

Barton Auxiliary gives \$13,500 in scholarships

Barton Memorial Hospital Auxiliary awarded \$13,500 in scholarships to 11 local students.

Eight students received \$1,500 each to pursue a college education in the health care field. Recipients included Ariaiah Barth and Taylor Fruth from Douglas High School, Trinity Marino-LaTella and Angelica Rodriguez from South Tahoe High School, Lauren George and Max Primo from Whittell High School, and Brooke Noel and Wen Tiong from Lake Tahoe Community College.

The Auxiliary also gave \$500 opportunity scholarships to students graduating from Mount Tallac High School and continuing their education at Lake Tahoe Community College. Recipients included Adriana Aguilar, Morgan Kuykendall and Adrian Ortega.

Each year, the Barton Auxiliary gives time and money back the community. Auxiliary volunteers donated nearly 28,000 hours in 2014. They raise funds from The Attic and gift shop sales, holiday fundraisers, and personal donations.

Aircraft checking for dead

trees in California

By Jane Braxton Little, Sacramento Bee

Low-flying helicopters are joining the legion of machinery responding to the state's fourth-year drought.

Helicopters flying at treetop level throughout rural Northern California are checking for dead and dying trees near power lines, where they pose fire hazards.

The aircraft, contracted by Pacific Gas and Electric Co., have found thousands of trees in need of removal or pruning, said Paul Moreno, a spokesman for the utilities company.

Drought has weakened trees throughout the state and left others susceptible to disease or insects.

Read the whole story

Douglas library showing movies for kids

Douglas County Public Library in Minden is having Children's Movie Day on select Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays through July 29.

The library will show movies with a hero theme between 11am and 5pm. "WALL-E," "Superman," "Frozen," and the "Lego Movie" are a few of the titles that will be presented.

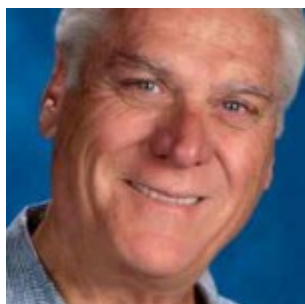
Check the event calendar or Facebook for scheduled movie times

and titles for each day. Free fresh popcorn will be available during the screenings.

Ages 4 and up are welcome. All movies are rated G or PG.

For more info, call 775.782.9841.

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



• The Lake Tahoe Unified School board of education gave Superintendent Jim Tarwater a positive review this month. The board extended his contract by a year to June 30, 2018. There is no change in compensation.

• Country singer-songwriter Tanya Tucker will appear July 3 at 8pm in TJ's Corral Outdoor Concert & Events Center at the Carson Valley Inn in Minden.

• A recycling campaign has been launched by Tahoe Recreation, a division of California Land Management and the operator of U.S. Forest Service campgrounds and beaches around Lake Tahoe.

• Fire restrictions will go into effect July 1 within the Tahoe National Forest.

• The Bicycle Advisory Committee of the South Lake Tahoe Recreation Facilities Joint Powers Authority will meet July 10 from 9-11am at Lake Tahoe Airport.

4 people win Lake Spirit Awards

Four people who possess a strong commitment to preserving Lake Tahoe were recognized this week at the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's Governing Board meeting.

The Lake Spirit Awards honor people who have made progress at restoring Lake Tahoe.

Awards were given in two categories, exemplary citizen and exemplary agency representative or environmental scientist. This year's winners are:

Exemplary citizen

Rebecca Bryson, South Shore, is a member of the Community Mobility Working Group, which advocates for improved community connections. Bryson also spearheaded a composting program in Lake Tahoe Unified School District elementary schools and was the lead organizer for the Sierra House growing domes project, generating more than \$100,000 for its construction.

The Murphy Family, North Shore, consisting of Shawn, Angie, Tyler, and Savannah, are committed to fighting aquatic invasive species in Lake Tahoe. Through their business, Wet Leprechaun Dive Services, the Murphys have physically remove aquatic invasive weeds from iconic Tahoe locations, including Emerald Bay. The Murphy family also champions public education about aquatic invasive species in an effort to grow awareness of this threat to Lake Tahoe.

