Letter: Soroptimist serve up Bread & Broth meal

To the community,

Soroptimist International of South Lake Tahoe hosted its fourth Adopt A Day of Nourishment this past year on June 2. They sent a wonderful group of Soroptimist members to help at the dinner.

Kathleen Brown, treasurer, “had a fun time … great crew and very rewarding.” Joining Brown were past Soroptimist presidents, Pat Disney and Cheryl Chambers, and new member Connie Chang. In addition to these four women, regular B&B fourth week volunteer Cindy Archer, and Vicki Gonzales, fourth week cook, made a total of six Soroptimist members helping at the dinner.

Soroptimist is an organization dedicated to improving the quality of life by providing service. Under the leadership of now past president, Archer, Soroptimist International of SLT has focused on hunger in the Lake Tahoe South Shore community and hosting four Adopt A Days was just one of the many projects in the last year that the organization participated in to help ease hunger in our community.

Personifying the Soroptimist mission of “dignity of service”, B&B would like to acknowledge member Vicki Gonzales who has been a dedicated cook for B&B for over 25 years and has helped prepare hundreds of meals. Although she “loves working with everyone so much”, Gonzales has decided to pursue other areas of interest and cooked her last scheduled meal with B&B in the company of fellow Soroptimist members.

Thank you to all of the generous members of the Soroptimist International of SLT for all of the wonderful service, scholarships and grants that they provide to enrich the lives

of our community members.

Carol Gerard, Bread & Broth

Letter: Learning the lesson of giving

To the community,

As a longtime South Shore resident, I experienced the generosity of the community who helped provide clothes and food to my mother and I when she struggled financially. The community again helped me when I had a spinal cord injury by providing free medical care.

Later, Lake Tahoe Community College welcomed me as a student and helped me gain the education I needed to pursue my goals. They again showed the importance of community when I was offered a position as an adjunct instructor, which has led to a career that I love.

I feel privileged that I can now help out, not just in our small town, but around the world as well. I am currently in Hoi An, Vietnam, volunteering at a center for orphaned, abandoned, and disabled children. The children have been affected by Agent Orange, and there are not enough wheelchairs and supplies. So many spend their days lying in bed or on the floor.

Our U.S. currency is worth quite a bit here, and any contribution would be very helpful and make these children very happy. A GoFundMe account has been set up for them.

Mary Gillespie

Opinion: Taking pride in the court’s decision

By Susan Wood

California Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, who confirmed with *Lake Tahoe News* on Friday that he plans to run for governor of the state, is one of a few people I sought to connect with after the U.S. Supreme Court’s epic decision that paves the way for federal recognition of gay marriage.

The long struggle has commanded undaunted dedication amid adversity from certain brave activists.



Gavin Newsom – a crusader to recognize gay marriage before it was politically correct. Photo/Kathryn Reed

As San Francisco mayor, Newsom bucked his party and his own father when he decided in February 2004 to defiantly go against state statutes in issuing marriage licenses through the county clerk’s office to gay and lesbian couples. More than 4,000 licenses were issued. Newsom was chastised by the right and the left.

What motivated him?

It was when President George W. Bush vowed to seek a constitutional amendment to bar same sex marriages in the United States at his State of the Union address.

“I was there listening to this message,” Newsom told *Lake Tahoe News* on June 26.

We spoke as I was driving to the Bay Area to attend LGBT night at AT&T Park. Newsom had a sense of vigilance to his tone. This was no ordinary chat. I pulled over, and he got personal.

He said he heard a Bush supporter talk about “the homosexual” with such a grimaced venom that it was too much to sit idly by.

“It made me sick,” he said. “It was literally that moment that triggered me to do something about this.”

It was what the Jesuits taught him: “We have many parts and one body. When one part suffers, it all suffers.”

Newsom attended Santa Clara University, a Jesuit college.

“We believe in social justice. You are who you are the way God created you,” he said.

Take those convictions and blend them with Newsom’s father’s influence and you have the modern-day California activist. His father, William Newsom, is a retired state appeals court judge.

