FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 13
2009
50 CENTS

TIGERS HOLD ON FOR VICTORY
SEE SPORTS/Page A11

FORECAST
Chance of snow
High, **40s**

ACTIVITIES WARM UP WINTER
SEE PEOPLE/Page B1

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DOUGLAS COUNTY'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1880

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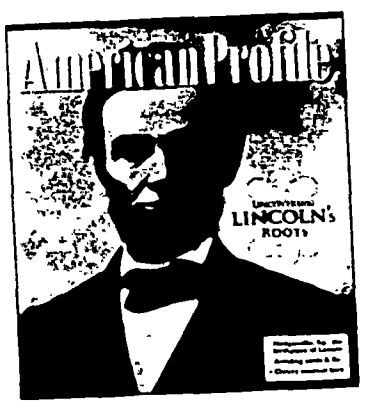
Inside & Out



INSIDE TODAY

HOLIDAY CLOSURES
■ Federal, state and local offices will be closed for Presidents Day on Monday. Mail won't be delivered and it is a banking holiday.

NEWS
■ Less than a week after the Valley Christian Fellowship rehearing and a debate over what projects are suitable for residential areas, Douglas County planning commissioners had to decide if a group home for teens with eating disorders was a suitable project for an upscale Foothills neighborhood. **Page A2**

■ Pinenut District Boy Scouts held the first of what they hope will be an annual interfaith religious service on Sunday in the old Assembly Chambers of the Nevada Capitol. **Page A2**

■ Attorneys are negotiating in the case of two men arrested on warrants alleging drug trafficking in a Jan. 27 raid on their Sunridge home **Page A3**

■ A Stateline man admitted to walking off with two Canon digital cameras and then trying to sell the cameras back to their rightful owner on Craig's List **Page A3**

HEALTH INSPECTIONS
■ State restaurant inspections **Page A10**

ALPINE
■ The Alpine Watershed Group faces severe funding cutbacks that will all but stop the group's ability to effectively monitor and quantify data from Alpine County's watersheds **Page A8**

SPORTS
■ The Douglas Tigers held on through a 15-point second-half rally by the South Lake Tahoe Vikings to win Thursday for a 61-56 Sierra League boys basketball victory. **Page A11**

■ Douglas High will be well-represented at this weekend's State 4A Wrestling Championships in Winnemucca. The Tigers are sending four wrestlers to the event, including three who will be making their first appearance at state **Page A11**

PEOPLE
■ Carson Valley residents stay active through the middle of winter at the Knight's of Columbus cioppino dinner, Chinese New Year celebration and taking in a musical. **Page B1**

28 school jobs on the block

Falling enrollment puts 14 teachers' positions on list

by Scott Neuffer
Staff Writer

Before the budget meeting got underway on Wednesday night, Douglas County School District officials dropped a bombshell: declining enrollment will cause the elimination of about 14 teaching positions for the next school year.

Superintendent Carol Lark said the issue was independent of other budget reductions, and needed clarification.

"There is a lot of controversy, concern and stress in the district," she said.

She said every year the district has to adjust staffing numbers based on enrollment figures. She said previously the district has been able to use attrition to account for declined enrollment. She hoped attrition, staff reductions through retirement and unfilled vacancies, would suffice this time around, but worried the numbers were too great.

Chief Financial Officer Holly Luna painted the grim picture. In fiscal year 2007-08, enrollment dropped 93 students. This year, it dropped 207 students. The projection for next year is a 196-student loss that would lower the district's entire student population to 6,352.

"We're looking at declining enrollment, and therefore a declining need in certificated teachers," Luna said.

The elementary schools would lose two teachers. Pau-Wa-Lu Middle School would lose one teacher. Carson Valley Middle School two, and Whittell High School at least one.

Douglas High School would sustain the biggest hit, with a loss of eight teachers.

Lark said the numbers were difficult to predict, but that notices to affected employees still needed to be sent out.

A call-back process could begin later in the year if circumstances change, but there are no guarantees.

"This is not separate from the budget, the issue feels like the exact same thing," said Douglas High teacher Karen Lamb. "People will still lose their jobs."

