

Carson City man dies in crash on Luther Pass

A 30-year-old Carson City man whose parents live in Meyers was killed in a car wreck on Luther Pass on Wednesday night.

The name of the victim has not been released.

He was driving a Ford F150 north on Highway 89 near Grass Lake at an unknown rate of speed when he drifted onto the shoulder, overcorrected and went into oncoming traffic, according to the California Highway Patrol.

Officer Ruth Loehr told *Lake Tahoe News* toxicology reports are pending.

The pickup was totaled after colliding with a Chevy 4500 belonging to PR Supply that was in the opposite lane. The vehicle was driven by a 36-year-old man from Gardnerville who was not injured.

A Subaru with three people could not avoid the initial wreck. The two adults were taken to Barton Memorial Hospital with minor to moderate injuries. A 2-year-old boy in that vehicle was not injured.

Highway 89 was closed for more than three hours after the 4:30pm Feb. 1 accident.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

Snowpack near Echo Summit 153% of average



The deep snowpack could mean an extended ski season. Photo Copyright 2017 Carolyn E. Wright

By Lake Tahoe News

What a difference a month makes. The snowpack just keeps getting deeper and that's a good thing.

"We've got a very good snowpack, a very robust snowpack on the ground right now," Frank Gehrke said Thursday after taking a series of measurements in the field near the entrance to Sierra-at-Tahoe. He noted there is as much snow on the ground as there can be at the usual peak in April.

The water equivalency of the 90 inches of snow at Phillips Station measured 28.1 inches. The average this time of year is

11.3 inches, so this is 153 percent of the historical average at this location. This is the highest measurement for February in 12 years.

Under overcast skies and the promise by forecasters of more snow, the field was dramatically different than a month ago. At the Jan. 3 snow survey the water content was 6 inches, which is 53 percent of average for then.

The news is good statewide – the snowpack contains 31 inches of water, which is 173 percent of the Feb. 2 average of 18.1 inches.

The average annual precipitation at the eight-station Northern California index is 50 inches. That total was surpassed on Jan. 20. Since October, when the water year began, 58.22 inches of rain have been recorded in Northern California. The record for that same four-month period was set in 1997 – 58.22 inches.

The water content is critical because the snowpack supplies about 30 percent of California's water needs as it melts in the spring and early summer.

Shasta Lake, California's largest surface reservoir is at 114 percent of its historical average, while a year ago it was at 78 percent. Lake Oroville, the State Water Project's largest reservoir, is at 121 percent of its historical average today compared to 68 percent in 2016.

Indicators still show almost half of California in a drought, but that's all south of here.

Letter: Pay attention to overhanging snow

To the community,

After heavy snows this January, Tahoe is experiencing a deep snowpack that has created dangerous overhanging snow on many buildings around the area. If you see large wind lips or cornices hanging off buildings, please stay clear from underneath as they pose a serious danger to life and property.

A collapse of this snow can be very destructive and life threatening. Snow can move and change over time so please keep an eye out and evaluate conditions around you.

Look up! Practice spatial awareness to identify these threats and avoid exposing yourself to risk by traveling around areas of danger.

If you see a dangerous situation, inform your family, friends and community to help keep them safe. If you have concerns about your property, please call a snow removal company and hire a professional to remove the cornice properly.

We live in a winter environment and specific dangers do exist. Be aware of your surroundings and take steps to minimize your exposure to danger by limiting access to fall zones or removing the hazard.

Don Triplat, executive director Sierra Avalanche Center

Punxsutawney Phil sees shadow; more winter

By Sean Rossman, USA Today

Punxsutawney Phil made his famous weather prediction Thursday morning, emerging from his burrow to see his shadow.

That means, according to Groundhog Day tradition, the U.S. will brave another six weeks of winter.

The groundhog, emerging from a sleep, squealed as he was pulled from his burrow about 7:15am. He was hoisted into the air and placed on a stump before his official prognostication was made.

[Read the whole story](#)

AARP offers tax preparation assistance

AARP's Tax Aide Program offers free tax preparation assistance for individuals and families in the Lake Tahoe area.

