Hyatt hotels banning on-demand porn movies

By Beth J. Harpaz, AP

Hyatt Hotels will no longer offer on-demand pornographic movies in its rooms, the company said Wednesday.

“This content will not be introduced to any new Hyatt hotels, and it will be discontinued or phased out at all hotels,” the company said in a statement.

Hyatt is just the latest hotel company to ban on-demand adult entertainment from its rooms. Decreasing revenue from movie rentals in hotels has driven the trend, with movie rental revenue per available hotel room dropping from $339 a year to $107 a year between 2000 and 2014, according to a report from PKF Hospitality Research. Hotel guests are renting fewer in-room movies because they can watch them on smartphones or laptops instead.

Marriott hotels ended the practice of offering adult video on demand several years ago. The company’s chairman, Bill Marriott, a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, told The Associated Press in 2012 that not only was the church “very, very opposed to pornography,” but that demand for the movies had “gone way down” because “if they want that stuff, they can get on the computer.”

Hyatt, a U.S.-based company, owns 618 properties in 51 countries.

The National Center on Sexual Exploitation in Washington applauded the change. “With this step, Hyatt is proving itself to be a leader among corporations that value a positive and safe environment for their consumers,” the organization’s president, Patrick Trueman, said in a statement.

Sierra Nevada Ballet putting on ‘Peanutcracker’

The traditional holiday story of Clara, the Nutcracker and seven headed Rat King, and the Kingdom of Sweets will be brought to the stage in Sierra Nevada Ballet’s “Peanutcracker – The Story in a Nutshell”.

It is a shorter, 45-minute narrated version that is “designed for families with younger children to introduce them to the wonderful world of ballet,” noted Rosine Bena, artistic director of the Sierra Nevada Ballet. Bena wrote and choreographed this traditional holiday show .

It will be performed Dec. 5 at 2pm and 7pm at the Carson City Community Center. School performances are scheduled throughout Northern Nevada.

Ticket prices start at $6 for youth under 15; all other tickets are $11. They may be reserved by calling Cara Zamora at 775.636.5266 or emailing Development@SierraNevadaBallet.org. Tickets are also available the day of the show.

Ghost hunters to give talk at

Douglas library

Northern Nevada Ghost Hunters will be at the Douglas County Library in Minden on Oct. 24 from 2-4pm.

The not-for-profit group formed in 2005 with a desire to understand the world of the paranormal. Members seek to help people experiencing unexplainable events by using interviews, investigations, and education to create a better understanding of the situation. Local investigations by the group have taken place at Eliza Cook's house in Genoa, Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center in Gardnerville, and the Courthouse Museum in Genoa.

For more info about the program, call 775.782.9841.

EDC gathering input on strategic plan



Few people turned out Oct. 15 to hear Laree Kiely from the Kiely Group talk about El Dorado County's future. Photo/Jessie Marchesseau

By Jessie Marchesseau

El Dorado County Supervisor Sue Novasel hosted a community meeting at South Lake Tahoe council chambers at the airport on Thursday evening as part of the process to develop a three-year strategic plan for El Dorado County. The focus of the meeting was to inform citizens about the planning process and to encourage participation in the countywide citizen engagement survey.

Excluding county employees and media, community attendance Oct. 15 amounted to less than a dozen.

Novasel explained to those present that the Board of Supervisors, along with county department heads, created a draft of the strategic plan outlining what they deemed to be important topics. Now they want to know what the community thinks is important. This is where the survey comes in.

“This survey is going to do a lot for me to try to understand what those top issues are,” said Novasel.

The county has hired the Kiely Group to conduct the citizen engagement survey, which will be available to the public until Nov. 2. It asks questions like, “Do you use county government services?” and “Which county services have the most impact on your quality of life and why?” It also asks for suggestions about each of the five areas of focus the county has identified for the plan: economic development, public safety, infrastructure, healthy community, and good county governance.

