



COUNTY OF LAKE
MARKETING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 11, 2011

**SPOTLIGHT ON HOLIDAY AND WINTER EVENTS IN LAKE COUNTY, CA
NOVEMBER 2011 – FEBRUARY 2012**

LAKE COUNTY, CA – The friendly country atmosphere in Lake County grows even cozier as winter approaches and family and friends gather to celebrate the holiday season. It's what makes annual events feel more authentic here. Even the season's blustery chill is warmed by the strong sense of community as main streets bustle with locals and visitors strolling shops and craft fairs and gathering for holiday light parades and tree lightings.

NOVEMBER 2011

Geysers Tour, Middletown

November 4, 2011

Free Calpine Geysers tour. Reservations required. Calpine Visitor Center, 15500 Central Park Road. 707-987-4270, www.geysers.com

People's Choice Wine Awards, Middletown

November 5, 2011

Premier wine competition showcasing Lake County Wines and wines made from Lake County fruit. Annual event is a fun and informative blind tasting where "the people" determine the winners. Food, music, and award winning wines. 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Langtry Estate, 2100 Butts Canyon Road. Info: 707-355-2762 or tickets www.peopleschoicewineawards.eventbrite.com

- more -

Holiday in the Pines Galleria, Cobb

November 6 – 14, 2011

Ninth-annual event featuring unique works of art and arts and crafts for sale in a boutique setting. Sponsored by Cobb Mountain Artists. Benefit for the Cobb Mountain Elementary School Art Program. Free admission. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekends; noon to 7:00 p.m. on weekdays. Haute Spot, Hardester's Shopping Center, 16295 Highway 175. (707) 928-8565.

Second Tuesday Classic Movies Series, Lakeport

November 8, 2011

"From Here to Eternity" on the big screen at Soper-Reese Community Theatre. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; movie starts at 6:00 p.m. \$5 suggested donation. Soper-Reese Community Theatre, 275 South Main St. (707) 245-0577, www.soperreese theatre.com

Meet the Winemaker Dinner Series, Upper Lake

November 17, 2011

Four-course meal prepared by Julie Hoskins, of Chic le Chef, designed to pair with wines of Steele Winery (Joy Merrilees, Assistant Winemaker) and Writer's Block (Quincy Steele). 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. \$75 per person. Tallman Hotel Dining Room, 9550 Main Street. (866) 708-5252, (707) 275-2244, www.tallmanhotel.com

Victorian Christmas Fair & High Tea, Lakeport

November 19 – December 18, 2011

Annual Christmas Fair with handmade candy canes, dolls, candles, French soaps, tea pots, carolers, holiday decorations, and more for sale. Hot tea for all visitors. Open daily (except Thanksgiving) from 11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tea servers in full Victorian costume serve traditional English High Tea with Devonshire cream, tarts, and tiny sandwiches at noon and 2:30 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays, and Wednesdays during the fair. Fair admission is free; fee for high tea. Reservations strongly recommended. Lakeport English Inn, 675 N. Main Street. (707) 263-4317, www.lakeportenglishinn.com

Lake County Symphony Fall Concert-Classical Favorites, *Lakeport*

November 20, 2011

The Lake County Symphony Orchestra performs. Sponsored by and a benefit for Clear Lake Performing Arts. Admission to concert is \$32 premium seating, \$27 for general seating; \$5 discount for members; free for children under 18. 3:00 p.m. Soper-Reese Community Theatre, 275 S. Main Street. (707) 279-4336, www.clearlakeperformingarts.org

Mystery of the Christmas Star, *Kelseyville*

November 25, 2011 through January 7, 2012

Mystery of the Christmas Star planetarium show. Friday and Saturday at 7:00 p.m., 7:45 p.m., and 8:30 p.m. \$6 per adult; \$3 per child under 12. Taylor Observatory, 5725 Oak Hill Lane, Kelseyville. (707) 262-4121, www.taylorobservatory.org

Downtown Lakeport Christmas Open House, *Lakeport*

November 26, 2011

Downtown Lakeport celebrates Christmas! Bring the kids to visit Santa. Enjoy strolling Christmas carolers and hay rides. 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with lighted parade beginning at 6:00 p.m. and tree lighting follows at 7:00 p.m. Sponsored by Lakeport Main Street Association. Main Street. (707) 263-8843, www.lakecochamber.com

DECEMBER 2011

Renaissance Christmas Pageant & Feast, *Middletown*

December 2 –11, 2011

Eighteenth-annual pageant features a three-course dining experience around which a lively costumed drama unfolds. The evening is highlighted with delicious food, Renaissance and traditional Christmas music, gorgeous sets, dancing, and games. The audience becomes the honored guests at the Castle of Lord Greystone. Costumes are frequently worn by guests (but not required). The Pageant is produced by the Middletown Community United Methodist Church and community players. 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sunday. Advance tickets only are from \$35 to \$45 per person. “Greystone Castle” is located at 15388 Armstrong Street, one block east of Highway 29. (707) 987-2653, www.middletownmethodist.org

