North Shore artist to exhibit work in Kings Beach

The art of longtime local artist Pat Edwards comes to the North Tahoe Event Center on Oct. 5 and will remain in the center until Jan. 4.

To celebrate this exhibit and allow the public an opportunity to meet the artist, a reception will be on Oct. 5th from 5:30–7:30pm at the North Tahoe Event Center in Kings Beach.

Edwards' exhibit is an array of landscapes scenes, some of people, and others of Tahoe in her different moods with a mix of pastels, some acrylics, photos and mixed media.

Edwards has lived in North Lake Tahoe since she was 9. She works in oils, pastels, acrylics, mixed media and china painting as well as being an accomplished ceramicist working in clay, handbuilding, Raku and utilizing ceramic pieces as though they were canvases. Currently her focus is on painting in different mediums and has been plein air painting, painting outdoors in the changing lights and weathers, with several other artists in the area.

Since early childhood Edwards has loved expression through art, feeling that art is a way people can be healed from emotional trauma in their lives and loves the joy that comes when a piece is completed and accomplished what a person wanted to show.

The public is invited to come into center during normal business hours to view the art on display at no charge.

Weddings down, poverty up in Nevada

By Frank X. Mullen Jr., Reno Gazette-Journal

Nevada, which leads the nation in both home foreclosures and the percentage of its residents unemployed, also is at the forefront of a national decrease in marriages and a record boom in food stamp recipients, according to the latest census updates.

The economic slump is being blamed for the number of American marriages sinking to their lowest ebb in 100 years and for more families receiving food stamps than ever before.

Washoe County, where marriage became big business in the 1930s, has lost its popularity as a hitching post. With U.S. weddings at an all-time low, the number of people tying the knot in Washoe County has dropped 64 percent in 30 years, according to the county clerk's office.

"Marriage licenses are way, way down," said Karen Erickson, marriage division supervisor, who said the number of licenses issued annually in the county dropped by 6,479 in the last four years alone. At the county's wedding peak in 1978, the clerk's office reported, 36,794 marriage licenses were issued as compared to 10,264 licenses issued last year.

Read the whole story

Training for El Dorado County CASA workers

Many children in South Lake Tahoe need a special “voice”. These are children who have been abused or neglected and have not had a voice to speak for their own safety and needs. The South Lake Tahoe branch of CASA El Dorado County is offering a fall training class this month for adults interested in becoming a volunteer advocate and a powerful voice in Court for children.

An informational meeting is set for Oct. 4 from 3-4pm at the El Dorado County Superior Courthouse conference room – 1354 Johnson Blvd., South Lake Tahoe.

CASA volunteers are appointed by a judge and advocate for a child’s best interest in court. Many of these children have been removed from their homes and are placed in foster care. The CASA volunteer is often the only consistent person in their life during a traumatic time, serving as an advocate, a mentor, and a friend. CASA volunteers are truly making a difference in the lives of children every day.

Call Kelly Edmundson or Amanda Morozumi at (530) 573.3072 for more information and to sign up for the fall training.

Controlled burns for 2 months in Nevada backcountry

The Nevada Division of Forestry will be conducting controlled burns at Tunnel Creek in the Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park

backcountry throughout October and November.

The Tunnel Creek road, from Highway 28 to Tunnel Creek Station, may be closed in order to conduct the burns. Signs will be posted throughout the area when burns are being conducted. Nearly 100 acres will be treated in 15 phases.

The burns are part of ongoing fuels treatment and forest restoration efforts in the Lake Tahoe area.

The Tunnel Creek burns are being conducted by the Nevada Division of Forestry in cooperation with the Division of State Parks and Division of State Lands.

Contact Robert Gregg at (775) 684.2720 for additional information.

Kubby: begin by tearing down the excessive regulations

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: Steve Kubby

Age: 63

How long have you lived in South Lake Tahoe?: One year in South Lake Tahoe, but 15 years in Northstar and five years in Squaw Valley.

Job/profession: CEO of KPAL, a biotech research firm.

