



BASS LAKE BULLETIN

Vol. VII No. 5

The Voice of the Bass Lake Community

May 2009

www.basslakeaction.org

FATAL ACCIDENT ON BASS LAKE ROAD



Ditch and memorial near Madera Way where body of motorcyclist was found

A Cameron Park man died on the morning of April 27 in a motorcycle crash on the east side of Bass Lake Road near Madera Way.

Cameron Park resident Jason Fetters, 39, had been riding his Harley-Davidson around 1 A.M. Monday when it drifted off the road, and he was ejected from the motorcycle, according to the report by the California Highway Patrol. He was reportedly returning home after work.

An El Dorado County Coroner's spokesman stated that even though he crashed in the early morning hours, his body was not located until passers-by saw it at about 6 A.M. His body was located in a ditch, out

of view of any other cars passing by, in the early morning hours when it was dark. The cause of death was a head injury, according to the Coroner's office.

There were no witnesses to the crash, according to the California Highway Patrol. Nearby neighbors stated that they had not heard the crash, and were only aware of the accident when the emergency vehicles arrived. The accident was the first fatality of the year on Bass Lake Road.

Friends and family of the motorcyclist have erected a small memorial at the crash site. ~



Roadside memorial



COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MAKEUP CHALLENGED

El Dorado Hills' new Assemblymember Alyson Huber is running into opposition to her initiative to equalize the representation on the El Dorado County Transportation Commission by adding three new members from El Dorado Hills. The commission is the regional transportation planning and management agency for El Dorado County, except for the Tahoe area which has its own transportation agency. The commission is operated under a joint powers agreement between El Dorado County and the City of Placerville.

Last month Huber amended Assembly Bill 1204 to add three seats to the commission, all to be appointed by the El Dorado Hills Community Services District. Huber said the legislation, which she introduced without consulting city or county representatives, or the commission staff, was intended simply to initiate discussion. Huber said the language in the bill was merely a place holder and she had no specific model in mind for the commission. El Dorado Hills residents have long complained that they had little to say in what decisions were made in Placerville. However, the move has drawn fire from county residents outside of El Dorado Hills.

A look at what the commission does may give an understanding of why the issue is important. Under the direction of the commission, the commission staff develops project monitoring reports for transportation proj-

(continued on page 3)





Bass Lake Village Woodridge Zone B landscaped entry at Madera Way

REDUCED WOODRIDGE LLAD ASSESSMENT SET

The Bulletin has learned that the annual assessment for the Bass Lake Village Zone B (Woodridge) Landscaping and Lighting Assessment District (LLAD) will be \$99.00 for the 2009–2010 fiscal year, pending the approval of the El Dorado Hills Community Services District (CSD) Board of Directors. As a result, Woodridge homeowners will see \$200.00 reductions on their September property tax bills.

The reduction is the direct result of efforts begun last year by the Bass Lake Action Committee (BLAC) to clarify what property was actually in the LLAD, property for which the residents were being assessed \$299.00 a year to maintain. Inquiries by BLAC led the CSD to investigate the history of the LLAD, and it was discovered that Oak Knoll Park, on which the bulk of the prior \$299.00 annual assessment was spent, was not a part of the LLAD. Only the property at the Woodridge entry at Madera Way and the streetlights in Woodridge are actually in the LLAD.

Earlier this year, each Woodridge homeowner received a refund of up to \$1,200, depending on the length of their home ownership. This amount represented the LLAD funds that the CSD had mistakenly spent over the years in maintaining Oak Knoll Park.

The balance of the funds in the Woodridge LLAD account will be sufficient to maintain the Madera Way entry and the streetlights in Woodridge, plus mandated reserves for unforeseen events and replacements.

The \$99.00 annual assessment amount is expected to be finalized when the CSD approves all of the El Dorado Hills LLAD assessments at a public hearing on May 14, after which the CSD will send the LLAD assessment amounts to the county assessor to be included on the 2009-2010 property tax bills.

The \$99.00 fee will be the same as the LLAD fee assessed on homeowners in the Hills of El Dorado, whose Bass Lake Village Zone A LLAD contains approximately the same acreage to be maintained. ~



CSD MULLS OPTIONS FOR LLAD DEFICITS

The Board of Directors of the El Dorado Hills Community Services District (CSD) met on May 1 in special session and heard staff recommendations about what to do about the lighting and landscape assessment districts (LLADs) administered by the CSD that are currently under-funded with respect to upkeep and maintenance.

The homeowners in all LLADs pay an

annual assessment fee to maintain certain neighborhood landscape and lighting improvements as part of their annual property tax bill. However, many of the fees were set years ago and some have no provision for increasing the fee to keep up with rising costs to maintain the LLADs. Absent such an inflation provision, homeowners must approve any increase in their LLAD fee in a special election. The CSD has subsidized some of the under-funded LLADs in the past, while at the same time trying to figure out what to do about them.

