

3 new petitions approved for Nov. 8 Nev. ballot

By Sean Whaley, Las Vegas Review-Journal

CARSON CITY – Three petitions – seeking to restore favorable net metering rates, open Nevada’s electricity markets to competition and exempt medical equipment from the sales tax – have qualified for the November general election ballot, Nevada Secretary of State Barbara Cegavske said.

The energy competition measure, which would amend the state Constitution and require two favorable votes in November and in 2018, will be Question 3.

The medical tax measure, also a constitutional amendment requiring two votes, will be Question 4.

Read the whole story

J.T. proves how sweet of a musician he is



James Taylor on July 13 proves why he has been a musical icon for decades. Photo/Kathryn Reed

By Susan Wood

STATELINE – It was as if Tahoe found a friend this summer with long-time Grammy award-winning singer, guitarist, songwriter James Taylor, who showered the crowd at the Harveys outdoor concert Wednesday night with his love of music.

Aside from a triple encore capped off by one overzealous fan barely crawling on stage to hug him, Taylor – who has spent more than half a century making music – chatted often July 13 with the concertgoers who he referred to as “an outstanding audience.”

“Fire and Rain,” “Don’t Let Me Be Lonely,” “Walking Man,” “Mexico,” “Your Smiling Face,” “Sweet Baby James ” – J.T., as he’s often referred to, cranked out hit after hit as promised when he held up a board of the agenda on “some type of roofing material” before the 20 minute “intermission.” He told the

enthusiastic attendees up clapping, yelling and dancing he didn't understand the need for the break as he simply would stand behind the curtain and wait while looking at his watch. But that might have been the one white lie of the evening.

Instead, Taylor came down from the stage to autograph items for the throng of fans who swarmed him like a bee target. Two who got lucky enough to wedge into the small crowd at the stage both told Lake Tahoe News, they were "still shaking" from the encounter.

"This is my eighth concert of his," Renee Rylander said, beaming from ear to ear. The Los Gatos resident who at 69 is one year older than Taylor got the singer to sign her album.

"I'm a huge fan. I've been with him from the beginning," Terry Richardson said, while holding up her autographed J.T. hat. The Murphys resident saw Taylor in 1969 at the Mariposa Folk Festival where Taylor performed with the likes of Joan Baez, Bob Dylan and Joanie Mitchell.

Taylor is known for his big-time collaborations, including meeting his manager Peter Asher when he moved to London in the late 1960s as Asher took a job at Beatles label Apple Records. He would later work with Paul McCartney and George Harrison of the landmark band. Harrison's classic "Something" was inspired by "Something in the Way She Moves," a sentimental ballad by Taylor, who at the time was the only non-British artist on the label.

One of the most well-known collaborations Taylor cultivated was with longtime friend Carole King, who wrote "You've Got a Friend" -- a massive hit that earned Taylor his first of five Grammys in 1972 for Best Pop Vocal Performance in the Male category. King won for Song of the Year. The "Mud Slide Slim and the Blue Horizon" album it was produced on sold 2.5 million copies.

King, who is undergoing a career resurgence of her own with a

Broadway hit “Beautiful” that chronicles her life and tenure as a songwriter, worked alongside Taylor in their early days of performing at the Troubadour nightclub in Los Angeles.

Taylor also performed the Drifters hit “Up on the Roof,” which King wrote, to a swaying, almost-entranced audience.

With “You’ve Got a Friend,” a resounding “awe” was heard from the crowd when Taylor launched the sentimental tune, which ideally fit with the nostalgic, friendly atmosphere and picture-perfect warm Lake Tahoe summer night.

“It’s beautiful here,” the multi-dimensional folk-jazz-rock-pop-blues artist said. Taylor would often close his eyes and shake his head to feel the music, as if never tiring of what might appear to be hundreds if not thousands of performances of each song.

With the help of a high-powered ensemble of singers and musicians behind him, Taylor as a gentle soul delivered a take-me-back-in-time collection of songs meant to inspire and cherish.

