



BASS LAKE BULLETIN

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BUDGET WOES CONTINUE TO BESET COUNTY

The bad news just keeps coming, as the county supervisors found out last month as they were told of a looming \$11 million county deficit for fiscal year 2010-2011 which starts in June of 2011. Chief Administrative Officer Gayle Erbe-Hamlin declined to make any recommendations as to where to cut, telling the board that they have an \$11 million problem for the whole board to decide how to resolve. The shortfall is the result of a variety of factors, all of which are caused by the economic slowdown caused by the national economic crisis.

Many programs have dedicated sources of revenue mandated by law, but many county services get their revenue from the General Fund, which gets what is left over after those mandated programs are funded. So any shortfalls hit the General Fund the hardest.

Sixty percent of the General Fund goes for enforcement of laws. The General Fund finances law enforcement, the District Attorney, Development Services, the Library and most of the departments in county administration, including supervisors' district budgets. The latter was the subject of some controversy, when a discussion about cutting them drew some unkind remarks from some supervisors.

Erbe-Hamlin and her staff of analysts prepare the figures, crunch the numbers, and present their best conclusions about how and

where the county can save money for its General Fund programs. Department heads also have been tasked with finding ways to save money that can be used to help fund other General Fund services and reduce the overall deficit. It is up to the supervisors to make the final decisions.

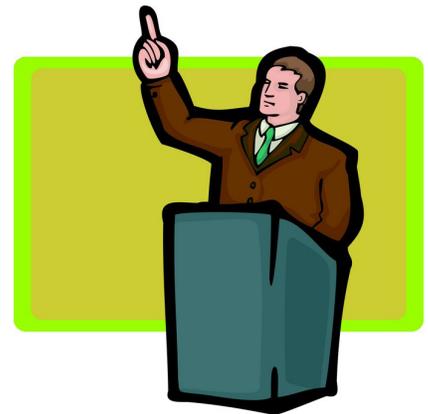
The supervisors heard how the board could trim \$247,000 from next year's library budget. The bulk of the savings would come from layoffs of full and part-time employees. The system operates branches in Placerville, Pollock Pines, South Lake Tahoe, Georgetown, Cameron Park and El Dorado Hills.

As representatives of the county as a whole, in addition to their own districts, supervisors must balance the need and value of various competing entities. Supervisor John Knight summed up the broader dilemma when he noted that the county needs to make major structural changes, and everyone in the county has their own sacred cow.

The budget hearings in September are preliminary. The supervisors will have at least two more opportunities, November and even into early 2011, to review and revise the proposed budgets. Everyone agrees, though, that things will likely get worse before they get better. ~



HAPPY HALLOWEEN



STATE SENATE SEAT RACE HEATS UP

Candidate's Night Planned

The November 2 general election ballot will include a primary election to fill the District 1 seat left vacant by the death of State Senator Dave Cox (R-Fair Oaks), which comes with special rules. One Democrat and three Republicans will be on the ballot, and voters can vote for any one of the four candidates, regardless of their party affiliation. Any one candidate that gets more than 50 percent of the vote wins the seat. If no one gets more than 50 percent, the top Democrat and the top Republican will vie for the office in a January runoff election.

The First Senate District is comprised of twelve counties, stretching from the Oregon border in the north through Mono County in the south, and includes El Dorado County. The race includes three Republicans: Assemblymen Ted Gaines of Granite Bay and Roger Niello of Fair Oaks, and former Assemblywoman Barbara Alby of Folsom. Rancho Cordova Mayor Ken Cooley is running for the Democrats.

Ted Gaines, a popular conservative, has a \$500,000 campaign war chest. Gaines is a small business owner and former Placer County Supervisor. His family first settled in the Senate District shortly after the Gold Rush. Assemblyman Gaines has been called by some as distant and controlled by his staff.

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SENATE RACE *(continued)*

Roger Niello was the choice of the late Senator Cox, who wrote Niello a \$7,800 campaign check literally on the day he died. Niello followed Cox up the ladder from Supervisor to Assembly. Niello's critics point to the fact that he voted for the February 2009 state budget with the largest tax increase in state history.

