

Wise surprised even himself with world record

By Chris Murray, Reno Gazette-Journal

David Wise is used to catching big air, but not quite like this.

The Reno native and 2014 Olympic gold medalist set a world record last Sunday for highest freeski air on a hip, soaring 46.5 feet above the deck to best the previous record by nearly 10 feet.

“There’s a ton of fear,” Wise told the *RGJ* after returning to Reno. “I guess the way to explain it is it’s a combination of exhilaration and terror. You’re having fun and flying high, which is what I love to do, but it’s also scary. I never expected to go anywhere near that high in my life. It was a totally new experience.”

[Read the whole story](#)

Letter: Bread & Broth thanks volunteer team

To the community,

“We love helping with the great folks at Bread & Broth,” commented Jacalyn Andrews. “It warms your heart to be involved with serving a hot meal” to those who attended B&B’s dinner

Monday evening dinner on March 28.

Andrews is a game supervisor at Caesars' Stateline casinos. She and her fellow HEROs volunteer crewmembers had a great time at the Harrah's/Harveys HEROs Adopt A Day dinner.

Employee volunteerism is the cornerstone of Caesars' community involvement and the employee-based community volunteers are called Caesars HEROs. The local Harrah's/Harveys' HEROs have been supporters of B&B's AAD program for several years and have been sponsoring two dinners annually. Having the HEROs at the dinners is a big help because their volunteers know what to do and to a great job helping out.

Along with Andrews, the HEROs volunteer crew consisted of Darlene Winkelman, Kristel Kimball, Pat Frega and Steve Campbell. These experienced HEROs volunteers filled the giveaway bags with fruit, vegetables, dairy products, bread/pastries, and canned goods, helped serve the baked chicken dinner and closed out the evening by helping with the dinner's cleanup.

"It truly warms my heart to serve the less fortunate of our community," said Winkelman. B&B really appreciates the concern and involvement of the HEROs in our joint efforts to ease hunger in the Tahoe South Shore Community.

Carol Gerard, Bread & Broth

Bountiful snowpack extends Tahoe ski season

The snowpack is already good enough at Tahoe area resorts for

most to stay open at least until mid-month, but the forecast could help extend the season.

Rain at lake level is expected today, including thunderstorms. That scenario will carry over to Saturday. Showers are possible through Wednesday.

Here are the projected closing dates for the resorts. Be sure to check their websites for updates.

Homewood: April 10

Tahoe Donner Downhill: April 10

Donner Ski Ranch: April 10, then weekends

Granlibakken: April 15

Boreal: April 17

Diamond Peak: April 17

Kirkwood: April 17

Northstar: April 17

Sierra-at-Tahoe: April 17

Heavenly: April 24

Mt. Rose: May 8

Squaw Valley: May 30

Alpine Meadows: May 30

Sugar Bowl: No date given

Soda Springs: No date given.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

Spotlight on mental health on the South Shore

Publisher's note: *Beginning today Lake Tahoe News will be delving into the topic of mental health in the Lake Tahoe Basin. This is the first of several stories that will be running through October.*

By Jessie Marchesseau

Considering one in five adults experiences some sort of mental illness in any given year, it's no surprise this subject hits close to home for so many.

Yet even with such high numbers, mental illness still carries a stigma. Doing away with this stigma is a key factor to ensure people receive the necessary treatment, explained Michael Ward, project facilitator for the Mental Health Cooperative on the South Shore. He said mental health needs to simply be considered a part of the health system as a whole, not a separate issue.



"We're not going to make real progress without helping our community to understand that it's OK to talk about these problems," said Rhonda Sneeringer, chief medical officer for Barton Health.

Barton hosted its third annual mental health forum on April 7 at Lake Tahoe Community College.

About 70 people attended, and nearly everyone seemed

passionate about the topic. Many were industry professionals such as doctors and therapists; some were employees and volunteers for local health organizations. Representatives from area schools attended, as did the South Lake Tahoe chief of police and community members whose lives have been affected by friends or family with mental illness.

And over the last few years local entities have been joining forces to make that a reality.

Progress so far

Talking about and recognizing mental health issues are some things health service providers have been encouraging within the community, especially with the younger generations. The fact that 50 percent of chronic mental illness begins by age 14 and 75 percent by 24 are reasons to make sure kids and teens are informed, too. This is partly why local schools were prolific recipients of the Barton Foundation's community health grants last year.

Kindle Craig, Barton Health's director of Strategy and Development, took a moment to acknowledge the grant recipients which also included Live Violence Free, NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness), Sierra Child and Family Services, and the South Tahoe Drug Free Coalition, as well as funding for brochure racks displaying informational mental health brochures.

