Fallen Leaf board member highlights accomplishments

To the community,

This is in response to “Notice of Intention to Circulate Recall Petition.”

Fallen Leaf Lake CSD accomplishments since January 2008 [partial]:

Agreed to a six-year contract with store/café/marina concessionaire with a guaranteed base rent of $110,000 per year that achieves the minimum targeted needs of the CSD while providing complete financial transparency. This will allow the CSD to finally determine the true value of its asset while providing superior goods and services to the community and a welcoming atmosphere to all. The agreement with the Wirth’s is grounded in trust, good will, and a spirit of partnership between the concessionaire and the board.

In addition to the numerous CSD accomplishments listed in Director (Mike) Kraft’s response we have worked diligently to develop a five-year master plan for the fire department and will hire a new fire chief for this fire season from a field of 41 applicants. We continue to do substantial fuel reduction work within the district (75+ acres) and we continue to upgrade our apparatus and equipment in order to provide the desired level of fire/EMS service to the community.

I refused to resign as requested along with Directors Thomas and Kraft because many of the petitioners had been misinformed or misguided by the proponents. I do not believe that the petitioners constituted a majority. I believe the majority of the community supports the decisions of the board and that the financial future of the district is in far better shape today than if we had voted otherwise regarding the store/café/marina

concessionaire. I look forward to continuing to serve our community with honesty and integrity.

Eric Thaden, director Fallen Leaf Lake CSD

Exploring the depths of Lake Tahoe

Find out what is below the surface of Lake Tahoe on May 14.

Phil Caterino has spent the last 40 years working to protect Lake Tahoe. He was the founder of Alpengroup, the Sierra Avalanche Center, the Nevada Conservation League, the Tahoe Divers Conservancy, and the Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society. He is a strong advocate for grass roots activism to engage the public in meaningful projects committed to the preservation of Lake Tahoe.

Click on divers to find out more information.

Smoke-free Nevada casinos?

By Ray Hagar, Reno Gazette-Journal

Perhaps no executive understands the dilemma the Nevada gaming industry is facing over smoking in casinos better than Jeff Siri, CEO and president of the Club Cal Neva in downtown Reno.

A few years ago, cancerous tumors were removed from his

bladder. Siri, a nonsmoker, thinks they were caused by the second-hand smoke he had been exposed to during his career.

“I am the only person in my family who has ever had cancer,” Siri said. “So, it has to be something in the environment and not something hereditary.”

Yet, Siri takes a firm pro-smoking stance when it comes to Nevada’s Clean Indoor Air Act of 2006, which allows smoking in casinos but bans it in almost all other locations.

Read the whole story

Barton seeks health-related grant proposals

In an effort to positively impact the health of everyone the community, the Barton Foundation is offering grants to health-related local programs.

The foundation is increasing the reach of its philanthropy by providing funding to programs and organizations that benefit underserved populations and/or can have the greatest impact on the health of the entire community.

“We will be considering all types of health-related programs such as wellness programs that encourage better nutrition, fitness, and preventive care and those programs aimed at specific populations such as seniors, infants, Latinos and more,” said Kindle Craig, Barton Foundation executive director.

The funding for the Barton Health Grants will be provided by the Barton Foundation. The total grant amount available is

$25,000.

Grant proposals will be accepted through July 31. Grantees will be notified in September and awards will be given at the Philanthropy Day Celebration on Nov. 5.

Grant proposals can be submitted online or at the Barton Foundation office at 2092 Lake Tahoe Blvd., Ste. 600, South Lake Tahoe. For more information, call (530) 543.5612.

Vendors for art festival sought

Tahoe Arts Project's 9th annual Art Festival is July 10-11 outside at South Tahoe Middle School.

Applications are still being accepted for vendors. However, all the jewelery spots have been taken.

Click here to download an application or call (530) 542.3632.

LTCC to interview 10 for VP position



By Kathryn Reed

Ten candidates will be interviewed Thursday and Friday for the position of vice president of Academic Affairs and Student Services for Lake Tahoe Community College.

Until this year there had been a dean for Academic Affairs and one for Student Services. With Lori Gaskin's departure at the end of last school year, Susan Middleton added Academic Affairs to her list of job duties.

Middleton is retiring at the end of this school year. The college is staying with one person doing both jobs, which is a cost savings of more than $100,000.

Several of the candidates are from out of state. It is not known if any are local.

The interview panel hopes to narrow the list to three finalists by the end of the day Friday.

The college board at its April 13 meeting came up with a few different dates in April and May to interview the finalists, with nothing locked in.

The idea is to have someone on board so there is a seamless transition.

Artists needed for studio tour in South Tahoe

Plans are moving forward for the 3rd Annual Artists' Studio Tour in South Lake Tahoe.

The tour will be on the weekends of July 30-Aug. 1 and Aug. 6-8. If you are interested in participating, you may choose one or both weekends. Several artists are willing to share their space with other artists.

Tahoe Art League is also planning to use the "workshop" space at the Ski Run Center for artists without studios. Applications are available online or at the TAL Art Center Gallery.

The application deadline is May 1. If you have questions or need information, contact Nina at studiotour@talart.org or call Nina at (530) 545.1352.

Comments sought on Kirkwood's power plant

Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District is seeking comments regarding Kirkwood Meadows Public Utility District's permit for a power plant.

