

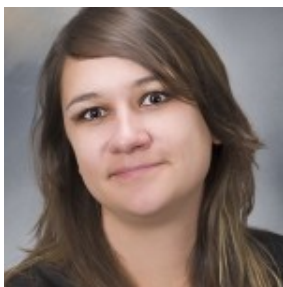
Yanish gives reasons to be on KGID board

Dear friends and neighbors,

I write to express to you why I am running for KGID Board of Trustees, why I am the most qualified candidate, and to ask for your support. Many people don't vote in mid-term elections, and I ask that you come out and vote on Nov. 2.

Four out of five board seats are up for election, and it's imperative that the new trustees are qualified and knowledgeable on KGID issues. By voting, you can make a major difference on a local level.

As a trustee, I will make sure that your voice is heard. I will make important decisions on water metering, replacement of infrastructure, and being prepared for compliance with future federal laws. Each of which will have a costly impact on the district if not carefully anticipated.



Natalie Yanish

I have been a resident of KGID for the majority of the time since I relocated to Tahoe in 2002. I am a buyer specialist for Deb Howard and Company, a real estate brokerage in business in Tahoe for 10 years. I represent buyers in real estate transactions and help new community members find Tahoe homes. My real estate experience gives me the knowledge of property ownership terminology and concepts needed to

understand the complicated issues that face the district.

I am a Lake Tahoe South Shore Chamber of Commerce ambassador, volunteer regularly with local nonprofits, and am an active community member. My community participation keeps me on top of local government, environmental, and economic issues.

As a trustee, I will encourage the implementation of outreach programs for homeowners. Residents and businesses in the district need to be empowered with education on how to protect our environment and resources, while saving money on utility bills. Partnering and communicating with other entities like the Nevada Tahoe Conservation District, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, and the Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District will utilize existing programs and resources. Renovation and investment in the buildings and landscaping in our neighborhoods needs support and direction.

It is also crucial for the district to cut down on operating costs and waste where possible, while also continuing to provide quality service.

Now is the time to look forward and anticipate future projects and the maintenance of our existing infrastructure. Grant funding is severely limited because of economic times. It is critical to show grantors that we are compliant with conservation efforts. As a trustee, I will set a fair and equitable residential water base rate and metering rate structure, based on usage data, budgetary needs, and feedback from you: my friends and neighbors.

I've been attending and participating in board meetings for over a year (including the rate structure workshop and budget meetings), and am well versed in the issues facing the district. The General Improvement District is in a unique landscape and community and I am the best candidate to represent your voice. I need your vote, and your participation.

Sincerely,

Natalie Yanish

Teens co-host political forum, Dems get out the vote

Publisher's note: *This forum is also sponsored by the Lake Tahoe South Shore Chamber of Commerce and Tahoe Daily Tribune.*

To the community,

The Boys and Girls Club Teen Enterprise is hosting a City Council Candidates' Forum on Oct. 13 at 6pm at the club at 1100 Lyons Ave., South Lake Tahoe.

They have asked us to do voter registration at the event, so this would be a great chance to help register people so they can vote on Nov. 2 and also see the candidates for yourself.

There will be a spaghetti dinner for \$5 per person preceding the forum. That starts at 5pm. If you'd like to help at the registration table, please let me know. I'll be there to set up around 4:45pm.

For those who have seen parts 1 and 2 of the documentary "The Power of Nightmares" at our last two meetings, we'll be showing part 3 on Nov. 10. I'll have more information about a location in a couple of weeks.

I hope we see you next Wednesday.

Judy Williams, president Lake Tahoe Democratic Club

Democrats to unite in South Tahoe

To the community,

For America's progressive voters there is no room for apathy or "sitting it out" this election year. After the Tea Party takeover of the Republican Party, America is standing on a political precipice. If enough voters are hoodwinked into voting against their own economic interests and the health and well-being of their families and communities, then the obstructionism cynically practiced by the Party of No will result in a violent lurch to the right unparalleled in the American political experience.

Locally, Tom McClintock said commercial logging should be explored as an option to pay for forest fuel reduction projects in the Basin and cutting large trees to subsidize less profitable fuel reduction work could mark a return to "common sense" forest management practices.

Join us for a Day of Action Oct. 9 at 10am in the library parking lot ... 1000 Rufus Allen Blvd., South Lake Tahoe. Will you spare one day to help elect people who will protect our lake and the Sierra? We have too much to lose if we don't get involved.