Laree Kiely of the Kiely Group reported that so far they have received about a thousand surveys, paper and online. While she did not reveal the results of the surveys, she did offer some demographic information about who has taken it thus far:

· 32 towns are represented

· 64 people from Lake Tahoe

· Majority of respondents are in the 50-65 age group

· 66 percent are women

· 29 percent are government employees (the survey was sent out to them first)

· 26 percent are retired

· 50 percent said they do not use county services.

Kiely said that last statistic confirms what she suspected is going in: a lot of people don't even know what county government does. She pointed out that if they are simply driving on the roads, they are using county services.

"The really positive outcome, kind of the unintended consequence of this survey, is if they even read the questions of the survey, they will be more educated about what county government does, and that is a win all around," she said.

At one point, attendees were asked to voice what their main concerns for the county are. Responses included the environment, public safety, Tahoe Paradise Park, happy and healthy residents, open space, adequate services for tourists, public transit, and maintaining the status quo. A sign-up sheet was also passed around for anyone wanting to be in a future focus group.

Sherman Fox, training and organizational development specialist for El Dorado County, explained the process moving forward: once the surveys are completed and results are in, the data will be analyzed and focus groups formed to delve deeper into the most popular topics. The information will then be given to the goal-setting team who will determine if the county's original objectives need to be altered to coordinate with public concern. The intention, he said, is to have all this done and for the board to have a new three-year El Dorado County strategic plan ready by Christmas.

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Note:

· To participate in the survey, go **online**.

Letter: Literary festival organizers relishing success of event

To the community,

Hundreds of writers, creators and community members attended the inaugural WordWave literary festival at Valhalla Oct. 9-11. This event exceeded our expectations and confirmed that South Lake Tahoe is a great place for cultural events. From the Steampunk Ball with Garth Stein to the Pam Houston keynote and the one-act play competition performance, people were inspired. The Pam Shaw-Miller Maker's Station was a hit, as were the offerings for students. Workshops attendees packed the Grand Hall and the Grand Lawn to hone their craft. It was an amazing weekend.



The support we received for this event was phenomenal. We'd like to thank our sponsors for their generosity: Valhalla Tahoe, Tahoe South, Soroptimist International of Tahoe Sierra, Rotary Club of South Lake Tahoe, Folio Books, Charter Advertising, Michael and Ronda Schaer, Len and Cyndy Carlson

and the South Lake Tahoe Friends of the Library. And a special thanks goes to David Brock for his wonderful WordWave soirée.

We'd like to thank the following businesses for their donations: Blue Angel Cafe & Catering Company, Penguin Random House, Madrona Vineyards, Revolution Wines, Lakeside Beverages, Monk's Cellar, Lakeside Casino, Farm Table, Tallac Cookie Company, Tacos Por Favor, Face in a Book, *Lake Tahoe News*, Rude Brothers Bagels, Beach Retreat & Lodge, Camp Richardson and last, but certainly not least, Lauren Lindley Photography, which made the Steampunk Ball much more than a party.

This event would not have happened without our volunteers, who donated their time and energy into pulling together a great festival, including Ginger Nicolay-Davis, Diana Evans and the cast, crew and directors of the winning one-act plays; Bruce Rettig, Suzanne Roberts, Lee and Margaret Vestal, Ronda Schaer, the staff and volunteers at Valhalla and a special thanks to Cyndy Brown-Carlson and Denise Haerr, without whom it would not have been possible.

Keep writing and making art – it matters that you do!

Kim Wyatt, Bona Fide Books
Jennifer Basye Sander, Write by the Lake

Trooper's killing remembered 40 years later



James Gifford holds up newspaper coverage of his father's death. Photo/Provided

The 40th anniversary of the first Nevada Highway Patrol trooper to die in the line of duty was marked Oct. 14 by those who worked along side him.

Gary Gifford was shot and killed at approximately noon on Oct. 14, 1975.

After robbing the Round Hill branch of the First National Bank of Nevada the suspect was pulled over by Gifford just before Cave Rock. An altercation ensued and Gifford was shot. The suspect surrendered to authorities that evening.

