishing gear, kayaks and cataraft then head to Hiouchi RV Resort in Hiouchi. This will be my base camp until I am ready to leave. Located between the Forks of the Smith River and the Hiouchi Bridge, Hiouchi is just 9 miles east of Crescent City and the ocean. This is a great central location for those chasing steelhead and many Northern California and Southern Oregon fishermen will be found here during the winter months.

Upriver from Hiouchi you will find the Forks of the Smith. This is the confluence of the Middle and South Fork of the Smith River. There is a river access here on the middle fork which is heavily used as a put-in for drift boats. You will know when the fish are running by the line of guides and locals waiting their turn to launch at this site. Be prepared to wait patiently and know the local river etiquette when launching from this site.

I have floated the main stem from The Forks to Ruby (Ruby Van Deventer County Park) on



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## Chrome Fish on the Backroads continued . . .

my cataraft. What a beautiful float, the renowned emerald water of the river gliding underneath me, light rain with mist quietly slipping through the trees above, and lush green moss covering the rocks along the banks! I don't always catch fish, but I don't need to. Floating the river is reward enough for me.

Those floating and fishing the main stem from the forks down as far as Ruby are treated to some of the finest surroundings on the north coast. As the Steelhead move upriver and you float downriver, the giant Redwoods watch in silence, huge ferns adorning their base. If you feel the Redwood connection, take Walker Road on the south bank exiting off of Highway 199. The dirt road leads through the Redwoods down to the river and Walker and Peacock fishing holes. This is part of Jedediah Smith State Park with numerous trails meandering among the trees.

The Middle Fork of the Smith is fished up to Patrick's Creek. The river is closed to fishing above this point. This section runs alongside Highway 199 and has limited access because of the rugged banks of the river. Those seeking solitude can head up the South Fork. You will still find folks fishing but very few guides or boats on this section of river. You will encounter others seeking to avoid the sometimes "combat fishing" atmosphere on the main stem. Access is very limited by steep country, slippery rocks and brush along the river.

If you want to bait up like most of those fishing the river, use roe. It does not matter if you are in a boat drifting or on the bank plunking; this is the universal bait on the Smith River. Beyond that you will have to hire a guide or figure it out for yourself. I have finally decided that the Smith River is much like Eagle Lake in Lassen County; you will have to pay your dues, waiting patiently and learning proper techniques until the fish are ready.

If you like winter storms, you will love the north coast in January. It is mesmerizing to watch the large waves and swells crashing into the rocks. This show usually comes hand in hand with gale force winds and sheets of driving rain. Drive along Pebble Beach drive in Crescent City stopping at each of the many turnouts to view the action.

There is so much to do and see in this neck of our woods that it cannot be covered in numerous articles much less a single piece. Let's see what we discover in the future! Until then, fish on!!

*"The mark of a successful man is one that has spent an entire day on the bank of a river without feeling guilty about it."*

*Chinese Philosopher ♦*



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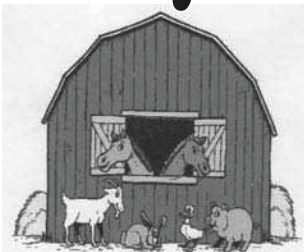
### **COS Performing Arts Series:**

**Kenya Safari Acrobats.** Sunday March 6, 2011 at 4 pm. An INCREDIBLE show you shouldn't miss!

**NOTE:** January 10 Starts the Spring Semester.

**COLLEGE SPORTS:** Go to [www.siskiyous.edu](http://www.siskiyous.edu) for all scheduled games.

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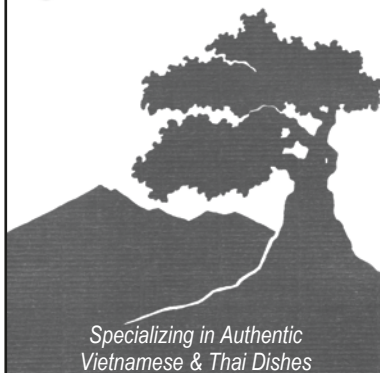
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## **Where to Go - What to See - When to Do It**

Call us by the 20th of the month if you want to publish your upcoming event. We distribute between the 5th and 10th of the month. Call (530) 640-0100 or send an Email: [jeffersonbackroads@gmail.com](mailto:jeffersonbackroads@gmail.com).