Craig explained to *Lake Tahoe News* there is a waiting list to receive mental health treatment in South Lake Tahoe for all ages. Wait time depends on the specific circumstances of each individual, and navigating the system to find the correct type of treatment can be difficult.

This makes South Lake Tahoe's mental health needs seem dire. But as part of the larger picture, she said, in relation to the rest of California, South Lake's situation is comparatively not bad. However, being in a rural community

means that even one tragic mental health crisis, such as a suicide, can affect a large portion of the population.

These are some of the reasons Barton Health chose to lead the effort to improve the state of the local mental health system. But Craig stressed they are not doing it on their own; this is a collaborative effort between Barton, El Dorado County and other area health providers.

“We have a collective awareness of the issue, and we all have a collective buy-in,” Craig said.

She described it as all the entities extending their reach a little bit, and together they can fill in the gaps. This idea has proved effective, and the system has come a long way in recent years, thanks, in part, to annual forums like this one.

Last year’s forum was a full-day workshop out of which came the Mental Health Cooperative and a long list of goals for the following six months. Among those goals were a wellness service directory, securing new leadership for the local NAMI chapter, developing two new transition houses for those in need and opening a warming room for the homeless. Ward announced 95 percent of the dozens of goals on the list were completed within the specified timeframe.

After seeing how far the mental health arena has come, the focus turned to what will be coming up.



Barton Health's annual mental health forums are making a difference on the South Shore. Photo/Jessie Marchesseau

The future

First on the radar for the upcoming year is Mental Health Awareness Month in May. Entities all over town will be hosting events, some attendees even created events on the spot. A calendar will be available online within the next couple weeks. Buttons depicting green ribbons were distributed to wear, and residents were encouraged to raise awareness via social media throughout the month of May using the hashtag #eachmindmatters.

As for the Mental Health Cooperative, its list of initiatives for the upcoming year is lengthy but revolves around three main topics: access, awareness and resources. One of the first orders of business, however, is a trip to Washington, D.C., where representatives will be seeking grant money from the national Health Resources and Services Administration with which to implement these initiatives.

Barton is also making efforts to provide more access to mental health services. It has increased the number of available social workers and counselors, and will be hiring a psychiatrist this summer.

Even though substantial progress is being made, there is a long way to go. It is still essential for individuals to do their part.

How we can help

Sabrina Owens, program manager of El Dorado County Mental Health in South Lake Tahoe, gave a short presentation to educate viewers on how to recognize and take proper action when it comes to mental health issues. She pointed out how symptoms can often be vague and overlap from one illness to another. Symptoms such as excessive sleeping, dropping grades

in students and unusual behavior could be signs of a greater underlying problem.

Being able to diagnose the issue is not the goal, simply acknowledging an issue and encouraging the person to seek further evaluation is what is important. Time is of the essence in mental treatment, so she encouraged people to be diligent and not just let possible symptoms slide by.

The forum wrapped up with an interactive exercise where the room broke into groups, each with a specified “patient.” The groups then had the task of talking through the chain of events leading to recovery and identifying the issues that could arise along the way.

Obstacles including insurance, education, misdiagnosis, avoiding treatment and navigating the system were identified, among others. The exercise opened eyes and discussions about where the system can fall short, what could use more improvement, as well as how we can all help loved ones and others in our community get the treatment they deserve.

In the end, attendees from all walks of life left educated, inspired and motivated.

“We’re all just trying to create a vibrant, healthy community,” Ward said.

Opinion: ‘Hamilton’ is hardly history

By Nancy Isenberg

“Hamilton” is the hottest show on Broadway, filled with hip-

hop songs, R&B rhythms, and tri-cornered hats. Its multi-racial cast portrays the pantheon of Revolutionary greats, and for many a starry-eyed critic this sing-along with the founders offers “a factually rigorous historical drama.” Those are the words of Jody Rosen in the New York Times, and he is not alone. As an academic who spent years studying Aaron Burr before producing a scholarly biography, I can say emphatically that rules of historical rigor do not apply to “Hamilton”.

The musical follows an old playbook that divides the founders into heroes and villains. This started after the Revolution when Charles Willson Peale began compiling portraits of “Revolutionary Patriots” and displayed them in his renowned Philadelphia Museum. In 1818, a Russian diplomat and artist, Pavel Petrovich Svinin, observed “every American considers it his sacred duty to have a likeness of Washington in his home, just as we have images of God’s saints.” In death, Washington figuratively became a god, when an artist attached his iconic face and head to a classic pose of Jesus sitting on a cloud and ascending into heaven. The impulse to glorify the founders is still with us. They were romanticized in the silent film era, and in innumerable, hokey Hollywood movies since. “The Patriots” awed New York theater critics during World War II, and “1776” rocked Broadway in 1969, with Jefferson, Adams, and Franklin singing and dancing their way to independence. Have we already forgotten HBO’s gushing tribute, “John Adams”?

