

Calendar celebrates strong mountain women



Female patrollers at Squaw Valley are featured in a 2017 calendar. Photo/Keoki Flagg

By Benjamin Spillman, Reno Gazette-Journal

The ski and snowboard industry has had more than its fair share of face plants when it comes to depicting women.

Whether it is ads with women as worse skiers than men or apparel and gear makers who push inferior products on female customers just about anyone with open eyes and a functioning brain can come up with their own example.

The good news is that in recent years there are signs the pushback against sexist depictions of women in the mountains is gaining steam.

And if a newly released calendar featuring female ski patrollers is any indication the momentum will continue in

2017.

Read the whole story

Opinion: Bill Crawford left an impression

By Kathryn Reed

A friend died Friday.

Some might be surprised I would consider Bill Crawford a friend. He was. And I hope he considered me one.

The last time I spoke to him one-on-one was just before the election. His house is on one of my dog walks. Whenever he was out front we'd chat. Ninety-six percent of the time it was about South Lake Tahoe politics, 2 percent about his kids, 1 percent about the books he was reading, another 1 percent about something entirely different.

I didn't always agree with him. But I knew he spoke from the heart and historical knowledge.

On the phone our conversations could at times get heated. We had that ability to agree to disagree. I can't remember a time when I didn't learn something from our talks. Or were they lectures?

He would often leave long messages on my voicemail. Some were telling me I got a story wrong, sometimes he added background to what I had written, other messages were suggestions for future stories.

Our conversations had diminished in recent times. We didn't agree on some things and so he stopped communicating.

At this fall's editorial board meeting for *Lake Tahoe News* someone compared one of the candidates to Bill. I took issue with their statement. I defended Bill. Orner as he could be, his institutional knowledge was spot on. Bill really can't be compared to others.

Yes, he had his faults. We all do. He wasn't always nice. And most who knew him well knew not to take his call after about 6pm.

No one was ever left second-guessing with Bill. He was a straight shooter. Most people don't like that kind of brutal honesty. I welcomed it even when it stung. I did so because at the end of the day I knew what he said came from his heart even when it was delivered with ice cold harshness.

I admired him for his conviction. He was so against the ice rink being built that he finally convinced city officials to remove his name from the plaque noting he was on the City Council at the time.

There was a time when he was a prolific letter writer to *Lake Tahoe News*. His were the only letters I accepted that were handwritten. I did so because in some ways Bill reminded me of my dad. Neither really could type. They were the same age – only my dad died six years ago. They could both be gruff and kind; they both thought they knew it all; and they both had a hard time ever listening to me. Both also had their mental wits about them until the end, but ultimately their bodies failed them.

I was one of the people Bill would write poetry to. I felt privileged to be in that select group. (At least I want to believe it was a select group.) His poetry was about modern events, sometimes about the environment; many had a literary or historical theme. I so hope I kept a few.

South Lake Tahoe is a better city because of Bill Crawford and I am a better person for having had him in my life.

Creating the perfect outdoor workplace

By David Ferry, Outside

The latest trend in office design is to get as far away from the cubical as possible. Human beings, after all, labored for tens of thousands of years outdoors until relatively recently, so cultivating a natural work environment makes sense. Right?

That's the concept guiding cutting-edge companies like Google, which has recently embraced "biophilic design"—that is, creating indoor spaces that feel like the great outdoors. Living trees and natural light are just the tip of the iceberg. Amazon's new downtown Seattle headquarters, for example, will include an enormous rainforest inside a geodome. Employees can host meetings there or take impromptu walks during the workday.

But why pretend to work outside when the real outdoors beckons right through the windows? Spending time in nature, according to Harvard physician Eva Selhub's book "Your Brain on Nature", is associated with positive emotions and increased mental and physical energy. Whether you spend time backpacking through Yellowstone or jogging in Central Park, the aim is the same: to improve yourself.

Read the whole story

Former SLT Councilman Crawford dies at age 82



Bill Crawford touched many lives in the nearly 50 years he lived in South Lake Tahoe.