**CHOCOLATE CLASSES** - Siskiyou Harvest Food Center, Yreka. Chocolate 101 - Jan 21 & Feb 4. Chocolate 102 Jan 25 & Feb 8. Please see AD at the bottom of this page for more details or call 842-1638.

**2011 Siskiyou Sled Dog Races. Jan 22-23, 2011.** Please see Article on front cover and AD on Page 13 for all the facts and information on this amazing and fun Siskiyou County Winter Event!

**Snowball, Weed, California.** Sunday January 23 from 7-10 pm. Friends of Mt. Shasta Avalanche Center's 8th Annual Snowball fundraiser at the Sons of Italy Hall, 155 Clay Street. Doors open at 7 pm, live music by Yogoman Burning Band. Silent auction, gear raffle, beer and wine sales, desserts, snacks and More! For more info call the Weed Chamber at 530-938-4624.

**Bald Eagle & Winter Waterfowl Field trip.** Saturday, Jan. 15 from 9am - 4pm. Where: Junction of Hwy 97 and A-12. Mount Shasta Area Audubon and the River Exchange present an all-day "Bald Eagle and Winter Waterfowl Field Trip" to Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge. The Klamath Wildlife Refuge hosts the largest concentration of Bald eagles in the contiguous United States, along with an abundance of other raptors and birds. Attendees should be prepared with warm clothes, walking shoes, lunch, water, binoculars and walkie-talkies. Registration and a \$5 outing fee are required. Call The River Exchange at (530) 235-2012 for more info or to register.

**Community Lunch Program in Scott Valley.** Starts at Noon. Every Tuesday & Friday at the Etna United Methodist Church Every Thursday at Scott Valley Berean Church. \$3 suggested donation, all are welcome.

**Valentine's Day Lobster & Prime Rib Dinner.** Monday Feb. 14 at Bob's Ranch House, Etna. Call 530-467-5787 to reserve your table!

## **CHOCOLATE CLASSES**

### **Chocolate 101**

Jan. 21st & Feb. 4th

### **Chocolate 102**

Jan. 25th & Feb. 8th

Register early to guarantee your space!



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# Backpacking in Jefferson

continued from Page 7

We climbed the hummock of the north shore in search of a comfortable campsite. At a high point halfway across the bouldery peninsula, we found two elderly gentlemen puttering with tin dishes near the fire ring of a well-established campsite. They pointed us to a good campsite at the west end of the lake. "Plenty of rock furniture. We almost took that one."

We found the campsite, and it was indeed a good one. Remote and exclusive, it lay at the northwest corner of the lake beneath the towering headwall. Flat slabs of granite had been stacked together to form a workmanlike table and chairs. Between the lake and the headwall, past a narrow hedgerow of alders and serviceberry, a broad swath of meadow rose and curved northwest toward a steep canyon. A shallow creek trickled down the green sward, probably from the Albert Lakes unseen in the rock above.

The following afternoon the two older gentlemen passed through our site on their way back from the Albert Lakes. Both wore side-arms and carried daypacks and walking sticks. One wore a Harley-Davidson motorcycle T-shirt, and we never got his name. The other was named Lawrence. They looked tired and explained they had gone the wrong way, too high, and had to drop down through the brush to the lakes. We talked of many things: backpacking, the route back, walking for health, and the airplane that roared low overhead the previous night. They were avid fishermen and had been backpacking together for more years than either could remember. Last night they had eaten rainbow trout.

I brought up the subject of open-heart surgery. I couldn't help myself. They, however, had backpacked the previous year with an acquaintance who had undergone a triple by-pass a mere *three months* earlier. He had been a little slow, and they had worried about him, but he had done just fine. My own plight no longer seemed so interesting.