Previously, editor and publisher of Ski West magazine.



Steve Kubby

What would you build or tear down on the South Shore to make it great, as in what Whistler is like?: Aspen Ski Corp chose to go outside the U.S. and develop Whistler because there are fewer regulations and a lot less red tape in Canada. If we want something as grand as Whistler, we have to begin by tearing down the excessive regulations here in Tahoe. However, the only way we could actually become as desirable a destination as Whistler would be if Heavenly built a peak-to-peak gondola to Freel Peak. Right now, Whistler delivers an astonishing variety of alpine bowls, chutes and cliffs that is missing from the Heavenly experience. Opening Freel Peak would draw skiers from around the planet and provide Whistler with serious competition.

What form of recreation do you participate in? What recreation improvements would you strive to make in SLT?: I'm a skier, fitness fanatic and father. Unfortunately, there are few areas dedicated to kids, and we still don't have improvements such as the athletic fields that were paid for in past bond measures. So the place to begin is to find out why the athletic fields we were promised were never built.

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?: We can't have a world-class resort destination if our roads and paths are like something from the Third World. Fixing our substandard, dangerous bike paths and lanes and roads should be a major priority for the City Council, not an afterthought. If I am elected to City Council, I will enthusiastically support programs to fix these issues as quickly as possible.

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?: Recently, a local paper published a compelling narrative about the bombing of Harvey's casino 30 years ago. As horrific as that bombing was, the South Lake Tahoe City Council has inflicted an even more devastating event that destroyed 44 businesses, demolished 577 rooms, left a 12-acre crater of decaying concrete, and has saddled the city with several serious lawsuits, all done in the name of redevelopment.

That enormous crater, euphemistically called "The Hole," has been here for three years and shows little hope of going away soon.

Next, we have the huge crater left by the scathing report on our City Council, by the 19 distinguished members of the El Dorado Grand Jury. This report blasted the City Council as "dysfunctional" and concluded with a stern warning: "This Grand Jury is of the opinion that an accusation for malfeasance or nonfeasance by this City Council may be appropriate."

As if these two craters aren't bad enough, there is yet another huge crater we must deal with: the $3 million a year crater in our budget. Fixing these three craters won't be easy, but I won't be afraid to tackle these critical issues and do whatever is necessary to deal directly and honestly with finding solutions.

What compelling idea have you read in the citizens' input of the revamped, in-progress update of the city's General Plan?: Unfortunately, the city's General Plan is irrelevant and, except for the dog park, ill-conceived. I've read the General Plan and it is a well-intentioned recipe for economic disaster. The city of South Lake Tahoe can't even operate a parking garage without losing over $160,000 last year, yet its elected officials want to create a centrally planned economy, not unlike the former Soviet Union.

Even worse has been the blowback from the past actions of the City Council, which resulted in so much uncertainty and intimidation that local businesses are reluctant to invest in upgrading their properties. Until confidence is restored, we will be frozen in functionally obsolete infrastructure.

I suggest a good way to begin is to torch the General Plan and start over with something that 1) we can actually afford, and 2) will actually work.

How do you plan to boost revenue in SLT?: Now that the gaming industry is struggling to deal with the impact of Indian casinos, we obviously need a new draw. Fortunately, our city has three world-class medical marijuana dispensaries that can make the difference when it comes to destination resort choices. There are millions of qualified medical cannabis patients who don't want to smuggle their medicine on a plane, or to be forced to buy from strangers once they arrive at their destination. For these patients, many of who are regular people with families, the opportunity to visit a safe, well run dispensary by coming to South Lake Tahoe is a hugely important consideration. Frankly, if SLT can tolerate casinos, it shouldn't be that big a stretch to accept legal cannabis dispensaries as well.

What stands out to you in the 2010-11 budget?: We've dodged the budget bullet for the last time. There is a structural deficit of about $3 million and so far we've been using our

reserve accounts to patch the hole. Unfortunately, the reserve accounts are exhausted and there is no plan for covering this deficit next year or for years to come.

