Bread & Broth looking for volunteers

Bread & Broth, a non-denominational ministry that prepares and serves meals twice a week at St. Theresa Church and Lake Tahoe Community Presbyterian Church, has several volunteer opportunities available.

Volunteers are needed for food preparation, food service, and clean-up. If you have some spare time on Monday or Friday afternoons and would like to volunteer with the Bread & Broth, attend the Bread & Broth Orientation Meeting, and Food Safety Class on Oct. 11 from 6-7pm in Grace Hall of St. Theresa Church on the corner of Lake Tahoe Boulevard and Lyons Avenue in South Lake Tahoe (1041 Lyons Ave).

Those interested in helping prepare and serve food will need to attend the food safety and sanitation class immediately following the orientation meeting that evening (7:15-8:30pm).

In addition, Bread & Broth is seeking individuals interested in helping with food pick-up at local grocery and retail stores, quarterly kitchen cleaning, food distribution on Tuesday and Friday afternoons, fund raising efforts, and communications support.

For more information on these opportunities, contact Diane Weidinger at (775)588.3993 or dianeweidinger@yahoo.com.

Bread & Broth is an all-volunteer program to feed the hungry in the South Lake Tahoe community. A hot, well-balanced meal is provided once a week at no charge to anyone who comes through the doors. Bread & Broth includes volunteers of all faiths and nationalities, and meals are served without regard to religion, race, age, or financial situation. More information is available online.

Jones: real world experience in governmental accounting

Publisher's note: ***Lake Tahoe News is profiling candidates for South Lake Tahoe City Council and Douglas County Commission. The stories are being published in the order they were received.***

Name: Alice Jones

Age: 34

How long have you lived in South Lake Tahoe?: 8 years

Job/profession: CPA; Controller, Tahoe Keys Property Owners' Association



Alice Jones

What would you build or tear down on the South Shore to make it great, as in what Whistler is like?: South Lake Tahoe should not aspire to be like another town. We do not need to build or tear down anything; instead we need to focus on maintaining and repairing what we already have. South Lake Tahoe is a place where families can come to camp or stay in a rustic hotel or cabin to ski, hike, bike, or just spend the day at one of our beautiful beaches. It used to be a place

where locals could live and raise a family without earning a six-figure salary. This is what makes South Lake Tahoe unique and desirable for many locals and tourists alike. As we continue to tear down and build up to try to be like more upscale communities such as Whistler or Vail, we end up losing locals and middle class tourists. South Lake Tahoe does not need to be posh to be a desirable destination. We will never be able to draw the same tourists as Whistler or Vail nor should we try.

What form of recreation do you participate in? What recreation improvements would you strive to make in SLT?: I enjoy hiking, swimming, mountain biking, and snowboarding. I think our recreation center and swimming pool could use some upgrades. It is an older facility that could use a facelift. I would also like to see the facility include a fitness center with cardio equipment and free weights as well as a smaller kids pool with water features.

Recreation tourism is expected to be the driving force of the South Shore economy in the coming years, and according to a decade-old study, the majority of the South Lake Tahoe residents would like to see cycling-type facilities and maintenance projects. So, what do you specifically plan to do to improve our substandard, dangerous bike paths and lanes and roads beyond hiring a consultant to tell us how bad they are?: Well, it is obvious that the Public Works Department needs additional funding, the question is where that funding comes from. I think that the city can achieve efficiencies in other departments and reduce waste in order to shift funding to the roadways. If we want private property owners to improve their properties, the city needs to set an example by improving the infrastructure and maintaining city roads. The city has obtained grant funding for the Bijou and Sierra Tract erosion control projects, but they should not ignore the other roads not being funded by this grant. It is entirely unacceptable that the city spent nothing on its roads, not one dollar in

2003-04 and 2004-05 when the economy was booming. It is always less expensive to maintain what you have then to let the deferred maintenance go so long that more expensive replacements are now necessary.