Several patrolmen from that time gathered in Zephyr Cove on Wednesday to honor Gifford and tell stories. Also in attendance was Gifford's son, James, who was 5 at the time of his father's death.

The portion of Highway 50 from Spooner Summit to the state line is dedicated to honor Gifford.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



SF Giants Manager Bruce Bochy takes time Oct. 11 to snap photos at Steamers with Crystal McGehee and Marisa Moulton, and Kelly Sheehan, far right. Photo/Provided

· Bruce Bochy, manager of the San Francisco Giants, dropped by Steamers restaurant in South Lake Tahoe on Oct. 11 for lunch and a cold drink. With all the Giants memorabilia in the eatery and the window paintings, it's easy to know this is where to find fans of the G-men.

· A sail boat at the Tahoe Keys Marina on Oct. 15 caught fire as it was being winterize. There was minor damage to the plastic cover and a seat cushion, according to the South Lake Tahoe Fire Department.

· Marsha Berkbigler, Washoe County commissioner representing the lake, will host a forum Oct. 22 at 12:30pm at the Incline Village Library at 845 Alder Ave.

· The Intensive Spanish Summer Institute at Lake Tahoe Community College will be Aug. 1-5. Registration for ISSI will

begin in June 2016 **online**.

· Several Tahoe items are on the Oct. 20 Placer County Board of Supervisors' **agenda**. The meeting begins at 9am at the North Tahoe Event Center in Kings Beach.

Tahoe musician inducted into R&B Hall of Fame



South Lake Tahoe musician Trey Stone on Oct. 4 is inducted into the R&B Hall of Fame. Photos/Lisa Quick

By Susan Wood

For all the focus on the blues and funk, South Lake Tahoe

musician Trey Stone was inspired by a musician who may surprise most – Jimi Hendrix. The psychedelic rock and roll artist that made his claim to fame at the renowned Woodstock concert is known for becoming one with his guitar. Hendrix's "Little Wing" is one of Stone's favorite songs to play because "it's all about the electric guitar."

"He was my first concert," Stone recalled a show he attended in high school near San Bernardino. The experience prompted him to forget all about the trombone he played in school. Plus, the guitar worked better at getting the interest of girls.

Stone isn't just a Tahoe musician.

Earlier this month he was inducted into the R&B Hall of Fame next to the likes of notable rhythm and blues artists Aretha Franklin, Ray Charles, Martha Reeves, the Miracles and the Spinners.

Stone was honored for his work with the Fabulous Peps, a soul trio led by Joe Harris and other collaborators who inevitably would end up working together or recommending each other at other points in their careers. Call it six degrees, or rather six notes, of separation for those who put the music first in their lives.



Trey Stone’s honor as
an R&B hall of famer.

To hear Stone tell it, his music world has been fulfilling and rewarding – despite moving away from the hip, busy Los Angeles scene for the small mountain town of South Lake Tahoe. After all, Lafayette Trey Stone, now 62, has learned to embrace this modest town with its roots embedded in entertainment. The lake fits the personality of Stone – a man of few words unless one puts a microphone in front of him.

“I’m very proud,” he said with that signature, calm-and-collected grin, while lounging on one recent warm fall afternoon at Alpina Café.

He wasn’t alone. Upon hearing the news of his honor, Stone called his mother.

“She was really happy,” he said in a matter-of-fact manner.

The magnitude of the honor hit him, prompting the longtime vocalist, keyboardist and guitarist of more than 30 years to reflect back on his career.

His high points are notable.

Stone met the king of the blues B.B. King long enough to share the name of his guitar “Shenene,” since King calls his “Lucille.” The two blues men shared moments that will last forever for Stone.

Career wise, Stone collaborated for years with the Undisputed Truth, which brought the haunting hit “Smiling Faces Sometimes.” Even more recognizable, the soul-funk artist who embraced the 1970s era was lead guitarist on “Car Wash” by Rose Royce. (Sitting still to that song would mean you may be 6 feet under.) He earned a Grammy nomination for Keith Washington’s romantic ballad “Kissing You.” He also played with smooth jazz performer George Clinton. More recently, he

performed with the Reno Jazz Orchestra.

