Budget gifts: Artwork on a smaller scale



Publisherâ€™s note: *Get in the spirit and share your idea for a gift valued at $20 or less. Click here for details.*

Who knew art could be bought for less than $20? The artist, of course.

The South Shore’s Kit Night has assorted cards and small prints in paper (under 8 x 10) available. Cards: $4 each or three for $10. Prints: $15 each. People can visit kitnight.com to see the work, and email her for availability at kit@kitnight.com.

Casting a light on the world of trafficking girls, women

By Kathryn Reed

STATELINE – Sending a nude picture of anyone, including yourself, electronically is a sexual offense.

Itâ€™s a form of pornography â€“ even if you are sending it to your significant other. If caught and youâ€™re over 18, you will have to register as a sex offender for the rest of your life.



Alice Wells

Think your boyfriend or girlfriend wonâ€™t share it? What happens if you break up?

Itâ€™s called sexting and itâ€™s happening in Lake Tahoe.

Alice Wells, immediate past president of Soroptimist of the Americas, gave a presentation to the two South Lake Tahoe chapters on Dec. 9 titled â€œTackling Trafficking Today.â€ Also in attendance were young women from South Tahoe High School who are in the S Club.

They admitted to knowing about sexting, but not the consequences.

Those at the lunch at Harrahâ€™s seemed taken aback by the statistics that filled slide after slide of Wellsâ€™ presentation.

â€¢ 100 million children are sexually exploited each year, mostly girls

â€¢ 100,000 children and young teens are trafficked in the United States each year

â€¢ 1 in 3 teens on the streets is lured into prostitution within 48 hours of leaving home

â€¢ 1 in 5 pornographic images is of a child

â€¢ pornography is a $3 billion a year industry

â€¢ human trafficking is the third largest organized crime in

the world

â€¢ most johns are middle class men

â€¢ sex tourism is growing â€“ where primarily men travel to other countries to purchase a young boy or girl; with U.S. residents accounting for 25 percent of these tourists

Wells spoke with South Lake Tahoe police Officer Rebecca Inman before giving her talk. Inman relayed that girls being lured into prostitution is not an issue here, now, but that some know they can make quick cash by putting out for some guy.

Sexting is not addressed in the schools.

A fellow Soroptimist put Lake Tahoe Unified School District board President Wendy David on the spot that afternoon.

David said she would discuss the issue with staff and her fellow board members. As the former director of the local Court Appointed Special Advocates office, she also knows when young people leave a foster home at 18 they do not have a support network and that prostitution can be the route they choose.

Anna Richter with the South Lake Tahoe Womenâ€™s Center said she would look into the curriculum her organization takes into the local schools.

It was two years ago that Wellsâ€™ club in Phoenix undertook the project to bring awareness about the trafficking of girls and women to the forefront. They have launched an education campaign in Arizona and are spreading the word to other Soroptimist groups.

The other goal, she said, is to provide people with facts and information to enhance personal safety.

Wells said pop culture and movies like â€œPretty Womanâ€ glorify prostitution.

She said the men luring girls and women into prostitution are not looking for the prettiest one. They want someone who is vulnerable, who will fall for the attention he offers and the things he can buy her.

Then he turns the tables on her and before she knows it she is turning tricks for $40 or $100 an act every 10 to 15 minutes so she can make her quota of a $1,000 night.

Wells said the three things that are constant in this way of life for women who are trapped in it are rape, beatings and drugs.

â€œThere are no â€˜pretty womenâ€™ â€“ this is the message we need to get to young women,â€ Wells said.

North Lake Tahoe SnowFest

North Lake Tahoe celebrates its long winter season with SnowFest, a 10-day carnival and one of the regionâ€™s most popular annual family celebrations. SnowFest is scheduled for March 5-14 and will be at a variety of venues throughout North Lake Tahoe.

In its 29th year, SnowFest is expected to draw thousands of attendees, with the majority of events free to spectators.