Barbara Alby won a 1993 special election for the Sacramento-based Fifth District Assembly seat, and remained there until 1998, when term limits forced her from office. During the June 2010 primary election, Alby became embroiled in controversy when it was revealed that Indian casinos had spent nearly \$200,000 on Alby's behalf in her unsuccessful bid for a seat on the State Board of Equalization.

Ken Cooley is almost guaranteed a spot in the runoff. He touts his record in local government. He expects most Democrats will support him in November, because he will be the one with the "D" next his name. Cooley is facing an uphill battle, as the district is heavily Republican, with a registration advantage of 43 percent to the Democrat's 33 percent.

The Four Seasons Civic League is sponsoring a candidate's forum for the four contenders on October 21, 2010, at 6:30 PM at the Lodge at Four Seasons. All four candidates will be there to speak and to answer questions. For more information, please contact Event Committee Chairman Dick Parsons, at 916-939-1753. ~



GROUPS CRY FOUL IN SHERIFF'S RACE

Representatives of the Modified Motorcycles Association (MMA) and the Deputy Sheriff's Association (DSA) have both voiced their unhappiness with what some are calling dirty tricks in the race for county sheriff.

Late last month more than two dozen members of the MMA packed the Board of Supervisors meeting room to voice to the supervisors their collective frustration with the decision to release an undercover audio tape of El Dorado County sheriff candidate John D'Agostini. Audience members took

turns addressing the Board of Supervisors and vented their dissatisfaction with the Sheriff's Department.

D'Agostini met with local members of the national organization two weeks ago as an invited speaker. Sheriff Capt. Craig Therkildsen was also reportedly invited but did not respond to the invitation, MMA officials said. During the meeting, D'Agostini was recorded by an undercover sheriff deputy. Knowledge of the tape's existence was later leaked to local television stations.

The tape's release has caused an uproar in the community. Some in attendance urged the board to investigate a perceived misuse of public funds. Other motorcyclists felt persecuted by law enforcement because of their appearance or hobbies.

Speaking for the El Dorado County Deputy Sheriffs Association, DSA president Sgt. Don Atkinson said he is worried that the integrity and reputation of the Sheriff's Department could be tarnished in the eyes of the public by the release of the audio tape. Atkinson said that there is a genuine perception that the Sheriff's Department is in need of a major overhaul. Certainly, there a disconnect with the Sheriff Department, anyone who would deny that is sticking their head in the sand, he reportedly said.

Atkinson also said that he was a little disturbed as what he would see as Capt. Therkildsen taking political advantage of the situation. In fact, the DSA president has yet to speak to any officer who was offended by the candidate.

Although he did not accuse anyone within the department of misusing public funds for political purposes, Atkinson said the recording circumstances require some inquiry on all sides. The DSA is not endorsing either candidate in the November election, but D'Agostini crushed Therkildsen in endorsement balloting earlier this month. D'Agostini needed 66.60 percent to gain the DSA official endorsement but took 53.8 percent of the vote. Therkildsen finished with 24.5 percent.

D'Agostini has a significant amount of support within the department, according to Atkinson. Certainly more than Capt. Therkildsen.

Sheriff Kollar later reiterated his stance on the tape release, saying that the tape's existence was common knowledge for local government members for nearly a week before it was turned over to the media. He also said he could find no reason to investigate the tape circumstances, saying intelligence gathering is a common practice. No investigation was harmed, no investigation was jeopardized, he reportedly said. ~



CSD CANDIDATES NIGHT ON OCTOBER 11

A reminder that Bass Lake Action Committee and Four Seasons Civic League will co-host a Candidates' Night for those running for seats on the El Dorado Hills Community Services District Board in November. It will take place at the Four Seasons Lodge on Monday evening, October 11, 2010, and will begin at 6:30 PM.

The formal portion of the program will be followed by coffee and cookies, and an opportunity for attendees to personally meet with the candidates.

Those vying for the open board positions are incumbents Tony Rogozinski, Billy Vandegrift, and Justin Masters; and challengers Wayne Lowery, Chuck Hammond, and David Keneller.

