

Tahoe well represented in Warren Miller film



Errol Kerr and JT Holmes overlook Lake Tahoe during production of the latest edition of the Warren Miller film series.
Photo/Warren Miller Productions

By Benjamin Spillman, Reno Gazette-Journal

The 68th edition of the iconic Warren Miller ski film series will feature epic skiing and snowboarding in locations such as Norway, New Zealand and the French Alps.

But viewers will notice plenty of shots with Lake Tahoe ties, too.

“Line of Descent” features several athletes with Tahoe ties and an entire segment shot at Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows ski resorts.

Read the whole story

Truckee Chamber honors businesses, individuals

The Truckee Chamber's annual awards dinner at the Ritz-Carlton, Lake Tahoe celebrated the people, businesses, and organizations of the community.

A special recognition award went to 13-year-old Johan Sotelo. Johan received numerous nominations touting his exemplary volunteer service and work ethic from many Truckee organizations.

Other winners include:

Small Business of the Year (1-10 employees): Quality Automotive & Smog

Small Business of the Year (11-49 employees): Molsby & Bordner – MOBO Law

Large Business of the Year: Northstar California

New Business of the Year: Old Town Tap

Revitalization Award: Dave Wilderotter, Tahoe Dave's Skis and Boards

Hospitality Award: Paul Spencer, Truckee Fire Protection District

Excellence in Government Award: Truckee Donner Public Utility District

Nonprofit Organization of the Year: Project MANA

Volunteer of the Year: Andy & Alicia Barr

Special Recognition for Volunteer: Johan Sotelo.

Free ash cans available for Stateline residents

Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District has partnered with Kingsbury Hardware to provide ash cans to the homeowners of the district for the safe disposal of hot ashes.

Cans are free for residents who are part of the district who use a wood burning appliance to heat their homes.

To obtain a free ash can, go **online** then go to Prevention/Burning Regulations and print out an ash can voucher. Vouchers are also available at the Round Hill fire station.

Road Beat: 2017 Lexus ES350, entry level luxury



The 2017 Lexus ES350 is a good entry into the luxury market.
Photos/Larry Weitzman

By Larry Weitzman

Lexus is one of the dominate luxury brands, beginning with the 1990 model year with the first midsize ES starting life as its second generation in 1991. Now in its sixth generation, it moved solidly in the midsize category when it switched from the Camry chassis to the stretched Avalon chassis that has a 111-inch wheelbase.

To completely distinguish the ES from its Toyota counterpart, ES receives an entirely unrelated and different body and look. Lexus build quality and finishes, and a real Lexus interior. It has the signature Lexus front end, of which I am not exactly a fan favorite, but the rest of the design is understated and pretty, nothing to detract from its luxurious, otherwise conservative lines. It is slick to the wind with a co-efficient of drag of 0.27.

As this Lexus is built around the Avalon platform, the powertrain is identical as well, except for a small change in the higher final drive ratio of about 5 percent. The 3.5L, DOHC, 24 valve V-6 still churns out 268 very smooth horse at 6,200 rpm and 248 pounds of twist at 4,700 rpm. These numbers haven't changed in at least five years. Power is sent to the front wheels via a six speed super smooth auto cog-swapper.

Performance is world class and considering its rated horse power and "only" six-speed tranny, this Lexus is a world class performer. Zero to 60 mph arrives in 5.96 seconds. And its passing performance is even better with a 50-70 mph simulated pass requiring just 2.81 seconds and the same run up a 6-7 percent grade expands that time by only a second to 3.84 seconds. That's rockin'. Part of the reason for the super quick passing times is the sweet spot in the tranny ratios hitting third gear at peak torque and accelerating from there. This Lexus is no fuddy-duddy, it's a world class performer. Those numbers are almost identical to my last ES go-round as they should be as the engine/tranny remain the same. It just demonstrates Lexus incredibly consistent, high build quality.