Judy Williams, president Lake Tahoe Democratic Club

Opinion: Tahoe needs to have more control, TRPA less

Dear publisher,

People want to know what can be done about the blighted appearance of our city. As a candidate for City Council, I've taken the time to speak to business people and homeowners about their perspective on the problem. What they tell me is that the problem of blight is a direct result of our city being the most regulated real estate in the United States. Consequently, investors are put off by such harsh regulations, businesses are reluctant to upgrade their properties and homeowners face endless fines, penalties and added construction costs.

I'm a longtime tree hugger, but I question the validity of using the decline in lake clarity as an excuse to deprive homeowners of building a garage or adding a deck. Sure, there has been a serious decrease in water clarity, but we cannot ignore that over the past few decades, the lake has been warming and our winters are now up to a month shorter. As a result of both of these trends, it would be perfectly natural for us to expect more sedimentation and more algae, even if there were not a single human living in the Tahoe basin.



Steve Kubby

To fix the blight, we have to restore the property rights of businesses and homeowners. That means the city of South Lake

Tahoe has to challenge the authority of the federal government and the TRPA to regulate us. I believe we have the authority to do so, if we can muster the courage to do the right thing.

Those who would like to dismiss me as a one-issue medical marijuana candidate totally miss the point. I helped lead and direct a voter initiative that challenged the supremacy of the federal government on the issue of the medical use of marijuana. Despite all the propaganda and raids, the Supreme Court of the United States has upheld our right as a state to make our own laws regarding medical marijuana, regardless of federal law.

Based upon my experience and track record of success in taking on the federal government, I believe that beginning right here in South Lake Tahoe, we can redefine politics in a revolutionary return to common sense and smaller government. The time has finally come for us to take back our power, restore our property rights and force government to become our servant, not our master.

Here are the details of how this can be achieved.

Steve Kubby, South Lake Tahoe

Entrepreneurial spirit needs to resurface to save Tahoe

By Garry Bowen

Back in the day, when Harveys was the Wagon Wheel with Food, Fun & Fortune as a slogan, we locals used to kid each other that Tahoe's business climate was conducted in only one of two

ways, depending on the time of year: fast or half-fast.

In the time since, we seem to have sacrificed the former and settled for a constant pattern of the latter.

It may now be useful to offer a particular vantage point of what our joking actually meant to the South Shore. As the original Harveys was “one-stop” (a cold beer, a hand of blackjack, a period of time at a one-armed bandit, a sandwich, or a tank of gas) when it started in 1944, it had few employees – and they all had to wear several hats throughout their workday. At the time, everyone was able to pour you a beer, deal you a hand of cards, be a croupier, or run outside and pump the gas necessary to go back down to California. The only real remnant of that day and age is the Sage Room, as that area remains in pretty much the same place as then, even after the rebuilding (the '80 bomb blast), the remodeling, the additions, and the changes in ownership.



Garry Bowen

Later in the '50s, as Stateline grew, Shehadi's was across the street to be bought by Harrah's and George's Gateway Club was on the corner of Stateline Avenue. That became Harrah's Lake Club after Bill Harrah bought both, and the interior of the Lake Club harbored the original South Shore Room, ostensibly while the location we now know was being built, being opened in 1959. Sen. George Cannon of Reno's Cannon Airport fame was the Gateway Club's original proprietor, with the Cal-Va-Rado coffee shop across the street in California from the Lake Club coffee shop. Two '50s-style sit-down coffee shops, imagine

that.

About the same period of time, the “originals” of Heavenly (Valley), Rudy Gersich, Curly Musso, Chris Kuraisa, later Hugh Killebrew (as their attorney) brought in Dave Gay (Gay Propane) to develop the tramway, which opened in 1962. This was the era of Koflach leather ski boots, secured to skis with long-thong leather bindings, and long, skinny skis seemingly made out of barrel staves, soon to see drastic changes in ski technology. For example, with the introduction in 1965 of the Lange poured-plastic aluminum-buckled ski boot, “space-age” in its day, the skiing industry came into its own.

Setting that stage, it is important to note that the South Shore Room, heralding the big entertainer era, was actually opened before the Squaw Valley Olympics (1960), meaning that both the tramway and the South Shore Room were strong evidence of vision, decisiveness, and a level of entrepreneurial skill we really haven’t seen since. Even the Lake Tahoe Airport was an exercise in entrepreneurial courage.