What needs to be done to allow businesses to thrive in SLT?: I believe we need to do two things to create a better business environment.

First, we need to slash the red tape and burdensome regulations that make it nearly impossible for businesses to do anything in this city. Our current city regulations make a pile nearly six inches tall. We need to torch 75 percent of those regulations and then make sure we uniformly enforce the rules that are left.

Second, we need to take back local control from the TRPA. While we all agree and support the importance of maintaining our lake's clarity, and while we accept the federal jurisdiction for navigable bodies of water such as Lake Tahoe, it is time to question the authority of the TRPA to operate within South Lake Tahoe's city limits. I don't believe a federal agency of mostly appointed officials has the constitutional authority to supersede, modify, or dictate to our city's elected officials what we can and cannot do, so long as we conform to California state law. The TRPA may be a noble idea, but it is exceeding its constitutional authority and it is causing more harm than good.

What have you done to help South Lake Tahoe be a better community?: While on the Northstar board I found Placer County reserve accounts for snow removal that we didn't need and converted the funds to fix all of our potholes and pave all of our streets, all from the county's financial reserves. We urgently need to do the same here and I look forward to making it happen.

Since moving to South Lake Tahoe, I've been a staunch defender of our dispensaries and home medical cannabis gardens. I've

spoken out against the bogus claim that a cannabis tolerant policy toward dispensaries and home gardens will result in more teen use of marijuana. Such assertions are proved false by studies conducted by the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs. Studies by the state found that since the passage of Prop. 215, the number of ninth-graders reporting marijuana use in the last 30 days has declined by 47 percent. The answer is clear: if you want to increase teen drug use and make gangs and thugs wealthy, then ban the dispensaries. However, if you are genuinely committed to reducing teen use then you must encourage the creation of a safe, well-regulated program to support our dispensaries, as well as the patients who grow for themselves and for their collectives.

What boards, commissions, or other experience do you have?: I have been elected to and served on the Northstar Homeowners Board, as well as the treasure of the Northstar Ski Trails Condominium Association. I also served as a member and fundraiser for the Northstar Ski Team, as well as chairman of the annual Northstar Fire Department, Pancake Breakfast.

Why should voters vote for you over someone else?: Don’t think of this as just a campaign to elect me to City Council. No, listen to me: we’re here to make history. Beginning right here in South Lake Tahoe, we will redefine politics in a revolutionary return to common sense and smaller government. We are going to force government to become our servant, not our master. That’s how to think of this.

BlueGo, our 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?: Sadly, results don’t lie. Despite a dedicated and heroic effort by the BlueGo folks, mass transit has failed here and there isn’t any public money left to save it. The only hope left is for a private company to step in and try to make it work with their own funding.

If a private transportation company can't foresee making a profit from public transit in South Lake Tahoe, then the City shouldn't pretend that we can operate a public transit system successfully.

Do you support commercial air service at Lake Tahoe Airport? Why or why not?: I've spoken to the airport manager, who told me that his biggest problem is excessive regulations. So the first step in bringing profitable airline service to South Lake Tahoe is to reduce the role of local government in limiting airport operations. The City Council needs to get out of the airport business and let the private sector take over the operations and funding.

On the other hand, I'm opposed to nighttime take-offs and landings because of aviation noise when most folks are trying to sleep. Here is where I support regulations that set clear limits on noise.

Is there any individual, group or organization you would not take campaign money from? Why?: I've already turned down money from folks who grow marijuana illegally. Our medical marijuana laws are being abused by gangs and outlaws that hide behind the law, which is unacceptable. One of the biggest reasons I support our local dispensaries is that they make illegal growing unprofitable. If Prop. 19 passes, then we will be into a new reality. Until then, if you grow or sell marijuana illegally, don't try to give me money and don't expect any sympathy from me.

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?: Nepotism and favoritism have no place in our local government. Considering the "dysfunctional" evaluation of the City Council, an official finding by 19 distinguished members of the County Grand Jury, the City Council must address any appearance of unethical or questionable behavior. We need to

set new policy and stick to it.

