

South Tahoe remembers a fallen soldier – Garrett Fant

By Linda Fine Conaboy

U.S. Army Spc. Garrett Anthony Fant died Sept. 26 from injuries when he stepped on an improvised explosive device while on duty in the Helmand Province, Afghanistan. He was born May 11, 1990, and was 21. In March 2009 he enlisted in the Army, assigned to the 4th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division out of Fort Riley, Kansas. He was on his first deployment. On Oct. 7 he was buried.

How many times throughout history have words like these been written or spoken of those in the military and how many families like Fant's have had to receive his body, make burial arrangements and finally, lay him to rest?



Garrett Fant

Most of the 85 plus people gathered in the Sierra Community Church on Friday had a close relationship with Fant. There were grandparents, there was his mom Julia Farrell and his dad John Fant. His brother James Keough and sister Shanna Askins were there as well as his uncle and several friends. All speaking eloquently of the young man so recently dead, who they say, would not be deterred from the siren call of the Army.

Outside, a cadre of men, most belonging to various motorcycle groups, stood in a two-row formation as if to guard this young man. All of them standing tall and holding large American flags as his casket was wheeled into the church and again as it was wheeled out and placed carefully into a waiting hearse. The respect they felt for him and his service was palpable as they stood there in the cold morning sun, silently honoring him.

There were police, firefighters and many in uniform representing various branches of the military. All came to say goodbye to U.S Army Spc. Fant.

Judging by the stories told – some humorous, many heartbreaking – Fant was a rough and tumble boy who had no other career goal than to enlist. He had no doubt what his life's calling was – Army all the way. He told his best friend that after about 40 years in the Army he wanted to become a teacher.

Now in death it will be lessons of bravery he will teach.

His sister and brother said he went into the service a young boy and when he came back to celebrate his 21st birthday he had become a man. Now, they said, he's a hero. His sister said of Fant that he had the ability to make people laugh; what she called belly aching laughter. Askins once asked him if he was scared, and he replied simply, "Sis, I've got a job to do."



Garrett Fant
was laid to
rest Oct. 7 at

Happy
Homestead
Cemetery in
South Lake
Tahoe.
Photos/Linda
Fine Conaboy

Many shared that Fant was a humble man, non-judgmental and proud of what he was doing. According to his brother, he stood tall, literally (he was well over 6 feet) and always looked up to his older brother. In truth, Keough said, "I always looked up to him."

His best friend said he and Fant played army everyday when they were kids growing up together in South Lake Tahoe. "We were a couple of hellions," he said.

Brig. Gen. Randy Dragon presented many medals and commendations to Fant's parents. Among them were a purple heart, the good conduct medal, the Afghanistan campaign medal with one campaign star, the Global War on Terrorism service medal, NATO medal and several others. As the brigadier general draped special dog tags around each parent's neck, his eloquent thanks were deep sobs and grieving hugs.

Dragon said Fant was the best marksman in his unit of more than 1,000.

"He lived with duty as his watchword," he said.

He too alluded to Fant's sense of humor as he told of his recent Facebook post: "You can't spell infantry without Fant."

It's hard to believe that this young man was so recently a dynamic force in the armed forces, doing what he needed to do in Afghanistan. Now he's come home to South Lake Tahoe, as his siblings said, a hero.

A burial service followed at Happy Homestead Cemetery.

Donations may be sent to the Fisher House Foundation.

Film delves into honey bee crisis

John Miller from Miller Honey Farms will share insights on the history of honeybees and there will be a screening of “Queen of the Sun: What are the bees telling us?” plus a honey tasting at Cedar House Sport Hotel in Truckee on Oct. 27.

“Queen of the Sun” investigates the dire global bee crisis through biodynamic beekeepers, scientists and philosophers.

Learn about Miller in Hannah Nordhaus’ book “The beekeeper’s lament: How one man and half a million honeybees help feed America.”

Doors open at 5:30pm, with the film at 6pm, followed by guest speaker and tasting.

Tickets may be purchased in advance online for \$10.

Automation keeps controls at fingertips without being home

By Dan Sheehan

I finally hooked my home up to the Internet and I cannot stop smiling. As I sat at my desk on my Blackberry and was able to turn my heater on and off and control the temperature I smiled as I realized just a few of the possibilities such as cranking the heat up as I sit on a chairlift in anticipation of heading home from a long day of Lake Tahoe skiing.