By Susan Wood

Bill Crawford, who made a name for himself on the South Lake Tahoe City Council, died Friday. He was 82.

Mr. Crawford was more than a two-term council member. He loved nature, was an avid athlete and a teacher who touched many lives.

The news of his Nov. 25 death prompted several family members,

friends and acquaintances to say much about him.

"Bill Crawford exemplifies 'service for others' as all of his passionate advocacy was done in the truest of purpose to serve others, to serve his community. It mattered not whether he agreed with a position or opposed a position, in either case he spoke with a steadfast commitment for the betterment of the community," City Manager Nancy Kerry told *Lake Tahoe News*.

Some may say it was Mr. Crawford who had the last word, leaving an undaunted spirit blowing in Tahoe winds of doing what he felt was right and speaking up for the underserved – even if it was unpopular to others.

"My dad did not come by his convictions because it was easy to arrive at. It came from a passion in many things. When he went into city politics before joining the City Council, he had a love of where he lived," his daughter Marlowe Crawford told *Lake Tahoe News*.

Mr. Crawford served on the South Lake Tahoe City Council from 1998-2002 and 2006-10. In many respects, those years came about in some critical times – redevelopment, vacation home rental ordinances and the mounting issues of unfunded liabilities to cover salaries. The latter represented an under-the-radar issue seldom mentioned but also avoided based on the magnitude of the impact on employee salaries.

"I served on the City Council with Bill from 1998-2002. This was an exciting time for the city as we began to embark and eventually successfully complete the Heavenly-Gondola Redevelopment Project," Brooke Laine told *Lake Tahoe News*. "Although Bill was a staunch opponent of redevelopment, his perspectives and opinions were sometimes significant to helping the council form a well-rounded approach. Bill often left poems at my council chair relative to topics we would eventually take on. Whether I agreed with him or not, we always respected each other, greeted each other warmly, and

always shared a good chuckle about our years on the council. No doubt: he cared.”

His warning to the city about using eminent domain at the expense of the little guy embedded his reputation as one who believed the city should stand up for all citizens – not just for those with power and money.

“In a way, my dad felt the City Council had given up on the city – that there was going to be some magic bullet, but the city was going to pay a high price for it,” his daughter said. “He thought there needed to be a voice that was not seen as being in the pocket of special interests.”

Marlowe Crawford understood how her father was misunderstood.

“In some ways, it was infuriating to engage with him in debate. But I could talk to him and we’d have these discussions about many things,” she said.

During kinder, gentler times, he enjoyed spending time with his wife of 62½ years, Jonnie. He also liked sharing what Marlowe and her two brothers, Paul and David, were up to.

“People think they know him because of how he was outspoken in so many things, but he was also a private man,” his daughter said, adding how his family meant the world to him.

On any given day, Mr. Crawford liked to sit quietly in his living room and look out the big picture window onto his beautiful front yard near the Tahoe Keys.

He pondered many things, including the role of literature and history in today’s modern-day world.

He often would write letters to media publications and quote famous excerpts, while weaving in the issues of Lake Tahoe’s times. He’d often send the letters to his daughter to fill her in on the latest happenings around town as if to show her there were areas needing improvement. Marlowe grew up on the

South Shore, but now lives in Oakland.

At times, he tapped into her knowledge working at the law library to gain insight on a perplexing issue.

“He’d sometimes say to me: ‘Look around. The city’s not in a good place.’ But then I’d say to him: ‘But ,dad, it’s still one of the most beautiful places’,” she reflected.

Mr. Crawford enjoyed being in the beauty. He loved being outdoors on his bike, and on the alpine ski runs and cross country ski trails. Once he saw this reporter on skis and like a good trainer-teacher instructed to bend the knees more.

He even found the time to train for a marathon.

Mr. Crawford coached football at South Tahoe High School for one year, but spent more time sharing the latest techniques in cross country skiing and running. Nonetheless, he was best known in academic circles, having taught history at South Tahoe High, the former South Tahoe Intermediate School and Mount Tallac High School. He taught for 24 years.

