History: Flumes not just for logs

Publisher's note: ***This is reprinted from the February 1974 Lake Tahoe Historical Society newsletter.***

By Sheryl Morris

The Great Flume Ride, a tale of five men who supposedly traveled down a logging flume north of Incline Village during the Comstock era, was told January 29th to members of the Lake Tahoe Historical Society.



Telling the story and showing slides of old photographs and drawings from the same period was Fred MacKenzie, training and safety administrator for the Reno office of Sierra Pacific Power Company.

An unusually large crowd of nearly 100 society members and guests heard MacKenzie describe the ride, which was the result of a challenge to the five participants.

The daredevils weren't young men, MacKenzie noted. They were in the late 50's and three of them were established businessmen. He said that one was a reporter from New York and another one was a carpenter.

The men first had to construct a V-shaped boat to fit the flume. Two boats were actually made. The second vessel was launched after the first boat took off down the flume in a fast wall of water sans passengers.

When the second boat was launched with the men aboard, no one had taken into consideration the fact that the second boat would be traveling faster than the first craft, MacKenzie

explained.

“Their lives were in the hand of fate,” the speaker continued, “because the flume had no element of control or safety. They just had to hold on.”

The story says that at one point the carpenter fell out but was luckily grabbed and pulled back in the boat.

By this time the distance between the two boats was narrowing, MacKenzie said. The second boat finally crashed into the first craft and “the men concluded they must have been temporarily insane.”

MacKenzie noted that the area of the flume ride was thought to have been in the Sierra, west of the Verdi-Reno area.

In addition to telling the story of the flume ride, MacKenzie backgrounded his presentation with other slides pertaining to the Comstock era of the late 1800’s and the use of Tahoe lumber in Virginia City and surrounding area at that time.

He explained that prior to 1870 when the V-flume was invented, lumber was transported to the Comstock from the Sierra by animals. After the invention of the channel, flumes were set up all around the eastern side of Tahoe. One giant flume floated logs from Spooner Summit down 15 miles to the Carson Valley floor. From there the logs went to Virginia City and Gold Hill via the V & T Railroad.

MacKenzie added that Sierra Pacific Power has used flumes for years to provide electrical and water service.

Donate to Lake Tahoe News

Lake Tahoe News is free. It intends to stay that way for the foreseeable future.

Like all businesses, it takes money to put out a product. *LTN* makes it money from advertisers and donations. Without them, there would be no *Lake Tahoe News*.

When people have sent a donation, often times they say it's their "subscription" payment – even though *LTN* doesn't charge for subscriptions. But we acknowledge the gesture with a standing ovation. You'll have to take our word on that.

Donations may be sent to Lake Tahoe News, P.O. Box 13406, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96151 or made via credit card through PayPal on the website at the bottom right of the home page.

Thank you in advance.

Opinion: South Tahoe's cultivation ordinance hurts patients

Publisher's note: ***This letter was written to South Lake Tahoe City Manager Tony O'Rourke and reprinted with permission of the author.***

Hi Tony,

I had an opportunity to review your latest draft of the proposed cultivation ordinance. I must tell you I was shocked

by what you are proposing, not just because it is illegal, immoral, and unnecessary. No, I was deeply shocked and disturbed by the text of your ordinance because it is truly a shameful document.

Under the proposed ordinance, sick, disabled and dying patients will have until the end of the year to comply with capricious and illegal regulations or face fines, criminal convictions and up to six months in jail, for each day they are in violation.



Steve Kubby

Here is just one of numerous outrageous regulations that could land sick, disabled and dying patients in jail for years:

“Any violation of this ordinance is hereby declared a public nuisance per se. Any person violating any provision of this ordinance shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine not to exceed $1,000.00, by imprisonment in the County jail not to exceed six months, or by both a fine and imprisonment. Such person shall be deemed guilty of a separate offense for each and every day during any portion of which any violation of this ordinance is committed, continued or permitted by such person and shall be punishable as herein provided.”

Whoever wrote this document clearly understood the city will be violating our civil and medical rights because in order to comply with this new ordinance you must agree to grant you guys full immunity for your illegal, unconstitutional and immoral actions:

“To the fullest extent permitted by law, any actions taken by a public officer or employee under the provisions of this ordinance shall not become a personal liability of any public officer or employee of the City.

“Permitees pursuant to this ordinance hereby agree to save, defend, indemnify and keep harmless the City and its officials, officers, employees, representatives, agents and volunteers from all actions, claims, demands, litigation, or proceedings, including those for attorneys’ fees, against the City in consequence of the granting of this permit, and will, in all things, strictly comply with the conditions under which this permit is granted, if any.”

Although the Compassionate Use Act was written as 11362.5 of the Health and Safety Code, the proposed ordinance will move enforcement back to the police chief and fire marshal, granting both the power to invade our home, apparently without a search warrant, if I correctly understand Chapter 17 of the City Abatement Code.

Furthermore, sick, disabled and dying patients must now notify local burglars and drug police of their activities and location by filing a public notice in the form of a building permit.