Assistance is available at the Family Resource Center of Truckee in Truckee and the North Tahoe Family Resource Center in Kings Beach. It is free to locals of all income levels and all ages, as long as your taxes do not include complex or extensive business returns.

Appointments in Truckee are available from 9:15am-3:15pm on Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25; March 4, 11, 18, 25; and April 1, 8,

15. Call 530.587.2513. Appointments in Kings Beach are at the same time but on Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24; March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; and April 7, 14. Call 530.546.0952.

For more info, email taxesaarp@gmail.com.

LTUSD steaming toward reopening Al Tahoe

By Kathryn Reed

A light is being shined on the lack of equality in Lake Tahoe Unified School District as officials work toward reopening Al Tahoe Elementary School.

Declining enrollment forced the school to be closed in 2004. Now the remaining four elementary schools are overcrowded, necessitating some form of relief.

On Jan. 31 the school board had its second workshop pertaining to the future of Al Tahoe. Ideas and opinions were discussed, but this was not a night to vote on any proposals. Nonetheless, the wheels are in motion to make this a reality.

After the district created the magnet school in Meyers there has been a concerted effort to make each elementary have its own theme. Bijou's theme is bilingual education; Sierra House – fitness, health, mountain sports; Meyers – environment; Tahoe Valley – performing arts. But some are more robust than others and all do not reflect the complexion of the whole community.

Al Tahoe would be the STEAM Academy. STEAM stands for science, technology, engineering, art and math.

Tuesday's staff report said, "STEAM takes STEM to the next level by allowing students to connect their learning in these areas with art practices, design principles, and standards. The A in STEAM doesn't just represent the arts but is more of a broad term that represents liberal arts, language arts, social studies, physical arts, and fine arts and music. It's a framework for teaching which is customizable and functional, hence the fun in functional. It's about applying creative thinking to STEM projects, and sparking students' imagination and creativity through the arts. It's about exploring where art naturally fits into the STEM subjects."

Much of the board as well as parents would like science in particular to be available to all students. While the magnet school focuses on the environment, that isn't the case throughout the district.

"The Al Tahoe program looks great," parent Rebecca Bryson said. But what she worries is that it "could be further ghettoizing the schools."

Board member Larry Reilly said, "Parity is an issue." He would like to see the curriculum at Al Tahoe offered to other students, even it means exporting it. This, he suggested, could be done similar to when PE instructors traveled to the various school sites. Classroom space could be created so students learned some of the STEAM lessons.

Bonnie Turnbull, another board member, also spoke of lack of equality.

"I worry some kids will be left behind," she said. With parents being responsible for choosing a child's school, she fears some parents won't understand all that STEAM can offer, and that gender and ethnicity may play a role in decision making.

For board member Angela Swanson her concern is for the students in the neighborhood be given first priority to attend Al Tahoe.

The current proposal by staff is to open in the fall with preschool. By 2020-21 the school would house K-5.

Kelly Martin, who is in charge of curriculum for the district, explained how at the start the learning would be in a fun lab where experimentation is encouraged and failure means just starting over again. Don't think science lab, but instead creative learning space. Curriculum would get more complex with each grade level.

"A makerspace is a collaborative workspace for making, learning, exploring and sharing that uses high tech to no tech tools. The maker mindset is creating something out of nothing and exploring your interests that are at the core of a makerspace," the staff report says.

The district is eligible for Proposition 51 dollars to pay for the renovations – like a new boiler and revamping the kitchen. Portables that are more than 20 years old can also be upgraded with that money.

The plan also is to create a child care facility.

"Childcare has become a nationwide concern due to rising numbers of working parents and the increase in childcare costs. Looking ahead, the district faces issues in recruiting new teachers, housing for district staff, and childcare. The district proposes to accommodate an employee childcare center which could dramatically reduce costs-of-living for families," the staff report says.

Letter: UNR embraces diversity

To the community,

As stated in our institutional mission, this university recognizes and embraces the critical importance of diversity in preparing students for global citizenship and is committed to a culture of excellence, inclusion and accessibility.

