

Calif. law to fight global warming gets strong support

By Melody Gutierrez, San Francisco Chronicle

SACRAMENTO — A poll found that California voters strongly support the landmark state law adopted a decade ago to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and that voters favor expanding efforts to fight climate change.

The Public Policy Institute of California survey released last week shows 62 percent of likely voters favor the law, with most support coming from Democrats and independent voters. Eight in 10 Democrats favor the law, while 56 percent of independent voters did. That's compared with 44 percent of Republicans who favored the law.

The Legislature adopted AB32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act, in 2006. The law calls for California to reduce greenhouse gases to 1990 levels by 2020. Greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide, methane, ozone, nitrous oxide and sulfur hexafluoride, which trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere near the planet's surface.

Read the whole story

TOCCATA presents 9/11 memorial concert series

Tahoe Symphony Orchestra and Chorus will finalize its 2016 Tahoe Summer MusicFest with a four concert series beginning Sept. 11, 3pm at the St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in South

Reno (100 Bishop Manogue Drive).

The series commemorates the 15th anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy and features the Brahms Requiem and Lalo's Symphonie Espagnole with guest artist Elizabeth Pitcairn performing on the legendary Red Stradivarius Violin.

The concert will open with Brahms' solemn symphonic-choral masterpiece, "A German Requiem", with soloists Joy Strotz, Anna Helwing, and Becky Earl, sopranos, and Kimm Julian, baritone, and includes the 70 voice Tahoe Symphony Orchestra Chorus. The "Requiem" is composed in seven sections. The concert concludes with Pitcairn performing Edouard Lalo's "Symphonie Espagnole, Op. 21". Maestro James Rawie, TOCCATA's founder and artistic director, will conduct all performances.

The concert will be repeated on Sept. 14, 7pm, at Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Carson City (3597 N. Sunridge Drive); Sept. 16, 7pm at St. Theresa Catholic Church in South Lake Tahoe (1041 Lyons Ave.); and Sept. 18, 4pm at Cornerstone Church in Incline Village (300 Country Club Drive).

Tickets for all concerts are available at the door or **online**. General admission is \$30 adults and \$25 seniors. Youth/students under age 23 with valid ID are \$5 for seating 15 minutes prior to concert time, and for those under 18, admission is free. Preferred/reserved seating is \$40, and \$15 for youth/students.

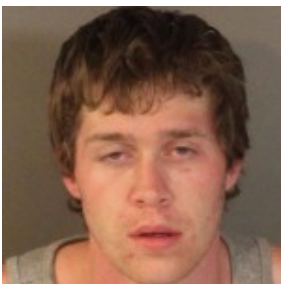
Back pain lecture at LTCC

Kyler Crouse, fitness instructor for Tahoe Fit by Barton Health, will present The Ins and Outs of Back Pain tonight.

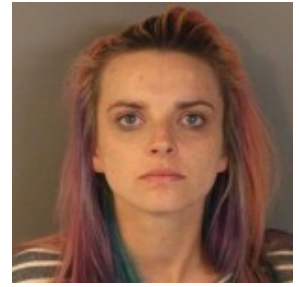
Topics covered: include lower back discomfort, cause of general back pain, exercises to strengthen the back and core, and tips to avoid back injuries.

The Aug. 3 talk is from 6-7pm at Lake Tahoe Community College in the Aspen Room.

Duo staying at Ritz accused of making credit cards



Jason Paul
Bourquin



Natasha Newlun

One night the couple was sleeping at the Ritz Carlton Lake Tahoe and the next they were in a jail cell.

Jason Paul Bourquin, 24, of Washington, and Natasha Newlun, 26, of Alaska were allegedly making fake credit cards in their hotel room.

Placer County sheriff's deputies said once the hotel discovered what was going on they locked the couple out. When the couple returned to their room July 28 and couldn't enter, they went to the front lobby to obtain a new key card. As deputies arrived, Bourquin ran into the woods near the Truckee hotel. He was apprehended that night not far from the hotel. Bourquin was a fugitive from Washington wanted on an escape charge.

Inside the couple's hotel room and vehicle deputies said they found credit card-making equipment, drugs and paraphernalia, stolen credit cards, and evidence of identity theft.

They are both being charged with possession of stolen property, making credit cards, identity theft, defrauding an innkeeper, conspiracy, possession of a controlled substance, and theft of an access card. Bourquin was also charged with resisting arrest.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Calif. water conservation evaporates a bit

By Associated Press

Californians conserved less water in June, the first month after statewide mandates were eased and control over drought restrictions returned to local water agencies, officials said Tuesday.

The State Water Resources Control Board reported that Californians used 21.5 percent less water in June than they did in 2013, a drop of 6 percentage points from a year earlier and nearly 7 percentage points from May.

A dip in conservation was expected after the statewide mandate was eased, and conservation overall remained high, said Felicia Marcus, water board chairwoman.

"The community spirit of realizing that water is something to treat with respect and not take for granted is holding," Marcus said. "Most importantly is for people to keep the lawn on a water diet."

The state has cumulatively conserved 24 percent of water over the last 13 months, close to the 25 percent target, water board officials said. That amounts to 571 billion gallons of water saved, enough to provide 8.8 million people with water for a year, said Max Gomberg, of the water board's Office of Research, Planning and Performance.