“I have been a friend of Bill Crawford for nearly 50 years. He was an excellent teacher, a runner, a poet, and a football and a ski coach at South Tahoe High School,” Les Wright told *Lake Tahoe News*. “He was a watchdog for the community and school district. He wasn’t afraid to tell the emperor that he really wasn’t wearing new clothes. He was very passionate about teaching and helping his students. His watchdog personality was controversial at times, but I am sure glad he was part of our community and a longtime friend of mine.”

There was a time when Mr. Crawford was president of South Tahoe Educators Association.

Mike Patterson, who years ago had that same role, said, “Bill was always a strong advocate for public schools, students, and teachers. Bill always fought for what he felt was right,

regardless of any consequences. He helped teach me what it was to be a union member and later what it was like to be union leader.”

Mr. Crawford’s own education was also notable, having earned a bachelor’s and master’s in social science from CSU Long Beach.

Wendy David’s interactions with Mr. Crawford were mostly when he came to either a Lake Tahoe Unified School District or City Council meeting. She has been the leader of both boards.

“Bill Crawford always followed his conscience and spoke his opinion and belief. In doing so he often became our collective conscience,” David told *Lake Tahoe News*. “His poetry questioned the accepted point of view. He often quoted literary figures as a reminder that we are all a part of history in making decisions for the future.”

The Crawfords moved to South Lake Tahoe in 1967.

Mr. Crawford succumbed to a brief illness before his body gave out. He suffered from a stroke two years ago.

No services are planned, and no donations will be requested. Marlowe did ask well-meaning residents to respect her mother’s privacy as she grieves – knowing how difficult it is to hold back gestures in honor of a man committed to causes and caring about Tahoe’s future.

Kathryn Reed contributed to this story.

Charter air service to launch

in Truckee in 2017

Starting in January there will be another way to get to Truckee.

Blackbird describes itself as a technology-driven airline delivering a private flight experience at a budget airline price. Blackbird partners with charter companies to fly high demand routes and enables customers to purchase seats at an affordable price.

Its first route will be between Palo Alto and Truckee, with prices starting at \$125 per seat. Flights will be Friday through Sunday, expanding to other days with customer demand.

The plan is to add six additional routes throughout California in 2017.

Blackbird is using software to determine underserved routes, calculate pricing and manage flight logistics. Travelers can book a seat through the mobile app, just like Uber.

For more info, go **online**.

Zach McAllister – 1990-2016



Zach McAllister and Spooner

Zach McAllister, who grew up on the slopes of Sierra-at-Tahoe, died unexpectedly Nov. 12, 2016. He was 26.

Zach was born and raised in South Lake Tahoe. He graduated from South Tahoe High School in 2008.

He embraced all things outdoors – skiing, camping, and mountain bike riding in particular.

From the time he was a young boy, Zach knew he wanted to be a paramedic. He went to paramedic school in Michigan and then returned to attend the Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Academy at Lake Tahoe Community College.

In response to the 2010 Haiti earthquake, Zach traveled to Port-au-Prince where he served as a member of the EMPACT Northwest Paramedic Volunteer Team.

He had been a firefighter-paramedic at Northstar Fire Department since 2012. He also worked as a ski patroller at Sierra-at-Tahoe for the past eight years where he was affectionately known as “Zach Mac.” Zach is credited with saving at least two lives on the mountain. His golden retriever, Spooner, is a member of the Sierra Avalanche Dog Program.

A **GoFundMe account** has been set up to help defray costs associated with his death.

Zach is survived by his parents Mark and Susan McAllister; his long-time love, Nina Thompson; a loving extended family; and countless close friends.

A celebration of his life will be at Sierra-at-Tahoe on Dec. 9 at 5pm.

