Music students provide moving tribute to veterans

By Kathryn Reed

Across the room the trumpets echoed “Taps” – the distinctive military call also known as Last Post.

Lauren Tang was on one side of the South Tahoe Middle School auditorium, Christina DeLallo on the other. Their duet of sorts visibly moved the nearly 500 people who turned out Thursday for the fourth annual Veterans’ Musical Tribute.



The national anthem was one of the first songs played Nov. 10 at the veterans concert in South Lake Tahoe. Photos/Kathryn Reed

The hundreds of students who performed Nov. 10 were part of the South Tahoe High School Symphonic Band, STMS 6th Grade Concert/Advanced Bands, Tahoe Intermediate Honor Choir, STHS String Orchestra, Blue Ribbon Choir, STMS Symphonic Band, or STMS String Orchestra.

J.J. Clause and Linda Kurek, two of Lake Tahoe Unified School District's music directors, were in Disneyland when the idea hit them to do this concert. They were there with students for an event when at sunset the Disneyland Band came down Main Street playing patriotic music and took down the flag.

"Linda and I were in tears," Clause recalled. They decided a concert for vets was something they had to put on – especially with both of their dads being World War II veterans.

This year's concert was even more moving for Clause, who as she honored the World War II vets in attendance, was able to acknowledge her father's contributions to history as well. Harry Jenkins served in the Navy. Also recognized Thursday were John Filas, George Waymire and Jim Brathoude.

This tribute is about those who have or are serving in any branch of the Armed Forces. Uniforms dotted the audience of mostly civilians.

This concert is also an opportunity for the students, who have been practicing since the first day of school, to give something back, to become aware of what the men and women in the military have done, and to put a face to people who may seem more like historical figures in a textbook.

Each year the concert is a little different, though a handful of traditional songs – like the "Star Spangled Banner" – are performed each year. Each year the concert ends with a sing-along – "This Land is Your Land" – was the culmination this year.

Besides Kurek and Clause, the other instructors making the concert a reality are Casson Scowcroft, Paul Kushner and Sheri Schimmel.

One of the more haunting songs was "Adagio for Strings" performed by the high school String Orchestra. While Samuel Barber's song was first performed in 1938, more people today

would remember it from the 1986 movie “Platoon”.

Keeping with the emotional aspect of the night, a moment of silence was observed for the South Lake Tahoe men who have died in either the Afghanistan for Iraq conflicts – Garret Fant in 2011, Tim Smith in 2008, and Brandon Williams in 2006.

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Note: Veterans will also be honored at 11 this morning at the American Legion in South Lake Tahoe.

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LTCC play ‘Distracted’ gets people’s attention

“Distracted” opens this weekend at Lake Tahoe Community College’s Duke Theatre.

It’s billed as a hilarious, provocative, and poignant look at a modern family and an epidemic dilemma: Are we so tuned into our 24/7 info-rich world that we’ve tuned out what really matters?

What’s wrong with 9-year-old Jesse? He can’t sit still, he curses, he raps, and you can’t get him into – or out of – pajamas. His teacher thinks it’s attention deficit disorder. Dad says, “He’s just a boy!” And mama’s on a quest for answers. Is Jesse dysfunctional, or just different?

Don’t we all have ADD to some degree? Mom consults a psychologist, a homeopath, a neuropsychologist, and an environmental physician. She talks to neighbors, whose kids

have their own diagnoses. A psychiatrist prescribes Ritalin for Jesse, but surely a pill can’t solve all of his problems.

Is it ADHD that causes 9-year-old Jesse’s outbursts, high energy, and inability to focus? And what about mom and dad? Has our information overloaded environment made us too distracted to separate trivial pursuits from what’s really important?

Some mature language and subject matter are part of the play, so a babysitter might be more appropriate for younger family members.

Performances are Nov. 12, 17, 18, 19 at 8pm, and Nov. 13 and 20 at 2pm.

Tickets are $10 general admission, $7 seniors, $5 students with valid ID, and children under 13.

Homeowners awarded cash for river-friendly landscaping

Winners of the River-Friendly Landscaping Program are Susie Urie, Steve Ramos and Eric Premack. They each won a $5,000 rebate and Donner Pines East won a $10,000 rebate for completed river-friendly landscaping soil erosion measures.

The river-friendly landscaping began in September with the objective to restore residential properties with significant erosion problems near rivers and streams in Truckee. Residents were asked to fill out an application and submit photos. Ten Truckee-area residents applied.

The Truckee River Watershed Council and the Sierra Nevada

Alliance launched the River Friendly Landscaping Program to counteract the harmful runoff from residential homes. Funded by grants from the state Water Resources Control Board, the program implements erosion-control and landscaping measures on residential properties that reduce pollution and create sustainable landscapes.

