# Long-distance hiker to give talk at library

Local hiker Jay Bigelow will be at the Minden library on Sept. 22 at 5pm to share his experience through-hiking the Appalachian Trail.

Each year thousands of hikers attempt a through-hike; only about one in four completes the trip.

Bigelow hiked the 2,180 mile trail in 2011 and the 2,650 mile Pacific Crest Trail in 2012, fulfilling promises he had made to himself when he was still in high school. His wife hiked with him on portions of both trails providing support.

Today the Gardnerville resident hikes five miles a day and takes one or two longer hikes a year.

The Minden Library is located at 1625 Library Lane.

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# Gold miners rescued near Lake Tahoe

**By KRNV-TV**

The California Highway Patrol confirmed Thursday that it used one of its helicopters to rescue two gold miners near Lake Tahoe.

Authorities said California Highway Patrol Helicopter 20 was requested for a search and rescue by Placer County Sheriff’s Office for two miners that had been reported missing in the

Sawtooth Ridge area at about 4:20pm Sept. 9.

According to an official statement issued by Placer County authorities, three friends had reportedly gone gold panning on a tributary of the North Fork of the American River below Sawtooth Ridge on Sept. 8.

**Read the whole story**

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# Nevada's middle man – Gov. Sandoval

**By Jon Ralston, Politico**

As Republicans look on in dismay at the chaos of the party's presidential race and a Congress that can't seem to get anything done, their focus keeps turning to Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval. Reelected in a landslide last year, he has earned a reputation as a chief executive who somehow manages to get things done. Jon Ralston, a *Politico* magazine econtributing editor and longtime Nevada political reporter, talked with Sandoval about why he's staying focused—for now—on fixing his state.

**JR:** Is there a place for a guy like Brian Sandoval in the Republican Party who says, "You know what, I think at times you have to raise taxes, you have to expand Medicaid even though you don't necessarily agree with the overarching Obamacare"?

**BS:** Absolutely—it's about solutions. I stepped in here—the highest unemployment in the country, second highest in the country uninsured, $2 billion budget deficit, an ineffective

economic development structure, a failing infrastructure, all of that. People want someone who’s going to find solutions and make tough decisions, and do what’s in the best interest of the state. I don’t see why there wouldn’t be a place for somebody who wants to do that.

**Read the whole story**

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# Letter: Chamber says thank you

**To the community,**

The Lake Tahoe South Shore Chamber of Commerce, Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority and El Dorado County thank Lake Tahoe Golf Course for providing the perfect setting for the Sample the Sierra Pop-Up Dinner.

Over fifty people gathered to enjoy a special four-course dinner at Lake Tahoe Golf Course on Sept. 4 to begin the Labor Day weekend celebrations. Though the weather did not cooperate, Lake Tahoe Golf Course was more than accommodating with moving the event indoors to provide a warm and wind-free location for Blend Catering’s delicious dishes.

Thank you also to Blend Catering, Petal to the Metal for the beautiful flowers and Red Carpet Events & Design for décor.

**Shannon Earley, Lake Tahoe South Shore Chamber of Commerce**

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# Whittell donation to help with STEM programs

A $50,000 donation to Whittell High School is designed to help improve its science, technology, engineering, and mathematics programs.

Douglas County School District is making a concerted effort to enhance its STEM offerings.

The donation by Big George Ventures will support two AP classes in particular – environmental science and computer science.

"The bulk of the funding is to get the teachers some training," Superintendent Teri White told *Lake Tahoe News*. The plan is those two teachers will then share their new knowledge with other faculty members.

Money will also be spent on field trips the district wouldn't otherwise be able to offer students. This includes community outreach so students can see how classroom studies are applicable to the work world; with the idea it might be a career they would want to pursue.

*– Lake Tahoe News staff report*

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# Calif. lawmakers want special session to tackle drought

**By Juliet Williams, AP**

SACRAMENTO – A bipartisan group of 47 state Assembly members delivered a letter to Gov. Jerry Brown on Friday asking him to declare a special session to tackle problems related to California's ongoing drought.

In the letter provided to The Associated Press, they say a special session is needed to address the unprecedented water crisis, which could worsen as California faces the prospect of an El Nino weather pattern that could bring severe flooding.

"We have seen from widespread reports that as much as half of the $687 million set aside to help drought-stricken communities remains unspent in state accounts – and will remain there until 2016," says the letter. "In addition, we are seeing the same slow and lethargic project pace with the funds raised as a result of last year's Proposition 1 ballot measure."