The recent California Supreme Court case, which was decided against the County of Santa Clara with respect to LLAD fees, limits the amount of general benefit funds that can be spent on special benefit properties such as the LLADs.

In the meeting discussions, the CSD board members were generally cool to the idea of further subsidizing LLADs whose neighborhood residents refuse to pay their fair share to keep up their neighborhood's LLAD. On the other hand, LLADs with public parks provide a general benefit that may be supported by general CSD funds to the extent allowed by the Santa Clara case.

It appears that the CSD Board and staff will study the issue and make a decision about what to do with the under-funded LLADs in the near future. ~



Percheron Horses Wagon Ride

ANNUAL CLARKSVILLE DAY A HUGE SUCCESS

Three thousand people enjoyed a day full of local history at the Third Annual Clarksville Day in El Dorado Hills on May 9.

Visitors toured historic Clarksville and were treated to a number of historical exhibits and artifacts. Wagon rides, gold panning, and an antique auto parade and show were available to adults and children alike.

The free event was put on by the Clarksville Region Historical Society. ~

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Hello All,

Well, Spring is certainly here, and the heavy rainstorm on the first of the month really got the growing season off to a great start. By our rain gauge, we got about 3 inches of rain, though some of our neighbors said that they got more than that. Hopefully this means that we will have more water this year, and avoid a drought. We shall see.

Our whole garden is bursting with blooms, and the trees are all in full leaf. The weeds are certainly healthy this year also, and they have gotten a head start on us. Fortunately we have a backpack sprayer that comes in handy – three gallons of weed-killer a batch.

Spring also lets me brag a little about the vineyard. ("Oh, no!" everyone groans.) Well, I have to say that the vines are doing awfully well, and the canes are getting up to their second training wire. I have been shoot-positioning for a week now, making sure the canes grow up between the wires so they have support throughout the season.

If one looks closely at the vines, you can see bud clusters near the bottom of each of the canes. These are called inflorescences and will soon flower, after which each inflorescence will turn into a bunch of baby grapes in a process known as berry set. Lots of buds mean lots of grapes, which means lots of wine at harvest.

Another happy event was when we noticed that two of our New Zealand Flax plants are going to bloom this year. Tall flower stalks have emerged from the centers, and the buds are forming on it in a manner which resembles an Iris plant. I will keep you posted.

That's all for now. I hope your Spring is being as beautiful as ours.

John E. Thomson

President

HUBER BILL *(continued)*

ects that are regionally significant or funded through the Commission by state and federal fund sources. These quarterly reports help to increase awareness of regional transportation issues and potential project delivery challenges. The overall work program and budget is the primary management tool for the commission, identifying the activities and a schedule of work for regional transportation in the county. A new overall work program is prepared for each fiscal year. So both money and power are at stake when it comes to planning which road projects get the green light.

A list of the current transportation commission projects gives one an idea of where transportation efforts are going. The projects include the Placerville Drive Multi-Modal Corridor, the US Highway 50 High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes, the Missouri Flat Road Interchange, the Western Placerville Interchanges, the US Highway 50 Improvements through the City of Placerville, the State Route 49 Realignment Study, the Broadway Village Corridor in Placerville, and the Camino Corridor Project Study Report.

The commission is presently made up of six commissioners. The Commission consists of three members of the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors and three members of the Placerville City Council. An alternate commissioner is also appointed from each of those agencies. The commission also has two ex-officio but non-voting members that represent the City of South Lake Tahoe and CalTrans. Commission meetings are held at the El Dorado County Center in Placerville.

The current voting commission members are Mark Acuna, Carl Hagen, Patty Borelli, from the City of Placerville; and John Knight, Ray Nutting, Jack Sweeney, from El Dorado County. Alternate members Dave Machado and Ron Briggs represent Placerville and the county, respectively.

Huber has extracted a commitment from the transportation commission to involve the community in a discussion of the panel's composition. Although the majority of commissioners said they resented Huber's methods, accusing her of using a club to initiate that conversation and pitting one part of the county against another, they directed staff members to present a proposal next month for a citizens advisory committee to convene community meetings throughout the county to discuss alternative models for the commission. ~



EARNINGS UP FOR RED HAWK CASINO'S MANAGEMENT COMPANY

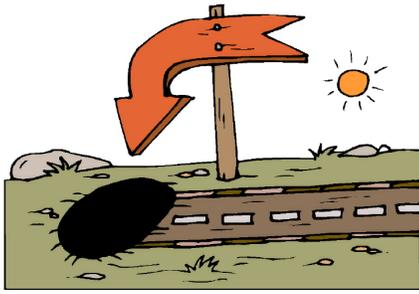
The developer and manager of Red Hawk Casino, Lakes Entertainment Inc., saw its quarterly earnings swing to the positive, in part because of the new casino at the Shingle Springs Rancheria. Lakes earned \$1 million in the first quarter, up from a loss of \$6.9 million during the same period the year earlier.

