

Sandoval calls for changes in House health bill

By Thomas Beaumont, AP

DES MOINES, Iowa — A group of Republican and Democratic governors are echoing President Trump's criticism of a House GOP health care bill, saying it threatens coverage for the most vulnerable. Instead, they're asking Senate leaders to work together on an overhaul of Democrat Barack Obama's health care law.

In a letter to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, seven governors, including three moderate Republicans, argue that "true and lasting reforms are best approached by finding common ground in a bipartisan fashion." The governors implore the leaders to focus on stabilizing the individual insurance markets, give states flexibility and ensure affordable cover.

The Associated Press obtained a copy of the letter Friday.

The governors said they oppose the bill the House narrowly passed last month, citing its deep cuts to Medicaid, the federal-state health insurance program for low-income Americans.

Read the whole story

Douglas libraries to offer

adult reading program

Douglas County Public Library is providing a summer reading program for adults this July.

Those 18 and older may register at the Minden Library or the Zephyr Cove Library. Participants will get the opportunity to share their opinions on the books they read.

There will be door prizes for every book or audio book completed, and participants will be entered in weekly drawings. Programs include a mug cake baking class and bad art night.

For more info, call 775.782.9841.

Free transit in Olympic Valley being floated

There is a movement in Olympic Valley area to create a tourism business improvement district in order to generate ongoing revenue to fund a micro mass transit district.

The goal is to provide year-round intra-valley shuttle service at no cost to the rider.

The money to do so would come from raising the transient occupancy tax from 10 percent to 11 percent in that area. Organizers believe this would fund 20 percent of the transit costs, with the hope Placer county would pick up the bulk of the expense. Squaw Valley ski resort has pledged to fund a large portion.

A petition is circulation **online** about the proposal.

Concert promoter unable to find Tahoe venue

Without a suitable home, the Bass Camp and Reggae festivals are not happening in Tahoe this year.

Paul Reder through PR Productions started the concerts in the parking lot of Lake Tahoe Hard Rock.

His customers want to be on grass. And while he accommodated them to a point, it wasn't feasible to lay sod down across the entire asphalt parking area. Last year 10,000-square-feet of grass was brought in.

Reder spoke at a City Council meeting **in January** about his desire to move the concerts to the community ball fields where SnowGlobe is staged. With the turf being laid this season at the new field, the council was lukewarm at best to this idea. It never got approval.

North Tahoe Regional Park in Tahoe Vista has been used before, but snow from last winter damaged the fields and made it off limits this year.

All of this has forced Reder to cancel the Tahoe concerts for 2017. He's hoping for a different outcome in 2018.

Reder isn't letting the setbacks stop him. He has started to offer regular live reggae at The Loft in South Lake Tahoe on Sundays and the Bass Camp show has moved to the Whitney Peak

Hotel in Reno on July 8.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Popular elementary principal leaving LTUSD



Ryan Galles' truck in 2010 went from brown to pink. Photo/LTN file

By Kathryn Reed

Ryan Galles is returning to Davis where he moved from in 2008 to become principal of Sierra House Elementary School.

On Friday he announced his plans to his staff and students.

“He is really the main reason I chose Sierra House. I could tell he loved his school and the students. He was so welcoming,” parent Jen Hart told *Lake Tahoe News*. “I feel like Sierra House is losing a really special person.”

Her daughter, Scarlett, won’t be affected by the departure because she is a fifth-grader. (The last day of school is Tuesday.)

Galles let his school know that on June 15 the Vacaville Unified School District board voted to hire him as director of Educational Services-Elementary. His wife has also secured a job in the area. They will be moving with their two children back to Davis.

In a letter to parents, Galles said, “It is with a heavy, heavy heart as I make this announcement. It has been my honor to serve as principal of Sierra House Elementary School the past nine years. I will count my time at Sierra House as my best years in education. However, there are exciting new opportunities that lay ahead for both my family and me.”

Galles helped turn SHES into the Mountain Academy, with the focus on outdoor education. This came in many forms – from the growing domes to working with Heavenly Mountain Resort to the swim programs through the city.

Galles has never been one of those stuffy principals who only the really good or really bad kids knew. He was able to balance being a leader and a friend.

One year when the students exceeded expectations on the statewide test score he shaved his hair into a Mohawk – as promised. Another year he kept his promise to allow the students to paint his brown truck pink if they did well.

“Ryan Galles has been a very successful and much loved partner

in the continued growth of LTUSD. All of the students, parents and staff of Sierra House and the entire district will miss Ryan and wish him and his family the best," LTUSD board President Barbara Bannar told *Lake Tahoe News*.

