

Sugar Bowl Environmental Day

Sugar Bowl Resort will host its annual Environmental Awareness Day on Feb. 4.

A vendor village on the Judah Lodge deck will showcase local environmental organization's services and programs, offering tips and ideas on how to live a greener lifestyle. Sugar Bowl will provide insight and details on the resort's programs and policies in place for its extensive environmental stewardship efforts.

Businesses slated to participate include the Sierra Green Builder's Association, Sierra Nevada Journeys, Envirolution, 3 Degrees and the Sierra Watershed Education Partnerships.

Sugar Bowl will match dollars on all Ski Green Tags purchased on Environmental Awareness Day as a charitable donation supporting Ski Green's efforts. The tags are available for purchase at all resort ticket outlets for \$2 a day or \$20 for the season, with proceeds helping to offset carbon footprints emitted while traveling to and from the resort.

Lisa Phenix will provide music from 2-5pm.

For more information, go online.

Study: Carson City is metro area hit hardest by recession

By Steve Timko, Reno Gazette-Journal

Carson City is the metropolitan area hardest hit by the

recession while Reno-Sparks ranks second hardest hit, a financial website said.

The site 247wallst.com analyzed data in the US Conference of Mayors' 2012 U.S. Metro Economy report and came up with a list it described as The Nine American Cities Nearly Destroyed by the Recession.

Carson City lost 15.1 percent of its jobs in the recession.

"Carson City, Nevada, has the dubious honor to be the only metropolitan area that is not projected to recover any jobs at all this year," the 247wallst.com report said. "The region has lost thousands of jobs during the recession, and will continue to lose them through the end of 2012."

For Reno and Sparks, median home prices dropped 37 percent from 2007 to 2010, the report said. And jobs declined 17 percent from 2007 through the third quarter of 2011, and the report projects only a net job recovery of 600 by the end of 2012.

Local officials disagreed with the report.

Read the whole story

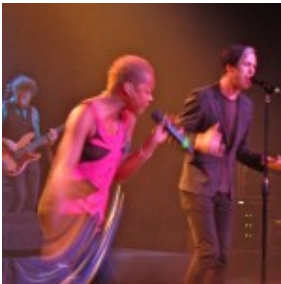
Fitz and the Tantrums keep music fans on their feet

By Susan Wood

STATELINE – Don't let their name fool you. Fitz and the Tantrums provided a mixed generation of concert-goers who rocked the Harrah's Lake Tahoe South Shore Room Saturday night

with an adult-sized performance.

The packed crowd rewarded the high-energy band with hours of screaming, clapping, dancing, partying and encroaching on the stage to get close to the Los Angeles-based band that has captivated many who follow the music scene.



Fitz and the Tantrums had most of the Harrah's Lake Tahoe audience on its feet Jan. 28. Photos/Kathryn Reed

Harrah's cleared a large dance floor next to the stage. Many fans started there on their feet for the opening act of Dale Earnhardt Jr. The alternative, synthesizer-driven singing duo Daniel Zott and Josh Epstein, with their custom painted plaid jackets, could have crossed as retro male Talking Heads or B-52s. Zott led the twosome for its "We Almost Lost Detroit" but rounded out the funk-rock experience with a near Beatle-like sound and even included Whitney Houston's smash hit "I Want to Dance With Somebody".

That's what warm-up bands are designed to do – get the crowd going. The dance floor soon filled up in anticipation of Fitz.

"Hey, Lake Tahoe – wanna party?" asked 38-year-old lead singer Michael Fitzgerald, aka "Fitz," who told *Lake Tahoe News* in an

earlier interview he was named by his childhood friends because “there were too many Michaels in the world.”

One thing is abundantly clear – fans have an original in Fitz and the Tantrums. Since the soulful Fitz found an organ on a curb and was consequently discovered by Adam Levine of hit band Maroon 5 the group has not looked back. In three years, they have made a name for themselves well beyond Southern California.

Take the inventive quality of a Phil Spector sound, a pure dance-hall atmosphere, lyrics of the romantically tortured and seductive chemistry between Fitz and co-lead singer Noelle Scaggs, and you have the Tantrums. (Incidentally, albeit a stage act to the contrary, Fitz and Scaggs – who uses a tambourine in conjunction with her towering vocal chords – are not a romantic item.)