The drama of the founders has overtaken the reality. In the undergraduate seminar I teach, “America’s Founding Myths,” I ask my students to identify the life masks of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, produced in 1825, which is as close as we can come to capturing their likenesses. None of my students recognized them. Why? They are old. Adams is jowly and bald. There isn’t an ounce of glamor in these unflattering busts. The reason that “Hamilton” is so popular is that the theatergoer is treated to vigorous youth, brazen sex appeal, macho brashness, capped by so-called genius—all wrapped up in

a loving and whimsical portrait of a Hamilton who “tells it like it is” in the pounding, nonstop rhythms of hip hop. Which guy do you want to be? A shrunken Jefferson, or the dashing and daring Hamilton who, like Peter Pan, never appears to grow up?

No one watching “Hamilton” will want to be Burr, one of the most interesting figures of early American history. Leslie Odom Jr., who plays Burr, has a lovely voice, but his portrayal echoes a familiar slur: the opportunist. Or to use Hamilton’s favorite insult of Burr (and others): a “cunning” man, who carries himself with aristocratic airs. In “Hamilton”, Burr is a mere prop, a villainous foil, his personality an overblown caricature. He is portrayed as a man who lacks principles, unwilling to believe in, or fight for, anything that matters.

The historical Burr was no less passionate about the Revolution than Hamilton, eagerly joining the arduous 350-mile march through Maine wilderness to Canada in 1775. He was appointed aide-de-camp to Gen. Richard Montgomery, who died during the invasion and lived on as a Revolutionary martyr. For courage under fire, Burr received a commendation from Congress. Contrary to the song lyrics, he wasn’t “waiting” for anything.

The men he later commanded admired him, and he believed in expanding democratic rights to uplift and empower poorer men. He was not pompous or aloof, nor a man of mere surfaces, nor a Chesterfieldian dandy, as his slanderous enemies pretended. His New York wing of the Jeffersonian party, the “Burrites,” was men of mixed class backgrounds, whereas the Schuyler-Hamilton Federalist faction was a top-down organization favoring elite interests. Falsely casting Burr as an aristocrat is a rhetorical ploy: It incorrectly shifts the blame for class prejudice onto him.

By taking sides in a mudslinging fight for power that goes

back more than 200 years, "Hamilton" misses Burr's actual contributions. He was a skilled innovator of democracy, working to make elections, financial services, and even the U.S. Senate more fair and transparent. In New York, he was charged with "revolutionizing the state," because he backed progressive policies for funding internal improvements, debtor relief, and establishing a more democratic method of electing state senators. He founded the Manhattan Company, the first bank to extend financial services to ordinary merchants and mechanics outside the ruling elite. As vice president, he presided over the Senate's impeachment trial of Supreme Court Justice Samuel Chase in 1805. His judicious behavior, which helped to maintain the impartiality of the judiciary, won him grudging praise from many Federalists; one called him "one of the best presiding officers I ever saw." A man with sophisticated ideas, respected for his impartiality and scrupulous conduct—this Burr never appears in "Hamilton".

Reducing Burr to a villain turns the musical into a lopsided morality tale, glossing over the complexity of early America in favor of characters we can cheer for. Thus hip-hop "Hamilton" unabashedly celebrates the American Dream; the conceit that the country has always been the land of opportunity. Hamilton represents the immigrant made good, because he was born on the Caribbean island of St. Nevis. Left out of the upbeat story is that Hamilton—and the Federalist party he headed—was hostile to the idea that the United States should ever be led by newcomers. It was the Federalists who pressed for a constitutional amendment barring naturalized foreigners from elected offices, and it was that villain Burr, in the New York Assembly at the time, who gave an eloquent speech defending the liberal promise of the young republic. "America stood with open arms and presented an asylum to the oppressed of every nation," he said. "Shall we deprive these persons of an important right derived from so sacred a source as our Constitution?"

The musical puts feminist words in the mouth of Elizabeth Hamilton, presuming she wanted to tell Jefferson to rewrite the Declaration to include women. This is absurd. In truth, Aaron Burr was far ahead of Hamilton, Jefferson, and Adams in advancing the ideas of English writer Mary Wollstonecraft, the leading Enlightenment advocate of women's rights. Burr and his wife, Theodosia, educated their daughter as they might have a son: She could read and write at the age of 3, then mastered French, Italian, Latin, Greek, mathematics, history, and geography. The idea that women were the intellectual equals of men was a radical one, and Hamilton attacked Burr for it, calling him a proponent of "Godwinism." (William Godwin was Wollstonecraft's husband.)