The annual favorites are back, along with expanded special events, including the Opening Night Ceremonies, Laser Show, Torchlight Parade and Fireworks; Mamasake Extreme Food Challenge for those with a strong stomach; 20th Annual Gar Woods Polar Bear Swim in Tahoeâ€™s frigid waters; Tahoe City SnowFest Parade; Sunnyside Luau; the Great Ski Race, an annual cross country adventure; Kings Beach Ice Castle and Lighting

Contest; Wacky Winter Human Bowling with snow saucers and inflatable pins; Tahoe City Golf Courseâ€™s â€œDog Pullâ€; Joe King Poker Tournament and the 2nd Annual Ta-Hoe Nalu Arctic Standup Paddleboard Race.

For more information about SnowFest and a complete list of events, visit www.tahoesnowfestival.com.

Book signing in South Tahoe

The revised “South Lake Tahoe Historic Photo Album” will be introduced at the Lake Tahoe Museum in South Lake Tahoe on Dec. 18 from 2-4pm.

Also, David Antonucci will sign his new book, “Snowballs Chance – The Story of the 1960 Olympics”.

Lawyer issue delays movement in Garrido case



By Sam Stanton, Sacramento Bee

Accused kidnappers Phillip and Nancy Garrido returned to court this afternoon, but the continuing dispute over who will

represent Nancy Garrido delayed any progress in the case for at least a month.

El Dorado County Superior Court Judge Douglas Phimister set the next hearing date for Jan. 21, and said the court had received new information regarding the case from the district attorney's office that he was going to keep secret.

"I don't want anything to prejudice this case potentially," the judge said.

Read the whole story

Substantial snow expected this weekend



Snow ribbons in Carson City on Dec. 11. Photo/Rob Bozin

A winter storm warning has been issued for Lake Tahoe starting at 10 tonight and lasting to 4am Sunday.



Sierra-at-Tahoe base area -- 7,300 feet, 2pm Dec. 11. Photo/Provided

The National Weather Service is saying the heaviest snow will be Saturday night when 2 to 3 inches could fall in an hour at Lake Tahoe, with an inch an hour in the valleys of Northern Nevada.

Highs this weekend at the lake are expected to be right around freezing.

While it’s been snowing off and on Friday at the lake, the resorts have been accumulating the white stuff.

“Itâ€™s been snowing hard all day up here at the resort and we have 3-5 inches on the ground, with another 3 feet possible by the end of the weekend,” Kirstin Cattell of Sierra-at-Tahoe said of conditions at 2pm.

The incoming storm has forced Zephyr Cove to cancel its 10am snowmobile tour on Dec. 12.

SLT Sustainability Commish talks about plastic bags

South Lake Tahoe Sustainability Commission is in the initial stages of drafting a policy recommendation with the goal of significantly reducing or eliminating polystyrene and one-time use plastic bags in South Lake Tahoe. The public is invited to attend the commissionâ€™s meeting Feb. 3 at 4pm to comment on the proposed pathways to the goal. The meeting is at Lake Tahoe Airport.

Optimist Christmas festival in South Tahoe

The Optimist Club is having a Christmas festival, similar to those in Germany and many American communities, with crafts, food, music and other activities.

It will be Dec. 12-13 from noon-5pm at the Optimist Tree Lot in South Lake Tahoe on the corner of Highway 50 and Lakeview Drive.

There will be craft and food vendors offering their products to Christmas tree shoppers. Santa will be there to take kidsâ€™ gift lists to the North Pole. Childrenâ€™s choirs will also be performing throughout the day. Popcorn and hot chocolate will be offered.

For more information, call the South Tahoe Chamber of Commerce at (530) 542.5060.

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Lake Tahoe ski report, Dec. 11



Snow is gently coming down in Lake Tahoe. Expect powder days for the next few days. Here is the ski report from Curtis Fong, the Guy from Lake Tahoe.