

Nev. Department of Ed delays gender diversity regulation

By Sam Gross, Reno Gazette-Journal

CARSON CITY – The Nevada Department of Education again held off Friday on adopting a broad anti-bullying regulation aimed at protecting the state's gender-diverse pupils.

The regulation includes a list of 20 requirements and measures that school districts around the state must adhere to, including requiring additional gender diversity training for school administrators and recognizing students by their chosen names and pronouns.

State Superintendent Steve Canavero held off on approving the regulation Friday and said another workshop is already scheduled for next Friday, and the date for a final hearing will be announced shortly.

Read the whole story

Tahoe Women's Fund to give out \$68,000

The Tahoe Women's Community Fund is awarding \$68,000 to 13 nonprofit organizations on the South Shore.

The recipients are:

Poverty and Housing:

- Live Violence Free (\$10,000) for the Supportive Housing

Program for Victims of Abuse

- Bread and Broth for Kids (\$10,000) for the Weekend Food Program
- SOS Outreach (\$10,000) for the Progressive Outdoor Leadership Program

Children and Youth

- Family Resource Center (\$7,500) for the Leadership Starts Now Project for at-risk youth
- LTUSD elementary schools (\$10,000) for the We Care Program
- Assistance League Sierra Foothills (\$2,500) for Clothing Kids with Confidence

Mental Health and Wellness

- Sierra Child & Family Services (\$3,000) for the Peer Support Project
- Soroptimist International of Tahoe Sierra (\$3,000) for the Drug Store Project

Education and Literacy:

- Boys & Girls Club of South Lake Tahoe (\$3,000) for the Reading Intervention Program
- South Lake Tahoe Library (\$3,000) for the Digital Access Library Cards for sixth-graders

Community and Environment:

- Tahoe Institute of Natural Resources (\$2,228) for Environmental Education Experiences
- Lake Tahoe Shining Stars (\$3,000) for the Bijou Ballet Club
- Tahoe Rim Trail Association (\$772) for the Stewardship Support Program

To honor recipients and all grant applicants, the grants gala will be May 16 6-9pm at the Tahoe Beach Retreat in South Lake

Tahoe. Tickets are \$35 and are available **online**.

Audit: EDC financial statements all in order

El Dorado County's financial statements received a clean opinion from independent auditors.

According to county Auditor Joe Harn, this means "the public can be confident that the county's financial reporting is accurate, reliable, and transparent."

The audited financial statements, management discussion and analysis, and other information related to the independent audit are **online**.

The audit was conducted by the certified public accounting firm of Maze & Associates.

The annual audit committee consists of two county supervisors and members of the Grand Jury. The CAO participates in an advisory capacity.

"The best government transparency involves placing all financial information online in a readily understandable manner," Harn said. "Government transparency allows taxpayers to see how our county is spending tax money, and gives El Dorado County citizens the ability to hold us accountable. The internet is a great place to enhance transparency."

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Training is the key to school resource officers' success

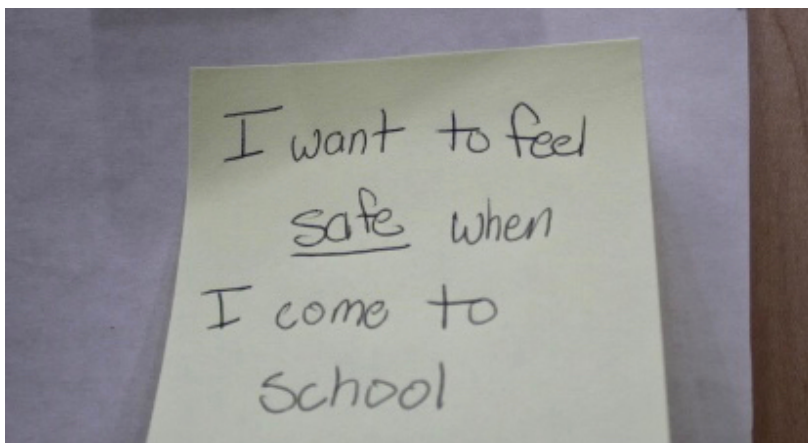
By Elizabeth Englander, The Conversation

Despite legitimate concerns about the effects of placing school resource officers in the nation's schools, the reality is having these officers on a school's campus can literally save lives and avert tragedy.

That much became clear on March 20, when school resource officer Blaine Gaskill rushed toward a shooter who had opened fire at Great Mills High School in Maryland. He effectively stopped the shooter, who had already wounded two students.

Gaskill's heroic work stands in stark contrast to that of Deputy Scot Peterson, who was seen on video footage standing outside Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., as the school shooting there was under way. At Marjory Stoneman, 17 people, mostly students, were killed on Feb. 14.