After Squaw Valley, with its first globally-televised entrée of the Lake Tahoe region into the national and international psyche, was crowned a success, and the South Shore was picking up steam. Bill Harrah was intrigued by the international exposure, and being the man that he was, began looking at how to tap into the now worldwide exposure that only Olympic events can secure. His answer was to think about extending the runway at the airport to accommodate planes large enough, and with enough range, to entice an international clientele. This would require large commercial jets, and soon the Harrah’s Starliner was born – with the familiar and graceful “swoop” underneath the Harrah’s logo that exists to this day, he instead used a number of stars following the same gentle arc on the side of the Starliner. With both the airport and the proper sized plane in place, he embarked upon the now-obscure junkets direct from our now-moribund airport to Mexico City, where folks from Caracas, Buenos Aires, and elsewhere, joined

those already assembled in Mexico City to fly directly into the Lake Tahoe Airport.

From a gaming perspective, this added a particularly elegant spin to the Tahoe South Shore experience, coinciding as it did with the introduction of baccarat, a simple and cosmopolitan game of high dollar fame. It appears that its introduction was thought to be more of an attraction to the sophisticated upper-end clientele of European descent, and as a baccarat dealer had to speak at least three languages (ala Europe and South America), they were also dressed elegantly: black tie, cummerbund, and dinner jacket.

As baccarat is traditionally played only with cash (no chips), and is played relatively fast – it is only you against either the player or the dealer, with a high count of 9 (face cards are counted as zero), their floor-to-ceiling glass enclosures were a sight to behold, as real money changed hands, sometimes in amazing amounts.

This in turn compounded the “dinner show” experience, also similarly (but not quite) dressed up, as baccarat enclosures were alongside the entrance to the South Shore Room – creating a special Tahoe cachet. This, combined with the more egalitarian “nickel player” and Oriental keno players, assured that all the “sales per square foot” aspects were covered across the entire casino floor, with food and beverage to match.

Ironically, after Bill Harrah died, and the Harrah’s enterprise changed hands, the focus was lost, as it changed to more of a bottom-line emphasis, as the business model success that Harrah achieved with his comprehensive innovations became a convenient source for corporate bean counters to cut.

One glaring example concerned the now-successful Embassy Suites next door – it replaced a large valet parking lot that spanned the space between Harrah’s and the now-gone 600 room

Tahoe Inn. As Harrah's was purchased by Holiday Inn, the hotel mentality took over, as the large prominent space looked pretty inviting to develop. Only problem was the existing valet parking lot was generating more cash flow for Harrah's than could any hotel/motel property due to the fact that, in a location like Tahoe, reliant as it is on Highway 50 and '50s era car travel (still), cars were pulling into Harrah's even before they were even in Nevada, and the parking lot spaces could be filled with new customers on an ongoing basis, around the clock. The 500-car valet parking lot was turned over five or six times in 24 hours versus a 400-room Embassy Suites having each room turn over but once – regardless of full occupancy. That parking lot also did not have a capital expense of over \$100 million, while at the same time diluting Harrah's traffic flow, thereby its revenue stream. Harrah's lost significant ground – literally.

A valet parking lot may not seem to be an important business element, but "Attendant" parking was a stand-alone department for Bill Harrah, but was soon subsumed into just another hotel function for a hotelier – a mere channel into a room check-in. The difference in emphasis is profound, as the efficiency of that department resulted in yet another synergistic compounding of the business innovations already mentioned for Harrah, and resulted in their ongoing Stateline prominence over Harvey's, Sierra Tahoe, and Caesars.

In this milieu, the weather was also a business consideration, which is easiest described as "make hay while the sun shines". As provincial as that now seems (almost quaint), it was nevertheless a serious factor.

Coming out of the '40s and '50s, the highways openings and closings were not as reliable, in that Highway 50 was closed a lot more during winter. This created an atmosphere that cultivated the idea of doing as much business as you could during the emerging spring, as much as possible during summer, and the nurture of another market descending into fall. Winter

would then take care of itself, with one exception: if your business employed people with families, rent and mortgages to pay, food and clothing to buy, then you had better have some customers whether it was day, swing or graveyard. The answer was to have, only in late fall into emerging spring, a “leave-the-driving-to-us” (thanks Greyhound) marketing campaign to bus-in supplemental clientele, shoring up what Bill Cosby, Glen Campbell, Sammy Davis Jr. and Ann-Margret drew in the ever-busy summers. Current corporate management’s only emphasis is to insist that the “shoulder season” should be as lucrative as summer, even though they were chipping away at their own “making hay” by canceling big entertainment, and not fully understanding what they had in the first place. Flattening out your revenue streams is obviously not the answer, and will not ever be.

Slow-forward to now (emblematic of a serious decline) and realize that such business models are no more, now combined as they are with the “picture-postcard mentality” inherent to a second/third home real estate emphasis, and the need for a serious reinvention of South Shore economy is much easier to perceive.