What are the three major issues facing South Lake Tahoe and how do you expect in four years to make it so they are not major issues when your tenure is through?: The single greatest issue facing South Lake Tahoe is our aging infrastructure. That problem is multifaceted and includes issues with our roads, sidewalks (or lack thereof), erosion control, street lights, and recreation facilities including parks, beaches, and restrooms. Many years of deferred maintenance and lack of a long range funding plan has got us to where we are now and it will take many years to dig ourselves out of this hole, no pun intended. City residents and taxpayers will need to be patient as we work to right the wrongs of many years. That being said, the time is now to lay the foundation of this fundamental change in priorities.

What compelling idea have you read in the citizens' input of the revamped, in-progress update of the city's General Plan?: I have not read the citizens' input of the revamped, in-progress update of the city's General Plan so I have no comment on this question at this time.

How do you plan to boost revenue in SLT?: By taking care of our city and making sure that the infrastructure is well maintained and upgraded we will draw more tourists. I can only imagine what it is like for the families who travel here. The condition of our roads, failure of our public transit, and aging of our recreational facilities must not make a very good impression. Follow that up with marijuana dispensaries on every corner in town you may come to the impression that South Lake Tahoe is not a very family-friendly destination. We do not need to be a ritzy ski town, but we do need to have decent roads and bike trails for biking, sidewalks for walking, and a clean well maintained Lake Tahoe Boulevard. If the city does

these things well, then the city has done its job to help the local economy. The economy may continue to lag, as it does in the rest of the country, but that is outside the scope of what the City Council can realistically impact.

What stands out to you in the 2010-11 budget?: The lack of a sustainable budget. Whenever you depend on reserves to balance the budget there is cause for concern. It will likely be a significant amount of time before the city realizes any additional revenue from an economic rebound. Just as there was a lag in the revaluation of property with regards to property tax revenue loss there will be a delay in the realization of any property tax revenue increases as a result of property value increases. Sales tax and TOT revenue more closely mirror "real time" economic activity but only comprise a small portion of total revenue sources. The city needs to adjust to realistic revenue projections and cut expenses accordingly.

What needs to be done to allow businesses to thrive in SLT?: The city needs to adopt business-friendly regulations and help businesses to comply without unnecessary expense.

What have you done to help South Lake Tahoe be a better community?: I volunteer at my children's schools and I am involved in local sports, clubs, and cooperatives.

What boards, commissions, or other experience do you have?: Prior treasurer at Tahoe Parents Nursery School. I am also very involved with the board of directors at the Tahoe Keys Property Owners' Association and have helped guide them in long range planning and financing of large infrastructure projects including replacement of underground water lines. As controller, I keep separate accounting records for 38 separate funds. I have helped the board come up with long-term funding plans that are realistic and achievable.

Why should voters vote for you over someone else?: I have real world experience in governmental accounting and financing and

long-term funding plans for maintenance and repair of infrastructure. Additionally, I care about the city. I am raising two children here and have no other agenda other than making our city a better place for locals and tourists alike.

BlueGo, the public transit, is mired in lawsuits and bankruptcy. Do we need public transit on the South Shore? If so, how do you propose to make it functional?: Obviously we need public transit. We need to come up with a realistic business model and provide prudent oversight of any transit administrator. We need to work on a revenue plan, including grant funding if at all possible, to reduce taxpayer subsidies. At all times, adequate oversight should be maintained.

Do you support commercial air service at Lake Tahoe Airport? Why or why not?: I support commercial air service without taxpayer subsidies. I don't know if that is a realistic objective and I tend to think that if it was economically feasible, one of the past commercial airliners would still be operating at South Lake Tahoe. The sad reality of the commercial airline business is that they are cutting capacity and flights at almost every airport. Commercial airliners are not in an expansion mode and likely will not be considering South Lake Tahoe without significant subsidies. I could be wrong and I do think that the matter is worth investigating. I do think we should try to market our airport to potential airliners, however, I am skeptical that it can be done without a significant subsidy.

Is there any individual, group or organization you would not take campaign money from? Why?: I haven't taken money from anyone yet. I'm not sure who I would refuse from, but obviously that would be handled on a case by case basis.

