

Teens with ADHD more likely to get in an accident

By John O'Neil, New York Times

The first time Jillian Serpa tried to learn to drive, the family car wound up straddling a creek next to her home in Ringwood, N.J.

Serpa, then 16, had gotten flustered trying to sort out a rapid string of directions from her father while preparing to back out of their driveway. "There was a lack of communication," she said. "I stepped on the gas instead of the brake."

On her second attempt to learn, Serpa recalled, she "totally freaked out" at a busy intersection. It was four years before she tried driving again. She has made great progress, but so far has still fallen short of her goal: Two weeks ago she knocked over a cone while parallel parking and failed the road test for the fourth time.

Learning to drive is hard and scary for many teenagers, and driving is far and away the most dangerous thing teenagers do. But the challenges are significantly greater for young people who, like Serpa, have attention problems.

A number of cognitive conditions can affect driving, and instructors report a recent increase in the number of teenagers with Asperger syndrome seeking licenses. But the largest group of challenged teenage drivers – and the mostly closely studied – appears to be those with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. A 2007 study, by Russell A. Barkley of the Medical University of South Carolina and Daniel J. Cox of the University of Virginia Health System, concluded that young drivers with A.D.H.D. are two to four times as likely as those without the condition to have an accident – meaning that they

are at a higher risk of wrecking the car than an adult who is legally drunk.

Researchers say that many teenagers with attention or other learning problems can become good drivers, but not easily or quickly, and that some will be better off not driving till they are older – or not at all.

The most obvious difficulty they face is inattention, the single leading cause of crashes among all drivers, said Bruce Simons-Morton, senior investigator at the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development in Bethesda, Md.

“When a driver takes his eyes off the road for two seconds or more, he’s doubled the risk of a crash,” he said.

Inexperienced drivers usually are distractible drivers. Dr. Simons-Morton cited a study on a closed course in which teenagers proved much more adept than adults at using cellphones while driving – and missed more stop signs.

Read the whole story

Olympic legends to gather at Squaw for fundraiser

Legends of American skiing, including Olympians Julia Mancuso, Jonny Moseley, Shannon Bahrke, Marco Sullivan, and Tamara McKinney, will hit the slopes at Squaw Valley on April 7 for the first Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows U.S. Ski Team Day.

Olympic champion Aksel Lund Svindal will also appear as a special guest.

Supporters of the event, which will raise funds for the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Team Foundation, have an opportunity to spend the day skiing with U.S. Ski Team and Squaw Valley athletes, Olympians and alumni on the slopes of Squaw Valley. The event will also feature a U.S. Ski Team Pro-Am Race with afternoon activities including a public autograph session on the KT Deck and live music by San Francisco band Tea Leaf Green. The day will conclude with a star-studded après ski party at the Olympic Village Lodge.

Funds generated through the Squaw Valley event will support elite athlete training, development, competition and educational needs in the critical years leading up to the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi. In addition to supporting the U.S. Ski Team, a portion of the funds raised will go directly to the Squaw Valley Ski Team.

Pro-Am Race entry begins at a \$1,000 entry donation per team sponsorship or a \$200 donation per racer.

Placer County roads to receive \$8.3 mil. in state funding

The North Shore is receiving \$8.3 million from the California Transportation Commission for work on Highway 89.

This is part of a statewide \$271 million allocation from Proposition 1B funds. It will pay for 73 projects.

The Placer County project on Highway 89 goes from the Nevada

County line to Squaw Valley Road to rehabilitate 16 lane miles of pavement to improve ride quality and extend the pavement service life.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

Tahoe Choir to perform at LTCC

The Tahoe Choir presents three days of music of the '40s.

Dates are May 4 at 8pm, May 5 8pm, and May 6 2pm.

All concerts are at the Duke Theatre at the Lake Tahoe Community College in South Lake Tahoe.

Tickets are adults \$10; seniors \$8.

Caltrans looking for people or groups to adopt highways

Caltrans is seeking local individuals, businesses and organizations to participate in its Adopt-a-Highway program.



The Caltrans Adopt-A-Highway Program provides an avenue for the community to help maintain sections of roadside within California's state highway system. Groups have the option to participate as volunteers or to hire a maintenance service provider to

perform the work on their behalf. Participants are eligible for a recognition panel placed in the adoption area.

The Adopt-A-Highway program began in 1989. More than 120,000 Californians have cleaned and enhanced more than 15,000 shoulder-miles of roadside.

Participation can include one or more of the following activities:

- Removing litter (work frequency varies with location).
- Planting and establishing trees or wildflowers.
- Removing graffiti.
- Controlling vegetation.

Areas open for adoption include:

- Camino – Highway 50 from Sawmill undercrossing to Sly Park exit
- Georgetown – Highway 193 from Ceder Drive to Bear Creek Road
- Grass Valley – Highway 49 from Combie Road to the passing lane
- Penryn – Interstate 80 from Penryn Road to the Gilardi Road overcrossing.

Groups interested in participation should contact David Boggs at (530) 741.4002, email at david_boggs@dot.ca.gov.

Environmental films part of Earth Day weekend

The Wild & Scenic Film Festival will be part of the Tahoe Truckee Earth Day Festival on April 19-20 at the Olympic Village Lodge at Squaw Valley.