The Four Seasons Lodge is located in the Four Seasons senior community on White Rock Road south of Latrobe Road. To get to the Lodge, enter off White Rock Road at Four Seasons Drive and continue on Four Seasons Drive until you see the Lodge on your right. The entry gates will be open for the event.

For further information, contact John Raslear at 916-933-2203 or Bass Lake Action Committee Vice President Kathy Prevost at 530-672-6836. ~



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bridlewood Canyon homeowners will be holding their annual *Neighborhood Community Yard Sale* from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Saturday October 16. The gates will be opened at 9:00 for visitors.

A *Halloween Spooktacular* will be held in Town Center at the Steven Young Amphitheatre on October 30 from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. Trick or treat, a 12 or under costume contest, and a doggie costume contest are on tap. See the El Dorado Hills Town Center website for details. ~

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Hello All,

Have you ever gone to vote, and while standing in line, you see one curtained polling booth where the fellow or gal has been in there for twenty minutes? What are they doing? Why, they are reading the candidate's qualifications and figuring out the ballot measures, of course. They don't have a clue about what they came to vote on.

When I used to go to the polls (now I vote absentee), I would take my pre-marked voter's pamphlet with me and be in and out of the polling booth in about a minute, just as fast as I could mark my ballot. Easy!

I believe voting should be considered a privilege and exercised with responsibility and discretion. Just like a final exam, responsible voting requires self-education and thought. When the time comes to cast your ballot, if you don't know for what or whom you're voting, then I say don't vote. Don't just vote for the names you recognize—all that means was they had the money to buy your awareness. And for goodness sakes, hold off voting until you have as much information as possible.

There is more information than ever available to today's voter. Look around, there are many sources. Look for non-partisan web sites that explain what a measure will do. Read the newspaper. There are a number of candidate forums where you can listen to and meet those folks that are running for local offices. There are two El Dorado Hills candidate forums featured in this issue of the Bulletin alone.

So I say get informed and vote. If you choose to ignore the issues, just stay home on election day.

Sincerely,

John E. Thomson

President



BLAC HEARS SHERIFF CANDIDATE D'AGOSTINI

On Monday, October 4, Bass Lake Action Committee members were pleased to welcome John D'Agostini, candidate for El Dorado County Sheriff, to their monthly meeting. In September, BLAC heard a presentation from John's opponent, Craig Therkindsen.

In his opening remarks, John stated that he is a fourth generation resident of El Dorado County, and as a general contractor, he built homes in El Dorado County. He has 17 years of law enforcement experience, all in Amador County. He has been a patrol officer, city deputy, field-training officer, narcotics supervisor, Sergeant, investigator for the D.A.'s office, and Grand Jury liaison. As a member of the Pioneer School Board and other organizations, he has helped to manage large budgets and control costs.

One of the main reasons that John decided to run for Sheriff is that over the years he has seen a separation between law enforcement and the community—a "them versus us" attitude. He thinks that this reflects disconnected leadership run from a boardroom. He would like to restore a partnership between law enforcement and the community with emphasis on service and good public relations.

In the question and answer period, BLAC President John Thomson presented the same questions to John as had been asked of Craig. In response to a question about what steps he would take as Sheriff to protect the vulnerable elderly population, John said that he would bring back the "resident deputy" program where feasible, or at least assign regular beats in the local communities. He would beef up training to work with the community to educate them about scams and various kinds of frauds.

When asked what he would do as Sheriff to prevent gangs from moving into El Dorado County, John said that he would identify, validate, and enhance prosecution appropriately. He said that if you make it

hard for gang members to be in El Dorado County, they will go elsewhere.

In response to what neighborhoods like BLAC's should do in case of an emergency and whether we should have a disaster plan, John agreed that BLAC should have a disaster plan. He also encouraged use of the Neighborhood Watch program. He said that fire was not a likely disaster scenario for our area because there's no canopy, and we have tile roofs. He said his concern would be if something bad happened in the Bay Area. John said that people would likely flee to our area.