Couple this with a serious lack of negotiating skills (for insight, the word business in Spanish is *negotio*) it becomes much clearer why progress is seriously undermined with our now-infamous “Ta-hole”, our transit system going bankrupt with an over \$2 million deficit (in spite of having a dozen-member board), and now the ridiculous contractual discussions shutting down our gateway project at El Dorado Beach.

This long look-back is timed with the “au courant” popularity of the soon-to be-done Prosperity Plan, as Tahoe will need to extend its perspective with a foundation of understanding what Tahoe has been to its constituents (whether they live or just visit). It has the deep “carriage-trade” roots of other eras, a history of profound entrepreneurial innovation, and magnificent natural beauty, all very transferable into new

sustainable economic development, but not if it thinks in continued terms of 'half-fast'.

To restore our confidence in ourselves requires a nostalgic appreciation way beyond such environmental symbiotic relationships like those of the TRPA and "Keep Tahoe Blue". We don't need to be "fast" and certainly not "half-fast". We need to "get real" real fast.

Garry Bowen has a 50-year connection to the South Shore, with an immediate past devoted to global sustainability, on most of its current fronts: green building, energy and water efficiencies, and public health. He's also in the process of planning with his classmates their 50-year South Tahoe High reunion. He may be reached at tahoefuture@gmail.com or (775) 690.6900.

Opinion: Don't let businesses shift costs to public

By Janis R. Hirohama

Proposition 26 is another attempt by the oil, alcohol and tobacco industries to shift onto taxpayers the burden of paying for the pollution and public health impacts of their businesses. It is so broad and so poorly written that it will negatively affect virtually every area of state and local government operations. Conservatives and liberals alike have good reason to oppose Prop. 26.

The business interests behind Prop. 26 want to change the state Constitution so that legitimate fees to mitigate environmental problems, protect public safety or respond to

public nuisances would be labeled as “taxes.” Defining fees so narrowly that most such fees would become “taxes” means they will require a two-thirds vote of the Legislature or a two-thirds vote in local elections. It would become virtually impossible to make businesses pay for the costs they impose on taxpayers.

Read the whole story

Janis R. Hirohama is the president of the League of Women Voters of California. For more information, go to www.noonproposition26.com.

Opinion: Stop imposing ‘fees’ that are really taxes

By Juri McCorkle

State and local politicians are using a loophole in the law to raise taxes by disguising them as “fees” – circumventing constitutional requirements for passing taxes on goods like food, gas, beverages, cell phones and even emergency services. These hidden taxes add billions of dollars in higher costs that consumers, taxpayers and small businesses pay every day.

Proposition 26 would close this loophole. It would protect taxpayers against efforts by local politicians and the state Legislature to increase taxes by disguising them as fees. Prop. 26 would require tax-like fees to be treated like taxes, requiring voter approval for local fees and a two-thirds vote of the Legislature for state fees.

Under Prop. 26, legitimate fees – those that cover the cost of

a service – can still be passed with a majority vote of the Legislature or be approved by local officials. Fees for things like driver's or fishing licenses or penalties for violating the law would still be considered fees under Prop. 26.

Read the whole story

Juri McCorkle is an owner of the Dell'uva Restaurant in San Francisco.

Time for voters to do their job – learn about candidates

Lake Tahoe News on Oct. 1 will begin profiling candidates for South Lake Tahoe City Council and Douglas County Commission.

✖ Ten people are running for three council seats. No incumbents are running. Two of the candidates did not answer the questions. A phone message was left for each to ensure they had received the emailed questions.

Four people are running for two commission seats. The incumbents each face a challenger. (Howell v. McDermid and Bonner v. Brady.)

Candidate responses will run in the order they were returned to *Lake Tahoe News*. None of the candidates knew this until now. One will run each day for 12 days.

Lake Tahoe News gave the candidates 10 days to answer the questions. The idea was this would give them ample time to think about their answers and do any necessary research. They were allowed to write as much as they wanted to. Ignore any reference to being limited to a paragraph or two. They were

only limited by waiting until the last minute, not by space constraints put on them by *LTN*.

As some have said, the South Shore is at a tipping point. Sink or soar is how *Lake Tahoe News* likes to look at the immediate future for the area. It does matter who is elected on both sides of the state line. This election may prove more critical than many in recent history.

Who best understands the tourism-based economy of the South Shore? Who best understands financial issues? Who can work best together with others and build consensus? Who has vision?

These are the questions *Lake Tahoe News* poses to the electorate.

Read the answers – all of them. Compare them. Who best reflects what you want the South Shore to look like when their four-year term is up? Who best seems to understand the issues? Who has provided substance and not rhetoric? Who can answer the questions now and not wait until they are in office? Who can hit the road running and not need a learning curve?

