



BASS LAKE BULLETIN

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Map showing the approximate location of the new Marriott four-story hotel that has been proposed for downtown El Dorado Hills

NEW HOTEL PLANNED FOR EDH MONTAÑO SHOPPING CENTER

A 124-room Marriott Springhill Suites hotel is planned for downtown El Dorado Hills, with the start of construction slated for mid-to late 2015. The new hotel will be a part of the Montañó de El Dorado shopping center, located at the intersection of White Rock and Latrobe Roads. The center already boasts a Pottery World store, Relish Burger Bar, 36 Handles Irish Pub, Peet's Coffee and Tea shop, and a number of retail stores.

The hotel has been "long in the works" but planning and construction has been on hold pending a stronger economic recovery and further growth of El Dorado Hills, according to Vinal Perkins, the owner, developer and property manager of the shopping center.

The four-story hotel will face onto Latrobe Road and will be tailored to the needs of business and leisure travelers. The sixteen acres of commercial property south of the present shopping center eventually will be built out with 70,000 to 100,000 square feet of retail space, plus the hotel. Plans are

currently being prepared to submit to the El Dorado County Planning Commission.

The present Post Street, which runs past the post office and across White Rock Road into Montañó de El Dorado, will continue through the shopping center and ultimately curve west to connect to Latrobe Road.

The franchisee for the hotel is Montañó Hospitality LLC, a group that includes owners of the Montañó center, and that company will serve as a Marriott-approved property management company. Perkins is a managing member of the group. He declined to put a price on building the hotel.

Perkins pointed out that he is a resident of El Dorado Hills and "definitely not an outside developer from Sacramento or Los Angeles."

"I've paid particular attention to laying out a shopping center that I, as a community resident, would want to have in my backyard," he concluded. ~

Credit: Art Garcia, The Telegraph

**Merry
Christmas**



CALIFORNIA DRIVERS BRACE FOR COSTLY NEW GASOLINE "TAX"

Californians already pay the nation's second highest gas tax at 68 cents a gallon -- and now it will go up again in January to pay for a first-in-the-nation climate change law. Motorists can blame Sacramento and former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger for passing a bill requiring California to reduce carbon emissions to 1990 levels by 2020.

The tax on carbon already raised about \$1 billion in revenue by requiring manufacturers and utilities to buy credits for each ton of carbon emitted into the atmosphere. At the beginning of next year, the law will also apply to oil and gas. Refiners and distributors say they will pass another \$2 billion in costs on—largely to consumers.

Estimates of the cost of the tax vary. The California Air Resources Board predicts the new tax will raise gasoline prices from 20 cents to \$1.30 per gallon. A prominent state senator who helped author the bill estimated the cost at 40 cents a gallon. Environmental activists downplay the cost, but hail the impact.

California is the only state to extend the idea to gasoline. By the end of the decade, the state is expected to collect \$5 billion in revenue by charging businesses and consumers for the right to pollute. So far the state collected \$833 billion by selling 'carbon credits' to polluters.

"They have generated close to a billion

(continued on page 5)



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello All,

I am sure we are all happy with the recent fall in the price of gasoline. Personally, Fran and I are glad that the price of high-test gasoline has dipped towards \$3.00 a gallon, since both our cars require this high-priced gas. Of course, the reduction in gasoline prices goes hand in hand with the fall in oil prices caused by the ramp-up in U.S. production.

Since both the price of crude oil and gasoline has fallen, you should find that the cost to fill your home's propane tank this winter has also gone down. Though propane is produced from both crude oil refining and natural gas processing, propane's price is influenced mainly by the cost of crude oil, which has declined dramatically. If you live in the communities of Bridlewood Canyon, Woodridge or Sierra Crossing, which have a pricing contract with JS West Propane, your deliveries in the last week or so have been about \$1.60 a gallon. Last January the price was \$2.50 a gallon.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration reported on December 10 that the national average retail price for propane hovered around \$2.40 per gallon in this October and November. Though that number does not cover the Far West, it is indicative of U.S. propane prices in general.

If the price of your propane has not gone down by a dollar or so since last year, call your propane company and complain. Some companies, which I shall not name, are notorious for leaving their retail prices up when wholesale costs decline. Also, are you paying your propane provider a fuel surcharge for delivery when the cost of truck fuel has declined? Don't forget that **you** are the customer.

You may have noticed that Bass Lake is noticeably bigger due to the recent rains. Let's hope that these welcome rains are an omen of a wet and snowy winter to come.

Let me close by wishing you and yours a Happy Christmas Season, and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

John Thomson

President



A brand new façade, remodeled interior, and new upscale offerings greet the customers of the new Fork Lift Market by Nugget in Cameron Park.

