

LTUSD to address '13 Reasons Why' with parents

The Netflix series "13 Reasons Why" is generating a lot of buzz among the education community.

Lake Tahoe Unified School District Superintendent Jim Tarwater on May 9 sent a letter to all middle school and high school families.

"Please consider the age and developmental stage of your student before allowing them to watch the show. We do not recommend that students with a history of suicidal thoughts, depression or mental health concerns watch '13 Reasons Why.' If you do allow your child to watch this series, we recommend you watch it with them and discuss it afterward," the letter states.

This Netflix original is based on a novel where a 17-year-old girl kills herself. She leaves 13 audiotapes behind explaining her death. It's graphic.

LTUSD on May 30 from 6-8pm at South Tahoe Middle School is convening a panel to discuss counter measures to the TV show. It is being called 300 Reasons Why Not. This is for parents.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Sandoval's name floated as

possible FBI director

By Ricardo Torres-Cortez, Las Vegas Sun

Gov. Brian Sandoval was named in an NBC News blog as a potential candidate to head the FBI after Director James Comey was ousted Tuesday.

Sandoval was one of three options the blog writers said would swiftly move through congressional confirmation due to being picks “without reproach,” journalists Chuck Todd, Mark Murray and Carrie Dann wrote.

It wasn't immediately clear how they reached their conclusion or if it's mere speculation.

Read the whole story

2017 was wettest April for the U.S. in 60 years

By Greg Porter, Washington Post

“April showers bring May flowers” took on a whole new meaning this year: The United States just experienced its second-wettest April on record. Average precipitation across the Lower 48 was 3.43 inches. In other words, if you spread all of the rain and snow out across the continental United States, each location would have received nearly 3½ inches. That is a lot of water.

This record is second only to April 1957 and nearly a full inch more than the average April rainfall in the 20th century.

Above-normal precipitation has been an ongoing trend for the West Coast. In Seattle, a record 45.9 inches of rain have fallen since October. Meanwhile, Northern California officially had its wettest winter on record with several strong winter storms pushing the state's water reservoirs to near-full capacity.

Read the whole story

Grow more edibles with keyhole gardening

By Melinda Myers

Raise your gardening efforts to a new level with keyhole gardening. You'll increase your garden's productivity in a smaller space, while using less water and fertilizer.

This intensive technique was first used in Africa where it's hot and dry and the topsoil is shallow. Now gardeners growing in a variety of climates around the world are using this technique. You'll even find keyhole gardens in urban and suburban backyards.

Keyhole gardening grows abundant produce while composting plant-based kitchen scraps in one raised garden plot. Grow plants in the outer ring of a circular, 6-foot diameter or larger raised bed. Create an inner circle for composting kitchen scraps, coffee grounds and garden debris.



The keyhole gardening technique allows people to grow abundant produce and compost plant-based kitchen scraps in one raised garden plot. Photo/Gardener's Supply Company

Design a small pie shape notch in the circular bed. This provides easy access to the inner composting circle and gives the bed its distinct keyhole appearance.

Build the sides of your raised bed garden from stones, cement blocks, bamboo or any available materials that can withstand the rigors of your climate. Select a height that works for you and makes planting, tending and harvesting easy.

It may be easiest to purchase a keyhole garden kit. Select a kit with all the basic building supplies made from long-lasting materials.

Once the walls are built, create an inner compost basket. Use chicken wire or a similar material that allows moisture and

nutrients to move from the compost basket into the surrounding soil. It should be at least 12 inches in diameter with the bottom anchored to the ground and top extending above the soil surface.

Fill the bottom of your raised bed with compostable materials. Start with a layer of cardboard on the soil surface. Then alternate 4- to 6-inch layers of brown and green materials just as you would when building a compost pile. Use twigs, straw, dried leaves, paper, cardboard and other carbon rich materials for your browns. Include herbicide-free grass clippings, manure, kitchen scraps, fresh plant debris and other nitrogen rich materials for your greens.

Add kitchen scraps and garden debris to the compost basket throughout the growing season. As these decompose water helps move nutrients from the compost basket to the surrounding soil.

Continue layering until three fourths of the raised bed is filled. Top it off with compost rich soil for plants to root and grow. Slope the surface so the highest point is next to the compost basket.

Allow the planting area to settle for several days. Then fill your garden with your favorite vegetables. Leave just enough space between plants so they can reach their mature size. Water new plantings thoroughly. Mulch the soil with shredded leaves, evergreen needles or other organic material to help conserve moisture and continue to add organic matter to the soil.

Check the soil moisture and water the garden bed and compost basket as needed throughout the season.