So why do some resource officers perform so well while others don't?



A South Tahoe High School student's plea. Photo/Julie Threewit

The need for training and standards

What makes a school resource officer successful, though, isn't only about how they respond to emergencies. In fact, a critical part of their role is in prevention. Stopping school violence before it ever begins relies heavily on the training that school resource officers, commonly referred to as SROs, receive or don't receive.

I make these observations as the director of the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center and as one who has co-authored a technical report on campus violence prevention and response to active shooters.

Incredibly, there are no national standards – and in many cases no state standards – for school resource officer training. That means there is little consistency in how SROs are prepared to work in schools.

While school resource officers have already undergone regular police training, SRO training that exists tends to focus on legal issues or school security, as opposed to other things like de-escalation techniques, bullying and cyberbullying, child development, symptoms of trauma, or educational issues, such as working with children with special needs.

How school officers could make things worse

In my opinion, this lack of training is one of the factors that is fueling the debate over the use of police officers in schools. The U.S. Department of Education has recommended that school resource officers not be involved in school discipline, as inadequately trained officers may inadvertently escalate problems or criminalize students and contribute to what has come to be known as the “school-to-prison pipeline.” This is a particularly sensitive issue when it comes to dealing with

minority and disabled students.

In 2015, Deputy Ben Fields garnered national attention when a cell phone video emerged of him appearing to body slam and drag a female student across a classroom at Spring Valley High School in Columbia, S.C. Such incidents force us to question the wisdom of putting police officers, particularly officers not trained to work with children, in American high schools.

To complicate things further, one study that examined the impact of SROs found that their presence in schools was not all good or bad. For instance, while arrests for disorderly conduct increased, arrests for more serious offenses decreased.

And yet other studies suggest how positive an influence school resource officers can be. Research on almost 2,000 students found that youth who had positive opinions about police officers reported feeling safer in schools with SROs present. In a study in which researchers interviewed dozens of SROs, officers themselves tend to emphasize the importance of informal discussions and education, instead of being overly reliant on formal discipline, whenever possible.

Training is emerging as key in helping SROs successfully increase school safety, as recognized in a U.S. Department of Education guide on improving school climate and discipline and "A Framework for Safe and Successful Schools."

Yet despite a high level of consensus among researchers and criminal justice experts that school resource officers should undergo specialized training, few of the 19,000 SROs in the United States are in fact trained.

Different training, different outcomes

Gaps in training could also explain the difference between the responses in Florida and Maryland.

In “Campus Violence, Prevention and Response,” a 2008 report that I co-authored, my colleagues and I recommended that campus officers should all be trained in active shooter response tactics. In an active shooter situation, as my colleagues and I argued, campus police need specialized equipment to gain forcible entry into locked buildings and classrooms. This is different from traditional training, where police may be instructed to wait outside. Their staffing levels need to be adequate for the size and layout of the school.

But our report also made recommendations about prevention. A key recommendation was that school personnel need to be trained to identify students at risk.

The Parkland school shooter clearly demonstrated many such warning signs. This is one of the reasons why police there are reviewing why all these warnings did not suggest a significant pattern to local police.

Elizabeth Englander is a professor of psychology and the director of the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center at Bridgewater State University.

No injuries from electrical explosion at Stateline



Highway 50 near Hard Rock in Stateline is severely damaged.
Photo/DCS0

Updated 9:35am:

By Kathryn Reed

An underground electrical explosion this morning in Stateline has caused Highway 50 to buckle and be closed, and for power to be cut off.

A loud explosion was heard at about 5:15am April 1 in front of the Hard Rock Lake Tahoe.

Investigators were still on the scene as of 9am Sunday trying to figure out what went wrong and how to fix things.

"A pole vault caused the original explosion. A second pole vault is being taxed and they are trying to isolate the situation," Douglas County sheriff's Sgt. Bernadette Smith told *Lake Tahoe News*.

No one was injured.



It could be weeks before the road is fixed. Photo/DCS0

The explosion blew off a manhole cover and caused asphalt to fly, thus creating a depression in the roadway. Highway 50 is closed between Stateline Avenue and Lake Parkway. Smith said the westbound lanes could be closed for weeks, though the eastbound lanes could open later Sunday.

Meg Ragonese with the Nevada Department of Transportation said NV Energy is still dealing with live infrastructure so it is too soon to know when the road would open or repairs would begin.

"They would make all the repairs since it is a utility related incident. There is not estimate yet of reopening the highway," Ragonese told *LTN*.

About 400 customers were without power for about two hours. Then NV Energy crews rerouted circuits, with the outage affecting only seven customer at of 9:30am.

"It's under investigation. They don't know what caused it. Any number of things could have happened," Calder Chism, NV Energy spokesman, told *LTN*.