This is just the tip of the iceberg. There are so many uses for home automation and the possibilities are endless. You can control anything that is switched or plugged in, locks, garage doors, cameras, TVs and more. There are numerous ways to automate and control your home and each has its benefits, costs.

I am using Z-wave technology controlled by a Vera controller from MiCasa Verde. I have a client whose home I am remodeling right now in Alpine Meadows. They just bought the home last fall. Through the winter they found all the downfalls the home exhibited. Mainly, the home was just plain cold. They wanted the best heat you can get, so we tore out all the floors and are installing radiant floor heating. No matter what type of heat system you use to heat your home, nothing is instant. Radiant floor heating is probably the slowest way to heat a home, but also one of the most comfortable and cleanest to your personal environment. It can take a day to get a home up to a comfortable temperature when it has been sitting during the winter. So I am connecting the eight thermostats in the home to the internet using Z-wave technology and the Vera2 control system. The homeowners will be able to access this control system from their laptops or cell phones and control each of the thermostats.

The possibilities are endless. You can set all kinds of scenes/scenarios. I will probably start this client off with five "scenes" – 1) heading up to Tahoe 2) arriving 3) headed out to the mountain 4) back from skiing 5) nighttime 6) headed

out of Tahoe.

Scene "1" I will set it so that when they run the scene the temperature of their home will rise to a comfortable level so that when they arrive it will be warm.

Scene "2" they can "run" when driving to their home. With this scene the entry lights will go on, the front door will be unlocked, the hot water recirculating valve will start and maybe some music will come on.

Scene "3" can be used to turn off the lights, lower the heat and lock the doors when everyone heads out to the mountain to go skiing.



Home
automation
makes a house
run
efficiently.

Scene "4" can be a combination of Scene "1" and Scene "2" for when they are heading home so by the time they get there the place is warmed up.

Scene "5" would shut the light down and lower the heat for each zone according to temperature preferences for sleeping for watch individual zone/room.

Scene "6" could be set as a leaving town action where the heat is set to 48 degrees or whatever is a safe temp, lights are off and doors are locked.

I have another client who introduced the system to me. He has a second home here in Lake Tahoe that he rents out a lot. After getting the electric and gas bills he decided to do something. He found the Vera system and now can turn off all the lights and heat when the renters have left.

I have a project where I am installing a roof ice-melt system to melt the snow on the perimeter of the roof edge and divert the water away in gutters. The system uses about 36 watts per foot so it is very expensive to operate. The system operates off a thermostat so it is on when it is cold even if it is not snowing. I am looking into hooking it up to the Vera controller so the client can turn it off from San Francisco when he knows it is cold but has not snowed recently. I could install moisture sensors, but they are unreliable and could render the system ineffective.

There are all types of systems used to automate your home and prices can vary greatly from system to system. My intention is not to compare the different systems. I do know that the system I am using is about as cost-effective as you can get for what you can do.

You will need the controller which retails for \$238. This hooks up to your homes internet router and is accessible for free using the MiCasaVerde secure servers. I have a simple thermostat that cost \$50. So to control your thermostat from the Internet it can cost less than \$300. Then you can swap-out your light switches for Zwave switches (you literally just swap them out and those can run from \$30-\$200 each. Cameras from from \$60 to \$500. I am testing a few really decent cameras which you can control the tilt and pan, these are going for less than \$100.

DS Construction is an authorized dealer and distributor for MiCasa Verde and Automated outlet. f you are interested in learning more, feel free to contact us.

Lake Tahoe general contractor Dan Sheehan is the owner of DS Construction. You may read more from his construction blog.

Carson City embraces its haunted past

Aberrations await and spirits will linger throughout the historic district of Carson City during the 19th annual Classic Ghost Walk on Oct. 22.

Madame Curry, one of the city's founding ladies, joins a bevy of costumed actors and psychics who provide stories of mystery and intrigue accompany the highly popular theatrical walking tours through Victorian-era historic Carson City. During the guided tour guests will have the opportunity to explore inside various homes from the 1800s.

Tour guides will tell stories about the buildings and their owners of the 1800s Victorian-style homes while walking along the historic 2.5 mile Kit Carson Trail.

Tours begin near the Firkin & Fox Pub on 3rd and Curry streets and depart every half hour from 10am-2pm, rain or shine.

Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door with children 4 and younger free. Tickets are available at the visitors center, 1900 South Carson St. or call (775) 687.7410.

Cat-kitten adoption fee reduced for another month

El Dorado County Animal Services is extending a temporary reduction on adoption fees for kittens and cats through the end of October.

