Darius Rucker at Harveys

Darius Rucker is confirmed to replace Lionel Richie to headline the special “celebrity night” show at the Lake Tahoe Summer Concert Series at the Harveys Outdoor Arena on July 16.

Javier Colon, winner of NBC’s hit show “The Voice”, will open the show.

Richie is unable to perform due to an injury to his vocal chords.

Rucker first gained fame as the lead singer and guitarist of the rock band Hootie & The Blowfish.

In early 2008, Rucker signed to Capital Records Nashville and began his hugely successful career in country music. His first solo single, “Don’t Think I Don’t Think About It” (which he co-wrote with Clay Mills), debuted at No. 51 on the Billboard Hot Country Songs charts. Rucker also made his Grand Ole Opry debut in July 2008.

Tickets are on sale now through Ticketmaster outlets. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Tickets are $35, $85 and $125. Show time is 8pm.

Rucker to be featured entertainer during celeb golf

tourney

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Lake Valley chipping program under way

Lake Valley Fire Protection District is continuing to offer a free chipping service to county and South Lake Tahoe residents.

For piles larger than 2 cubic yards, Lake Valley FPD is continuing its curbside chipping program through this season but can only accept piles this size or larger. For smaller piles, contact South Tahoe Refuse regarding the Recycle/Green Waste Program.

For chipping pile guidelines, visit Lake Valley's website. The guidelines are located in the Fire & Fuels Division section.

When your pile is ready, call (530) 577.2447 to put your name on the list. Chipping is scheduled by zones, so it may take several weeks to get to your pile.

The free chipping program provided by Lake Valley FPD is funded by the U.S. Forest Service.

UNR may be integral key to treating muscular dystrophy

By Susan Voyles, Reno Gazette-Journal

A cocktail of drugs likely will be the answer to cure people

with muscular dystrophy, and a researcher at the University of Nevada, Reno believes the university has developed one of the key ingredients.

Dean Burkin, an associate professor of pharmacology, has been working for a decade to isolate and test a protein called laminin-111 that helps keep muscle cells intact. A patent is pending and has been transferred to Prothelia, a startup company in Massachusetts, to do more studies before the drug can be approved for human trials.

Muscular dystrophies are genetic diseases that cause weakness and muscle wasting mostly in skeletal and voluntary muscles, the muscles the body can control.

“These are Jerry’s kids,” Burkin said, of the children with muscular dystrophy featured in Jerry Lewis’ annual televised fundraisers.

Burkin said he has developed a drug that has shown it can prevent the progression of the disease in mice. He said that the drug, a naturally occurring protein isolated from mouse tumors, also has worked on human muscle cells in a petri dish. The same protein is found in embryonic and kidney tissues of humans.

“It’s like a Super Glue, fusing muscle fiber that breaks down and degenerates,” Burkin said.

If successful in human trials, the drug could be combined with others to block the major pathways to the disease, he said.

With more than 40 different types of muscular dystrophy, Burkin and others said there will be no single cure.

Jim Brown, Muscular Dystrophy Association public relations vice president in Tucson, Ariz., said several drugs now are in human trials, and several more might soon get the green light. One drug, for instance, coaxes cells to ignore part of the

dystrophin gene. Another research group is seeking children to test a drug that has been shown to improve blood flow in the muscles of mice.

Read the whole story

Post-Angora permitting rules violate state law

By Matt Weiser, Sacramento Bee

Regulatory reform aimed at reducing fire risk at Lake Tahoe, adopted in the wake of the 2007 Angora fire, has been found in violation of state law.

The reform measure was adopted amid intense political pressure after the fire. It sought to streamline rules governing logging projects to thin overgrown forests at the lake.



Dead trees remain in the Angora Creek area; their future up in the air. Photo/LTN file

But on June 30, El Dorado Superior Court Judge Steven Bailey ruled in favor of conservation groups, which argued the reforms violated key environmental laws, potentially risking Tahoe's fabled clarity.