However, I would not favor firing any current employees simply because they are related, unless there is a clear reason to suspect a conflict of interest.

You have run for governor and president, why do you think the outcome will be different this time?: I ran for governor to counter the dishonest statements that Attorney General Dan Lungren made about medical marijuana, who was running against Gray Davis for governor. I ran for president because my fellow Libertarians asked me to.

Although nobody expected me to win those races, I'm certain that I have the right experience and the revolutionary common-sense ideas to make South Lake Tahoe an economic success story that other cities will emulate. That's why I believe I can win this time: I'm the right candidate for the job.

You are called a one-issue candidate, with marijuana being that issue, how do respond to that statement?: My campaign is no more about marijuana than the Boston Tea Party was about tea. No, this campaign is all about freedom and forcing the government to keep its unwelcome nose out of our lives and businesses.

I have extensive experience as a successful ski magazine publisher, with 20 years in the Lake Tahoe area, and plenty of experience working with tourist bureaus. As a result, I understand why tourists come here and what it takes to make them come back.

In addition, my job as a CEO of a biotech firm demands that I have a good head for business, something the current insolvent City Council desperately needs.

Can you tell voters about your arrests and any time you served in jail?: After the passage of Prop. 215, those of us who led the campaign to legalize the medical use of marijuana were

targeted by law enforcement for raids and arrests.

I was arrested for upholding a law I helped to write and pass, as part of an effort to discredit medical marijuana and its leaders. Although the marijuana charges against me were dismissed, I was temporarily convicted for some tiny fragments of a psilocybin mushroom and peyote cactus found in our guest bedroom.

That conviction was later "dismissed in the interests of justice" by Superior Court Judge David Nelson, on July 3, 2008, in Mendocino County. During the 40 days I was forced to spend in jail for something that was later dismissed, Placer County Sheriff Ed Bonner visited me at the jail and apologized for what was being done to me.

Also, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed a resolution calling for my release. The entire experience opened my eyes to the incompetence and corruption that exists throughout our police and courts. I've spent the bigger and better part of my life fighting to protect the rights of my fellow Californians, and I intend to continue doing so as a member of South Lake Tahoe's City Council.

Tell us something about yourself that voters don't already know: In 1991, I was invited by the Navy to do a story about advanced military aircraft and tactics. I was issued a special top security clearance and given training that allowed me to actually fly a fully tweaked F5, one of the world's most agile military jets.

While at the controls, I broke the sound barrier and exceeded 7 G's. What is it like to pilot an aircraft that is so powerful you can break the sound barrier during vertical ascent? It is the ultimate adrenaline rush, with an exhilarating sense of total freedom and breathtaking views from the knees up.

The only limiting factor is how much punishment your body is

able to withstand. As a result of the severe effects of pulling 7 G's, I got airsick. Afterward, the Top Gun Instructors assigned me my official Top Gun call sign, "Chunks."

Opinion: Stop imposing 'fees' that are really taxes

By Juri McCorkle

State and local politicians are using a loophole in the law to raise taxes by disguising them as "fees" – circumventing constitutional requirements for passing taxes on goods like food, gas, beverages, cell phones and even emergency services. These hidden taxes add billions of dollars in higher costs that consumers, taxpayers and small businesses pay every day.

Proposition 26 would close this loophole. It would protect taxpayers against efforts by local politicians and the state Legislature to increase taxes by disguising them as fees. Prop. 26 would require tax-like fees to be treated like taxes, requiring voter approval for local fees and a two-thirds vote of the Legislature for state fees.

Under Prop. 26, legitimate fees – those that cover the cost of a service – can still be passed with a majority vote of the Legislature or be approved by local officials. Fees for things like driver's or fishing licenses or penalties for violating the law would still be considered fees under Prop. 26.

Read the whole story

Juri McCorkle is an owner of the Dell'uva Restaurant in San

Francisco.