The fee to adopt a cat or kitten through the El Dorado County Animal Shelters, which is normally \$80, will be \$40 through Oct. 31.

The \$40 feline adoption fee includes vaccinations, health exam, spay/neuter, microchip and de-worming (if needed).

"The kittens and cats are also litter box trained and socialized, so they are ready to go," Henry Brzezinski, chief of Animal Services, said in a press release.

According to Brzezinski, the discounted fee on feline adoptions which began this summer was extended because of the late kitten season and a continued impact on the shelters with large numbers of cats and kittens.

The animal shelters are open Monday through Saturday from 9:30am-noon and 1-4pm and are located at 1120 Shakori Drive in Meyers and 511 Placerville Drive in Placerville.

Pictures of adoptable pets can be found online via Animal Services' website.

To reach the shelters with questions about adoption, call (530) 573.7925 in the South Shore or (530) 621.5795 in Placerville.

Zany documentary a one-night engagement in South Lake Tahoe



‘Close But No Cigar: Bob Zany’

4 bagels out of 5

By Howie Nave

There have been many documentaries about comedians on the road, comedians who’ve performed overseas entertaining the troops, and comedians doing their act with some kind of back-story, but never have I seen a documentary about a comedian who confesses that he’s never quite “made it.”

By that I mean a household name like a Robin Williams, a Sarah Silverman or even a Seth Meyers.

Bob Zany is well known within the comedic circle and never seems to have a shortage of work when it comes to getting booked either as a stand up or getting parts in movies. But as I’ve commented on numerous times there’s no rhyme or reason getting famous in the comedy world because as much as talent plays a large part of it, there’s also a lot of luck too.

Oh sure, good management, publicists and agents help, but it’s still a crapshoot.

Consider this: Zany got his first break as a kid on “The Gong

Show" back in 1977 only to get pulled off by a man dressed as a nun. As Zany described it,

"It was horrible. I was a funny kid in high school but after 'The Gong Show', it took me 10 years of work to get an act and pull it off."



Zany's documentary chronicles not just his ups and downs throughout his career, but also others who have done quite well and have branched out as writers, actors, performers and those who have earned a good living in comedy. Interviews with more recognizable names lend their talents to Zany's documentary. Some of those include interviews with George Wallace, Carrot Top, Ralphie May, Frank Caliendo, Fred Willard, Kathleen Madigan, Judd Apatow, Bob & Tom, Rick Messina and scores of others.

A good example of the Zany dichotomy would be the time he beat out Carrot Top on "Star Search," and now Carrot Top is making a mint from his shows in Vegas, then cut away to Zany doing a one-nighter somewhere in the Midwest.

Zany has done more movies though than Carrot Top, if that's any conciliation. He appeared with Matt Damon in "The Informant!" and opposite Linda Blair in the lesser known, "Up Your Alley." His latest "23 Minutes To Sunrise" is slated for release next year and stars Eric Roberts and Nia Peeples.

Zany is also a semi-regular on the nationally syndicated "Bob and Tom Show" with "The Zany Report" (heard locally on my KRLT radio show every Tuesday morning). "Close But No Cigar: Bob Zany" is directed by Jay Kanzler who also directed Zany in "23 Minutes To Sunrise." Zany's also done a lot of work on the

small screen having appeared on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno," the American Comedy Awards, "The Drew Carey Show", "Roseanne", "George Burns' Comedy Week", "Life in the Fat Lane", "Rodney Dangerfield's Really Big Show", Showtime's "Full Frontal Comedy", "Evening at the Improv", "Caroline's Comedy Hour", "Stand-Up Spotlight", "Star Search", and 17years with The Jerry Lewis Telethon for The Muscular Dystrophy Association.

"Close But No Cigar: Bob Zany" screens Oct. 9 at 6pm with Zany and director Kanzler in attendance. This is a one-time only screening.

I gave it 4 out of 5 bagels in part because I laughed and cried in several of the same scenes.

Tickets are \$25, which also includes a beverage and popcorn. Proceeds benefit The Pet Network for all those dogs and cats that need a home. The movie is 21 and over as there will be a Champagne reception following the screening at the Heavenly Village Cinema in South Lake Tahoe.

Howie Nave is host/emcee/manager of The Improv at Harveys. You can hear him Monday-Friday 6 to 10am on KRLT FM-93.9.