The Jan. 27 executive order regarding border security and immigration enforcement has raised concern among members of our university community. Accordingly, the university is committed to offering support, resources and information to help our students, faculty, visiting scholars and staff fully understand the executive order's implications and take the most appropriate action. We recommend that students and scholars from any of the countries listed in the order stay in the United States for at least the next 120 days.

The staff of our Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) will be closely monitoring the situation and can advise and answer questions as information becomes available. Individuals affected by this executive order are advised to stay in regular contact with the Office via their **website**, email oiiss@unr.edu, or phone 775.784.6874.

The Association of International Educators, formerly NAFSA, is providing information helpful in understanding the language and application thus far of the executive order on their **website**.

The Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities is also tracking this information closely and will be providing updates at their **website**.

We value the contributions made by our international faculty,

staff and students to our learning environment, which in turn greatly enhances our ability to serve the needs of Nevada, the nation and the world. At the University of Nevada, Reno, we encourage diversity of experience and perspectives and must continue to embrace this important aspect of our mission while providing a safe and welcoming environment for all students and employees.

Marc Johnson, UNR president

UC Davis may start selling student made wine

By Loretta Kalb, Sacramento Bee

UC Davis no longer needs to dispose of thousands of gallons of wine that students produce each year, thanks to a state law clearing the way for nonprofit wine sales.

A new California law, Senate Bill 683 by former Sen. Lois Wolk, D-Davis, authorizes the state Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to license a university-associated nonprofit mutual benefit corporation that can accept up to 20,000 gallons of wine.

The corporation, in turn, would sell the wine in bulk to winemakers who would package and sell it, said UC Davis Chief Campus Counsel Jacob A. Appelsmith. The bill applies only to UC Davis.

[Read the whole story](#)

Warm, wet storms lined up to hit Tahoe



Skiers at Heavenly and other resorts may not find any moguls to ski in the next few days. Photo Copyright 2017 Carolyn E. Wright

The National Weather Service in Reno has issued a winter storm warning from 1am Thursday to 4am Saturday for areas above 6,500 feet.

Snow is expected to start Wednesday night, taper off midday Thursday and then gain intensity that night into Friday.

Travel could be dicey with 4 feet of snow expected over the passes by Tuesday.

It's going to be a relatively warm system passing through, which is why more rain than snow could arrive at lake level.

Saturday afternoon should see a break in moisture, with more rain and snow arriving Sunday night.

High wind gusts are also anticipated with these storms. That means visibility will be an issue. It could also mean trees and power lines could fall, making driving hazardous and bringing power outages.

Highway 89 over Emerald Bay is open, but that could change. For current road conditions click on the state icons on the home page of *Lake Tahoe News*.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

Maria Barrows-Crist – 1952-2017



Maria Barrows-Crist

The 33-year owner of Kindertown day care, Maria Rose Barrows-Crist, died unexpectedly in her sleep Jan. 22, 2017. She was 64.

She was born Jan. 18, 1952.

She had retired last year from Bank of the West, where she worked on and off for more than 30 years. In that brief period she had been spending time with her children, grandchildren,

extended family and friends.

Maria spent four years in the Army. She was at many of the Memorial Day and Veterans Day services in South Lake Tahoe.

She moved here in the mid-1970s, got married and started a family.

About 7,000 children passed through the doors of Kindertown between the time Judy Kurtzman opened it in July 1, 1973, and Barrows-Crist closed it in late 2011. She was the third owner.

Maria is survived by her children Cory (Chelsea) Crist, Adrienne (John) McSwain, Thomas Crist and fiancé Lauren Curry; grandchildren Ian, Emma, Ellie; mother Filomena Maria Morlando Barrows; siblings Matt (Nan) Barrows, Michele (John) Moelder, Annette Barrows, Steve and fiancé Michelle Tasber, Angela Sorrentino (Myra Sparks), Nina (Ray) Sylvester; aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins. She also leaves behind her dear friend, Sherry Perasso and family.

A celebration of life will be on Feb. 11 at 11am at Sierra Community Church in South Lake Tahoe. There will be a nursery for children 3 and younger.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Crist Family Memorial Fund at Bank of the West, 2161 Lake Tahoe Blvd., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150.