In addition to their reimbursements the winners will also receive a custom site evaluation and plan. Awards will reimburse for materials and labor paid by homeowners. River-friendly features can include native plants and flowers, retaining wall structures, gravel and mulch among a multitude of other options.

Even if you are not one of the winners there is still an opportunity participate in the River-Friendly Landscaping program. By signing up, homeowners will receive a custom site evaluation and plan as well as up to $400 rebate.

For more information, go online or contact Andy Otto at (530) 550.8760, ext. 3.

Breakfast with Santa

Tahoe City Parks and Recreation Department’s inaugural Breakfast with Santa at Rideout Community Center is Dec. 3 from 8:30-10:30am.

This family event is co-sponsored by the Tahoe City Rotary Club.

The event includes a pancake breakfast, photo opportunities, letters to Santa, ornament decorating, and of course, Santa. The event is $9 for children and $5 for adults.

Register in advance to reserve a spot and don’t forget your camera.

For more information, contact Shaun at (530) 583.3440, ext.14.

Forum focuses on aquatic invasive species

The Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Coordination Committee will host a free public forum on Nov. 16 from 5:30 to 7:30pm at the North Tahoe Events Center in Kings Beach.

Brief presentations will feature aquatic invasive species prevention, control and monitoring projects in the Lake Tahoe Basin and Truckee area.

The evening will begin with at 5pm with a 30-minute networking session and will conclude with a question and answer period.

In addition to summarizing activities and accomplishments in 2011, presenters will highlight future plans and opportunities for invasive species control and prevention efforts for Lake Tahoe and Truckee area water bodies.

Lake Tahoe and Truckee area residents and boaters are urged to attend and submit feedback regarding the future of the Truckee Boat Inspection Program, which is currently a voluntary program operated by the Tahoe Resource Conservation District, but may become a mandatory inspection program in the near future.

TYFS expands into Alpine County

Tahoe Youth & Family Services received two grants from the Administration for Children and Families to support expanding services in Alpine County.

In October, TYFS began offering a 24-hour crisis line, shelter through host homes, counseling and case management services and outreach to Alpine County residents.

These grants allow TYFS to expand its program of supportive services for homeless, transient and high risk youth and their families that already exist in South Lake Tahoe and Douglas County to Alpine County.

TYFS is partnering with the Woodfords Indian Education Center, Alpine Women's Center, Alpine County Probation Department, Koinonia, Alpine County Behavioral Health Department, Alpine County School District and the Child Abuse Prevention Council as we develop and implement these programs.

Truckee High football team enters playoffs with best record in state

By KCRA-TV

TRUCKEE – The streak stands at 34 – as in, the Truckee Wolverines football team has won 34 straight games.

The last time the Wolverines lost was in the 2008 state title game.

“It’s pretty special,” Truckee senior running back Cole Roberts said. “We want to keep it going and keep the history growing.”

The streak is on the line this week against Fallon High School – marking a rematch of the biggest test of the year for Truckee: A 20-14 win on Oct. 15.

The Wolverines have been unbeaten for two consecutive seasons. The streak is now the longest in the state of California.

The small mountain town, known more for the ski industry than high school football, took over the longest streak when powerhouse De La Salle lost earlier this year.

“Our kids have not really talked about it a whole lot,” Truckee head coach Bob Shaffer said. “We just get ready for the next one.”

The only streak that matters now is this week. Truckee is into the second round of the Nevada 3A playoffs.

Read the whole story

STHS students distinguish themselves among classmates

Publisher’s note: ***Four students from South Tahoe High School***

were honored as Young Women of Distinction on Nov. 9 by Soroptimist International South Lake Tahoe. Different this year was the maturity shown by all the honorees and the eloquence of their thank yous to the service club, their school and their families. The following is what their principal had to say about each young woman at the lunch.

By Ivone Larson

With an extraordinary 4.5 gp and fluent in Russian, French and English, it's no surprise that **Anna Tikhomirova** is interested in pursuing a career that will lead to international adventures in a city in either Japan, England or even exotic California. Anna has applied to UC San Diego, UC Santa Barbara, UCLA, and hopes to attend UC Berkeley to major in international business with a minor in psychology or English. With her keen fashion sense, she dreams of a future in the fashion industry and has already been accepted to the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising.

As a true renaissance woman, Anna loves to learn. She enjoys drawing, art, floristry, and after taking dance with Liz Niven, she discovered a love for ballet. Her favorite subject is AP literature as it challenges her writing skills and exposes her to previously unknown works and authors. Anna was a young ambassador to Japan for People to People International Youth Summit and a Rotary Youth Exchange student to France.



Anna Tikhomirova, Shannon

Colleton,
Shelby
McIntyre, Tina
Tu

She states that, “Going on exchange to France showed me that people aren’t required to be nice to you or give you things: They want to do it out of the kindness of their hearts and you should be grateful.”

