

Women's fund helping the South Shore

Tahoe Women's Community Fund's inaugural grants are designed to help a slew of entities on the South Shore.

Recipients include:

- \$10,000: Bread and Broth for Kids
- \$4,000: Sierra House School, Tahoe Valley School, and Bijou School (LTUSD) – books for school libraries and classrooms
- \$4,000: Tahoe Turning Point, Co-Occurring Disorder Treatment Project
- \$4,000: Tahoe Coalition for the Homeless , South Lake Tahoe Warm Room

To honor recipients and all grant applicants, there will be a Grants Gala on June 3 from 6-8 pm at the Beach Retreat in South Lake Tahoe. Tickets (\$35) will go on sale April 25.

For more info, go **online**.

Heat causes Yosemite's granite to crumble

By Sean Greene, Los Angeles Times

The domes and arches etched into Yosemite's famed granite cliffs may seem frozen in time, but in reality they're constantly moving.

The dramatic rock formations were formed as layers of rock peeled away from the mountainside, like an onion. The flakes remain attached at a few points but are completely hollow in the middle. If you were to pound on one with your fist, you'd hear an echo.

In Yosemite, these precarious attachments – geologists call them “exfoliations” – fall at a rate of one a week, on average. Most often, they collapse because water repeatedly freezes and thaws in the cracks, destabilizing the cliffs. Sometimes they fall apart during an earthquake.

Read the whole story

Learn to make beer from professionals

Slow Food Lake Tahoe and Alibi Ale Works are joining together to offer a half-day skillshare for people interested in learning how to make beer at home.

The skillshare will cover the fundamentals of making great beer at home through a hands-on demonstration and sampling some local homebrewed creations. Beginning (extract) and intermediate (all-grain) brewing techniques will be demonstrated. Whether you are a do-it-yourselfer, a curious beer geek, or have already taken up the hobby of homebrewing, the goal is to leave with a better understanding of the ancient tradition of making beer.

The Homebrewing Skillshare will be led by long-time home

brewers Kevin Drake and Rich Romo, who are the owners/founders of Alibi Ale Works, a craft brewery in Incline Village. The skillshare will be held at Alibi Ale Works on April 2nd from noon-4pm at 204. E. Enterprise St. in Incline Village.

The cost is \$25 per person or \$20 for Slow Food members and may be purchased online. All attendees must be at least 21 years old to participate.

Burning Man photographer to give talk

Eleanor Preger will talk about her photography during the closing reception for her exhibition From the Lens of Eleanor Preger on April 5.

The photography exhibition, which is on display until April 8, includes images from Burning Man 2011-15, including new images that have not been shown before in public.

Preger visits Burning Man each year and rises at 4:30 every morning to photograph the community and art there. Her images capture far more than simple snapshots or documentation, as she attempts to capture the messages and intention behind the artists she photographs.

All the work being shown in the current exhibition will eventually return to the Burning Man Foundation headquarters in San Francisco. This year will be Preger's sixth trip to the Playa.

Preger's talk will take place from 6-7:30pm in the Ron and Maureen Ashley Community Gallery at the Holman Arts & Media

Center at Sierra Nevada College in Incline Village Tahoe.

Night of dancing benefits fire association

The 54th annual Lake Valley Firefighters Ball is April 8 at MontBleu in Stateline.

South Tahoe High School grad Robbie Gallo and his Vokab Kompany will provide the tunes for dancing. There will also be a photo booth and silent auction.

The event is from 7-10:30pm.

The \$32.64 **tickets** are available online. All proceeds benefit the Lake Valley Volunteer Firefighter's Association. Must be 21 to attend.

Calif. plan for private-sector workers moves forward

By James Rufus Koren, Los Angeles Times

California has taken a step closer to becoming the first state to make retirement savings accounts a near-universal benefit for workers with a plan that lawmakers hope will help ease an expected massive shortfall in retirement savings.

A state board Monday sent a set of recommendations to the Legislature calling for the creation of the California Secure Choice Retirement Plan – essentially a 401(k) plan operated by the state and open to private-sector workers whose employers don't offer a retirement savings plan.

Employees of any company with at least five workers would be eligible to participate. That would cover an estimated 6.8 million workers, about a third of California's labor force.

Read the whole story

Valhalla season tickets to go on sale

To mark the 20th year of the Boathouse Theatre at the Tallac site, there will be an anniversary fundraiser, two Valhalla produced dramatic theater productions, an eclectic line up of musical artists, comedy improv and some vaudeville.

The staff and board is very busy preparing for the summer and we are very excited to see you all again. We hope you will share your enthusiasm for Valhalla with your friends, family and colleagues!

Season tickets go on sale April 1.

Former cop to talk about human trafficking

Author John Vanek, retired lieutenant with the San Jose Police Human Trafficking Task Force, will discuss his book “The Essential Abolitionist: What You Need to Know about Human Trafficking & Modern Slavery” on April 26 in South Lake Tahoe.

