

History lesson turns into giving project

By Kathryn Reed

MEYERS – Any day now several boxes will arrive at a Marine base in Afghanistan with the return address of Meyers, California, USA.

“It was kind of amazing to me,” Annie Brejc said of collecting things to send the soldiers. It hit home with her how she sleeps in a warm bed every night, but the soldiers aren’t so fortunate.



Annie Brejc
and Tatum
Bunnett

She and her fourth-grade classmates at the Environmental Magnet School in Meyers filled box after box with items for soldiers so they would have something special to open at the holidays.

Tatum Bunnett said some of the items were every day things that she takes for granted “like a toothbrush and toothpaste.

Teachers Kim Ilvento and Jen Seely put the project together as they were preparing to teach a lesson about Veterans Day last month. It morphed into something bigger.

They chose a particular troop from a website because these men and women wanted ornaments for a tree theyâ€™d dubbed â€œthings worth fighting forâ€.

The fourth-graders decorated wooden star ornaments with words that they wanted the soldiers to fight for â€” things like family, freedom and peace. A picture representing what America means to the students was part of the ornament as well.

Poems by the students were also sent to the soldiers.

â€œThe outpouring from the kids was amazing,â€ Ilvento said of the donations.

Eight boxes were full of things like blankets, DVDs, cocoa, popcorn and current magazines. These were all things the soldiers had requested.

Young scientists needed to solve fish problem

Looking for something exciting that your kids can do during the holiday break? Do your kids like mysteries? Environmental detectives are needed to help figure out the mystery of dying fish.

On Dec. 30 from 1-4pm, the UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center will host a mysterious family science day. Families are welcome to join in to help solve a problem that has developed in the fictitious Gray Area. The fish in this community are dying and nobody knows why.

Join us at the scene of the crime at the Tahoe Center for Environmental Science in Incline Village, where you will be

able to conduct scientific experiments and decide for yourself which one of our suspects is responsible for poisoning our water and wildlife.

Through hands-on activities and games, students will be able to learn about many of the environmental issues not only affecting the Gray Area, but also threatening Lake Tahoe.

Students will be learning about the causes and effects of many environmental threats by testing water clarity, sediment run-off, water pollution, acid rain and oil pollution.

By the end of the day, once the mystery is solved, students will have a chance to discuss solutions to some of the environmental problems they learned about and be able to apply it to their daily lives.

Our program is designed for students in grades 4, 5 and 6, but all families are welcome to join in on the fun. For children under the age of 9, we request that a guardian is present throughout the program.

This event is free and open to the public but an RSVP is mandatory and space is available on a first come, first served basis. For more information or to RSVP, contact Megan Farka at mjfarka@ucdavis.edu or (775) 881.7560, ext. 7483.

Fund raiser for South Tahoe's Karen Marshall

From Apres Wine Company in South Lake Tahoe:

Karen Marshall is battling a difficult bone marrow illness. Her health insurance only covers a portion of her treatment.

Karen lost her husband two years ago and she has just dealt with his medical bills. She is currently on leave from her job at H&R Block.

You may already know Karen. She has helped many people in South Lake Tahoe for over 20 years. Karen is a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for children and volunteers at Sierra Community Church. She's well-loved by her friends and family; the kids at Sierra Church call her "grandma." Karen loves to have a good time over a glass of wine with Shelley, Joyce, Melissa and the rest of her friends in the "Red Hatters" group.

Karen Marshall Benefit: Please join AprÃ's Wine Company on Dec. 17 and enjoy a glass (or two!) to help raise money to cover Karen's expenses. Launa Martin will be donating her tips and AprÃ's Wine Company will donate 10 percent of wine bar/bistro sales between 5-10pm.

Donation: \$5 or more, cash or check made out to Karen Marshall

Raffle: Tickets \$1 each or six for \$5; prizes (manicure, massage, donations from AprÃ's, Aramark)

If you can't make it to AprÃ's on Thursday but would like to help, please send checks to:

Karen Marshall, c/o Debbie Budnik

P. O. Box 16176, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96151

Art walk in Village Center in

SLT

On Dec. 18 from 4-7pm is the third Friday Gallery Art Walk in South Lake Tahoe.