The North Carolina native gave a heartfelt rendition of “Carolina in My Mind,” which signified how homesick he was in England when the door was opening to a huge music career with timeless pieces through the years.

Taylor understood what the audience wanted to do – to be transported through those decades with the songs that forced them to reflect back on their own lives, and Taylor largely obliged often chatting it up with the crowd in a very personable way.

“I know you didn’t come here for any god damn new music. But the new ones just sound like the old ones,” Taylor said as the audience laughed. He pledged the new music such as the touching third encore “You and I Again” about love and aging would be performed quickly like the act of ripping away a

Band-Aid.

Taylor's music explains a lot about his life – and that of his fans.

Before launching "Country Road," he insisted that through the years it's been "nature as my church" and poked fun at his self-proclaimed "country-hippie bulls-." With a beauty backdrop of Lake Tahoe, the audience bellowed and applauded at the notion of living for the power of nature and beautiful views. He grew up in the rural part of North Carolina.

But Taylor's been around. He also performed "Angels of Fenway," providing a sentimental explanation of the story that inspired the song about the Boston Red Sox baseball team. After enduring the curse of the MLB team trading the legendary Babe Ruth, the Red Sox would undergo an 86-year drought before winning another World Series. When they came from the brink to win it in 2004, the curse was lifted. The song was written about a Boston Globe photo showing a note on a tombstone of a grandmother who never gave up hope her beloved Sox would do it again. The note read "Congratulations Grandma. We finally did it."

Incidentally, Taylor performed the "Star Spangled Banner" at Game 2 of the monumental World Series.

The melodic music of the singer-songwriter – who often just relied on his acoustic guitar to carry his tunes to the masses – is designed to soothe the savage beast of a cynical, violent, troubling world.

At one point, Taylor relied on the harmonic melody of his back up band to belt out a tribute to Martin Luther King Jr. He was also joined by an accentuating performance by back-up singer Arnold McCuller for "Shower the People."

A class act, Taylor would periodically introduce the 10 other performers backing him up and giving individual credit when

due. There was Luis Conte of Cuba, who played the bongos as if running a reggae band. Joining McCuller on vocals was Andrea Zonn – who provided beautiful accompaniments on violin – as well as Kate Markowitz coming off the success of her “Map of the World” album. Steve Gadd played drums like a “big rock” percussionist, while Walt Fowler offered up the jazzy feel with his trumpet.

Taylor also singled out bluesy saxophone player Lou Marini, who came from the original “Saturday Night Live” band. On his teal-colored electric guitar he called “pretty,” Taylor joined him and the rest of the ensemble in the high-energy nightclub-rocking tune “Steamroller Blues.”

With every turn and every tune, the audience seemed impressed with what they were witnessing.

The crowd even played a part in the second encore.

“I hope Tahoe can sing,” Taylor belted out to urge the thousands in attendance to help him take on “How Sweet It Is,” a song he performed with ex-wife singer Carly Simon.

The Harveys Outdoor Summer Concert Series continues with rock duo Sting and Peter Gabriel tonight; country great Tim McGraw on July 23; former Eagles lead man Don Henley on July 24; country singer Keith Urban on July 27 and 29; ex-Commodores lead man Lionel Ritchie on Aug. 13; rock band Steve Miller on Aug. 18; red rocker Sammy Hagar on Aug. 26; and soul-pop singer Stevie Wonder on Sept. 2.

Opinion: Smaller government needed in Calif.

By Kerry Jackson, Orange County Register

As much as the Brexit vote, coming just before Canada's and America's own independence celebrations, drove the West's elitists to call those who don't agree with them "rubes" and far worse, it also inspired other autonomy movements to increase their efforts to break away from those ruling them from a distance. There is a significant roster of other nations considering leaving the European Union, and some states on this side of the Atlantic have been thinking about going their own ways.

Then there's the talk of a Calexit – and the curious case of efforts to split the state in two, or more, parts.

Partitioning California has been a matter of debate since before it was a state. More recent proposals include lopping the state into northern and southern halves, creating a coastal California by separating the state north to south, and slicing the state into three smaller ones – northern central and southern.