A security guard at Hard Rock hung up on *Lake Tahoe News* when asked a series of questions, including if anyone was evacuated.

Festival to feature 30 breweries in S. Lake Tahoe

The Tahoe Brewfest is returning June 2 with 30 breweries, ciders, craft root beer, local entertainment and more.

The 2018 Tahoe Brewfest is moving up in more ways than one. More beer, more food, more bathrooms, more space, it's even moving up in altitude. It will be at Heavenly's Cal Lodge.

All proceeds go to the Boys & Girls Club of Lake Tahoe.

The event officially starts at 1pm, but for whoever is the first to grab the limited number of VIP tickets, the unlimited tastings start at noon with a commemorative stainless steel tasting glass. The event ends at 4pm.

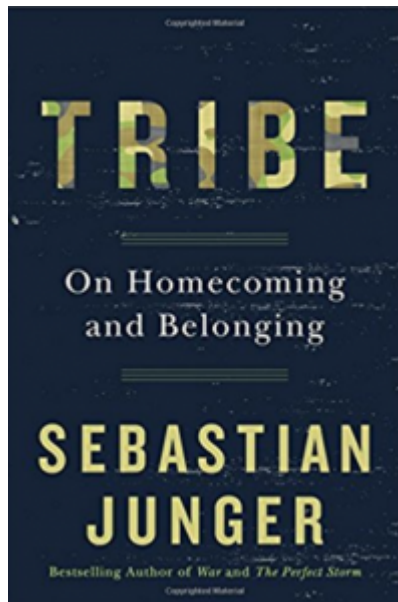
VIP tickets are \$50, regular tickets are \$35, for those younger than 21 admission is \$10, with those 5 and younger free. Tickets are available **online**.

LTN Book Club: How we all need a 'Tribe'

By Susan Wood

The epiphany occurs near the end of the book when it becomes quite clear that the times that try our souls the most are the ones that unite us like no other.

In “Tribe” (Hachette Book Group Inc., 2016) acclaimed writer Sebastian Junger takes us through examples – some severe – in which even in the face of death people not only overcome life’s worst trials and tribulations. They rejoice being a part of humanity.



He cites in the chapter “In Bitter Safety I Awake” how veterans “find themselves missing the war after it’s over” because soldiers experience an unparalleled brotherhood not found when they get home. This talked-about theory may seem hard to understand for civilians who have never stared down the barrel of the gun. Ironically, part of the trauma of war appears “to be giving it up.” A gunner quoted in this fine, easy-read as being in a “tribal sort of situation where we could

help each other without fear.”

Junger should know. His past works include the book titled “War,” as well as the best-selling, contemporary masterpiece about deep-sea fishing while fighting Mother Nature in “The Perfect Storm.” (That was one of my all-time favorite books; Junger makes weather a sexy topic.) His other works, “Fire” in particular, are masterfully crafted in such a way to bring sense to the human condition and living through the elements that make it difficult.

Most people may only relate to the notion that tragedy brings people together if only having been through a natural disaster. We’ve all seen it and said it. Assisting one another in a true sense of community is the one shining light at the end of the tunnel, so to speak.

Modern society isn’t a piece of cake, nor is it a paradise – emotionally, that is. Yet, we have so many choices that are designed to make life easier. Are they?

As Junger points out, early tribes pulled together in unprecedented ways. The clearest case in point shows how the Native Americans relied on each other for their survival through the basic processes put into place to help them carry on.

But nowadays, the vast majority of us don't personally have to grow or kill our own food, build our own dwellings or defend ourselves from wild animals and enemies. Nonetheless, "we can travel a thousand miles by pushing our foot down on a gas pedal" among other means of modern conveniences.

Perhaps this subtle observation goes to show how simplifying one's life down to the basic needs – connections being the most crucial – makes us happier.

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- Please join in the discussion via commenting. Feel free to pose questions.
- Questions: Can you name and therefore explain a time in your life when you were the most frightened but emerged feeling better about the connections you made through the experience? Do you belong to some type of tribe? If so, what do you get out of the gathering that you don't get elsewhere?
- The next book is "Suitcase Sefton and the American Dream" by Jay Feldman. The novel blends baseball and Japanese internment camps. The review will be published May 1.

Opinion: L.A.'s water

pretensions

By Joe Mathews

“Chinatown” is fooling itself.

Los Angeles has a long history of water deceptions, a point made famously by Roman Polanski’s 1974 film. But the massive self-sabotage of the city’s latest scheme is a real doozy. L.A. has convinced itself of the hokum that it has all the water it needs.



Joe Mathews

Let me be clear: L.A. must produce more of its own water for its long-term security. And leading Angelenos are right to ramp up storm water capture, groundwater clean-up, recycling and conservation so that more L.A. water is local.