Soroptimist looking for young women to honor

Soroptimist International of South Lake Tahoe and Soroptimist International of Tahoe Sierra are sponsoring the Violet Richardson Award program, which was created in 2000 as a way to recognize girls for their volunteer service to their communities.

The program honors young women between the ages of 14 and 17 whose volunteer efforts include helping other disadvantaged girls; fighting drugs, crime, or violence; cleaning up the environment; or working to end discrimination and poverty. Volunteer actions that benefit women and girls are particularly valued.

The program is named after Violet Richardson, the first president of the first Soroptimist club that was established in 1921. Richardsn was committed to creating opportunities for girls and young women through her affiliations with Soroptimist, the Girl Scout Council and the American Association of University Women. Her passion for community service, particularly as it affected women and girls, has been an inspiration to Soroptimist International throughout the years.

If you know of a young woman who deserves recognition for her volunteer service, let her know she can find an application for this award at El Dorado and Douglas County libraries, South Tahoe Middle or Whittell High schools, Soroptimist websites: www.Sislt.org or www.Sitahoesierra.org or call (530) 541.2844 for any additional information.

Applications from young women are due Dec. 1.

Peace Corps allows STHS graduate to help others

Publisher's note: Michelle Aguilar is one of three 2005 South Tahoe High School graduates who joined the Peace Corps upon college graduation. As it gets close to their return date, each will share with Lake Tahoe News readers their thoughts

about the last two years.

By Michelle Aguilar

BUENA ESPERANZ, Panama – You know that “talk” most grandparents get to give their grandchild? The talk where they get to say how rough they had it compared to the seemingly effortless and uncomplicated lifestyles of their grandchildren. It usually starts when the child is whining or complaining about how tough their life is. That’s when the grandparent gets the opportunity to chime in with some words of wisdom, typically starting with “well when I was young ...” fill in the blank. I think you know what speech I am talking about.

Now, how many people in my generation, “Gen Y”, will be able to give this insightful and intuitive talk to their heirs? Or maybe it will be that they will just fill in the blank a bit differently. Instead of talking about how far they had to walk in the snow, barefoot, both ways, they may fill in the blank with something like “when I was young, Twitter only gave us 140 characters, and the iPad only offered 60,000 apps, and we had to watch our movies with only three dimensions.”



Michelle
Aguilar will
return to
South Lake
Tahoe later
this year
after

completing her
commitment in
the Peace
Corps.

Photos/Provide
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Well, my grandchildren will be hearing a different story.

I lived in rural Panama, working as a Peace Corps volunteer in a remote Ngobe indigenous village named Buena Esperanza, accessible only by boat. I have seen and experienced true poverty firsthand for 27 months.

I lived in the heart of the village and my daily life was much like theirs. I practiced a minimalistic lifestyle. I lived without running water and electricity. I survived without a car, or any personal form of transportation other than the dugout canoe that took me only as far as I could row it.

I have gone without Internet for months at a time and I lived in a place where only the sun controlled my sleep pattern.

However, I did not join Peace Corps just so that I would have a good story to tell my grandchildren. I joined because I truly believe the proverb: "Much is to be expected from those to whom much has been given." So, really, Peace Corps was just another way for me to advocate that in my personal life.

My main project in Buena Esperanza was a clean water project. Together with my community members we engineered appropriate technology to bring clean, potable water to the community. We solicited and received funds from Rotary International, a local governmental organization and other private donors. Community members were trained in construction methods adapted to the community's resource availability and maintenance techniques, emphasizing low-cost designs and the use of local resources.

Together we installed 38 water catchment systems and one clean water well which directly benefits more than 500 individuals. This provided them with clean, potable water for the first time in their lives.

I aided in the creation of a comprehensive and culturally appropriate educational program and training manual on the maintenance and use of the water system to ensure its sustainability.

I also worked closely with the women's artisan group in my community, acting as a motivator and small business consultant. Together we worked on various fundraising, budgeting and forecasting techniques, which resulted in their ability to finance their own artisan house for the production and sale of their products.

My days were also filled with more informal secondary projects including English classes, literacy projects, Girl Scout meetings and painting maps. Since most of my community members had never been farther than 30 miles from their homes and have little access to information, I found myself facilitating many informal discussions, usually sparked by photos from National Geographic magazines, about political, historical, cultural, geographical and scientific issues regarding "the outside world."

So, now that I am at the end of my Peace Corps adventure, what do I think? I say what most returned Peace Corps volunteers would say: that I have learned and received so much more than I have taught or given.