With regard to the problem of pot growing and drug manufacture in El Dorado County, John said that Proposition 19, which would legalize marijuana use, would not stop the pot farms in El Dorado County. John, as second in command in State narcotics enforcement, has to keep close watch on the medicinal marijuana growers in Amador County. He works with legitimate marijuana users and arrests those who abuse the current law.

With regard to the County's current budget crisis, John said that he would do everything to support the first line staff, deputies, and supervisors. In his opinion, so far we have been cutting fat with little impact on the community. He thinks the Sheriff's office is run fairly well, although John has been unable to get a line item budget. Until he can see where the money is being spent, he would not be able to say whether money is being spent where it should not. He said he would fight for every penny for the department and ensure that appropriate prioritization of funds occurs.

John Thomson asked how John's policy on concealed carry permits might differ from that of his opponent, in that Craig Therkindsen said that he would consider personal risk equal to business risk in the granting of such permits.

John said that he is also a firm supporter of the Second Amendment, and urges individuals to take care of themselves. He sees personal safety as the number one priority and that he looks at this as a constitutional issue. He would be sworn to protect the

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D'AGOSTINI *(continued)*

Constitution and Second Amendment rights. California's law states that the Sheriff "may issue" a permit provided an individual passes all the right background checks, takes the appropriate training, and pays the appropriate fees. Currently, three letters attesting to the good character of the applicant are also required. John said that he would do away with the three letters now required and would consider personal protection with a reason as justification to grant concealed carry permits.

Kathy Prevost asked John to elaborate on his management experience. John said that he has private sector management experience as a building contractor. As Chief Deputy Coroner, he ran that division. He supervised the Narcotics Division. He is second in command in the State Narcotics Task Force. As a school board member, he has had experience in budget control and cost cutting. John said that as a leader, he would also select the best of the best in the organization to be his administrators.

When asked about the recent controversy in the newspapers about John's speaking to a motorcycle group, which was taped by an undercover deputy, John said, "My campaign is going to stay focused. If the other side slings mud, we'll wash it off, and we'll stay on the high road." John said that he has thick skin.

BLAC members thanked John for coming with a round of applause. ~

**October's Party**

October gave a party;
The leaves by hundreds came—
The Chestnuts, Oaks, and Maples,
And leaves of every name.
The Sunshine spread a carpet,
And everything was grand,
Miss Weather led the dancing,
Professor Wind the band.

~ George Cooper

HUBER BILLS SIGNED INTO LAW

Legislation sponsored by Assemblymember Alyson Huber changing the makeup of the El Dorado County Transportation Commission (EDCTC), and two bills to sunset duplicative state agencies, have been signed into law by the governor.

Existing law provides that the EDCTC is composed of 6 members, with 3 members appointed by the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors and 3 members appointed by the city council of the City of Placerville. The legislation instead provides for the agency to be comprised of 4 members appointed by the board of supervisors and 2 members appointed by each incorporated city in the portion of El Dorado County outside of the Tahoe Basin. However, if there is only one incorporated city, that city would appoint 3 members. The effect will be to allow El Dorado Hills representation on the EDCTC if and when it incorporates, and the additional EDCTC member from the Board of Supervisors will equalize the EDCTC representation across the county in the meantime.

AB 1659 and AB 2130 will push the state government to identify waste, duplication and inefficiencies in state departments and agencies by creating a process to conduct comprehensive and regular reviews of the state's many boards, commissions, agencies and departments. If the entities cannot demonstrate they are being effective and efficient, they will be automatically eliminated. ~



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

**PROPANE UPDATE**

On October 4, 2010, the Targa San Ramon wholesale price of propane was \$1.38 a gallon. The JS West contract delivery charge remains 6 cents per gallon for Woodridge-Bridlewood-Sierra Crossing contract customers, making the current laid-in price \$1.44 per gallon.

With 316 homes now signed up, the markup reset to 50 cents, making the per-gallon contract delivered price \$1.94 per gallon. For new contract customers the first fill is currently \$1.68 per gallon.

The benchmark Mont Belvieu, Texas, wholesale cash price for propane on Wednesday, October 6, 2010, was \$1.2705 per gallon. One year ago the price was 92.65 cents per gallon. ~

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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