Exemplary Agency Representative or Environmental Scientist

Joy Barney, South Shore, of the U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe

Basin Management Unit founded the Generation Green of Lake Tahoe Program, which educates high school students about the environment and gives them work and volunteer experience through the Forest Service. She helped found the South Tahoe Environmental Education Coalition, providing 1,500 hours of environmental education in local schools annually.

Madonna Dunbar, North Shore, of the Incline Village General Improvement District and Tahoe Water Suppliers Association promotes environmental programs in Incline Village and around the Region. Her work on the IVGID Waste Not Program reaches over 200,000 people every year. She promotes water conservation and encourages people to Drink Tahoe Tap.

Water, sage grouse dominate governors' forum



This year's annual Western Governors' Association conference is in Incline Village. Photo/Provided

By Anne Knowles

INCLINE VILLAGE – Water data and sage grouse were the main topics on the opening day of the Western Governors' Association annual meeting.

The three-day conference kicked off June 24 with the release of the WGA's drought forum report, what Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval, WGA's current chairman, called a "living document."

The report was introduced during the initial panel, which included governors from nine western states as well as a consultant from Deloitte Consulting and Oklahoma's secretary of Energy and Environment.

The panel was followed by a keynote speech by Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, who took questions from the governors. They were mostly concerned with the possible listing of the sage grouse as an endangered species.

The drought report is a broad overview of the WGA's findings with links to its website for more detailed information on the group's yearlong investigation of the drought, including meeting videos and webinars, and resources such as the U.S. Drought Monitor from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and stream flow and runoff data from the U.S. Geological Survey.



Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell is working to keep her department's budget

intact. Photo/Provided

The report is more a resource than a remedy and makes no specific recommendations.

Sandoval said there is no cookie cutter solution for the affected states.

“What is certain is this unprecedented drought is a critical issue if not the critical issue for the west,” Sandoval said.

The report focuses on seven areas, including conservation and infrastructure, but the WGA panel zeroed in on one: data and analysis.

Manson Brown, assistant secretary of commerce for environmental observation and prediction, said the data says there is no let up in sight.

“The seasonal outlook though Sept. 15 is for the drought to persist or intensify west of the Rockies,” he said.

Brown was asked by several governors how reliable is the data since the states rely on it to make policy. Brown said the farther out the timeframe, the less trustworthy the forecast, but that technology will soon allow a 30-day forecast as reliable as today’s 10-day outlook.

“They are very accurate, but there is always uncertainty in a hypercomplex system like the Earth,” he said.

William Sarni, director and practice leader for water strategy social impact at Deloitte Consulting, said it’s important to find better ways to convey the data.

“There is a lot of information out there and we need to present it better visually to engage people,” Sarni said.

The report itself says “groundwater data, predictive climate models for drought and analytical tools that allow users to

compare multiple datasets over time were all cited ... as ongoing needs.”

Jewell in her keynote speech implored the governors to help convince Congress not to cut the Interior budget by a proposed 15 percent.

“We really need to move beyond this mindless sequestration,” said Jewell.

The administration is also working on moving wildfire money into the disaster budget, she said.

In the morning before the WGA meeting, Jewell and Sandoval met with firefighters and personnel working to contain the 17,000-acre Washington Fire south of Markleeville.



Gov. Brian Sandoval is host of this year's governors' conference. Photo/Provided

Jewell said she is hopeful the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will decide not to add sage grouse to the endangered species list, a decision expected in September.

Utah Gov. Gary Herbert said his state's sage grouse management plan was 75 pages versus the Bureau of Land Management's plan encompassed in four large binders.

“I want to protect the sage grouse, but not to the detriment

of economic development,” said Herbert, who added that other interests were using the bird in hopes of killing further oil and gas development.

Wyoming Gov. Matthew Mead wondered if the sage grouse pointed to a bigger problem with the act.

“Regardless of the decision there’s going to be lawsuits and some judge will decide,” said Mead. “Is the Endangered Species Act working then?”