He will address the most commonly asked questions and topics surrounding human trafficking and the challenges involved in fighting this crime and assisting its victims. In addition, he will examine the myths and misconceptions related to modern slavery.

This event is free and open to all.

The talk is hosted by Friends of Library. The talk will be at the South Lake Tahoe Library on Rufus Allen Boulevard on April 26 at 6pm.

Cave Rock project to tie up traffic all summer



This is a rendering of what Cave Rock will look like when the work is completed. Photo/NDOT

By Kathryn Reed

Highway 50 near Cave Rock will be reduced to one lane in each direction six days a week, including holidays, and around the clock beginning as soon as possible and lasting until the work is done in the fall.

It's mostly about safety and a little about lake clarity.

"We are calling it a tunnel extension for simplicity. It's almost like a bridge we are building," Devin Cartwright, Nevada Department of Transportation engineer, told *Lake Tahoe News*.

He is in charge of the \$5 million project that is designed to

keep rocks from falling from Cave Rock onto the highway, as well as the water quality improvements taking place east of the tunnel.

Most likely the work will begin in May per Tahoe Regional Planning Agency rules, though if April is projected to be dry, exemptions could be made.

This isn't any ordinary rock formation. For the Washoe people it is one of their most sacred places.

"NDOT invited the tribe to come up to meet with the project construction crew when they come up with a date for the start time so the tribe can talk to them to explain how it is a sacred site and not just another job," Darrel Cruz with the tribe told *Lake Tahoe News*.

Cave Rock has been used by medicine men and there are other stories associated with it, Cruz said. For some people, they won't go near the rock because of the power it holds.

The Washoe and NDOT have been meeting regularly. And while the Washoe would prefer no one touches the site, they are resigned to the fact that safety issues are a necessary reality.



People used to drive around Cave Rock.
Photo/Lake Tahoe Historical Society

Sizable rocks have fallen the past couple winters that have damaged vehicles and the roadway. This project is designed to keep those rocks from reaching the road.

Temporary steel netting has been erected until the more robust solution is in place. The added benefit is that the net will act as a safety measure for workers this summer.

Cartwright said the inconsistent moisture levels because of the drought have caused more rocks to become loose and fall.

“Rapid expansion of soil causes new cracks or old ones to get bigger and things to fall,” he explained.

NDOT is also working with the state Historic Preservation Office to ensure the work is done with care.

“The exterior will be such that it blends into Cave Rock. You will see something that looks like granite or Cave Rock to the best of its ability, but it will still be square,” Cartwright said. “It will have a false surface on it made of concrete and

steel so it will have depth and texture to it like the surrounding rock.”

The tunnel will receive a face-lift of sorts. The exterior color will be closer to the natural rock. The white that has covered up graffiti will be eliminated. The goal is to make all the improvements appear as close to being original as possible, including color, patterns and texture.

The inside will be like a box. On top of it will be concrete and steel girders.

“If you imagine a set of ribs, they will run transverse to the road,” Cartwright explained. “One will be spaced about every 10 feet longitudinally. On top of there, 1 foot of concrete reinforced deck, on top of that 3 feet of pea gravel, so when rocks fall on the pea it stays loose.”

The technology comes from Japan, which has a ton of rock fall issues because of seismic activity. NDOT looked at various methods to contain the rocks, with this design seeming to be the most effective for the site and coming with the ability to be completed in one season.

The existing tunnel is 165-feet long. Sixty-two feet will be added to it.

It was in 1931 that crews first blasted through the granite monolith. It used to be one lane. Eastbound traffic went through the tunnel, while those headed west went on the outside of the tunnel by the lake. That route was eliminated after the second bore was completed in 1957.



Cyclists in the Tour of California will again ride through Cave Rock in May. Photo Copyright 2015 Carolyn E. Wright

With the tunnel being 23-feet at the narrowest, there is no room to add a bike lane. However, part of the project includes improvements for cyclists.

There is a button cyclists can hit to initiate a warning to drivers. But cyclists seldom take the time to use them. The buttons will remain as a back up, but radar will be installed so the message board is automatically triggered. NDOT will be

putting in changing message signs that are similar to the ones near Lakeside Inn and Kingsbury Grade.

The existing signs for cyclists and the ones warning about ice will be removed.

“When there are no bikes or ice, it will be a black sign. It won’t add clutter. When a bike rides by it, it will light up,” Cartwright said.

Temperature sensors will be installed inside the pavement on each side of the tunnel so when it gets close to freezing it will say there is ice in the tunnel. This change will mean the warning would be legitimate instead of ongoing when the threat isn’t valid.

NDOT is adding a white surface to the ground as drivers approach the tunnel and silhouettes of bikes will be stenciled in as a warning.