CAMERON PARK MARKET SPORTS NEW LOOK AND IMAGE

Shoppers at Cameron Park's Food 4 Less have seen their local grocery store transformed before their eyes over the last several months, and earlier this week Nugget Markets unveiled the store's new name — Fork Lift — and kicked off a week-long celebration.

Assistant store director Jazzmen Sinns says, "The store is really a hybrid of Food 4 Less and Nugget, the best of both worlds."

In addition to the products that shoppers have put into their carts since Food 4 Less opened in 2002, Fork Lift has more than 20,000 new items, Sinns said, pointing out the store's new bulk items area that includes everything from granola to Yakima applewood sea salt. The store boasts an upgraded produce section, bakery (breads baked in El Dorado Hills and brought up daily) and meat department (sausage is made on site). Fork Lift also has a full deli complete with build-your-own sandwiches, a salad bar, grain bar and soups.

Beer lovers will drink up the largest selection on El Dorado County's west slope, and cheese lovers are really enjoying the new specialty cheese counter.

"They love it," said Fork Lift cheese expert Devin Stapleton, who said Cameron Park is a smoked gouda loving community. "They're happy that it's here."

The interior of the store retains its warehouse-style look. However, in addition to the traditional products, the shelves boast many new items, including products labeled

organic, gluten-free, fair trade, California grown, etc. Fork Lift has 11 "lifestyle" designations for its products; shoppers can see all those specially labeled items online at forkliftgrocery.com and print out a master list so they know what to add to their shopping list.

"We're now able to offer more selection and variety to our guests," Sinns said, explaining that Fork Lift has become a one-stop shop for its customers. "Our guests have a lot of choices."

When store leaders began the remodel earlier this year they made small changes but then, Sinns said, "We realized we wanted to go big."

That included the new name — Fork Lift — which is a tribute to both the equipment used in the warehouse-style store and the foodie term to elevate one's diet.

"All of our guests have been really excited," Sinns said of the change. The kick-off celebration began Wednesday with the first 500 customers receiving canvas shopping bags. Shoppers also enjoyed samples all week and next week a seafood truck will be on site to offer the freshest fish one can buy. ~

Credit: Noel Stack, Mountain Democrat



BLAC ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY



Some of the members and guests enjoying themselves



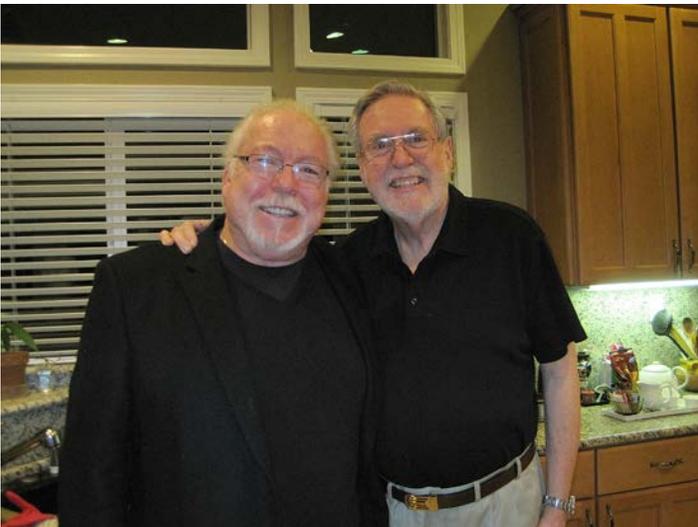
More members and guests in a holiday party mood



Guest Andrea Howard, BLAC VP Kathy Prevost, and guest Joanne Prada



Members Walter and Heidi Oberloher



Guest CSD Director Billy Vandegriff with BLAC President John Thomson



Hostess Sue Colvin, guest Billy Vandegriff and BLAC Treasurer Fran Thomson

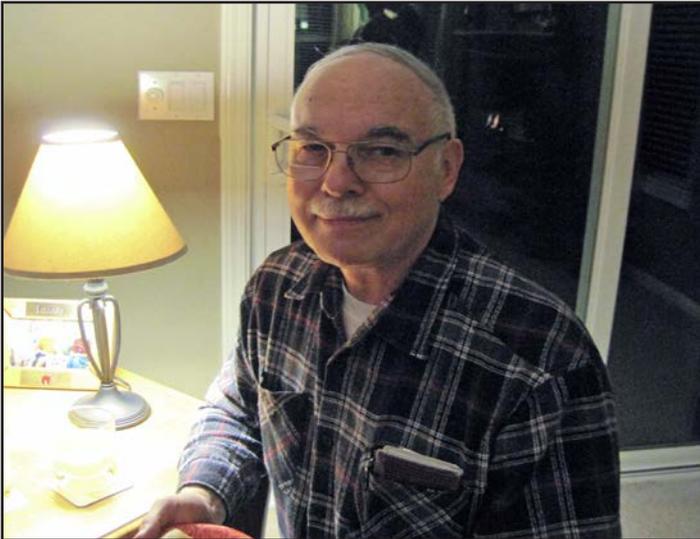
BLAC ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY



