

"I think part of it is that this year the river has been pretty darn intimidating," he said. "So the only people who are out there are the recreational boaters who are pretty skilled, you know, your higher-level kayakers or rafters. They're trained and equipped and experienced enough to handle the river when it's like this. It's been up and rocking enough that we really haven't seen a lot of kind of mom and dad grabbing the kids and an innertube to go jump in the river sort of thing."

Macaulay said that for the time being, those experienced recreationists are the only ones who belong on the river. Of course, some might argue that even experienced people should stay out, given the recent death of an experienced kayaker. Macaulay doesn't necessarily agree.

"That was an anomaly," he said. "It's rare that we see those really experienced boaters being the ones who get into trouble. It was one of those things where

all of the cards got dealt just perfectly to end up with a tragic outcome. He was a highly-skilled guy who was with another highly-skilled guy. The circumstances just all stacked up right to have a bad outcome. But that's not the community we see much in the way of problems out of. They're usually able to handle what they run into—and they're not out there boating by themselves."

In fact, Macaulay thinks experienced river-goers make the Truckee safer. "I've been doing this since 1979, and I think we used to have more river rescue calls when there were fewer people on the river—because if somebody got in trouble there was nobody else out there to do the rescue," he said. "With the more skilled boaters becoming more prevalent in this area, I think a lot of the things that would have turned into a major rescue event in the past are handled by the people who are already out there." □

**"We are encouraging everybody to stay away from the river until the flow drops and it warms up a little bit."**

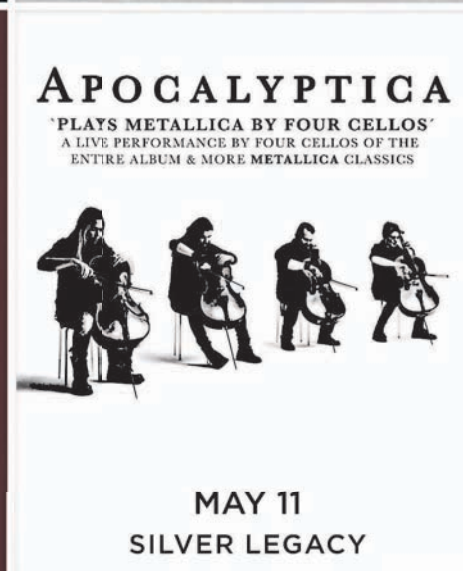
**John McNamara**  
RFD battalion chief

## The wall



Techs prepared to dismantle a photo wall used by arriving alleged celebrities to pose for photographers at the Miss Teen USA pageant held in Reno last week. Four April-May events associated with both that pageant and the Miss USA pageant are being held in Reno, subsidized by \$350,000 in local room taxes. The two pageants are owned by the Miss Universe Organization, now owned by the William Morris talent agency. Previous owners of the organization include ITT, Donald Trump and Gulf+Western.

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