Christmas in the Country, Kelseyville

December 2, 2011

Old-fashioned country Christmas featuring a parade of lights and downtown merchants' open house. Eventgoers are invited to enjoy hot cider, hot chocolate, Christmas cookies, and other hors d'oeuvres with downtown merchants, as well as a lighted parade, pictures with Santa Claus, and a tree lighting at the firehouse. A chowder and chili dinner, provided by the Kelseyville Presbyterian Church, will be held in conjunction with the event. Sponsored by Kelseyville Business Association. 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Free admission. Main Street. (707) 279-8559, www.visitkelseyville.com

Middletown Tree Lighting Ceremony, Middletown

December 3, 2011

Annual tree lighting ceremony includes caroling, dancers, photos with Santa, crafts, and face painting. The event will take place at the Middletown Central Park beginning at 5:30 p.m. and will feature the 4-H Community Christmas Choir. (707) 987-3373.

Holiday Light Parade and Tree Lighting, Upper Lake

December 3, 2011

Annual tree lighting presentation, plus holiday light parade at 7:00 p.m., photos with Santa, caroling, a 4-H barbecue, and refreshments. Sponsored by Westamerica Bank and the Upper Lake Community Council. Benefit for the Upper Lake Auxiliary Fire Department Toy Drive. 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Main Street. Free admission. (707) 275-8170, www.upperlakeca.org

Musical Performance, Upper Lake

December 3, 2011

The Sweet Adelines will perform at the Tallman Hotel and Blue Wing from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. during the annual Christmas Light Parade and Tree Lighting. Tallman Hotel, 9550 Main Street. (866) 708-5253, (707) 275-2244, www.tallmanhotel.com

Holiday Tree Lighting, Hidden Valley Lake

December 3, 2011

Annual celebration featuring pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, musical entertainment, horse-drawn carriage rides, and refreshments. Sponsored by the Hidden Valley Lake Association. 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Greenview Restaurant, 19210 Hartmann Road. Free admission. (707) 987-3138, www.hvla.com

Ceago Olive Harvest Celebration, Nice

December 11, 2011

Beautiful luncheon planned around this year's fresh pressed olive oil along with all the bounties of the current Ceago harvests. Begins with appetizers from the brick oven followed by a fireside family-style lunch. Enjoy food, wine, and great company and you will have a bottle of olive oil to take home and enjoy. \$95 per person. 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Ceago Vinegarden, 5115 East Highway 20. (707) 274-1462, www.ceago.com

Second Tuesday Classic Movies Series, Lakeport

December 13, 2011

"Holiday Inn" on the big screen at Soper-Reese Community Theatre. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; movie starts at 6:00 p.m. Suggested donation \$5. Soper-Reese Community Theatre, 275 South Main Street, (707) 245-0577, www.soperreese theatre.com

Christmas Bird Count, Countywide

December 17, 2011

Lake County is known for its incredible birding opportunities, and the annual Christmas bird count gives nature enthusiasts the opportunity to take part in the Audubon Society's longest-running wintertime tradition, the annual Christmas bird count, which happens across the western hemisphere.

www.redbudaudubon.org

Lake County Symphony Christmas Celebration Concert, Lakeport

December 18, 2011

Performance by the Lake County Symphony Orchestra. Sponsored by and a benefit for Clear Lake Performing Arts. 3:00 p.m. Soper-Reese Community Theatre, 275 South Main Street. Admission is \$32 for premium seating; \$27 for general seating; \$5 discount for members; free for children under 18. (707) 277-7076, www.clearlakeperformingarts.org

New Year's Eve Party, Lower Lake

December 31, 2011

Dinner and New Year's Eve Party featuring Bayou Blues entertainer Alligator backed by the Mark Hansen Band. 9:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Blue Wing Saloon, 9520 Main Street, (707) 275-2233.

JANUARY 2012

Ice Bowl Disc Golf, Lakeport

January 2012 (Date TBD)

Singles tournament. Presented by Disc Golf World News and sponsored by Highland Springs Basket Cases. 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Canned food drive and benefit for Lake County Community Action Agency's food cupboard. Held annually the last Saturday of January. Highland Springs Disc Golf Course, 3600 E. Highland Springs Road. Rain or shine. (707) 533-3256.