1-day document shredding in South Tahoe

Have you been looking for a way to safely dispose of those boxes of personal information stored in your garage or closet? Want a quick and secure way to prevent identity theft by shredding mail and documents?

The Teen Enterprise program at Boys and Girls Club of Lake Tahoe is hosting a Community Shred Day on Oct. 15, from am to 5pm at 1100 Lyons Ave., South Lake Tahoe.

Shred old tax returns, bank statements, credit card statements, old checks and anything else a thief can use to steal your identity. A secure and mobile truck will be at the club that shreds everything on site. Teen Enterprise will also come to your home or office and pick up boxes at no extra charge.

Prices start at $10 per box with discounts for large quantities. Businesses are welcome.

All requests and payments for shredding must be made before the day of the event in order to best plan the shredding truck size.

To reserve your spot now, visit www.bgclt.org and get the request form under “News and Events.”

For more information, contact Paula Peterson at (530) 542.0838 or email ppeterson@bgclt.org.

Wild game chef to explain how to cook the meat perfectly

By Kristi Buffo

PLACERVILLE – How long should you dry-age your elk meat? What size pieces of meat should you use? How much time for deer versus elk versus other game?

Chef John McGannon has made it his life's work to answer questions like these.

"Good hunters are usually people who want to know the whys behind what they see and hear in the field. It's the same with good cooks," says McGannon, who will be sharing his 35 years of knowledge about wild game cuisine during a presentation at the fairgrounds in Placerville this weekend. He's one a couple dozen top outdoor guides and experts participating in the first annual Gateway to the Sierra's Sportsman's & Outdoor Expo, Oct. 1–3.

"If you've ever wondered why your prize meat is gamey or tough, why your meat appears burned and haggard after a few months in the deep freeze or why specific cuts of meat are best suited for different cooking techniques, you're not alone," says McGannon. "As someone who craves the autumn ritual of heading into the hills in search of nature's bounty–and has an equal passion for the culinary result of all that great hard work – I've made it my business to learn the answers to those whys."

An author and television host on the Outdoor Life Network, McGannon is widely recognized as one of the leading authorities on fine wild game cuisine and has achieved an

almost cult-like status among the fishing and hunting community. In 1996, he founded Wildeats Enterprises, a food company providing wild game spices, rubs, tips and recipes. He’s a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America and worked his way through some of New York’s finest restaurant, such as Le Perigord on Manhattan’s East Side and the historic Doros in San Francisco. McGannon went on to open 13 restaurants of his own in New York, Florida, Los Angeles, Hong Kong and San Francisco. He has an impressive list of personal clients and has served eleven times as executive chef for Valley of the Moon at the Russian River’s exclusive Bohemian Grove.

McGannon will be hosting a booth at the expo today through Sunday, and will present a demonstration entitled “Getting the Most of Your Wild Game Harvests” on today at 2pm and Oct. 2at 3pm. Guests will be treated to an assortment of wild game tastings.

Emotional Freedom Technique class for caregivers

Being a caregiver is a huge part of your life, often with emotional highs and lows. Learn a powerful acupressure technique called Emotional Freedom Technique that can help you lower your fears, balance your emotions and keep you healthy.

In a safe setting discuss the challenges you face as a caregiver and practice ways of dealing with these challenges. This workshop will include a PowerPoint presentation, demonstration, supervised practice and handouts.

This workshop will be presented by Rosemary Manning. As a

resident of South Lake Tahoe for more than 30 years, Manning is a mind-body therapist, practicing at her clinic, Tahoe Health Touch.

Date: Oct. 18

Time: 1-3pm

Location: Embassy Suites, 4130 Lake Tahoe Blvd.,

South Lake Tahoe

To register, call: 800.510.2020

Drum performance at MontBleu

Liz Broscoe's DURGA – a journey on the drum from ancient times to modern day – is Oct. 8 at 7pm at MontBleu in Stateline.



It is sponsored by Tahoe Arts Project.

Cost is $10 for adults; $5 for children and seniors.

For more information, call (530) 542.3632.