Finally, "Hamilton" wrongly claims that the duel with Burr was over the election of 1800, and that Burr knowingly shot Hamilton after he saw him fire a bullet in the air. Wrong again. The real cause of the duel was that Hamilton attacked Burr's character (and refused to apologize) when Burr ran for the New York governorship in 1804. Conveniently missing is the fact that Hamilton supplied the pistols, and the one he used had a secret hair trigger. This gave him an unfair advantage and violated the gentlemanly code of conduct.

Can we expect a more accurate musical someday? Probably not. Interestingly, in times of political turmoil, the pop-culture pendulum often swings in a critical direction. In the 1930s, the iconoclastic painter Grant Wood (best known for his *American Gothic*) mockingly reworked the Parson Weems tale of George Washington, as the cherry tree slayer who would not lie. The same artist turned Paul Revere's ride into a surreal jaunt through a fairytale town, with Revere astride a miniature rocking horse. Wood's point was simple: In the midst of the Great Depression, bedtime stories about the founders were suitable for children but not adults. It was time for Americans to grow up and embrace their real history, a darker one. Gore Vidal did the same in 1973, when the breakdown of

Nixon's Watergate was in full sway, publishing "Burr", a fictional history, in which Jefferson is savagely shown as a Janus-faced, dilettantish, ruthlessly power-hungry politician. In times of trouble, a little skepticism (and sarcasm) goes a long way.

"Hamilton" may be a delight to watch, but let's not convince ourselves that it honors the discipline of history. When he interviewed Lin-Manuel Miranda, "Late Show" host Stephen Colbert joked: "I didn't have to read the Bible, because I saw 'Jesus Christ Superstar'." That pretty much says it all. The musical "Hamilton" is to the historical Hamilton what Charlton Heston's Moses is to . . . well, you get the picture.

Nancy Isenberg, T. Harry Williams professor of American history at Louisiana State University, is the author of "Fallen Founder: The Life of Aaron Burr", and the forthcoming "White Trash: The 400-Year Untold History of Class in America". She is also the coauthor with Andrew Burstein of "Madison and Jefferson".

SnowGlobe 2015

This is the official video recapping SnowGlobe 2015 – the three-day music festival in South Lake Tahoe:

Doctors experiment with fixing ACL

By Catherine Saint Louis, New York Times

Anterior cruciate ligaments often tear on the sports field, and after a complete rupture, they are notoriously hard to get to heal.

This month, doctors at Boston Children's Hospital announced that they have succeeded in reconnecting ACLs in 10 patients using a novel technique.

Their preliminary results at three months suggest that healing an original ACL without the usual grafts may be a viable option in the future.

[Read the whole story](#)

Anti-LGBT bill prompts business to relocate to Nev.

By Samantha Rea, Las Vegas Sun

In January, Georgia introduced the Religious Liberty Bill. Known officially as the First Amendment Defense Act, it aims to "prohibit discriminatory action against a person who believes, speaks or acts in accordance with a sincerely held religious belief or moral conviction that marriage is or should be recognized as the union of one man and one woman."

In other words, it allows business owners to refuse to serve same-sex couples.

When Kelvin Williams, founder of Atlanta-area telecommunications company 373K, found out about the bill, he announced on Twitter: "It's time to relocate."

Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal vetoed the Religious Liberty Bill on March 28, but the House speaker and lieutenant governor vowed to revive a version of the measure.

Williams said he planned to move his company to Delaware and Nevada.

Read the whole story

Tahoe Queen pays penalty for hydraulic leak

Aramark, the parent company of the Tahoe Queen, has paid the fine for releasing hydraulic fluid into Lake Tahoe last year.

The spill occurred at the Ski Run Marina in South Lake Tahoe on March 5, 2015. Nine gallons leaked from the vessel, with 4 reaching the lake.

Lahontan Regional Water Control Board could have fined the company \$10,000. Instead the penalty was \$4,983.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Nev. may be on verge of a lithium rush



Canada-based Pure Energy Minerals drills to test lithium levels in the groundwater near Tonapah. Photo/Provided

By Daniel Rothberg, Las Vegas Sun

About five years ago, prospectors rushed to Nevada seeking a key component of the batteries that power the modern economy, one reliant on cellphones and laptops.

The rush made sense, at first. The state was home to the only active lithium extraction operation in North America. Unlike in other regions with known lithium deposits, like South America and Australia, Nevada's deposits are easier to reach for executives at mining companies, most of which are headquartered in Canada. The state also has a stable regulatory process.

But when it comes to lithium, Nevada has been a double-edged sword. The quality of the lithium here is believed to be higher than in other areas, but the concentration of it is lower, making it more difficult to obtain large quantities through conventional extraction methods.

Read the whole story