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.

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.

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.

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

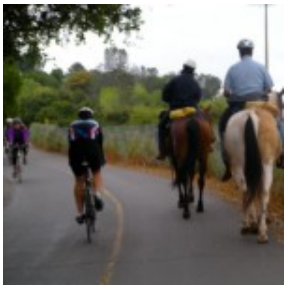
All entries must be received or postmarked by Aug. 31.

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.



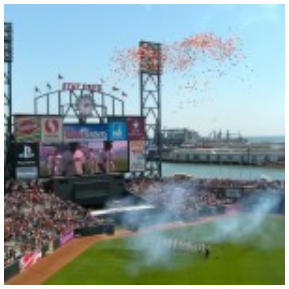
The American River Trail exemplifies mixed use. Photos/Kathryn Reed

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.

Honor for Placer County sheriff comes 59 years later

By Gus Thomson, Auburn Journal

Justice is coming for Sheriff William Elam. It just took a little while.

Elam was killed in October 1951 when his car swerved off the a rain-slickened Sierra highway.

He wasn't the first Placer County Sheriff's Department officer to die in the line of duty and he wasn't to be the last.

But somehow, when it came time to place the names of those who had died from the Sheriff's Department among the 19,000 on the National Peace Officers Memorial, seven were inscribed and Elam's was left off.

Sgt. Andrew Scott, while researching the history of his 159-year-old department, noticed the discrepancy and there was soon a move within the sheriff's office to rectify the error.

Read the whole story

Youths’ forest fire detection plan becomes documentary

Join Graham Kent, Heidi Buck and the Forest Guard Students. This documentary presents a whirlwind year in the life of six home-schooled children the foothills of Northern California who have developed an ingenious invention for the early detection of forest fires. What starts as a local environmental solution evolves into an idea that could have a major global impact after they win top prize at the Global Children’s Climate Competition and with it, the chance to have their dream become reality.

Their invention is a network of cameras located around forests that send real-time pictures to hundreds and thousands of desktops, turning people all over the world into Forest Guards. Their Forest Guard concept catches the eye of a top R&D specialist at Sony who invites the kids to work with some of the best engineers and designers in the business to help the Forest Guards develop their concept into a workable prototype. Real-world experience at the forefront of technological design is contrasted with the everyday lives of the kids at home in Meadow Vista, a picture-perfect foothills community of rolling hills, farms, forests, and lakes. But during the worst summer in California history for fires, a major blaze rages dangerously close to their homes – many of them are forced to evacuate. With no sign that things will get any better in summers to come, it couldn’t be a better time to raise awareness of forest fires and what we can do to prevent them.

As the first prototypes are tested near Tahoe National Forest, the Forest Guards are invited to the UN’s Global Environmental

Conference in Copenhagen to present their idea to global environmental and world leaders – and they become ambassadors for the innovations of young people in the ongoing dialogue about the future of our planet.

Learn about this project

Date: May 4

Time: 6pm (No-Host bar 5:30-6pm)

Location: Assembly Rooms 139 & 141, Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences, 291 Country Club Drive, Incline Village (on the campus of Sierra Nevada College)

Summer enrichment program for middle school kids

El Dorado County Office of Education and El Dorado Center of Folsom Lake College are excited to announce the Intensive Summer Enrichment Experience (I SEE) hosted at the El Dorado Center campus in Placerville. This summer school opportunity is designed for middle school students who are interested in taking enrichment classes in the areas of language arts, computer science, foreign language, science and the arts. This summer's course offerings include astronomy, multicultural art, drama, conversational Spanish, creative writing and web design ("Cool Tools on the Web"). The program is intended to be a unique summer program that allows for academic and creative discovery within our own local college environment.

Also, it is a great way for the participants to meet other students who share similar interests.

Classes begin June 21 and run for two weeks, Monday through Thursday, ending July 1.

Morning and afternoon sessions are available to students who are finishing sixth, seventh or eighth grade. Complete registration information will be available at local middle schools and on the EDCOE webpage (www.edcoe.org) and registration dates will be April 19-26.

For more information on this program, please contact Lisa Laird at llaird@edcoe.org or at (530) 295.2415.

Tourism conference in South Lake Tahoe

The Tahoe Tourism "Your Town Forum" will provide South Shore businesses an opportunity to hear from tourism experts all about what's new for summer. The Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority will preview its strategic plan and unveil the 2010 summer marketing campaign. Representatives from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and the Sierra Business Council will talk about Geotourism – what it is and why it matters.

Attendees will also learn about the California Welcome Center in El Dorado County and hear presentations on new events in Lake Tahoe, including Lake Tahoe Restaurant Week, Hot August Nights and Iron Girl.

Guest speakers include Pettit Gilwee from California Travel and Tourism Commission, Debbie Manning from El Dorado Hills Chamber of Commerce, Bruce Walters from Hot August Nights, Bob Kingman from Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Nicole DeJonghe from Sierra Business Council, Duncan/Channon Agency, B Gorman from

the Lake Tahoe South Shore Chamber of Commerce and Carol Chaplin and Mike Frye from LTVA.

The April 29 event from 9-11am is free and open to the public. It is at Lake Tahoe Community College's Duke Theater in South Lake Tahoe.

For more information, call (775) 588.1728.

South Tahoe art walk features new artist



Marcus Ashley Gallery is unveiling a new artist this month. Nick Sninkelletti, 29, will be showing an array of his original paintings and hand-embellished reproductions during the third Friday Art Walk in South Lake Tahoe.

Sninkelletti paints a variety of subjects matter and is known as a colorist and a portrait painter.

The Art Walk will be from 4-7pm on April 16. Sninkelletti will only be painting live on the 16th.

The art walk is in the Village Center at the corner of Highway 50 and Heavenly Village Way in South Lake Tahoe.