Revenue was \$7.3 million in the first three months, most of it in increased management fees, up from revenue of \$4.6 million in the first quarter last year. The company partners with Native American tribes to develop casinos and resorts.

Lakes' revenue grew in the first quarter of 2009 primarily as a result of improved performance at the Four Winds Casino Resort and the opening of the Red Hawk Casino, according to a Lakes spokesman. Though the new Red Hawk casino is doing well, Lakes had higher expectations for the casino's opening. Lakes believes that the uncertain economic environment, especially in the California market, has limited the Red Hawk Casino's ability to achieve consistently strong operating results. However, the Red Hawk continues to experience strong visitor counts, and Lakes says it remains cautiously optimistic regarding the long-term operating results of this property.

Other casinos in California also have seen less business as the recession, collapsing home prices, and high outstanding debt has diminished consumers' disposable income.

Lakes currently manages the Cimarron Casino for the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma, Four Winds Casino for the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians and Red Hawk Casino. It is also working on new projects with the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma and the Jamul Indian Village in San Diego. ~



BLAC ASKS SUPERVISORS FOR ROAD REPAIR HELP

Bass Lake Action Committee has asked the three county supervisors, John Knight, Ray Nutting and Ron Briggs, whose districts cover Bass Lake Road, for help in getting the northern portion of Bass Lake Road repaired. Several potholes have opened up recently, and the road is becoming "alligatored," or breaking up, along many places in this section. Many Bass Lake residents have expressed dismay over the condition of that stretch of the road.

The request resulted in a telephone call from Ray Nutting, and a response from Ron Briggs' office acknowledging the request.

Traffic counts on Bass Lake Road have continued to grow, and this increase in traffic load is no doubt hastening the deterioration of the road.

County Department of Transportation crews, under the guidance of Deputy Director Tom Celio, have been valiantly filling in the potholes with cold patch, but this is but a very temporary remedy for the underlying

problem of road surface breakup, and the potholes soon reappear and multiply.

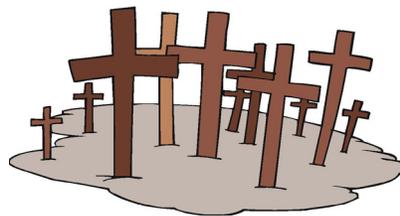
Last summer, the section of Bass Lake Road between the sharp curve near Madera Way and Woodleigh Lane was chip-sealed in the worst sections, and that temporary remedy seems to be working so far. ~



Memorial Day was first called Decoration Day. It was a day set aside for us to honor those who died preserving the Union in the Civil War. It was called Decoration Day for the act of decorating the graves of dead soldiers with flowers.

It is unknown when Decoration Day first became Memorial Day. On June 19th, 1926, Congress authorized the designation of May 30th as Memorial Day. At that time Memorial Day was made a National Holiday honoring those who died fighting in all our wars.

Veterans and families will join with the community at the annual Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday, May 25, 2009 at 11:00 AM at the El Dorado County Veterans Monument, County Government Center, 360 Fair Lane at Ray Lawyer Drive, Placerville, California. Veterans are encouraged to wear their uniforms or medals. Contact Friends of the Veterans Monument, Inc., 530-626-7762 for information. ~



BLAC HEARS HUBER AIDE, SETS JUNE BOARD MEETING

Bass Lake Action Committee members and guests met with Ann Baird, District Director for Assemblymember Alyson Huber, at the regular meeting of the Bass Lake Action Committee held at the Woodridge home of Fran and John Thomson on the evening of May 4th. Baird discussed the state of the California budget and the pending state budget initiatives.

Also discussed was the legislation that Huber introduced in order to give El Dorado Hills direct representation on the El Dorado County Transportation Commission. A lively question and answer session followed the formal presentation.

A regular business meeting followed the presentation.

The next BLAC meeting will be a board meeting held on June 1st at the home of Kathy and Herb Prevost, 1080 Jasmine Circle, El Dorado Hills, at 7:00 p.m. There will be no guest speaker at the June board meeting. ~

The Bass Lake Bulletin is published monthly by the Bass Lake Action Committee, El Dorado Hills, California

Copyright © 2009. Reproduction is permitted if appropriate attribution is given to the Bass Lake Bulletin

John E. Thomson, Ph.D.
President and Editor
doctorjet@basslakeaction.org
530-677-3039

For additional information see our website basslakeaction.org or contact

Vice President Kathy Prevost
kathyp@basslakeaction.org
530-672-6836



In May

*Yes, I will spend the livelong day
With Nature in this month of May;
And sit beneath the trees, and share
My bread with birds
whose homes are there;
While cows lie down to eat, and sheep
Stand to their necks in grass so deep;
While birds do sing with all their might,
As though they felt the earth in flight.*

— William Henry Davies

Bass Lake Action Committee
501 Kirkwood Court
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762