Fishing Derby at Sawmill Pond

The annual Sawmill Pond Kids’ Fishing Derby is June 5 from 8am to noon.

All kids under 14 are welcome to participate in the free derby. If you don’t have a fishing pole, the guides from Tahoe Fly Fishing Outfitters will have some loaners.

No lures can be used during the derby. In addition to the fishing derby, the Optimist Club will provide barbecue hot dogs and refreshments.

Note to Parents: If you’d like to donate prizes or volunteer to help, contact Mac-the-Naw at (775) 267.9722 or Victor Babbitt at the Tahoe Fly fishing Outfitters at (530) 541.8208.

Sawmill Pond is at the corner of Sawmill Road and Lake Tahoe Boulevard in South Lake Tahoe.

Cycling events in Carson Valley

Tour of the Carson Valley – Barbecue & Ice Cream Social is a historic bicycle tour for all abilities in Carson Valley hits the road June 27. Pedal back in time on optional mileage routes taking recreational bicyclists along the eastern foot of the Sierra Nevada Mountains on former Pioneer, Pony Express, Stagecoach & Emigrant Wagon roadways.

The start-finish for the fully supported ride is the Mormon Station State Park in historic Genoa, and ride options include a 12 mile Family Fun Ride, 20 mile Bike/Hike Tour and a 44

mile Tour of the Carson Valley. All registered bicyclists will receive a Carson Valley Welcome Packet, event number, T-shirt and water bottle, food/snack & beverage at rest stops, technical support at the Start/Finish as well as on the course, SAG Support, and the after ride Barbecue lunch, sponsored by Tahoe Ridge Winery, Marketplace & Bistro, ice cream courtesy of Tahoe Creamery & live entertainment from Class Act.

Event sponsors include Big Daddy's Bicycle & Fitness, Bike Habitat and CV Sports, along with the Carson Valley Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Authority. The Tour of the Carson Valley is produced by TGFT Productions/Bike the West, one of the most experienced bicycling event production companies in the country that has been producing quality bicycling events in Nevada and the surrounding Lake Tahoe area since 1984.

Information and on line secure reservations are available at www.bikethewest.com, and for your visit during the TOTCV Bike ride or any other time of year, Carson Valley offers a variety of lodging and recreational activities for your enjoyment.

To learn more about Northern Nevada's Carson Valley, visit the Carson Valley Visitors Authority website at www.visitcarsonvalley.org or call 800.727.7677.

Winemaker dinner at Hyatt Lake Tahoe

What: Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe Resort Winemaker Dinner Series Opolo Vineyards.

When: June 11 at 6pm

Where: Lone Eagle Grille at Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe Resort, Spa and Casino, 111 Country Club Drive, Incline Village

Details: Opolo Vineyards is one of Paso Robles' newest labels crafting some of the best wines in California. Founded by Rick Quinn and Dave Nichols, Opolo will present their prestigious collection of wines including their Roussanne 2005, Sangiovese 2006, Opolo Summit Creek Zinfandel 2007 and an Opolo Vineyard Muscat Canelli 2005.

Enjoy a spring evening in lakeside luxury, as Chef de Cuisine, Mark May, and Sommelier, Kristi Snyder, pair these fine wines with an exquisite four-course menu at the renowned Lone Eagle Grille. Highlights include:

Crisp Softshell Crab, Buttered June Corn and Chervil paired with 2005 Opolo Vineyards Roussanne, North Coast.

Boneless Veal Loin, Lobster Potato Anna and Zinfandel Sauce paired with 2007 Opolo Summit Creek Zinfandel, Paso Robles.

Roasted Apricot Tart Tartin with Tahitian Vanilla and Marzipan paired with 2005 Opolo Vineyards Muscat Canelli, Paso Robles.

Pricing: $120 per person

Reservations: Please contact Sarah Battaglia-Baley at (775) 886.6899

For more information regarding Lone Eagle Grille, visit www.loneeaglegrille.com or call (775) 886.6899.

Grant keeps South Tahoe's business coaching program alive

South Lake Tahoe received a $300,000 grant from the California Housing and Community Development Department Community Development Block Grant Program, Economic Development Enterprise Fund to continue the city's Technical Assistance Program to assist small businesses —- a program locally called Business Coaching.

In 2006, the city was awarded $500,000 to establish a Microenterprise Assistance Program to provide technical assistance to small businesses. By February 2009, the funds had been used.

