Caregiving class in South Lake Tahoe

Caregiving is a difficult and often challenging role that one can undertake, and taking the opportunity to share information and feel connected to others who are providing care is a vital step to perform this task to the best of your ability.

Take the opportunity on June 9 from 5:30-7:30pm at the South Lake Tahoe Senior Center, 3050 Highway 50, South Lake Tahoe to become connected and rejuvenated at your local support group.

Refreshments will be served.

Free respite care is available to qualified caregivers. Pre-authorization is required for respite services. Questions? Contact the Family Caregiver Support Program at (530) 621.6151.

Tahoe Tails – Adoptable Pets in South Lake Tahoe

Penny is a very sweet, affectionate long-haired cat who is declawed on her front paws. She came to the shelter because her owner’s new grandson is allergic to cats.



Penny is spayed, microchipped, and vaccinated. She is at the El Dorado County Animal Services shelter in Meyers, along with many other dogs and cats who are waiting for their new homes.

Call (530) 573.7925 for directions, hours, and other information on adopting a pet. For spay-neuter assistance for South Tahoe residents, go online.

– Karen Kuentz

STHS Sober Grad Night

South Tahoe High School's Sober Grad Night is June 10 from 9pm to 4am June 11 at the Heavenly California Lodge.

There will be music, dancing, games, a magician, crafts, raffles, food and more.

Tickets are on sale during lunch at South Tahoe High School.

Nevada losing clout in Washington

By Erin Kelly, Gannett

WASHINGTON – The departure of disgraced former Sen. John Ensign has set off a political chain reaction that will weaken the clout of Nevada's small congressional delegation, analysts say.

"We're going to have an exciting and competitive election season, but when it's over, we'll end up with a lot less clout in Washington, D.C.," said David Damore, a political scientist

at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

For the past several years, the five-member delegation had enjoyed outsized influence as its members gained seniority and stature in their respective parties.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., holds by far the most power as the top Democrat in Congress – a post he has used to funnel billions of federal dollars to Nevada and to stop the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste dump from being built.

But Reid's continued clout depends on the outcome of the 2012 election and whether Democrats can maintain their Senate majority. Meanwhile, other members of the delegation have already ceded influence – or will do so soon – as they give up House seats to run for Ensign's former job.

Read the whole story

Time still to comment on Calif. redistricting plans

The Citizens Redistricting Commission is continuing to take testimony from Californians before drawing its first round of draft maps, which will be released June 10.

There will be a public input hearing in Sacramento on June 28 from 6 to 9pm at the state Capitol, Room 4203, Sacramento.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, you can submit comments in the following ways:

* Call 866.356.5217

* Fax 916.322.0904

* Email to votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

* Mail comments to the Citizens Redistricting Commission at 1130 K St., Ste. 101, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Final district maps must be certified by the commission and presented to the secretary of state by Aug. 15.

For more information about the process, the commission, or for guidelines in preparing testimony, go online.

Ski Run Boulevard ready to spruce up the street

The Friends of Ski Run will be hosting the second annual Spring Ski Run Cleanup Day on June 11 from 11am-12:30pm. Anyone interested in helping keep Ski Run looking topnotch should meet at the Blue Angel Cafe at 1132 Ski Run Blvd. before 11am.

Lunch will be provided to volunteers, thanks to the Blue Angel Cafe.

FoSR will provide gloves and trash bags.

Sign up for Barton Foundation’s annual golf tournament

Barton Foundation’s 17th Annual Golf Tournament is July 22, with a 9am shotgun start.

Lunch and awards ceremony is 2pm.

This scramble golf tournament at Genoa Lakes Resort – Lakes Course give golfers the chance to take home special prizes. As the golfing ends, guests join the awards party, barbecue and announcement of raffle prize winners.

The entry fee is $175 per person, of which $100 is tax deductible, includes green fees, cart, golfer amenity package, a barbecue lunch and no host bar.

All proceeds help build Barton Foundation’s Community Health Endowment. Endowment investment earnings have allowed the Barton Foundation to fund various hospital projects including construction of the Helipad in 2001, the Hospice program and Health Resource Center, purchase automated external defibrillators for El Dorado and Douglas counties, pay for Life-Line units for Hospice and fund the hospital’s Healing Design program.