Nepotism and favoritism runs rampant in the city when it comes to hiring preferences. The council sets policy. What type of policy would you write regarding nepotism and favoritism?:

Policies are very important and they should be written with the assistance of the city attorney and others with expertise in specific fields. I would probably defer to a labor code specialist when developing a specific hiring policy because many of the issues have legal ramifications. Obviously, nepotism and favoritism within hiring practices need to be addressed. Other issues that also generally need to be evaluated from time to time are procurement procedures as well as procedures for soliciting bids.

Tell us something about yourself that voters don't already know: I like to sing to my kids, even though I am a horrible singer. I will do anything for my kids.

Opinion: Don't let businesses shift costs to public

By Janis R. Hirohama

Proposition 26 is another attempt by the oil, alcohol and tobacco industries to shift onto taxpayers the burden of paying for the pollution and public health impacts of their businesses. It is so broad and so poorly written that it will negatively affect virtually every area of state and local government operations. Conservatives and liberals alike have good reason to oppose Prop. 26.

The business interests behind Prop. 26 want to change the state Constitution so that legitimate fees to mitigate environmental problems, protect public safety or respond to public nuisances would be labeled as "taxes." Defining fees so narrowly that most such fees would become "taxes" means they will require a two-thirds vote of the Legislature or a two-

thirds vote in local elections. It would become virtually impossible to make businesses pay for the costs they impose on taxpayers.

Read the whole story

Janis R. Hirohama is the president of the League of Women Voters of California. For more information, go to www.noonproposition26.com.

Bear sightings in Tahoe just part of living in the woods

By Kathryn Reed

It's the lull before the storm when it comes to bear activity, though Lake Tahoe homeowners who are having their houses broken into might disagree.

Normally this time of year with all the berries, abundance of pine nuts and ripe Manzanita bears have plenty of natural goodies to eat. It often means they are not finding it necessary to search in vehicles or homes for food like they do during the summer.



A bear saunters in

the yard on Sonoma Avenue in South Tahoe in 2009. Photo/Joy Rothschild

However, at the September Meyers Roundtable meeting El Dorado County sheriff's Lt. Les Lovell said one thing keeping deputies busy right now are bear calls.

He suggested people call the department (530.573.3000) if there's a break-in, but if a bear is just wondering by, that is normal, and no need to do anything.

In South Lake Tahoe, a bear hit three houses on Oakland Avenue early one September evening.

Ann Bryant, who runs the BEAR League, recommends people call her nonprofit (530.525.7297) if they are seeing bears more often than they like or if bears are breaking into houses.

"Sometimes it may be a neighbor doing something wrong," Bryant told *Lake Tahoe News*. "We go out and snoop around and determine why a bear is hanging around. We see what we can do to stop it."

Bryant said before the bears tuck themselves in for the winter expect them to be foraging for food practically around the clock. They tend to find dens beginning in mid-November through early January.

Another source for help is Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care at (530) 577.2273.

The new food hero – the farmer

By Julia Read, Newsweek

In 1934, when Gertrude Stein was invited to return to America from Paris to deliver a series of lectures, the thing that troubled her most, according to her companion, Alice B. Toklas, was “the question of the food she would be eating there.” A French friend who’d made a trip to the United States had returned with tales of “very strange” fare, including “tinned vegetable cocktails and tinned fruit salads.” The ladies went anyway and managed to suss out wild rice and “unrivalled T-steaks and soft-shell crabs,” but they were right to be afraid.

The America of 1934 was a place where such “culinary improvements” as processed meats and canned goods were all the rage; chain grocery stores had been introduced 10 years earlier. After World War II, when women poured into the workforce, taste was further sacrificed in the name of “convenience products.” By 1959, things were so bad that A. J. Liebling wrote a piece in The New Yorker railing against processed cheese that wasn’t “cheesy,” lobster tails “frozen as long as the Siberian mammoth,” and synthetic vanilla that wasn’t “vanillary.” I was born a year later, and until my neighbor put in an asparagus bed I had no idea that the gray-green, brine-soaked mush that came from the Green Giant can bore little resemblance to the real thing. It would be many more years before I found out that grocery-store carrots had been bred to have blunt ends so they wouldn’t puncture the plastic bags in which they were shipped.