Truckee Railyard finally moves forward

By Mayumi Elegado, Ally Gravina, Dave Zook, and Meghan Herbst, Moonshine Ink

The Truckee Railyard project heralds a lot of firsts. It's the first time the town of Truckee has partnered this closely with a developer. Likely the first time a developer convinced Union Pacific to accept commercial development within a balloon track. The first time this site will diverge from a history of industrial uses. The first Truckee project for Holliday Development, which has been building mix-used communities in the Bay Area for more than 20 years.

After spending 12 years and counting on the Truckee Railyard, owner and developer Rick Holliday acutely feels the pain of being a pioneer. In addition to the pocketful of firsts, the site offers up issues of environmental cleanup, significant infrastructure updates, airplane flight paths overhead, a railroad running through, and a heap of expectations from the Town.

Truckee Development Associates LLC (led by Holliday Development) is in charge of the Railyard Project. The parent company specializes in public-private partnerships and

sustainable infill projects, and so is no stranger to complicated projects. Overall, the field of infill redevelopment is not for the “faint of heart,” Holliday says, but “[the Railyard] is by far the most complex development I’ve ever worked with.”

Read the whole story

Fresh-faced Nev. legislators schooled on everything

By Sandra Chereb, Las Vegas Review-Journal

CARSON CITY – Before the nitty-gritty of lawmaking begins in February, newbie Nevada legislators fresh off the campaign trail need to know the basics.

Orientation began last week for 17 freshman Assembly and Senate members who’ve never served in the Legislature. It was a three-day crash course on everything from learning where the restrooms are and how to use the Legislature’s computer system to tips on dealing with constituents, the press, lobbyists – and one another.

A bill passed by the 2011 Legislature made the crash course mandatory for all new lawmakers. The mandate came as a result of term limits imposed by voters in 1996 that restricted legislators to 12 years of service in both the Assembly and the Senate.

Read the whole story

Anderson 5th at Olympic test event

By USSA

Just one week after the Milan Big Air, snowboarders headed to PyeongChang for the big air Olympic test event on Saturday. Ryan Stassel (Anchorage) and Julia Marino (Westport, Conn.) grabbed podiums for the U.S. team.

Jamie Anderson of Meyers took fifth.

On the tallest big air scaffolding ramp in the world in the heart of PyeongChang's Alpensia resort, reigning slopestyle champion Stassel threw down huge jumps with a variety of tricks—including a switch backside 1260 and a backside triple cork 1440s—to take third. He finished behind Canadians Mark McMorris and Max Parrot.

After winning the Big Air at Fenway last season, Marino showed that she's here to stay in big air, landing on the podium in second place. She finished behind Austrian Anna Gasser and ahead of Katie Ormerod of Great Britain.

"We are fortunate to have a U.S. team full of such bold, courageous and talented riders," said Head Coach Mike Jankowski. "Momentum is on our side as we transition into our Olympic prep season and the team is ready to keep charging ahead towards 2018."

Washoe Lake State Park planning winter events

Washoe Lake State Park has a slew of events planned for December.

They include:

- Dec. 11: Intro to Washoe Lake

Learn more about Washoe Lake State Park during this 45-minute indoor presentation starting at 1pm at the park office.

- Dec. 13: Full Moon Hike

This will be a super moon; the moon is at its closest point to the Earth in its orbit so it is larger and brighter than normal. The event starts at 6pm. Meet at the sand dunes along the Dune Trek Trail. Reservations are required; call 775.687.4319. Participants should bring a flashlight, dress for the weather and wear good hiking shoes.

- Dec. 21: Winter Solstice Hike

Bundle up for a night hike on the longest night of the year. This hike, which follows the South Loop Equestrian Trail, is relatively flat and is approximately three miles long, with great open views of the night sky and surrounding area. Park staff will discuss winter constellations, weather permitting, and wildlife in the park. Meet at 6pm at the Equestrian Pavilion. Reservations are required; call 775.687.4319. Red lights are recommended as they do not negatively affect night vision. Participants should dress in layers for the weather and wear good hiking boots.

These events are included with the park's entrance fee of \$7/vehicle. Nevada residents receive a \$2 discount. For more info, call 775.687.4319 or email washoelake@hdiss.net.