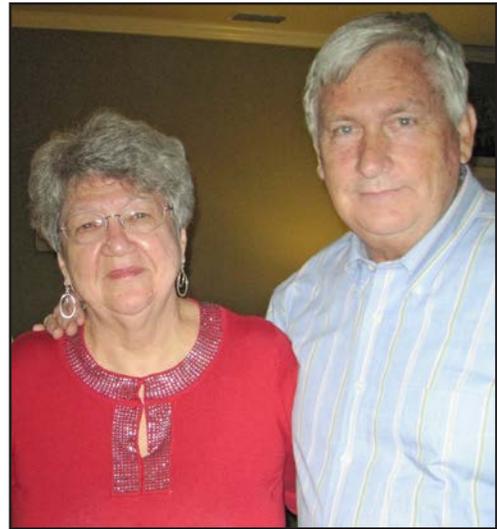
Host Stuart Clvin and guest County Supervisor Ron "Mik" Mikulaco



John and Fran Thomson with guest EID Director Greg Prada



Newly-elected BLAC Secretary Jan Buxton



Member Jeanette D'Amico and guest Los Rios College District Trustee-elect John Knight



Guest Ron "Mik" Mikulaco and BLAC President John Thomson



Guests Tom and Andrea Howard

GAS TAX *(continued)*

dollars in revenue just from the carbon tax credit auctions that have been going on for over a year. Where has that money gone?" asked California Independent Oil and Marketing Association spokesman Mike Rohrer. "And why do we have to tax the consumer to make this happen for clean air? Everyone is for clean air but let's not hurt the consumer in the process and not giving them a full explanation of how this exactly works and why."

Not everyone is sold on the idea. Europe tried a cap and trade program in the last decade and pollution levels still increased dramatically.

The proceeds of the tax will be used not only to reduce emissions or the cost of pollution controls for business, but also to build low-income housing near mass-transit hubs and support construction of the state's high-speed rail project.

Critics claim the money could be better spent to directly reduce emissions from industrial sources. Instead, some say the fund acts more like a pot of money for state politicians to build projects in their district for residents who may or may not use the transportation alternatives.

Carbon tax proponents say the tax would go to help mitigate the effects of global warming on the poor. ~



Ring Out, Wild Bells

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light;
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

—Alfred Lord Tennyson



BLAC ANNUAL MEETING HELD IN DECEMBER, NEXT MEETING SET FOR FEBRUARY

The 2014 Annual Bass Lake Action Committee General Membership Meeting and Christmas Party was held on December 1, 2014, at the home of Stuart and Sue Colvin, 131 Gage Court in Serrano, El Dorado Hills. The election of officers was the only item of business on the agenda.

BLAC members attending elected John Thomson president, Kathy Prevost vice president, Fran Thomson treasurer, Jan Buxton secretary, and Hal Erpenbeck director at large, for 2015.

The members expressed their thanks and appreciation to outgoing board member Linda Sinnwell for her service.

The first BLAC board meeting of 2015 will be held on February 2, 2015, at 7:00 PM at the home of John and Fran Thomson, 501 Kirkwood Court, El Dorado Hills, 530-677-3039.

As always, all BLAC members are cordially invited to attend all meetings. For further information about BLAC meetings and membership, please contact Vice President Kathy Prevost at 530-672-6836. ~



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

EID VOTES NO 2015 RATE INCREASE

In a recent message to his constituents, El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) Director Greg Prada announced that the EID board of directors voted December 8 to maintain current rates, with no water or wastewater rate increase in 2015. The board further is not planning to increase wastewater rates in 2016, although water rates are already scheduled to increase 5 percent in 2016 to cover increased debt costs for extra capital repairs to the EID water system, according to Prada.

The board had spirited debate and multiple motions were made for various rate hike alternatives. But in the end, the final decision was no wastewater rate hikes for 2015 and 2016 and a 5 percent water rate hike in 2016.

"Today's board meeting is the final EID board meeting of 2014 and it is most satisfying to share with all of you that we ended the year with good news for ratepayers," Prada stated in his announcement. ~



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