In fall 2009, the city was awarded $300,000 from the CDBG/Economic Development Allocation to continue the program.

The city recently rebranded its Economic Development under the Business TIES (Tahoe Inventors and Entrepreneur Services) program offering assistance through coaching which includes advice, mentoring, technical, and professional assistance.

The City has recently strengthened its partnerships with local professional experts to deliver the services and encourages businesses to call for assistance.

If you need a business plan, advice from marketing experts, tax consulting, website design, how to find funding in these economic times, the city encourages you to give the Business TIES advisers a call.

For more information, or to participate in the program, call

(530) 542.6043.

Placerville Memorial Day event

LCDR Theodore M. Robinson, USNR-Ret, commander of PT 118 that rescued Ensign John F. Kennedy following the destruction of PT 109, will give the keynote address at the Memorial Day ceremony at the El Dorado County Veterans Monument in Placerville.

Each year the Friends of the El Dorado County Veterans Monument sponsor a Memorial Day ceremony. The community gathers by the hundreds each year to honor those who have served the cause of freedom. In addition to the keynote address and other remembrances, a flyover of five T-6 aircraft is also scheduled.

The El Dorado County Memorial Day Ceremony is May 31 at 11am at the El Dorado County Veterans Monument, 360 Fair Lane in Placerville.

Whittell High boys compete in 'beauty pageant'

By Tracy Owen Chapman

ZEPHYR COVE – Whittell High School recently crowned Mr.

Whittell and in the process raised $2,000.

It was put on by the senior class for Safe and Sober Grad Night. It is a “beauty pageant” for WHS boys.



Sam Harris is this year's Mr. Whittell. Photo/Tracy Owen Chapman

It begins with an active wear competition, followed by talent and formal wear. Finally, there was a question/answer portion where the boys gave less than serious answers.

This year’s competitors were: Cody Nelson, Chris Crawford, Sam Harris, Turner Yates, Miguel Nava, Kevin Novotny and Adam Laub.

Active wear was anything from Harris doing a Poi dance with LED light balls under a black light, to Novotny stacking cups and Yates eating Twinkies.

The talent competition had Laub dancing to music from different eras, Novotny pantomiming behind a screen, Yates playing guitar and singing, and Nelson doing a series of quick changes into various silly outfits.

The highlight was Harris dancing to Beyonce’s “Single Ladies.” He did the entire dance from her video and brought the house down.

Finally, in the formal wear portion, the boys dressed up and

came on stage with escorts and danced, or just strutted around.

Laub won Mr. congeniality; Novotny won Viewer’s choice; Nelson was runner-up; and Harris was named Mr. Whittell.

Firewood permits in Lake Tahoe Basin available

The U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit will begin the sale of fuelwood permits on June 1. Sales of permits will continue through Oct. 29. Cutting areas will remain open through Oct. 31.

Permits cost $20 per cord, with a two-cord minimum purchase. There is a 10-cord maximum limit per household.

The permit will have specific conditions to follow and full information will be provided when the permit is issued. Maps to designated cutting areas will be provided and must be in possession along with the valid permit. Permits will be available for collection of “down-dead” wood up to a 30-inch maximum diameter in designated fuelwood areas within the Lake Tahoe Basin.



USFS firewood permits in the

basin
available June
1.
Photo/Kathryn
Reed

“Down-dead” means the tree is down on the ground and dead, rather than dead and standing. Cutting any standing tree, whether dead or green, is not allowed.

Permit holders must keep vehicles on National Forest System roads. No off-road travel is allowed and permit holders must comply with all permit conditions.

Permit holders are asked to stay off private property and demonstrate courtesy regarding noise or collection activity on National Forest System lands near homes or neighborhoods.

Permits will be available at the LTBMU Supervisor’s Office at 35 College Drive in South Lake Tahoe, Monday through Friday, 8am-4:30pm.

For more information, call (530) 543.2694.

Odyssey of Mind team thankful for money to travel

To the community,

The Odyssey of the Mind team met its fund-raising goal of $4,000. Thanks to everyone who supported our team including the local service clubs and local businesses which supported our fund-raising nights.

The team is composed of Darcy Daly, Kale Spina, Jessie Brown and Zoe Greco. They will be traveling to Michigan State on May 26 and return May 30. They will be partnered during the trip with a team from Singapore.

We are proud of their accomplishments and their hard work to make this trip possible.