SHANNON LITZ/The R-C
Douglas High School senior Liz Nickles talks about her participation in sports while Superintendent Carol Lark looks on at the school board meeting on Wednesday.

PERSONNEL CUTS

Teachers	14
School custodians	5
Computer technicians	3
District office restructure	2.5
Alternative Education	1
Professional development	1
Vehicle maintenance	1
English as a second language	.5
Library staffing	.5

10 BIGGEST CUTS

One-month insurance fund holiday	$500,000
Ending fund balance policy change	$250,000
Restructure custodial staff	$216,000
Reduce district workman's comp	$200,000
Reduce one bus purchase	$180,000
Restructure district office staff	$167,000
Use emergency maintenance funds	$150,000
Reduce computer technicians	$113,500
Eliminate food service subsidy	$100,000
Reduce inkjet, color copier use	$90,000

Douglas High advanced placement student Kaitlin Babbitt worried the cuts would mean larger class sizes.

"If we cut teachers and combine classes, how will that support learning? How will they be able to work one on one with the kids?" she asked.

Lark said the cuts would not increase class sizes; it would only feel

See **Budget** on page 9

Moroccan immigrant calls Valley home

by Scott Neuffer
Staff Writer

In 1997, Minden resident Touria Salama won the lottery, though no one showed up at her house with balloons and an oversized check. No money was wired into her bank account.

It was a different kind of lottery. She was a 32-year-old single woman living in the North African Arab nation of Morocco, and she had just won a U.S. green card in the state department's lottery program.

"I couldn't believe it," Salama said. "To me, America always seemed out of reach. I remembered seeing 'Little House on the Prairie,' and how everything seemed so neat and beautiful. Whatever we saw in the movies, or on television, we wanted to be there, to have those experiences, to be among those people."

Salama, now 43, has a familiar face. Her curly black hair and warm dark eyes can be seen at the Gardnerville Raley's where she works as a courtesy clerk. Last fall, she could be found at Western Nevada College in Carson City, where she taught her first

SCOTT NEUFFER / The R-C
Touria Salama at The Record-Courier on Jan. 26

semester of Arabic. She was scheduled to teach a semester of the language at the Douglas campus this spring, but the class was canceled because not enough people signed up.

"I'm still going to give private lessons," she said. "I don't want my students to forget what they've

See **Home** on page 9

Sierra Lutheran working on new school campus

Staff Reports

Cold temperatures and high winds didn't keep several hundred people from venturing outside on Sunday to celebrate groundbreaking for the new campus of Sierra Lutheran High School.

Sierra Lutheran, which has provided Christ-centered, college-preparatory secondary education for teenagers of the area since 2002, is planning to relocate from its temporary site on the former Bently campus in Minden, to a 38-acre parcel of land in north Douglas County.

Construction of the first phase of the new campus has started, with tentative plans calling for occupancy in December 2009.

Included in phase one are science and computer laboratories, classrooms to accommodate 150 students, an administration complex, and an expansive gymnasium with a seating capacity for 800 people.

In addition to contributions received from local individuals, churches and organizations during the school's capital campaign, the Church Extension Fund of the California-Nevada-Hawaii district of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod is providing funding for the endeavor.

Miles Construction will build the facilities as designed by the Reno architectural firm of Sheehan, Van Woert and Bigotti.

This permanent campus for Sierra Lutheran High School is located just east of Highway 395 off North Sunridge Drive.

"For some, it's easier to say we'll be located next to Hilltop Community Church, and immediately south (up the hill) from

See **Campus** on page 9

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Valentine's Day Dinners at the Inn
Saturday, February 14

Fiona's BAR & GRILL
Reservations 775-783-6650
Fiona's Bar & Grill is offering its regular Dinner menu plus three Valentine's Day Dinner Specials from 4:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Katie's COUNTRY KITCHENS
Katie's Country Kitchen is serving its regular menu plus a New York Steak and Lobster Tail Valentine's Dinner Special from 4 to 9 p.m. No reservations required

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