Read the whole story

Women heed the Call of the Wild

By Kraig Becker, Gadling

With the adventure travel market continuing to grow at an astonishing rate, women only adventures have become an increasingly popular option as well.

These trips generally offer all the same wild and challenging options that any other adventure vacation would, with perhaps a few creature comforts added in for good measure.

One of the top travel companies that specializes in women's only travel is Call of the Wild, based out of Mountain View. The company first began organizing adventure vacations back in 1978 when founder Carole Laitmer was unceremoniously fired from her secretarial job. In order to make ends meet, she soon began organizing guided trips for women into the High Sierra Mountains of California, and the rest is, as they say, history.

Now in its 32nd year of business, Call of the Wild continues to organize some of the best adventurous getaways both domestically and abroad. For instance, some of their upcoming trips include hiking around Lake Tahoe to enjoy the Indian Summer, trekking in the the shadow of Mt. Everest in Nepal, and a weekend of snowshoeing in Sequoia National Park. Other trips will take clients to Peru, New Zealand, Guatemala, and beyond.

Read the whole story

50-seat planes being sent to scrap yards

Publisher's note: ***It's the 50-seat Bombardier jets that South Lake Tahoe officials have said would be perfect for Lake Tahoe Airport if commercial service were to return.***

By Mary Jane Credeur and Mary Schlangenstein, Bloomberg News

The 50-seat jets once prized by carriers such as Delta Air Lines Inc. are being culled from U.S. fleets as higher fuel and maintenance bills make them too expensive to fly.



By 2015, U.S. airlines will have about 200 jets with 50 or fewer seats, down from about 1,200, said Michael Boyd, president of consultant Boyd Group International Inc. More than 80 have been scrapped this year, he said.

"These are litters of aluminum kittens – nobody wants them," Boyd said. Their only value is for recycled metal, he said. "The next stop is the Budweiser factory because that's all they're good for."

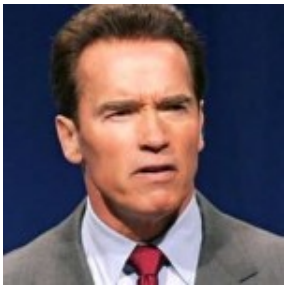
Read the whole story

California reaches deal on long-overdue budget

By Kevin Yamamura, Sacramento Bee

Three months into the state's longest budget impasse, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and legislative leaders reached a handshake deal Friday to close the state's $19 billion deficit, leaders announced after a five-hour meeting.

To bridge the gap, they are relying on about $7.5 billion in spending cuts, as well as delaying a corporate tax deduction and using rosy projections for how much the state will receive in tax revenues and federal dollars, according to sources close to budget talks.



Arnold Schwarzenegger

Standing outside Schwarzenegger's office beside the three other legislative leaders, Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento, said legislators will return to Sacramento next week to finalize their "comprehensive agreement." The Legislature plans to vet the plan in a joint budget committee Wednesday and hold floor votes Thursday.

Read the whole story

Lakeview Commons hearing delayed

The hearing scheduled for Oct. 1 in El Dorado County Superior Court regarding the future of the Lakeview Commons project in South Lake Tahoe has been postponed to Oct. 4.

Nancy Garrido pleads not guilty to indictment charges

By Sam Stanton, Sacramento Bee

Using secret testimony from kidnap victim Jaycee Lee Dugard, prosecutors today unveiled a new 18-count indictment charging Phillip and Nancy Garrido with abducting Dugard in 1991, when she was 11.

Nancy Garrido was arraigned and pleaded not guilty to the new charges, which were handed up by an El Dorado County grand jury on Sept. 21. But Phillip Garrido, who has had criminal proceedings against him suspended while the court assesses his mental competency to stand trial, did not enter a plea because of questions over whether he could be arraigned.

Judge Douglas Phimister called attorneys to return to court Nov. 4 to address the issue of whether Garrido would enter a plea or have the judge enter one for him.

Read the whole story



Phillip and Nancy Garrido