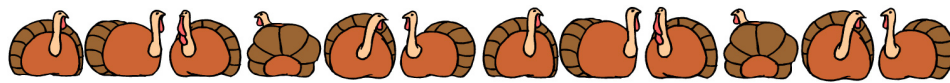


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# BASS LAKE BULLETIN

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[www.basslakeaction.org](http://www.basslakeaction.org)



Artist's conception of new Performing Arts Center

## FALL 2010 OPENING FOR FOLSOM PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Construction on the new Performing Arts Center at Folsom Lake College has reached the half-way point. The \$50 million Center is located on the Folsom Lake College campus on Bidwell Street in Folsom, and is scheduled for completion in the late fall of 2010.

The Center will offer 80,000 square feet of state-of-the-art educational and entertainment space including an 800-seat main theatre, the 200-seat City Studio, a 100-seat recital hall, an art gallery, rehearsal spaces, practice rooms and art laboratory space. The Center will deliver a full spectrum of educational services designed to instruct, develop and guide talented and interested students, actors, musicians, vocalists, dancers, artists and behind-the-scenes technicians. Additionally, the Center will provide the region, including schools throughout the area, with a venue in which to experience arts and culture on local, national and international levels.

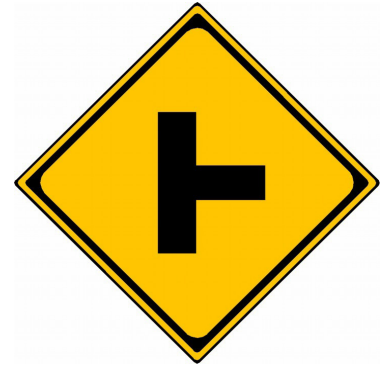
It is expected that the center will annually provide over 400 performances by students, regional arts organizations, and professional touring companies. The center also will furnish local businesses and organizations a place to hold meetings, training sessions

and receptions.

The Center is expected to host 150,000 theatre-goers during the year. It is estimated that the Center will generate \$3.5 million annually in revenue directly from events, plus spending on local dining, lodging and transportation. That amount is based on an estimate by Americans for the Arts, a national advocacy organization. The \$3.5 million figure would translate to \$400,000 a year in local and state

sales-tax dollars.

The project is largely funded by \$38 million of state and local obligation bonds. The Los Rios Community College District, which operates Folsom Lake College, contributed \$7 million. The Folsom Lake College Foundation has committed to raise \$4.3 million from a capital campaign, which has to date raised \$1.2 million, which is pretty close to being on target, according to college sources. Other big contributors include Bank of America, which gave \$250,000, and Wells Fargo Bank, which contributed \$100,000. ~



## BLAC SEEKS RIGHT TURN LANES FOR BASS LAKE ROAD

Responding to the perceived need for right-turn lanes along Bass Lake Road, a committee made up of Bass Lake Action President John Thomson and BLAC Secretary Hal Erpenbeck are in the process of finding out what can be done to get right-turn lanes installed on Bass Lake Road at the intersections of Madera Way, Bridlewood Canyon, and Hollow Oak Road.

According to studies by the Federal highway Administration, added right-turn lanes are effective in improving safety at rural unsignalized intersections. Installation of a single right-turn lane on a rural major road approach would be expected to reduce total intersection crashes by fourteen percent.

The committee contacted Matt Smeltzer of the El Dorado County Department of Transportation to determine whether it would be possible to obtain a Rural Roads Safety Grant to put in a right turn lane at Bass Lake Road and Madera, the entrance to Woodridge. Matt said that unfortunately Bass Lake Road is considered an urban collector, not a rural road, and would therefore not qualify for a Rural Roads Safety Grant.

Matt said that there are other grants, such as the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), which covers urban roads like Bass Lake Road. However, there is a lot of competition for these grants, and the

*(continued on page 2)*



## RIGHT TURN LANES *(continued)*

money is limited. One of the criteria for a successful application is a high accident rate on the road.

When applying the formula for the accident rate on Bass Lake Road, the accident rate calculation resulted in a 11.54 rating per million vehicles over the last three years. There was one fatality in 2009, a motorcycle, no accidents in 2008, and two accidents in 2007, a head-on and a hit object report. The accident rate on successful applications for HSIP grants is around 80 per million vehicles. A rating of eleven or twelve is very low, and a grant application with that low of a rate would certainly not result in a favorable response.