For years the younger statesman could not get his father on board to support his pivotal exercise in the gay rights movement.

It was when the Newsoms attended an Auburn Democratic Club fundraiser that the father publicly stated he “finally came around to my point of view.”

“He never told me,” Newsom said.

Activism often comes with surprises.

Although Newsom cautioned the opposition is motivated to fight back because “we’re not going to stop homophobia, we’re not going to stop discrimination,” Friday’s landmark ruling was poignant for the state official as what he deems “a historic footnote.”

“I never thought I’d be alive to see this day, and not that I expected to die young,” Newsom said.

I had thought the same thing.

Newsom especially didn’t expect it in 2004 when he pushed open the floodgates, declaring four years later: “It’s inevitable. It’s going to happen whether you like it or not.”

The statement became a rallying cry for the opposition.

“I’m someone who’s willing to take a risk,” he said.

It paid off. Today he should be one of the most celebrated dignitaries in San Francisco’s Gay Pride Parade.

I’ve attended many of these parades over the years. Some decades more than others. At no other time has one become more important to me.



Susan Wood never thought in

her lifetime that gay marriage would be legal in the United States. Photo/Kathryn Reed

I volunteered to defeat the Briggs Initiative that would have fired teachers for coming out. I marched for equality in Sacramento. I assisted the Municipal Elections Committee in Los Angeles as a political activist group. I wrote story after story about the beginning of the AIDS crisis when I lived in Palm Springs and Los Angeles. I watched friends die of the disease. Then, I watched their names unfolding in a quilt large enough to take up the entire UCLA auditorium.

I think of these people now. How they would have loved to see this progress in humanity. Many didn't see it from their own families before they died. They still held their heads high with dignity. In particular, I remember my friend Vince caring for Chris as his health diminished. Then, Vince succumbed not even considering that he could have lived out his last years having fun instead of being a caregiver.

Now that's love. And love will always prevail.

As I ponder the argument against gay marriage being over as states are now mandated by the federal government to get on the right side of history, I wonder how my love hinders another.

I am in no position to marry at this state of my life. But that's not the point. The point is the option is there. And I have loved someone enough to call it a marriage. For all my gay friends who are married, they can go to any state and have their union be legitimate, just as it always has been for my heterosexual friends.

If any marriage serves as an obstacle to yours, you have a bigger problem in the relationship than normal insecurity.

Marriage – gay or straight – it’s finally all the same.

Letter: Successful chamber mixer

To the community,

Lake Tahoe South Shore Chamber of Commerce thanks Basecamp Hotel for hosting the Business After Hours Mixer (BAHM!) on June 25 at Basecamp’s new bar and beer garden. It was a wonderful night that included live music, corn hole and tours through the new property, which include rooftop patios and an Airstream trailer.

The bar and beer garden are officially open to the public so make it a priority to visit this summer.

The next chamber BAHM! is scheduled for September.

Shannon Earley, LTSSCC

Opinion: Be smart with campfires

By Olivia Rahman

The U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit and other fire protection agencies need your help this wildfire season to protect our communities and the pristine beauty of

Lake Tahoe from wildfire.

Illegal or unattended campfires in the basin cause over 90 percent of the wildfires here. Protecting lives, property, and our natural resources is something all citizens can help accomplish by learning about campfire regulations and restrictions before lighting a campfire.

Whether cooking, warming up, or just sitting and enjoying the crackle and glow of a campfire, safety is essential. In the greater Lake Tahoe area, campfires and charcoal barbecues are not allowed on beaches or in the forest outside of developed campsites and campfires are never allowed in the Desolation Wilderness. A valid campfire permit is required to have a campfire or propane/gas stove on any public land.

Before you light a campfire fire, here are a few things to consider:

Questions to ask before having a fire:

· Are there fire restrictions in effect?

· Is it too windy with red flag warning conditions?

· Is this an approved location for campfires?