Specifications

Price (base including transportation) SE \$24,115 to over \$30 large for a loaded V-6

Engines

3.5L DOHC, 24 valve V-6 268

hp @ 6,200 rpm

248 lbs.-ft. of torque @
4,700 rpm

Transmissions

Six speed torque converter
automatic

Configuration

Transverse front
engine/front wheel drive

Dimensions

Wheelbase 111.0 inches

Length 193.3 inches

Width 71.7 inches

Height 57.1 inches

Track (f/r) 62.6/62.0 inches

Ground clearance 5.5 inches

Weight 3,571 pounds

GVWR 4,696 pounds

Weight distribution (f/r)
61/39 percent

Passenger volume 100.1 cubic
feet

Trunk capacity 15.2 cubic
feet

Fuel capacity 17.2

Steering lock to lock 2.85
turns

Turning circle 37.4 feet

Wheel sizes 7.5X18 inches
alloy

Tires 225/45X18

Co efficient of drag 0.27

Performance

0-60 mph 5.96 seconds

50-70 mph 2.81 seconds

50-70 mph uphill 3.84
seconds

Top speed Electronically
limited at 130 mph
Fuel economy EPA rated at
21/30/24 mpg
city/highway/combined.
Expect to achieve 25 mpg in
overall driving and 32 mpg
on the highway at legal
speeds.

Fuel economy is also quite good. EPA says expect 21/30/24 mpg city/highway/combined. In my first 200 miles driving extremely aggressively including all performance testing, the ES averaged 24.1 mpg. Think about it. Here is a vehicle that outperforms just about every muscle car from the '50s and '60s and gets three times the fuel economy. I call that miraculous progress. Seventy mph on the highway will delivered 32 mpg in a two-way run. My round trip to Carson City in very aggressive driving averaged 28.8 mpg.

If I were to use that same 1950-60's analogy with respect to handling, the ES lap times would embarrass the muscle car. Sure, it has the same advance underpinnings again of the Avalon, but hey the Avalon is a great car to begin with. Steering is 2.9 turns lock to lock, albeit a bit numb and too easy for my tastes, but accurate just the same. it has attractive 18 x 7.5-inch alloys shod with 225/45 rubber so needless to say the ES has good cornering power. Sure, its sprung a bit soft for my tastes, but my tastes might be a little firm for your backside anyway. But the ES keeps the body roll in reasonable check and holds down reasonably well the bobbing and weaving when undulations are incurred in cornering.

ES is about ride quality, quiet, smooth and absorbing. And it delivers with a ten score. In the ES, comfort is king. Not much float mind you, motions are well control as is the road,

itself. The engine spins a modest 1,900 rpm at 70 mph. And with the reasonably large 17.2-gallon fuel tank, 500 miles non-stop would be a piece of cake as this Lexus is made for non-fatiguing long distance cruising. And with the superb sound system, you will not go to sleep.

Not to be outdone with respect to safety, the ES has it all including lane departure warning and steering assist. But safety foremost always resides in the driver. Brakes a terrific and the headlights are fantastic and the auto high beam system works perfectly, better than any driver. Leave it in high beam "auto" and your safety will be enhanced. Also standard are ten airbags.

Inside is a sumptuous interior as my tester had the optional Ultra Luxury Package (\$3,500) which if mentioned would be book length. Steering wheel is real wood and leather and costs \$450.

Seating is very comfortable, but in my aggressive driving more side bolstering would be nice. While this may be a luxu ride, it can generate some good "g's" in the corners. Rear seating is also copious and luxurious. Good for three.

Instrumentation is complete, big tach and speedo front and center, great trip computer and a fairly easy to use center stack. Still not a fan of the mouse system, but after a few days it becomes second nature.

Pricing for this entry level, real luxu ride begins at \$38,900 plus \$975 for the train from its Georgetown, Ky., assembly plant. We here in America can also build them to Lexus's super high quality standards. My tester had the packages above plus the concert hall Mark Levinson sound system and NAV for another \$2,500 and with a few other items like the wheel package, LED headlights and \$500 for the blind spot detection brought to total damages to \$49,210. Go drive one, but you might want to bring your checkbook.

Larry Weitzman has been into cars since he was 5 years old. At 8 he could recite from memory the hp of every car made in the U.S. He has put in thousands of laps on racetracks all over the Western United States.

Christmas tree permits available Nov. 1

Permits to cut Christmas trees on the Carson and Bridgeport ranger districts of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest will be available for purchase beginning Nov. 1.