Stone toured for more than 40 shows with Tower of Power. The timeless jazz-funk, horn-induced mega band wrote the book on songs that tug at your “easy-to-fall-in-love-with” heart. Who can forget “So Very Hard to Go” or “Still a Young Man.”

“It’s a musician’s dream to play with Tower of Power. (It’s) like a people’s band, like a musician’s band,” Stone told *Lake Tahoe News.*

For fully dedicated blues, jazz-funk musicians like Stone the honor goes without saying to play with band members who invented genres.

“There are a bunch of groups that are true Motown, before Motown (Records),” he said, referring to bands in the trenches unless swept up by record executive Berry Gordy. Think the Jackson 5 and Diana Ross.



Trey Stone, second from right, with other inductees into the hall of fame.

Stone, who grew up in Riverside, thinks of himself as a “musician who sings,” and one who composes as well. Thus, the reputation goes a long way in gaining respect for his dedication to the music itself, instead of worrying about how a certain behavior will play out in an artist’s star power quotient.

Like the difference between being a traveler versus a tourist

– Stone is a diversified musician instead of a celebrity. He seems to excel at “sitting in” with groups like Blues Traveler – mixing and mingling.

When asked if he could play with any one artist, who would it be? Hands down, the answer was Prince.

“He’s from the James Brown school,” Stone said. Prince will often emulate Brown’s memorable dance moves on stage. Different generations who listen to the soulful beats don’t seem to miss a step at keeping the timeless tunes alive.

Stone can vouch for that in his personal life. He’s found himself in a 17-year, committed relationship with his greatest supporter, Lisa Quick, who doesn’t bat an eyelash at filling in the blanks when the soft-spoken Stone gets shy. The family includes two cats, a dog and two teenage boys at home who don’t hesitate at sharing their music prowess and likes with the patriarch Stone.

Family means more and more to Stone, who got a wakeup call to what’s meaningful when he had a stroke in 2007. Quick found him and acted quickly.

“She saved my life,” he said in a poignant tone.

Then there was the pivotal watershed moment in 1994 when he met his father for the first time. A fan saw his show and recognized Stone’s name.

“He said: ‘I know your father’,” Stone recounted.

His father, who retired from the military, came to many of Stone’s shows once they connected. He was the president of the For Love of Jazz club.

“He was really proud of me,” a sentimental Stone said.

And the pride of Stone’s accomplishment goes beyond family.

“He’s so thrilled and honored about this,” longtime collaborator John Shipley told *Lake Tahoe News*, while driving to the Atlantis Casino to perform with Stone.

Shipley worked with Stone in the band the Funk Brothers and has learned to love Stone’s consistency and ability as a musician.

“He’ somebody I enjoy being around and being a friend to,” he said. “What’s great about working with Trey is all the songs we do, I know.”

Shipley, who teaches intro to keyboards, songwriting and audio recording as well as the history of rock and roll at Western Nevada College in Carson City, also enjoys how Stone never appears to be in a bad mood, even if it’s obvious he is. He commends Stone for his resilience in staying true to making a living playing music.

“We used to be able to work at it every day,” he said, adding; “Now it’s weekend work.”

Stone’s ability to stay with the music as a line of work is a sheer testament to how highly regarded he is, Shipley pointed out.

“Getting his honor of being inducted into the hall of fame is another ‘thank you very much’,” he said. “He definitely earned that.”

Opinion: Calif. should be a

Mecca for the poor

By Joe Mathews

Fresno is one of the poorest metro areas in the United States. So why do people keep moving there?

The short answer: Fresno is in California. And there is something very different about our state's poor cities.



Joe Mathews

In other parts of America, people have abandoned cities labeled poor—because of high poverty rates and low rates of education among residents—in big numbers. Detroit's population fell from 1 million in 1995 to 688,000 today. Cleveland's population dropped from 500,000 in 1999 to less than 390,000 today. I cut my teeth as a reporter at the *Baltimore Sun*, and my main job was watching people flee; Charm City's population, once more than 900,000, is down to 620,000 today.

