



Lake of the Pines: Don't forget true meaning of Christmas

By Laura Lavelle

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Lego's Star Wars Imperial Star Destroyer, the Empire's most famous starship, has been missing from local store shelves for days. If you haven't yet made that key Christmas purchase, then you will have to rely on the grace of Saint Nickolaus to deliver it to your trusting 8-year old.

Whatever is on your last-minute shopping list for this weekend's celebration, be sure to pencil in a wish for maintaining your Lake of the Pines' property value, possibly being threatened by the Chevreux Aggregate's plan for an asphalt production facility.

The Meadow Vista Protection (MVP Inc.) group has been trying to halt the development of this plant, located just three miles from LOP. In a March 25, 2005, article in The Union, an earlier plan to open the site was scrapped due to concerns about the location. However, it appears the company is now going ahead with plans and has already begun installing equipment that can be used to produce hot asphalt.

Lake residents Larry and Claire Brown have been working to bring this issue to the attention of their neighbors in this area, hopefully to raise funds to continue the legal battle that MVP has initiated.

According to Claire Brown, MVP Inc. desperately needs our financial support to offset escalating legal fees. A contribution of "\$25, \$50 or \$100 is a very small contribution considering the amount we might lose in property values," Claire said.

She would like to encourage people to send any amount to MVP Inc., P.O. Box 1165, Meadow Vista, CA 95722.

Nevada County Executive Manager Rick Haffey will be speaking in the place of County Supervisor Sue Horne today at the Firebelles luncheon and is expected to field some questions about the Chevreux issue. It is important to remember that the Chevreux project falls under the jurisdiction of Placer County, not Nevada County.

If you haven't taken the time to read the article in the December issue of Lake of the Pines News, then do so. This reprint of MVP's November newsletter outlines some disturbing facts regarding the potential hazards of an asphalt production facility.

Further information regarding this important issue affecting the LOP community can be found at the MVP Web site, meadowvistamvp.org.

It is easy to lose the true meaning of Christmas in the last minute details of holiday preparation. Why not take a few minutes this evening to load the kids in the car and drive around the lake to see all the beautiful Christmas light displays? There is an official LOP Christmas lights competition being held at 6 p.m. Saturday. If you would like to enter, call Activities Director Jane Sherman and leave your name, address and lot and telephone numbers on the answering machine. Judges range in age from 6 to 91 years old. Lighting displays will be evaluated based on criteria such as creativity and tradition. The first place winner will receive a cash prize of \$150.00.

Laura Lavelle lives at Lake of the Pines, and her column is for Lake of the Pines area residents to share thoughts and information. Contact her at laural@theunion.com or leave a phone message with the readership editor at 477-

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