Written comments will be taken until May 7. Send them to the district office at: 157 Short St., Ste. 6, Bishop, CA 93514.

Melissa Lanitis Gregory poetry contest



Bona Fide Books is initiating the annual Melissa Lanitis Gregory Prize for an unpublished collection of poems.

Lanitis was a South Lake Tahoe artist who died last year. This award created by Bona Fide Books Publisher Kim Wyatt is in honor of her friend and to recognize the inspiration Lantis gave to so many others in pursuit of literary and artistic dreams.

The winner will be published, receive 10 copies, $500, and a reading at Lake Tahoe. Prizes are awarded upon publication.

Guidelines:

* Submit a previously unpublished, full-length poetry manuscript of between 48 and 100 pages.

* Include two cover pages: one with the title of the manuscript only, the other with title of manuscript, name, address, telephone number, and email address.

* Include a table of contents and, if applicable, an acknowledgment’s page for prior publications.

* Simultaneous submissions are permitted; please let us know right away if your manuscript is accepted elsewhere. (Refunds will not be issued.)

* A reading fee of $20 by check (U.S.) or PayPal must

accompany each submission. Multiple submissions are accepted; each requires a $20 entry fee.

* More than one manuscript may be chosen for publication.

Email submissions:

Email submission to submissions@bonafidebooks.com with POETRY PRIZE in the subject line.

Submit $20 entry fee online via Paypal, or by check if you are submitting by post. If sending a check, please make it payable to Bona Fide Books, Inc.

Mail your submission and fee to:

Bona Fide Books/The Melissa Lanitis Gregory Poetry Prize

PO Box 550278

South Lake Tahoe, CA 96155

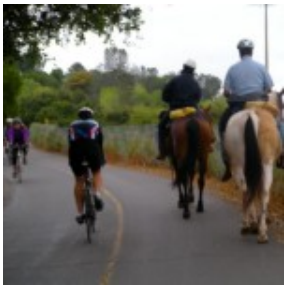
All entries must be received or postmarked by Aug. 31.

Folsom provides central location for fun without snow

By Kathryn Reed

FOLSOM – *Folsom, really?* That was the reaction I got before and after people learned about my whereabouts last weekend.

Yes, really, that's where I was for three nights. It provided the ideal location for a long weekend out of town that was close by, but completely different than the mountains.



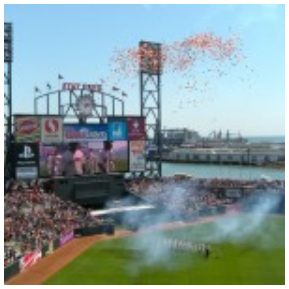
The American River Trail exemplifies mixed use. Photos/Kathryn Reed

Flowers and trees are in bloom. Hills are a vibrant green. Birds are singing songs other than “cheeseburger.” And people are wearing shorts.

It was nice to experience spring – that season that seems to elude Lake Tahoe every year.

We drove down Thursday to shorten the drive for the following day’s trek to San Francisco to catch the Giants’ home opener. Staying at the Marriott Residence Inn allowed me the comfort to do a little work from the room, have a real kitchen to avoid eating out each meal, a hot breakfast served in the common area, an indoor pool-hot tub to relax in, and be within walking distance to one of my favorite stores – REI.

The Giants didn’t disappoint that Friday as they beat the Braves in extra innings.



San Francisco

Giants run onto the field opening day, April 9.

Something about the pageantry of opening day always gives me goose bumps.

Baseball signals the end of winter (except in Tahoe since there was snow to shovel that following Monday), the return of warm weather and garlic fries.

It’s hard to believe the ballpark opened 10 years ago. It still looks and feels new.

The next morning we awoke to gray skies. But that didn’t change our plans. We set off on our bikes from the hotel down Iron Point Road for about four miles until we crossed Folsom Boulevard. From there the bike path links to the 30-plus mile American River Trail that ends in Sacramento.



Sue Wood rides along the American River Trail.

Even riding the city streets of Folsom was a pleasure. It, like South Lake Tahoe, is a Bike Friendly City. The difference is you don’t have to snicker when you say “bike friendly” and “Folsom” in the same sentence.

Bike lanes are wide enough for two cyclists. The painted white

lines for riders extend to intersections to avoid being caught up in right-hand turn lanes. Wayfinding signs are cute and easy to read.

This being my second time on the American River Trail from this starting point, we opted to head right. It took us around Lake Natomas, across a bridge (but not in vehicle traffic), to Folsom Lake where we turned around.

Trail users understand mixed use. Walkers are to the side, allowing cyclists to pass without hesitation. Equestrians, too, plod along as cyclists whiz by.

Off to the side for part of the ways are dirt paths where dog owners were more apt to be found.



Views along the bike trail.

Several parks, some with camping, spring up quite often. With all the oak trees, bright orange poppies and flowing water it was easy to forget I was not far from the urban, concrete jungle.

After the 28-mile ride it was time to soak in the hot tub.

That night we drove the four miles into old Folsom, where the monthly wine and art walk was taking place. It brought out locals and tourists to this area that is steeped in history and where storefronts are a reminder of the Old West.

Sunday morning it was about loading up on breakfast at the

hotel because wine tasting was the activity for the day. We opted to do one day of the annual Passport Weekend put on by the El Dorado Winery Association. Sundays are less crowded.

Folsom, yes, it really is worth the short drive – for what it offers alone and what activities can be combined with it.