The AP reported in June that more than $320 million that was supposed to be rushed to drought-stricken California communities was sitting unspent in government bank accounts, more than a year after lawmakers voted to use the money to provide water, protect wells from contamination and upgrade outdated water systems.

A special session addressing the drought should also include "thoughtful and careful review of environmental policies that – even if well-meaning – may be doing more harm than good," the letter says.

Assemblyman Devon Mathis, a Republican who represents some of the hardest hit areas of the state, spearheaded the effort.

"It just makes me sad. This is one of the worst public health epidemics that we have, this is up and down the state, and we have to do something about it," he said in an interview before taking the letter into the governor's office. "We talk about all these problems about water and we don't really have a solid plan."

He said while lawmakers have been talking about the drought for much of the regular session scheduled to wrap up late Friday, little has been accomplished.

A spokesman for Brown, Gareth Lacy, said the administration has taken hundreds of coordinated actions to address the drought, and a sound process is in place to ensure assistance is distributed properly.

“To date, hundreds of millions have been committed to emergency drought relief, disaster assistance, water conservation and infrastructure projects across California – with much more on the way,” Lacy said in an email. “This investment and response is the product of Republicans and Democrats setting aside politics and working together, without any need for a special session.”

He cited new rebate programs to replace old appliances and tear out water-guzzling lawns, and groundwater legislation to preserve vulnerable basins.

Democratic Assemblyman Luis Alejo, of Watsonville, said in a statement that the Legislature must ensure disadvantaged communities that rely on wells have access to safe drinking water.

“Additionally, as forecasters predict strong El Nino storms to hit California this winter, we must ensure our communities have flood controls in place and healthy rivers that can act as safeguards to the storms,” he said.

Republican Sen. Andy Vidak, of Hanford, also added to the call for a special session.

Brown called special sessions this year to address a $59 billion transportation infrastructure backlog over the next decade and figure out a new funding mechanism for Medi-Cal, the state’s health insurance program for the poor, but lawmakers were set to wrap up Friday without proposals to

address either.

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# Snippets about Lake Tahoe



· The Tour de Tahoe bike ride starts at 6:45am Sunday at Hard Rock Lake Tahoe. Expect cyclists to be on the highways around the lake until about 5pm. They ride clockwise around the 72 miles of the lake.

· The Tahoe Rim Trail Association has named the last mile of the Rim to Reno trail the Stephen S. Ball Mile. His estate donated money to the TRTA after his death.

· NBC Sports is slated to air a one-hour special on Reno's National Championship Air Races in February 2016.

· Here are the El Dorado-Tahoe and Sierra roadwork schedules from Caltrans for the week.

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# LTUSD enrollment increasing

Enrollment in Lake Tahoe Unified School District is on the upswing.

So far there are 3,972 students. This compares to last school year at 3,888 kids.

South Tahoe High School has seen a huge spike; going from 942

students to 1,050.

“The high school has popped from last year,” Superintendent Jim Tarwater told *Lake Tahoe News.* “More publicity is paying off.”

The district has made a concerted effort with the school’s website to promote the facilities that were built in the last few years as well as the programs associated with them.

There are 34 new teachers in the district, as well as new employees in other disciplines.

*– Lake Tahoe News staff report*

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# Tahoe City training young mountain bike riders

The Tahoe XC Junior Mountain Riders Program provides children ages 7-11 an opportunity to experience and grow in the sport of mountain biking.

The weekly club rides focus on developing strong, responsible riders through instruction, practice, and fun in a healthy, supportive environment.

The six-week program costs $45 per child or $10 for drop-ins. It runs from Sept. 14-Oct. 19, 4-5:30pm. Meet at the Tahoe XC trailhead.

RSVP with child’s name, age and biking ability to andrews@tahoexc.org.

# Butte Fire: 15 structures lost, 10% containment

Fifteen structures have been destroyed in the Butte Fire that is raging out of control in Amador and Calaveras counties.

The fire has consumed 64,728 acres and is 10 percent contained as of Saturday morning.

It is burning east of Jackson in extremely dry terrain.

About 6,400 structures remain threatened and evacuations continue to grow.

More than 3,000 people are working to contain the fire that started Sept. 9. The cause is under investigation.

*– Lake Tahoe News staff report*