With precision and passion, the six-member band consisting of Fitz, Scaggs, saxophonist James King, drummer John Wicks, bassist Joseph Karnes and keyboardist Jeremy Ruzumna cut through all their songs released on its lone album “Pickin Up the Pieces”. The song list included the breakthrough tune “Breaking the Chains of Love,” lovelorn ballad “Tighter” and chart climber “Money Grabber” as the encore. And yet, the band even added an Annie Lennox top hit “Sweet Dreams” for good measure.

The band ended a near monthlong tour at Harrah’s in time to go home to work on another album.

Throughout the save-the-best-for-last concert, the audience was on its feet – a testament to the electric energy on stage. Wicks sometimes pounded the drums as quickly as a camera motor drive. Without missing a beat, King rotated his flute and sax. Fitz stomped his feet to the beat when he wasn’t caressing the mic. Multi-tasking, Scaggs exercised her tambourine wrist and vocal chords so intensely, she often dropped the instrument at

the end of the songs in apparent exhaustion.

She resumed with a smile and acknowledgement to the fans: "Are your lungs warmed up yet?"

The band only rested long enough for Ruzumna to leave his keyboards for a birthday cake wheeled out on stage.

"I so wanted to put his face in it," Fitz joked.

Fun, frolic and lyrics as a bit of a war of the sexes made up the norm for the show, along with audience participation. Some concert-goers, who were of all ages, crowded the stage when Fitz sat close to the edge on a speaker. One male fan standing up front, who kept reaching for Scaggs, even impressed her when she allowed him to sing into the mic.

"That was awesome," she said, seemingly surprised.

This was the operative word of the high-energy concert from a band that has exuded a perfect mix of soul, independent, Motown and rock-pop rhythms in an uncommonly short period of time for a punishing industry.

To this day, Fitz told *Lake Tahoe News* he's still surprised by the band's cult-like popularity. The band ended the concert with a genuine thank you to the fans, which included taking photos with fans and signing anything put in front of them.

"With the amount of time we've put into this, it seems more like five or six years (have gone by). It's a journey that's felt like the longest marathon any of us ever have gone through," he said during the interview.

Fitz labeled the last three years as going "to the moon and back." The Tantrums have appeared on cooking guru and music lover Rachael Ray's show, played to thousands in the acoustically-superior Red Rocks Amphitheatre in Boulder, Colo., and shared the stage with Maroon 5.

Maroon 5, the popular, contemporary band that has sold 17 million albums with hits from “She Will Be Loved” to today’s “Moves Like Jagger” – will make a July 21 showing during the weekend of the American Century Championship played at Edgewood Tahoe Golf Course for Harveys Outdoor Summer Concert Series. Tickets go on sale Feb. 24.

Harrah’s fills out the winter season at the South Shore Room with the longtime soul favorite Tower of Power on Feb. 4, rock band Los Lonely Boys Feb. 11, pop singer Kenny Loggins on Feb. 18 and the youthful ensemble of G. Love & Special Sauce on Feb. 25.

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North Tahoe High School jazz band event

Experience the swing and rhythm of the 1940s on Feb. 10 from 7-9:30pm when the North Tahoe High School jazz band takes to Tahoe City’s Granlibakken ballroom stage.

The ‘40s Night brings to life an era when all of America was listening and dancing to the same music: Glenn Miller, Artie Shaw, Benny Goodman and Tommy Dorsey, to name a few.

This homage to “the greatest generation” is also a key fundraiser for the NTHS Jazz Band’s goodwill tour in March. Under the direction of Dean Nordby, this band plans to perform at a variety of schools, hospitals and senior centers in San

Diego.

Attendees are encouraged to don 1940s garb or at the very least bring a swingin' attitude.

Tickets are \$20 per person and include appetizers and a no host bar. Buy tickets from any NTHS jazz band member or at the door.

For more information, call (530) 581.1669.

S. Tahoe real estate group getting involved in TRPA Regional Plan

During the Jan. 17-21 California Association of Realtors business meetings in Indian Wells the South Tahoe Association of Realtors received a \$5,000 state impact grant. It will be used to pay for STAR Governmental Affairs Director Hayley Williamson to attend the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Regional Plan Update meetings.

In addition, the grant will allow STAR members to learn about laws affecting the region through advocacy and policy education such as zoning ordinances, height restrictions, and community goals TRPA is considering.

TRPA has requirements instructing real estate agents to give out disclosures regarding TRPA regulations to homebuyers and home sellers.

CAR recognizes TRPA could have an effect on the whole state, according to Theresa Souers of STAR.