The monthly report comes as state officials begin returning conservation efforts to local cities and water districts following a near-average amount of winter rain and snowfall that eased the dry spell – mostly in Northern California.

Water districts throughout the state pushed regulators to drop mandated conservation that had required cutbacks up to 25

percent compared with 2013. That was the year before Gov. Jerry Brown declared a drought emergency.

Districts argued that the blanket mandate didn't give many of them credit for investing millions of dollars in water recycling and desalination plants or other means of making them drought-proof.

Since June, districts that show they have enough water to get through another three years of drought may relax conservation – or completely escape strict conservation orders.

In many communities, there is no need to live under emergency conditions, said Tim Quinn, executive director of Association of California Water Agencies, the nation's largest coalition of public water agencies.

"If you are a resident of California getting water from responsible water agencies ... you don't have to put a bucket in your shower," he said. "You can flush when you need to."

Garden Grove in Southern California has ample water supplies, said William Murray, the city's public works director. It draws water from an underground aquifer that is refilled with treated waste-water.

The city, however, won't lift its strict bans on washing cars without a turnoff nozzle and running sprinklers more than twice a week until officials in Sacramento approve its drought plan. That could come by the end of August.

The city's 186,000 residents look forward to turning on the sprinklers often enough to have grassy, green parks again for playing soccer and relaxing, he said.

"In some parks it looks like residents are playing in a dust bowl," Murray said. "We'd like to get our health parks back for our residents."

Letter: Realtors dish it up at B&B

To the community,

Bread & Broth would like to thank the South Tahoe Association of Realtors for hosting the July 25 dinner and sending a fun and energetic group to help put on the evening meal.

“Most of us didn’t know what to expect and the B&B volunteers were very patient and explained what we needed to do,” commented Ellen Camacho, STAR president.

She and her fellow STAR members Michelle Blue-Benedict, president-elect; Jaime Sauers, treasurer; and Jessica Crase and Tiffany Grimes, volunteer committee co-chairs did a fine job of coming on board and helping feed the hungry folks who showed up at St. Theresa Grace Hall.

As a nonprofit, all volunteer organization, B&B relies on the \$250 donation and the help of the sponsor volunteer crews to hold each Monday evening meal. The sponsor volunteers work alongside the B&B volunteers and together they see to it that up to 110 dinner guests are fed and provided with bags of food to help them through the remainder of the week. For more than four years, every available B&B Monday evening dinner has had an Adopt A Day sponsor thanks to the wonderful people in our community.

Camacho described the B&B volunteers as “very giving in donating their personal time. Very friendly to the clients and they truly care.”

Those comments are also a very apt description of the five

star volunteers who worked hand-in-hand with the B&B volunteers. It is really important to B&B that our sponsors are involved in their dinner.

“It was a rewarding experience,” said Camacho, and a wonderful way to see how funds donated for the dinner impact those who are in need of help.

Carol Gerard, Bread & Broth

Solar panels no longer pay in some states

By Diane Cardwell, New York Times

LAFAYETTE — It was only two years ago that Elroy Holtmann spent about \$20,000 on a home solar array to help cover the costs of charging his new electric car. With the savings on his monthly electric bills, he figured the investment would pay for itself in about a dozen years.

But then the utilities regulators changed the equation.

As a result, Pacific Gas & Electric recently did away with the rate schedule chosen by Holtmann, a retired electrical engineer, and many other solar customers in this part of California. The new schedule will make them pay much more for the electricity they draw from the grid in the evening, while paying those customers less for the excess power their solar panels send back to the grid on sunny summer days.

As a result, Holtmann’s solar setup may never pay for itself.

The paradox is playing out around the country. Even as

policymakers at the federal and state levels promote clean energy to fight global warming, the economics of electricity can often be at odds with those goals.

Read the whole story

Placer deputy in medically induced coma

By Bill Lindelof, Sacramento Bee

A Placer County Sheriff's deputy is in a medically induced coma after striking his head on a beam during a training exercise.

Deputy Austin Harper was on duty helping with police dog training last week when his head struck a steel support beam in a vacant commercial building, according to a post on the sheriff's Facebook site.

Before working for the sheriff's office, he was a police officer in Truckee.

Read the whole story

Profits increase for El Dorado Savings

El Dorado Savings Bank reported second quarter profits of nearly \$2.9 million, which represented a \$79,832 increase compared to 2015.

“Earnings for the first six months of 2016 totaled \$6,465,488, compared to \$5,795,045 in 2015. The continued strong profits reflect the stable performance of the loan and investment portfolios,” CEO George L. Cook Jr. said in a statement.

El Dorado ended the quarter with \$2.05 billion in total assets and savings deposits of \$1.83 billion.

The Placerville-based financial institution ended the first half of 2016 with one foreclosed property on the books.

The bank operates 35 branches, 31 in California and four in Northern Nevada.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Forecast: Wildfire danger to increase in Nev., Calif.

By Benjamin Spillman, Reno Gazette-Journal

Forecasters expect worsening fire conditions across Nevada and California for at least several more weeks.

That’s according to the latest National Wildland Fire Potential Outlook released on Monday.

The forecast, from the National Interagency Fire Center, attempts to gauge the potential for wildland fires based on temperature, moisture and fuel availability predictions.

For Nevada and California forecasters expect a continuation of conditions that have already produced enough fire to make skies hazy throughout the region.

Read the whole story