Absolutely nothing in the new ordinance does anything to protect patients. No patients were consulted at any time in the creation of this ordinance. Nor does the ordinance fix any problem that cannot be fixed by landlords who can add whatever prohibitions or fines they wish to their leases in order to prevent cultivation in their rental properties.

At a time when the City Council is firing valuable employees because of budget cuts, it seems dangerous and unwise to attempt to pass an ordinance that will most certainly face expensive court challenges. How many more valuable city employees will you have to fire in order to pay for these

additional court costs?

Your primary responsibility as city manager is to protect the health and safety of the residents of this city. Instead, you are proposing new ordinance is a direct threat to the health and safety of the medical marijuana community. Please step back and think about the fear, anger and disrespect for you and the City Council that will surely result if you persist in campaigning for this awful and ill-conceived ordinance.

Let freedom grow,

Steve Kubby, South Lake Tahoe

Steve Kubby played a key role in the drafting and passage of Proposition 215. He has written two books on drug policy reform and serves as executive director of the American Medical Marijuana Association.

LPGA Legends Tour stopping in Reno

Patty Sheehan, World Golf and LPGA Hall of Famer, in partnership with The Legends Tour, the official senior tour of the LPGA, are bringing The Legends Tour to Hidden Valley Country Club in Reno June 3–6.

The official three-day tournament, Patty Sheehan & Friends, boasts a field of 40 LPGA Legends competing in a two-day, stroke play tournament for a $225,000 purse. In addition to Sheehan, LPGA Hall of Famer Betsy King, LPGA Hall of Famer Pat Bradley and 2011 U.S. Solheim Cup Captain Rosie Jones have confirmed that they will be teeing it up in Reno this June.

Tournament week begins June 2 with a junior clinic for girls of The First Tee as well as professional practice rounds and an evening pairings party for sponsors and guests. The Patty Sheehan & Friends Pro-Am is set for June 3. The first round kicks off tournament play on Saturday with the final round Sunday. A Monday Pro-Am has been added due to demand.

Tickets for Patty Sheehan & Friends are $10 per day and are available online. Admission for ages 17 and under and military personnel is free.

Tournament proceeds benefit the newly-formed Patty Sheehan Foundation designed to support local charities and the Reno community.

DCSD approves budget that started with $6 mil. hole

By Kathryn Reed

STATELINE – The final cuts to close what had been a $6 million budget gap were made Tuesday night by the Douglas County School District board of trustees.

It was a somber mood for much of the five-hour meeting at Kahle Community Center. This venue provided ample room for the more than two dozen people in attendance. Usually the meetings at the lake are at the county library – a much smaller setting.

The significant change the seven-member board made from what Superintendent Lisa Noonan recommended for the $48 million general fund was to slash about $40,000 from the athletic

budget. Although at first it was going to be a direct hit to the $261,914 allocation for stipends, in the end the board said the funds could come from anywhere but transportation. Chief Financial Officer Holly Luna advised against touching bus dollars based on the intricacies of how that department works.

“If I have the discretion, I can make it work,” Douglas High School Principal Marty Swisher told *Lake Tahoe News* after the meeting. The school site administrators are tasked with trimming the sports department.



DCSD Superintendent Lisa Noonan makes a point April 12 about the budget. Photos/Kathryn Reed

The savings will be used to restore the student intervention funds that had been cut at the March 30 meeting.

The federally funded one-time EduJobs dollars altered the budget in the last two weeks – in the positive. Noonan’s ideas for spending the $526,693 addition to the general fund were approved by the board. It means keeping one trimester each of music, art and physical education at the elementary level. It also restores $156,627 for elementary computer aides.

The tentative budget per Nevada law had to be approved this

month, with the final 2011-12 budget coming before the board in May.

With the state not expected to have a budget until June at the earliest, and with some people predicting two special sessions, it could be well into summer before the Silver State has a budget. Until the state passes its budget, in some ways it is a guessing game for all districts as to what level of funding will come from Carson City.

“I’m worried about the students, but also if we add to unemployment – what it does to the overall community,” Noonan told *Lake Tahoe News* during a break.

Nevada K-12 districts must notify certificated employees by May 1 if they will not have a job for next year. Classified must be told by mid-May. The exact number of employees losing their job hasn’t been tallied based on retirements, resignations and leaves of absence. But it could be more than four dozen jobs off the payroll, including three security guards. Two of those are from Douglas High. Most of the losses will be teachers as changes to class-size reduction are made.

Noonan is frustrated with the level of funding Gov. Brian Sandoval has proposed. It will be less than $5,000 per pupil. Nevada spends less than half the national average on each student.

For the upcoming school year, the district was faced with a drop of $4.3 million from the state in per pupil funding, a hit of $441,000 based on declining enrollment, and an increase of $1.4 million for salaries-benefits-operational expenditures.



Douglas board members Cindy Trigg, left, and Teri Jamin listen to the budget debate.

Besides the current cuts, DCSD has trimmed $5.3 million from its ledger in the last four years.

Noonan believes in spreading the financial pain by volunteering to cut her salary by $2,500 – the equivalent of five workdays. But Noonan said she'll still be working, it's just a salary cut – not furlough days, so to speak. The CFO and two assistant superintendents are also taking a $2,500 cut, with the expectation they will be compensated with days off.