Independence movements make sense. When government is physically removed from the governed, in Washington or in Brussels, the governed are typically exploited and suffer from a lack of proper representation. Meanwhile, the officials in power, the elitists who make up their support network, and those who are provided for and subsidized by them thrive.

Read the whole story

Women more likely than men to face poverty during retirement

By Adam Allington, AP

During their working years, women tend to earn less than men, and when they retire, they're more likely to live in poverty.

These are women who raised children and cared for sick and elderly family members, often taking what savings and income they do have and spending it on things besides their own retirement security.

The National Institute on Retirement Security, a nonprofit research center, reports that women are 80 percent more likely than men to be impoverished at age 65 and older. Women age 75 to 79 are three times more likely.

While experts cite a pay gap as a major cause for retirement insecurity, other factors play a role, from single parenthood and divorce to the fact that women typically live longer than men.

For Marsha Hall, 60, the process of trying to save for retirement has been nearly impossible.

"I've had jobs that included a 401(k) and I was able to put some money aside, every month," she says. "But then I would get laid off and have to cash out the 401(k) to have money to live on."

Born and raised in Detroit, Hall is divorced and doesn't have any children. She works part time as a file clerk. She and her siblings pitch in to care for their 75-year-old mother. Hall says she tries not to think about what her situation will be like at that age.

“My bills are current, I have food,” she says, “but I’m still living paycheck to paycheck, if it wasn’t for Section 8 (a housing subsidy), I don’t know where I’d be living.”

Joan Entmacher, vice president for family economic security at the National Women’s Law Center, says, “The solution to the retirement (funding) crisis starts with the earnings and wage gap.”

That gap narrowed between the 1970s and 1990s, but stopped shrinking in 2001. Women earn about 76 cents to 79 cents on the dollar, compared with men.

Women are more likely to report that Social Security is the biggest source of income – 50 percent to 38 percent for men, according to a recent poll by the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. Women are 14 percentage points less likely to say they will receive a pension.

Entmacher says women are more likely to take on caregiving responsibilities, which increases the likelihood they will end up working part-time jobs, often for lower wages, and without benefits such as pensions, sick leave and health care.

“The bulk of stay-at-home moms are not these high income, well-educated women that you read about,” she says.

Over a 40-year career, the pay gap between men and women adds up to an average of \$430,480, according to the Census Bureau. For minorities and women of color, the number is much higher.

“If we are talking about a 65-year-old black woman, she was born before desegregation,” says Karen Lincoln, a professor at USC and director of a center for geriatric social work.

“This has a huge impact on things like the quality of education they receive, the employment opportunities available to them, and their ability to accumulate wealth,” Lincoln says.

Lincoln points to additional census data showing African-American women are paid 64 percent that of white men, compared with 54 percent for Hispanic and Latina women. In addition to making less, women are much more likely to be single parents, putting additional economic strains on them. In 2013, almost 83 percent of custodial parents were mothers, according to the census.

Starting with the Johnson administration's "War on Poverty" in 1964, and the creation of safety-net programs such as Medicare and Medicaid, poverty rates among men and women have been falling steadily. In 1966 the percentage of women over 65 living below the federal poverty line stood at 32 percent, compared with 12.1 percent in 2014. For men over 65, the numbers are 23.5 percent and 7.4 percent, respectively.

Yet some analysts say the poverty rate is a poor gauge to assess the quality of life for aging seniors.

"The poverty rate is a deceptive number, it doesn't reflect the money they (men and women) need to actually exist," says Jennifer Brown, manager of research at the National Institute on Retirement Security.

Brown says that increasing life spans mean a woman in the United States today will live five years longer than the average man, and about four years longer than her grandmother.

"Those increases in longevity come with huge increases in medical costs," Brown says. "Especially if you're taking about things like long-term care or treatment for mental disabilities such as dementia and Alzheimer's."

Medicare does not cover long-term care. To get some subsidized coverage, seniors would need to spend down their assets to qualify for Medicaid or have a long-term care insurance policy.