Now LTUSD will be scrambling to find Galles' replacement before the start of the school year on Aug. 28. Normal hiring time for a position like this is in March-April-May. It's possible someone could be an interim principal before it is filled permanently.

Snippets about Lake Tahoe

- The theme for Truckee's Fourth of July parade is Truckee – Base Camp for a Big Life. Parade entry fee is \$85. Entry deadline is July 2 at 5pm. Register **online**.

- The Washoe County Sheriff's Office phone system is being upgraded, which may main intermittent problems with the system for the next several days.

- *Edible Reno-Tahoe* on June 22 from 6-9pm is hosting the first stop on the Good Spirits National Tour at Whitney Peak Hotel in Reno. This year's tour will visit five Edible communities throughout the United States. This stop will bring together 11 local eateries and eight local distilleries and other spirits in the Reno-Tahoe area. Tickets are \$55 and can be purchased **online**.

- Douglas County Public Library is providing two wildlife shows on July 12. The first is at 4pm at the Zephyr Cove Library. The second show will begin at 6pm at the C.V.I.C. Hall in Minden. Children of all ages will interact with live animals presented by Conservation Ambassadors Inc. These

wildlife shows are free, and seating is available on a first come, first serve basis.

Study: Small quakes triggered by snow, spring melt

By Carolyn Wilke, Sacramento Bee

The Sierra Nevada and Coast ranges are pushed down by fractions of an inch each winter by the weight of rain and snow and then rise after melt and runoff, tugging on California's earthquake faults and triggering small temblors, according to a new study by seismologists at UC Berkeley and Bowling Green State University.

The researchers traced the up-and-down motion of the earth's crust using nine years of GPS measurements, which stresses the underlying faults by pushing and pulling on them. The study, published Thursday in *Science* magazine, was able to calculate how much water is stored in the ground and how this weight loss and gain stresses the faults.

When the stresses change, the number of roughly 2.0 magnitude earthquakes grows, the researchers found. California experienced thousands of quakes of that magnitude last year, with most of them going unnoticed by humans.

Read the whole story

Barton rethinks offering suite of oncology services

By Kathryn Reed

It would be hard to find someone on the South Shore whose life has not been touched by cancer.

Treatment, though, has usually required patients to travel to at least Carson City or Truckee; often farther depending on the type of cancer and one's financial means.

Barton Health wanted to be a bigger player in helping care for cancer patients, so the oncology department came into being in January. But those desires have been dramatically scaled back. This means people are back to having to leave the basin for most of their cancer care.

"I was disappointed to learn Barton was closing the oncology department. I can still keep the same doctor and go to Truckee or sometimes have a teleconference through Barton," a South Shore man told *Lake Tahoe News*. He is no longer in the treatment phase, so it's easier to travel just for follow-up visits.

The original plan was for Barton to partner with doctors Laurence Heifetz and Thomas Semrad of Sierra Nevada Oncology, which is tied to Tahoe Forest Hospital in Truckee. Patients are still referred to them and can be consulted via telemedicine.

At the same time Barton was working with UC Davis Health to be part of the statewide Cancer Care Network. This is still in place. This allows Barton patients access to virtual tumor boards and clinical trials.

"We assessed Barton oncology after the first four months of

operations and recognized additional considerations were needed for the service line to be sustainable. This includes researching the requirements and regulations for expanding our current pharmacy to offer chemotherapy,” Clint Purvance, CEO and president of Barton Health, told *Lake Tahoe News*. “We are continuing to explore options to expand oncology services in the future, including a focus on developing a comprehensive cancer wellness program supporting patients and their families. The goal is to offer expanded oncology services in the future through a sustainable model.”

Purvance told *LTN* that economics is not the reason for the change in local oncology services.

“Given the uncertainty of the Affordable Care Act and federal program reimbursement, we are paying close attention to the national health care landscape and will assess our programs and resources as appropriate,” he said.

In May, Purvance sent a letter to staff explaining the oncology changes.

For now, patients have access to family nurse practitioner Janet Goodall. She helps coordinate care for local residents who have been diagnosed with cancer. This includes helping schedule telemedicine visits, radiographic tests, lab work, diagnostics, and infusions.

Barton’s cancer wellness program is designed to help patients in non-medical ways through exercise, yoga and nutrition. The Barton Foundation helps fund it.

“Expansion of the program will be phased in over the next year and we are looking at services that include meeting with a navigator to understand the support services available, including financial, transportation, and psychological, to name a few,” Purvance said.

The wellness program is free for oncology patients. Once the

Robert Maloff Center of Excellence opens there will be more room for the oncology wellness program.

Opinion: Is Calif.'s festival bubble about to burst?

By Joe Mathews

The next bubble to burst in California just might be the festival bubble.