Screenings on both nights will begin at 7.

The Wild & Scenic Film Festival focuses on films which speak to the environmental concerns and celebrations of our planet.

On April 19 the movie is "GROW!" – a documentary that captures the energy and independence of a fresh crop of young farmers. The documentary shows that it is not just Old MacDonald on the farm anymore. All across the U.S. there is a growing movement of educated young people who are leaving the cities to take up an agrarian life.

"Dark Side of the Lens", to be featured on April 20, is the story of one man's personal and heartfelt account of life as an ocean based photographer. This short film takes the audience on an eerie, stunning and moving journey amongst the oceanic grandeur of Ireland's west coast.

Also to be shown on April 20 is the film "Kadoma". After more than a decade exploring Central Africa, Hendri Coetzee is a modern legend of African exploration. Solo on the Congo River in 2009, Hendri received an email from American expedition kayaker Ben Stookesberry. "It would be ludicrous to take an American who you don't know, and who has never been to Africa into its very heart." Hendi replied. But a year later, he did just that. Joined by Chris Korbolic, Ben's longtime kayak partner, Hendi led the way from the Nile overland through Rwanda in order to kayak into the heart of the Congo on a previously un navigated waterway, the Lukuga River. Seven weeks into the expedition, deep in the DRC, tragedy strikes.

The films will be shown in the Olympic Village Lodge. Tickets are \$10. Advanced tickets can be purchased at New Moon Natural Foods in Truckee and Tahoe City, and at Alice's Market in the Village at Squaw Valley.

Bullying class

Is your child a bully or being bullied?

There will be a training class April 16 from 5:30-8:30pm at Lake Tahoe Community College in the board room to help stop bullying.

Techniques will be provided to empower youth with methods to deal with put downs and bullying, diffuse conflicts with their peers, along with preventative methods for cyber bullying. Adolescent development will be covered.

RSVP to Dana at (916) 801.9848 or mcknight@ltcc.edu.

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



- Is Tahoe the ultimate fishing area? World Fishing Network wants to know. The network is accepting nominations online from U.S. anglers.

- South Tahoe High grad Shane Butler will be going to Indonesia this month as a Peace Corps volunteer. He will be teaching English.
 - Scott Koski is now superintendent of the Northstar Golf Course.
 - Comfort Care Dentistry Management's corporate headquarters will be in Minden, with the anticipation it will bring hundreds of jobs in the next one to three years.
 - Parents for Public Schools is hosting a welcome reception for Tahoe Truckee Unified School District Superintendent Robert Leri on April 24 from 7-8:30pm at the Truckee Community Arts Center, 10046 Church St. RSVP to the free event by emailing ntt.parentadvocacy@yahoo.com.
 - Here is Caltrans' weekly roadwork schedule for El Dorado-Tahoe and Sierra.
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Commercial landlord forces tenant out with 50% spike in rent

By Kathryn Reed

A 50 percent increase in rent is forcing Wolfgang Puck Express in the Heavenly Village to close.

When the center opened about a decade ago it was the second store to open. Many have come and gone since then. Rents have

always been a complaint from store operators.

“The landlord wants more money and my boss doesn’t want to pay,” restaurant manager Luis Gonzales told *Lake Tahoe News*.



Wolfgang Puck
Express will
close April
15. Photo/LTN

Today rent is \$10,000 each month. The landlord wants \$15,000 per month, according to Gonzales.

Gary Casteel, who owns Trans Sierra Investments, did not return phone calls. His company operates the retail operations at the South Lake Tahoe center.

While Gonzales said business has been good, it hasn’t been good enough to endure a dramatic spike in rent. It’s one of the few places in the tourist district that locals visit regularly.

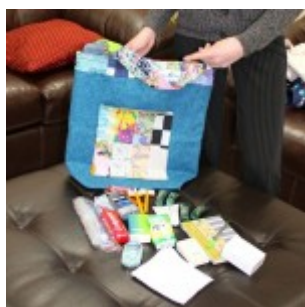
With Casteel not talking, it’s not known if he has a tenant lined up.

Another restaurant is slated to open this month in the village – Base Camp Pizza Co. Contractors are working on the interior.

Handmade totes donated to crime victims

Jackie Russow describes herself simply as “someone who cares”. She is also a person with a passion for making cloth tote bags.

Russow recently donated 15 of her handmade totes to Washoe County sheriff’s victim advocate Kasey La Foon to use as emergency toiletry kits for victims of crimes such as domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.



Russow said she has been making totes for victims through the Crisis Call Center for more than 12 years.

“I saw what they were using and thought I could make something a little nicer,” she said in a statement. “I enjoy making the totes and love the idea that they are going someplace where they can do some good and be appreciated.”

La Foon said the totes also send an important message to victims because they show that people do care.

La Foon said that her office still needs essential toiletry items to fill the kits and is asking the community to continue helping victims by donating the following:

Shampoo and conditioner

Deodorant

Toothbrushes and toothpaste

Washcloths and hand wipes

Soap

Tissues

Hair combs, brushes and ties

Travel-sized lotions

Journals and pens

Shaving cream and razors

Kleenex

Baby powder

Q-tips

Mini first aid kit

Anyone with donations is asked to contact Kasey La Foon at (775) 325.6454.