FEBRUARY 2012

Wine & Chocolate, Lakeport

February 18, 2012

Taste ultra-premium Lake County wines – everything from pear sparkling wine to award-winning Syrah and Port – with luscious chocolates and other tasty food bites. Up to 30 Lake County wineries and this year, for the first time, local beer brewers. Support Lake Family Resource Center programs and services while enjoying wine, beer, chocolate, food, music, wine- and olive oil-related workshops, wine store, and silent auction. Noon to 4:00 p.m. Mt. Konocti Growers, 2550 Big Valley Road. (707) 279-0563 or (888) 775-8336.

Winter Music Festival, Lakeport

February 2012 (Date TBD)

Annual Winter Music Festival showcases the talent of local musicians and performers. Sponsored by and a benefit for the Lake County Arts Council. Saturday performance: 7:30 p.m. Sunday matinee: 2:00 p.m. Soper-Reese Community Theatre, 275 S. Main Street. (707) 263-6658, www.lakecountyartscouncil.com

Crab Boil at Moore Family Winery, Kelseyville

February 2012 (Date TBD)

Be prepared to get messy at the annual Crab Boil at Moore Family Winery. Fresh hot crab, potatoes, corn, and artichokes are served straight from a giant pot to your table. The dinner also includes salad, pasta, French bread, and a glass of wine. Wine by the bottle and glass will be available for purchase. Silent auction and a live pie auction to benefit the Cobb Elementary School and The Cobb Elementary Garden Project. Live music and dancing to follow. 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Tickets \$65 per person. 21 years and older. Moore Family Winery, 11990 Bottle Rock Road, (707) 738-0507, www.moorefamilywinery.com

ONGOING

Lake County Quilt Trail, *County-wide*

Year-round

Enjoy art in rural places with the first quilt trail in California. More than twenty vibrantly colored quilt blocks decorate the sides of pioneer barns, pear packing sheds, winery tasting rooms, and other historic structures throughout Lake County. Each quilt has a story that connects to the history of the building, honors farming, or celebrates family. Download a driving map of the various locations. (707) 279-9022, www.lakecountyquilttrail.com

Monday Night Blues, *Upper Lake*

Mondays, year round

Great musicians play the blues inside the Blue Wing Saloon & Café. Guests may enjoy dinner at a cozy table indoors, sit down for a drink and appetizers at the handcrafted walnut bar, or admire the starry sky outside on the heated veranda. 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. 9520 Main Street. (707) 275-2233, www.bluewingsaloon.com

Tuscan Village Music & Art Series, *Lower Lake*

Fridays, year round

Live music every Friday evening by great performers. Great food, wine tasting, and arts and crafts. Outdoors in the orchard during nice weather; inside during other seasons. Presented by Terrill Cellars. \$5 suggested donation. Main Street. (707) 994-3354, www.terrillcellars.com

Guided Bird & Nature Walks, *Lakeport*

Saturdays, year round

The Lake County Land Trust hosts guided bird and nature walks at the Rodman Slough Preserve on Saturdays. The 90-minute walks begin at 8:00 a.m. June – August, and 9:00 a.m. September – May. Free admission. 6350 Westlake Road, off Highway 29, near the Cutoff. (707) 279-0923, (707) 995-1398, www.lakecountylandtrust.org

Clear Lake State Park Guided Bird and Nature Walks, Kelseyville

First Saturday of each month, year-round

Docents from the Clear Lake State Park Interpretive Association offer guided bird and nature walks. Meet at State Park Visitor Center. Call or check web site for schedule. No entrance fee to park for those participating in walks. All ages are welcome. 5300 Soda Bay Road. (707) 279-2267, www.clearlakestatepark.org

Winemaker Dinner Series, Kelseyville

First Tuesday of each month

Each month, the Saw Shop Gallery Bistro features a local or regional winery with a special menu paired with wine on the first Tuesday of each month. Dine al fresco on the wraparound porch or inside where walls of the circa-1902 building are festooned with local art. Saw Shop Gallery Bistro, 3825 Main Street. (707) 278-0129, www.sawshopbistro.com

Art and Wine Reception, Upper Lake

First Friday of each month

On the first Friday of the month, the Lake County Wine Studio (LCWS) showcases a local winery as the featured tasting for the evening. Local artists – photography, painting, and more – also are featured. 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. \$10.00 per person. LCWS, 9505 Main Street. (707) 275-8030, (707) 293-8752.

First Friday Fling, Lakeport

First Friday of each month

A reception spotlighting artists currently showing in the Main Street Gallery with music, hors d'oeuvres, and wine; student gallery open. Sponsored by the Lake County Arts Council. 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Main Street Gallery, 325 N. Main Street. Free. (707) 263-6658, www.lakecountyartscouncil.com

Local Cuisine Scene at Lake County Wine Studio, Upper Lake

Second Friday of each month, October to April

Features local food and wines of Lake County. Presented by Cache Creek Catering and Lake County Wine Studio. 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. \$15 per person. (707) 275-8030.