As a world traveler and an AP Scholar with Distinction, Anna shares her talents and experiences with others as an AVID tutor.

Her English teacher, Bridey Heidel states, “Anna is one of the most poised and polished young women I have ever taught. In these days of texting shortcuts and casual slang, Anna’s old-school style is a breath of fresh air: She speaks in full sentences and has impeccable manners. Anna is graceful with her words and can articulate her point without belittling others – both enviable traits. She is also fabulous with her fashion. Whether her dress is retro or fashion-forward, every day she is a walking, work-of-art. Anna also speaks several languages and has seen more of the world than most. She carries this global sensitivity with her and incorporates it into her classroom discussions and literary analysis. But don’t mistake her polish and poise for fragility; Anna has a cement backbone and has overcome many challenges in her young life. I have no doubt that she will have an incredible life as an ambassador or an advocate.”

Anna, when Yves Saint Laurent said, “Fashions fade, style is eternal.” – he must have been thinking of you, as your style is most definitely eternal.

With the completion of AP Spanish next term, **Tina Tu** will officially be trilingual – as she is already fluent in Chinese, English, and has a desire to learn even more

languages. With an astonishing 4.5 gpa, Tina is applying to Stanford, UCLA, UC San Diego, UC Davis, however her top choice is UC Berkeley where she plans to major in computer science. She hopes to follow in her Uncle Harry Tu's footsteps and develop computer software.

Tina has received awards for All Star Academics in recognition of her outstanding academic and athletic achievements in both track and tennis. She is an AP Scholar, a Golden Star Student and on the Honor Roll for maintaining straight A's. She is the National Honor Society treasurer, an AVID tutor, and volunteers at the Barton Skilled Nursing Facility, as well as the Polar Express during the holidays, and in her spare time, Tina likes to sing in the Blue Ribbon Choir.

Tina has been fortunate to have the support of her loving family, her mother, father, and her grandmother, who helped raise her and instilled in her a high sense of values and morals. Tina states that she is lucky her mom is her mother because she is so hard working, generous, and supportive of all her efforts, as well as teaching her the value of the dollar. As for her father, she notes they are very similar as they are both quiet and reserved, yet both have a sense of humor and kind nature. He has a huge heart and through his actions, he demonstrates care and love for his family. Tina credits her Chinese upbringing for her respect for her family's culture, as well as her American lifestyle, which has taught her individuality and enabled her to be open to other mindsets.

Her science teacher, Carla Zezula states, "Tina is a strong woman with a lot of determination and a breadth of skills. Tina is a part of a core group of strong intelligent young women that have been friends and supported each other through school. Tina is a fusion of Chinese and American cultures, taking the best of both and applying it to her life. She is strong, yet elegant, like the cherry blossoms."

Tina, as you enter the computer science field where close to 90 percent of the students are male, stay strong like the cherry blossoms, and know that your family, and the women of South Lake Tahoe support you and believe in you.

Shannon Colleton is always inspired to be her best and never give up because her sister, Kelly, a sophomore, looks up to her. Shannon has applied to several colleges, including UC Davis, UC San Diego, Pepperdine, San Diego State, and the University of Oregon to pursue a career in conservation biology or as an athletic trainer. Her first choice of UC San Diego will allow her to be close enough to home to remain a role model for her sister, stay in touch with her loving family, and further her surfing passion.

Shannon is also quite an athlete. She was on 2nd Team All State for soccer, played varsity soccer for two years, and was twice named an All State Scholar. She was voted soccer team captain her sophomore and senior years, has been on the track team two years, and has been on the varsity ski team since freshman year, so no surprise that she hopes to play soccer in college. Oh, and that blue hair? Well, she is staying true to our soccer team tradition because she will be playing soccer in Dayton this Friday for the state playoffs. Go Vikings!

Shannon is also moved by the performing arts and from the time she was just 2 years old, she has studied tap, jazz, modern dance, ballet and has already been in two musicals. In school, Shannon stays active as the ASB secretary, and maintaining an amazing 3.9 gpa. In her spare time, she likes to run or read. Her favorite book is “Not Without My Daughter” as she was so impressed by the differences in cultures and the commitment of the girl’s mother in the face of tremendous adversity.

Biology teacher Carla Zezula, says, “Shannon is a quiet, respectful, sensitive, talented athlete and always gives 110 percent in everything that she does. She will be successful in whatever she pursues.”

Whether you become a conservation biologist or an athletic trainer, Shannon, we know you are destined to make a difference in the lives you touch.

Shelby McIntyre plans to become a corporate attorney in Southern California, where it is nice and warm, when she finishes college. Although she has numerous options, Shelby has narrowed down her college selection to UCLA, USC, San Diego State, UC Santa Barbara, Boise State, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, or Alabama State.