"We're not attacking the thinning projects," said Craig Thomas, executive director of Sierra Forest Legacy, which joined the Sierra Club in the lawsuit. "We're saying we want rigorous examination of those treatments."

The Angora fire in June 2007 destroyed 254 homes near South Lake Tahoe.

A special bistate commission appointed after the fire recommended that the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, a California state agency, hand over regulatory authority for some 68,000 acres of forest-thinning projects to the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

Read the whole story

History: Reflecting on when S. Tahoe first incorporated

Publisher's note: ***This is reprinted with permission from the November 1975 Lake Tahoe Historical Society Newsletter.***

On Sunday afternoon, November 9th, the Historical Society and the City of South Lake Tahoe jointly commemorated the City's Tenth Anniversary with an informal reception in the new Recreation Complex.

A collection of memorabilia from the election campaign and the first year of city operation was displayed in the lobby. Who

will forget the bright ping DON'T BE AN ABOMINABLE NO-MAN posters which sprouted up all over town that Fall ten years ago – or the hand-printed FOR stickers worn on one's lapel. In addition to campaign posters, news clippings, and photos selected from a scrapbook compiled by Lauri Ames, the official 1965-66 City Scrapbook was displayed with copies of both volumes of Fourteen Thousand Planners, the City's first general plan.

Former Mayor Norm Woods, one of the original councilmen, served as Master of Ceremonies, and noted there had been 17 Councilmen, 11 of whom served 13 terms as Mayor. Speakers were: Karl Lowe who recalled the first yearnings toward home rule and formation of F.A. C. T. which ultimately led into the Citizen for Local Government and the November 9, 1965 election which brought the 398th California city into being. John Williams remembered the tiny news announcement datelined Tahoe City in the Los Angeles Times the following day which led eventually to his becoming the first City Manager. He briefly led his listeners through the setting up of the departments and hiring the staff for the fledgling city. The fist elected City Clerk Evelyn Roberson, a legal secretary for the first City Attorney at the time, well remembered the election excitement. Frank Souza, chairman of the first Planning Commission, recalled when the only building inspector for the area covered five counties. First Police Chief Ray Lauritzen spoke of having a local tailor shop stay open until midnight to make all the uniform pant legs the same length for the new police force going on duty the next morning. Of the original 32 officer chosen from 235 applicants, five have since been appointed to Police Chief positions throughout the state. Don Clarke of the original Council and the first to serve two terms as Mayor, related his pride in having been a part of the city formation. Ed Sauer of the first Planning Commission told of his making the motion which started the program of undergrounding power

lines on Highway 50, the fight for which was carried on so diligently by former Planning Commissioner Ray Petragallo. Closing remarks were made by Mayor Roger Capri followed by the cutting of the official birthday cake, beautifully decorated with the City Seal and flanked by floral decorations in blue and gold, the city colors.

Among other original city officials seen at the gathering were Planning Commissioners Clancy Kirk, Walt Kashuba, Ray Petragallo, Recreation Commissioner Ethel Clarke, Council Secretary and temporary City Clerk Grace Carriker, and Jerry Martin, councilman and second Mayor. Also former Mayor Dr. Ken Smith.

Out of town guest were Bob Norris (the very first City Staff member), of Meeks Bay, Ray and Margy Lauritzen and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Sauer, Sacramento; John and Lois Williams, San Francisco; Mr. and Mrs. Murray, Colfax and Walt Wilson, Santa Rosa.

Regretting they were unable to attend but sending good wishes were First Planning Director and later City Manager Gary Chase of Moraga, former Assistant City Manager Howard Nies of Sacramento, and first City Attorney Mel Beverly.

Presiding at the refreshment table were Pat Amundson, Linda Mendizabal and Jeanette Porter, assisted by Suzanne Northrup and Ron Porter. Punch was provided through the courtesy of Harold Heiser of Inks Market.

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



• Reminder – horses have the right of way over bikers and hikers.

• "The Pot Republic", a joint investigation by PBS and the Center for Investigative Reporting, will air as a Frontline segment July 26. For more information and times in your area, go online.