Jewell conceded there have been problems with the act, but that her department was working on involving states and scientists up front to make sure listings weren’t too easy to get.

Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey, Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper, Idaho Gov. Butch Otter, Montana Gov. Steve Bullock, North Dakota Gov. Jack Dalrymple as well as Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo also took part in the panel.

The meeting continues through Friday morning at the Hyatt Regency in Incline Village.

Opinion: Nevada is not South Carolina, but ...

By Jon Ralston, Reno Gazette-Journal

Nevada is not South Carolina.

We are not below the Mason-Dixon line. We are no longer the Mississippi of the West. We do not need Gov. Brian Sandoval to demand the Confederate flag be taken down.

We are different. Right?

A few months ago, during a legislative hearing, an assemblywoman named Michele Fiore congratulated colleague Harvey Munford on being the first “colored man to graduate from his college.” Colored.

Fiore later suggested playing the race card was an anachronism because America had elected a black president, thus negating racism. Munford did not protest.

Read the whole story

A social network for talkers

By David Gelernter, Wall Street Journal

No group needs social network software more than the elderly. We have built a frenzied society full of shriek TV, shriek music, shriek movies, shriek ads. Texting and phone-fondling go on ceaselessly. None of this welcomes the elderly, who were often lonely even before we turned up the volume on American society.

So it's too bad that today's social networks are virtually useless to them. The elderly don't want to type; they want to talk. And if they can't make sense of new software in 10 seconds, they move on.

Audio is our first requirement. Losing dexterity is part of aging, and arthritis is not exactly rare. Your speed doesn't matter when you type alone, but slow “conversational typing” hurts the flow. Anyway, unless you do it for a living, writing is an impoverished version of speaking.

Human contact is what too many older people lack. Why deprive them of voice? And why not let them take part in networked conversations while lying on a lounge chair or flat in bed?

Read the whole story

NDOT to work on Spooner Summit

A Nevada Department of Transportation project on Highway 50 in south Carson City is designed to enhance storm drainage to help preserve water quality and reduce erosion.

The project will replace more than 50 storm drains and drop inlets, as well as enhance roadside slopes and curb and gutter on 50 from the South Carson Street/Spooner junction to Tahoe Golf Club Drive, which is approximately four and a half miles up 50. Multiple drainage channels from the highway will also be improved with additional drainage pipes or rock work to reduce erosion.

Some of the drainage systems were originally constructed when the highway was built more than 50 years ago.

The project will also enhance roadway safety by replacing many storm grates from near the travel lanes, providing a smoother roadway surface and reducing potential roadway flooding risk.

The approximately \$1.2 million project will be constructed by MKD Construction. As the project progresses, single lane closures with travel delays are to be expected.

The project should be completed this fall.

SLTFD being proactive with threat of fire

The South Lake Tahoe Fire Department has implemented the Red Flag Program for a second year to help inform and educate people about days when the weather increases fire danger.

SLTFD will raise a red flag at each fire station to warn the public.

On these days the department will add extra personnel to staff a brush engine for an aggressive fire attack. The personnel assigned to the engine will patrol the highest fire danger areas.

During these time the public should be especially mindful to:

- Avoid outdoor burning, such campfires, or any other open flame. Even grilling is not advised, when Red Flag Days exist.
- Dispose of cigarettes and other smoking materials into fire safe containers. Tossing smoldering cigarettes onto the ground should be avoided.
- Properly store flammable materials such as gasoline, alcohol, paint, lighter, and matches. These materials may reach their critical points during hot weather and can possibly result to fire.
- Be extremely careful when using and fueling chain saws, lawn mowers, weed eaters and other lawn care equipment. High heat conditions make ignition of the fuel vapors more likely. Find shade if possible and allow the machinery to cool if it has been running. Also avoid welding in dangerously dry conditions, as the sparks can easily ignite the dry vegetation around you.

- Be careful where parking vehicles. The hot underside of a car or truck filled with gasoline parked over dead grass or leaves is an explosion waiting to happen. Be sure to park on concrete or solid dirt or gravel, especially during Red Flag Days. Do not park where vegetation touches the vehicle.