Being the daughter of a coach, athletics have been part of Shelby's life since birth. She has run varsity track for three years, varsity cross country for four years and served as the cross country team captain. She has received numerous athletic awards, including All State/All Regional cross country and track for all four years of participation; she is the Nevada 4A 1600 State Champion and the recipient of the All League Academic Award. When not competing, she relaxes by staying in motion as she is also a passionate skier, snowboarder, swimmer and runner.

Shelby is not just an athlete; she is also a remarkable leader. This past summer she was selected and attended Rotary Youth Leadership Camp. She is the ASB vice president and currently serves as the student representative on the El Dorado County Board of Education. She is also a Key Club member, is in National Honor Society, is an AVID tutor and is South Tahoe High School's homecoming queen.

Even with all her involvement in athletics and leadership, Shelby manages to find time for her studies and maintains a remarkable 4.14 gpa. Fortunately, she has the support of her loving parents to keep her focused and to help her reach her goals.

According to Assistant Principal Marilyn Pawling, "Shelby is one of my favorites. You cannot say "no" to Shelby. If she

wants something bad enough, like the jerseys for the female flag football fundraiser, she will find a way. I love her persistence and determination. Nothing is ever going to get in her way. She is the girl next door – athletic, smart, and darling."

Shelby, with all the economic turmoil in our world, you are exactly the type of leader we need to represent corporate America. Best wishes for a long and bright future.

$25,000 in health related grants awarded by Barton

Barton Foundation and Barton Health's Community Advisory Committee gave $25,000 to 10 South Lake Tahoe organizations to help fund health-related services and programs.

The recipients were honored at Barton's third annual Philanthropy Day lunch Nov. 4 at Riva Grill.

The programs awarded addressed some of the area's most pressing health needs such as nutrition, physical fitness, and mental health.



Michelle Feeney, Barton nurse, from

left, Margaret McKean, LTUSD nurse, and Julie Regan, Barton board member.
Photo/Provided

South Tahoe High School received $7,700 – the largest of the health grants. Margaret McKean, nurse for Lake Tahoe Unified School District, wrote the grant on behalf of South Tahoe High School's Culinary Arts Program benefiting the "Healthy Choices – Eat Right" nutrition program.

The Healthy Choices – Eat Right program will involve the students in STHS culinary, drama, AVID and technology classes. They will be given the challenge to develop projects that will teach all ninth-graders and LTUSD elementary children – emphasizing healthy choices and how those choices impact energy, fitness, academics and long-term health. The program is set to be launched in spring 2012.

Other grant recipients are:

· El Dorado County Jail, "Healthy Education Addiction Recovery Through Self Responsibility" program – $3,200

· Drug Store Project, "Prevention of teen drug use program" – $3,000

· Family Resource Center, "Heart Health Series Workshops for Latinos" – $2,100

· Court Appointed Special Advocates, "Support of abused and neglected children" – $2,000

· Bijou Community School "Exercise Circuit Course" – $2,500

· National Alliance on Mental Illness, "Funding for

medications provided to mentally ill patients” – $1,500

· Tahoe Youth & Family Services, “Nutrition programs along with the “Little Latina’s Program” – $1,000

· Sports Connection, “Funding for local youth to participate in athletic programs” – $1,000

· American Youth Soccer Organization (South Lake Tahoe AYSO 282), “Scholarship Fund” – $1,000.

Opinion: Learn to live with bears to keep them alive

By Jennifer Fearing

The controversy swirling around one Placer County bear family is, sadly, nothing new to the many communities that are seeing a resurgence in black bear populations. Like so many other wildlife species, bear populations are experiencing a slow crawl back to normal after being decimated by human exploitation.

Part of that return has them crossing paths with people who build homes deep in bear country – or in the suburbs through which bears occasionally pass but do not stay.

Given their size and potential to do harm, bears create remarkably few conflicts for people. Normally shy and inoffensive, they are, however, famously known to be formidable in protecting their young, and unfortunately endowed with a sweet tooth that finds them attracted to everything from pies cooling on the porch railing to yesterday’s trash left out at the curb.

For such offenses it is not uncommon to see bears killed. But isn’t there a better way?

The short answer to this is “yes,” and a slightly longer one would be “absolutely.” The really long-winded version reads: We have to teach bears how to live with us at the same time that we learn how to live with them. For our part, we can’t be cavalier about managing trash when bears are around. Even bird feeders can lure a passing bear into a yard and in range of potential conflicts.

There are two keys to learning how to live with bears. Don’t put temptation in their way, and teach them that humans are to be avoided. And this is in fact what many communities in bear-rich areas have already begun to do.

Jennifer Fearing is California senior state director for the Humane Society of the United States.

Read the whole story