· Is a propane/gas stove a possible campfire alternative?

· Is there enough water to put out the campfire?

· Is the area clear of flammable materials? (tents, overhanging branches, dry grass/leaves)

· Will there be a responsible adult awake and attending the fire at all times?

Putting out a campfire:

· Putting a campfire out takes a lot of water and

stirring.

· Soak the fire with water making sure all embers, coals, and sticks are wet.

· Use a shovel, stir water and dirt into your campfire to make sure everything is wet.

· Feel for heat with the back of your hand near the surface; make sure everything is cold to the touch.

· If it is too hot to touch, then it is too hot to leave. Repeat steps 1, 2 and 3.

Be alert for careless activity that could cause a wildfire and report any suspicious activity to local officials. Create defensible space around your property and think before starting any activity that creates heat or can cause a spark. Finally, make sure your campfire is dead out. We can all make a difference in reducing human-caused fires during this season.

For more information about fire restrictions and how to obtain a campfire permit, call the Forest Supervisor's office in South Lake Tahoe at 530.543.2694, Monday through Friday from 8am-4:30pm.

Olivia Rahman works for the U.S. Forest Service.

Opinion: Drone use needs to be regulated

By Ted Gaines

Technology’s miraculous leaps forward bring unimaginable benefits to us all. Life-saving medical procedures, limitless entertainment options, wealth building productivity tools and more change our lives for the better. But as with all tools, their benefit – or harm – depends on the intent of the user. That is why this legislative session I’m paying special attention to the drone revolution and pushing bills to enhance public safety.

The federal government is acting as well, creating “no drone zones” and tasking the Federal Aviation Administration with creating regulations on drone use, but the possibilities for abuse are unlimited and we need to take state-level action now. Would you want someone to hover a drone around your children’s locker room or bathroom and take pictures of them to post on the internet? What about an ex-spouse or potential abductor drone-monitoring the patterns of your children for some harmful purpose? What about a using a drone to gather information for some deadly, Columbine-style school attack?



Ted Gaines

It’s not paranoia to imagine these terrible scenarios, it’s just an understanding that technology can serve as an enabler for the best and worst purposes.

Schools should be sanctuaries for our children, and to protect students on campus, my Senate Bill 271 makes it a crime to use a drone to capture images of schools, and the students who use them, during school hours or during extracurricular activities.

Nowadays, drones also offer a new avenue for smuggling dangerous materials into prisons that threaten guards, prisoners, and citizens outside the jailhouse walls.

Last spring, the *New York Times* reported a small drone getting tangled up in the power lines outside of a prison in South Carolina. When they investigated, they found the drone had carried marijuana, a cell phone, and other contraband intended for prisoners inside the walls.

Cell phones let criminals project their power out on the streets in secret, facilitating the operation of gangs and other criminal enterprises. Weapons are an obvious problem for officer and inmate safety, and their proliferation is guaranteed if drone smuggling becomes commonplace. With drone delivery, prisoners would graduate from already dangerous sharpened bits of metal or plastic to far deadlier weapons that would put more people at risk.

Some companies are working to embed “no fly zones” into their drones, and there may be other mechanisms for controlling them, but even then, enterprising criminals may overcome those defenses in the perpetual cat-and-mouse game played between crooks and public safety. My Senate Bill 170 will make it illegal to fly a drone over a prison or jail. If we can’t stop drone smuggling, we can at least tack on extra punishment for those who would put so many lives at risk.

For next year, I’m already looking at “drone-stalking” bills and tackling the issue of drones and restraining orders, and I want to hear from my constituents, public safety, victims groups and civil libertarians to understand their ideas for how to deal with this changing landscape.

Computers once used vacuum tubes and filled up rooms the size of gymnasiums. Now we pack chips with circuits measured in nanometers and carry mini-PCs around in our pockets. Drones and other technologies will follow the same path, and as they

become cheaper, better and ever more ubiquitous, it’s important that we regulate them in a way that preserves our safety and privacy while preserving our freedom. It’s not always an easy balance. But my two drone bills protect children and public safety and are an excellent start.