Matt said that he would discuss the issue with the county Signing and Striping Superintendent to see if there is any way to find some funds for the project. The committee is continuing to look for a way to get the right turn lanes built. ~



Informal memorial at Bass Lake Road and Madera Way earlier this year

## EL DORADO COUNTY TO FORBID ROADSIDE MEMORIALS, TO OFFER SIGNS INSTEAD

Last month the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors voted reluctantly to ban informal roadside memorials to deceased motorists. The action was in part a response to a grand jury report in June that criticized the county for not having a policy on roadside memorials. The report also cited multiple complaints from residents about safety problems posed by the private installations in the road right-of-way.

The new policy, which goes into effect on the first of next month, provides that informal memorials will not be allowed in the public right of way of El Dorado County roads. As an alternative, the policy provides for a roadside memorial sign program to be administered by the Department of Trans-

portation. Instead of private tributes of artificial flowers, photos and stuffed animals, a victim's family may ask the department to place a sign in memory of their loved one at the site for up to one year. At the end of twelve months, the sign would be offered to the family to keep, according to Jim Ware, county transportation director.

The El Dorado County policy is similar to one adopted by Placer County in 2002. It offers two sign options. One features the words "In memory of," the victim's name and the date of the accident. The other includes the message "Please don't drink and drive."

Before the program becomes effective, Ware said he will ask the board to approve a fee to help cover the estimated \$265 cost of making, installing and removing a 12-by-18-inch sign. Over the past three years there have been an average of 14 fatalities on county-maintained roads, according to Ware.

Several county residents told the supervisors that the impromptu memorials erected at the site of fatal traffic accidents may be comforting to the victims' family members and friends, but they can be painful reminders to nearby residents who witnessed an accident or its aftermath.

The county policy on roadside signs generally prohibits private or commercial signs on any part of the public right-of-way. Likewise, anyone posting signs on private property must have the permission of the owner before doing so.

The county department of transportation will respond to complaints about illegal signs along the public right-of-way by coming out and removing the signs and disposing of them. The main telephone number of the El Dorado County Department of Transportation is 530-621-5900. ~



## THE HISTORY OF THANKSGIVING DAY

Our Thanksgiving, or Thanksgiving Day, is presently celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November. It has been an annual tradition in the United States since 1863. However, it did not become a federal holiday until 1941.

Thanksgiving was historically a religious observation to give thanks to God, and is still celebrated as such by many families, but it is now also considered a secular holiday as well.

Most Americans celebrate Thanksgiving by gathering at home with family or friends for a holiday feast. Though the holiday's origins can be traced to harvest festivals which have been celebrated in many cultures since ancient times, the American holiday is tied to the deliverance of the English settlers by Native Americans after the harsh winter at Plymouth, Massachusetts, and that event has become the pre-eminent foundation story for English North America.

The modern Thanksgiving holiday traces its origins from a 1621 celebration at the Plymouth Plantation, where the Plymouth settlers held a harvest feast after a successful growing season. It is this iconic event that is generally referred to as the "First Thanksgiving." Our traditional Thanksgiving menu consists of turkey, pumpkin pie, stuffing, sweet potatoes, and so on. On that first Thanksgiving, the foods included in the first feast included duck, geese, venison, fish, lobster, clams, swan, berries, dried fruit, pumpkin, squash, and many more vegetables.

During the 18th century, individual American colonies commonly observed days of thanksgiving throughout each year.

During the American Revolutionary War the Continental Congress appointed one or more thanksgiving days each year, each time recommending to the executives of the various states the observance of these days in their states. George Washington again proclaimed a Thanksgiving Day in 1795.

President John Adams declared Thanksgivings in 1798 and 1799. James Madison renewed the tradition in 1814, in response to resolutions of Congress, at the close of the War of 1812. Madison also declared the holiday twice in 1815. By 1858 proclamations appointing a day of thanksgiving were issued by the governors of 25 states and two territories. Since 1863, Thanksgiving has been observed annually in the United States.