As we hiked out the next day, I felt as strong as ever. The wilderness had rejuvenated me. Though I might indeed drop dead on the trail (as might any of us), I would return from the wilderness a stronger man. Thinking of Harley and Lawrence, 69 and 79 years old and still backpacking merrily along, I realized that I was going to have to suck it up and stop my whining. ♦

*Read the entire unabridged account at  
[www.backpackinginjefferson.com](http://www.backpackinginjefferson.com)*

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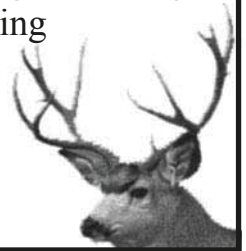
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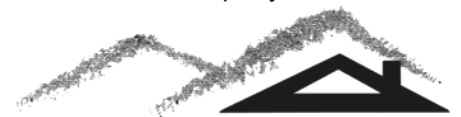
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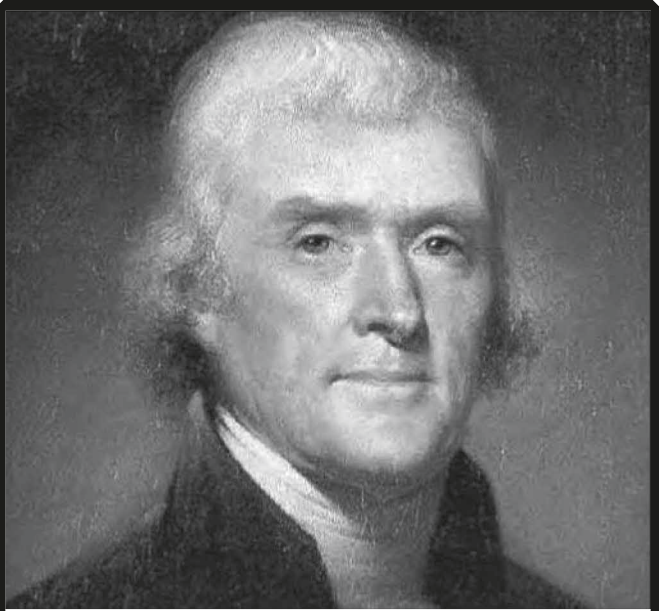
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### This Month's Quote:

***"We in America do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate. "***

Tomas Jefferson - Lived from 1743 to 1826  
He was the 3rd President of the United States and principal author of the Declaration of Independence.

Today's State of Jefferson refers to portions of Southern Oregon and Northern California. Originally this region represented the "second half" or "northern mines" of the famous gold rush of 1849-50, but it never received the kind of historical reference that the Sierra Mother Lode did, even though it contributed as much, if not more, to the coffers of the two states. Moreover, the region was easily overlooked after the gold rush, since it continued to be less populated and more rural than the remainder of the two states.

Because the people who have settled along the northern boundary of California and the southern boundary of Oregon have always been of an independent nature, it seems fitting that this region has attempted, on numerous occasions, to create a new state, not just in name or principle, but in reality as well.

Even today, the dream lives on for this unrealized, some might even say, mystical State of Jefferson. With majestic Mt. Shasta at its heart, and the Cascades forming its backbone, the region's wild rivers and rugged peaks both isolate and, at times, insulate its residents from the more populated outside world. Ranching, mining and logging have been its traditional source of wealth, but now recreation and tourism compete as major industries. It's the people who reside here that make the greatest contribution to the character of the region called The State of Jefferson. ♦

*Much is taking place with regard to the State of Jefferson as a destination for tourists. More and more of our communities are realizing and embracing the history, the fun and significance associated with the whole delightful and meaningful concept.*

*We welcome you to learn more about the history of our area, visit our museums, and seek out the books written by local writers. Join those of us who call this beautiful and rugged region our home by falling in love with this most amazing part of the Pacific Northwest.* ☁



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## Invitation to Attend State of Jefferson Tourism Committee Meetings

Welcome to 2011! We have great plans for our upcoming Old Fashioned State of Jefferson Fair to be held in September 2011. Our next planning meeting is to be held on Wednesday January 19 at the Yreka Welcome Center located at 312 W. Miner Street, Yreka. We hope to see you there! You can call 530-640-0100 or email [jeffersonbackroads@gmail.com](mailto:jeffersonbackroads@gmail.com) if you need further info. Please join us in this crazy cool event!