• Tahoe Truckee Unified School District is having two superintendent workshops – July 11 from 6:30-8pm in Tahoe City at North Tahoe High School Library and July 12 from 6:30-8pm in Truckee at the Truckee High School Library. For more information, call (530) 386.2940.

• The chain link fence at the Garfinkle building (former Mikasa/Millers Outpost) at the Y in South Lake Tahoe is for the roofing project. The city says no word yet on the tenants or further design review for the exterior of the building.

• Three contributors, one night: Janet Smith, Joseph Flannery and Ruth Rhodes will read passages from their essays in "Permanent Vacation" at the El Dorado Arts Council in Placerville on July 29 at 7pm.

• Here is the Caltrans Sierra roadwork schedule for next week. The Tahoe roadwork schedule is here, too.

Not enough damaging evidence to charge EDSO deputies

By Kathryn Reed

Coming just weeks after a scathing grand jury report, El Dorado County District Attorney Vern Pierson outlines egregious behavior by the sheriff's department in regards to giving incentive pay to employees who had phony degrees.

"None of the universities involved in this investigation were appropriately accredited," the report states.

The 22-page report was released July 7.



Vern Pierson

Because criminal activity could not be proved beyond a reasonable doubt, not charges are being filed against the five employees in question. None of those people work in the Lake Tahoe substation. But their names have not been released and are not in the report.

"… the conduct and actions of these officers is extremely troubling and we believe it is necessary to change the incentive pay process," the report says.

The report has testimony from former Sheriff Jeff Neves and others who say the incentive pay documents were not scrutinized or verified for validity.

The report says, “The former Sheriff suggested that he and his administration were too busy to fulfill their oversight obligation to the county in so much as PPF forms were concerned. Retired Sheriff Neves testified that because they received so many PPF forms for review and signature, they adopted an unwritten policy of simply signing the forms and submitting them to county payroll without even attempting the most cursory or surface review of the forms and their content.”

The report indicates Neves may have turned a blind eye to the truth when confronted with it.

It was Fred Kollar, who was undersheriff to Neves and filled out Neves term after he retired, who brought the case to the DA’s office.

Real estate market improving in Tahoe faster than in Reno

By Jason Hidalgo, Reno Gazette-Journal

Home values in Lake Tahoe got a shot in the arm from the East Shore during the first half of the year, but the positive news was tempered by a dip in the number of homes sold.



The median price for a single-family home in Lake Tahoe rose 2 percent year-over-year to $540,375, while the average price increased by 9 percent to $962,705, according to Chase International’s mid-year report.

The price increase was fueled by sales transactions in the East Shore. Median sales price for the East Shore was up 20 percent to $625,500, while average sales price rose 67 percent to about $1.6 million.

Actual unit sales, however, fell by 4 percent to 435 compared to the first half of 2010. The mixed numbers reflect a market still trying to find its footing.

“We had some strong sales and increases the first quarter but saw a decline in the second quarter of this year,” said Sue Lowe, corporate vice president for Chase International. “I think we are still bouncing around the bottom of the market.”

Read the whole story

Opinion: Sneaky attack on clean water rules

Publisher’s note: ***This editorial is from the June 16, 2011, New York Times.***

Congress often kills or delays federal regulations it doesn’t like by simply denying agencies the money they need to carry them out. This spares Congress from actually debating the regulation on its merits.

House Republicans are adept at this, especially on environmental rules. Their latest intended victim is a worthy initiative aimed at protecting streams and wetlands from development and pollution.

In April, the Obama administration issued new guidelines to federal agencies charged with enforcing the Clean Water Act,

chiefly the Army Corps of Engineers. The guidelines, which the administration hopes to codify in a federal regulation later this year, are badly needed. Two muddled Supreme Court decisions, and earlier guidance from the George H. W. Bush administration, had effectively limited protections to navigable waterways. The new guidelines provide much-needed protections to thousands of miles of small streams and millions of acres of wetlands that are no less crucial to the health of the nation’s drinking water and its aquatic ecosystems.

Read the whole story