To register, go online or call (530) 543.5614.

11 diverse acts to play Harveys Outdoor Concerts

By Kathryn Reed

Now in its 10th year, the Harveys Outdoor Concert Series is set to deliver its most eclectic lineup to date.

Sultry jazz songstress Diana Krall opens the Stateline music season June 18. Rocker Sammy Hagar brings it to a close Sept. 10. A little bit of every other genre will fill out the other shows.

Better sound systems and raising the bleachers are two of the more significant changes through the years. Considering the venue is a parking lot – not a lot can be done.



Diana Krall will start the 2011 season of the Harveys Outdoor Concert Series. Photo/Jim Grant 2007

But considering the floor is asphalt, it's also surprising how good the acoustics are. One would think the South Shore Room might be better for an artist like Krall. But when she played

the Outdoor Series in 2007 her voice, her music – well, it was hard to know you weren't in a nightclub.

Although she has a voice that can carry through the mountains with ease, her lyrics are more of a sensual nature that lends one to think a more private venue would be appealing. After all, Krall says of her 12th album, "It's not coy. It's not 'peel me a grape,' little girl stuff. I feel this album's very womanly – like you're lying next to your lover in bed whispering this in their ear."

Using line array sound systems allows the music to be focused on the arena instead of filtering outside the venue.

"The sound systems have improved over the years so they are a lot more directional," explained John Packer, who is in charge of entertainment for Harveys and Harrah's Lake Tahoe. "We used to get some complaints."

For the past three years the casino property has paid for studies to be done to appease the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and its noise regulations.

Although the music is not filtering out as far as it did when the concerts started in 2002, the Horizon parking lot remains a tailgating party for those who don't want to pay to see a music act. They just aren't right on the wall anymore. Horizon staff moved them back out of the fire lane.

People also can be seen lining the loop road and along Stateline Avenue.

Part of the issue is people can't afford to see every concert. For two years now prices are down a bit, though. The exception was last year when the top ticket for Elton John was $235.

June 18
– Diana

Krall with Mose Allison

July 10 – Alison Krauss and Union Station

July 16 – Lionel Ritchie

July 20 – Soundga

rden with The Mars Volta

July 27 – Slightly Stoopid with Rebelution + Shwayze

July 29 – Lady Antebellum with Troy Olsen

July 30 – Steve Miller Band with Dave Mason

Aug. 9 – Phish

Aug. 10 – Phish

Aug. 13 – Big Four

Aug. 19 –

Miranda Lambert with Little Big Town

Sept. 10 – Sammy Hagar & The Wabos

“The venue does not set the ticket price. It’s based on a guarantee, the capacity, and other revenue sources like merchandise and beverages,” Packer said.

More artists are making their money off touring than album sales based on how music is purchased. But they are also not going to as many cities as before.

Last summer there were venues that were half full because people didn’t have the cash to fork over for a concert.

“Live Nation, one of the biggest promoters, canceled 250 shows last summer,” Packer said. “Ours was one of the most successful venues for its size.”

The outdoor venue seats about 7,500 and can grow to about

9,300 for a general admission show – like what Phish will be for its two August performances.

Phish fans are clearly an example of people who are willing to spend money. The two Tahoe shows sold-out in less than an hour.

“I was told not to be surprised by it. They are phenomenal,” Packer said. “They are all outstanding musicians and have created quite a following.”

Not only are the shows sold-out, but both are in the middle of the week – a bonus for lodging properties that often have plenty of vacancies midweek even in the summer.

“Before we had it even booked for sure, they were calling to get reservations to get hotel rooms,” Packer said. He heard MontBleu was sold-out before his property had the contract signed. And he said hotels on the North Shore are booked too because of this show.

“A lot of them have never been to Tahoe before. I think that is a good thing that we will be introducing a lot of new visitors to Lake Tahoe for the first time,” Packer said of Phish fans.

Soundgarden is one of those groups doing a limited number of concerts this summer. They picked Tahoe over Sacramento.

This is the first time for Soundgarden to play in Lake Tahoe. The Mars Volta is opening – and they are often a headliner, having sold-out the Greek Theater in Berkeley before.