Ted Gaines represents the 1st Senate District, which includes all or parts of Alpine, El Dorado, Lassen, Modoc, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, Shasta, Sierra and Siskiyou counties.

Letter: Middle school students help Bread & Broth

To the community,

Club Live is a program sponsored by Larry and Paula Lambdin that promotes a healthy lifestyle by providing safe, high energy alternatives for middle school children.

On June 15, Club Live hosted Bread & Broth’s Adopt A Day of Nourishment. Prior to the end of the school year, Club Live members collected shampoo and lotion sample bottles to give to the sponsorship evening’s dinner guests.

“I liked how I got to see the people we collected the personal necessity items for and how happy they were to receive them”, said Lauren Constantine, a Club Live student leader. Constantine was joined at the dinner by Club Live Advisor Larry Lambdin, Co-Advisor Beth Aiton and Paula Lambdin. It was the first time Club Live sponsored a B&B dinner and Larry “enjoyed helping B&B provide an important community need and hope we can do it again.”

B&B would like to extend kudos to the Club Live organization for all it does to help our community youth and provide community service experiences. At the dinner, all of these wonderful volunteers worked really hard to help serve the dinner and even stayed past 6pm helping with the dinner's cleanup.

"Always good to spend some time with amazing people," Paula Lambdin said. She added, "Everyone in the building tonight was amazing."

B&B commends Club Live for the amazing program they provide for our middle school students.

To help B&B as a donor or sponsor, contact me at 530.542.2876 or carolsgerard@aol.com.

Carol Gerard, Bread & Broth

Opinion: Nevada is not South Carolina, but …

By Jon Ralston, Reno Gazette-Journal

Nevada is not South Carolina.

We are not below the Mason-Dixon line. We are no longer the Mississippi of the West. We do not need Gov. Brian Sandoval to demand the Confederate flag be taken down.

We are different. Right?

A few months ago, during a legislative hearing, an

assemblywoman named Michele Fiore congratulated colleague Harvey Munford on being the first “colored man to graduate from his college.” Colored.

Fiore later suggested playing the race card was an anachronism because America had elected a black president, thus negating racism. Munford did not protest.

Read the whole story

Opinion: Commencement speech wisdom

By Riley Griffin and Alexandra Svokos, Huffington Post

As the school year came to a close, the class of 2015 methodically donned their caps and gowns. Four years long and four years gone, these students must brace themselves for the unexpected realities of what is known as “the real world.” Although each summer brings waves of trepidation to the prevailing graduating class, there is relief to be found at the finish line of commencement.

If only for a moment, the most prominent and experienced politicians, innovators, entertainers and entrepreneurs pause their pursuits to advise and inspire our future generation.

HuffPost noticed a trend in this year’s graduation speeches: Truth be told, our leaders love numbered lists. From George W. Bush to Denzel Washington to the Founder of Papa John’s, here are the most valuable lists of wisdom from this year’s commencement speakers.

Read the whole story

Letter: Explaining tiered water rates

To the community,

Regarding the successful challenge of tiered rates in San Juan Capistrano, I wanted to share the district's perspective with you. We feel that the challenge was successful on the grounds that the extremely high top tiers at SJC were unsupported by any expense analysis, and were, by SJC's own admission, purely punitive in nature in order to financially coerce high water using customers to reduce their usage.

At the district, we only have two tiers, and that's for residential customers only. The second tier is 50 percent higher than the first tier, and only is used when the customer exceeds the average residential use in the district by approximately 73 percent for the quarter. Last year, the district only collected about $33,000 from the differential pricing for the use in this second tier.

Our water conservation program expenses, geared largely to reduce the landscape watering causing these higher use amounts virtually always occurring in the summer quarters, were approximately $180,000.

The district is not concerned about defending our current pricing structure, given the expenses of running our water conservation program.

Richard Solbrig, South Tahoe Public Utility District general manager