For four council candidates, pay attention to the response to this question: *You and three other council candidates met with the Lake Tahoe South Shore Chamber of Commerce. Tell us about that meeting.* Not everyone agrees this was a chamber meeting. Odd. We think prospective councilmembers should know where they are going and whom they are speaking with.

And, yes, they should talk to all chambers and all other groups. It's important to hear what business groups, other special segments of town and individuals want and believe are concerns. We don't want people elected who only listen to their inner circle. But we do want councilmembers to know whom they are talking to and taking advice from.

These people will represent all of us. That's a bit of the quirkiness about living next to another state. What the

council does affects people in Douglas County. What the commission does affects people in South Lake Tahoe. Although we only get to vote in one location, both bodies impact all of our lives on the South Shore.

To that end, it is imperative as citizens we get involved. It starts with registering to vote. Read the answers the candidates gave *Lake Tahoe News*. If your question wasn't asked, ask the candidates yourself.

Most of them are doing their job by familiarizing themselves with the issues. Now it's time to do yours by getting educated about whom to vote for.

There will be a City Council candidates forum on Oct. 14 at 9:30am at Inn by the Lake's conference center. This is sponsored by *Lake Tahoe News*, South Lake Tahoe Lodging Association, and South Tahoe Association of Realtors. Everyone is invited to attend.

Opinion: Prop. 25 is not real reform

By Arthur Bruzzone

All Californians want an on-time and balanced budget. We all agree on that.

But Proposition 25 is not real reform. The real agenda of the Sacramento politicians backing Prop. 25 is to enable the Legislature to more easily pass wasteful spending through borrowed billions and through budget gimmicks. Prop. 25 will intensify, not alleviate, our budget crisis.

Prop. 25 is the latest attempt by Sacramento politicians to deceive voters into giving them additional unbridled power. These are the same politicians who have raised our taxes and burdened us with runaway spending. In the end, the problem with California's state budget isn't the process – it's the politicians. Real reform will come only when we clean house in Sacramento, not amend our state Constitution to make it easier to pass unbalanced budgets.

Read the whole story

Arthur Bruzzone of San Francisco is a former member of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

Looking for answers to marijuana cultivation questions

Publisher's note: The author of this letter read part of it into the record at the Sept. 29, 2010, marijuana cultivation committee meeting in South Lake Tahoe. Below is the letter in its entirety.

To the publisher,

At last week's committee meeting called to develop an ordinance for the home cultivation of medical marijuana, a homeowner on the committee spoke of her concern about the disposal of soil potentially contaminated with fertilizer, herbicides, pesticides and other grow products. There is also the problem of the washing and disposal of contaminated equipment used to apply these products. This possible

introduction of toxins into neighborhoods and commercial grow warehouses will have to be squarely confronted and resolved. Some regulatory agencies and neighbors will demand it.

Grow advocates on the committee agreed that in order to dissipate marijuana fumes and reduce mold problems, fans would be required to circulate the air from the grow room (up to 10 percent of the floor area of a house) to outside fresh air every three minutes. Unlike fans made for home use, these may have to be of an industrial sort, and if so, are likely to make noise well above the peace and quiet that neighborhood residents presently enjoy. Fans will be programmed to switch on and off for as long as marijuana is growing in the houses. Will they be running 24 hours a day? Just one of these fans may announce to any passerby that they are close to a grow house and every neighbor will know where the grow houses are. Several of these fans placed in close proximity could contribute a continuous noise to some significant part of the neighborhood.

If marijuana is grown in garages, flammable and toxic material such as gardening chemicals, anti-freeze, gas grills and other equipment that is now suitably stored in a garage will be displaced. While it may be legal to store such items in the home, is it the preferred location? Can the fire department recommend alternative storage spaces?

Since growing marijuana in neighborhoods will in part include a business transaction – the selling of the unused product to dispensaries – will water use be billed at the commercial or residential rate?

The City Council may impose a one-or two-year moratorium on new dispensaries. Nevertheless, the three existing storefront dispensaries are “grandfathered in”. Why? Isn’t it appropriate for there to be periodic reviews of the dispensaries by the public, City Council and staff? Shouldn’t their continued operation be provisional? Who made the decision that the three

dispensaries are grandfathered in and why was public comment not sought beforehand?

Originally, this ordinance was to be presented to the City Council at its Oct. 5 meeting. That date has been changed to the Oct. 19 City Council meeting. Hopefully, the public will have a chance to comment.

Gloria Harootunian, South Lake Tahoe