The festival economy is growing so fast that it runs the risk of overheating. Even after expanding from one weekend to two and increasing capacity to 125,000, the Coachella Arts and Music Festival still sold out in just three hours this year. Its cousin, Stagecoach, is the world's biggest country music festival, welcoming 75,000 people annually. And Coachella and Stagecoach have a new spin-off, Arroyo Seco Weekend, debuting this month at the Rose Bowl.

And that's just the big-ticket festivals. This summer, Californians could spend every waking moment attending smaller festivals—hundreds of regional events and thousands of community ones celebrating arts, food or some combination of the two—and still not get to all of them.



Joe Mathews

Festivals have long been essential to the California story, from the Monterey International Pop Festival during the Summer of Love, to the 1996 Organic Festival in San Bernardino National Forest, which helped popularize the rave scene. But today, festivals proliferate for very practical reasons: the promotional needs of many California institutions and communities.

Festivals provide the ready-made audiences that our creative industries use to support artists. Cash-strapped local governments see festivals as relatively cheap economic development tools for creating traffic around sales-tax-producing retail corridors. Regional museums and cultural institutions use festivals to distinguish themselves and draw tourists.

Festivals also fit this cultural moment. Short attention spans require a constant mix of offerings. And given how hard it is to build anything in California, the impermanence of festivals is attractive, as Californians turn away from established institutions in favor of pop-up food and social events. Festivals are designed to be photographed, hash tagged, geotagged, and shared to produce the maximum amount of FOMO among one's friends and followers, who won't get their own chance to attend.

All of which makes festivals both red-hot—and vulnerable. Will the crowds still have the cash for \$5 bottles of water if the state's other bubbles, from housing to technology, burst? Will they tire of waiting on long lines? In an era of skyrocketing land values, will the open spaces hosting these festivals eventually find it more lucrative to house something permanent?

A shakeout may be under way, at least among bigger musical festivals. With so many successful festivals seeking to book the same performers, fees go up, and so do ticket prices. Major festivals in the United Kingdom (widely considered the

global leader in musical gatherings) and in places from Oregon (Sasquatch) to Tennessee (Bonnaroo) have seen attendance decline.

Corporate consolidation is another factor to watch. Many of the bigger music and arts festivals are owned by just a couple of companies, making them vulnerable to shifting economic winds. One of those companies is Goldenvoice, which is responsible for Coachella, Stagecoach and the Arroyo Seco Weekend. Goldenvoice's Paul Tollett has publicly expressed concern about threats to Coachella's future, from terrorism to botulism. "There are big ships that go down over small things. You're riding high, but one wrong thing and you're voted off the island. It's scary," Tollett told the *New Yorker*.

When the shakeout comes to California, which festivals will endure? The fastest-growing events are smaller, boutique gatherings that allow people to immerse themselves in a very particular world for a time. Among these are the High Sierra Music Festival, a family-friendly gathering (entertainment includes a morning kickball game) in tiny Quincy. The West Coast "transformational" festival scene—a movement producing hippie parties with lots of costuming—is strong in California; its crown jewel festival, Lightning in a Bottle, is in tiny Bradley in Monterey County.

The state's best festivals have a strong sense of place. It's hard to imagine signature San Francisco street events like the How Weird Street Faire ever shutting down.

"In a more globalized ethos," says Eamon Armstrong, California-based creative director of Everfest, which produces the Fest300 list of the world's best festivals, "there's a desire to create your own smaller communities and assert your own identity."

California's most enduring festivals have been careful to develop a deep web of ties to their local communities. Take

the Monterey Jazz Festival, which has a robust education program. Or the Gilroy Garlic Festival, which supports more than 140 local nonprofits, provides a venue for local performers, offers a college scholarship to the winner of the Miss Gilroy Garlic Festival Queen Pageant, and relies on over 4,000 community volunteers, including high school students who complete their community service requirements by working at the festival.

Sure, you could have seen Lady Gaga at Coachella this year. But she's also playing LA, San Francisco, and Sacramento in August alone. The only place you can find that much garlic is in Gilroy. And the taste stays with you.

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

Higher prices squeeze renters, home buyers

By Alex Veiga, AP

A diminished supply of available homes is swelling prices in large U.S. metro areas from New York to Miami to Los Angeles, squeezing out would-be buyers and pushing up rents as more people are forced to remain tenants.

The trend is pressuring Americans' budgets, with about one-third of households spending more than 30 percent of their gross income on housing as of 2015, according to a report being released Friday by Harvard University's Joint Center for Housing Studies.

Homeownership rates have stagnated in part because high rents have made it difficult for many prospective buyers to amass a down payment for a house.

Read the whole story