South Shore's Village Center is a block from the casinos and next door to the Heavenly Village.

Handcrafted jewelry, Tahoe landscape photography, and original and limited edition paintings will be featured.

Visit the Village Center on the third Friday of the month between 4-7pm for their Gallery Walk event. Many of the galleries feature live artist demonstrations and serve wine and hors d'oeuvres.

Participating galleries are all located at 4000 Lake Tahoe Blvd., South Lake Tahoe.

Budget gifts: Customized photography



Publisher's note: *Get in the spirit and share your idea for a gift valued at \$20 or less. [Click here for details.](#)*

Karen Linsley, who owns Image Angels photography in South Lake Tahoe, has a slew of gift ideas for less than \$20.

She says: I have screen savers on sale for \$20. They can be customized using only photos of Lake Tahoe. I also have bookmarks made with photos of Tahoe, plus cool non-religious quotes, \$5.

I have photos on my Image Angels Facebook page, and also on my Image Angels blog.

I can also do a small print for \$20.

www.imageangels.com



Tahoe
2009/Image
Angels

Budget gifts: Works by Tahoe authors, artists



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Kim Wyatt, publisher of Bona Fide Books in Meyers, sent in these suggestions:

What better gift for under \$20 than a book? South Shore's two fine literary journals, "EDGE" and "The Kokanee", would make excellent stocking stuffers and can be found online and at the Lake Tahoe Community College bookstore in South Lake Tahoe.

Consider supporting your local writers, like poet Suzanne Roberts or thriller writer Todd Borg.

Local artists like Dirk Yuricich, Kristen Schwartz, and Kit Night offer affordable note cards and prints. Shops like Gaialicious, The Enchanted Florist, and, if in Truckee , Brickelltown, also offer local handcrafted items.

www.suzanneroberts.org

www.toddborg.com

“EDGE”: www.tahoewritersworks.com

“The Kokanee”: Can be purchased at the LTCC Bookstore

www.dirkphotoz.com

<http://www.faerymed.com/boutique.html>

www.kitnight.com

www.gaialicious.com

Decorated fire truck rolling through South Lake



South Lake Tahoe firefighters are rolling through neighborhoods now through Dec. 24 in its decorated truck. Candy canes will be handed out. Santa’s House at fire Station 2, across from South Tahoe Middle School, is open Dec. 13-21 from 6-8pm.

Where is the decorated fire truck?

Dec. 13 Keys Blvd./State Streets

Dec. 14 Tahoe Island

Dec. 15 Stateline/Pioneer Trail

Dec. 16 Gardner Mountain

Dec. 17 Springwood/Bijou Pines

Dec. 18 Glenwood

Dec. 19 Heavenly Valley

Dec. 20 Ski Run

Dec. 21 Al Tahoe

Dec. 22 Sierra Tract

Dec. 23 Stateline/Hotels

Dec. 24 Hwy. 50/Shopping Centers

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Budget gifts: Artwork on a smaller scale



Publisher'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.

It's a form of pornography " even if you are sending it to your significant other. If caught and you'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 won't share it? What happens if you break up?

It's called sexting and it'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 "Tackling Trafficking Today." 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 Harrah's seemed taken aback by the statistics that filled slide after slide of Wells' presentation.

• 100 million children are sexually exploited each year, mostly girls

• 100,000 children and young teens are trafficked in the United States each year

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

• 1 in 5 pornographic images is of a child

• pornography is a \$3 billion a year industry

• human trafficking is the third largest organized crime in the world

• most johns are middle class men

• sex tourism is growing " 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 Women's Center said she would look into the curriculum her organization takes into the local schools.

It was two years ago that Wells' 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 "Pretty Woman" 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.

"There are no 'pretty women' " this is the message we

need to get to young women," Wells said.

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 kids' gift lists to the North Pole. Children'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.