Abraham Lincoln declared the final Thursday in November to be the date of the national Thanksgiving Day and his presidential successors generally followed his example. In 1941, Congress passed a bill that was signed by President Roosevelt stipulating that Thanksgiving shall be observed annually on the fourth Thursday of November, making the date of Thanksgiving a matter of federal law. ~

## THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Hello All,

Those who consider Fall to be a barren time, a time of falling leaves and dead stalks, miss what is really happening in the garden and the woods. Fall comes like the comfort of the evening after a long day, and calls everyone to rest and recover from the exuberance of Spring and Summer. It is as if Nature tumbles into bed in the Fall, to sleep through the Winter and wake up refreshed in the Spring.

Fall is also a time to pause and look back on the past year and count our blessings. I have to remind myself that, despite what sometimes appear to be imperfections, we live in a pretty wonderful spot. So Fall is a time to appreciate where we live and the good folks who live here.

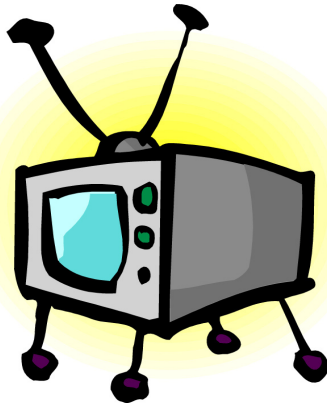
Thanksgiving Day is a proper time to consider one's blessings. Almost at the end of Fall, verging on Winter, the Holiday seems to be there to remind us that a glorious year is past, and a new one will begin next Spring. And isn't it nice to look forward to Christmas time right in the middle of Winter, to cheer us and help us recollect that Spring is right around the corner.

The late Chinese philosopher Lin Yutang once wrote, "I like spring, but it is too young. I like summer, but it is too proud. So I like best of all autumn, because its tone is mellower, its colours are richer, and it is tinged with a little sorrow. Its golden richness speaks not of the innocence of spring, nor the power of summer, but of the mellowness and kindly wisdom of approaching age. It knows the limitations of life and its content."

Have a Happy Thanksgiving, and don't forget to count your blessings!

*John E. Thomson*

President



## COMCAST CABLE CONVERSION LOOMS

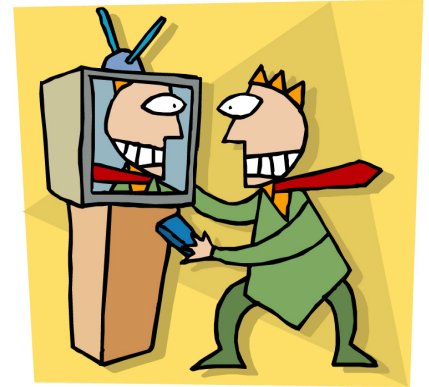
Last spring most over-the-air television broadcasts were converted to digital format. Consumers using antennas to capture broadcasts for their older television sets had to get digital television converters to convert the new digital broadcasts to signals that their sets could understand. At the change-over, the government gave out discount coupons so consumers could buy these broadcast converters at a big discount. Consumers with new digital sets did not need a converter since their sets were already digital. Likewise, consumers who subscribed to cable television saw no change, since cable generally uses analog signals except for some premium services.

Now Comcast, one of the cable television providers in El Dorado Hills, is in the process of changing most of their cable channels to digital channels. For many subscribers, this change will require the use of a cable digital television adapter. However, as with broadcast television, cable subscribers who have newer digital sets will not need an external converter. Note that the converters for cable signals are different than those for broadcast signals. The converters are not interchangeable.

Comcast will soon be rolling out the digital conversion of its cable system in El Dorado Hills. Comcast says that the new digital format will bring a clearer picture and better sound. According to their website, Comcast will provide cable customers with up to three converters at no additional monthly service cost. Also, according to Comcast, most customers won't even see a change in their bill.

A Comcast representative said that their El Dorado Hills system will be updated sometime in 2010. Customers will be sent a notice of the pending upgrade, and they may then order any needed equipment on the Comcast website or by phone. Custom-

ers may get their new devices by mail or in person. Until you are notified, just sit back and relax—Comcast will let you know when it's time to take action. ~



## AT&T U-VERSE NOW AVAILABLE IN EDH AND THE BASS LAKE AREA

The concept of a telephone company providing television service sounds vaguely groundbreaking and almost revolutionary. How does this work?