But in California, our poor cities are magnets, drawing new people and maintaining strong population growth. Fresno, our poorest large city, had 392,000 people in 1995 and 520,000 now. Stockton and San Bernardino grew in population even as they slid into bankruptcy. The dynamic extends beyond cities to rural places; California's poorest counties, Imperial and Tulare, have both doubled their populations since 1978.

This growth is particularly noteworthy given the slower gains in the state's population in the past two decades. The

conservative Manhattan Institute marveled that to examine various city populations, “one would never guess that it was San Bernardino and Stockton, not Akron and Cincinnati, that recently went bankrupt.”

The success of these underappreciated cities may surprise Californians, who hear constantly that the people leaving California are disproportionately poor. The two contrasting narratives around poverty—California as a place that the poor are fleeing, and California as a place with the highest percentage of poor people of any state in the country—may further confound. Is California attracting the poor, or repelling them?

The answer, of course, is both.

Poor people are leaving our expensive, crowded coastal counties in search of places where they can improve their standard of living. The basketcase known as Los Angeles County—with its perfect storm of high poverty, high housing prices, and lagging job growth—has become particularly adept at driving people away. While many people leave the state entirely, many head, at least at first, to our inland cities.

There they are joined by migrants, some of them doing seasonal labor on farms, and by Californians from smaller, rural communities. There are many reasons to stick it out in some part of California. Our universities are still good and our community colleges provide good value. If you’re poor, California offers services that are more generous than those of many other states. California’s poor cities also offer another amenity: warm weather. Research shows that warm January weather is among the most reliable predictors of urban growth.

The escape-valve role that these cities play hasn’t won them much respect. The leaders of this supposedly progressive state too often see poor people—and the places where they live—more

as burdens than potential assets. Listen to Sacramento Democrats lament the 12 million people on MediCal as a budget burden, instead of celebrating this expansion of health coverage and doing more to provide timely, high-quality health care.

This is a very old fear in California: that we are being over-run by the poor. Hollywood famously sabotaged Upton Sinclair's 1934 gubernatorial campaign with phony movie reel ads of "poor people" declaring they were heading to California if Sinclair won and established cash payments for the needy. We are overdue for an attitude shift, as median income is down in California from its 2007 peak.

We should start by treasuring our growing poor cities. Municipalities all over the country are all chasing the same narrow swath of creative college-educated hipsters with tech skills. Might it be more advantageous, in this age of American inequality, for a state to champion cities that attract poor people, and to figure out ways for those cities to do better by their residents?

In California, a focus on poor people and poor places feels like an imperative. Many of our wealthiest places are rapidly aging; these growing poor cities are almost all younger than the state average. And by measures of wellbeing, their poor residents are just as happy as their wealthier counterparts.

You may think it's odd to focus efforts on attracting, retaining, and nurturing the less fortunate, but I can think of at least one nation that did pretty well by positioning itself as a mecca for the poor. Perhaps someone could erect copies of the Statue of Liberty along Highway 99 outside Fresno, alongside signs with the famous sonnet of Emma Lazarus, transported from New York Harbor to a new California context:

"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning

to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore."

Joe Mathews is California and innovation editor for Zócalo Public Square, for which he writes the Connecting California column.

Fatal accident closes westbound I-80 near Truckee

A fatal accident on Interstate 80 is causing major traffic delays.

The accident occurred about 2pm Thursday, with the road not expected to be completely open until after 10:30 tonight.

Authorities are turning back or holding all traffic at the Gold Ranch exit just east of the Nevada state line. Only local traffic is being allowed through in order to reduce the backlog of motorists in the Truckee area. Those vehicles are being detoured in stages at the Donner Lake interchange to Donner Pass Road.

Eastbound traffic is not affected.

A driver drove into the Caltrans work zone on Oct. 15, crashing into two Caltrans heavy equipment vehicles. One Caltrans worker was taken to a local hospital for evaluation and released. The identity of the driver and hometown have not been released.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report