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## Sierra Knolls Vineyard & Winery hosts filming of short movie

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By Rod Byers

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Members of a Los Angeles-based film crew preparing to shoot a scene in the barrel cave at Sierra Knolls Vineyard & Winery in the Grass Valley area.

*Submitted photo*

years. The scenes shot in and around the Winery included the road up to Winery, a scene in the gazebo above the vineyard, in the vineyard, and a scene in the wine cave.

In case you're wondering why the film crew was in Nevada County instead of Napa, like many things, it comes down to whom you know. John Chase grew up in Ventura in Southern California and was best friends with Danny Costner, who just happens to be Kevin's older brother. Danny's son, Michael, is a Hollywood producer who knows Helen Yanov.

He heard about her pending project, which required some vineyard and winery shots and told her he knew a place. Yanov visited Sierra Knolls last May and was instantly enchanted. The place was perfect. What helped complete the deal, was when Debbie Krogman, a local Coldwell Banker realtor, suggested a New England style home in Placer County that was the perfect house for the home scenes Yanov envisioned for her film.

"The Weight of It" will be a 15-minute short film, which will be shown at film festivals with the intent of seeking financing for a full-length motion picture. The film features Lorain Farris, who has appeared in "Natural Born Killers" and "Sex in the City," as the lead character, Cela. Andrea Fellers and Tara Tovarek are the producers, and Emmy-nominated Cira Felina Bolla is the director of photography.

"At Sierra Knolls Winery," director Yanov said, "there's not only warmth and beauty, there's also intimacy, which was so important for this film. "The Weight of It" is about estrangement, and people not getting along, and I wanted to film at a place that was opposite of these things. Setting the film in this breathtaking vineyard makes the story that much more powerful. We couldn't have gotten luckier."

The Los Angeles-based film crew arrived at dawn on the morning of October 26. Screen-play writer, director and producer Helen Alexis Yanov and a 25-member crew were at Sierra Knolls Vineyard & Winery to film her short movie, "The Weight of It."

After breakfast, work began in earnest on the first of four scenes to be filmed at Sierra Knolls Winery, which is owned by John and Linda Chase and Steve and Brenda Taylor.

The screenplay, written by Yanov, is based on her relationship with her father as he was dying. The story revolves around a young woman's return to her childhood home at the impending death of her father, with whom she has been estranged for many

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