Airport axed from South Tahoe redevelopment area

Updated Aug. 16, 2010, at 12:18pm.

By Kathryn Reed

South Lake Tahoe and El Dorado County officials have resolved their differences regarding redevelopment.

The City Council, acting as the Redevelopment Agency, had a special meeting at 4:30pm Friday to approve the agreement. The vote was 3-0, with Councilman Bill Crawford leaving before the vote and Councilman Hal Cole recusing himself.

Crawford left after Councilman Bruce Grego decided to have a special one-on-one with City Attorney Patrick Enright after coming out of closed session and going into open session.

The Board of Supervisors voted 5-0 on Aug. 16 to sign the agreement.



Lake Tahoe Airport will not be part of the city's newest redevelopment area. Photo/Kathryn Reed

It has been agreed by both sides to remove Lake Tahoe Airport from the redevelopment area known as area No. 2. Also being removed are seven parcels the county owns along Julie Lane.

Two parcels on the eastern edge of the airport near Kyburz Street will remain in the redevelopment area. This is because one day the city would like to develop it into a business park.

The need for a formal agreement instead of just having the city change its document is so the county has leverage if a future council were to want to add the airport back in.

This means the county will not be suing the city.

Small plane crashes near Emigrant Gap

By Cathy Locke, Sacramento Bee

The Placer County Sheriff's Department is working to identify two people who were found dead this afternoon inside a crashed airplane near Emigrant Gap.

The plane, a single-engine Piper Cherokee Arrow, initially was believed to have departed from Watsonville for Auburn, but a Federal Aviation spokesman said later information indicated the pilot had departed from Auburn. His intended destination is not known.

The FAA's online registry identifies the registered owner as Monterey Bay Aviation Inc. of Wastsonville, which does business as United Flight. A representative of the firm could not be reached for comment.

Read the whole story

Budget stalement ties up billions of dollars in Caltrans work

By Tony Bizjak, Sacramento Bee

State highway officials said Wednesday they may be forced to slow or halt more than $3 billion worth of road projects statewide – including several in the Sacramento area – if the state budget is not passed by September.

Several planned projects already have been placed on hold pending budget impasse resolution, state Department of Transportation officials said.

Read the whole story

Trail building along Tahoe Rim Trail

Join the Tahoe Rim Trail Association for volunteer trail building workdays on the Daggett Summit Trail System Project.

Workdays are Tuesdays and Saturdays 9am to 4pm from now until mid-October.

Learn new skills, meet likeminded trail enthusiasts, and give back to your community by joining a volunteer trail crew! Volunteers of all skill levels and ages are welcome—no prior experience necessary. Groups are welcome to participate.

To join a volunteer work crew, register online at www.tahoerimtrail.org or contact Amanda at (775) 298.0239 trails@tahoerimtrail.org. Register so we will have tools and crew leaders.

This is the second trail building season of the multi-year Daggett Summit project, which will connect the Tahoe Rim Trail (TRT) with the Van Sickle State Park, re-route the TRT off of paved roads, and provide stunning views of Lake Tahoe to more people. Last year we built 3.8 miles of new trail; however we still have more than 9 miles to go.

Volunteers should bring their own lunch, water, sunscreen, bug spray, and backpack. Volunteers must wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants, boots, & work gloves. The Tahoe Rim Trail Association will provide hard hats, trail building tools and expert crew leaders.

Trail Building Workdays:

Aug. 14 at end of South Benjamin Drive, Kingsbury

Aug. 17 at end of South Benjamin Drive, Kingsbury

Aug. 21 at Kingsbury South Trailhead, Kingsbury

Aug. 28 at end of South Benjamin Drive, Kingsbury

Aug. 31 at end of South Benjamin Drive, Kingsbury

Workshop for working women

The North Lake Tahoe Chamber of Commerce and the Truckee Donner Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the Sierra Human Resources Association are offering “Get In the Zone: A Workshop for Working Women” on Aug. 18 from 8am to 12:30pm at Granlibakken Conference Center & Lodge, 725 Granlibakken Road in Tahoe City.