I realize now that serving as a Peace Corps volunteer is unlike any volunteer or life experience I have had prior, and may every have again. The Peace Corps experience is about human connection, about giving a community hope, teaching them new skills and above all, helping them to help themselves. It is not about bringing in aid, dropping it off and waiting

until they need it again. It is about working one-on-one or little by little to reach a goal. It is about taking time. The Peace Corps experience is about truly immersing yourself in another culture to figure out together what is right for them. Peace Corps is about working yourself out of a job (i.e. development work).

As my time here in Panama comes to an end, I am able to reflect on and appreciate all I have been given during my Peace Corps service. Most of all, I am thankful that I have been given the opportunity to see and experience the way the majority of the world's population lives. I leave Panama with a new appreciation and outlook on life.

As hard as it is to leave and say goodbye, I feel like I am ready. I am ready to move on to the next chapter in my life, and I am definitely ready to get back to Tahoe's mountain air. Once I leave Panama, I plan on traveling through Central America. But I will be back in Tahoe for the holiday season, with my plans after that are still undecided.

Thank you for your support during my few years abroad. I am looking forward to seeing some familiar faces when I get home.

For the full account of my time in Peace Corps Panama refer to my blog.

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Barton scheduling flu vaccinations

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,

each year more than 200,000 people are hospitalized from the flu, including an average of 20,000 children younger than 5. Everyone 6 months and older is recommended to get vaccinated against the seasonal flu.

Barton Health is providing free flu vaccines to South Lake Tahoe area residents ages 3-18. Ages 19 and older may receive the flu vaccine for \$20 and the pneumonia vaccine for \$35. Barton has secured various locations, dates and times for people to conveniently receive their flu and pneumonia vaccinations. All locations will be providing free flu shots for ages 3 to 18. T

here is no appointment necessary to receive the vaccination(s).

Walkin:

Barton Family Medicine (1090 Third Street, South Lake Tahoe)

Oct. 8 9am-1pm

Oct. 22 1-5pm

Nov 5 9am-1pm

Nov. 19 1-5pm.

South Tahoe Middle School (multipurpose room, 940 Lake Tahoe Blvd., South Lake Tahoe)

Note: This is the only on-campus flu vaccination clinic – The Kung Flu and IZ Xtreme will not be offered in the schools this-year]

Oct. 12 3-7pm.

Stateline Medical Center (155 Highway 50, Stateline)

Oct. 21 3-7pm.

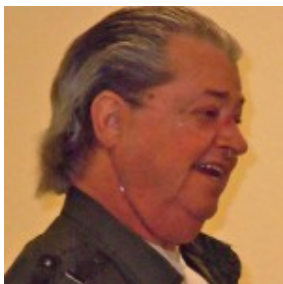
Consult with your physician before receiving any vaccinations. All patients younger than 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. The H1N1 vaccine is included in the seasonal flu vaccine.

Both vaccines are reimbursable for standard Medicare patients. Medicare HMOs cannot be billed. Cash, check and credit cards (Visa, M.C. and Amex) will be accepted. For more information on the seasonal flu, questions may be emailed to publicrelations@bartonhealth.org or call (530) 543.5615.

TACCD celebrates 30 years with help of Tahoe restaurants

On Oct. 4, the South Lake Tahoe City Council honored Tahoe Area Coordinating Council for the Disabled for 30 years of service to the disabled and senior citizens.

"You left your mark in this community more than anyone I can think of," Mayor Hal Cole told David Kelly at the meeting.



David Kelly at
the Oct. 4
council

meeting says
he will keep
fighting to
bring a better
quality of
life to Tahoe
for seniors
and the
disabled.

Photo/LTN

Kelly is the face and inspiration behind the organization that has been instrumental in getting three facilities built in South Lake Tahoe for the disabled and seniors.

With him at the podium on Tuesday to accept the proclamation from the city were TACCD board members David Stevenson and Les Lovell.

In celebration of the 30-year milestone, five restaurants have offered to help increase TACCD's funding base to make sure its services continue at the same high level.

The Getaway Café in Meyers is the first restaurant in the series to offer to donate a portion of the profits from any item ordered off the regular dinner menu. This will be Oct. 6 after 5pm.

The other dining fundraisers are:

- Ernie's Café on Oct. 11
- Passaretti's on Oct. 18
- Taqueria Jalisco on Oct. 25
- Coyote Grill on Oct. 27.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report