Ryan Galles, principal Sierra House Elementary School

Rocks & Rhones Festival

Wine country events certainly aren’t a new thing, but the four wineries of Pleasant Valley offer something unique. They celebrate one genre of wines at a festival showcasing the flavors, talent and diversity of Pleasant Valley and El Dorado County.

Festival attendees will visit each winery and taste gourmet foods prepared from local farms expertly paired with their wines. In addition, local artists are on display throughout the festival showcasing their talents.

A “Mountain of Wine” will be raffled off with all proceeds benefiting El Dorado County’s Ag in the Classroom.

It’s called the 7th annual Rocks & Rhones Festival.

It is May 29-30, 11am-4pm each day.

Tickets are $30 advance, $35 at the door.

Contact Josh Bendick at (530) 344.0227 or go to www.pleasantvalleywineries.com for more information.

South Shore water meter project off to rocky start

By Kathryn Reed

Surprises. There have been a lot of them as crews put in water meters on the California side of the South Shore.

One house had five lines to it. Pipes aren't the size crews expected. Some lines are not straight. Others aren't as deep as expected. Crews have dumped dirt on flowerbeds. Water hasn't been turned back on. Debris has come out of indoor spigots.



Streets around South Tahoe are a mess as water meters are put in. Photos/Kathryn Reed

It was such a cluster of chaos that construction teams in the Angora area were pulled from the job last week and sent to another location of El Dorado County. The North and South Upper Truckee areas are also slated for meters.

“We’re working with the contractor to find a solution,” Paul Sciuto, STPUD assistant general manager, said of the Angora situation. “There are a lot of unknowns.”

It was hoped 40 meters would be installed each day. Some days it has been 15 because of the problems.

GPS units are being used to record where lines are so records will be correct going forward.

The small water districts that now make up STPUD put in much of the infrastructure South Tahoe PUD is responsible for. Lack of uniformity is normal.

South Tahoe Public Utility District has received a number of calls from irate individuals as the installation of nearly 2,800 meters began this month.

Sciuto gave a brief update to the board at its meeting this month. One of the problems is when staff went out to bid last fall to spend the $4.38 million federal grant the bids were lower than expected. This resulted in being able to have a second bid with the “leftover” money. This also meant staff didn’t do the thorough preparation it would have normally liked to have, Sciuto said.

“This project is much more intrusive than many,” Sciuto told *Lake Tahoe News*.

Drive down Modesto Avenue in the middle of South Lake Tahoe to see how intrusive the project is. Tiechert Construction out of Sacramento started taking over the street Monday and could finish there today.

Several backhoes are churning away at the dirt to dig a hole big enough to fit a white plastic meter pit that is a couple feet tall.

Foreman Matt Carney said at first the city gave his team grief for being in the right-of-way. Then environmental groups

complained about how the dirt was being handled. Carney believes everyone has been appeased.

“We get a lot of questions. People are leery about getting meters,” Carney said as he kept an eye on his crew Monday. “I tell them it may lower their water bill. People have been good so far.”

Carney said one surprise has been how pristine the galvanized pipes are after all these years. He attributed this to the soil conditions.

Any landscaping or driveway that is dug up for the meter must be returned to how it looked pre-meter.

Sciuto said cost overruns were anticipated even though all the issues were not. He said if the add-ons were in the 7 percent range, it would be reasonable.

“At this stage it’s hard to gauge (what they will be),” Sciuto said. The district will pick up the cost of the overruns, not the grant. A line is in the budget for this.

All this work is part of the utility district’s quest to meet the state’s unfunded mandate to have water meters installed on every property by 2025. STPUD estimates it will cost $20 million to put in the 10,000 units. The end result is supposed to be less water usage throughout the state.

New homes and ones with major remodels have been required to have meters since 1992. There are 1,600 of those.

One of the issues the local board must still grapple with is a rate for metered use. Money for a rate study is part of the budget that was passed last week for the fiscal year that starts July 1.

Paul Hughes, chief financial officer for the district, told the board a tiered scale is what staff is looking at once consumption patterns are established.

A workshop for the board will be scheduled in the near future to discuss metered rates.

Data from all of the metered residences will be collected for a year, most likely starting in 2011. This will give the district usage information as it goes forward with rates.

Some leeway exists in the state law when it comes to setting rates based on fixed costs and consumption. With the current flat rate, it means people pay the same no matter the usage. This scenario favors full-time residents. Paying based on consumption would likely favor second-home owners.

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