In 2016, the Census poverty threshold for a single person is

\$11,880. According to UCLA's Elder Index, a measure of the cost for housing, food, transport and health care, for a 65-year-old renter, the base cost pay for these needs is \$24,024 and growing.

Group touts benefits of recreational pot in Nev.

By Chris Kudialis, Las Vegas Sun

Making recreational marijuana legal in Nevada would help eliminate black market sales and generate millions of tax dollars for education, representatives of an advocacy group said Tuesday.

Speaking at the law offices of Ashcraft and Barr, 2300 W. Sahara Ave., representatives of the Campaign to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol discussed a new economic study from Las Vegas-based RCG Economics. The study estimates a regulated recreational marijuana industry would create more than 40,000 jobs in Nevada.

"Legalization of recreational adult-use would be a benefit to all Nevadans," campaign spokesman Joe Brezny said.

Read the whole story

Bus makes it easier to get to Sand Harbor

The East Shore Express is one way to avoid dealing with parking or traffic at Sand Harbor.

Drop offs and parking are no longer permitted along Highway 28 near Sand Harbor. And walk-ins are not allowed to the beach.

The bus runs every 20 minutes from 10am-7pm through Sept. 5.

Cost is \$3 round trip, which includes entry into Sand Harbor. Exact fare is required.

There is free parking at 771 Southwood Blvd., Incline Village.

For more info, go **online**.

Nev. drought 'waned' over past 3 months

By Mark Robison, Reno Gazette-Journal

"The big news is that drought has waned over the last three months."

That's the opening sentence of the quarterly report put out July 13 by the Nevada State Climate Office.

Above normal winter and spring precipitation was given as the main reason.

Truckee airport noise, tower to be discussed

Truckee Tahoe Airport District officials will be conducting six meetings starting next week in order to share updates on airport operations, impacts on each neighborhood, and plans to address those impacts.

Topics will include the recently completed Airspace Study, plans for a temporary seasonal air traffic control tower, neighborhood-specific issues, and general information about the airport.

The seasonal, temporary air traffic control tower, planned for summer 2017, would give the district more control over approaching and departing aircraft, directing them to paths that could also improve safety and noise impacts.

All meetings will start at 6pm and last about one hour.

The meetings are:

- July 18: Tahoe City Public Utility District Board Room, 211 Fairway Drive, Tahoe City
- July 19: Hampton Inn, 11951 Highway 267, Truckee
- July 20: Lodge Restaurant & Pub, 12850 Northwood Blvd., Truckee
- Aug. 1: Community Recreation Center, 8924 Donner Pass Road, Truckee
- Aug. 2: Community Recreation Center, 8924 Donner Pass Road, Truckee

- Aug. 3: Glenshire Clubhouse, 15726 Glenshire Drive, Truckee.
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Nev. receiving \$1.8M settlement from test-maker

By Trevon Milliard, Reno Gazette-Journal

Nevada will receive a \$1.8 million settlement from test-maker Smart Balanced Assessment Consortium for the screw-up that resulted in only a third of public school students completing standardized exams in 2015.

The settlement, announced Tuesday by the Nevada Attorney General's Office, is the latest reimbursement reached for testing problems in 2015. In April, testing company Measured Progress agreed to a settlement worth \$1.3 million for its role in the debacle.

The settlements come in a combination of cash and discounted products and services.

[Read the whole story](#)

Nev. settles with EPA over

polluted Spooner Summit runoff

By Sean Whaley, Las Vegas Review-Journal

CARSON CITY – Nevada officials on Tuesday approved a \$120,000 settlement with the Environmental Protection Agency over violations relating to polluted stormwater runoff from state Transportation Department-run facilities.

The consent decree, approved by the Board of Examiners, which includes Gov. Brian Sandoval, acknowledges past stormwater management violations and formalizes a plan to prevent future occurrences.

Sandoval said Nevada could have been fined millions of dollars for the violations, which involved transportation department facilities in Reno and at Spooner Summit.

Read the whole story