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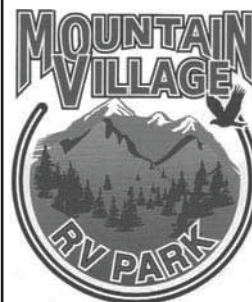
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# MAP OF THE COUNTIES INCLUDED IN THE STATE OF JEFFERSON



## 9 State of Jefferson Locations

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- MEDFORD, OR**
- WILLOWS, CA**
- GRIDLEY, CA**
- SUSANVILLE, CA**
- PARADISE, CA**
- REDDING, CA**
- YREKA, CA**
- MT. SHASTA, CA**



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# "FOOD THAT'S GOLD"

By Chef Caroline White Brask

Now that the holidays are behind us and we have sampled so many different foods it time to get back to using up some of the wild game that has been resting in the back of the freezer. It has been well hidden by the cookies and miscellaneous other holiday delectables.

In a recent Basic's Class at the Siskiyou County Economic Development Council (SCEDC) we were able to use some pheasants shot by the local young people. It must be a hearty season as many of those who took the class were talking about the great tasting flavor of the pheasants. It began with the unusual marinade.

Back in Wisconsin many years ago my Grandmother always did a one or two day marinade for any venison, bear or wild game with buttermilk. She would leave the meat in the buttermilk and chime that it would taste better in the end as it would not be so "gamey! It did not seem to matter how you prepared it in the end only the two day soak was necessary. Having grown up with those recipes it was a challenge to change into something new. I hope you enjoy this recipe.

## The "New Wild Game Marinade"

1 Batch of Yogurt Marinade: place all the ingredients (below) in a large plastic zip loc bag and squeeze to mix well. Add the game and marinate for 24 hours.

1-24 oz. Greek Yogurt (available in grocery stores)

2 Tablespoons Garlic Powder

1 Tablespoon Salt

½ Tablespoon Black Pepper fresh ground

1 Branch Fresh Rosemary (it has just finished blooming in some parts of the county or is still blooming so it is very strong)

1 Tablespoon Juniper Berries ( I understand that South County has fresh berries on the trees-this is perfect!)

½ White onion slice and place in the bag raw

Whole Wheat Pastry flour

Salt and White pepper

Canola oil and Unsalted butter

1 bottle of Cabernet Sauvignon or Rich Red Wine as Merlot

1-16 oz. Can Chicken or Vegetable Stock

- Place one cup of flour on a large paper plate. Remove the game from the marinade but do not wash the marinade off. Wear a rubber glove if this is too messy for you. Dredge the game in flour and shake excess off.
- Place a sauté pan on medium high heat and melt equal amounts of butter and canola oil in the pan.
- Gently place the game in the sauté pan and brown on both sides. Place in an oven proof pan. Pie pans work very well for this.
- Deglaze the pan by adding at least one cup of red wine to the hot sauté pan. Swirl it around and continue to stir, getting all the crusty pieces off the sides and bottom of the pan. Let this mixture reduce by half.

- Remove from the heat and strain into a small kettle. Add an equal amount of the stock to the wine reduction. Keep warm and just before serving adjust the seasoning and add a few small pieces of unsalted butter. Presto a Sauce Finale`!
- Add a small amount of this Sauce Finale to the pie pans and place in a 400 degree oven for about 20 minutes. Serve with a rice mixture and winter root vegetables such as carrots, parsnips, and maybe a Brussels sprout for something green. Spring is coming! ♦

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Thank you so very much for allowing us to serve you.

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