According to the company advertisements, "AT&T U-verse TV is digital television service that uses the power of Internet technology to provide you with more programming choices and viewing options. U-verse is AT&T's revolutionary Internet Protocol TV platform capable of delivering standard and high-definition television over a high-speed internet connection. AT&T U-verse represents the future of communications and entertainment. New AT&T U-verse is 100% digital TV and Internet together—all powered by an advanced fiber-optic network that's built for the future. So now you can get an amazingly clear digital picture, a huge selection of high-definition programming, and cool interactive features never available before. Once you try it, you'll never settle for cable again!"

Unlike conventional cable TV, AT&T's U-verse IPTV signal, together with its high-speed DSL Internet signal, travels over technologically-advanced optical-fiber cable until it reaches an AT&T 'node' less than 3,000 feet from your home. From that point the signals travel over conventional copper telephone lines to your home. Once they reach your home's exterior landline phone box (an updated version of which will be supplied by the AT&T installer), the signals can be brought indoors by running a new length of 75-ohm coaxial copper cable from the phone box to any preexisting cable-TV

(continued on page 4)

**U-VERSE** *(continued)*

cable, at which point the new length of cable can be spliced to the old. Alternatively, if there's no preexisting cable-TV cable, the installer can bring the signals indoors by supplying all-new copper-based cables of a different type.

There are a number of homes in the Woodridge and Bridlewood Canyon neighborhoods that currently have U-verse installed. Those contacted by the Bulletin said they were happy with the service. However, they report that the company website and the company's telephone representatives will tell you that U-verse is not yet available in our area. In order to get the service, they had to insist that their neighbor down the street already had it. After it is determined that the service is available, an installation date is set up, and an installer must come out and set up the service, which may take several hours or more.

According to some reviewers, U-verse amounts to a better deal than cable TV for the majority of consumers, and many subscribers report no problem with the service. On the other hand, critics complain of poor installation, poor picture performance and terrible customer service. Anyone contemplating signing up for U-verse should do their due diligence. Look on the internet, find the latest product reviews, and give it some thought before signing up. ~



*November comes  
And November goes,  
With the last red berries  
And the first white snows.*

*With night coming early,  
And dawn coming late,  
And ice in the bucket  
And frost by the gate.*

*The fires burn  
And the kettles sing,  
And earth sinks to rest  
Until next spring.*

— Clyde Watson

**LITTLE-KNOWN EL DORADO DISPOSAL SPECIAL SERVICES**

El Dorado Hills senior citizens, are you getting your senior discount from El Dorado Disposal, also known as Waste Connections? If you are over sixty-five, you can receive a ten percent discount on your trash pickup bill.

Also, you should know that El Dorado Disposal offers what is called side-yard service to handicapped persons in El Dorado Hills. Upon receipt of a doctor's note stating that you are unable to take your trash bins to the curb, you can leave your full bins at the top of your driveway on trash day, and El Dorado Disposal will pick them up there and take them down to the curb to the trash truck to be emptied. You must return the empty bins from the curb to your trash bin area.

El Dorado Disposal will also repair or replace your broken or damaged waste bins. You can set up an appointment with El Dorado Disposal, leave the damaged bin at the curb, and a repairman will come by and repair or replace the damaged bin sometime on the appointed day. The bin need not be empty, and you need not be home for the repair man to perform this service.

For further information on these programs, you may contact El Dorado Disposal customer service at 530-626-4141 or 916-985-1162. ~

Bass Lake Action Committee  
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**BLAC NOMINATES 2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS SLATE, ELECTION SET**

Bass Lake Action Committee members nominated a slate of candidates for board of director positions for 2010 at the November BLAC membership meeting held on November 2, 2009. The nominees are: President, incumbent John Thomson; Vice President, incumbent Kathy Prevost; Secretary, Fran Thomson; Treasurer, incumbent Tasha Boutselis; and Director at Large, Hal Erpenbeck.

The election of the 2010 board of directors will take place on December 7, 2009, at the regular December membership meeting. The December meeting will be held at the home of Hal and Barbara Erpenbeck, 9045 Orchid Shade Drive, in El Dorado Hills, at 7:00 PM. Christmas holiday refreshments will be served. All BLAC members are cordially invited to attend.

For further information, please contact Kathy Prevost at 530-672-6836 or Hal Erpenbeck at 530-677-5533. ~

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