But the idea being sold by elites – that L.A. can become completely self-sufficient on water – is a fantasy. Producing more local water is so costly that L.A. would be fortunate to get half of its water from local sources.

Which makes L.A.’s current deluge of self-deception dangerous. Leading Angelenos are now broadcasting their self-sufficiency message at a moment when the state is debating a vital plan to shore up a crucial piece of the region’s water supply: the California Delta.

That proposal, estimated to cost anywhere from \$10 billion to \$30 billion, would construct one or two tunnels to carry

Sacramento River water south, thus providing more certainty about the 30 percent of L.A. water that runs through the Delta.

The project should be a no-brainer for L.A. But L.A. isn't thinking clearly when it comes to water. Instead, the city, under Mayor Eric Garcetti—a smooth-talking optimist full of plans and presidential ambition—has come to believe it can make transformational changes without much trouble.

Such triumphalism is rooted in the city's winning streak: securing the 2028 Olympic Games, rebuilding its schools, reviving South L.A., transforming downtown into a true center, and expanding transit.

But water is different. In a triumphalist L.A. Daily News op-ed, Garcetti framed his drive for water self-sufficiency as a "Mulholland moment," a strange choice given that William Mulholland ushered in water imports that Garcetti now rejects.

From there, the mayor went off the deep end, blasting the Delta tunnels as unnecessary, even detrimental to the dream of L.A. self-sufficiency, writing: "We will never be able to solve our water needs if we have tunnel vision." And then he wrote of a city that gets 70 percent-plus of its water from elsewhere: "I'm often asked if we have enough water in Los Angeles for our future. And I always answer that we have plenty of water."

Garcetti isn't alone in his hubris. The L.A. City Council just voted to oppose the tunnels if they don't meet certain conditions. That vote reflects fears of local environmental and consumer groups like Food & Water Coalition and Consumer Watchdog that have used the myth of self-sufficiency to oppose the tunnels. They have campaigned for the firing of the L.A. Department of Water and Power's ratepayer advocate, Fred Pickel, for the crime of saying that L.A. could afford the water that the Delta tunnels would bring.

Of course, interest groups and politicians aren't the only Angelenos selling fantasies of self-sufficiency. UCLA has issued a Grand Challenge that includes many smart ideas for creating more local water, but also promotes the self-sufficiency myth, setting out the goal of transitioning L.A. County to "100 percent local water" by 2050. The challenge's leader, the brilliant and usually sober-minded environmentalist Mark Gold, embraced the madness with a Los Angeles Times piece, titled "Let's Go Local on Water," and touting "complete water self-sufficiency."

Gold, at least, acknowledged that such a transition would be extremely costly. Other Angelenos love to talk about the tunnels' high sticker price and how it would get passed on to ratepayers and property taxpayers. But the truth is that Delta water via the tunnels would be far cheaper than all the expensive new infrastructure needed to make L.A.'s water more local.

And the tunnels are a real project. L.A.'s various sustainability water plans are vague on how a transformation to local water would be paid for. Such plans also ignore the reality that L.A.'s water is becoming less local. The 2012-2016 drought increased L.A.'s reliance on water imports, particularly from the Delta and the Colorado River. The combination of that greater dependence on imports—and L.A.'s statements of self-sufficiency—is dangerous. Why should other parts of the state send water to us, if our leaders say we don't need it?

So, my fellow Californians, I hereby apologize for Angelenos' ingratitude for the water that comes from your communities to ours. I wish I could promise you that we Angelenos will cool the self-sufficiency rhetoric while the state debates the tunnels.

But c'mon, Jake, you know what town this is.

Joe Mathews writes the Connecting California column for Zócalo Public Square.

Congress bans restaurants from skimming tips

By Lydia DePillis, CNNMoney

Restaurant servers dodged a bullet last week with a provision tucked into the \$1.3 trillion federal spending bill.

Late last year, the Department of Labor proposed a rule that would have authorized restaurants to share tips between servers and cooks. That would allow employers to keep some tip money for themselves, as long as each worker made at least the full federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour.

Workers' rights groups argued the rule change would lower the pay of those who work at restaurants, hotels and bars. Opponents of the rule held splashy public protests. The Labor Department received more than 218,000 mostly negative comments on the proposal.

Read the whole story

Tahoe on Airbnb's top 10 list

for spring break

By Nancy Trejos, USA Today

Families staying at Airbnb properties for spring break this year are staying closer to home.

A survey conducted by Airbnb of 1,003 adults this month found that fewer than 10 percent of families were planning to travel internationally. Only one international destination made the top 10 list of spring break destinations: Paris. More than three in five families say they would stay within driving distance.

[Read the whole story](#)