Christmas tree permits must be purchased in person and are issued on a first-come, first-serve basis for \$10 each. Permits are nonrefundable and nontransferable, and are valid through Dec. 25.

Each Christmas tree permit is valid for the cutting of one tree in specific areas on lands managed by the ranger district for which the permit was purchased. A map and cutting rules and regulations will be included with the permit. The permit does not authorize cutting on private, state, or other federal lands. Christmas trees also cannot be harvested within developed campgrounds, administrative sites, or designated wilderness areas.

Tips for a safe Halloween

With there having been eight traffic deaths and 578 crashes during the past four Halloweens in Nevada, safety officials want people to be smarter.

NDOT and NHP say:

- Pedestrians should cross the street legally, making eye contact with drivers and waiting for drivers to stop before crossing.
- Pedestrians should also make themselves visible, whether wearing a reflective costume on Halloween Day or reflective gear on other days.
- Drivers should always watch for pedestrians and yield when necessary. This is particularly true on Halloween night, when young trick-or-treaters are out in force.
- Drivers are also reminded to never drive impaired.
- Walking impaired can be just as dangerous as drunken driving.
- Children out at night and under the age of 12 should have adult supervision.
- Kids should stick to familiar areas that are well lit and trick-or-treat in groups.
- Choose face paint when possible instead of masks, which can obstruct a child's vision.

Wendy Shehadi – 1941-2017



Wendy Shehadi

Longtime South Lake Tahoe resident Wendy Shehadi died Oct 19, 2017. She was 76.

She was born March 13, 1941, in Reno.

She died in Las Vegas from complications of kidney failure and pneumonia.

Wendy was a graduate of Reno High School and the University of Nevada, Reno, majoring in physical education and English. During her school years she competed in synchronized swimming events and served as a life guard. After UNR graduation she taught PE at Wooster High School.

Wendy and Dick Shehadi married in 1965. In 1969 they purchased Whiteside Chevrolet in South Lake Tahoe, becoming Shehadi Motors with franchises Toyota and Chevrolet, later replacing the latter with Chrysler, Dodge, Plymouth, Jeep and Honda Power Equipment.

Wendy was active in community organizations and associations, beginning with Soroptimist International of South Lake Tahoe in 1972. She served as president in 1975-76 and was a Sierra Nevada region chair for several years beginning in 1976. Wendy was honored with life membership in 2001.

Wendy served as a trustee of the Barton Memorial Hospital Foundation Board from 1991-97, also serving president for two years. She was a charter member of Heartbeat, the funding start-up for the foundation. She was a past president of the South Lake Tahoe Women's Bowling League and a member of the Tahoe Choir.

That's the factual part of some of the contributions Wendy made for the community. The part that will be endless will be the personal memories her family and friends carry with them. Wendy was the friend always to be counted on, the grandmother who awaited the call to learn how the latest events were going, the mother always to be at thousands of games and school events, the wife always supporting the needs of a busy franchise despite the fact that she could be a co-business owner but not a co-franchisee (those were the days, my friend!), the member of organizations to which she gave her all.

Wendy's warmth, her smile, her interest in everyone around her will never leave the minds of family or friends. Her generous spirit to those in need, her ease of finding just the right words to console a friend, her love of her surroundings as long as family was close, her compassion for those in need of a hug. All were shared generously and will always be held in memory.

Wendy is survived by her husband, Dick, sons Mark and Scott, guardian son Mike Cokeron, grandsons Michael and Ryan Shehadi, brother Richard Rupp, sister-in-law Louise Rupp, brother-in-law Michael Shehadi, and several aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be on Oct. 28 in Las Vegas. There will be another celebration Nov. 4 at 1pm at the Lake Tahoe Golf Course, 2500 Emerald Bay Road, Meyers.

Unmasking the many faces of homelessness in Tahoe

By Susan Wood

CAMP RICHARDSON – “It could happen to anyone.” The words of Kasandra, a Tahoe native attending South Tahoe Middle School, resonated with about 120 captivated listeners sitting on both floors of the building.

It was as if the hush over the audience allowed hearing a pin drop at a stunningly quiet Valhalla Grand Hall.