The workshop is geared to strengthen participants’ sense of purpose in their work and align them with the needs of their organization or chosen career and life. It will also provide attendees with take-away tactics for career advancement and life enrichment, including a self-assessment connecting to what gets them in the zone, powerful decision-making tools, help in getting unstuck with a better sense of focus and ability to concentrate, along with networking skills and best self introductions.

The speakers are President Laura Moriarty of Tahoe Training Partners, a seasoned human resources executive, nationally known corporate trainer and frequent present of SHRA workshops, as well as Cathy Norris of Live Your Passionate Life.

Registration is $69 for North Lake Tahoe Chamber of Commerce and SHRA members and $79 for non-members. Seating is limited.

To register and for more information about the workshop, call Moriarty at (530) 573.0224 or North Lake Tahoe Chamber of Commerce Manger Kym Fabel at (530) 581.8764. Attendees can also register online at www.sierrahra.com.

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



• Guy Lease, former president of Lake Tahoe Community College, has been hired as interim president for Las Positas College in Livermore.

• Terri Thomas has resigned from the Fallen Leaf Lake Community Services District board. More Fallen Leaf news – the state has questions about voter fraud. Click letter to find out about that.

• Ghost Walk Tours are a spooky way to relive Carson City's Victorian Era. Madame Curry, one of the city's founding ladies, comes to life to lead guided walking tours of the downtown district's historic homes Aug. 21 and Sept. 25. Tour departs at 7pm from the Firkin & Fox Pub on 3rd and Curry streets. Tickets are $15 in advance or $20 at the door. (775) 687.7410

• Wild turkeys in Nevada have been granted a pardon of sorts this year by the board of Wildlife Commissioners. Because of the dwindling number of birds there will be no hunting season this year.

• Scott Clarkson is VP of marketing and sales at Squaw Valley.

• Lake Tahoe Community College has secured the rights to "Chicago" – which will be the spring 2011 musical.

Natural landscaping advice, financial incentives

It’s possible to be a good steward of the Truckee River and have a beautifully landscaped property, according to Robie Litchfield, a landscape architect, who serves on an advisory committee for the Truckee River Watershed Council.

Litchfield, of Truckee’s L&P DesignWorks, says many people believe gravel is the only remedy for eroding slopes. However, there are plenty of attractive ground cover materials that can also be used locally to reduce soil erosion, which eventually makes its way into the Truckee River. This fine sediment reduces clarity and is a form of pollution.



Jake Hudson recommends erosion control best practices measures to Andy Otto. Photo/Talia Henderson/TH Multimedia

“Low profile grasses, wildflowers, perennial and ground covers under 18 inches in height, as well as turf, are acceptable means of soil stabilization, while not compromising defensible

space," Litchfield said in a press release.

She notes that some adapt better to typical Truckee weather cycles and others are less water thrifty.

Fortunately for many Truckee homeowners the voluntary program River Friendly Landscaping provides not only free soil erosion advice, but in some cases financial assistance and incentives. Many of our town's residents have the pleasure of living close to magnificent bodies of water such as Donner Lake, the Truckee River, and Donner and Alder creeks. The Truckee River Watershed Council and the Sierra Nevada Alliance have combined efforts to launch a campaign, which aims to reach local homeowners with landscaping advice to remedy the negative impact these parcels have on our region's water quality.

Properties of special interest include homes on steep slopes, sites with highly compacted soil, and homes that are close to surface water. There are four identified neighborhoods: north shore of Donner Lake, Tahoe Donner, and the Truckee River corridor in Placer County, and along East and West River streets. Site evaluations will be given on a first-come, first-serve basis. While any homeowner within the Truckee River watershed can participate in the program, homes in the focus areas will be given priority.

Interested property owners are encouraged to call (530) 550.8760, ext. 3 to schedule a free site evaluation. Based upon the assessment, an engineering consultant will design a plan with erosion control recommendations, free of charge. When the project is completed, River Friendly Landscaping staffers will once again visit the property. Unlike Truckee's counterparts who live in the Tahoe Basin, where such requirements are mandatory, this program is implemented on a strictly volunteer basis. Acting as a good steward of our area is a powerful incentive to sign up for the program, however there are additional perks.