Soon you'll be enjoying the convenience of harvesting and composting in one bed. And you just might find yourself looking for another sunny spot to add an additional keyhole garden or two.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including ""Small Space Gardening. She hosts "How to Grow Anything" DVD series, including the latest "Food Gardening for Everyone DVD" set.

Snippets about Lake Tahoe

- BevMo is looking to open a store in Truckee at 11160 Donner Pass Road. This would be across the street from Safeway and Panda Express. The alcohol retailer opened a store in South Lake Tahoe a couple years ago.
 - South Tahoe and Whittell high school athletes who need a sports physical should call 530.543.5615.
 - El Dorado County Visitors Authority has a new **website**.
 - In preparation for the upcoming wildland fire season, Tahoe National Forest will have two water tenders; 11 engines; three 20-person Type 1 hotshot crews; 10 patrol units; one air tactical group supervisor; two helicopters staffed with 17 firefighters; and 11 chief officers.
 - "The Life Aquatic" will be shown for free at South Tahoe High School in the viewing room of the TADA Building on May 19 at 7:30pm.
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9-day outdoor festival on North Shore

Alpenglow Sports' fifth annual summer edition of the Alpenglow Mountain Festival is June 17-25.

This is a nine-day mountain-lifestyle festival in North Lake Tahoe celebrating human-powered events, clinics, presentations and more. It is geared toward the beginner and intermediate mountain sports enthusiasts. It will include trail running, hiking, backpacking, lakeshore yoga, standup paddleboarding, rock climbing and natural history events.

There will be more than 50 individual events to choose from.

The majority of events are free, so space is limited and participants are encouraged to register **online**.

Fighting compulsive gambling among women

By Tanya Mohn, New York Times

Blinking lights, the clicking sound of coins, and perks like free or inexpensive food, drinks and casino bus trips are enticing many older women to gamble.

For some people, that seductive environment can be extremely dangerous.

"Casinos are trained to make you feel welcome, while you lose your life," said Sandra Adell, 70, a literature professor in

the Department of Afro-American Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, who recounted her experiences as a compulsive gambler in the book "Confessions of a Slot Machine Queen." "What the industry is doing, the way it markets and keeps casinos filled with elderly people, is morally reprehensible."

Hard numbers are difficult to find, but Keith Whyte, the executive director of the National Council on Problem Gambling, said that gambling addiction among older women near or in retirement appears to be increasing in scope and severity, with a devastating impact on personal finances.

Read the whole story

Submerged sailboat lifted from depths of Tahoe

Updated 5:57pm:

A mast has been sticking up offshore from Lakeview Commons for most of the winter.

Lake Tahoe News had asked police officers about it; they in turn said the Coast Guard was notified. The choice was to just leave it there for a while.

TowBoatUS Lake Tahoe tried to remove the sailboat on May 9, but wasn't able to because it was discovered the cabin windows were no longer intact. Crews came back on Wednesday and were able to bring the boat to the surface. For now, the owner wants to keep it anchored where it is.

There was no rush to get the sailboat out of the water because

officials said it was not a problem for other boaters and was not an environmental concern.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

LTCC art exhibit all about the students

Lake Tahoe Community College's annual Student Art Exhibition opening reception is May 21 from 2-5pm in the Commons.

An awards ceremony honoring the winners starts at 3:30pm.

There will be approximately 400 works of student art on display, ranging from digital art to printmaking to sculpture. All of the artwork displayed represents student production over the past year.

The work submitted for this exhibition will be juried for special honors in 17 categories. This year's guest juror is professional photographer Frances Melhop.

Anyone who attends the opening reception is also welcome to cast a ballot for the People's Choice Award.

Farmers' markets gearing up to open

Farmers' market season is about to begin in the Lake Tahoe-Truckee area.

Here is a schedule of most of them:

- Sundays – June 4-Sept. 24, 10am-2pm: 12047 Donner Pass Road, Truckee (in the Sears and Coffeebar Bakery center).
- Tuesdays – June 6-Oct. 10, 8am-1pm: American Legion parking lot in South Lake Tahoe. Certified organic market.
- Wednesdays – May 24-Sept. 13, 4-7pm: Kahle Community Park in Stateline. It will feature farm-fresh vegetables and fruits, handmade soy candles and bath products, sweets and treats, gluten free products, grape seed oils, lavender products, martini olives, flowers, cookies and baked goods.
- Thursdays – May 18-Oct. 12, am-1pm: Commons Beach, Tahoe City. Fresh produce and other food.
- Thursdays – May 25-Aug. 31, 4-7pm: Lake Tahoe School, Incline Village. Farm fresh vegetables and fruit.
- Fridays – June 2-August, 3-8pm: Ski Run Boulevard, South Lake Tahoe. Organic farm fresh produce, local eats, a bounce house for kids, live music, beer garden and locally made arts and crafts.