Kasandra has been homeless.

A handful of speakers from Tahoe and Sacramento on Oct. 26 shared amazing stories of resilience, survival and inspiration in overcoming homelessness in their lives. While a Grand Hall blaze burning in the fireplace provided a homey feel, the intimacy and bravery of these people made the Faces of Homelessness a reality to many.

The event was put on by the Tahoe Coalition for the Homeless. It is a nationally recognized program that literally provides a human face to homelessness.

Like other communities, South Lake Tahoe grapples with the issue; having opened a warm room two winters ago. With an overwhelming number of guests considered local, the goal is to get these residents through the harsh winter months.

It's much more difficult to deem homeless people as “the other” when they're standing right in front of you. On Thursday night they were pouring their hearts out with the goal of bringing an understanding to the living condition.

With Kasandra, she recalled fondly a time when her family lived in a two-bedroom duplex, until life's unpredictable circumstances took over. Something changed "all in one night." A big fight between her parents sent her father to jail. He was the breadwinner and couldn't remain so when he got out.

With a straight face, the young girl remembered her family moving in and out of different living arrangements – staying at Campground by the Lake, walking around and napping in the Stateline casinos and at her mother's friend's place.

Surprisingly, but in the true nature of a Tahoe kid, Kasandra didn't mind some nights outdoors because "I love the wilderness." She got a few smiles with that declaration.



Marissa Muscat on Oct. 26 talks about homelessness on the South Shore. Photo/Susan Wood

She's not alone

Another youth opened her story with a rhetorical question about: "What is normal?"

Erin Cox might have related to some degree with Kasandra's outdoor experience – except that living indoors felt like staying outside.

Given that Lake Tahoe's elevation is situated at more than

6,000 feet, the South Tahoe High School senior remembered being so cold living in a shed with no insulation or plumbing that she experienced a panic attack.

Her mother, who endured a debilitating illness since the girl was 5, “was violently ill.” The circumstances kept the family in an unfortunate web of poverty. Even though Erin ended up in Child Protective Services and has ultimately found an outlet in playing volleyball, she knew her mother loved her.

Seeking a father’s love

This was more than Wesley Colter of Sacramento could say about his upbringing. All he ever wanted was acceptance from his raging, alcoholic father.

What appeared to be a “normal” childhood from the outside – full of material goods and the nice house – turned out to be anything but. His father made it known that his son got in the way.

He characterized his interaction with his father as “neglect” when he did something right and “attention” when he did something wrong.

And then there were the times as a child when life was totally out of his control. Once when left alone by his father, he was sexually assaulted – a secret he kept for 25 years.

“It changed me forever,” Colter said.

The trauma set into motion a downward spiral that sent Colter living in the streets as a teenager, fighting, stealing vehicles and taking drugs. He consequently got involved with the wrong crowd.

“The minute they placed a meth pipe to my mouth, I immediately felt a part of,” he said. “Addiction ruled my life.”

The tribal experience sent him to prison at age 19. He was

thrown behind bars as an “unsuccessful transition” nine times.

He finally turned his life around when he sought counseling, assistance from community resources, faith and a sober lifestyle.

Since he spent most of his life wanting to relate to others, it was only natural he would find a new lease on life helping others make the journey out of despair as he did.

Colter became a drug and alcohol counselor – the brightening light at the end of tunnel.

The darkness of the past

David Husid, today a vice president with Cottage Housing in Sacramento, knows all about the destruction of substance abuse.

His journey from his middle class life started with him feeling “special” because he was adopted. That was until he turned to drugs and alcohol later in life. He enjoyed the social aspect of it, but deep down sensed it could ruin his life. He left the San Francisco Bay Area – blaming the region for his condition. He moved to Sacramento. His problem only followed him. Husid hid the addiction from his wife, whom he cheated on in a drunken stupor.

With a “one-strike, you’re out” mentality, she threw him out of the house and onto the street.

“What happened to my life?” he asked himself, while preparing to leave the house. The question turned out to be prophetic to what came before him.

Husid was running a high-dollar money-laundering scheme and substance abuse fed a manic need to be successful. But crime only pays for so long.