An added bonus is that upon completion, the homeowner will be eligible for up to a $400 rebate for materials and labor costs. Besides the joy of helping to protect the water quality of the Truckee River – an important local asset – homeowners are eligible for additional incentives. Each month, two homeowners who voluntarily implement the erosion control measures will receive two Reno Aces tickets.

The River Friendly Landscaping program is a joint project by the Truckee River Watershed Council and the Sierra Nevada Alliance. The program has been funded by the California through the state Water Resources Control Board.

Homeowners are also eligible to receive a complimentary full-color guide to landscaping in the Sierra Nevada. Published by the Sierra Nevada Alliance the 160-page manual offers great landscaping inspiration with dozens of photographs and how-to tips.

Feast in the Field dinner blends regional food and wine

Four distinguished wineries – Chalk Hill Estate, Kuleto Estate, Three Rivers and Sebastiani – are on board for the Shaw Family Farm's Feast in the Field dinner, slated for Aug. 21 in Truckee.



A portion of the event's proceeds will go to support Slow Food Lake Tahoe, a grassroots movement that links the pleasure of food with the commitment to community and the environment.

Three of the wineries are Northern California natives and one comes from an up and coming Washington wine region.

“Winery representatives will be present at the event to share the passions and inspirations behind the varietals selected,” explained event organizer Scott Corridan, adding that wine will be available for purchase, as well as wine club memberships.

The evening commences with a 4pm wine reception and tour of the Shaw Family Farm in Glenshire. Guests will then proceed to a dinner featuring a selection of seasonal and farm grown specialties, prepared by Barbara Mills of Back of the House Catering, which will be paired with selections from the above four wineries.

Tickets are $150 per person and include a four-course dinner served in the Pine Meadows followed by dessert and dancing.

Feast in the Field takes place at the Shaw Family Farm located in Glenshire at 12654 Samuel Drive, Truckee. For more menu details or to purchase tickets, call (530) 550.2252.

Water bond delay – right decision, wrong reasons

Publisher’s note: ***This editorial is from the Aug. 11, 2010, Orange County Register.***

State legislators have decided to delay for two years a ballot measuring asking voters to approve an $11 billion bond to pay for water improvements – and a lot of pork, including a golf course, parks and Lake Tahoe water taxis. Proposition 18 was

to appear on the November ballot. But, as the Sacramento Bee reported, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and legislators were "concerned voters will reject it" because of the state's $19 billion budget deficit and a struggling economy.

We're pleased to see Sacramento do the right thing, if for the wrong reasons. The water bond boondoggle was rife with payoffs to local constituencies added in order to win enough votes in the state Senate and Assembly to put the issue on the ballot. Those projects had little, if anything, to do with meeting the state's water needs.

Backers also lost momentum when the state's three-year drought ended amid late-spring storms covering the Sierra with snow, nearly filling the state's largest reservoir and dumping above-average rainfall on California.

We're unsurprised that the best reason to remove the water bond from the ballot wasn't among those cited by its backers. California taxpayers would have been on the hook for about $800 million a year from the state's general fund to pay on the bonds.

It borders on ludicrous that a government already $19 billion in the red would assume yet another $11 billion debt. That legislators and the governor were willing to borrow more when they couldn't even pay off their ongoing expenses explains how California got in this $19-billion hole.

Read the whole story

Moore about to call it quits at South Tahoe Parks and Rec

By Kathryn Reed

Gary Moore is ready to redefine recreation.

South Lake Tahoe's director of Parks and Recreation is retiring Oct. 1. His wife, Angela, is retiring the day before as manager of the infusion center at Barton Memorial Hospital. Travel is a big part of their plans – and recreating.

Tahoe will always be home even if they spend a bit more time in Angela's native New Zealand. But no longer will either have to ask for time off or worry about work while away.