The tunnel will be lighted. The roadway inside the tunnel will be repaved, as will the westbound lanes of Highway 50 and the roadway median between Cave Rock and the Cave Rock State Park boat launch entrance.

During construction the work zone speed limit will be 25 mph. This will start about one-half mile before the project area. Nevada Highway Patrol will be on site to enforce people comply. People traveling east will be in a construction zone for longer because of the water quality project.

Roadside drainage inlets and sediment filtration systems will be installed along the highway for approximately one mile that starts four miles east of Cave Rock.

Noise constraints are part of the contract. If the contractor violates them, the project could be shut down.

While the work will be ongoing all except Sundays, the contractor has the authorization to work seven days. NDOT is

aware there will be nine significant events such as annual cycling and running races that will be impacted. Cartwright said the size of the event would dictate whether special traffic controls would be implemented to accommodate participants.

Notes:

- NDOT is having an informational meeting about the project on April 14 from 4-7pm at Zephyr Cove Elementary School's multipurpose room, 226 Warrior Way, Zephyr Cove. There will be a formal presentation at 5:30pm, followed by a short question and answer session. This will be an open house format meeting.
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Letter: Community makes Drug Store Project a success

To the community,

So, how did you spend your day? I spent mine with the most amazing group of people who care about our youth. I am humbled by the amount of work and effort provided by so many community members, our service clubs, and agencies that serve the Lake Tahoe area.

On March 29, we had our 13th annual Drug Store Project at the campus of Lake Tahoe Community College. This is a comprehensive anti-drug and alcohol program for our sixth-grade youth. It takes a lot of people and resources to make this event occur. To each and every person involved; I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Not sure why, but this year's event was met with more challenges, yet as the day concluded, it proved to be the most powerful.

Our kids are faced with so much these days; our families are under more stress. Drugs and alcohol for many are seen as a fix. It is our belief that they are not. The message to our youth is simple; the choices they make will ultimately be theirs. They have the choice to ignore negative peer pressure when something doesn't feel right. They have the choice to choose the direction they want to take their lives. They have the choice to let adults know when they need help with tough situations. They have the choice not to get involved with drugs and alcohol.

Drugs and alcohol are a problem. They are a problem for our kids and a problem in our community. The adults at our program kept a close tab on our youth throughout the day. We could visibly see the many who struggle because the information we are talking about is something they know too well. Many have siblings, parents, and people they love whom use and abuse. We make it very clear to our kids that good people can make bad choices. We want them to stop and think before acting.

As I sit here and think of what the day was like, I am overwhelmed with the passion everyone shared that day. On behalf of the kids, I thank you. The hope is that the parents of youth that attended our event will begin to openly discuss drugs and alcohol. We know that many of you do because your kids tell us so. Our message to you is to keep it up. Learn together what the problems are in our community. Learn from the vast amount of information on the Internet. Learn together.

Trust me when I say no family is safe from the pain of losing a child to drugs and alcohol; no one. This is a problem that crosses all spectrums in our society. Don't be complacent. I've been in prevention for more than 30 years and I've

learned something: drugs and alcohol will always be a problem if we are unable to change the choices of our kids. Our 14th annual Drug Store Project will be on April 4, 2017, at LTCC. If you would like to volunteer, you may sign up now and I'll be in touch. Simply go **online**.

I'd like to share with you the many who made March 30 possible: Atwater DSP, Barton Health, Barton Health Foundation, California Conservation Corps, California Highway Patrol, Calstar, Douglas County Search and Rescue, Douglas County Sheriff's Office, El Dorado Community Foundation, El Dorado County District Attorney's Office, El Dorado County Mental Health, El Dorado County Probation, El Dorado County Public Health, El Dorado County Search and Rescue, El Dorado County Sheriff's Office, El Dorado County Sheriff's Office-STARS, El Dorado County Superior Court, Harrah's Harveys Lake Tahoe Foundation/H.E.R.O.s, Joint Task Force Domestic Support-CD, Kiwanis Club of Lake Tahoe, Kiwanis Club of Tahoe Sierra, Lake Tahoe Community College, Lake Tahoe Resort Hotel, Heavenly, Lake Valley Fire Protection District, Lake Valley Fire Fighters Association, McFarlane Mortuary, NAS Fallon, Optimist Club of Lake Tahoe, Pro Leisure, Rotary Club of South Lake Tahoe, SLEDNET, Soroptimist International of Tahoe Sierra, South Lake Tahoe Fire Department, South Lake Tahoe Police Department, SLTPD Explorers, SLTPD K9, South Lake Tahoe Police Officers Association, South Tahoe Drug Free Coalition, South Tahoe High School, South Tahoe Middle School, Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District, Tahoe Douglas Rotary Club, Tahoe Turning Point, and Tahoe Youth & Family Services.

Lisa Huard, Drug Store Project