He was sentenced to six years in Folsom State Prison, where it

took his hardened cellmate to wake him up.

“Dave, what have you done with your dash?” the cellmate asked, referring to the symbol on a tombstone. It was the man’s way of saying that he was wasting “a once promising life.”

Husid, now with degrees and drug and alcohol counseling certifications, was crying.

Feeling a connection

Many tears flowed, and some attendees shook their heads at what they were hearing. Many stared in disbelief at how stacked the odds were against those sharing – sometimes illustrating a consistent pattern among the adults identified as homeless at one point in their lives.

Homelessness can be a symptom to a greater pain – not the root cause of troubles.

The hosts and brainchildren of the evening – physician Marissa Muscat and rabbi Evon Yakar – were visibly moved by the connection between each homeless survivor and community members.

In the middle of the sharing, Yakar circled the large room to ask what one word comes to mind in hearing the stories. The responses ranged from “brave” and “desperation” to “family” and “support.”

Muscat, the local coalition’s executive director, choked up while she shared about a homeless hospital patient at Barton.

“Jorge” had asked himself at the peak of his troubling life: “How did I get here?” He was laid off from work and through challenges ended up on the street. She recalled their three-hour conversation at the end of his bed.

Today, he has turned his life around. His story inspired Muscat into action that resulted in her work for the

coalition.

“I’m so proud to be part of this community,” she said.

Under Muscat’s directive, the Tahoe coalition is seeking space for a facility to house up to 25 individuals. At least 2,000 square feet is required, in which case, the coalition will pay \$1- to \$2 per square feet in rent depending on size and utilities. Interested parties may contact Muscat at tahoewarmroom@gmail.com.

Last year’s warm room on the South Shore, which operated December through April, served an average of 27 guests nightly. The bulk of them were aged between 31 and 50. With 108 coming in, men more than doubled the number of women. Seven families with children younger than 18 were provided motel rooms.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development reported that on a single night in January 2015 California’s homeless numbered 115,738. That figure accounted for 21 percent of the nation’s homeless population.

Letter: Plenty of reasons to vote no on Measure C

To the community,

Basic expenses. We all know what those are: rent, food, utilities and clothing. In a city, basic expenses would be roads, snow removal, police and fire.

A recent staff report stated that the city has seen an “increase in property, sales and transient occupancy taxes.”



Gerri Grego

So why do they need more for “basic expenses” and why has the basic service of road work over the years not been completed? I believe it is because it has not been their priority.

Did you know that according to a recent staff report that we pay annually for 400 retirees and 200 employees? The report goes on to say that CalPERS “will severely impact the city’s net fund balance and restrict the City Council’s discretionary spending.” Over the next five years the CalPERS payment will increase from \$4,774,596 per year to \$9,699,000.

It goes on to say that CalPERS “will severely limit the ability of the city to fund its general services, manage cost increases for supplies and goods, direct resources to capital projects.”

In a recent meeting, a councilman was asked why road improvements were not in the recently approved budget. His answer was that they wait until spring to see how much money is left before deciding what work can be done. Does that sound like a priority to you?

How about \$75,000 paid by the city for a VHR study or spending \$50,000 a year on SnowGlobe to bring up tourists on a holiday? Or how about all the money the city is spending to “educate the public” as to Measure C and the cost of a special election.

Consider the precedent if C passes – first road tax, then fire tax, then police tax.

Let's not encourage misdirected priorities of public funds.
Vote no on Measure C.

Gerri Grego, South Lake Tahoe

Audit: Utah's Olympic facilities need \$39M in upgrades

By Lisa Riley Roche, KSL

SALT LAKE CITY – Utah needs to spend more than \$39 million to ready the ski jumps, speedskating oval, bobsled track and other Olympic facilities for hosting another Winter Games, according to a legislative audit released Tuesday.

“Maintaining Olympic assets is essential for an effective Olympic bid,” the legislative auditor general’s report stated, recommending that the state support ongoing improvements and upgrades to the former 2002 Winter Games venues.

The report, delivered to the Legislative Audit Subcommittee, was written before this month’s announcement that an Olympic exploratory committee is being formed to look at bidding for the 2026 or 2030 Winter Games.

[Read the whole story](#)