Gary Moore is sprinting toward retirement. Photo/Kathryn Reed

Though only 56-years-old, Moore is practically an institution in the department. He started full time with the city rec department June 2, 1975. Prior to that he spent three summers lifeguarding at El Dorado, Regan, Ski and Connolly beaches.

Although the city was incorporated in 1965, parks and rec wasn't part of the plan at the beginning. Keith Gottschlak was

the initial director in 1971 when the department got its first facility. El Dorado County leased Campground by the Lake to the city that year.

Moore started the same month the recreation complex opened its doors. Before that the department rented space from the U.S. Forest Service when its offices were on Tata Lane.

“We were the first wave of professionals brought into the department,” Moore said of he and the four young guys who were hired. With his bachelor’s in recreation administration from San Diego State University and a master’s in the same subject from CSU Sacramento, he thought Tahoe would be a stepping-stone to another job. It was – and several times. Only he never left the department.

When Moore started his career, parks and recreation had been around a while, but the ‘70s is when it began to boom, and cities saw the need to acquire open space and initiate more innovative programs.

For the past four years he has been at the helm of the department. Prior to his ascension, he was superintendent of the recreation side. For about a decade the department didn’t have a director, it had superintendents – one over recreation, one over parks.

City Manager Tony O’Rourke said his initial reaction is to hire a director. He’s heard he has big shoes to fill with Moore’s departure. A changing of the guard had nothing to do with Moore’s decision to leave. It was just time.

“We like the direction right now that Lake Tahoe and South Lake Tahoe is going. Finally, the bell went off that we have this big blue thing out there,” Moore said. “We are now saying we are a recreation paradise, guys.”

He likes that his department is part of the greater effort of defining how Lake Tahoe will prosper in the future.

A life of recreation

Moore has done it all in his 35 years with the department. He's scrubbed toilets at the campground, he ran the Senior Center, oversaw the ice rink, has been at Bijou Golf Course.

His fingerprints are on just about everything that involves recreation in South Lake Tahoe.

"Times change. You try to look at the crystal ball and find trends. We don't say, 'We don't do that'," Moore said. "I have more ideas than I know what to do with."

He admits his eyebrows have been raised at times by some of the suggestions that have been brought to his department. Disc golf was the community's idea.

"They walk in and say can we do disc golf at the park," Moore recalls. "We said, 'What's that?'"

Trash can lids were the early baskets.

It was more recent that a group of women approached him about having a roller derby rink at Bijou Community Park. The department went with it.

When the City Council wanted a dog park, it was parks and rec that went to work.

The department has branched out into interpretive services with Explore Tahoe near Stateline.

Moore credits his father, good mentors, an incredible staff and the will of councils for the department's success.

His background was traditional sports – football, basketball and baseball. It was his dad who told him, "Get off the tree trunk and get out on the limbs" when it comes to thinking about possibilities.

With the groundbreaking of Lakeview Commons earlier this

month, Moore is excited about the direction the city as well as the department is going. After all, El Dorado Beach is part of his jurisdiction.

Leaving an impression

From a department of about a half dozen employees when Moore started, he now oversees 225 workers in full season who work in nine divisions.

The length of time people stay in parks and rec is a testament to the cohesive working atmosphere, one of openness and respect that Moore has fostered.

“He is real accessible to the employees. Everyone has appreciated that,” said John Collins, who runs the senior center. “When I came back to the senior center it was tough because everyone was sad to see him go.”

Moore and Collins have worked together for 30 years, with Moore starting out as his boss. Collins likes that Moore has knowledge about all areas of the department, that he isn’t afraid to get his hands dirty.

Greg Ross, who runs Bijou Golf Course, has also worked with Moore for about 30 years.

For those who know Moore, they know not to stand close. His hands are never stationary.

“You need your defensible space around him,” is how Ross describes it.

Steve Weiss, who retired as superintendent of parks in 2006, has told a story to others about he and Moore driving to Sacramento. Moore was the passenger. By the time they got back to Tahoe, Weiss’ shoulder was bruised from Moore’s gesturing.

“He is hard to capture in a sentence or two. His personality is what you remember,” Ross said.