Alison Krauss and Union Station will be the second concert of the summer. Krauss has been here before.

Next is Lionel Ritchie, who was a regular at Harrah’s South Shore Rom in the 1970s and ’80s after he left the Commodores.

“He has at least 20 hits if not more. He’s real upbeat and

personable on stage," Packer said.

After Soundgarden is Slightly Stoopid. Rebelution + Shwayze, which sold-out the MontBleu theater last year, opens for Slightly Stoopid.

"It's reggae, but Southern California beach reggae," Packer said of Slightly Stoopid. "Some of them look like surfers."

Like Phish, he expects this to be a different crowd than the typical baby boomer who so many of the past concert series catered to.

Lady Antebellum is nearly sold-out. This mega award-winning trio is credited with Tim McGraw selling out last year when they opened the concert series. Even though Lady Antebellum had a slew of awards to their credit by then, they were the opening act a year ago.

Packer is thankful the concert series started a little later this year. Memorial Day weekend started things off in 2010. This year Memorial Day would have been more like a Christmas concert based on the all the white stuff that fell.

Steve Miller Band wraps up July. Opening is Dave Mason, who will be back in the fall at the South Shore Room on his own.

Each year the concert series has an Asian group play, but it's not always well advertised to the general public. The Big Four is different. The foursome from China is expected to sell a lot of tickets.

Miranda Lambert, also a former opening act at Harveys, is the headliner Aug. 19.

"Country shows are always entertaining. They have more going on, great graphics," Packer said. "They have a production. I'll expect no less from Miranda Lambert."

Wrapping things up for the summer is Sammy Hagar, who is a

regular in Tahoe. He’s never had a real opening act in the past; sometimes he’s brought friends on stage, last year his son opened. This year, though, a well-known group is likely to be added to the ticket.

For more information about the concerts, go online.

Toccata Summer Music Fest

Tahoe Symphony Orchestra and Chorus (Toccata) launches its 6th Big Blue Summer Music Fest with a concert series entitled Baroque to Broadway.

Flutist Josue Casillas will be the featured guest along with the Tahoe Symphony Orchestra and Chorus and vocal soloists. Works by C.P.E. Bach, Vivaldi, and Barber will be performed along with Broadway favorites, spirituals and patriotic songs.

Concerts are July 2 at 7pm at St. Patrick’s Episcopal Church in Incline Village; July 3 at 3pm at St. Theresa Catholic Church in South Lake Tahoe; and July 5 at 7pm at St. Thomas Aquinas Cathedral in Reno. The Reno concert is part of the Artown festival.

Tickets are $25 adults, $20 seniors, and $5 students. Preferred seating is $35. Tickets may be purchased in advance by credit card online or at the door by cash or check.

For more information, call (775) 313.9697.

Opinion: Parents need to be No. 1 teacher in child's life

By Vicki Barber

This week I was talking with a parent of two children, ages 2 and 2. Both she and her husband work full time outside of the home. Busy as they are, they have made it a normal, natural part of their routine to build in time to work in their children's preschool classrooms. Whether it is washing the tables, cutting out letters to put on the bulletin board, playing games, singing songs or telling stories, they have decided this is an important contribution they are able to make to their children's preschool experience.

By elementary school, we often see the engagement dwindle. Parents begin to see their role more as coach for T-ball, and less as teachers. Although the schoolwork becomes increasingly challenging, it continues to be important for parents to stay connected with the school, continuing to build the important partnership that is developing.



Vicki Barber

Our schools definitely see the value of keeping parents engaged. With class sizes rising, it's becoming more and more difficult to provide the one-on-one learning opportunity that is so important for so many of our students. Students need the practice of reading aloud or memorizing the multiplication tables. Who better to support the practice of learning than a

parent at home or a parent volunteer in the classroom?

The current budget situation has definitely given us lemons. It isn’t what we expected or what we wanted, but it is what we have for right now. How can we make the

best of what is?

My suggestion is to continue to stay connected with your children while at home and make every possible effort to partner with their school, offering your time and talent in whatever way you feel most comfortable. Together, we absolutely can make the very best lemonade ever created.

Vicki Barber is superintendent of El Dorado County Office of Education.