Windows to the Universe, Kelseyville

Third Saturday of each month

Lecture, telescope observing, and planetarium show at the Taylor Observatory. 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. \$3 suggested donation. Taylor Observatory, 5725 Oak Hill Lane, Kelseyville. (707) 262-4121, www.taylorobservatory.org

Sunday Champagne Brunch in the Garden, Upper Lake

Sundays, year-round

A champagne brunch is held every Sunday at the Blue Wing Saloon & Café. Held outdoors in the garden from May to early November. Different local musicians play 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. When the weather gets cold, the music moves inside to the intimate Saloon setting. Blue Wing Saloon, 9520 Main Street. (707) 275-2244, www.bluewingsaloon.com

Guided Bald Eagle Viewing Hikes, Cache Creek Natural Area

Saturdays, mid-January through late-February

Bureau of Land Management natural resource specialists lead guided four-mile hikes. Enjoy the scenery of Cache Creek canyon where eagles, tule elk, osprey, and other wildlife may be seen. The first mile consists of a 600-foot climb. All participants should wear sturdy hiking boots and dress for cold weather. Bring water, lunch, and binoculars. Reservations required. 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (707) 468-4000, www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/ukiah/cachecreek.html

Teddy Bear Reunion, Upper Lake

Thanksgiving Day through New Year's Day

A Lake County tradition for nearly 30 years, holiday magic is everywhere as the entire town of Upper Lake is decorated with teddy bears throughout the holiday season. Sponsored by the Upper Lake Community Council. A benefit for the Holiday Light Parade and Christmas Tree Lighting. Downtown shops on Main Street. (707) 275-8170.

TOURS

Langtry Estate and Vineyard Tours, *Middletown*

Tuesday – Saturday, year round

Guided tours of the historic vineyard travel to the higher elevation of Tephra Ridge for spectacular views of Guenoc Valley. Tours are offered Tuesday through Saturday, 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Includes picnic-style lunch in the vineyard and wine tasting. \$45 per person. 48-hours advance reservations required.

21000 Butts Canyon Road, Middletown. (707) 987-2385, www.langtryestate.com

Tallman Hotel Wine Touring Package, *Upper Lake*

Year round by reservation

Guests of the hotel can enjoy this five-hour limousine tour with a personable and knowledgeable driver. Choose from a guaranteed private tour or a shared tour with others, up to eight guest's total. Book the tour and a room by contacting the hotel. Gratuity to driver not included. Add picnic lunch box for \$20 per person. Tallman Hotel, 9550 Main Street. (866) 708-5253, (707) 275-2244, www.tallmanhotel.com

Gregory Graham Winery Vineyard Tours, *Lower Lake*

Year round by reservation

Join winegrower Gregory Graham on a one-hour tour of his vineyards and gain first-hand knowledge of the area and what makes his particular vineyards so special. Then it's back to the tasting room for samples of current release wines while viewing the winery. Weather permitting. Advance reservations required.

13633 Point Lakeview Road. (707) 995-3500, www.ggwines.com

Vines, Mines, and Wines at Six Sigma Ranch and Winery, *Lower Lake*

Year round by reservation

Hop into the Six Sigma Ranch Pinzgauer for the rugged accent to the high altitude Diamond Mine Vineyard. Following the vineyard tour, return to the Stage Coach House for a tasting of current Six Sigma releases. Weather permitting. Allow 90 minutes. \$125 for up to 8 people. 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. 13372 Spruce Grove Road. (707) 994-4068, www.sixsigmaranch.com

Water Tours, Clear Lake

Year round by reservation

Guests discover the beauty of Clear Lake from the water. Tours include deluxe seating for eight in a 21-foot pontoon boat with canopy and a knowledgeable guide. Tours are customized to guest specification: wildlife and nature, wine tasting, fishing, or sightseeing. Indian Beach Resort, 9945 E. Highway 20, Clearlake Oaks. (707) 998-3760, www.theindianbeachresort.com

Eyes of the Wild, Clear Lake

Year round by reservation

Customized boat tours are fun for the whole family and a great way to view Clear Lake's scenery and diverse wildlife. Tours are perfect for bird watching and photography. \$40 per person. (707) 262-2401, (707) 349-0026, www.eyesofthewild.ca

Located in beautiful Northern California, Lake County is just two hours by car from the San Francisco Bay Area, the Sacramento Valley, and the Pacific Coast. Lake County is home to Clear Lake, the largest natural freshwater lake in California and possibly the oldest lake on the continent. Visitors to Lake County experience the state's cleanest air basin, spectacular scenic beauty, fine wines, and unsurpassed recreational opportunities — from hiking, biking, golf, and off-road adventures to boating, fishing, kayaking, birding, and even rockhounding. The local area code is 707. For visitor information, contact the Lake County Visitor Information Center at (800) 525-3743 or www.lakecounty.com

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