Some of the eight people who spoke during the April 12 public hearing wondered why the district office was not cut more. It was then pointed out for the nearly 900 employees there are 24 administrators.

Though it won't be a cost savings per se, one of the assistant superintendents is slated to take on the duties of principal of ASPIRE, the alternative education site that had been housed in a valley elementary school, but will move to a leased site next school year.

Noonan reasons that moving it off-site allows the program to grow, which ideally will provide a revenue stream for the district.

Three public meetings were conducted earlier this month to gain ideas from the community about where cuts should be made. Staff members dominated these meetings, with only a few parents in attendance.

Nancy Hamlett, secretary with special services, told the board Tuesday that as hours are cut for classified staff it could mean also mean not qualifying for benefits. Their contract is different than the teachers who can work part time and receive full benefits.

From the community meetings several ideas were brought forward the board could not take immediate action on. Many involve opening negotiations with the unions, which appears likely to happen.

During the board member comments portion of the meeting it was noted what items they would like to delve into at future meetings in regards to future budgets. Topics include:

• Sick time policy

• Creating endowments

• Kindergarten transportation

• Field trips

• Pay-to-play for sports.

The board is slated to vote on the final budget May 18 at Douglas High School.

Wet weather blowing into Lake Tahoe Basin

Expect slushy weather with high winds on Wednesday.

Temperatures are expected to be 10 degrees cooler than normal. And the National Weather Service in Reno has issued a wind advisory for Lake Tahoe from sunrise to sunset.



Windshield wipers are likely to be needed Wednesday in Tahoe. Photo/Kathryn Reed

The fast moving lower pressure system is expected to bring snow to the lake, though predictions are it will melt fast based on how how warm it has been.

The sun is expected to pop out Thursday, with rain likely on Friday. By Saturday the mercury is expected to reach the low 60s in the basin – a 25-degree swing from Wednesday.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Reno man arrested in Bay Area murders may be tied N.Y. homicides

By Jaclyn O'Malley, Reno Gazette-Journal

In the years before a 77-year-old Reno man was charged with the serial killing of four women over nearly three decades in California, he was challenging Nevada on behalf of his mentally incompetent middle-aged son.

Prosecutors in Marin County announced Tuesday they were seeking the death penalty against Joseph Naso, who declined a jail interview. The self-employed commercial photographer was being held without bail in Marin County, Calif., on suspicion of four counts of murder. The victims were killed in 1977, 1978, 1993 and 1994 in Northern California, and in areas where Naso lived or previously lived.

Now, law enforcement agencies as far away as Rochester, N.Y., are looking at unsolved murders from decades past to see if Naso is their mystery suspect.

According to the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, Naso lived in Rochester in the 1960s and traveled there in the early 1970s — and three young girls were abducted and killed in Rochester between 1971 and 1974.

Read the whole story

Historian to talk about Mark Twain

As part of the continuing Winter Speaker Series, Explore Tahoe presents David Antonucci, local historian and author.

Antonucci on April 21 at 6pm will preview his upcoming book on Mark Twain at Lake Tahoe including maps showing where he camped and stayed in the 19th century hotels.

Explore Tahoe is located at 4114 Lake Tahoe Blvd. next to North Face in the Heavenly Village.

A $5 donation is requested.

Special flat rate of $5 will apply after 4pm in the public parking garage.

For more information, call (530) 542.4637 or email lthomaselli@cityofslt.us.

University Extension sponsors BMP workshops

The 12th annual Best Management Practices Workshops put on by the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension will be April 26 and April 28.

Choose from two workshops:

* Full-day Basic Best Management Practices Workshop on April 28 at Sierra Nevada College in Incline Village.

* Half-Day Refresher Workshop on April 26 at Tahoe Regional Planning Agency in Stateline for those who have completed the Basic or Refresher Workshop within the past two years.

Whether you attend on April 26 or April 28, you will:

* Find out how construction and landscaping activities can contribute to water pollution in Lake Tahoe and how to install BMPs as recommended in a BMP Site Evaluation.

* Become familiar with new developments in the BMP Retrofit Program at Lake Tahoe.

BMP Workshop Topics for 2011:

* How to pass a final inspection – tougher standards apply

* Avoid costly installation errors

* New, tougher criteria to qualify for listing in the 2011 BMP Installation Service Providers List. Passing new exam required for both workshops

* Spanish BMP Workshop also available on April 28.

Space is limited, so register early, (775) 832.4150.

Talk about Mark Twain

As part of the continuing Winter Speaker Series, Explore Tahoe presents David Antonucci, local historian and author.

Antonucci on April 21 at 6pm will preview his upcoming book on Mark Twain at Lake Tahoe including maps showing where he camped and stayed in the 19th century hotels.

Explore Tahoe is located at 4114 Lake Tahoe Blvd. next to North Face in the Heavenly Village.

A $5 donation is requested.

Special flat rate of $5 will apply after 4pm in the public parking garage.

For more information, call (530) 542.4637 or email lthomaselli@cityofslt.us.