“If the TRPA passes ordinances mandating point-of-sale issues, it may set a precedent for other point-of-sale mandates across the state,” Souers said in a press release. “Furthermore, since the TRPA must abide by California’s new sustainable communities laws passed in 2010, how the TRPA interprets and implements these California statewide laws will set a statewide precedent. For this reason, CAR has encouraged STAR to seek a similar grant on the national level and offered to assist in the effort to do so.”

Placer County approves 2 questions for June ballot

Placer County Board of Supervisors approved two measures for the June ballot. One asks North Lake Tahoe area residents to renew the transient occupancy tax for the North Lake Tahoe area.

An additional 2 percent TOT is collected on rooms in the area. Since the increase was initially approved in 1996, funds that have been collected have been used for many infrastructure projects.

The TOT funds in North Lake Tahoe have been used for the North Lake Tahoe Tourism Development Master Plan. Since its approval, about \$20 million has been used for capital project and for leveraging \$164 million in federal, state and local funds. An additional \$7 million has been used for improvements to transit systems. Some of the projects that have been funded

in whole or part by the TOT include:

Kings Beach Commercial Core Improvement Project;

Tahoe City Transit Center;

Area signage;

Beach, hiking and bicycling trail and park improvements;

Museums and education centers; and

Shoreline cleanup.

Placer County voters who live in the north Auburn, Ophir and Lone Star communities will have the opportunity in the June 5 presidential primary election to decide their level of fire and emergency medical service.

Should voters approve the increase to the special assessment, the fire district would be able to maintain current service levels at least through fiscal year 2020-21.

Both resolutions were approved by a four-fifths vote of the board. The TOT measure requires a simple majority vote for passage. The fire assessment measure requires a two-thirds majority by voters.

State's first Nachtspektakel at Squaw

On Feb. 4 at 6pm Squaw Valley, Dynafit, and Alpenglöw Sports will host California's first Nachtspektakel ski touring event.

A Nachtspektakel (say-knocked-shpeck-tockle) is a traditional

European-style ski event that bonds people through the sport of ski touring. A cultural norm in Europe, Nachtspektakel are new ways to combine skiing, beer and food that are sure to catch on in the States.

Ski tourers are invited on an ascent to Squaw Valley's High Camp, followed by food and drink.

Tickets are \$40 per person, cash only, and can be picked up at Alpenglow Sports in Tahoe City.

Come appropriately dressed with uphill gear, skis, skins, boots, poles and a headlamp. Bring warm clothes, and perhaps a change of clothes for drinks/dinner.

Beacons shovels probes not required but recommended. Alpenglow Sports will offer free rentals for the evening. Rentals must be picked up the afternoon before the event.

For more information, call (530) 583.6917.

Book sale at library

Friends of the Library is having a book sale Feb. 11 from 10am-3pm at the South Lake Tahoe branch library.

The library is at 1000 Rufus Allen Blvd., South Lake Tahoe.

For more information, call (530) 573.3185.

TRPA board approves 2012 boat inspection fees

Fees are changing at Lake Tahoe for boats needing to be inspected.

The TRPA Governing Board at its meeting this month voted to not alter the Tahoe Only boat fee, while increasing watercraft inspection fees for boats coming from other water bodies or have never been inspected.

Another change is the addition of a new decontamination charge for those boats not clean, drained, and dry when they arrive at the Lake.

The inspections were implemented a few years ago to prevent anymore aquatic invasive species from entering Tahoe.

Officials want the program to get closer to being self-sustaining. Federal funds help subsidize inspections and that money will be running out in the next couple year.

Fees in 2011 covered 29 percent of the cost of this program. The new fee schedule is estimated to cover 47 percent of the program for the 2012 season, with the remainder coming from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

More information on the Lake Tahoe Watercraft Inspection Program and fees are online.

Kashima on podium in Canada in freestyle World Cup

By USSA

CALGARY, Alberta -- Olympic champion Hannah Kearney of Norwich, Vt., extended her FIS freestyle World Cup record streak to 12 Saturday with a win at the Canada Olympic Park, while Mikael Kingsbury of Canada was the men's winner. Kearney was joined on the podium by K.C. Oakley of Piedmont in third for her first World Cup top 3.

Jeremy Cota of Carrabassett Valley, Maine, was second on the men's side with Sho Kashima of Stateline in third. The FIS freestyle World Cup moves back to the United States at Deer Valley Resort for the Visa Freestyle International Feb. 2-4.

This was the third podium of the season for Kashima.